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Collection of International Guidance Materials on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

Chemical and Waste Management Programme

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Disclaimer

The factsheet has been prepared in the context of UNITAR's "Global Project on the Implementation of PRTRs as a tool for POPs reporting, dissemination and awareness raising for Belarus, Cambodia, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Peru", which is financially supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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Introduction

The idea of establishing a pollutant release and transfer register (PRTR) first emerged in the United States, following the tragic accident in Bhopal (India) in 1984. Shortly thereafter, the United States Congress approved the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act, establishing a register called the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), which tracks releases to all media (air, water and land) and off-site transfers of more than 600 chemicals. Other countries, including Australia and Canada, followed in developing national PRTR systems. TRI provided unprecedented public information on pollution releases. It also created a powerful incentive for reporting facilities to take voluntary measures to reduce pollution. Although a PRTR does not directly regulate emissions, it creates pressure on companies to avoid being identified as major polluters and provides incentive for facilities to invest to reduce emissions. Public access to information is thus a central PRTR characteristic, and indeed contributes to the prevention and reduction of environmental pollution.

The 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) recognized the importance of public access to information on environmental pollution, including emissions inventories, in its Agenda 21. Its principle 10 states that "each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities" as well as "the opportunity to participate in decision making processes", and that countries shall "encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available". After UNCED, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) took the first steps to ensure the realization of this objective. In 1993, the Member States of OECD and the United Nations gave a mandate to the OECD Secretary General to prepare a guidance manual for national governments interested in a pollutant release and transfer register, which was published in 1996.2 A task force was created within OECD to deal with the most difficult aspects of the creation of PRTR systems. In line with the recommendation of UNCED, OECD undertook this work within the framework of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC). Following UNCED, other countries established national PRTR systems. In addition, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) carried out pilot projects and capacity-building activities in several countries, including Croatia, Egypt, Mexico and Slovakia.

Following the evolution of PRTRs in the last 20 years, we can identify three essential elements of PRTR systems: (i) a structured database; (ii) an information exchange network to enter and publish data; and (iii) a dissemination mechanism to convert this data into information (such as emission reports) and make it publicly available. A PRTR comprises data from point sources of pollution, such as industrial facilities as well as may also include data from diffuse sources, such as open burnings from agricultural operations and waste management, transportation and other human activities. PRTRs are tools to support informed decision-making by companies, government agencies, non-governmental organizations and the public. By making information about industrial management of toxic chemicals available to the public, PRTRs create a strong incentive for companies to improve environmental performance in order to achieve better environmental performance by setting standards and specifying how facilities must operate. PRTRs are not static inventories; they are dynamic systems providing annual data reported directly to the National Authority (e.g. Ministry of Environment) from facilities.

This factsheet aims to provide supporting materials for National Governments, Industrial Sectors, NGOs, Academia and any other stakeholders involved in the design and implementation of Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, by collecting and organising all the relevant documents, protocols, conventions and practical experiences of existing National PRTR websites around the world. Indeed, based on the

principle of people's right to have access to environmental information, the results of a PRTR should be made accessible for public consultation through a user-friendly website.

Background information

In the context of the "Environment for Europe" process and to further implement Agenda 21, adopted during the "Earth Summit" (UN Conference on Environment and Development), held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, UNECE began to work on a Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in 1996. Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) are a tool for public access to environmental information and thus are closely tied to the Aarhus Convention's goals. The Convention includes broad, flexible provisions calling on Parties to establish nationwide, publicly accessible "pollution inventories or registers" covering inputs, releases and transfers of substances and products. The guidance materials presented in this section provide some background information and main sources, such as multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), which take into account PRTRs as a tool for transparency and pollution monitoring and prevention.

- **Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)**

    - **Language:** EN - ES - RU
    - **Author:** UNECE
    - **Entry into force:** October 2001
    - **Content:** The Convention establishes the right of everyone to receive environmental information that is held by public authorities (access to environmental information), the right to participate in environmental decision-making (public participation in environmental decision-making), the right to review procedures to challenge public decisions that have been made without respecting the two aforementioned rights or environmental law in general ("access to justice").

- **Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Kiev Protocol)**

    - **Language:** EN - ES - RU
    - **Author:** UNECE
    - **Entry into force:** October 2009
    - **Content:** The Protocol on PRTRs, adopted in Kiev at an extra-ordinary meeting of the parties to the Aarhus Convention in May 2003, is the first legally binding international instrument on pollutant release and transfer registers. Its objectives are to enhance public access to information on the environment, to facilitate public participation, and to contribute to pollution prevention and reduction.

- Guidance on Implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

  - **Language:** EN - ES - RU
  - **Author:** UNECE
  - **Published:** 2008
  - **Content:** This guide is first of all designed to help Parties to the UNECE Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers interpret and fulfil their obligations. It also aims to assist officials in countries considering accession to the Protocol to evaluate and prepare for these obligations, as well as to aid potential users in understanding and taking advantage of PRTR systems, especially of the public's role in promoting better environmental performance through the study and use of PRTRs.

Designing and implementing a National PRTR system

The implementation of PRTR systems will entail a number of decisions concerning design of the register, structure and operations. These will range from choosing among various technical options for the design of a central, publicly accessible register to determine the institutional framework required for ensuring a coordinated system of data flow to it. In developing a national PRTR, Countries are advised to tap the expertise of technical specialists in industrial pollution control, monitoring and analysis, as well as legal, institutional and information technology (IT) experts. The guidance documents that are listed in this section are considered a starting point, a framework to support Countries during the process of design and implementation of a national PRTR, bearing in mind that for a successful implementation of PRTRs a multi-stakeholders approach is highly recommended.

UNITAR has developed a six-stage framework to address the key steps of the PRTRs design to be taken into account by the national body in charge of developing the system: (i) identify the goals and objectives of the PRTR system by undertaking consultations with all affected and interested stakeholders; (ii) conduct an assessment of the existing legal, regulatory, institutional, administrative and technical infrastructure relevant to a national PRTR; (iii) assessing the PRTR system key features that can differ from country to country according to resources, types and size of industrial sectors, national policy priorities, geographical of political circumstances and environmental needs; (iv) testing the PRTR system on limited scale by conducting a pilot; (v) finalizing the national PRTR proposal to be approved by national authorities; and (vi) organizing a national PRTR implementation workshop to secure policy commitment and sustainability of the PRTR system in the future.

National PRTR Infrastructure Assessment

- Preparing a National PRTR Infrastructure Assessment, UNITAR Guidance Series for Implementing a National PRTR Design Project, Supplement 1
    - **Language:** EN - RU - ES
    - **Author:** UNITAR, IOMC
    - **Published:** 1997
    - **Content:** This guide is the first of four supplements to the main guidance document in the UNITAR "Guidance Series for Implementing a National PRTR Design Project". This document provides specific guidance on implementing Stage 2 of the suggested PRTR design process which is the preparation of a National PRTR Infrastructure Assessment Report. This comprehensive report provides the existing legal, institutional, administrative and technical infrastructure and available national expertise relevant to the design and implementation of a national PRTR system, and thus is a key input for the PRTR design project.

- Implementing a National PRTR Design Project: A Guidance Document
    - **Language:** EN - ES - RU
    - **Author:** UNITAR, IOMC
    - **Published:** 1997

- **Content:** The Guidance Document provides an introduction to the PRTR concept and the potential benefits it offers to government, industry and the public; an overview of the international policy framework and activities of international organizations related to PRTRs; and brief descriptions of national PRTR programmes that are currently in existence or under development. It also provides guidance on various key stages of the national PRTR design process. For each stage, an overview of activities and issues to be addressed is presented, including the main objective, key tasks involved, guidance questions, and expected outputs.

- ▪ **Structuring a National PRTR Proposal, UNITAR Guidance Series for Implementing a National PRTR Design Project, Supplement 4**

  - **Language:** EN - ES - RU
  - **Author:** UNITAR, IOMC
  - **Published:** 1997
  - **Content:** This guide is the fourth of four supplements to the main guidance document in the UNITAR "Guidance Series for Implementing a National PRTR Design Project". This document provides specific guidance on the preparation and suggested structure, including a sample table of contents, of a National PRTR Proposal. The final section provides some important points that the National Coordinating Team (NCT) should consider in preparing the final National PRTR Proposal document. The guidance is not meant to be prescriptive and should be adapted by countries in a flexible manner according to their specific needs and circumstances.

Identify Key Elements of PRTR System

- ▪ **Guidance on Elements of a PRTR: Part I, Series on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers No. 17**

  - **Language:** EN
  - **Author:** OECD
  - **Published:** 2014
  - **Content:** The present Guidance provides information on elements of a PRTR to national governments that are designing new PRTRs or considering revising an existing PRTR. It also provides factors that should be considered for users of multiple PRTR datasets or who examine different PRTR data. It discusses elements that may be included in the design of a PRTR and describes considerations for developing PRTR systems whose data can be harmonised (combined) with data from other PRTRs for global scale analysis. This document also provides useful resources for developing PRTR systems, including a list of documents that address: design and implementation of PRTRs; harmonisation of sectors, chemicals, and activity thresholds; integration of PRTR data for international scale analysis; release estimation techniques and how existing PRTR systems have been designed.

- ▪ **Guidance on Elements of a PRTR: Part II, Series on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers No. 18**

  - **Language:** EN
  - **Author:** OECD
  - **Published:** 2015

- **Content:** The document focuses on PRTR initiation, operation, and long term success. It covers organizing support from legislative bodies, industry, and the public; infrastructure assessment; implementing a PRTR pilot; developing a PRTR proposal; providing reporting assistance for regulated entities; and obtaining international support. PRTR Operation, which covers staffing and governance; data collection, compilation, and storage; data quality assurance; and data dissemination. Long Term Success, which covers compliance assurance; stakeholder outreach; and enhancing the PRTR system over time.

- **Designing the Key Features of a National PRTR System, UNITAR Guidance Series for Implementing a National PRTR Design Project, Supplement 2**
  - **Language:** EN
  - **Author:** UNITAR, IOMC
  - **Published:** 1997
  - **Content:** This guide is the second of four supplements to the main guidance document in the UNITAR "Guidance Series for Implementing a National PRTR Design Project". This document provides specific guidance on implementing Stage 3 of the suggested PRTR design process. For each of the main features of the PRTR system to be designed by the NCT, the guide introduces key decisions that need to be taken and provides references to other documents where additional information can be found. A complete listing of the documents referred to throughout the text are provided in Annex I.

- **Guidance Document for the Implementation of the European PRTR**
  - **Language:** EN - ES - FR
  - **Author:** European Commission
  - **Published:** 2006
  - **Content:** This Guidance Document is designed to support the implementation of the E-PRTR by addressing in particular: reporting procedures; the data to be reported; quality assurance and assessment; confidentiality; release determination, analytical methods and sampling methodologies; indication of parent companies; and coding of activities. The primary focus of the guidance document is the bottom of the information chain, where information is generated by facility operators and the quality of this information is assessed by the competent authorities.

Data Reporting

- **Addressing Industry Concerns Related to PRTRs, UNITAR Series of PRTR Technical Support Materials, No. 1**
  - **Language:** EN - ES - RU
  - **Author:** UNITAR, IOMC
  - **Published:** 1998
  - **Content:** This document presents five of the most common concerns that industries usually raise about PRTR. Drawing upon experiences in countries with existing PRTR programmes, the document describes actions that have been taken by both government and industry to avoid, address or minimize each of these concerns, and provides some practical guidance based on the results and lessons learned.

- Guidance for Facilities on PRTR Data Estimation and Reporting, UNITAR Series of PRTR Technical Support Materials, No. 2

    - **Language:** EN - ES - RU
    - **Author:** UNITAR, IOMC
    - **Published:** 1998
    - **Content:** The Guidance provides guidance to assist the facility manager in understanding the requirements of PRTR reporting, the types of information likely to be needed to estimate the data, and where such information can be found. Part B provides step-by-step guidance for the technical staff involved in identifying releases and transfers and estimating the PRTR data. Part C provides an overview of the methods available to facilities to estimate their releases to air, water, and land. For each method, the document indicates the circumstances for which it might be most suitable and provides some basic guidance and illustrations of its use.

- Scoping Study on the Inclusion of Releases and Transfers from Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in PRTRs, Series on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers No. 10

    - **Language:** EN
    - **Author:** OECD
    - **Published:** 2008
    - **Content:** The primary purpose of this study was to provide a better insight on whether systematic inclusion of SMEs in national PRTRs would improve the current knowledge of industrial pollution as a whole. Although small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) may not be a considerable environmental problem if reviewed individually, they can be a significant source of pollution as a whole due to their large number.

Estimation Techniques

- Global Pollutant Release and Transfer Register, Proposal for a Harmonised List of Pollutants, Series on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers No. 16

    - **Language**: EN
    - **Author:** OECD
    - **Published:** 2014
    - **Content:** This report identifies all chemicals covered by five PRTR Systems (Australia, Canada, European Union, Japan and the United States) and the Kiev Protocol. It also categorizes these chemicals into general pollutant classes, proposes unique identifiers for pollutants, and identifies common substances across different national/regional PRTRs. The chemical lists developed in this work could form the basis for the future development of guidance or recommendations for core elements of PRTRs.

- Framework for Selecting and Applying PRTR Release Estimation Techniques, Series on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers No. 9

    - **Language:** EN
    - **Author: OECD**

- **Published**: 2005
- **Content:** This framework document is intended to be useful for facility operators required to report to a PRTR, by providing information on the general principles for estimation of releases at an industrial site; the applicability of the various release estimation techniques; issues that need to be taken into consideration when applying the techniques; and issues that would support the evaluation of the release data. The document is designed to assist PRTR project managers and policy analysts by providing an insight into the practical issues associated with the production of emission data on-site and the application of the bottom-up approach to estimation of releases.

- **Resource Compendium of PRTR Release Estimation Techniques, Part IV: Summary of Techniques for Estimating Releases of Chemicals from Products and Annex on Recommended RETs**

    - **Language:** EN
    - **Annex:** EN
    - **Author:** OECD
    - **Published:** 2017
    - **Content:** This document is an updated version of Part 4, originally published in 2011, and has been updated under the lead of the Nordic PRTR Group to reflect new and additional information. The compendium comprises two parts: the main body provides information on activities by countries and different organisations in their efforts to identify, classify, quantify and restrict releases arising from the use of products, introduces available RETs for releases from the use phase of end-products as well as a list of potential product groups for inclusion into national PRTRs. In the Annex, product group and chemical-specific RETs are provided for eleven case studies. A compilation of recommended calculation methods for PRTR reporting are also presented.

- **Comparison of Emission Estimation Methods used in Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers and Emission Scenario Documents: Case Study of Pulp and Paper and Textile Sectors, OECD Series on Testing and Assessment, No. 52**

    - **Language:** EN
    - **Author:** OECD
    - **Published:** 2006
    - **Content:** The purpose of this document is to identify the similarities and differences between the emission estimation methods used in PRTRs and Emission Scenario Documents (ESDs). Although both ESDs and PRTRs are intended to deal with emissions from the same sources, different methods of analysis may be used. The applicability of PRTR methods to the risk assessments is also evaluated. The study is focused on two sectors: pulp and paper manufacture, and textile wet processing.

Point Sources

- Revision of the Resource Compendium of PRTR release estimation techniques, Part 1: Summary of Techniques for Point Source, Series on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers No. 5

    - **Language:** EN
    - **Author:** OECD
    - **Published:** 2013
    - **Content:** This document covers techniques used to quantify releases from point sources, providing background and information on release estimation techniques (RETs) for point sources. It focuses on the application of estimation techniques and fundamental approaches used to estimate releases from point sources, including a summary of RETs by source and by country. The Annexes contain specific information about the type of techniques available in OECD countries and from international organisations.

Non-Point Sources

- Resource Compendium of PRTR release estimation techniques, Part II: Summary of Diffuse Source Techniques, Series on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers No. 6

    - **Language:** EN
    - **Author:** OECD
    - **Published:** 2003
    - **Content:** The second part of the Resource Compendium addresses estimation techniques for releases from diffuse sources, provides guidance and information on what techniques are available and notes the locations of where this information might be found. It also provides a wide range of information about techniques currently used in a large number of OECD countries.

- Guidance on Estimating Non-Point Source Emissions, UNITAR Series of PRTR Technical Support Materials, No. 3

    - **Language:** EN - RU
    - **Author:** UNITAR, IOMC
    - **Published:** 1998
    - **Content:** This document provides an introductory overview of methods to estimate pollutant emissions from non-point sources for national or regional pollutant inventories. It aims to inform PRTR designers on what methods and data requirements are entailed for the inclusion of non-point source emissions in a national PRTR system.

Off-Site Transfers

- Resource Compendium of PRTR Release Estimation Techniques, Part III: Summary of Techniques for Estimating Quantities Transferred, Released or Disposed

    - **Language:** EN
    - **Author: OECD**
    - **Published:** 2017
    - **Content:** This document is an updated version of Part III "Summary of Techniques for off-site transfers" that was published in 2005. The scope of this compendium is to describe methods and considerations for determining quantities of a pollutant that has been released into the environment or otherwise managed as waste. This document provides an overview of example transfers that contain chemicals of concern, the sources of those transfers, the chemicals included and management methods for these transfers. The techniques described could also be used to estimate on-site transfers or on-site releases of the quantities of the same pollutant.

Implementing the pilot trial

- Implementing a PRTR Pilot Reporting Trial, UNITAR Guidance Series for Implementing a National PRTR Design Project, Supplement 3

    - **Language:** EN
    - **Author:** UNITAR, IOMC
    - **Published:** 1997
    - **Content:** This guide is the third of four supplements to the main guidance document in the UNITAR "Guidance Series for Implementing a National PRTR Design Project". This document provides specific guidance on implementing Stage 4 of the suggested PRTR design process. It addresses issues and challenges associated with conducting a PRTR pilot reporting trial to test the preliminary design of the national PRTR system in order to obtain practical feedback for finalizing the national PRTR proposal.

- Considerations for Ensuring Quality PRTR Data, Series on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers No. 11

    - **Language:** EN
    - **Author:** OECD
    - **Published:** 2008
    - **Content:** This document shows the similarities and differences across countries in their requirements to collect and display high quality data, which is required for an effective PRTR system. This document presents compliance and regulatory requirements, the development of guidance material, and emerging issues and challenges for the future. In particular, the report provides information on the establishment of a PRTR system and the incorporation of data quality processes into the system; emphasising the importance of a structured data collection system and the role of reporting software in PRTRs. It also covers the use of comparison models and other data validation software.

Development of National PRTR Proposal

▪ Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers: A Tool for Environmental Policy and Sustainable Development - Guidance Manual for Governments

- **Language:** EN
- **Author:** OECD
- **Published:** 1996
- **Content:** The purpose of this guidance is to provide information aimed primarily at national governments that may wish to consider implementing a PRTR system. The manual gives a set of options for how to implement the various principles underlying an effective PRTR system. Conditions within each country will dictate the precise details of how a specific national PRTR system will develop in practice. The guidance is organised along five main themes, including: major issues in deciding whether to establish a PRTR; formulating goals/objectives and a list of substances for a PRTR; data handling and management issues; making PRTR outcomes publicly accessible and implementing a full PRTR system.

▪ Structuring a National PRTR Proposal, UNITAR Guidance Series for Implementing a National PRTR Design Project, Supplement 4

- **Language:** EN - ES - RU
- **Author:** UNITAR, IOMC
- **Published:** 1997
- **Content:** This guide is the fourth of four supplements to the main guidance document in the UNITAR "Guidance Series for Implementing a National PRTR Design Project". This document provides specific guidance on the preparation and suggested structure, including a sample table of contents, of a National PRTR Proposal. The final section provides some important points that the National Coordinating Team (NCT) should consider in preparing the final National PRTR Proposal document. The guidance is not meant to be prescriptive and should be adapted by countries in a flexible manner according to their specific needs and circumstances.

▪ How PRTRs differ: A review of National Programmes, Series on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers No. 4

- **Language:** EN
- **Author:** OECD
- **Published:** 2001
- **Content:** This report reviews the key features of a PRTR programme and how each component is defined and implemented. It also discusses how different drivers have influenced programme design, and explains why similarities and differences between PRTRs exist. It can be used as a reference guide for countries that are developing or modifying a PRTR.

Data Communication and Awareness Raising

- Presentation and Dissemination of PRTR Data: Getting the Word and Numbers Out, Series on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers No. 3

    - **Language:** EN
    - **Author:** OECD
    - **Published:** 2000
    - **Content:** This document describes a wide range of practices used by OECD countries to present and disseminate PRTR data to the public. It presents specific points to consider when designing a PRTR system for public use and the degree and means by which the information will be disseminated. This guideline describes the basic elements of a presentation and dissemination strategy pf PRTR data and addresses the question of who presents and disseminates the data.

- Use of PRTRs data and tools for their presentation: A Reference Manual, Series on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers No. 7

    - **Language:** EN
    - **Author:** OECD
    - **Published:** 2005
    - **Content:** The intent of this report is to illustrate the wide variety of current and evolving uses of PRTR data. It presents examples of tools for presenting and illustrating PRTR data and the types of uses of PRTR data, e.g. data could be used for the purposes of the public, community groups, industry, the government, and academic and independent research institutions.

- Considerations for Ensuring Quality PRTR Data, Series on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers No. 11

    - **Language:** EN
    - **Author:** OECD
    - **Published:** 2008
    - **Content:** This report intends to provide a "snapshot" of how OECD countries have developed and run their PRTR programmes. The aim is to provide information for existing government programmes, and also for countries who would like to develop a PRTR or improve their existing programme, and to give examples of different approaches in the development, implementation and improvement of PRTR programmes. This document shows the similarities and differences across countries in their requirements to collect and display high quality data, which is required for an effective PRTR system.

Electronic Tools

In this section of the factsheet, we proposed an overview of the current electronic tools that can be used to get more familiar with PRTRs and PRTRs related project around the world. Below are listed four major platforms and internet-based tools that can be access freely and give the users several options, such as e-Learning courses, knowledge-sharing interactive platforms or the IOMC internet-based Toolbox. UNITAR is currently developing a new PRTR platform together with learning modules and PRTR.net is in the process of renovation by UNECE.

- ▪ PRTR:Learn
    - **Developed by:** UNITAR
    - **Content:** The platform provides an overview of all UNITAR ongoing (and past) projects on PRTRs. An interactive map is available to search for specific country project and related events on PRTRs. The platform contains a list of relevant guidelines and publications that can be filtered by theme or organization. It also allows users to access a Forum for discussions and sharing knowledge/experience on PRTRs.
    - **Link:** http://prtr.unitar.org/

- ▪ IOMC Toolbox
    - **Developed by:** IOMC
    - **Content:** The IOMC Toolbox takes into account the resources available and guides users towards cost-effective solutions adapted to the country situation. At each implementation step, the Toolbox presents relevant resources, guidance documents, and training material, all available online and free of charge (contents updated in 2015). The Toolbox includes the design and implementation of PRTRs: initiation and design of National PRTR system, gain support from decision makers; PRTR Operation, which covers steps and activities related to running a PRTR; and Long Term Success, which covers expanding the benefits and activities of a PRTR and making future enhancements.
    - **Link:** http://iomctoolbox.oecd.org

- ▪ PRTR.net
    - **Developed by:** OECD, UNECE, UNEP
    - **Content:** This website provides a global portal to PRTR information and activities from countries and organisations around the world. The website aims to assist countries in the development, implementation and improvement of PRTR programmes.
    - **Link:** http://prtr.net/

- ▪ E-PRTR
    - **Developed by:** European Environment Agency
    - **Content:** The European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR) is the Europe-wide register that provides easily accessible key environmental data from industrial facilities in European Union Member States and in Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Serbia and Switzerland. The register contains data reported annually by more than 30,000 industrial facilities covering 65 economic activities across Europe.
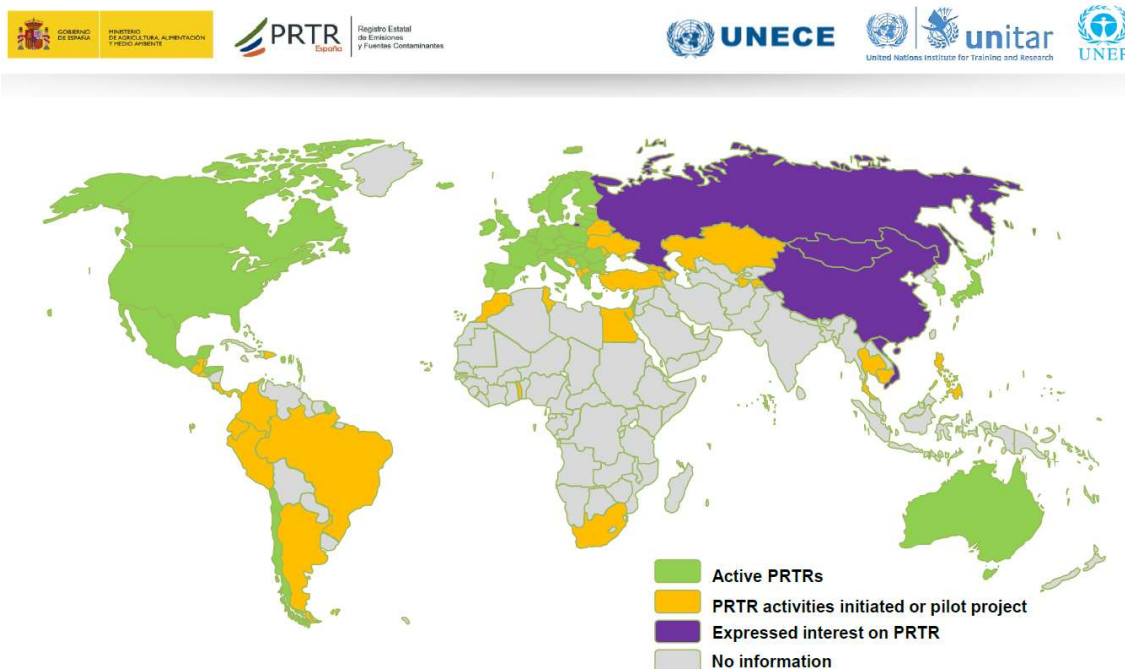   - **Link:** http://prtr.ec.europa.eu/

PRTR Websites

Based on the principle of people's right to have access to environmental information, the results of a PRTR should be made accessible for consultation to all affected and interested parties on a regular basis through a user-friendly website. One of the main features of a PRTR website is an interactive map that allows users to check, for example, the quantity of potentially harmful substances released and transferred by the facilities in the surrounding area.

The following list is a collection of all the most relevant National PRTR websites currently available for browsing:

- **Australia**
- **Austria**
- **Belgium**
- **Canada**
- **Chile**
- **Czech Republic**
- **Denmark**
- **Finland**
- **France**
- **Germany**
- **Honduras**
- **Hungary**
- **Ireland**

- **Israel**
- **Italy**
- **Japan**
- **Netherlands**
- **Norway**
- **Peru**
- **Romania**
- **Serbia**
- **Spain**
- **Sweden**
- **Switzerland**
- **United Kingdom**
- **United States**

Global Map of Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on the maps in this document do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.