



**Universitat  
de Lleida**

# CoARA Action Plan ( 2025–2028 )

Reforming Research Assessment

Monitoring Report – 1<sup>st</sup> year  
June 2026

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## 1. University of Lleida CoARA Action Plan 2025–28

### Context

On 1 December 2022, the **Coalition for the Advancement of Research Assessment** (CoARA) was established as an international European association of around 370 signatory institutions. By end 2025, it had grown to over 800 members, including universities, research centres, funding bodies and scientific associations. CoARA seeks to reform research assessment by promoting common principles and commitments to improve evaluation practices in the coming years.

The initiative reflects a broad consensus that current assessment systems need reform to support sustainable research quality and healthier research cultures. It builds on earlier efforts such as DORA (2013), the Leiden Manifesto (2015) and the Metric Tide Report (2016), which highlighted problems like narrow evaluation criteria, biased incentives and excessive pressure on researchers. CoARA promotes “**responsible research assessment**”, encouraging more diverse, inclusive and context-sensitive approaches while respecting institutional autonomy.

CoARA’s work is organised into **thematic groups** (e.g. careers, infrastructure, multilingualism, metrics) and **national chapters**. In Spain, the national chapter was launched in February 2024, led by ANECA, CRUE and CSIC, with government support and participation from 76 organisations, including UdL. It also builds on discussions from the 2023 National Forum on Research Assessment Reform in Barcelona.

### Annual monitoring of actions under the UdL CoARA Action Plan 2025–28

The University of Lleida (UdL) became a member of the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) in March 2023. The UdL has also publicly committed itself to revising the current procedures for responsible research assessment (RRA) by signing the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (ARRA) promoted by CoARA. To this purpose, the **UdL Action Plan 2025-2028** was approved by the Consell de Govern on 30 April 2025. The UdL CoARA Action Plan 2024–27 was published on [Zenodo](#), following the recommendations of CoARA.

The main objective of this document is to report on the **monitoring of the implementation and the level of achievement of the actions** set out in the Action Plan 2025–28 that were scheduled to commence in mid-2025. During this first year of implementation (May-25 to May-26), the actions undertaken address each of the six supporting commitments established in the Agreement.

As a result of the monitoring process, the indicators are detailed in the table in section 2 of this document.

## 2. Monitoring of actions under the UdL CoARA Action Plan: 2025-2026

The table below summarizes the degree of achievement of the actions set out in the UdL CoARA Action Plan during its first year of implementation that were scheduled to begin in May 2025.

CoARA Commitment	Action lines	Action	Time-frame	Responsible	Assessment	Started	Ended	Achievement (%)	Comments
<b>5. Commit resources to reforming research assessment as is needed to achieve the organizational changes committed to.</b>	Implement changes in research assessment, including planning and progress monitoring.	CoARA Action Plan implementation and update.	2025-2028	CoARA Committee	Bi-annual meetings and preparation of the annual report.		x	100%	Regular meetings have been held and the annual report has been finalised.

		Implementation of the institutional Open Science Policy Document.	2025-2028	Open Science Committee	Annual review and update.		x	100%	The Open Science Committee has been established and is made up of the Deputy Vice-Rector for Open Science and Libraries, one representative from each of the University's strategic research areas, one representative from the University Library and one student representative (doctoral student).
		Annual monitoring of the Action Plan by the UdL Research Committee and the Vice-Rectorate for Research.	2025-2028	UdL Research Committee (RC)	Monitoring of the annual report.		x	100%	Annual report monitored by the RC.
	Support the necessary infrastructure for the transparent collection and processing of data on research assessment practices.	New research portal as a basic infrastructure for communication, analyses and dissemination of scientific activities.	2025	IT and Communications Service & Library and Documentation Unit	Review after one year following implementation and update, if needed.		x	100%	New research portal ( <a href="#">Portal de la Recerca</a> ) fully functional.

		Interoperability between CORA (Catalan Open Research Area) and the new research portal.	2025	IT and Communications Service & Library and Documentation Unit		x		35%	Full interoperability in process of implementation.
<b>6. Review and develop research assessment criteria, tools and processes.</b>	Revision and continuous updating of internal research calls (travel grants, Transitional Research Projects....) and for pre- and post-doctoral candidates in line with CoARA guidelines.	Gradually introduce a research evaluation system based not only on quantitative criteria but also on objective qualitative criteria. This should be adapted for each call according to its specificities (young researchers, less socially visible disciplines, etc.).	2025-2028	UdL Research Committee (RC)	Explicit endorsement of the call by the CoARA Committee followed by an annual review and analysis of the results from a CoARA perspective.	x		50%	Qualitative criteria are being evaluated on a case-by-case basis to adjust the current criteria for internal research calls.



		Incorporate different expert points of view through panels that take into account the qualitative and quantitative value of the merits and the diversity of the fields of knowledge, taking into account aspects such as the multilingualism of the contributions or the recognition of local studies or those written in Catalan.	2025-2028	RC		x		40%	A new institutional call for grants to fund the publication of scientific journals in open access is underway; this call will implicitly recognise the value of local studies and multilingualism. An annual <a href="#">Call for the Prize for Linguistic Quality of Theses Written in Catalan</a> is also offered at the institutional level.
		Consider Open Science compliance as a condition for proposals in internal calls.	2025-2028	RC		x		50%	Open Science principles are explicitly accounted for in internal calls. Open access publications have been incorporated as formal requisite for considering articles as merits for the calls.

		Use and adapt the new research portal to evaluate the internal calls, not only at the data level (articles, theses...), but also in terms of qualitative and open science aspects.	2025-2028	IT and Communications Service & Library and Documentation Unit		x	50%	The new Research Portal acts as a benchmark for monitoring Open Science activities (e.g. open articles and datasets) in relation to proposal evaluations in internal calls. A number of ancillary tools are also available: <a href="#">CORA RDR</a> (Research Data Repository), <a href="#">Repositori obert UdL</a> (Institutional Repository), <a href="#">Data Management Plan</a> tool.	
<b>7. Raise awareness of research assessment reform and provide transparent communication, guidance, and training on assessment criteria and processes as well as their use.</b>	Internal strategy for communicating the CoARA rationale.	Internal consultation and collection and analysis of changes.	2025	CoARA Committee	Public exhibition and discussion of the draft CoARA Action Plan.		x	100%	Online presentation was held on March 2025, open to the entire UdL community. Suggestions and comments to the CoARA Action Plan draft were examined by the CoARA Committee and changes were introduced accordingly. A corporate email account was activated for this and other purposes (coara.vrec@udl.cat).

	Disseminating the Action Plan.	Development of a specific communication strategy.	2025-2028	CoARA Committee	Communication strategy.	x		25%	Presentation of the CoARA plan's actions and prospects to the Faculty of Education, Psychology and Social Work of UdL (November, 2025).
	Training in the CoARA principles.	Training actions related to research assessment & Open Science.	2025-2028	Library and Documentation Unit & Doctoral School	Yearly training activities.	x		50%	Delivery of a total of 30 open science training sessions for teaching and research staff, of which 11 were focused on data management plans (DMP) and 5 on how to publish research data. Publication of 5 research library guides related to open science.
<b>8. Exchange practices and experiences to enable mutual learning within and beyond the Coalition.</b>	Information sharing and mutual learning within CoARA.	Participation in CoARA's General Assembly.	2025-2028	CoARA Committee	Annual summary of participation.		x	100%	Participation in general assembly of 2025



		Participation in CoARA's Spanish Chapter.	2025-2028	CoARA Committee		x	100%	Institutional participation in the CoARA national chapter and contribution to the interdisciplinarity working group within the framework of the Spanish First Collective Report (1 September 2025).
		Participation in CoARA working groups and/or other similar national or international initiatives.	2025-2028	CoARA Committee		x	100%	Institutional participation in CoARA working group on Multilingualism and language biases.
<b>9. Communicate progress made on adherence to the Principles and implementation of the Commitments.</b>	Monitoring and updating of progress to be made publicly available.	CoARA Action Plan to be published internally and externally.	2025	CoARA Committee	Publication of the CoARA Action Plan on the UdL website and in the Zenodo and UdL open repositories after approval.	x	100%	Action Plan published in <a href="#">Zenodo</a> and <a href="#">Repositori Obert UdL</a> .



		CoARA Action Plan to be regularly updated on compliance and progress.	2025-2028	CoARA Committee	Report annually on progress through the Action Plan and update as necessary.		x	100%	Annual monitoring reported to RC on June, 2026.
<b>10. Evaluate practices, criteria and tools based on solid evidence and the state-of-the-art in research on research, and make data openly available for evidence gathering and research.</b>	Data sharing for evaluation of alternative research assessments.	Practices, criteria, tools and results of internal calls made publicly available.	2025-2028	CoARA Committee	Publication on the UdL website.		x	15%	Internal calls for 2026 are running at the time of the annual report.

### 3. Final considerations

The University of Lleida has taken clear steps to analyse and implement the principles for reforming research assessment promoted by the Coalition for the Advancement of Research Assessment. To support this process, a dedicated organisational and functional structure has been established (the CoARA Commission).

The recent appointment of the Deputy Vice-Rector for Open Science and the Library further strengthens the University of Lleida's alignment with the vision and mission of the newly created Open Science Commission (April 2026). This also enhances coordination between initiatives, fostering synergies and reinforcing shared strategic goals.

The University of Lleida is represented in CoARA's international forums and actively participates in the Multilinguism and Language Biases in Research Assessment working group. This has resulted in the publication of the actionable policy resource entitled 'Implementation proposal for language-aware assessments' published on [Zenodo](#) in October 2025. The UdL also plays an active role in the Spanish National Chapter of CoARA, participating in its meetings and one of the working groups established to analyse and implement the new research assessment principles (Working Group 3: Supporting multi- and interdisciplinarity). Consequently, the first collective report mapping institutional practices across Spain that reflect the shared commitment to reforming research assessment was published in September 2025 and is also available on [Zenodo](#).

Continuous efforts will be devoted to strengthening specific commitments and actions that require further development, as identified through this annual monitoring process. These mainly include commitments #6 (review and develop research assessment criteria, tools and processes), #7 (raise awareness) and #10 (evaluate practices, criteria and tools). These commitments will be implemented progressively over the next years to ensure the CoARA principles are applied more effectively within the university community.