

# PROMETHEUS project

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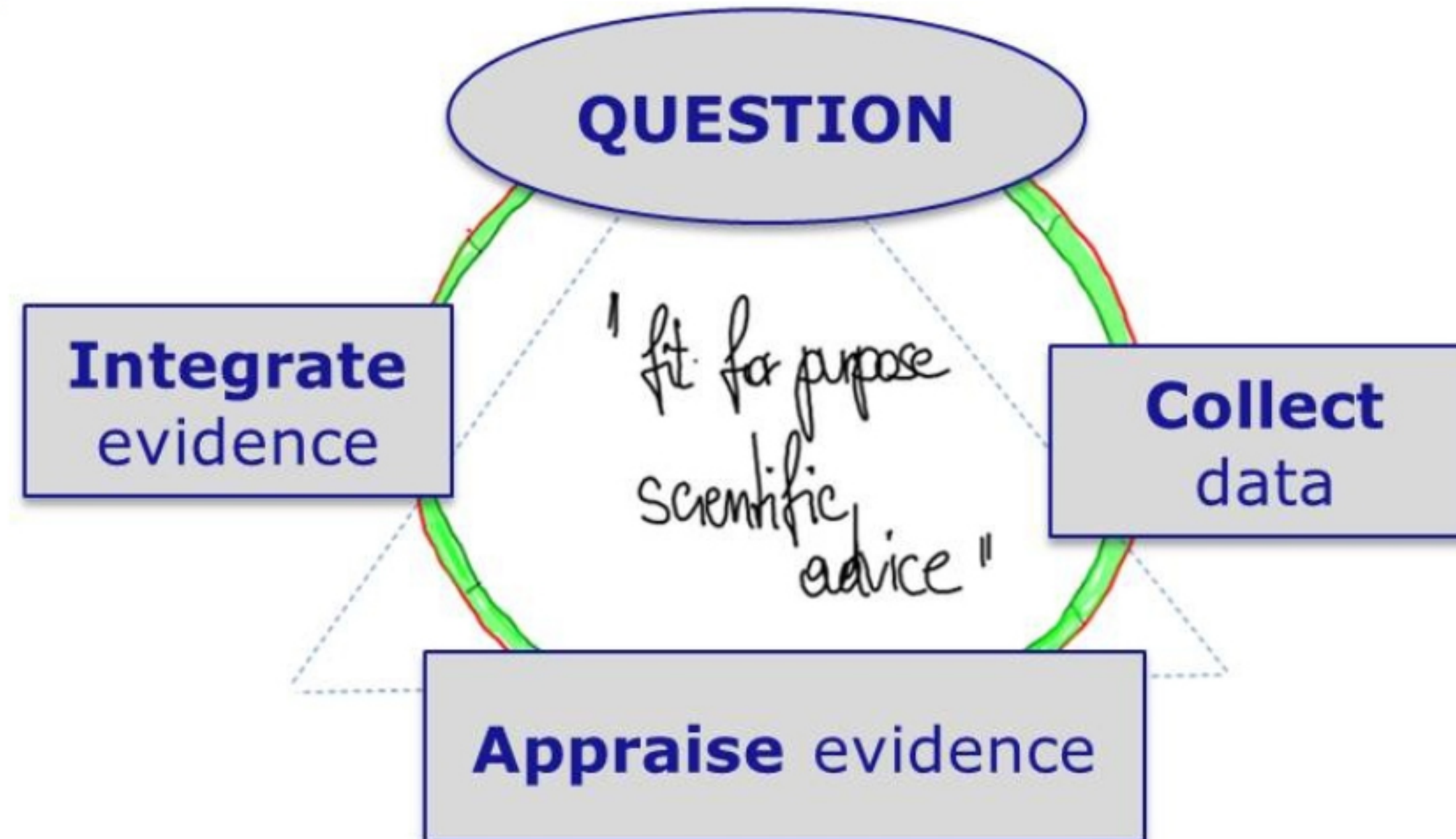
Parma (IT)

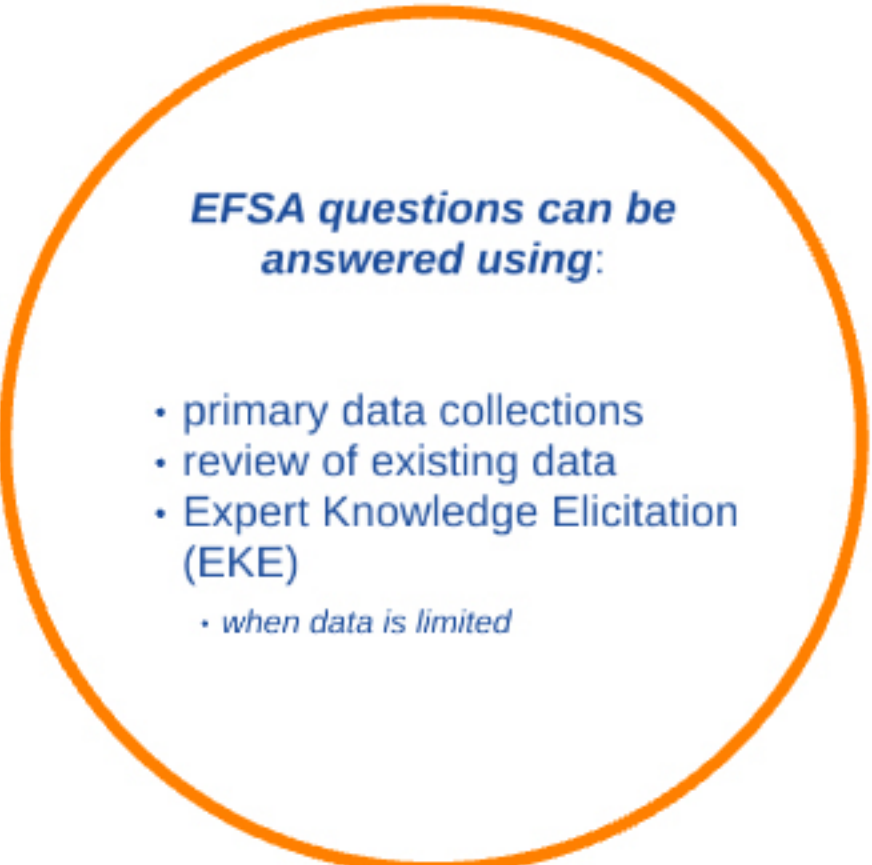
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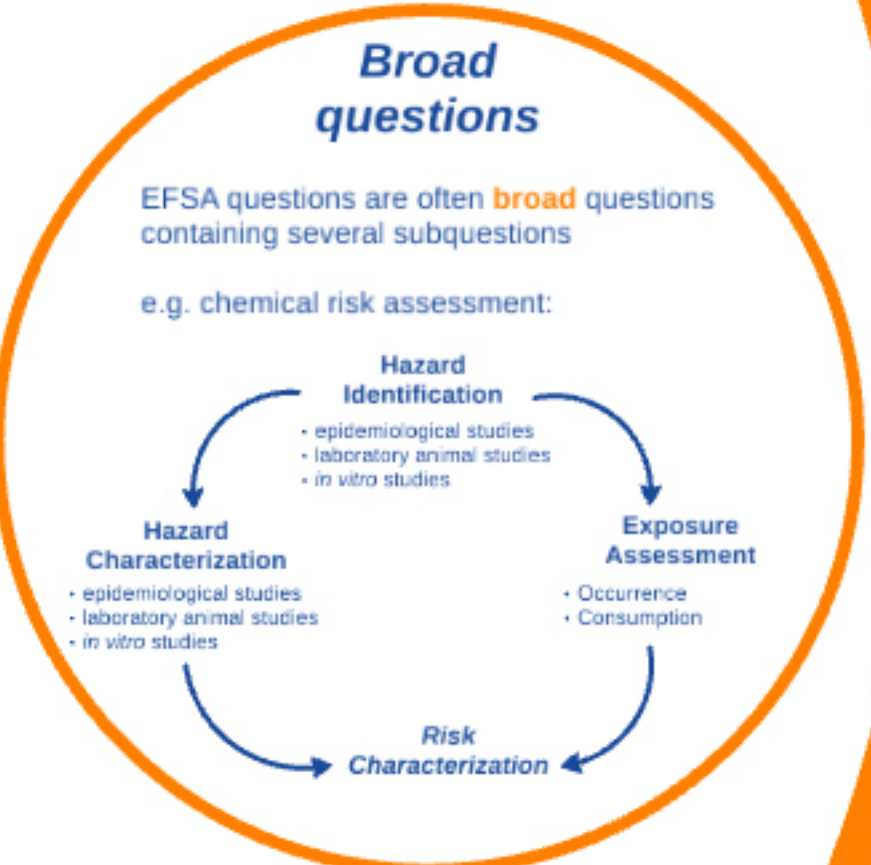
European Food Safety Authority

# EFSA purpose





# Peculiarities



# Large spectrum of questions



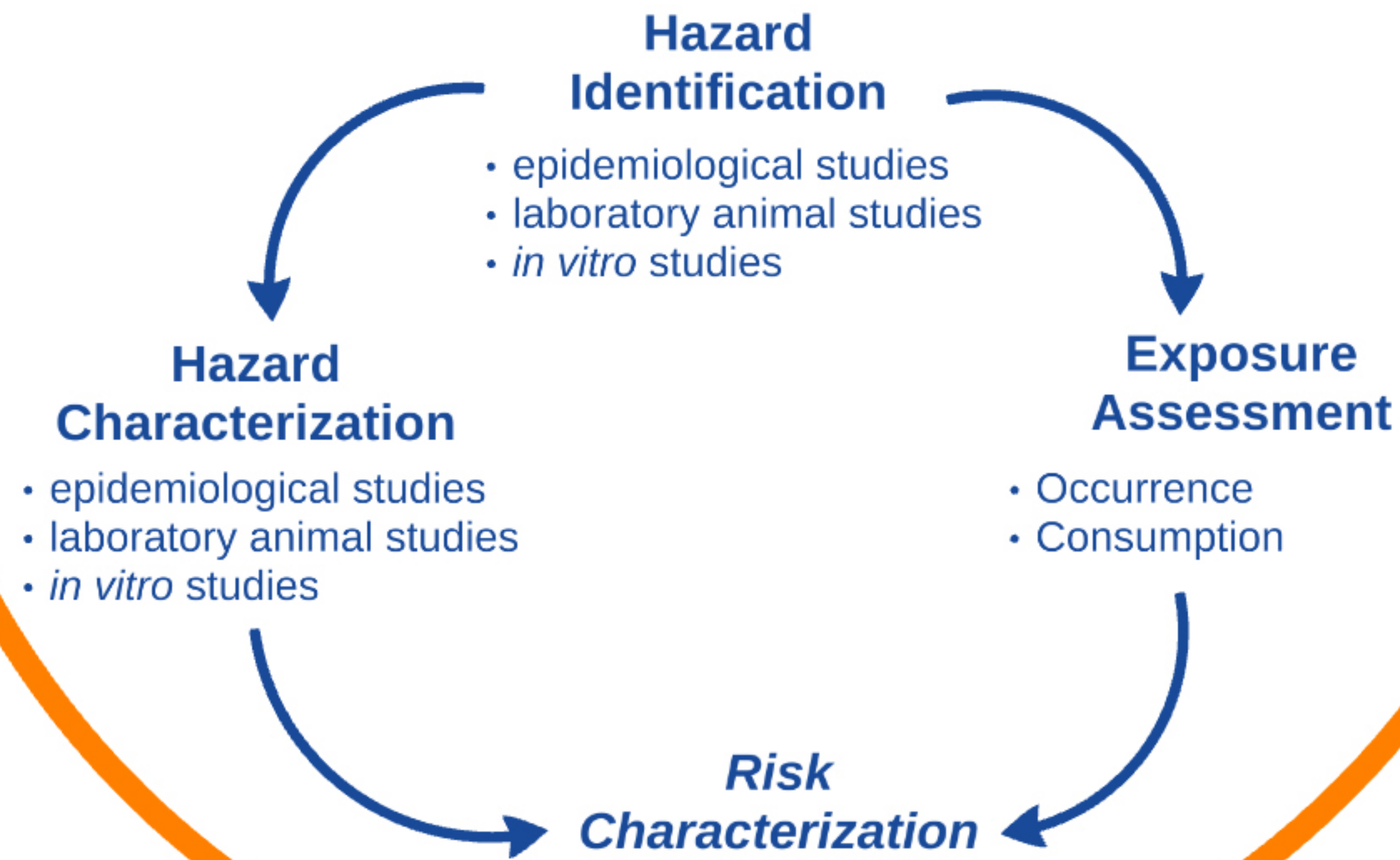
EFSA questions and related evidence are **diverse**, e.g.:

- efficacy
- safety
- exposure
- prevalence/incidence
- full risk assessments

# Broad questions

EFSA questions are often **broad** questions containing several subquestions

e.g. chemical risk assessment:



## ***Different actors***

Different actors are involved  
in EFSA assessments:

- EFSA experts
- EFSA staff
- Applicant
- Contractors

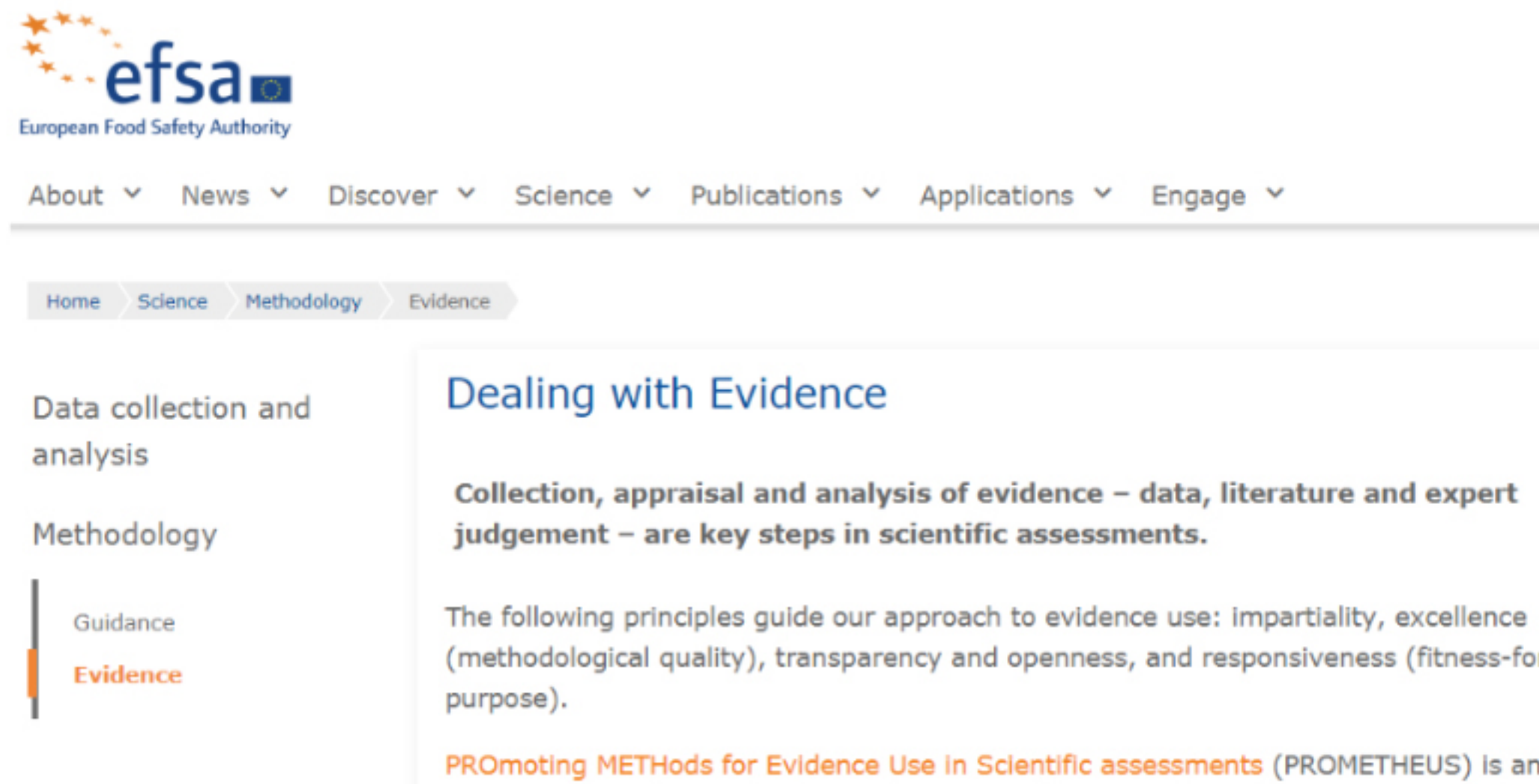
***EFSA questions can be answered using:***

- primary data collections
- review of existing data
- Expert Knowledge Elicitation (EKE)
  - *when data is limited*

# EFSA PROMETHEUS project

*P*ROmoting *M*ETHODs for *E*vidence *U*se in *S*cientific assessments

Specifies principles and process for EFSA scientific assessments



The screenshot shows the EFSA website interface. At the top is the EFSA logo and navigation menu. Below the navigation is a breadcrumb trail: Home > Science > Methodology > Evidence. The main content area is titled 'Dealing with Evidence' and includes the following text:

**Collection, appraisal and analysis of evidence – data, literature and expert judgement – are key steps in scientific assessments.**

The following principles guide our approach to evidence use: impartiality, excellence (methodological quality), transparency and openness, and responsiveness (fitness-for purpose).

PROMoting METHods for Evidence Use In Scientific assessments (PROMETHEUS) is an



Aim:

- improve further the quality of EFSA scientific processes
- increase their consistency across the different EFSA areas

*Inspired by SR methodology*



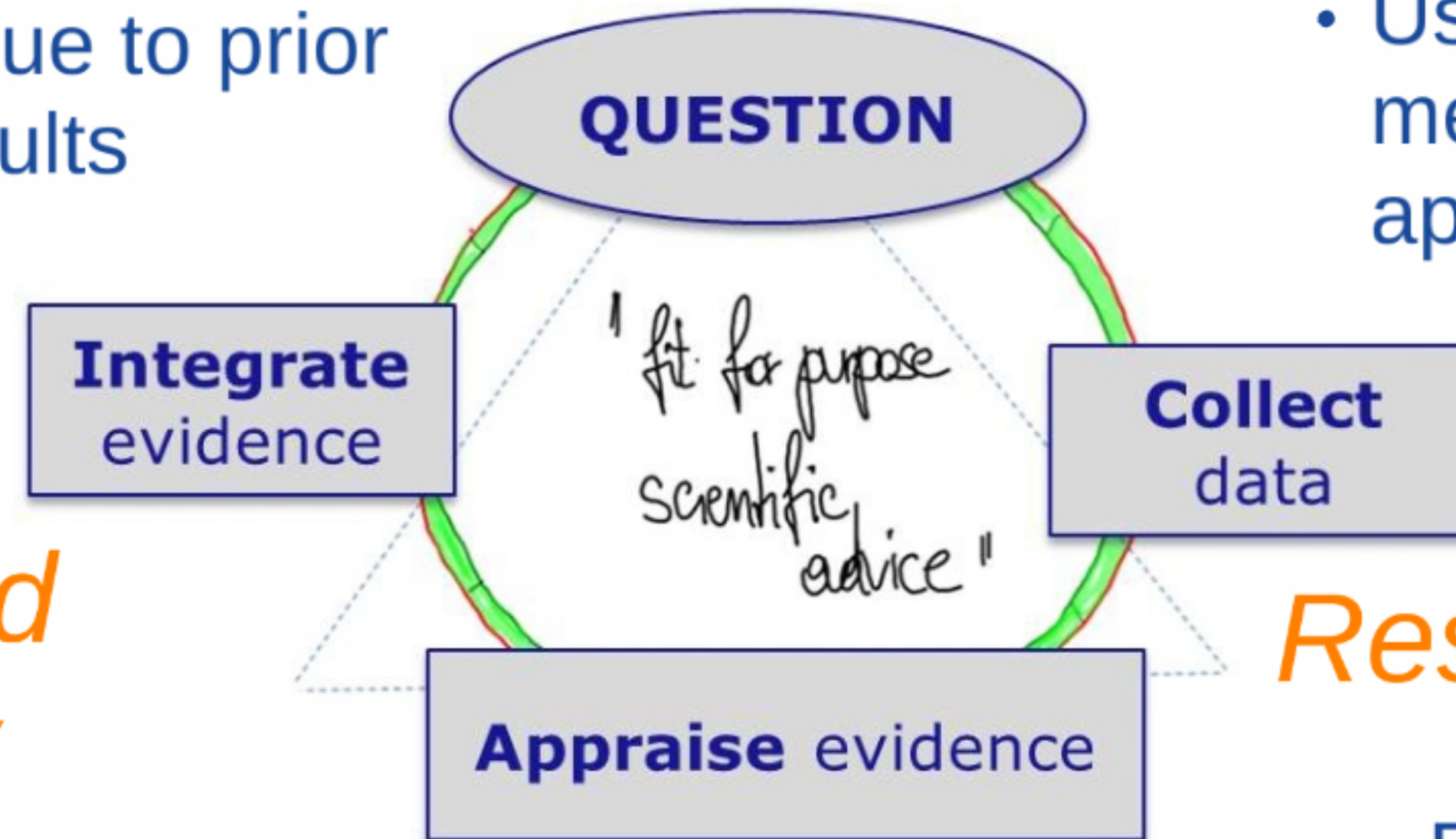
# PROMETHEUS principles

## *Impartiality*

- Extent to which the assessment is free from preconceptions due to prior knowledge of results

## *Excellence in scientific assessments*

- High credentials of experts
- Use of sound methodological approaches



## *Openness and Transparency*

- Engaging with relevant parties
- Clarity and reproducibility

## *Responsiveness*

- Extent to which the assessment answers the original question in a timely manner

# PROMETHEUS 4-steps approach

## 1. PLAN

### Problem Formulation

AND

### Protocol Development

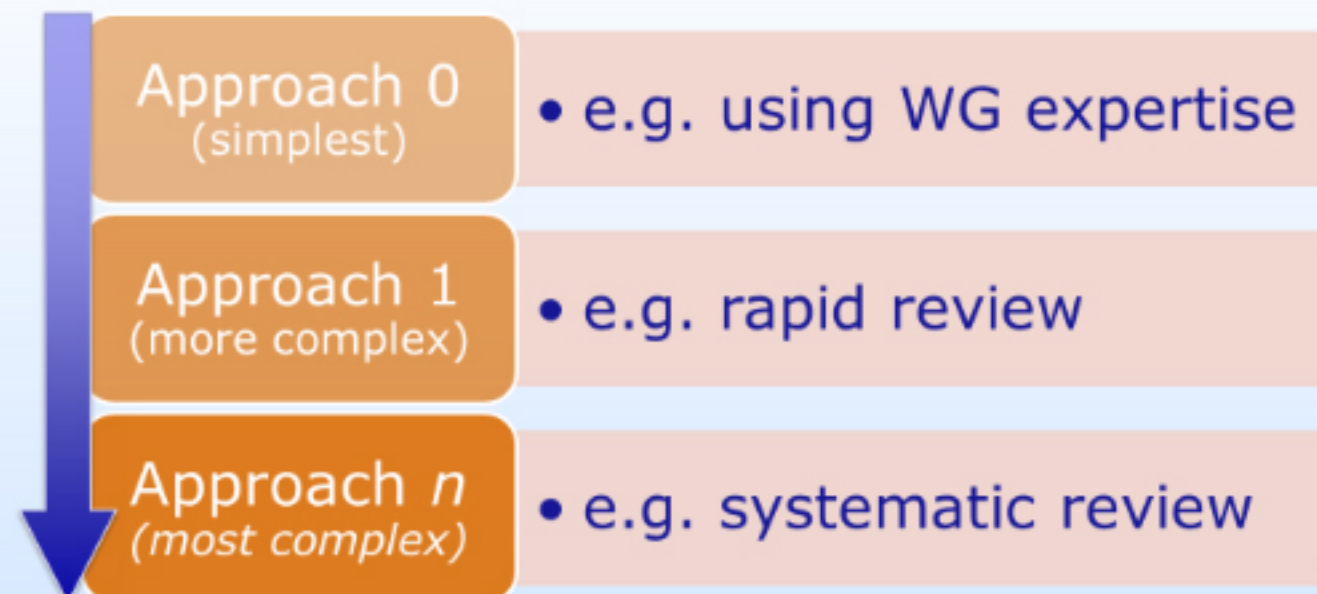
Definition of

- scope of the assessment
- sub-questions and conceptual framework
- which sub-questions require
  - *review of existing data*
  - *primary data collection*
  - *EKE*

Definition of

- methods for collecting, appraising and integrating evidence
- **approach**
  - *narrative*
  - *extensive*
  - *systematic...*

## 2. CARRY OUT



*Level of complexity of the approach defined for each sub-question and for the whole assessment*

## 3. VERIFY

## 4. REPORT

- Thoroughly document and report methods and results
- Make data available
- Share the Protocol before carrying out the assessment

*Impartiality*

*Excellence in  
Scientific  
Assessments*

## PROMETHEUS 4-steps approach

### 1. PLAN

#### Problem Formulation

- Definition of
- scope of the assessment
  - sub-questions and conceptual framework
  - which sub-questions require
    - *review of existing data*
    - *primary data collection*
    - *EKE*

AND

#### Protocol Development

- Definition of
- methods for collecting, appraising and integrating evidence
  - **approach**
    - *narrative*
    - *extensive*
    - *systematic...*

### 2. CARRY OUT

- Approach 0 (simplest) • e.g. using WG expertise
- Approach 1 (more complex) • e.g. rapid review
- Approach *n* (most complex) • e.g. systematic review

*Level of complexity of the approach defined for each sub-question and for the whole assessment*

### 3. VERIFY

### 4. REPORT

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*Openness and  
Transparency*

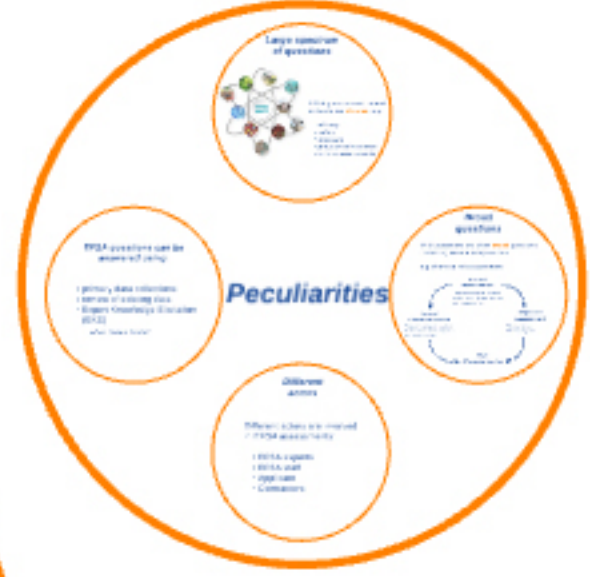
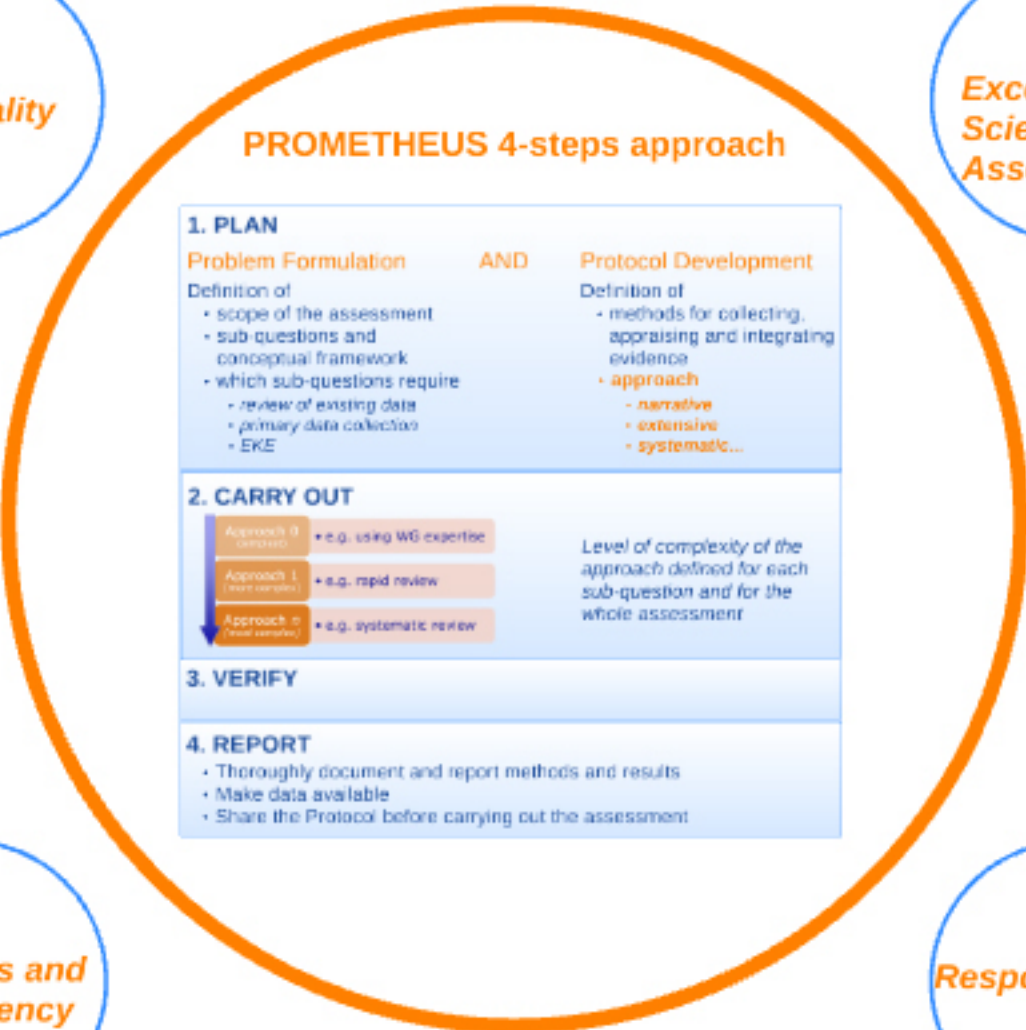
*Responsiveness*

Impartiality

Excellence in Scientific Assessments

Openness and Transparency

Responsiveness



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