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Project Title	New Assessment Tools for Internal Programs of the Czech Academy of Sciences
Project Number	24-CoARA-050
Funded	by Horizon Europe CoARA Boost
Type of Project	Institutional Change Projects
Realization	February 2025 – February 2026
Beneficiary	Czech Academy of Sciences (Head Office)
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Objective: Boost activities of the Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS) with a new platform for excellent research and qualitative assessment tools.

Key Points:

- Complementary Platform: Supports ongoing internal programs at CAS.
- Target Audience: Researchers at all career stages across 52 CAS research institutes.
- Focus: Review internal assessment processes with sensitivity to Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (ARRA) principles.
- Development: Create new assessment tools and criteria for new and ongoing programs.
- Implementation: Integrate new tools into internal procedures.
- Outcome: Accelerate and complement changes to improve CAS assessment practices, creating a responsive environment for researchers.

Project Details

Platform Goals:

- Enhance Research Quality: Provide opportunities for deeper engagement with qualitative assessment tools.
- Support Scientific Excellence: Aid selected researchers in achieving excellence.

Assessment Review:

- Sensitivity to ARRA Principles: Ensure internal processes align with signed ARRA principles.

Tool Development:

- New Criteria: Develop criteria for new programs.
- Updates: Update criteria for ongoing programs.

Implementation:

- Integration: Implement new tools into CAS internal procedures.

Impact:

- Improvement: Further improve CAS assessment practices.
 - Responsiveness: Create an environment responsive to researchers' needs.
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Brief Summary of Project Results

The project supported a major reform of the assessment of internal programmes focused on excellence and career development within the Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS). Based on an analysis of existing processes, a set of recommendations and a new system of assessment tools were developed to address the need for greater transparency, higher quality evaluation, more appropriate assessment methods, and alignment with CoARA principles.

The main outputs of the project include:

- feedback on selected existing programmes;
- a set of recommendations for the redesign of internal programmes;
- an open toolbox of new assessment tools;
- an implementation plan for the period 2025–2028;
- the preparation of new methodologies and rules for excellence and career development support programmes;
- development and adoption of a new allocation-based assessment model;
- raising awareness of excellence and career development programmes through regular updates and events;
- including feedback and monitoring into the programmes.

A key outcome of the project is the introduction of three overarching assessment models tailored to different types of programmes:

1. decentralised allocation-based funding for career development programmes;
2. internal qualitative assessment;
3. expert panel evaluation involving external reviewers and interviews.

The project received strong institutional support. The Academy Council approved the overall reform strategy, the implementation plan, and the framework for the new rules, which will gradually transform all relevant CAS internal programmes by 2028.

The impact of the project extends beyond individual programmes. The reform affects CAS employees and directly influences programmes with budgets amounting to millions of Czech crowns. The new system will provide more targeted forms of support, increase the transparency of selection procedures, improve the alignment between assessment methods and programme objectives, promote greater engagement of researchers and institutes, enhance the effectiveness of support mechanisms, and enable systematic monitoring of programme impacts.



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About CoARA Boost

Project is funded from the Horizon Europe CoARA Boost project which strengthens the operational capacity of CoARA. It provides a means to develop a critical mass for reforming research assessment, to generate gravitas for new members as well as to investigate and implement new models for research assessment. The project started in October 2023 and is 36 month long. More than half of the project's overall budget is redistributed to institutions participating the research assessment reform in the form of cascade funding grant. The CAS submitted the project into the 1st call on funding.

What is CoARA?

[The Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment](#) (CoARA) is a collective of organisations committed to reforming the methods and processes by which research, researchers, and research organisations are evaluated. Current research assessment methods rely heavily on publication-based metrics such as citation counts, and often fail to recognise the wide array of contributions made by researchers.

Over 700 research organisations, funders, assessment authorities, professional societies, and their associations have agreed on a common direction and guiding principles to implement reform in the assessment of research, researchers, and research organisations, outlined in the [Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment](#) published in July 2022 which provides an outline for reform and implementation.

The CAS signed the Agreement in November 2022 and joined also the coalition of their signatories.
