



# Science Europe Activities on Research Assessment Processes

Marc Schiltz (President of Science Europe)

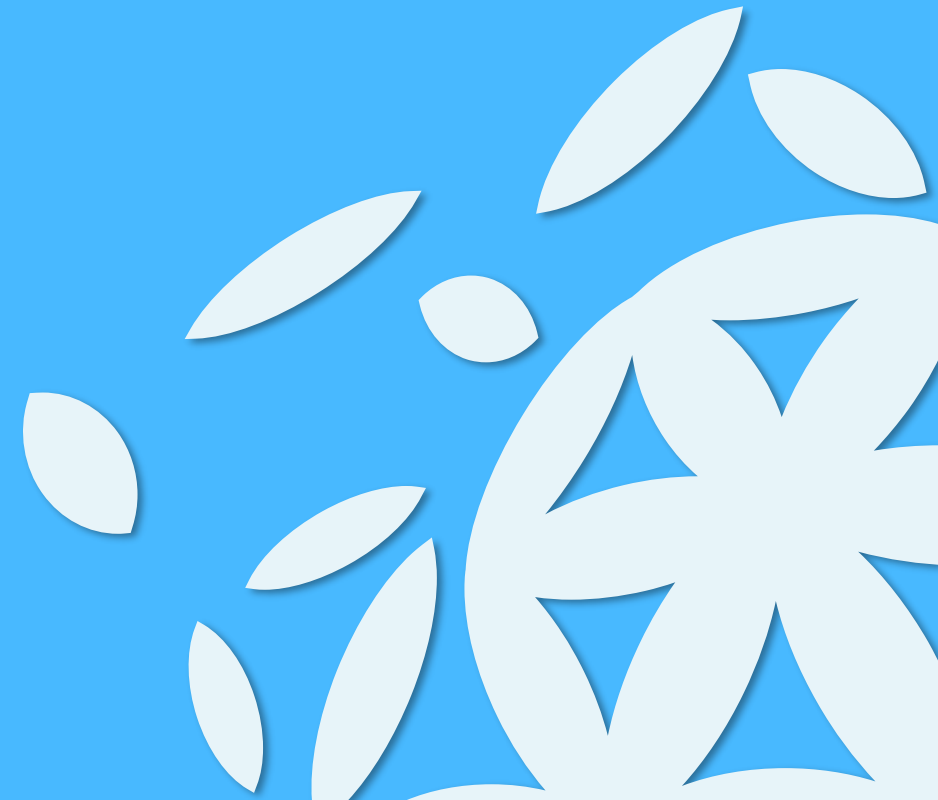
Lidia Borrell-Damián (Secretary General of Science Europe)



European University Association (EUA) Webinar



Monday, 18 May 2020



# Science Europe / European University Association Joint Statement (May 2019)



## The European University Association and Science Europe Join Efforts to Improve Scholarly Research Assessment Methodologies

14 May 2019

Evaluating research and assessing researchers is fundamental to the research enterprise and core to the activities of research funders and research performing organisations, as well as universities. The European University Association (EUA) and Science Europe are committed to building a strong dialogue between their members, who share the responsibility of developing and implementing more accurate, open, transparent and responsible approaches, that better reflect the evolution of research activity in the digital era.

Today, the outcomes of scholarly research are often measured through methods based on quantitative, albeit approximate, indicators such as the journal impact factor. There is a need to move away from reductionist ways of assessing research, as well as to establish systems that better assess research potential. Universities, research funders and research performing organisations are well-placed to explore new and improved research assessment approaches, while also being indispensable in turning these innovations into systemic reforms.

EUA and Science Europe are committed to working together on building a strong dialogue between their members, with a view to:

- support necessary changes for a better balance between qualitative and quantitative research assessment approaches, aiming at evaluating the merits of scholarly research. Furthermore, novel criteria and methods need to be developed towards a fairer and more transparent assessment of research, researchers and research teams, conducive to selecting excellent proposals and researchers.
- recognise the diversity of research outputs and other relevant academic activities and their value in a manner that is appropriate to each research field and that challenges the overreliance on journal-based metrics.
- consider a broad range of criteria to reward and incentivise research quality as the fundamental principle of scholarly research, and ascertain assessment processes and methods that accurately reflect the vast dimensions of research quality and credit all scientific contributions appropriately.

EUA and Science Europe will launch activities to further engage their members in improving and strengthening their research assessment practices. Building on these actions, both associations commit to maintaining a continuous dialogue and explore opportunities for joint actions, with a view to promoting strong synergies between the rewards and incentives structures of research funders and research performing organisations, as well as universities.

**The European University Association (EUA)** is the representative organisation of more than 800 universities and national rectors' conferences in 48 European countries. EUA plays a crucial role in the Bologna Process and in influencing EU policies in higher education, research and innovation. Thanks to its interaction with a range of other European and international organisations, EUA ensures that the voice of European universities is heard wherever decisions are being taken that will impact their activities.  
For more information from EUA, please contact [Jessica Carter](#).

**Science Europe** is an association of 36 major Research Funding Organisations and Research Performing Organisations from 27 countries with a combined research budget of approximately €18 billion per annum. The association facilitates co-operation among its members and supports excellence in science and research in all disciplines, acting as a platform to develop positions on research policy issues and to address policy messages to the European institutions, researchers, national governments, and the public.  
For more information from Science Europe, please contact [Lorna Stokes](#).

Both organisations have now completed studies of their related to research assessment processes which together provides a unique perspective and snapshot of the current research assessment system in Europe.

Both studies point to the need for substantial and concerted change to the way research and researchers are assessed.

# Wider context

Consideration of the need for substantial changes to the research assessment system is timely and links well with other ongoing initiatives...



## LEIDEN MANIFESTO FOR RESEARCH METRICS

# Science Europe recommendations

1. What approaches are used to assess and select proposals and researchers in a transparent and robust manner?

*Recommendations focus to continual need to improve **transparency** and **clarity** of all aspects of assessment processes, and the need to **monitor** and regularly **evaluate** the processes implemented.*

2. What are the challenges that research organisations face during assessment processes

*Recommendations in this section focus on the need to continually **address bias, discrimination, and unfair treatment** in assessment processes, the **cost and efficiency** of such processes, and the **time and effort burdens** placed on reviewers and applicants.*

3. What are the current developments in the assessment of research proposals and researchers?

*Recommendations relate to developments supporting **qualitative assessments**, the **implementation of novel assessment techniques** and promotion of **evidence-based knowledge sharing and mutual learning** between research organisations. Finally, the recommendations highlight considerations for organisations who are (or are planning) to implement **challenge-oriented programmes**.*



SCIENCE  
EUROPE  
Shaping the future of research

# Science Europe Activities on Research Assessment Processes

Marc Schiltz (President of Science Europe)

Lidia Borrell-Damián (Secretary General of Science Europe)



Visit: [www.scienceeurope.org](http://www.scienceeurope.org)

European University Association (EUA) Webinar

Monday, 18 May 2020

