Responsible Research Assessment
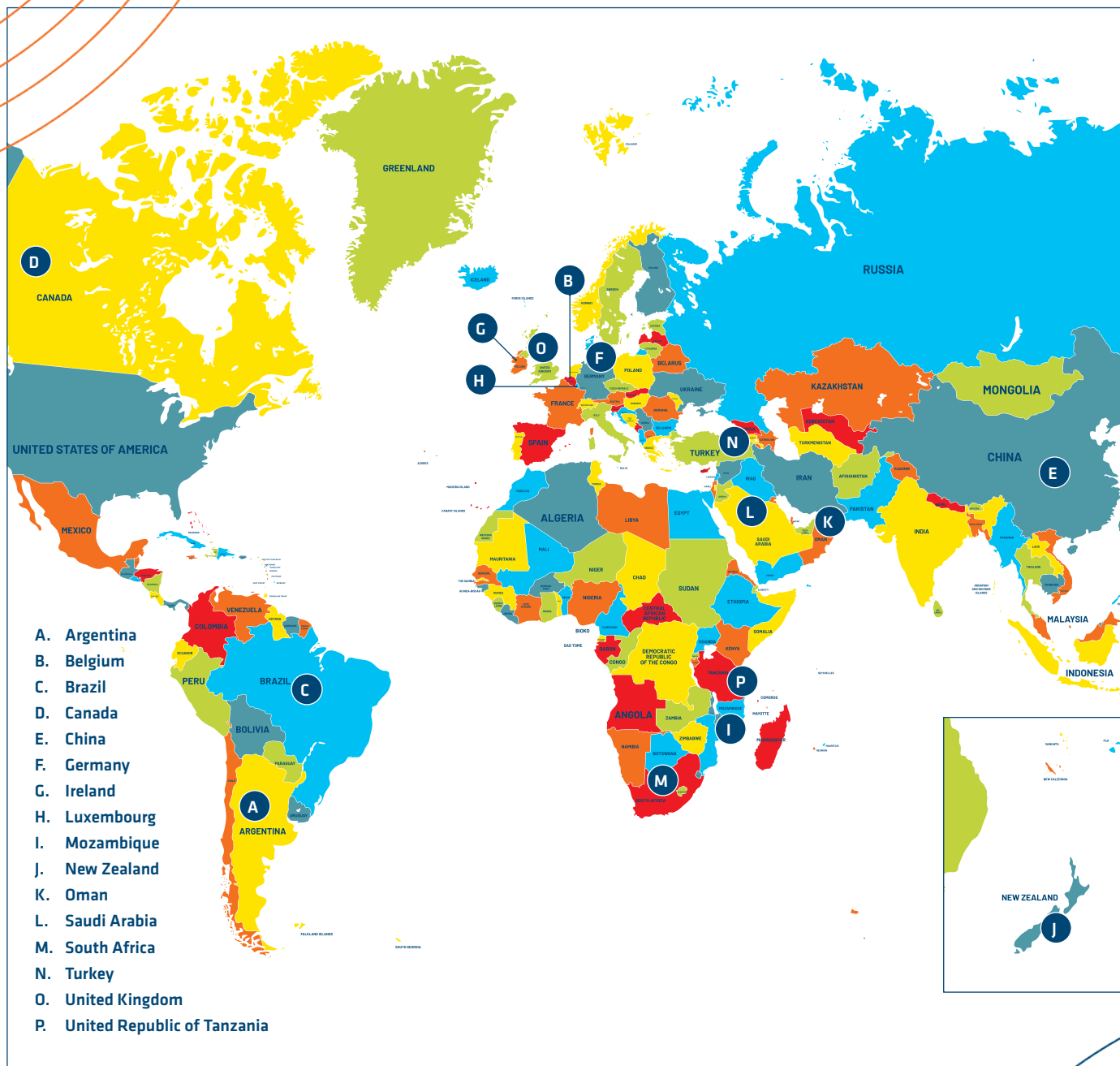Working Group

GLOBAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

GRC Responsible Research Assessment Working Group

Action Plan

In May 2021, Global Research Council (GRC) participants agreed take concrete actions to incentivise and fulfil Responsible Research Assessment (RRA) ambitions.[1] A new RRA GRC working group was established to support participant organisations in their progress towards these goals.

The RRA working group comprises **19 funding organisations from 16 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.

A. Argentina
B. Belgium
C. Brazil
D. Canada
E. China
F. Germany
G. Ireland
H. Luxembourg
I. Mozambique
J. New Zealand
K. Oman
L. Saudi Arabia
M. South Africa
N. Turkey
O. United Kingdom
P. United Republic of Tanzania

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.

Year 1

- The RRA working group members agreed on a concrete vision and ambitious objectives to guide the work of the working group.

- The RRA working group sought feedback on the vision and objectives during the 2022 Annual meeting. Stakeholders who were consulted include representatives from the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), Plan S, the International Network of Research Management Societies (INORMs), the Global Young Academy (GYA), collaborators from the Research Quality Plus (RQ+) Assessment Framework, and the Latin American Forum on Research Assessment (FOLEC-CLACSO).

Year 2-3

- The RRA working group established four task and finish groups.

Task and Finish Group one:

- – Deliver a gap analysis of previous GRC RRA work.

- – Create a common view on dimensions of RRA. The dimensions act as an agreed framework upon which the next task and finish groups will operate.

- – Survey GRC participants in 2023/2024 to capture an updated global understanding of the practices, initiatives and obstacles GRC participants face when implementing RRA principles.

Task and Finish Groups two and four:

- – Share case studies on RRA from GRC participants via webinars.

Year 3-4

Task and Finish Group three:

– Develop (based on understanding developed in task and finish groups one, two and four) a self-assessment tool to help GRC participants and other research funders understand and self-assess their progress towards implementing RRA. The tool will leverage the international and broad perspective of members from the working group and beyond (e.g., formal links to organisations in the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) are being established) to ensure that it includes a range of elements which can be tailored based on the local context on which it is used. This self-assessment tool will be complemented by a roadmap which provides guidance on how funders can make systemic change, overcome obstacles, and implement RRA practices.

The RRA working group looks forward to its collaboration with all GRC organisations including in the development of current and future discussion topics. We thank GRC members for their enthusiasm and continued support.

Shared understanding

Objective:
Advocate globally for the importance of RRA and work towards a shared understanding and goal for RRA within GRC participants

Anticipated outputs:
• Gap analysis
• Dimensions of RRA
• RORI survey

Shared practice

Objective:
Share practice and guidance in implementing and embedding RRA in GRC participants

Anticipated outputs:
• Case studies
• Good practice webinars

Coordinated action

Objective:
Galvanise support and enable coordinated action in the GRC participants to implement common RRA principles and frameworks across the global research system

Anticipated outputs:
• Self assessment tool and supporting roadmap

Continued support

Objective:
Extend the knowledge base where gaps and barriers persist or emerge, building on existing work where possible

Anticipated outputs:
• Case studies
• Good practice webinars