

# 1. General help to Thru.de

## What is Thru.de and what can I find here?

Thru.de is an Internet portal that offers you a great deal of data on the quality of the environment in Germany – to be exact, on how much pollution industrial facilities release to the environment and how much waste they dispose of off-site. The portal is open access to everyone. So just what information can you now access on Thru.de? Firstly, the Internet portal has a register with environmental information on some 5,000 industrial facilities. Anybody and everybody can read up on the volumes of certain pollutants these facilities are releasing to the environment.

But the portal has even more to offer: information on “diffuse” sources of emissions, which means how many pollutants the transport sector, all households and the entire agriculture sector are releasing to air or water. The portal also features links that navigate you to more information about the quality of the environment.

The Thru.de Internet portal is operated by the Federal Environment Agency (UBA). We will now be providing annual updates on the extent of environmental pollution coming from about 5,000 facilities in Germany. We cooperate with competent authorities within the *Länder* who receive the data from the facilities and review them for quality. The software that operators use to record and transmit data to the competent authorities is called BUBE, a German abbreviation for the reporting system. The costs of BUBE were funded and split evenly between the *Länder* and UBA.

The European **E-PRTR Regulation** of 2006 laid down the legal foundations for the Internet portal.

## What does PRTR stand for and what happened to the PRTR website?

PRTR stands for 'Pollutant Release and Transfer Register'. The abbreviation for this type of register has been used worldwide for a long time and has thereby become common.

The term "Thru.de" was chosen to minimise the use of an abbreviation of an English term in Germany. The Thru.de portal has now taken the place of what had formerly been the PRTR on the Internet since June 2009. Although the staff at industrial facilities and public authorities who are responsible for data collection and quality assurance have become familiar with the term PRTR in recent years, citizens' comments in particular revealed that it means very little to most members of the public – and they are the people to whom the information is actually addressed.

The name Thru.de stands for clarity, transparency, reliability and credibility. In Norse mythology, Thru.de was the goddess of trees and flowers. Her name means 'strength'. The Internet portal by the same name offers reliable, transparent and 'powerful' data on the emissions of pollutants to the environment.

## **Where can I now find questions and answers for competent authorities and operators, the expert WIKI?**

The expert Wiki is at <https://wiki.prtr.bund.de> and can be used in the accustomed way.

## **I have to file a PRTR report and landed here. What do I have to do?**

To file a PRTR report you must register at <https://www.bube.bund.de/>. You will find all the necessary information there or in the expert WIKI at <https://wiki.prtr.bund.de/wiki/BUBE-Online>.

For any other questions and answers about Thru.de go to the side **“Question/Answer”** under the menu item **“Information”** on [www.thru.de](http://www.thru.de).