GLOBAL TRENDS OF POLLUTANT RELEASE AND TRANSFER REGISTERS IN THE CONTEXT OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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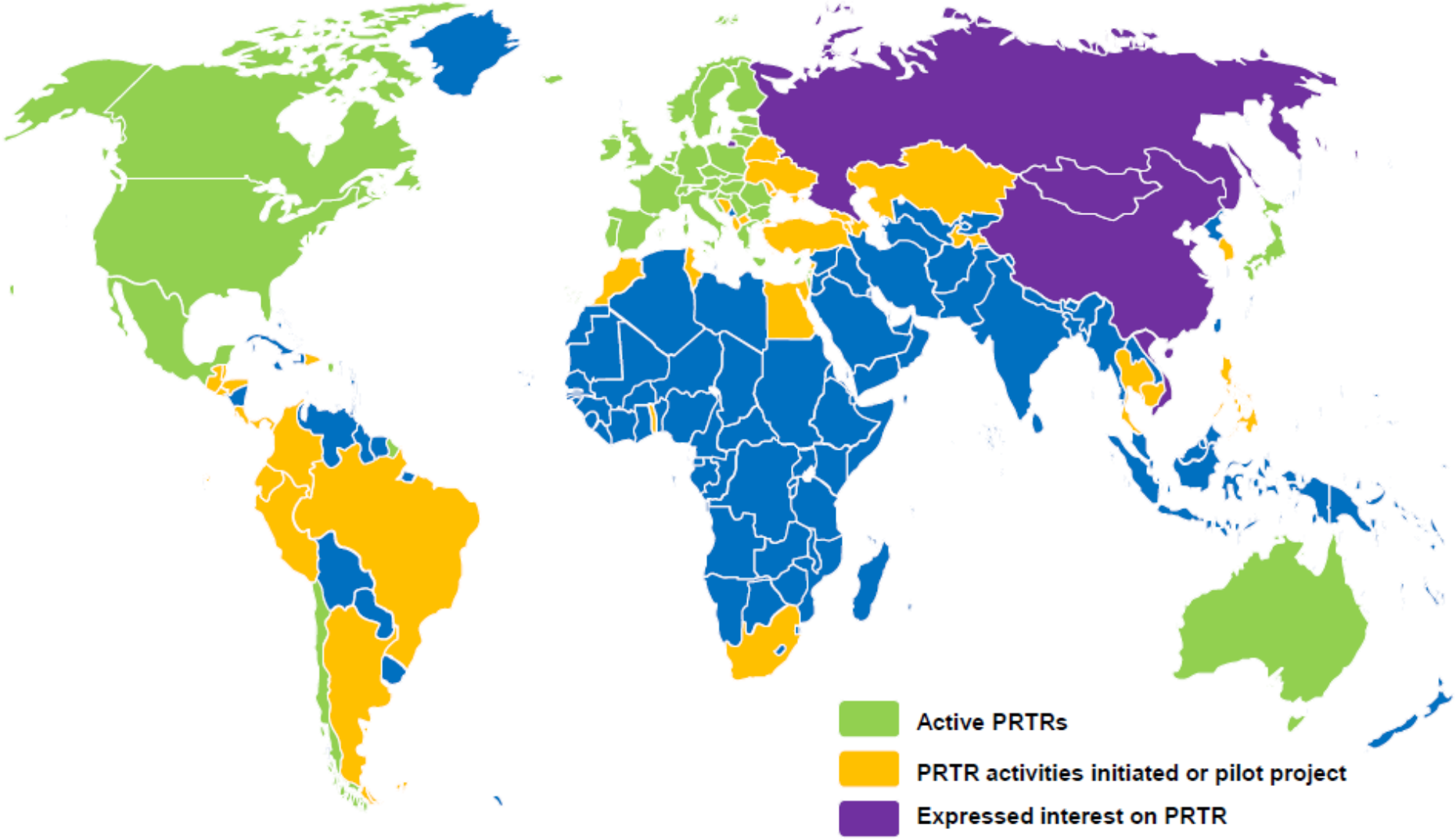
Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs)

Chemical Inventory open to the public

1. A listing of chemicals, groups of chemicals, and, if appropriate, other relevant categories all of which are pollutants when released or transferred;
2. Integrated multi-media reporting of releases and transfers (air, water and land);
3. Reporting of data by source where the reporting sources are defined;
4. Reporting on a periodic basis, preferably annually; and
5. Making data available to the public.

Recommendation of the Council on Implementing Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers1996 [amended on 28 May 2003 - C(2003)87], C(96)41/FINAL



The designations employed and the presentation of the material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Colors used are illustrative.

PRTR Map, 9th meeting of International PRTR Coordinating Group, 2014

Protocol on PRTRs

- Adopted in May 2003, entry into force in October 2009.
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- Protocol **open to all UN Member States**, including non-Parties to the **Aarhus Convention**
- **Legally binding tool** for access to environmental data with its own compliance mechanism
- **33 Parties** including EU
- **65 activities** (capacity/employee thresholds)
- **86 substances/substance** categories.

Protocol on PRTRs: Strategic Plan for 2015–2020 for the Protocol on PRTRs

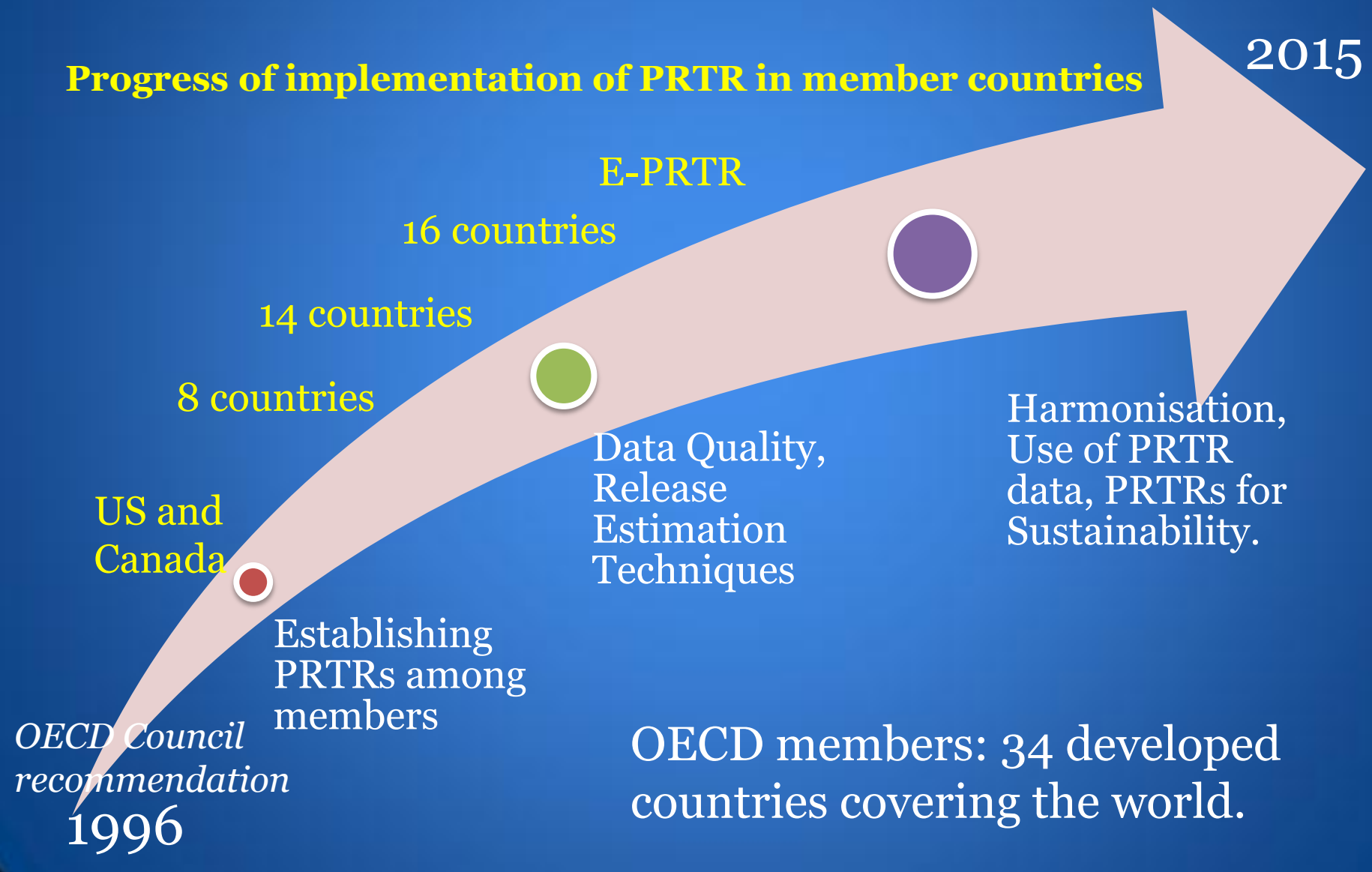
Focal area I: Implementation of the Protocol by each Party

Focal area II: Lifting barriers to ratification and expansion beyond the ECE region

Focal area III: **Development of the Protocol**

- Identifying areas for possible future improvements in annexes I and II to the Protocol (i.e. reporting sectors and chemicals)
- Inclusion of specific requirements for releases of pollutants from diffuse sources where and when necessary
- Considering **the inclusion of other aspects, such as information on energy and water consumption**, on-site transfers of waste or storage
- Use of the Protocol on PRTRs as a tool for **assessing the development of a green economy in the context of sustainable development**.

Organisation for **E**conomic **C**ooperation and **D**evelopment (OECD)



OECD members: 34 developed countries covering the world.

OECD

Centre for PRTR Data

- **PRTR Data from OECD countries at a national or regional level**. Not individual sites of facilities.
- Years, countries, regions, industry sectors, chemicals, types of release sources, and types of releases and transfers.

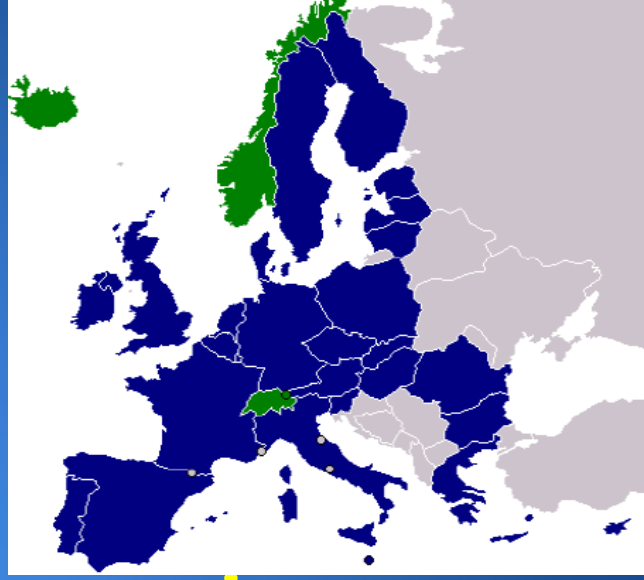
PRTR.net

- **Global portal to PRTR information** and activities from countries and organisations around the world.
- OECD, UNECE and UNEP/GRID-Arendal.

Resource Centre for Release Estimation Techniques

- Information on available release estimation techniques among OECD countries. Main users may be data providers.

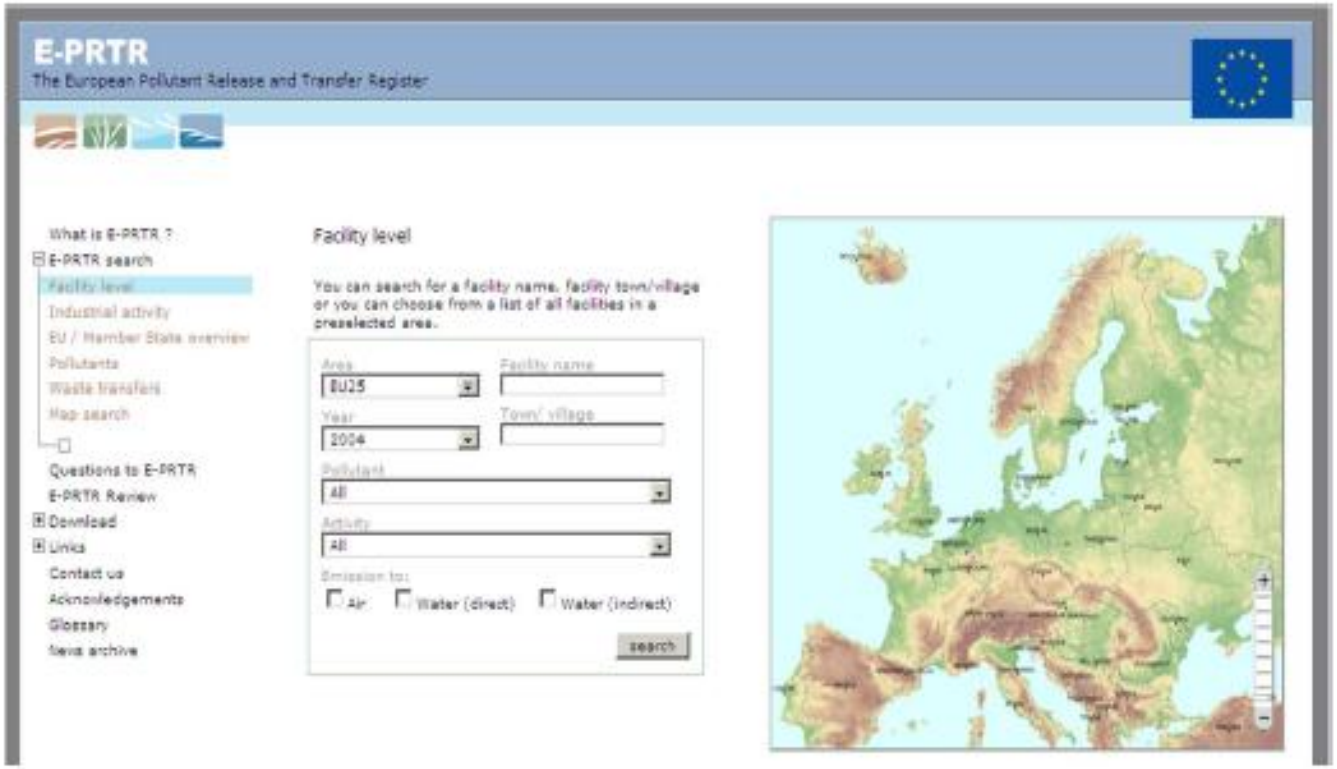
European **PRTR**: E-PRTR



- Regulation (EC) 166/2006
  - Establishes the European PRTR
  - Harmonised PRTR covering **33 countries**:
    - 28 EU Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway
    - Switzerland and Serbia (voluntary)
- Data available as of 2007 (first published in 2009)
- Implements **the PRTR Protocol + beyond**
  - **91 pollutants** (Hexabromobiphenyl, Octylphenols, Fluoranthene, Isodrin, Benzo(g,h,i)perylene + 86 of the PRTR Protocol)
  - **65 activities**

Modified from Ms. Eva Goossens, E-PRTR, Global round table on PRTRs, 2013

European PRTR – Website
http://prtr.ec.europa.eu



Data is searchable by:

- facility name,
- address
- country
- industrial activity
- pollutant
- map

A cooperation between
EEA and the European Commission
http://prtr.ec.europa.eu

Modified from Ms. Eva Goossens, E-PRTR, Global round table on PRTRs, 2013

North America: **C**ommission for **E**nvironmental **C**ooperation (CEC)

Three PRTRs

- Canada's NPRI
- US TRI
- Mexico's RETC

Activities

- Taking Stock Report
- Taking Stock Online
- Trilateral collaboration: Action Plan to Enhance the Comparability of PRTRs in North America

CENTRAL AMERICA COUNTRIES PRTR CHARACTERISTICS

COUNTRY	SUBSTANCES	ACTIVITIES	THRESHOLDS	TYPE OF REPORT	YEAR OF REPORT
BELICE	104	All	Number of employee	Obligatory	2014
EL SALVADOR	-				
COSTA RICA	168	Categorization table	Number of employee	Obligatory	2013
GUATEMALA	109	CIIU,Number of employee	Categorization table	Obligatory	2014 2018
HONDURAS	116	Categoríes	Categorization table	Obligatory	2014
NICARAGUA	-				
PANAMA	ND	ND			

Modified from Ms. Marcia Cecilia Suazo Hernandez, PRTR Global Round Table, 2013

History

1992	Rio Summit
1996	**OECD Council Recommendation** on Implementing PRTRs.
	The United States and Canada had an operational PRTR that conformed to the guiding principles of the Recommendation.
1997	**Commission for Environmental Cooperation** started to publish North American PRTR Data (Taking Stock).
1999	8 OECD countries had an operational PRTR.
2003	14 OECD countries had an operational PRTR.
2006	16 OECD countries had an operational PRTR.
	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;**
2009	**Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers** under the Aarhus Convention, Kiev, 21 May 2003, entering into force in 2009.
	39 countries had an operational PRTR.

Global trends in the context of public participation

Establishing PRTRs

- Countries launch initiatives to develop PRTRs.

More coordinated or harmonised PRTR

- International or Regional PRTRs.
- More coordination among IGOs.

Sustainable Development

- UNECE and OECD refocus on SD and PRTRs.

Linkage between data providers and users

More coordinated or harmonised PRTRs

Why PRTRs differ?

- Each country has **different environmental and socioeconomic background**. PRTRs can be used for **different purposes**.

International or Regional PRTRs

- PRTR Protocol, E-PRTR, CEC, Central America

OECD

- Proposing **common elements** (e.g. chemicals and sectors) among different PRTRs.

Coordination among IGOs

- **PRTR Global Round Table 2013**: UNECE, OECD + UNITAR
- **Workshop in Latin America 2014**: UNECLAC, UNECE + OECD.

Sustainable Development

PRTR Protocol

- Use of the Protocol on PRTRs as a tool for **assessing the development of a green economy in the context of sustainable development:** Strategic Plan for 2015–2020

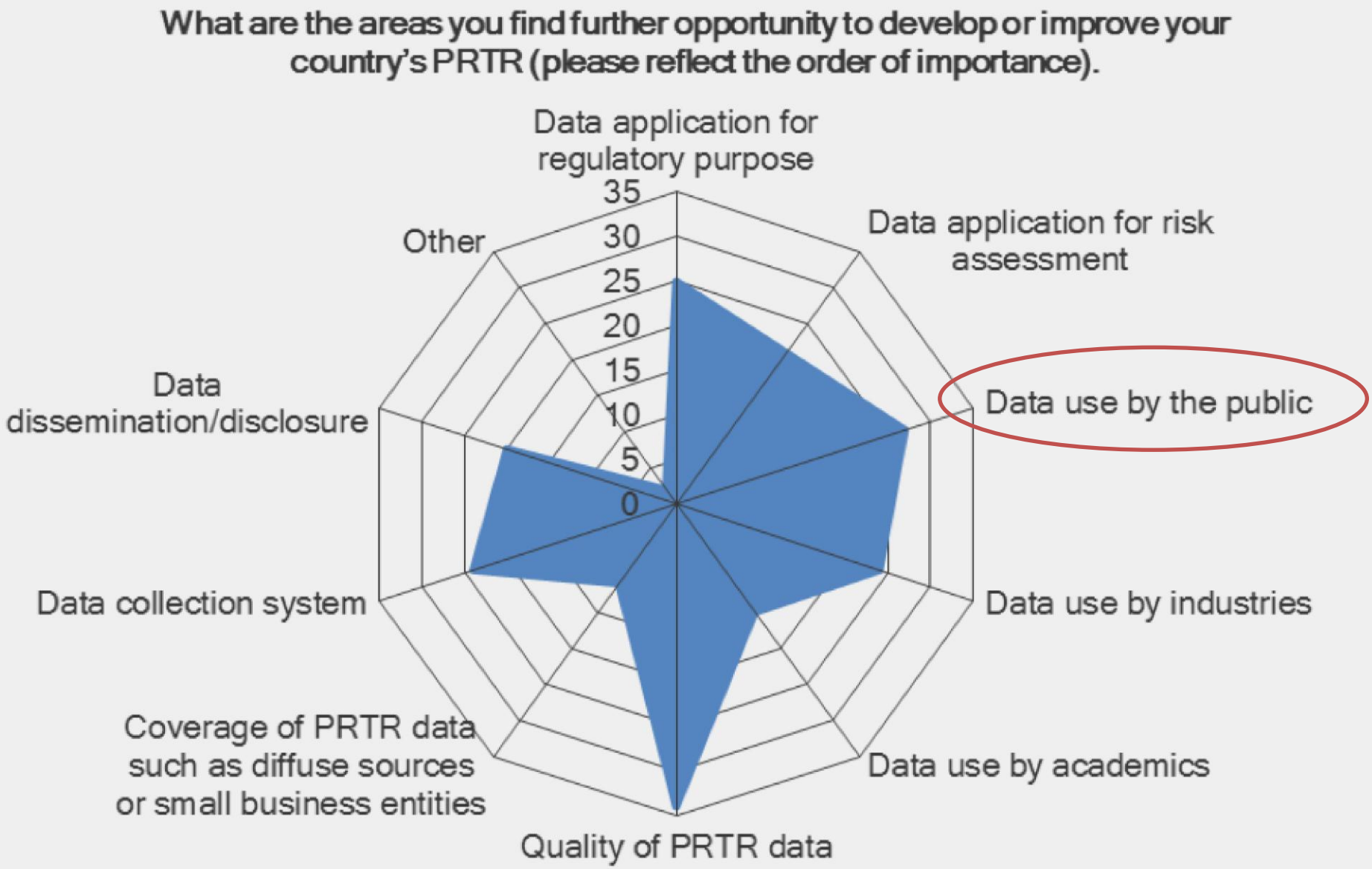
OECD

- 2011 Survey: **no guidance** on how PRTR data can be used as a means to measure progress **in achieving sustainability**.
- New Project: **Role of PRTR data in global sustainable development** for 2013-2016

For a country

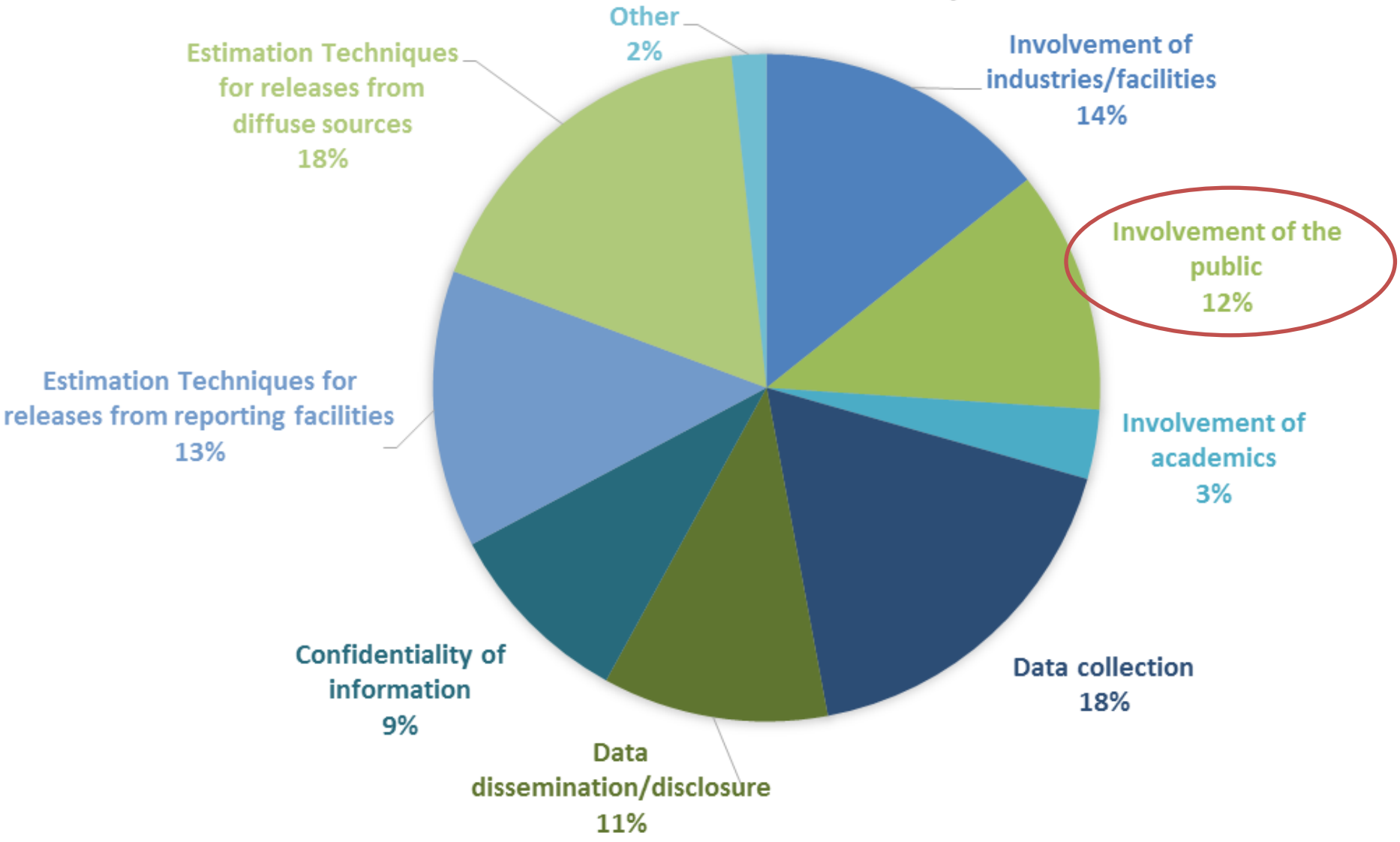
- The first priority is establishing a PRTR.
- After establishment, the country may come back to the question "how a PRTR can really contribute to sustainable development"

More public participation



From the online survey at the PRTR Global Round Table, 2013

WHAT ARE THE MOST PROBLEMATIC AREAS OR CHALLENGING AREAS FOR YOUR COUNTRY TO IMPLEMENT A PRTR? (PLEASE REFLECT THE ORDER OF IMPORTANCE).



From the online survey at the PRTR Global Round Table, 2013

More Public Participation

PRTR Data

- Huge potential for application.
- Sometimes hard to understand the data.

PRTR Data providers (i.e. PRTR Staff)

- Know PRTR data and their limitations well.
- Maybe conservative for applying PRTR data.

OECD 2011 Survey

- Few countries have a standing mechanism for exchanging ideas with and gathering feedback from the range of users

To provide more useful information

Linking data providers and users

THANK YOU