

The 3rd Global Summit on Diamond Open Access Session on Responsible Assessment Policies as a Pathway to Diamond OA

GRC RRA Working Group Representation:

Presenting – Lidia Borrell-Damián on behalf of Nosisa Dube (Co-Chair GRC RRA WG. NRF - South Africa/RoRI/DORA)

Workshop held @ ICAR, Bengaluru, India
04 February 2026



Responsible Research Assessment Working Group

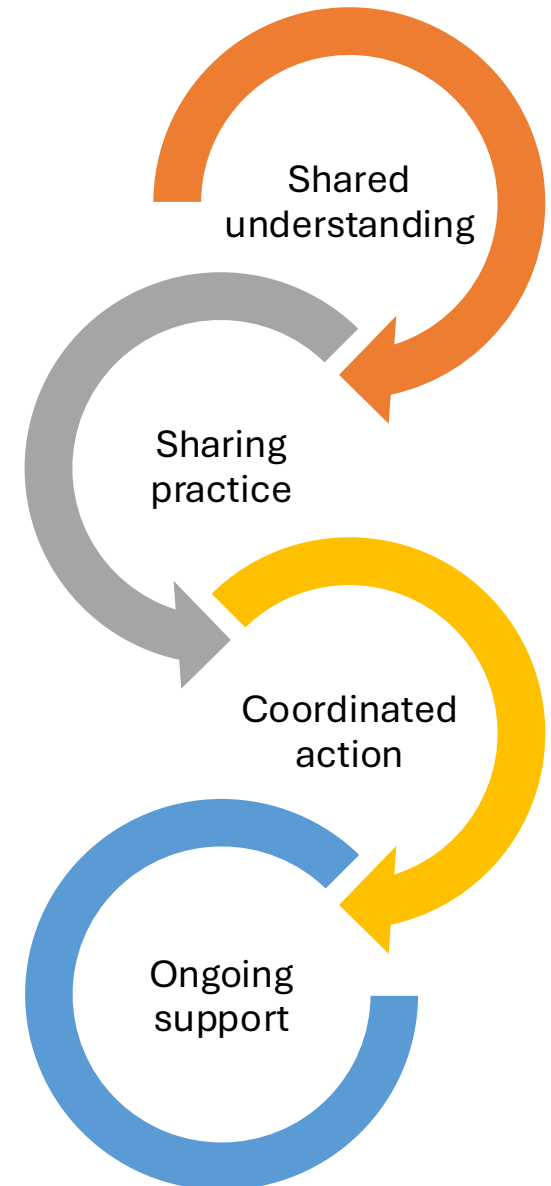
Working Group Vision

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, and by sharing guidance and best practice.**

Who we are and what we intend to do

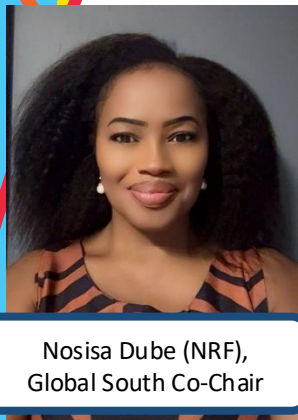


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Where we come from? Distribution and Governance



Shawn McGuirk (NSERC),
Global North Co-Chair

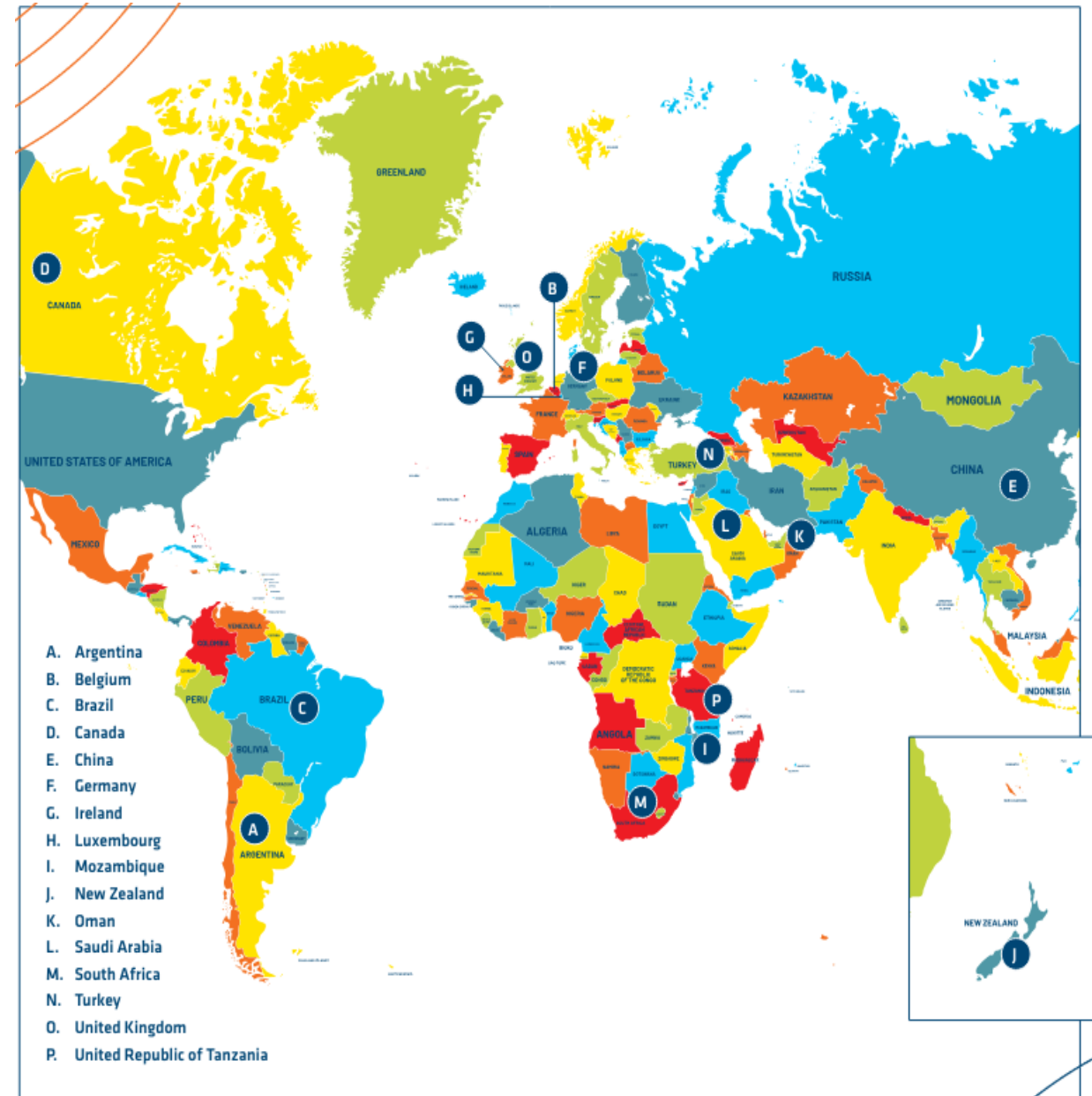


Nosisa Dube (NRF),
Global South Co-Chair

The RRA working group comprises **25 members from 23 countries** across the globe. Every GRC region is represented, ensuring a worldwide perspective and outreach among global funders.

Co-chairs are from NSERC (Canada) and NRF (South Africa).

The RRA working group's distributed Secretariat is supported by NSERC (Canada), UKRI (United Kingdom), and NCRST (Namibia).



Advancing RRA globally through the GRC

What we've done

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• Establishing the working group

- ✓ The changing role of funders in RRA (2020)
- ✓ GRC-endorsed call to action and establishment of the working group (2021)
- ✓ Publication of the working group's Action Plan (2022) to develop a shared understanding of RRA



1. Shared understanding

- ✓ Dimensions of RRA (2024)
- ✓ Transforming Assessment report (2025)

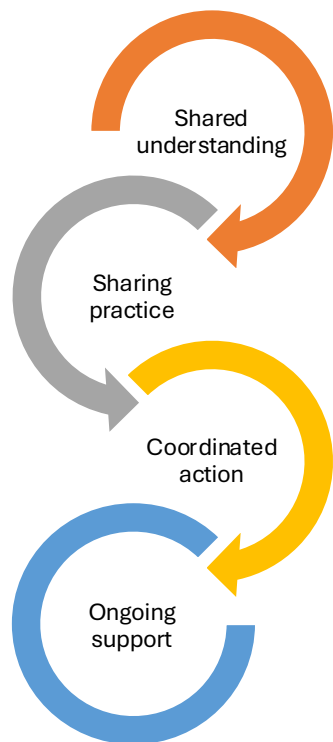
2. Sharing practice

- ✓ Case Study digital booklet and library (2025)

3. Coordinated action

- ❑ Self-assessment tool (2026)
- ❑ Roadmap / Practical Guide (2026)

4. Ongoing support



Dimensions of RRA



Transforming Assessment Report



Case study Digital Library

Our shared understanding

RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH ASSESSMENT (RRA)

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INCENTIVISES

Encourages positive research behaviors



REFLECTS

Captures the diverse nature of quality research



REWARDS

Diverse contributions across disciplines and roles



SUPPORT

Diverse and inclusive research cultures



RRA - incentivizes, reflects, and rewards the plural characteristics of high-quality research, in support of diverse and inclusive research cultures.” (RoRi, 2020)

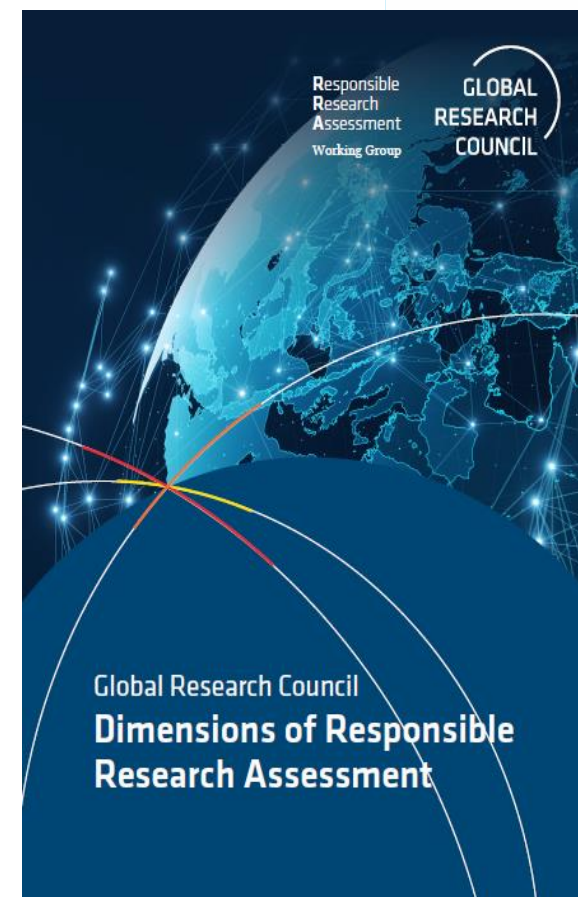
<https://globalresearchcouncil.org/about/responsible-research-assessment-working-group/>

The 11 Dimensions of RRA

Funders' vision of RRA and framework for future advancement in RRA

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Guiding principles	Governance and strategy	Process and methodology
[1] Responsible commitment to and promotion of research integrity and the responsible conduct of research.	[5] Responsible administration and monitoring of research assessment processes.	[8] Responsible use and dissemination of research assessment criteria.
[2] Responsible approaches to incentivizing open research.	[6] Responsible approaches to research assessment reform.	[9] Responsible assessment of research contributions and achievements.
[3] Responsible commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion in research.	[7] Responsible use of influence on institutional policies and practices.	[10] Responsible approaches to impact assessment.
[4] Responsible responses to the effects of global challenges and emergencies on research.		[11] Responsible approaches to reviewer and panel recruitment and training.



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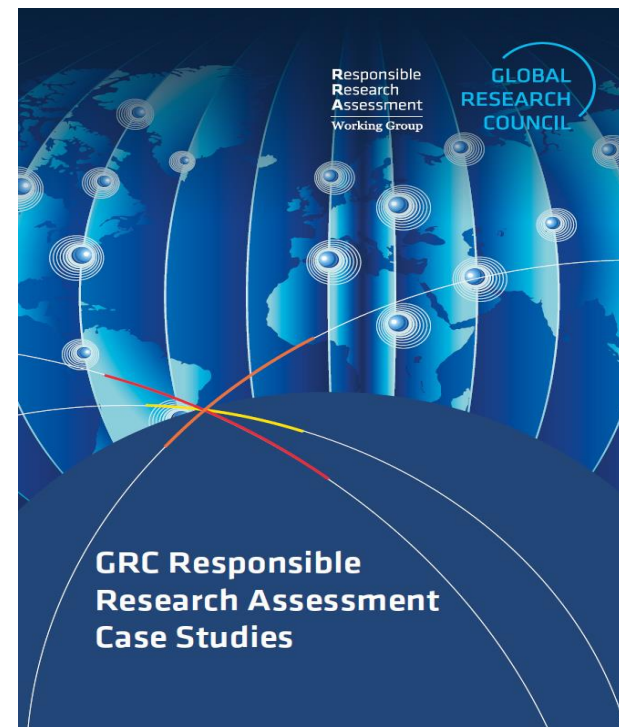
Case study	Dimensions of RRA										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Americas											
Conicet		X				X		X	X		
NSERC			X				X				
Asia Pacific											
NSFC					X						X
MBIE #1			X						X		
MBIE #2							X				
MBIE #3			X	X							
Europe											
Science Europe		X			X				X		
DFG	X		X			X			X		
HRB					X					X	X
Research Ireland			X				X		X		
FNR	X		X				X	X	X		X
SNFS									X		
UKRI						X	X				
Sub-Saharan Africa											
COSTECH	X		X								
Total	3	2	7	1	3	3	5	2	7	1	3

Table 2: Case studies by region, funding organisation, and Dimensions of RRA represented

RRA Case Studies

Provide Real world examples of how funders can embed RRA practices aligned with the dimensions within their own contexts

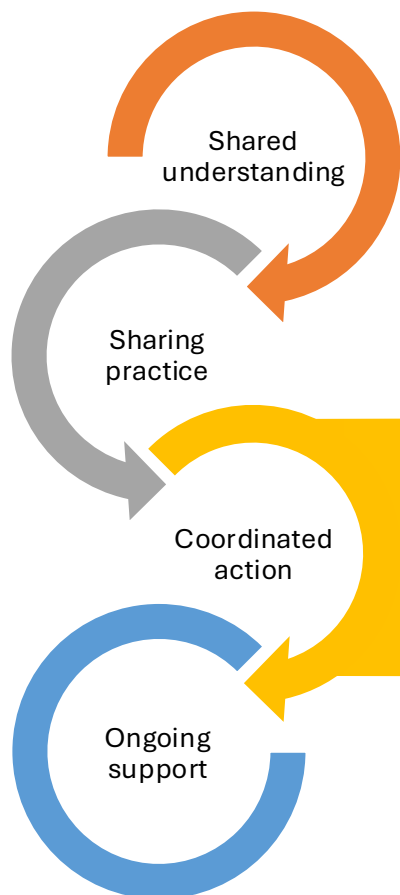
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Towards Coordinated Action: A Collaboration with DORA

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1. Shared understanding

- ✓ Dimensions of RRA (2024)
- ✓ Transforming Assessment report (2025)

2. Sharing practice

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3. Coordinated action

- Self-assessment tool (2026)
- Roadmap / Practical Guide (2026)

4. Ongoing support

Self assessment tool developed for funders to understand their own progress towards embedding RRA principles.

SHOWS FUNDERS WHERE THEY ARE



The tool is complemented by a road map (DORA Practical Guide) that provides how funders can make a systemic change overcome obstacles and implement RRA practices aligned with the dimensions of RRA. **SHOWS FUNDERS HOW TO GET THERE**

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Closing Remarks



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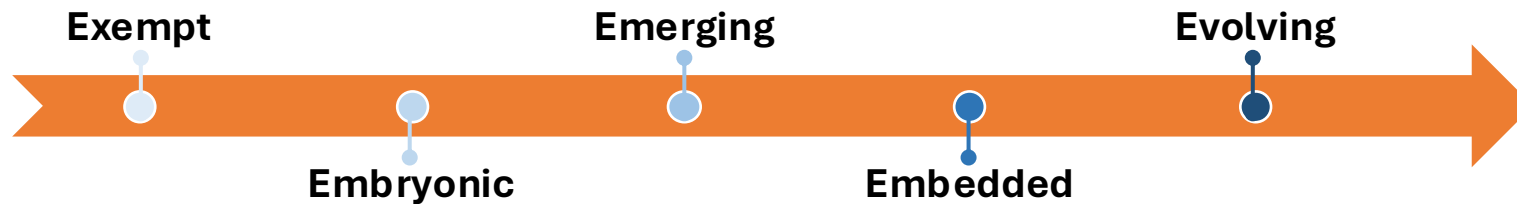
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Our group commits to supporting funders in advancing RRA and in working closely with other leading organisations in the advancement of RRA (such as CoARA, DORA and RoRI to ensure guidance is clear, consistent and useful.

Objective 3: A Self-Assessment Tool for Funders

The self-assessment tool will take the form of a **maturity model**, which funders can use to assess and advance their alignment with Responsible Research Assessment (RRA) principles across the 11 Dimensions. The maturity model includes **five stages**:



Why Use It?

- Supports **evidence-informed** and **strategic decision-making**
- Enables **effective resource allocation**
- Enhances **transparency** and **independence** in assessment
- Aligns with **international standards** (GRC, DORA)
- Informs actions described in DORA's upcoming **Practical Guide for funders**

How to Use It:

- Flexible: focus on priority areas or full matrix
- Use for desk analysis, stakeholder interviews, or policy review
- Develop tailored action plans **based on your organisation's context**

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DORA

Development of the self-assessment tool

- The RRA Working Group is **currently developing** the approach, which will include a grid describing how each of the 11 dimensions of RRA can be mapped across 5 stages of maturity. For example:

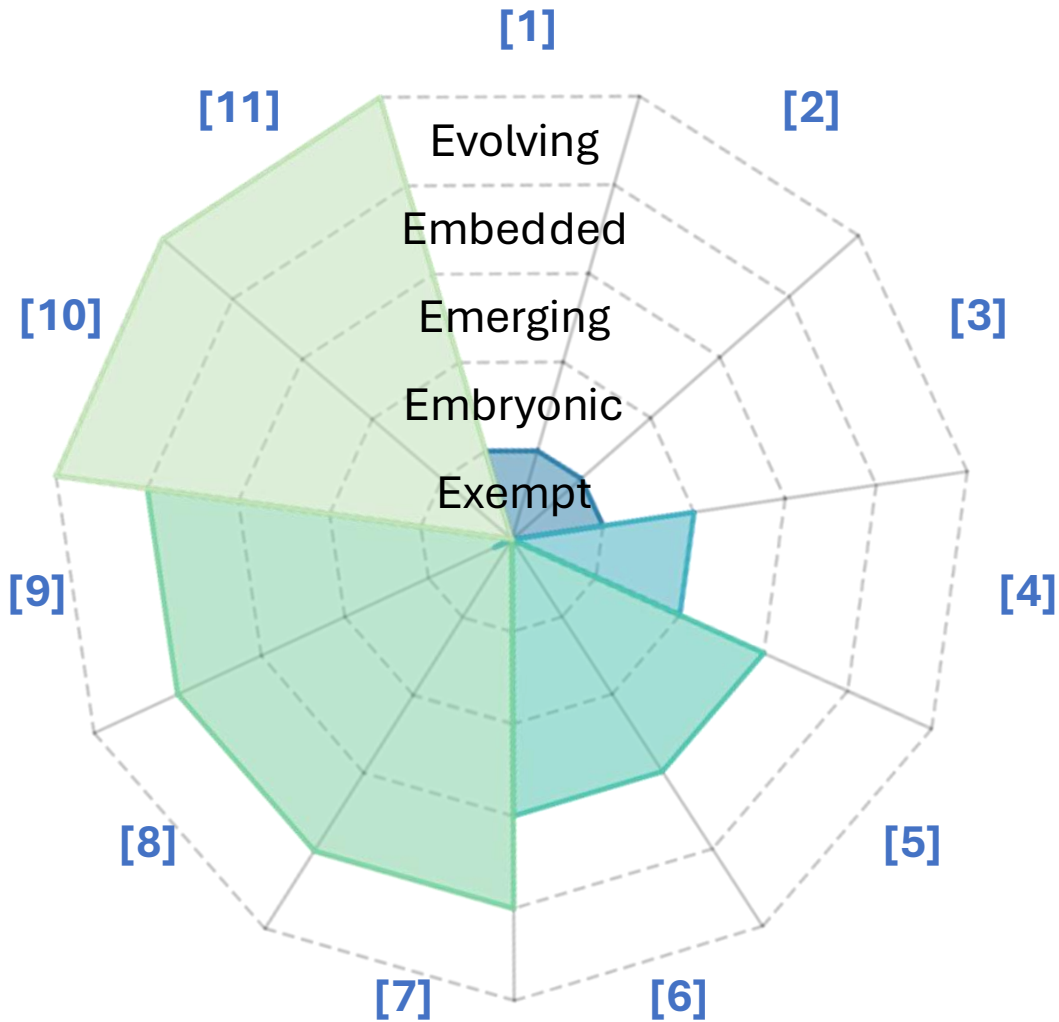
Dimension	Exempt →	Embryonic →	Emerging →	Embedded →	Evolving
[2] Responsible Approaches to Incentivizing Open Research	No support or recognition for open access/data	Policies were developed and published that encourage open access	Incentives are provided for open publishing and FAIR data	Open research practices are rewarded in evaluations	Policies / practices reviewed regularly for alignment with global open science frameworks

- This grid will be accompanied by a set of questions to help funders position themselves within the landscape of RRA implementation.
- You will receive a draft of the maturity model. We invite you to share this draft with relevant individuals on your team or in your organization for their input, which can be submitted to us at GRC-RRA@ukri.org

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Mapping the 11 Dimensions of RRA Across 5 Stages of Maturity



The maturity of each Dimension can be visualized as a map.

The example on the left is of a self-assessment that would indicate the following level of maturity for each Dimension:

Dimensions [1] –[3] as **Exempt**

Dimension [4] as **Embryonic**

Dimensions [5] –[6] as **Emerging**

Dimensions [7] –[9] as **Embedded**

Dimensions [10] –[11] as **Evolving**

Evaluation and monitoring are essential across all stages to guide progress and ensure accountability.

RRA Working Group – DORA partnership



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The RRA Working Group is partnering with **DORA** and **Science Europe (SE)** to achieve our objective of **sharing practical guidance for funders** to implement Responsible Research Assessment (RRA) practices on a global scale. Our collaboration covers the following key areas:

- **Self-Assessment Tool and Maturity Model:** The RRA Working Group will seek regular input from DORA and SE as the self-assessment tool is developed. Communications about the tool will acknowledge this collaboration.
- **Practical Guide for Implementing RRA at Research Funding Organizations:** DORA will seek regular input from the RRA Working Group and SE as the Guide is developed. Communications about the Guide will acknowledge this collaboration.
- **Case Studies:** The RRA Working Group's digital library of case studies will be updated and shared on DORA's website: sfdora.org/dora-case-studies/
- **Broader Alignment:** All three organizations will actively explore pathways for broader alignment of their collaborative RRA guidance.

A Practical Guide for Implementing RRA at Research Funding Organizations



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Chapter 1: Introduction

- Describes the background, the goals and scope of the Guide

Chapter 2: Key activities to help embed RRA into your activities

- Highlights activities for funders to embed RRA.
- Includes: developing a strategic vision for RRA; exploring the landscape; working with the community; mobilizing resources; developing effective communication and engagement plans; and monitoring, evaluating and reviewing changes.

Chapter 3: Key moments in funding agency research and research assessment

- Outlines the critical touch points where funders can embed RRA principles throughout the research funding cycle.
- Covers five key moments: establishing funding programmes and calls; making funding decisions; setting grant conditions; monitoring and evaluating grants and programmes; and developing effective communication and engagement.

Chapter 4: Global initiatives and examples for RRA

- Showcases global initiatives and examples.

Please send us
your comments at
[GRC-
RRA@ukri.org](mailto:GRC-RRA@ukri.org)

Discussion Questions



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Maturity Model

1. What are your thoughts on the maturity model? Would this be a useful tool for your organization to self-assess its RRA practices and activities, within its local context?
2. What guidance can you provide to the RRA WG, on how to develop this maturity model in a way that would be most helpful in your organization?
3. Do you foresee any barriers to using the maturity model as a self-assessment tool?

Practical Guide

1. What are your thoughts on the outline of the DORA Practical Guide? Are there any elements that are missing, that should be covered by the Guide?

Questions aligned with the discussion papers

1. What factors should funders consider when aligning their assessment practices to global RRA standards, to ensure that they also effectively support **sustainable and locally governed open science infrastructures / knowledge ecosystems**?
2. Have you, or any other funder in your region, adopted RRA practices intended to support **research on sustainability**, that can be shared as a **case study**?

Next Steps and Call to Action



The RRA Working Group will work with **DORA** and **Science Europe** to complete a first draft of the **Practical Guide to Implementing RRA at Research Funding Organisations** this Winter 2026.



The RRA Working Group aims to publish and present the completed **Self-Assessment Tool** and **Maturity Model**, alongside the **Practical Guide**, at the 2026 Annual Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand.



The RRA working Group kindly asks you to **share** this presentation and associated materials **with the appropriate individuals in your organization** for their feedback. Written feedback is welcomed at GRC-RAA@ukri.org.



We welcoming submission of additional **RRA Case Studies**, especially those related to Open Science. For details, connect with us: GRC-RAA@ukri.org



Contact us if your organisation would like to join our working group, if you wish to **submit written comments** or if you have any questions: GRC-RAA@ukri.org

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Thank you

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

We are always interested to hear from more
prospective members!