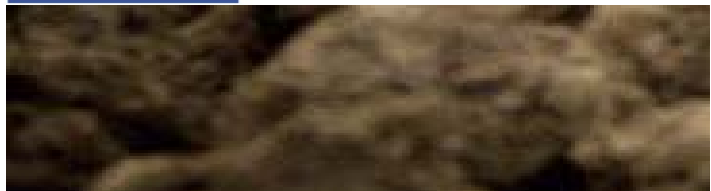




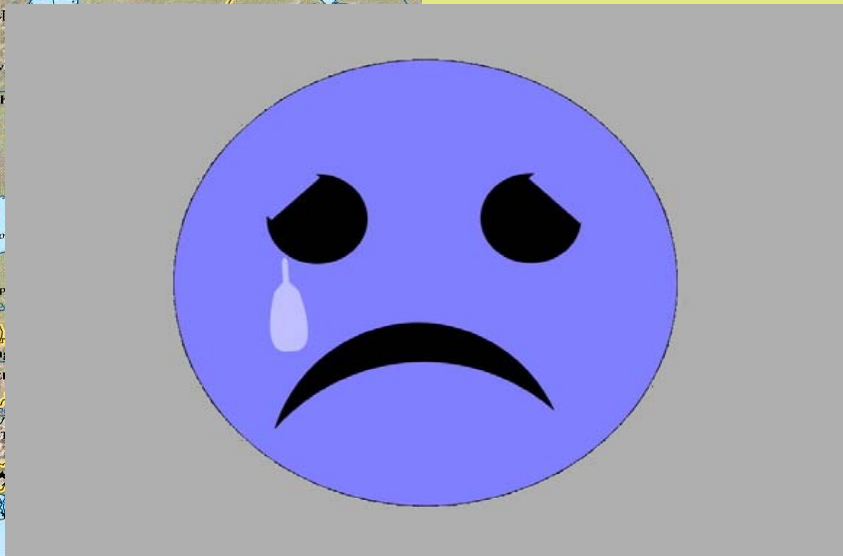
EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DG-JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE  
Institute for Environment and Sustainability  
*Soil and Waste Unit*

## **Towards consistency in tools for the risk-based assessment of soil quality in Europe**

F.A. Swartjes<sup>1</sup>, M. d'Allesandro<sup>2</sup>, Ch. Cornelis<sup>3</sup>,  
E. Wcislo<sup>4</sup>, D. Müller<sup>5</sup>, B. Hazebrouck<sup>6</sup>,  
C. Jones<sup>7</sup>, C.P. Nathanail<sup>8</sup>



# SENTIMENTS ABOUT HARMONIZATION



# Harmonisation wordle

agree  
chime fit tune  
unison mindcohere set  
suit compose reconcile  
correlate attune proportion  
reconciliate cooperate symphonize  
synthesize coordinate  
orchestrate onecombine  
integrate unify adjust  
adapt sing blend arrange  
accord relate  
carol unite



# Consistency wordle

stability  
symmetry  
conformability  
agreement  
cohesion  
steadfastness  
aptness  
evenness  
accord  
concord  
appropriateness  
compatibility  
correspondence  
congruity  
consonance  
fitness  
unity  
coherence  
homogeneity  
proportion  
similarity  
steadiness  
union  
uniformity  
likeness  
invariability  
apposition  
suitability  
concurrency

# SOME BARRIERS



- ❑ Many players
- ❑ Many countries have advanced procedures
- ❑ Many RA tools have been formally implemented
- ❑ Talking takes time



# REASONS FOR DIFFERENCES IN RISK ASSESSMENT TOOLS

- **Within Europe differences in:**
  - geography
  - socio-cultural aspects
  - regulatory/ political viewpoints!!
  - scientific basis!

# REGULATORY/ POLITICAL DIFFERENCES

- ❑ Protection targets!
- ❑ Protection level human health/  
ecological soil quality
- ❑ Availability of documentation

# SCIENTIFIC DIFFERENCES

- ❑ Algorithms and input parameters human exposure models
- ❑ Critical exposure/ Reference dose for non (genotoxic) carcinogens
- ❑ Relation soil concentration – effects on ecological processes
- ❑ Quantifying bioavailability

→ *More consistency!*

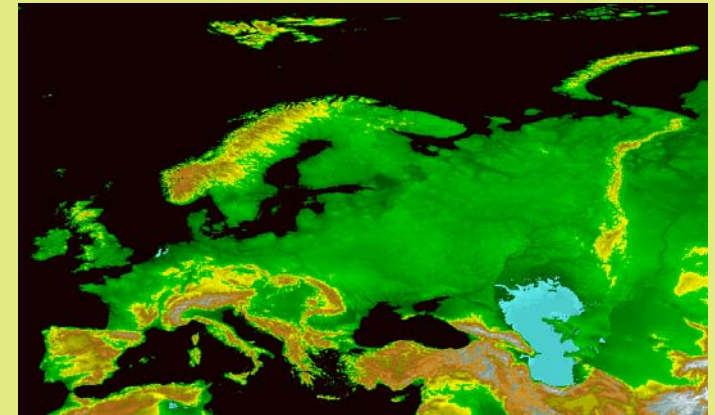


# WHY MORE CONSISTENCY?

- ❑ Understanding (differences in) SQSs
- ❑ Consensus on technical framework  
(Soil Framework Directive?!)
- ❑ (Political decision making: national responsibility!)

# WHAT DOES INCREASING THE CONSISTENCY IMPLY?

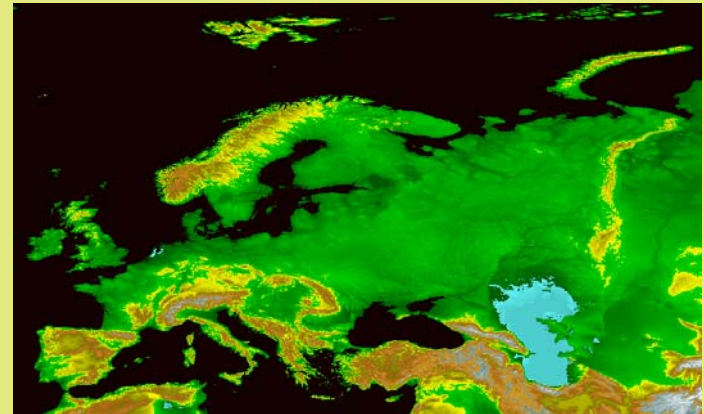
- ❑ One set of SQSs? No!!
- ❑ The same blueprint? No!
- ❑ → Toolbox, including
  - standardised tools
  - flexible tools



# FLEXIBLE TOOLS

*Accounting for differences in:*

- ❑ Geography
- ❑ Culture/ social aspects
- ❑ Political decision making



# Towards a more consistent toolbox ...

## *CONTINUOUS ACTIVITIES:*

### International networking and information sharing:

1. Technical
2. Policy and regulation: MS & EC

### Collaboration:

3. Identification and evaluation of relevant events and documents.
4. Contributing to events, reviewing of relevant documents and approaching relevant people from these initiatives.

### Communication:

6. Presenting the strategy and inviting for comments.
7. Publishing about HERACLES, risk assessment methodologies, the Repository and the Toolbox

## *SHORT TERM ACTIVITIES:*

### Catalogue:

8. Scoping and structuring the Catalogue.
9. Launching the Catalogue (electronic).
10. Develop format for *descriptions* of Risk assessment tools and possible additional information in the Catalogue
11. Invite organisations to describe Risk assessment tools and supplementary information in the Catalogue.

### Financial basis:

12. Investigate possibilities for long term funding (from 2010).

### Involvement international projects:

13. Participate in relevant international projects.
14. Contribute to relevant international projects.



## *LONG TERM ACTIVITIES:*

### *Toolbox/ Risk assessment tools*

15. Assess and categorise Risk assessment tools into:
  - suitable for standardisation (standardised RATs);
  - not suitable for standardisation, but need for guidance;
  - other *RATs*;
  - missing tools;
16. Develop standardised RATs
17. Develop guidance for flexible RATs.
18. Develop procedure for dealing with other/ missing RATs.
19. Development of a Toolbox (electronic).
20. Implement system for development/ updating Toolbox.

<http://www.rivm.nl/bibliotheek/rapporten/711701091.html>

***Kiitti!***

***(thank you)***

***rivm***

National Institute  
for Public Health  
and the Environment



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