

THE UNECE CONVENTION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS (AARHUS CONVENTION)

TASK FORCE ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION

ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TOOLS: CASE STUDY BY SPAIN

PRTR-ESPAÑA, SPANISH REGISTER OF EMISSIONS AND POLLUTANT SOURCES
<http://www.prtr-es.es/> (multilingual)

I. Description.

Title: Spanish Register of Emissions and Pollutant Sources, PRTR-España

- **1. Brief description:** It provides information to the public on the pollutant releases to air, water and land, and off-site transfers of wastes not only from the main industrial facilities but also emissions from other point and diffuse sources, according to the international (Kiev Protocol and Aarhus Convention), European (E-PRTR Regulation) and Spanish regulation (*Real Decreto 508/2007* and its amendments). Information is available at facility level and in aggregated way. Several options for search: by year, by industrial activity, pollutants /group of pollutants/type of waste, and geographically. Also data time series showing evolution trends over the years. Several possibilities to download the queries/consults made are available.
- **2. Type (governmental, non-governmental, municipal, other):** Governmental
- **3. Scope (international, sub-regional, national, local):** National, sub-regional and local
- **4. Working language(s):** Spanish/English (also other Spanish languages)
- **5. Target users:** The general public
- **6. Starting year:** 2001
- **7. Budget and funding source:** MITECO, Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica (Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition)
- **8. Contact: (name, functional title, institution, email, phone number):**

Subdirección General de Calidad del Aire y Medio Ambiente Industrial
Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica
Plaza San Juan de la Cruz s/n
e-mail: buzon-sqcamai@mapama.es
PRTR-España: Info@prtr-es.es

II. Implementation

- **9. Policy, legal and institutional context:**
 - Instrumento de ratificación del Protocolo sobre registros de emisiones y Transferencias de contaminantes, hecho en Kiev el 21 de mayo de 2003. ([BOE núm. 285 de 26/11/2006](#)).
 - [PRTR Protocol](#) – Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, Kiev, May 2003, 21st. **It came into force the 8th October 2009.** Spain is Party of it, since September 2009. This protocol is developed under the Aarhus Convention.
 - REGULATION (EC) No 166/2006 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL, of 18 January 2006 ,concerning the establishment of a European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register and amending Council Directives 91/689/EEC and 96/61/EC ([OJEU L33, 4.2.2006](#)).

- Real Decreto 508/2007, de 20 de abril, por el que se regula el suministro de información sobre emisiones del Reglamento E-PRTR y de las autorizaciones ambientales integradas, y enmiendas posteriores ([BOE núm 96, de 21/04/2007](#))
- Instrumento de Ratificación del Convenio sobre el acceso a la información, la participación del público en la toma de decisiones y el acceso a la justicia en materia de medio ambiente, hecho en Aarhus (Dinamarca), el 25 de junio de 1998 ([BOE nº 40, de 16/02/2005](#)).
- **10. Partner organizations involved:** MITECO, Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition.
- **11. Stakeholders involved, their expected benefits:** Ministry, Regional Governments, Industry, public access to environmental information on releases and waste transfers.
- **12. User needs and methods of their assessment:** Internet access
- **13. Technology choice:** Internet / G.I.S.

III. Evaluation

- **14. Results:** PRTR-España is one of the most important platform on the internet in which public can access and consult environmental information related to main pollutant sources. The information of releases and transfers is updated on yearly basis. Every year in November is published on the website data from the immediate reporting year. Not only the last information is available but also historical data (for the last 10 year) can be consulted. It is a web site frequently used by the public and other stakeholders such as industries, technological institution, Academia nad/or universities and not only from Spain but worldwide, since it is also possible to search/consult all options in English. Up to now (from 2009) the total number of visits is more than 13 million, with a month average of 150.000. Inventory of facilities; Data by facility and by pollutant/media (CO₂, dioxines-furanes, HM, SO_x, NO_x, PM); also time series/trends over the years are the most frequently consulted sections. Document repository is other option of the website which shows a high number of downloads

Documents (BREFs, BAT conclusions, Legislation). All the significant documents relevant to PRTR world are available also on the web site ([See Document repository/section](#))

- **15. Efficiency gains:** reduce time consuming in informing general public
- **16. Risks:** misunderstanding about the information is provided. PRTR Thresholds are usually interpreted as emission limit values. Additional explanations and/or information about releases/transfers by activity sector/facility and pollutant type is needed in other to avoid wrong interpretations.
- **17. Challenges encountered (please indicate resolved or not):** not always all stakeholders/target public are really aware about the information provided. Difficulties in making more understandable the data published on the webpage and to detect the public needs on these issues. Many ways on public participation are already implemented in order to improve the utility and applicability of the PRTR platform.
- **18. Lessons learned:** necessity of providing a context over the environmental information but using a the quickest and the best user- friendly possibilities as possible considering all potential users.
- **19. Conditions for successful replication:** more accurate quality data, updating software developments, feedback from users/stakeholders on how to improve it.
- **20. Overall assessment of the tool:** Highly positive