

GRC Responsible Research Assessment Working Group

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“Responsible research assessment (RRA) refers to approaches to assessment which incentivise, reflect, and reward the plural characteristics of high-quality research, in support of diverse and inclusive research cultures”. (RoRi, 2020)

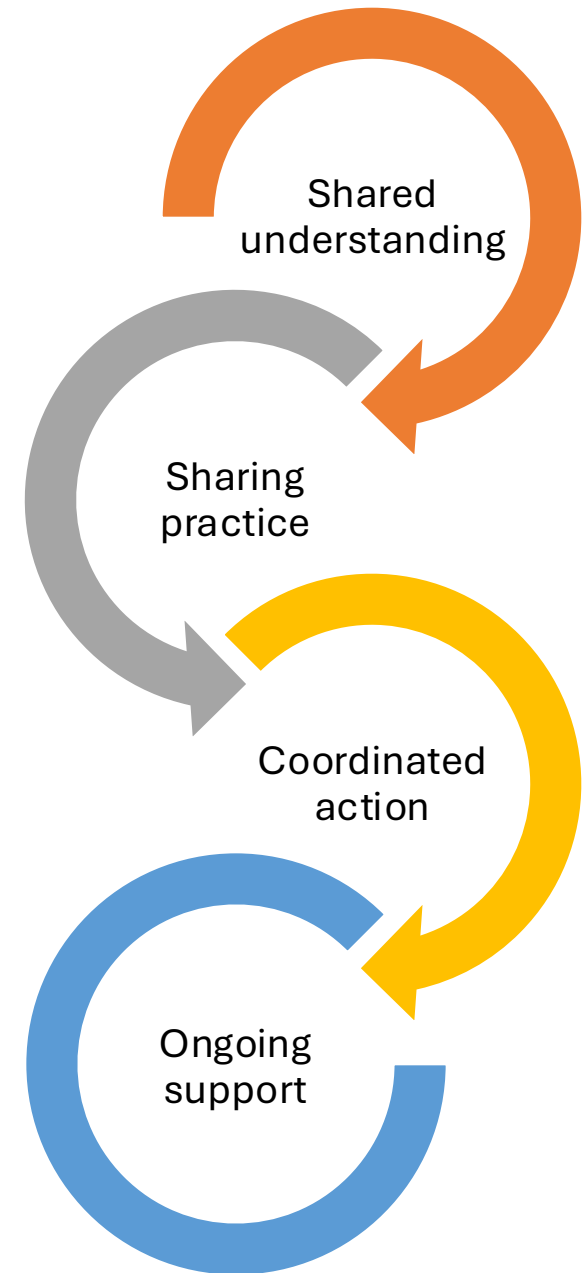
Responsible Research Assessment Working Group

Working Group Vision

Our vision is that GRC participant organisations and the organisations they fund embed approaches to assessment that incentivise and reward the diverse attributes of research excellence in support of a better, healthier research culture that supports rigorous research undertaken to the highest standards.

Our aim is to help position the GRC as a leading voice on the promotion and implementation of RRA in the international research and innovation system to help build a diverse and inclusive research culture.

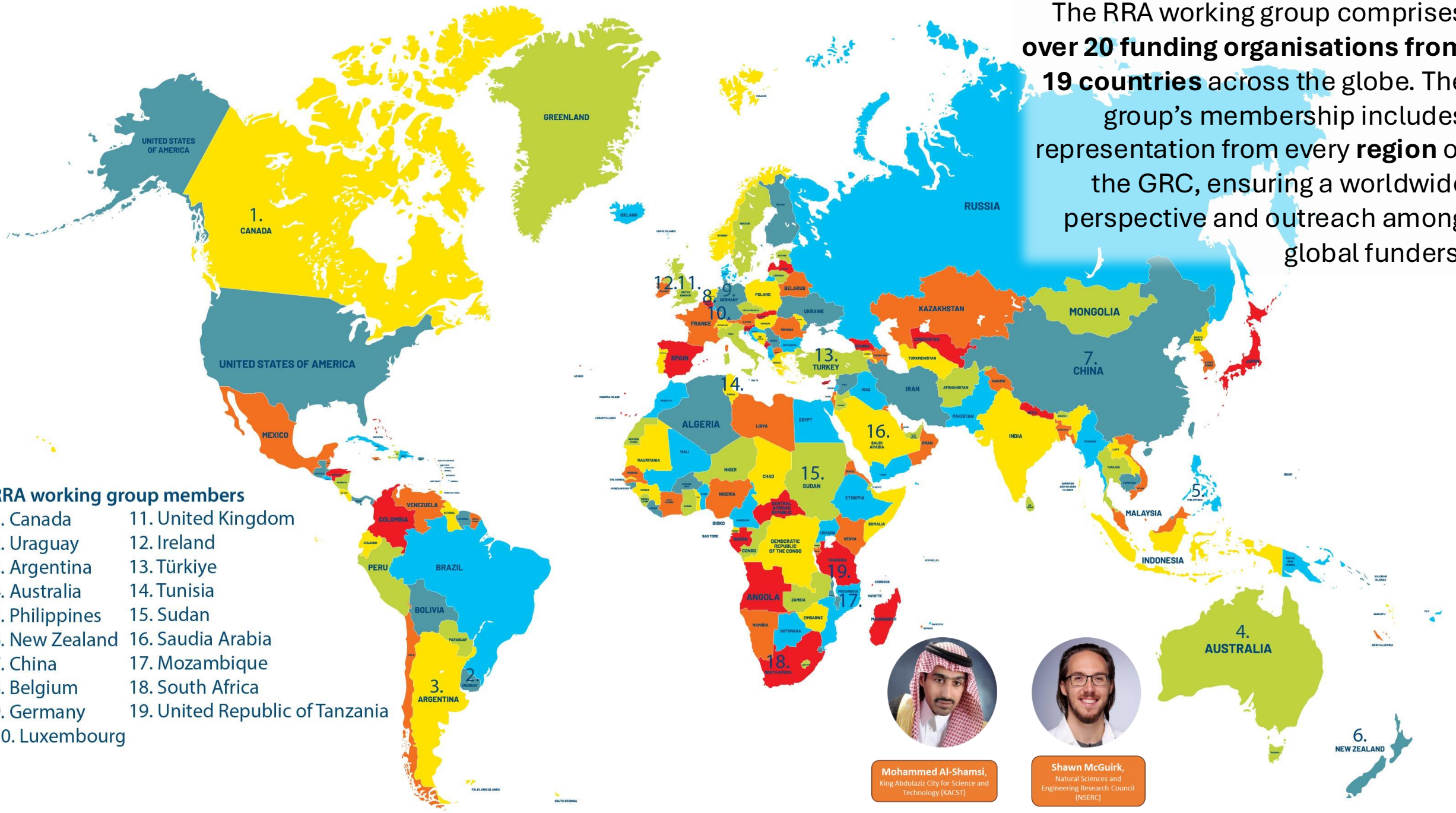
Through the GRC we will jointly support the adoption of RRA globally by developing a collective understanding of RRA, learning through collaboration, as well as sharing guidance and best practice.



The RRA working group comprises **over 20 funding organisations from 19 countries** across the globe. The group's membership includes representation from every **region** of the GRC, ensuring a worldwide perspective and outreach among global funders.

RRA working group members

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Canada | 11. United Kingdom |
| 2. Uruguay | 12. Ireland |
| 3. Argentina | 13. Türkiye |
| 4. Australia | 14. Tunisia |
| 5. Philippines | 15. Sudan |
| 6. New Zealand | 16. Saudia Arabia |
| 7. China | 17. Mozambique |
| 8. Belgium | 18. South Africa |
| 9. Germany | 19. United Republic of Tanzania |
| 10. Luxembourg | |



Mohammed Al-Shamsi,
King Abdulaziz City for Science and
Technology (KACST)



Shawn McGuirk,
Natural Sciences and
Engineering Research Council
(NSERC)

Responsible Research Assessment Working Group

October 2020
First GRC RRA Survey



RoRI report

November 2020
GRC RRA Conference



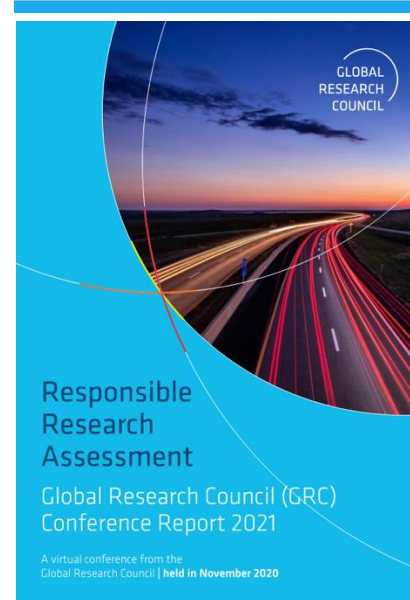
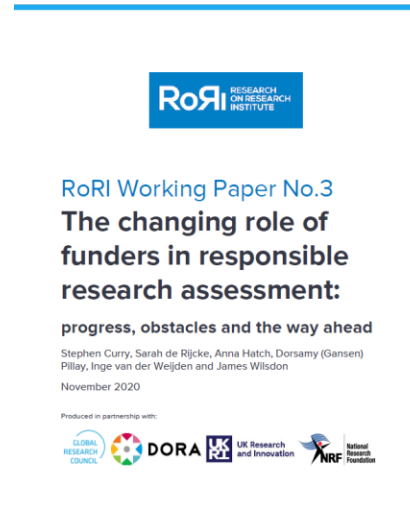
1000+ attendees

May 2021
GRC Annual Meeting



**GRC Endorsed
Call to Action**

September 2021
↓
**Established GRC RRA
Working Group**

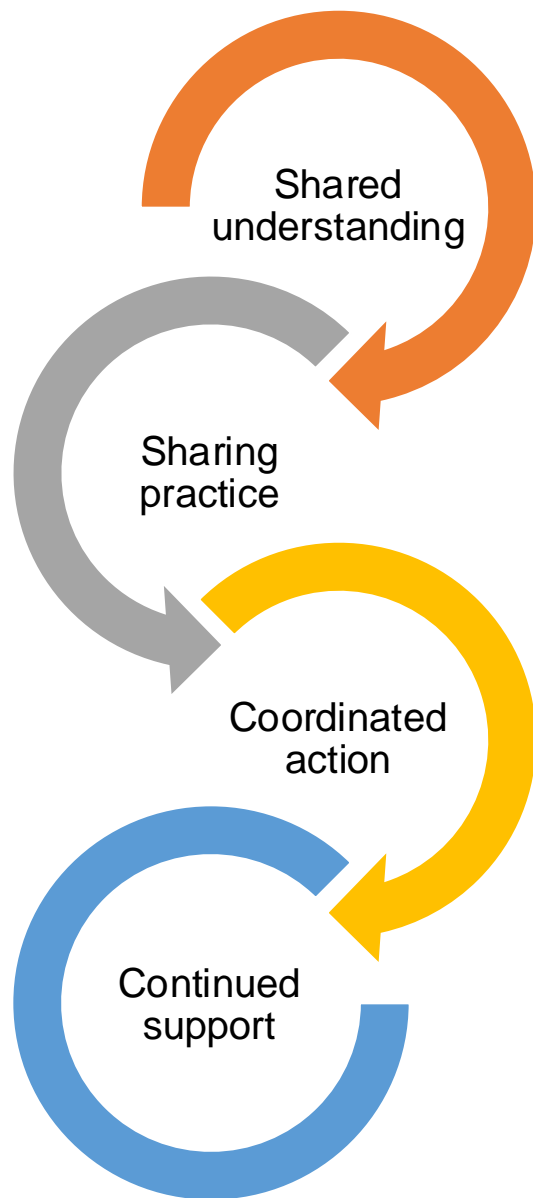


2022-2023
WG objectives set and tasked to sub-groups
↓
Published Action Plan

May-June 2024
↓
Published report on
11 **Dimensions of RRA**
&
Launched
Framework for Case Studies on RRA
&
Launched second
GRC RRA Survey
partnered with RoRI

11 Dimensions of Responsible Research Assessment

Towards a shared understanding of RRA



Objective 1 of the Working Group:

“ Advocate globally for the importance of RRA for improving the quality of research assessments.

Work towards a shared understanding and goal for RRA within GRC participants and their funded organisations based on existing definitions of RRA. ”

RoRI RESEARCH ON RESEARCH INSTITUTE

RoRI Working Paper No.3

The changing role of funders in responsible research assessment:

progress, obstacles and the way ahead

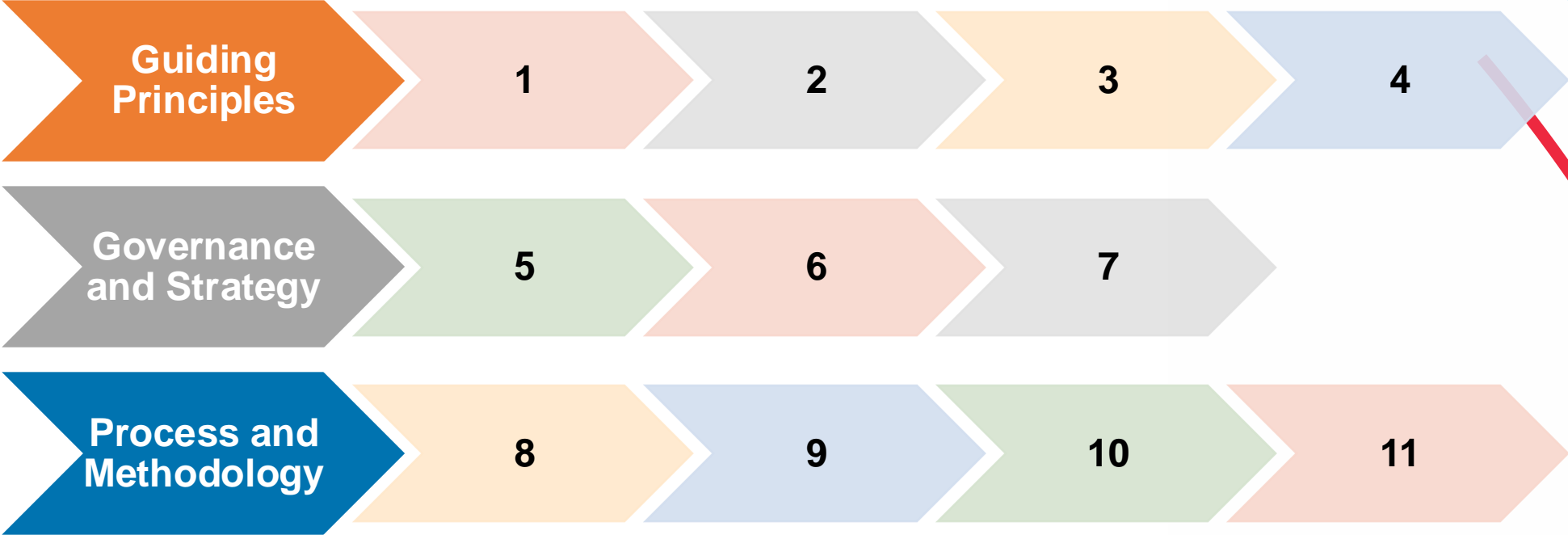
Stephen Curry, Sarah de Rijcke, Anna Hatch, Dorsamy (Gansen) Pillay, Inge van der Weijden and James Wilsdon

November 2020

Produced in partnership with:

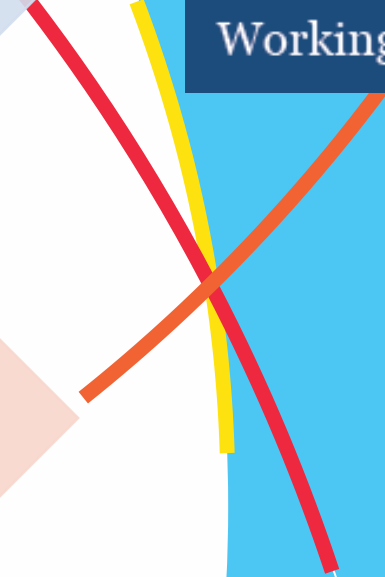


Dimensions of Responsible Research Assessment



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Guiding Principles



1

Responsible commitment to and promotion of **research integrity** and the **responsible conduct of research**

2

Responsible approaches to **incentivizing open research**

3

Responsible commitment to **equity, diversity, and inclusion** in research

4

Responsible responses to the **effects of global challenges and emergencies** on research



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Governance and Strategy

- 5 Responsible **administration and monitoring** of research assessment processes
- 6 Responsible approaches to **research assessment reform**
- 7 Responsible use of **influence on institutional policies and practices.**

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Process and Methodology



8

Responsible use and dissemination of **research assessment criteria**

9

Responsible assessment of **research contributions and achievements**

10

Responsible approaches to **impact assessment**

11

Responsible approaches to **reviewer and panel recruitment and training**



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Dimensions of Responsible Research Assessment

To read the full
report, please
see our website



Responsible research assessment is an umbrella term, defined as the approaches to assessment which incentivise, reflect, and reward the plural characteristics of high-quality research, in support of diverse and inclusive research cultures*. GRC participating organisations have developed a set of 11 complementary dimensions to frame further progress and discussions on RRA. We present the titles and short descriptions on this one-page document, and the full report can be found on the GRC RRA working group webpage. *[The changing role of funders in responsible research assessment: progress, obstacles and the way ahead \(RoRI Working Paper No.3\)](#)

Guiding Principles

[1] Responsible commitment to and promotion of research integrity and the responsible conduct of research.

Establish and promote policies and frameworks that support responsible research and research integrity.

[2] Responsible approaches to incentivizing open research.

Encourage researchers to openly share their outputs.

[3] Responsible commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion in research.

Commit to advance commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion in research.

[4] Responsible responses to the effects of global challenges and emergencies on research.

Develop strategies to reduce negative effects of global challenges and emergencies on research.

Governance & Strategy

[5] Responsible administration and monitoring of research assessment processes.

Establish well-supported and sustainable organizational framework to explore, analyze, develop, implement, monitor, and evaluate responsible research assessment practices.

[6] Responsible approaches to research assessment reform.

Reform should follow a responsible and robust research methodology.

[7] Responsible use of influence on institutional policies and practices.

Exercise influence responsibly in collaboration with interested parties, in line with RRA principles and recognizing institutional autonomy and academic freedom.

Processes and Methodology

[8] Responsible use and dissemination of research assessment criteria.

Use and disseminate criteria to acknowledge, enable and promote a diversity of research roles, activities, innovation, outputs and outcomes, adapting them contextually.

[9] Responsible assessment of research contributions and achievements.

Allow researchers to clearly communicate the significance, quality and impact of their contributions, including the adoption of a structured narrative CV and due considerations for career stage, interruptions and other contextual factors.

[10] Responsible approaches to impact assessment.

Value research that produces high-quality impacts, recognizing contextually relevant factors and a diversity of forms of impact, while minimizing any risk of harm.

[11] Responsible approaches to reviewer and panel recruitment and training.

Approaches should be considerate of multiple factors to reduce bias and ensure support of the advancement of a more equitable, diverse and inclusive research environment.



Responsible Research Assessment Case Studies

Objective 2 of the Working Group: Sharing Practices

The 2nd objective of the RRA WG is to provide guidance and support to participant organisations on embedding RRA in their practices, as well as in the organisations they fund.

Guidance and Support will be provided through **case studies** based on the dimensions and further engagement with the community.

Activities to date

- Developed a Case Study Submission Template
- Gathering Case Studies from Working Group Members

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Case Study Submission Template

- Title
- Lead organization
- Funding scheme
- RRA Dimensions
- Summary
- Background and reason for implementing the dimensions
- **Implementation of the dimensions**
- Links
- Photos or other media

❖ Planning

- > How did you plan the initiative?
- > Who were the key stakeholders and how did you identify them
- > What was your communications plan
- > What risks were identified and how were they mitigated

❖ Implementation

- > What were the critical steps to implement the plan
- > How long did it take to implement
- > What barriers did the implementation face and how were these dealt with

❖ Monitoring and Evaluation

- > How did you know that the dimension(s) had been successfully implemented?
- > How are you monitoring the outcomes of the plan?

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Next steps

- **October – January:** Gather case studies
 - We aim to receive case studies that are representative of funders' from across all the regions.
 - Case studies will cover all the Dimensions of RRA.
- **December – March:** Conduct quality assurance of case studies and prepare Case Study Booklet
- **Annual Meeting 2025:** Publish and present Case Study Booklet
- **Post-annual meeting:** Potential for webinars and community engagement to present case studies, informed by qualitative descriptions from the RRA survey.

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To submit a case study...

- Obtain the *Case Study Submission Template* from the GRC RRA Working Group website:
 - <https://globalresearchcouncil.org/about/responsible-research-assessment-working-group/>
- Contact the RRA Working Group or Joanne for guidance on how to complete the submission template.
 - GRC-RRA@UKRI.org

3. Case studies

Coming soon...

We will be collecting case studies in line with the Dimensions of RRA to:

- Share how funders have implemented and embedded RRA.
- Extend the knowledge base where gaps and barriers persist.

GRC Participants are invited to submit case studies to the working group at GRC-RRA@ukri.org by using the [Case Study Submission Template](#).

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GRC Global Survey on Responsible Research Assessment (RRA)

A brief overview

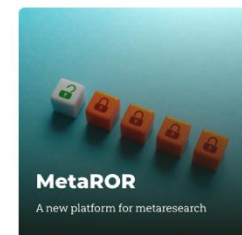
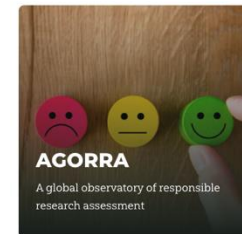
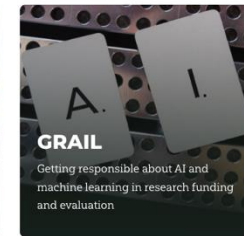
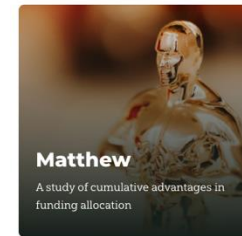
RoRI: a brief introduction

Headline facts:

- Founded in 2019 at Wellcome, now headquartered at University College London
- Supported by 19 partner organisations (incl. many GRC participants)
- 42 researchers and practitioners working across 10 live projects

Mission:

- Accelerate transformative research on research systems, cultures and decision-making
- Translate ideas and evidence into practical, real-world solutions
- Gather evidence and data, undertake experiments and develop tools to improve how research is funded, practised, communicated and evaluated



More info:

<http://researchonresearch.org>

@RoRIInstitute

RoRI's 2020 Survey for the GRC RRA WG

October 2020
Survey of GRC members
↓
RoRI report

November 2020
GRC – RRA Conference
↓
over 1000 attendees

May 2021
GRC Annual Meeting
↓
GRC Endorsed Call to Action

September 2021
↓
Established GRC RRA Working Group

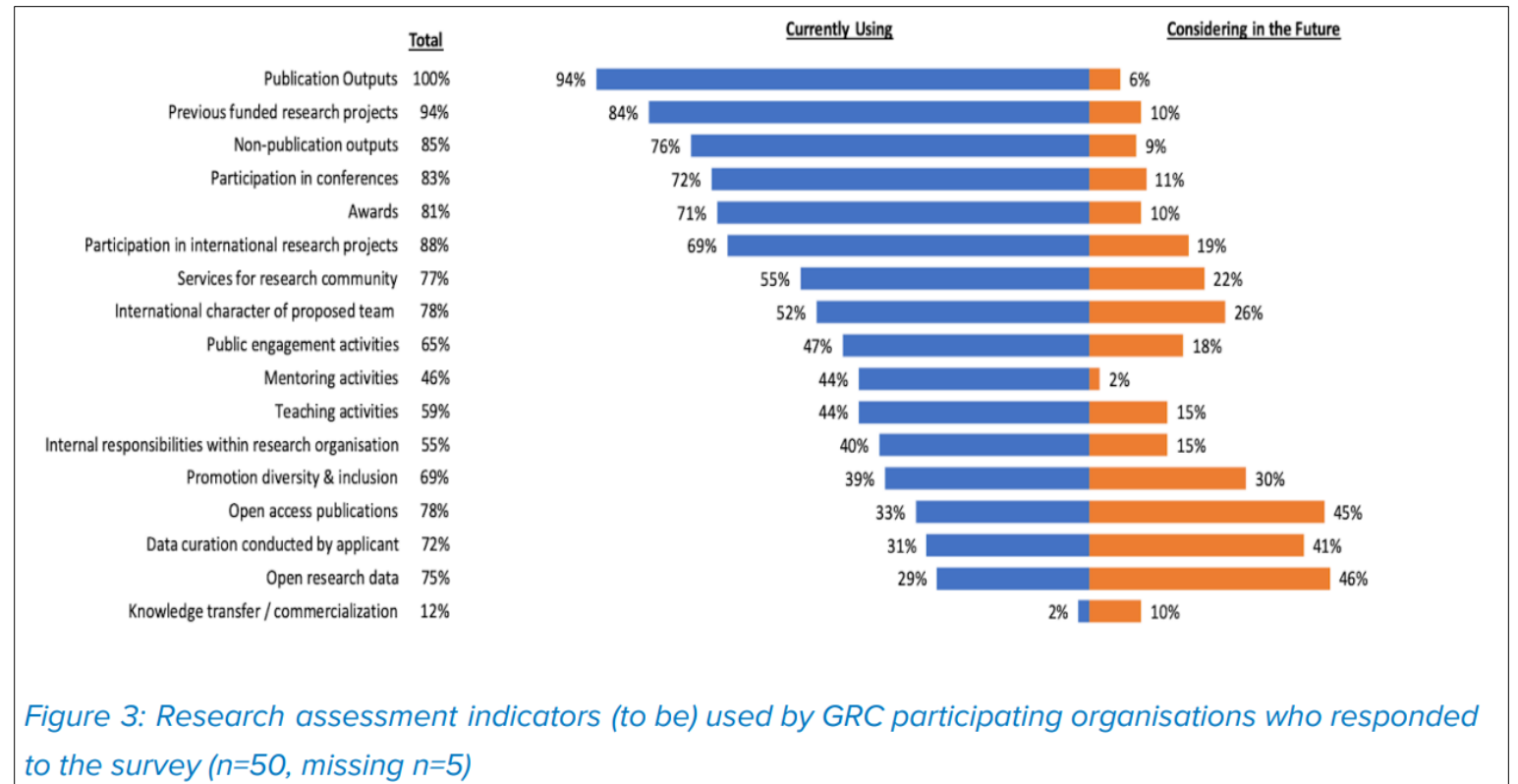


Figure 3: Research assessment indicators (to be) used by GRC participating organisations who responded to the survey (n=50, missing n=5)

Supporting progress on RRA: the 2024 survey

- New GRC-wide survey launched in 2024
- Generate comparative analysis from 2020-2024
- Expanded scope 1: contains questions on AI-use in research funding
- Expanded scope 2: captures uptake & perceived benefit of 38 interventions to grant funding
- Several survey items designed in consultation with GRC RRA WG participants

Responding to the survey

- The link to the Global Survey on Responsible Research Assessment has been circulated through the GRC mailing list and the regional mailing lists in May, July and September 2024.
- If you are unsure if your organisation can/has participated, please email us: GRC-RRR@ukri.org

The working group's next steps

- Assess survey results following the 6th of January deadline.
- Request an extension to the RRA WG mandate (currently scheduled to end in 2025).
- Continue to collect case studies in line with our vision and produce a booklet of these for unveiling at the 2025 annual meeting.
- Develop and deliver our self-assessment tool and roadmap for funders to assess RRA.

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Thank you

Questions can be directed to grc-rra@ukri.org

We are always interested to hear from prospective members if you participate in the GRC