

THE NETHERLANDS – NSO involved in emission register established in 1974

In 1974, the first steps were taken by a number of organisations, including Statistics Netherlands, to establish an integrated Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) in the Netherlands (www.prtr.nl). More recently, this register has been expanded to include the GHG inventory system.

The register covers five dimensions: 1) **components** (350 pollutants, based on reporting obligations like the Kyoto Protocol, NEC Directive, Water Framework Directive and E-PRTR); 2) **sinks** (emissions to air, soil and water); 3) **emission sources** (from agriculture; industry, energy and refineries; construction; transport; trade, services and government; consumers; and waste disposal); 4) **location** (diffuse sources for agriculture, consumers and road traffic and point sources for individual enterprises); and 5) **time**, with a focus on trends.

The National Institute for Public Health and Environment (RIVM) co-ordinates the annual compilation of the emission register on behalf of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment. The Netherlands Enterprise Agency, part of Ministry of Economic Affairs, acts as the official national entity. Data are provided by Statistics Netherlands as part of its legislated statistical activities in co-operation with several other organisations. A formal agreement is drawn up by all participating organisations.

In total, about 70 emission experts from 10 institutes are involved in the process of collecting, processing and reporting of the emission data in the Netherlands. The formally approved data are stored in a central database from which all (inter)national reporting is done. National emissions are spatially allocated using a geographic information system.