



REGIONAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

13-14 MARCH 2024 | PALAIS DES NATIONS | GENEVA

Peer learning round table on SDG 17

Building Effective Partnerships for Digital Transformation

(Building Bloc 3)

The International Coordinating Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs): an excellent example of effective partnership to further digital transformation.

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International PRTR Coordinating Group (ICG)

The International PRTR Coordinating Group (ICG) is an open/informal group **which overall objective is:**

- to enhance coordination and cooperation at the global level among international organizations, governments, NGOs and other interested parties in their ongoing and planned efforts related to the further development and implementation of PRTR systems, facilitating the exchange of information and promoting PRTR capacity-building activities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Bureau and meetings

- UNITAR, Canada and Spain currently serve on the Bureau. The UNECE Aarhus Convention/Protocol on PRTRs Secretariat also serves as secretariat.
 - Meetings of the ICG usually take place yearly, *back to back* with the OECD WP on PRTRs meetings. The last one (16thICG) was held on January, 2024 keeping with this tradition.

All the updated information on the ICG is available on the UNECE/PRTR website:
<https://unece.org/environment-policy/public-participation/international-prtr-coordinating-group>

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PRTR GLOBAL MAP 2023/24

*As of November 2023, **73** countries, coming from all regions, have committed to develop PRTR systems. This includes legal commitments under the United Nations Protocol on PRTRs, the Aarhus Convention and the Escazu Agreement, or commitments stemming from OECD membership.*



The Protocol on Pollutant Releases and Transfers Registers (PRTRs) (Kiev, 2003), serviced by UNECE, is the only example of applying legally binding standards on how data on pollutants must be made available to the public. The Protocol is open for accession by any UN Member State.

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PRTRs are online inventories of pollution from industrial sites and other sources. PRTRs have emerged as an important digital tool in the field of chemicals management. By bringing information on polluting emissions into the public domain, enable the public to play a more effective role in participating in the decision-making processes. The resulting increase in transparency can create pressure to reduce the pollution burden arising from industrial activities. Integrating PRTRs with other environmental and socio-economic databases, decision-makers can use them for different purposes, such as spatial planning, risk assessment, assessment of resources consumption and transition to a circular economy.

- Due to cross-cutting nature of PRTRs, the ICG not only promotes SDG 17, but also helps to achieve a number of other SDGs, including **SDG 3** on good health and well-being, **SDG 9** on industry, innovation and infrastructure and **SDG 12** on sustainable production and consumption.
- ICG identified common challenges (“Hot-topic”) regarding enhancing globally the digital access to information on pollutant releases. Challenges include the interoperability between databases, data equivalence, duplication of work/reporting for different government entities.
- ICG makes it significantly easier for countries and organizations to overcome hurdles and understanding the full potential of a digital transformation with regard to data on pollution and the respective digital platforms.
- ICG work also support other related process, such as the SDGs, Global Framework on Chemicals and existing and future MEAs with pollution related reporting obligations and data integration. (Not only global, but national and/or regional level)

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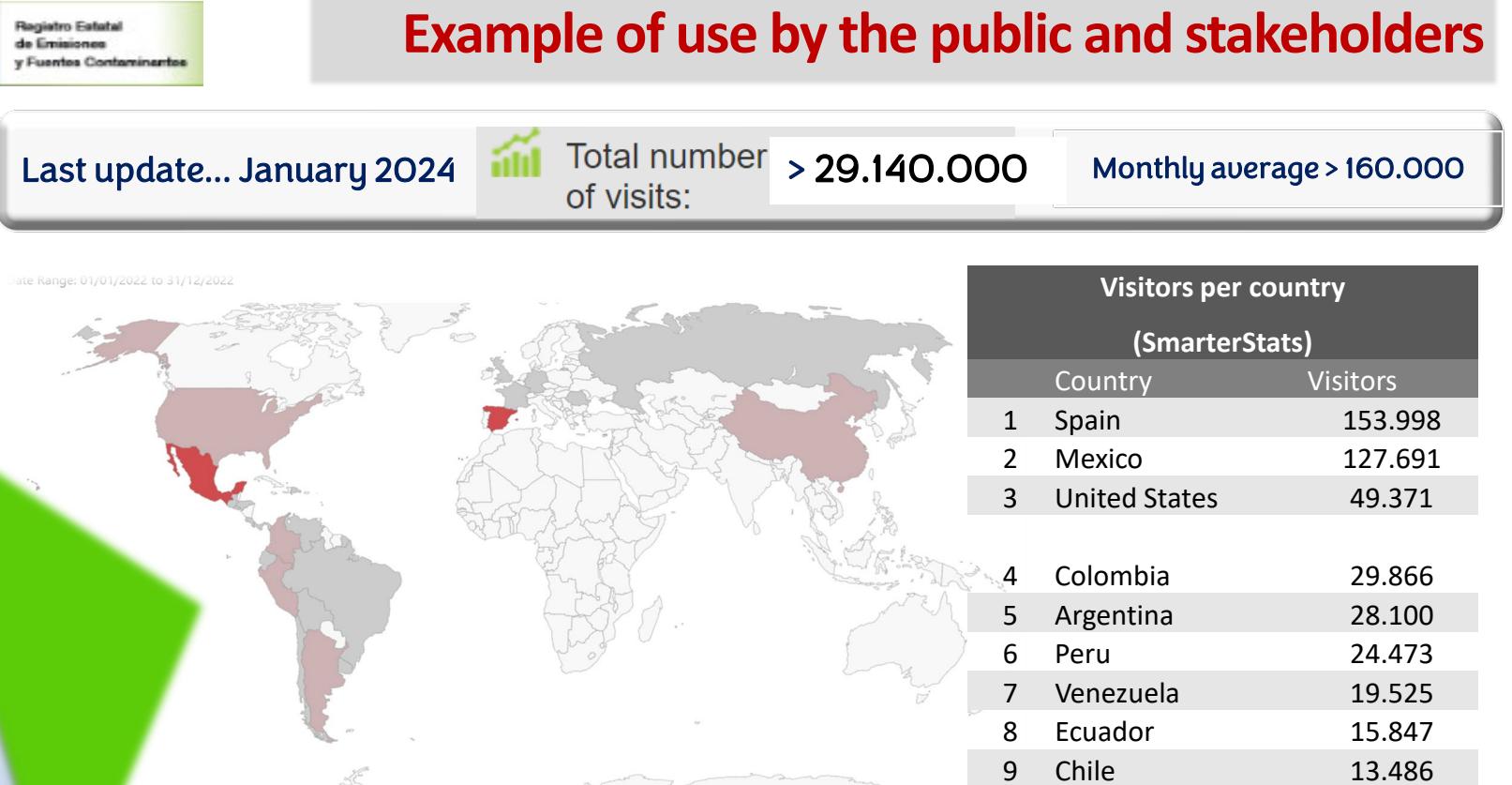


Registro Estatal
de Emisiones
y Fuentes Contaminantes

[Link to PRTR-España](#)



Public information available in Spanish and in English, not menu but full information



Other countries: China, Panama, France, Brazil, Australia, United Kingdom, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Germany,...



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Thank you!

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