



This project is co-financed by the
European Union and the Republic of Turkey

Technical Assistance for Capacity Building on European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR) in Turkey

TR2013/0327.06-01-02/001

Technical Assistance for Capacity Building on European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR) in Turkey

Workshop results on tangible and intangible benefits of the introduction of the E-PRTR Regulation in Turkey



Summarised by
Peter Futo

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Benefits for the Turkish State

- Transparency of information will improve public trust in the government.
- Promotes investment, because investors prefer areas where there's less pollution, leading to a reduction in pollution.
- Aligned legislation facilitates the EU accession process. Promotes negotiations on the environment.
- Transparent environment management, accessible information facilitates dialogue between various stakeholders.
- E-PRTR data can be used in future development projects.
- Increase in prestige in the international arena.
- An indicator of a transparent administration.



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Benefits for Industry

- Improves the knowledge of industry on environment.
- Access to data on the level of emissions of a rival company.
- Industrial facilities can learn about their pollutants and obtain information on processes of which they may not be aware, and can utilize this knowledge for improving their image and obtain financial gain.
- Data provided by the industry gains official support through validation and dissemination.
- The concept of environment starts to become a priority as a result of competition among facilities; and pollution may be reduced.
- Information on air and water pollution can be extrapolated to new projects thereby costly environmental problems can be prevented.



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Further benefits for Industry

- The fact that the public can access information on facilities may industry to be more sensitive towards the environment, leading them to take measures to prevent pollution.
- For industrialists, their commitments to the environment can be monitored concretely, and are verifiable.
- E-PRTR data will help operators to find out whether there is a need for implementing best available technologies and practices.
- Reliable E-PRTR data enhances the opportunity for fair competition in international markets.
- E-PRTR may improve the acceptance of facilities by residents in the nearby area



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Benefits for environmental authorities

- Holistic, integrated collection of pollution data. One system – wide range of integrated information.
- Opportunity to compare data with other states when determining environmental policies.
- Gaining information on whether emissions are at a level that threatens the country.
- Opportunity to monitor improvements or declines in performance of industry.
- Better information on pollution helps to prevent pollution.
- Generation of empirical data for the development of environment management strategies, and coastal and environment plans.
- Enables to do inter-sectoral and inter-facility comparisons.
- Uncommon pollutants, in addition to common ones, will be visible.



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Further benefits for environmental authorities

- Facilitates, streamlines environmental inspections and audits, saving time for officials.
- It will be easier to handle environmental problems with tangible and pollutant-specific and facility-specific data.
- Comparison of baseline pollution data with yearly follow-up observations reveals hidden trends and serves as an early warning system.
- Collecting and using E-PRTR data facilitates technical self-improvement of environmental authorities.
- Environmental pollution maps can be created.
- E-PRTR can become an efficient tool of environmental management.
- E-PRTR may help to legislate necessary changes in the regulations, but also may prevent unnecessary legal challenges.
- Environmental pollution should be prevented at its point of origin. The identification of pollutants at their points of origin enables Government and industry to intervene efficiently.



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Benefits of co-operation between various public and private bodies

- Helps to harmonize industrial and environmental policies on the regional and interregional level.
- Facilitates co-operation between facilities, local authorities and non-governmental organizations, in order to reduce the harms caused by industrial facilities.
- Helps in developing environmental awareness of facilities, NGOs and the population.
- Helps to co-ordinate the work of various ministries, e.g. between the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization and the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs.
- E-PRTR helps to make projections in studies about infrastructure and urbanization.



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Benefits for society, for the members of the public

- E-PRTR regulation implements the right of the public to access environmental information.
- They can request information on excessive emissions in the environment in which they live, and can put pressure on companies or policymakers in such cases.
- Potential health-related problems can be prevented.
- E-PRTR may help to implement environmental rights of the public, such as filing complaints, taking legal action, etc.
- Being able to access environmental information will establish, create and improve the trust of the public in local and central Government authorities and in facilities.
- High visibility of the E-PRTR database will raise the environmental awareness of the public.



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Further benefits for society, for the members of the public

- Members of the public can learn whether there is pollution where they live and work, by accessing E-PRTR data.
- Decisions about purchasing real estate or moving to an other location will be based on good environmental information. The ability to make good market decisions is a social value which can be converted into financial gains.
- There currently exists a large gap between the consumer and environmental awareness; E-PRTR will help in closing this gap.
- Prejudices can be prevented and confuted with rational and fact based arguments.
- By accessing collective data, citizens will be able participate in decision making processes



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Benefits to environmental consultants, laboratories and other service providers

- As the quality of measurements/analyses of laboratories will be checked by a separate system, laboratories may improve the quality of their measurements in an effort to reach more precise information.

Benefits to NGOs

- Good pollution database will put lobbying into a rational and empirically based (fact based) framework, will improve the quality of discussions, the niveau of interest representation and interest reconciliation.
- NGOs gain the ability to produce higher quality reports.



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Benefits for Science and Development

- Enables crosschecks with other measurements and databases.
- Detailed information on facilities, coherent information on their emissions will help in future development projects and scientific studies.
- Environmental researchers can access relevant data collectively.
- Universities and institutes can look at this data without incurring additional cost in such areas as measurement modelling, etc.
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Indirect benefits for the Environment

- Helps to achieve global sustainability
- A reliable and easily accessible E-PRTR database will motivate firms to invest into clean technologies and will indirectly improve air, water and soil quality.



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