



PRTRs AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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OECD Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Programme

36 Member countries, many partner countries and other stakeholders work together to develop and co-ordinate activities on chemical safety and biosafety on an international basis.

The main objectives of the Programme are to:

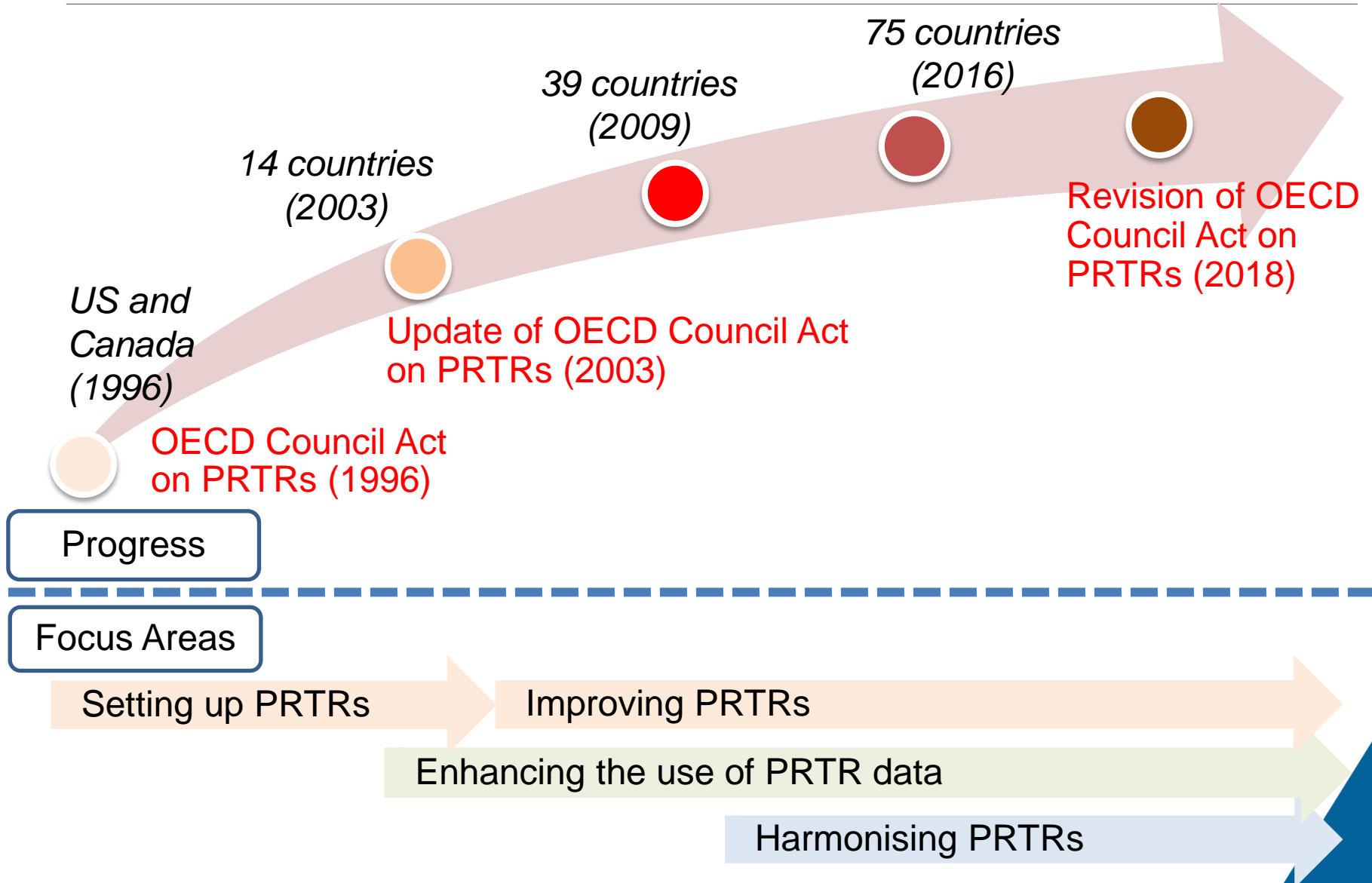
- Assist OECD Member countries' efforts to protect human health and the environment through improving chemical safety and biosafety
- Make chemical control policies more transparent and efficient and save resources for government and industry; and
- Prevent unnecessary distortions in the trade of chemicals, chemical products and products of modern biotechnology.



<http://www.oecd.org/env/ehs/>



Progress of PRTR and OECD Activities





Three Focus Areas of OECD activities

Harmonising PRTRs

- PRTRs have been established throughout the world, but vary across countries.
- Harmonizing PRTRs enables global analysis and comparison between countries



- Support countries to implement harmonised PRTRs by
- providing information on elements of a PRTR (e.g. chemical list and sectors) (2014, 2015)
 - Updated the Council Act on PRTRs to set standard of harmonised PRTRs (2018)

Improving PRTRs

PRTR data are usually not directly measured, but estimated



- Support countries to improve PRTR data quality by updating the Release Estimation Techniques to quantify pollutants
1. Point source (2013)
 2. Non-point source (revising)
 3. Off-site transfer (2017)
 4. Release from products (2017)

Enhancing the use of PRTR data

PRTRs are rich sources of information

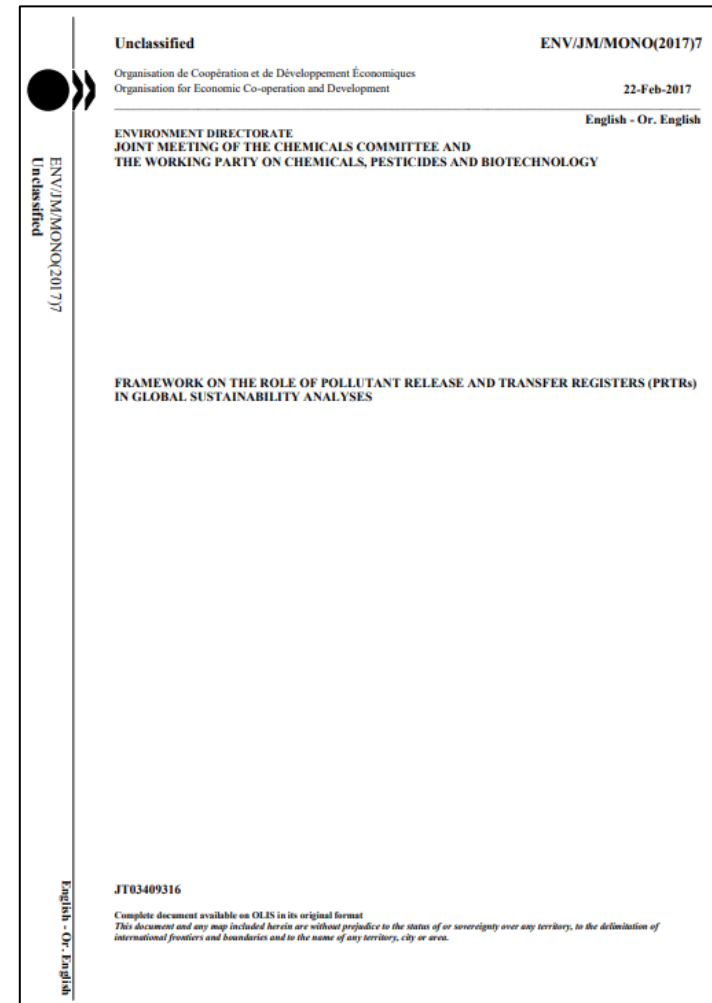


- Support countries to use PRTR data by
- managing three PRTR databases
 - developing good practices and identifying new applications of PRTR data



Framework on the Role of PRTRs in Global Sustainability Analyses (2017)

- Opportunities for using PRTR data for international-scale sustainability analyses
- Limitations and factors to consider in international-scale applications of PRTR data
- Improving harmonisation of PRTR data to facilitate analyses



[http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=env/jm/mono\(2017\)7&doclanguage=en](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=env/jm/mono(2017)7&doclanguage=en)



A PRTR...

- Contain a wealth of information applicable to sustainability analysis
- Enables comparison and evaluation of pollution prevention activities by facilities
- Allows for the possibility of conducting analyses at an international scale by combining data from multiple PRTRs



Global sustainability analyses using PRTR data can...

- Evaluate global trends
- Evaluate impacts of environmental policies and programmes
- Gain insight into human and ecosystem health issues
- Characterize transboundary movements of wastes
- Identify pollution prevention opportunities
- Review environmental performance and efficiency



Limitations and factors to consider

- Not all facilities that release and transfer chemicals report to PRTRs
- Differences among PRTRs in chemical coverage, industry sector coverage, and reported data

Should consider...

- focusing analyses on chemicals and sectors that are most consistently reported across PRTRs
- considering whether data could be adjusted to improve data comparability among PRTRs



Data elements in PRTRs

		US (TRI)	Canada (NPRI)	Japan (Japan PRTR)	Australia (NPI)	Europe (E-PRTR)	Chile (Chile PRTR)
On-Site Releases and Disposal	Air Emissions	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Point	●	●	○	●	○	●
	Fugitive	●	●	○	●	○	●
	Spills	○	●	○	○	○	○
	Road Dust	○	●	○	○	○	○
	Storage/Handling	○	●	○	○	○	○
	Other Non-point	○	●	○	○	○	○
	Water Releases	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Direct Discharges	○	●	○	○	○	○
	Spills	○	●	○	○	○	○
	Leaks	○	●	○	○	○	○
	Land Releases	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Landfills	●	●	●	○	○	○
	Underground Injection	●	●	○	○	○	○
	Land Treatment/Application	●	●	○	○	○	○
	Surface Impoundments	●	◐	○	○	○	○
Other Land Releases	●	●	○	○	○	○	

Due to differences in definitions between PRTR systems, not all categories exactly match similar categories for other PRTRs

Complete ● Partial ◐ None ○



Efforts to enhance harmonisation

Proposals for a Harmonised List of Reporting Sectors

- Long and short list of reporting sectors
- General thresholds (applied to all sectors)
- Sector-specific thresholds

Proposals for a Harmonised List of Pollutants

- Long and short list of pollutants



UN Sustainable Development Goals



- In 2015, countries adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity
- Published “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and defined 17 SDGs that encompass the economic, environmental and social dimensions of sustainability



Relevant SDGs to PRTR

- Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure
- Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development

Target 12.4

Environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes



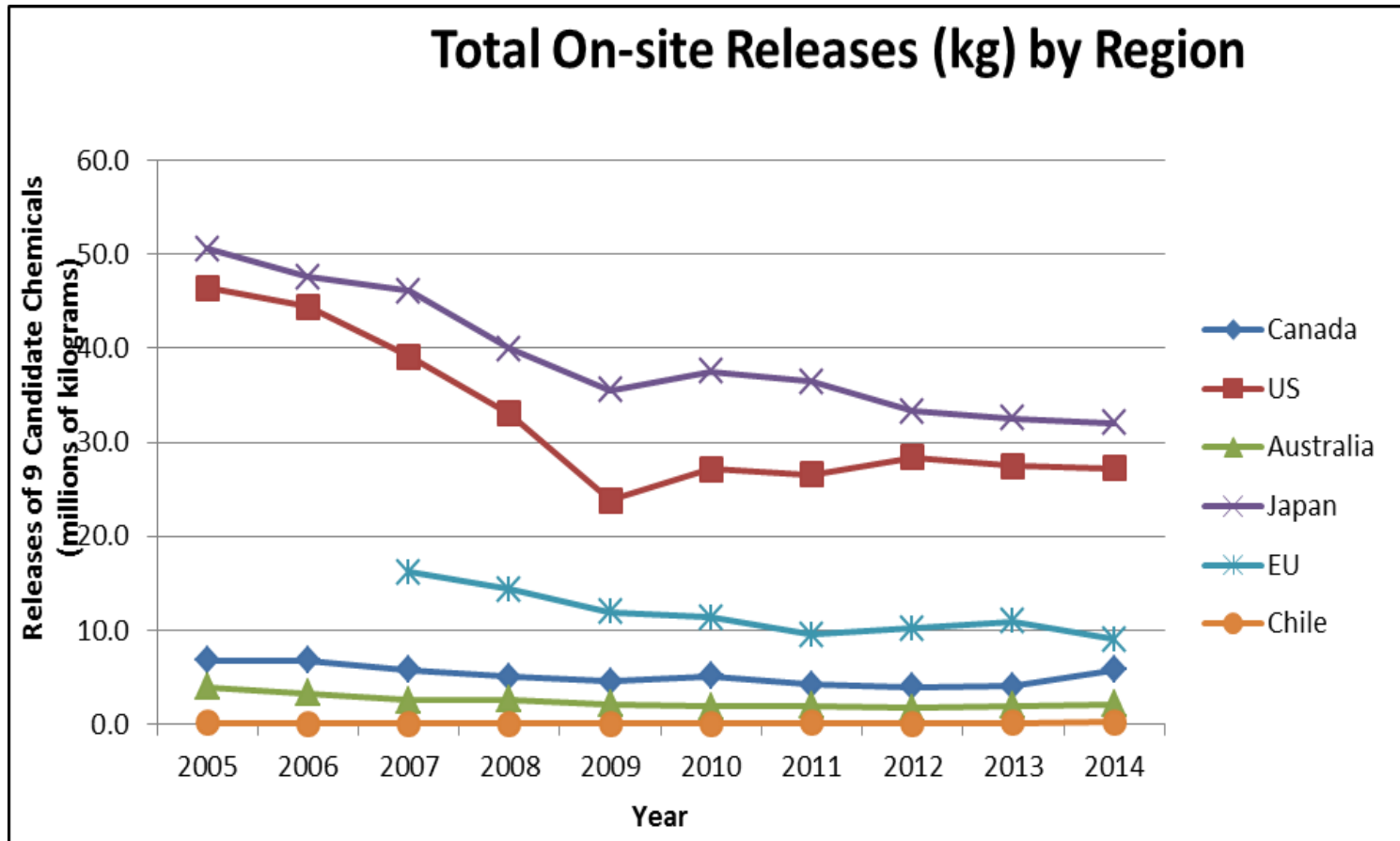
Applying the Framework

- Objective: use PRTR information in evaluating progress towards meeting SDGs
- Selected:
 - 14 pollutants
 - 7 PRTR systems (AU, CA, CL, EU, JP, MX, US)
 - focused on manufacturing sector
 - focused on on-site releases to air and water

Benzene	Nickel & nickel compounds	Tetrachloroethylene
1,2-dichloroethane	Di-(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	Dichloromethane
Ethylbenzene	Trichloroethylene	Styrene
Cadmium & compounds	Chromium & compounds	Sulfur dioxide
Particulate matter	Mercury & mercury compounds	



Example of Analysis



On-site releases for 9 representative chemicals



Upcoming Analyses

Analyses to investigate

- Snapshot analyses – most recent year of data
- Trend analyses – 2008 to 2016
- Comparative analyses between PRTR systems
- Toxicity-weighted release quantities
- Economic information as an indicator (e.g. kg released/\$ value added)

Analytic Descriptors

- Pollutant release quantities (kg)
- Toxicity-weighted release quantities
- Pollutant release quantities per unit of production
- Toxicity-weighted release quantities per unit of production



Further information

- Email: takaaki.ito@oecd.org (Alaska)
- Website: <http://www.oecd.org/env/prtr>

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the OECD website. The URL in the address bar is <http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/pollutant-release-transfer-register/>. The page features the OECD logo and tagline "BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES". A navigation menu includes "OECD Home", "About", "Countries", "Topics", "Statistics", and "Newsroom". The main heading is "Pollutant release and transfer register".

Find

- » Search on pollutant release and transfer registers
- » Useful databases
- » Overview of pollutant release and transfer register

Focus

- » Recommendations
- » Release and estimation techniques
- » Dissemination and use of PRTR data

Read more

The 1996 OECD Council Act on PRTRs, amended in 2003, calls for member countries to establish PRTRs. To support this effort, OECD develops practical tools and guidance on how to implement a PRTR.

In recent years, the public's "right to know" has moved to the forefront of environmental policy making. A Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) is a key tool for governments to provide the public with data regarding the amount of hazardous chemicals and pollutants released to air, water and soil and transferred off-site for treatment or disposal.

OECD has been supporting the development and implementation of PRTR systems in member countries by developing several guidance manuals and technical documents. The OECD is also managing a few web-based databases in order to encourage governments and other stakeholders to share PRTR data and technical information.

OECD work on PRTRs is overseen by the Task Force on PRTRs. The activities aim at:

- Developing practical tools and guidance to help member countries implement a PRTR;
- Outreach activities to non-member economies, including the provision of information and technical support; and
- Promoting communication and a close working relationship between the OECD Task Force on PRTRs and other relevant organisations.

Among technical and practical aspects, special focus goes to the dissemination and use of PRTR data, and release estimation techniques under a PRTR scheme.