

# Promoting methods for evidence use in scientific assessments

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## Introduction

EFSA's PROMETHEUS (Promoting Methods For Evidence Use In Scientific Assessments) initiative aims to improve methods for collecting, appraising and integrating evidence in scientific

assessments. It promotes innovation in EFSA's scientific assessments and fosters impartiality, scientific excellence, transparency, openness and responsiveness

**PROMETHEUS** objectives are achieved through 2 main deliverables:

1. The EFSA scientific report on the "Principles and process for dealing with data and evidence" (EFSA, 2015a) illustrates the **principles for evidence use** (impartiality, excellence in scientific assessments, transparency, openness and responsiveness) and a **4-step approach (Plan, Conduct, Verify and Report)** to fulfil those principles. During the planning phase, a **protocol** for the assessment is defined upfront, including tailored methodology for evidence use and addressing the trade-off between applying extensive approaches and **at the same time delivering an assessment that is fit-for-purpose**.
2. An **analysis of EFSA needs for evidence use** to fulfil the principles and implement the process illustrated in the first report.

## Innovative 4-step approach

### PLAN

Develop a protocol which defines the approach for collecting, appraising and integrating evidence and includes the prioritisation of questions for a more systematic approach.

### CONDUCT

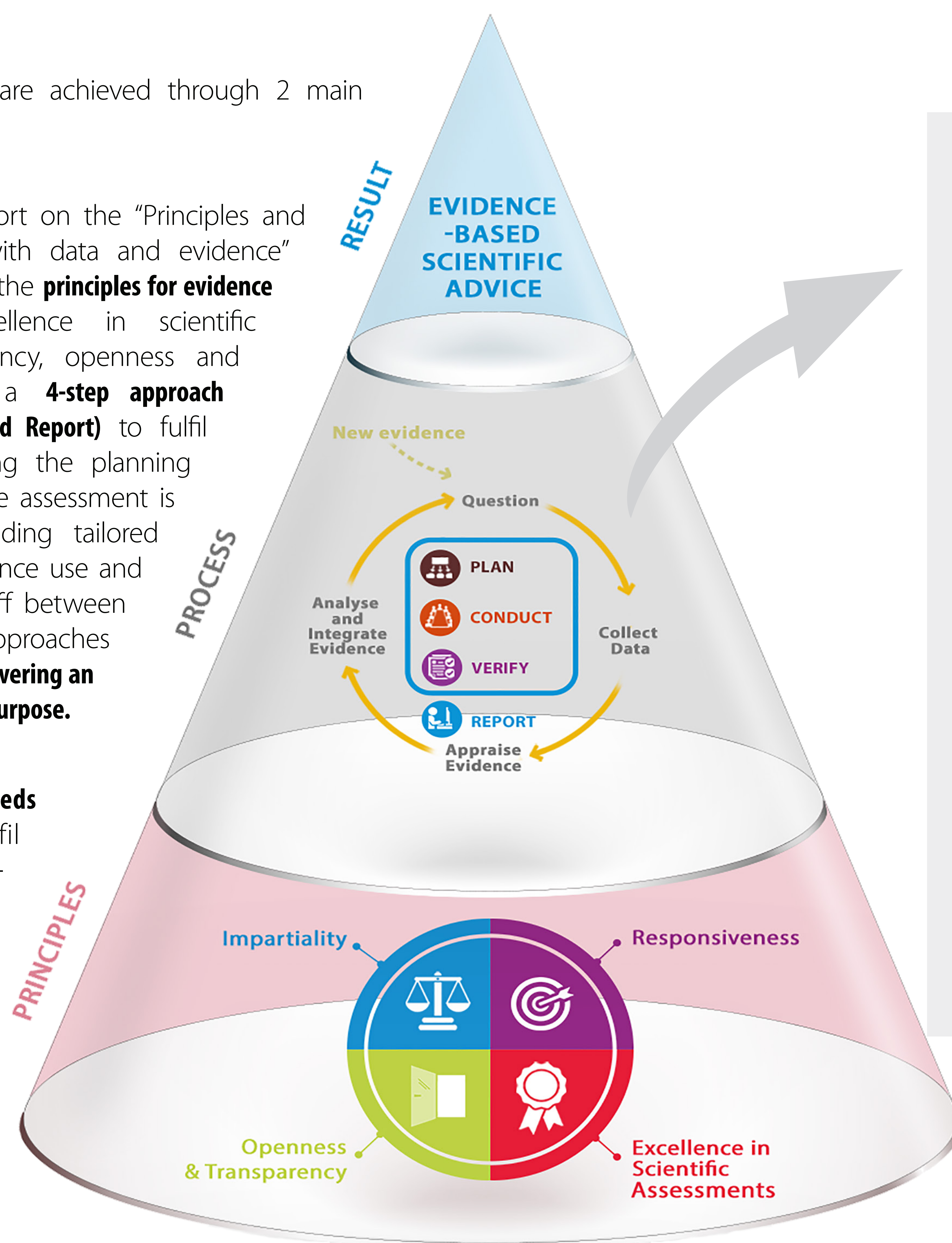
Perform the assessment in line with the protocol.

### VERIFY

Verify compliance between the plan and the assessment and document any deviations from the protocol.

### REPORT

Thoroughly document all processes and results



The PROMETHEUS approach has been applied in a scientific assessment on isoflavones in food supplements for post-menopausal women (EFSA, 2015b). Isoflavones in food supplements for post-menopausal women: no evidence of harm

## References

1. EFSA, 2015 a. Principles and process for dealing with data and evidence in scientific assessments. EFSA Journal 2015;13(5):4121. <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/it/efsajournal/pub/4121>
2. EFSA, 2015 b. EFSA NEWS 21/10/2015. Isoflavones in food supplements for post-menopausal women: no evidence of harm <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/151021>

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