



Update on European PRTR implementation

PRTR-España
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Background

E-PRTR Regulation (EC/2006/166)

- Builds on previous EU initiative (EPER) and enacts Kiev protocol
- Dates from 2006 so many technical / legal developments since then.

E-PRTR Guidance document

- Helps common understanding of the Regulation → consistent implementation
- But published in 2006 so outdated technical and scientific understanding
- And doesn't capture implementation issues that have arisen since 2006

Opportune time to review the legislation and guidance



Contract tasks

	E-PRTR Regulation	Guidance document
Task 1	Annex I activities	
Task 2	Annex II substances & reporting thresholds	
Task 3		Release quantification methods (Appendix 3)
Task 4		Indicative air and water pollutants (Appendix 4 & 5)

Task 1: Annex I activities

Issue: Divergence in 2010 between the industrial activities listed for regulatory control (IED) and the E-PRTR.

Key question: Is the E-PRTR still a comprehensive inventory for releases/transfers from large industry in Europe?

Method: Evaluate E-PRTR coherence with other EU legislation, especially the IED.

Main findings:

- A. There are some additional activities that might enhance the E-PRTR's coverage e.g. CCS, MgO production, Metal working.
- B. Consider new reporting thresholds e.g. combustion (50 to 20 MW), urban waste water treatment (100,000 to 15,000 p.e.)

Task 2: Annex II substances / thresholds

Issue: The E-PRTR pollutants, and their reporting thresholds, were set in 2006 i.e. 12+ years ago.

Key questions: Does the list of pollutants reflect current scientific knowledge? Are reporting thresholds still meaningful?

Methods: Review of substances under other legislation (national / international) and national PRTRs. Weibull statistical analysis of thresholds.

Main findings:

- A. Possible case for adding 38 pollutants
- B. Tracking of WFD watchlist
- C. 24 pollutants are historical but retention is suggested
- D. Suggest to lower reporting threshold for 11 air pollutants and 14 water pollutants to capture 90% of industrial pollution

Task 3: Guidance - release quantification methods

Issue: The guidance has little information on release quantification methods and it's very dated.

Key questions: How can we improve the quality and comparability of E-PRTR data?

Method: Assessment of whether releases are measured, calculated or estimated. Survey of other methods e.g. OECD.

Main findings:

1. Benefits of stressing the hierarchy – M, then C, then E.
2. Better descriptions of quantification methods

Task 4: Guidance - indicative air & water pollutants

Issue: The indicative lists of pollutants are too binary (presence / absence) and contain known errors.

Outputs:

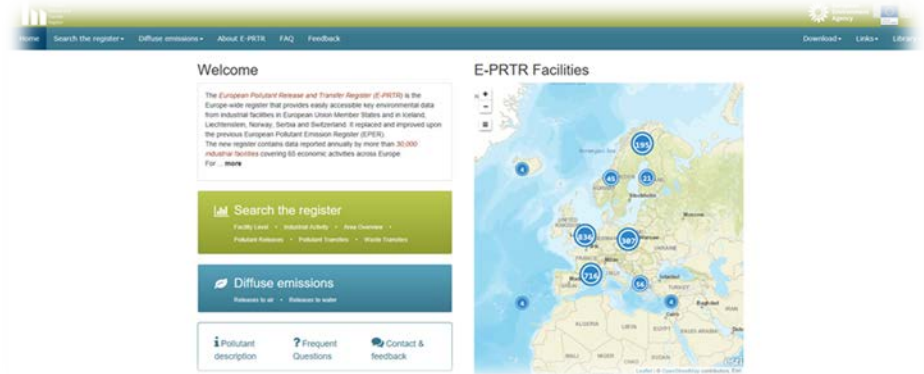
1. New indicative lists prepared based on actual E-PRTR reporting.
2. A more nuanced system indicating the likelihood of a pollutant's presence
3. Links made to substances identified in BREFs (**B**est **A**vailable **T**echniques **r**eference documents)

Next steps

- A. Contract now finished and being written up.
- B. Final report will soon be available on our (publicly accessible) CIRCABC portal.
- C. Contract findings will be:
 - Shared with the E-PRTR Expert Group for peer review
 - A key reference for future policy developments on industrial emissions (both in EU and wider)
 - Contribute to the EU's ongoing evaluation of the IED
 - Subject to impact assessments, there may be EU legislative proposals for the IED and the E-PRTR

Further information

E-PRTR <https://prtr.eea.europa.eu/#/home>



Contract on 'Review of E-PRTR implementation and related guidance' – final report will be available on CIRCABC portal
<https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/988dcfdb-7666-4dd2-ba15-63a8d7ebc1f0>

Evaluation of the IED (Industrial Emissions Directive)
https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2018-4758971_en