



to **inconsistencies** in assessments and decisions across regulated substances/compounds or products.

Today's regulatory ERAs call for a **systems-based approach** that formulate ERA issues/problems and associated protection goals holistically; address the cumulative effects of multiple regulated substances/compounds or products and stressors; analyse upstream and downstream life-cycle implications; evaluate a range of alternative solutions; involve a broad range of stakeholders; and use interdisciplinary scientific approaches. This approach would improve the scientific basis for regulatory ERA and decision-making, create opportunities for new partnerships and enhance cooperation across regulatory silos<sup>4</sup>.

Considering the broad array of regulatory ERAs performed under different sectoral regulatory frameworks, there are many commonalities (e.g. hazard assessment, common parameters) for which a more coherent and harmonised approach would be beneficial when characterising environmental risks. Also, next generation ERAs should be designed in a manner that facilitate their integration in EU environmental impact and sustainability assessments, and policy assessments performed by relevant partners in the context of other regulatory frameworks/policies.

### ***Scope and objectives:***

The purpose of **PERA** is to provide an overarching platform that:

- Facilitates the transition to next generation, systems-based ERA that addresses new policy targets and society needs;
- Connects relevant partners (e.g. national competent authorities/agencies, EU Member States, EU Agencies, Commission Services, policy makers, risk managers, risk assessors, scientific community and civil society) from various sectors, across regulatory silos, and improves cooperation between these partners;
- Accelerates the development of new/complementary tools and methods, and the uptake of innovative tools and methods for regulatory ERA;
- Promotes and facilitates the sharing of data (including their findability, accessibility, interoperability and reuse) and expertise, and the establishment of a EU-wide cross-disciplinary network of risk assessors and risk managers (e.g. community of practice);
- Improves efficiency and transparency.
- Overcomes the challenges of a fragmented regulatory/policy landscape.

With the instigation of PERA, the "virtual centre of excellence" and platform for the ERA of regulated substances/compounds or products, as suggested by the Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors in 2018 for pesticides<sup>5</sup>, will be implemented.

### ***Working areas:***

The adoption of a **systems-based approach** for next generation ERA will require the implementation of a portfolio of activities clustered in working areas. Each of these working areas

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<sup>4</sup> <https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/10.1289/EHP1465>

<sup>5</sup> <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/5306df12-79b9-11e8-ac6a-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-94583924>