



## Factsheet

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### **The Swiss Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (SwissPRTR)**

The SwissPRTR is Switzerland's publicly accessible Pollutant Release and Transfer Register. It provides information on releases of specific pollutants to air, water or land, on transfers of waste, and on transfers of pollutants in waste water. The SwissPRTR thus contributes to the information available to the general public on the environment and to the reduction of environmental pollution in Switzerland.

**This Factsheet** explains the benefits of the SwissPRTR for the general public and illustrates the information that will be available using the example of the European Pollutant Emission Register (EPER).

## Benefits of the SwissPRTR for the general public

The SwissPRTR **creates transparency** and allows the **identification of national, regional and local correlations**.

The SwissPRTR **creates environmental awareness, facilitates participation in environment-related decision-making and encourages communication**.

The SwissPRTR helps to **reduce** releases of pollutants and thus provides sustainable support to the precautionary principle.

The SwissPRTR **links** Switzerland to international **networks**.

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**The SwissPRTR contributes to the sustainable development of production facilities.**

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SwissPRTR website

<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/swissprtr>

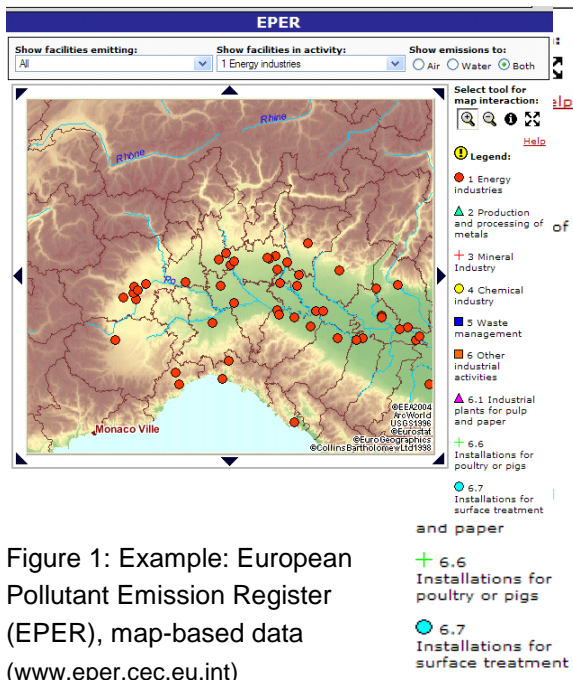


Figure 1: Example: European Pollutant Emission Register (EPER), map-based data ([www.eper.cec.eu.int](http://www.eper.cec.eu.int))

The SwissPRTR **creates environmental awareness** and assists individuals to **form their own opinions**

- It provides information on the current situation in relation to releases of pollutants, transfers of waste and transfers of pollutants in waste water.
- It permits the identification of national, regional and local correlations (also see Figures 1 and 2) with regard to
  - the significance of pollutant-releases to air, water or land as well as the transfers of waste and transfers of pollutants in waste water,
  - the identification of geographical clusters of releases of pollutants,
  - the identification of most important pollutants in terms of quantity, whether for Switzerland as a whole, regionally or locally.
- Up-to-date information on environmental pollution facilitates the participation of the general public in environment-related decision-making processes.

The SwissPRTR provides **reliable and comprehensive information**

- The data is recorded and verified each year in accordance with internationally standardised criteria.
- The data is publicly accessible via the internet and can be inspected at any time.
- The international comparability of the data creates a unique pool of data that can be exploited to make comprehensive comparisons.

The SwissPRTR **has a confidence-building effect** and **encourages communication**

- The clear presentation of the data encourages the informed discussion of the subject matter and permits greater understanding between the general public, industry and government.

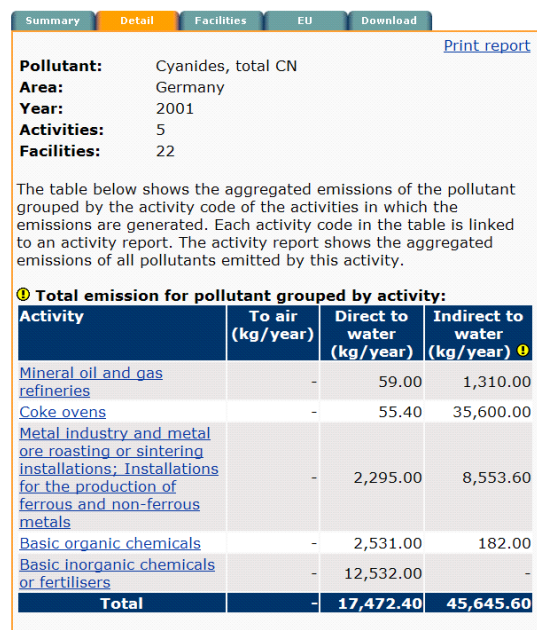


Figure 2: Example: European Pollutant Emission Register (EPER); cyanide emissions in Germany according to activity for the year 2001.