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REconciling **sC**ience,
Innovation and **P**recaution
through the **E**ngagement
of **S**takeholders



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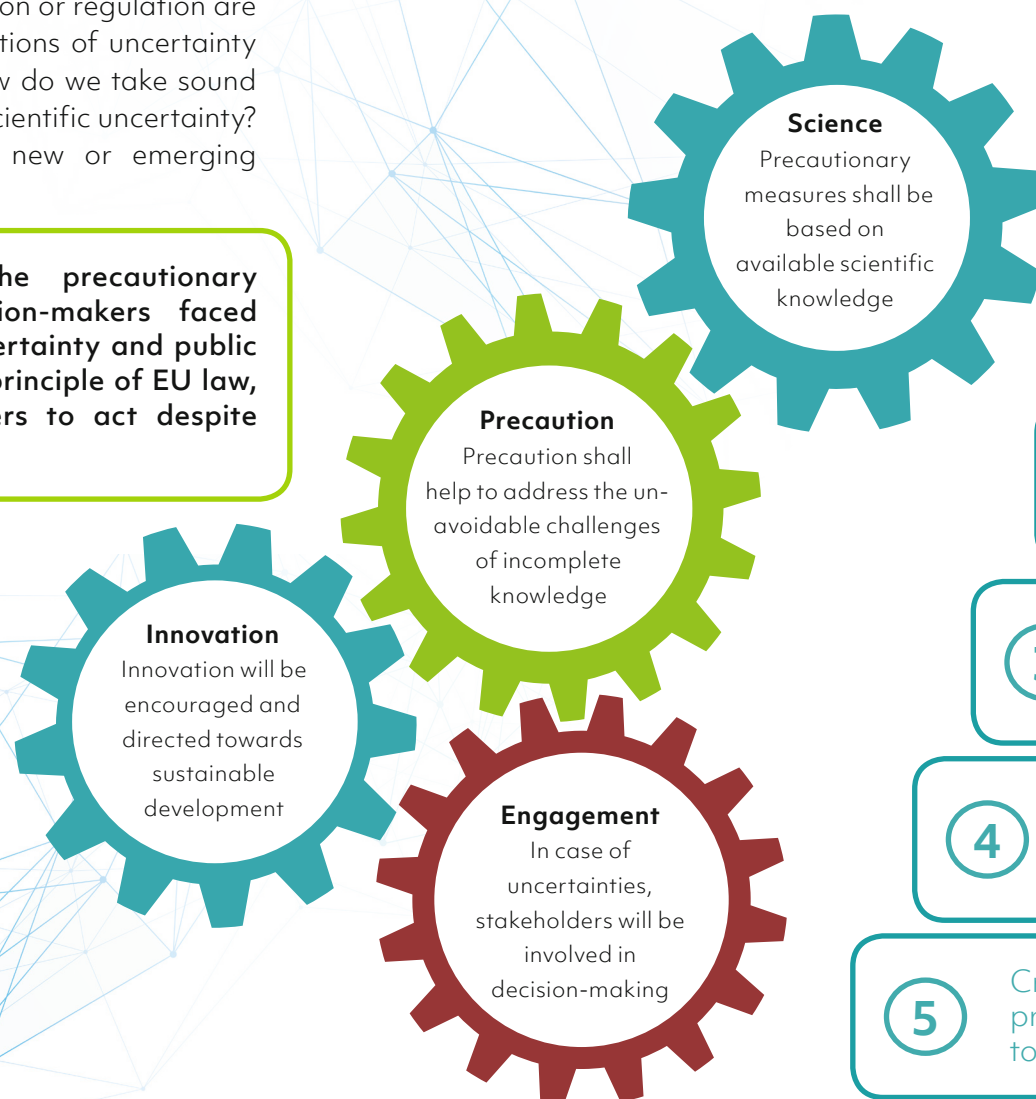
Background

The development of new products and technologies, such as genetically modified organisms, nanotechnology and neonicotinoid insecticides, presents opportunities for humans and the environment, but it can also carry risks to human, animal or plant health.

Decisions on their promotion or regulation are often to be taken in situations of uncertainty about these risks. But how do we take sound decisions in situations of scientific uncertainty? How do we decide on new or emerging technologies?

In such situations, the precautionary principle guides decision-makers faced with risks, scientific uncertainty and public concerns. As a general principle of EU law, it allows decision-makers to act despite scientific uncertainty.

As the principle is also criticised for hindering technologic innovation, some stakeholders have proposed an innovation principle, stressing the importance of taking into account also potential impacts on innovation



Objective

The RECIPES project aims to reconcile **innovation and precaution** by developing tools and guidelines to ensure the precautionary principle is applied while still encouraging innovation. The RECIPES project will work closely with different stakeholders through interviews, workshop and webinars.

Steps

- 1 Take stock of the application of the precautionary principle at the international, European and national level and describe the emergence of an "innovation principle"
- 2 Examine the application of the precautionary principle in eight specific cases
- 3 Develop scenarios for the future of the precautionary principle taking into account innovation
- 4 Introduce mechanisms for public involvement in scientific and technological decision-making
- 5 Create tools and guidelines to the precautionary principle to help policymakers and other stakeholders to govern risks and take into account innovation.