

ERRA

The European Risk & Resilience Assessment and Rating Agency: going beyond compliance

Why ERRA? Going beyond only (legal) compliance

In the spirit of new policies (e.g. the EU directive on non-financial reporting; ever-increasing awareness around social responsibility and the needs of a globalized economy, such as overcoming differences in compliance rules in different countries), the need to prove that one is investing efforts in “SAFETY BEYOND LEGAL COMPLIANCE” and “STAYING RESILIENT WHEN AFFRONTING NEW RISKS” will increase.

The ERRA Agency, proposed here and based on the outcomes of the EU project SmartResilience, intends to help by proving the effectiveness of the above effort, e.g. by means of RECOGNIZED VOLUNTARY AUDITING performed by the network of partners acting through the Agency.

ERRA Agency and the SmartResilience project

Ensuring sustainability of the SmartResilience project results after the project ends in April 2019 was one of the major triggers for the ERRA initiative. ERRA would thus be one of the three main sustainable and lasting results after the project ends:

1. Embedding the project approach and its main results also in an **ISO standard** (ISO 31050)
2. Leaving the **2,500+ indicators, the methodology, and the software tool (web)** as an **“open system,”** possibly on the EU/JRC platform
3. Creating a business model based on the project and its results – both for project partners and for the community: The **“European Risk & Resilience Assessment and Rating Agency”** (ERRA).

The ERRA concept is being (2018/19) elaborated by EU-VRI as a part of the SmartResilience project deliverables.

ERRA concept cornerstones

The concept of ERRA relies on the following main documents:

- i. SmartResilience resilience-indicator-based methodology documents and checklists (project deliverables)
- ii. ISO 31000/31050 and 223xx-series
- iii. EU Directive on non-financial reporting
- iv. Cooperation agreement with key risk and resilience institutions (e.g. EU, JRC, ANL, PSC, BJUST...)
- v. Cooperation agreements with Agency members as the service-sub-providers

and on the following main tools:

- i. SmartResilience system (open/free)
- ii. Optional: Agency members' tools as options (the respective network member's conditions)



ERRA Services:

Risk and resilience “Assessment-as-a-Service”

The main ERRA service (risk and resilience “Assessment-as-a-service”) will be performed by the **Agency together with and subcontracting by Agency member organizations (organizational members AND individuals)** which have the different competencies needed to meet the specific needs of specific industry branches or application areas (e.g. critical infrastructures or new technologies). In the most general terms, ERRA would contact and negotiate with the customers, engage the experts among the Agency members, process the contracts with the customer, and guarantee the quality of assessment provided by the Agency. Main services provided to the Agency clients would be:

1. **SELF-ASSESSMENT** – free service (no fees)
The customer registers at the ERRA page, submits a request for using the online ERRA (SmartResilience) tools, and, once the request is approved, gains access to the tools and supporting documents. The anonymized assessment remains in the pool and can be included into the big data analysis.
2. **AUDITED SELF-ASSESSMENT** – audit fees apply
Here, the self-assessment report is audited by the ERRA appointed auditors. ERRA issues an audit certificate.
3. **3rd PARTY AUDIT (organized by ERRA)** – audit fees apply
ERRA appoints assessors/auditors, who do the assessment and produce the report. ERRA issues the full 3rd party audit certificate.

The user of the Agency services (e.g. a critical infrastructure) can first decide to make the self-assessment, then to audit it, and in the final step do the full-scale 3rd party audit, similarly to GRI (www.globalreporting.org).

Supporting services of the Agency may include but will not be limited to:

1. Education
(e.g. including certified courses in the area of risk and resilience)
2. Certification and management of auditors
(certification scheme to be accredited)
3. Managing/facilitating ad-hoc consultancy
(e.g. the consultancy provided by the members)
4. Research coordination and facilitation, as well as other actions which may arise from the Agency client's needs

The Agency Members, in the due course, may also offer further member-specific services through the Agency.

Basic rule of engagement for the Agency members

The Agency itself is envisaged to be registered in Germany as a service-oriented company (possible branches in the EU and other countries). Possibilities for obtaining the start-up support of the EU-ESA will be explored. The EU-VRI, its members, and the SmartResilience project partners will be offered the first “say” in the process of establishing the Agency. After that, the access to Agency membership will be open to other interested parties, which would sign the agreement with the Agency. Agency members can be both organizations and individuals.