



JUSTICE
AARHUS CONVENTION
for our environment

Access to environmental information and regular environment assessments

Kyiv, Ukraine
5 March 2019



UNECE

Linking Aarhus Convention, Protocol on PRTRs and SEIS

Aarhus Convention

- Adopted in 1998 and entered into force 2001
- Focus on **public access to environmental information**, public participation and access to justice
- Legally binding
- 47 Parties

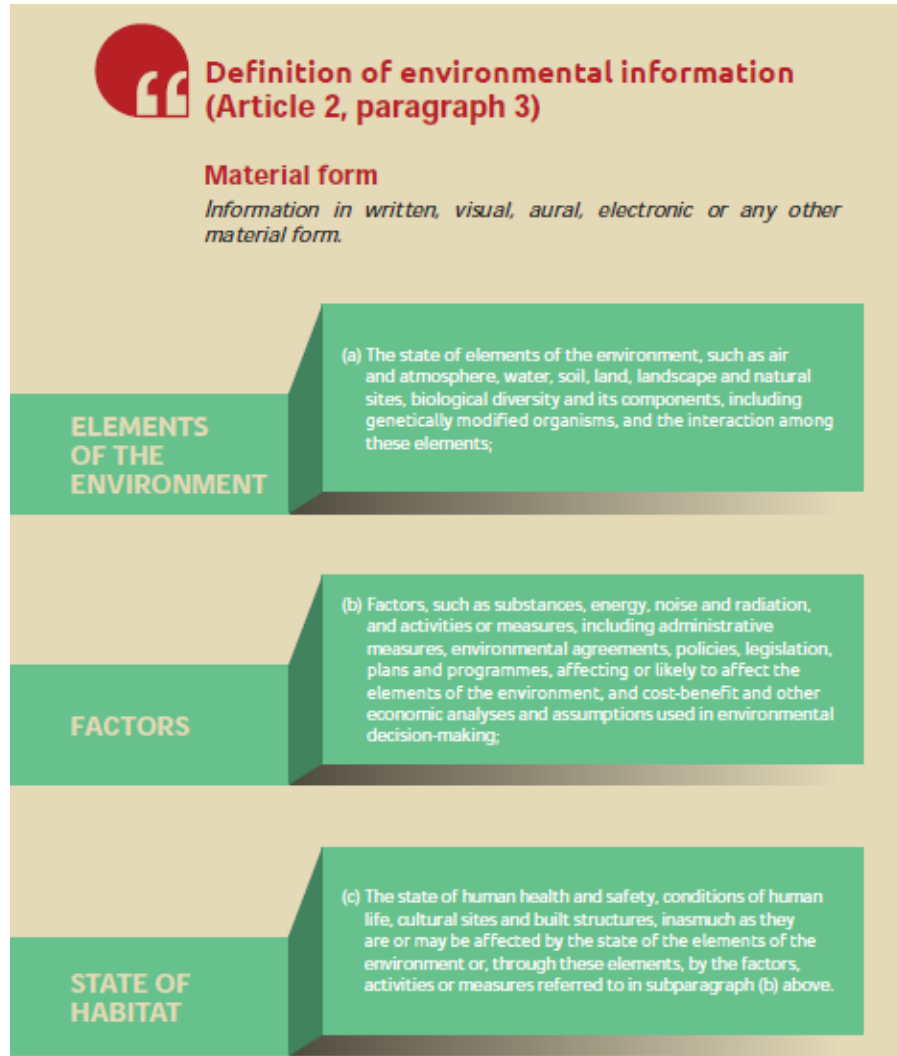
Protocol on PRTRs

- Adopted in 2003 and entered into force in 2009
- Establishing publicly accessible pollutant release and transfer registers for at least 65 activities and 86 substances
- Support the development of information system
- Legally binding
- 36 Parties

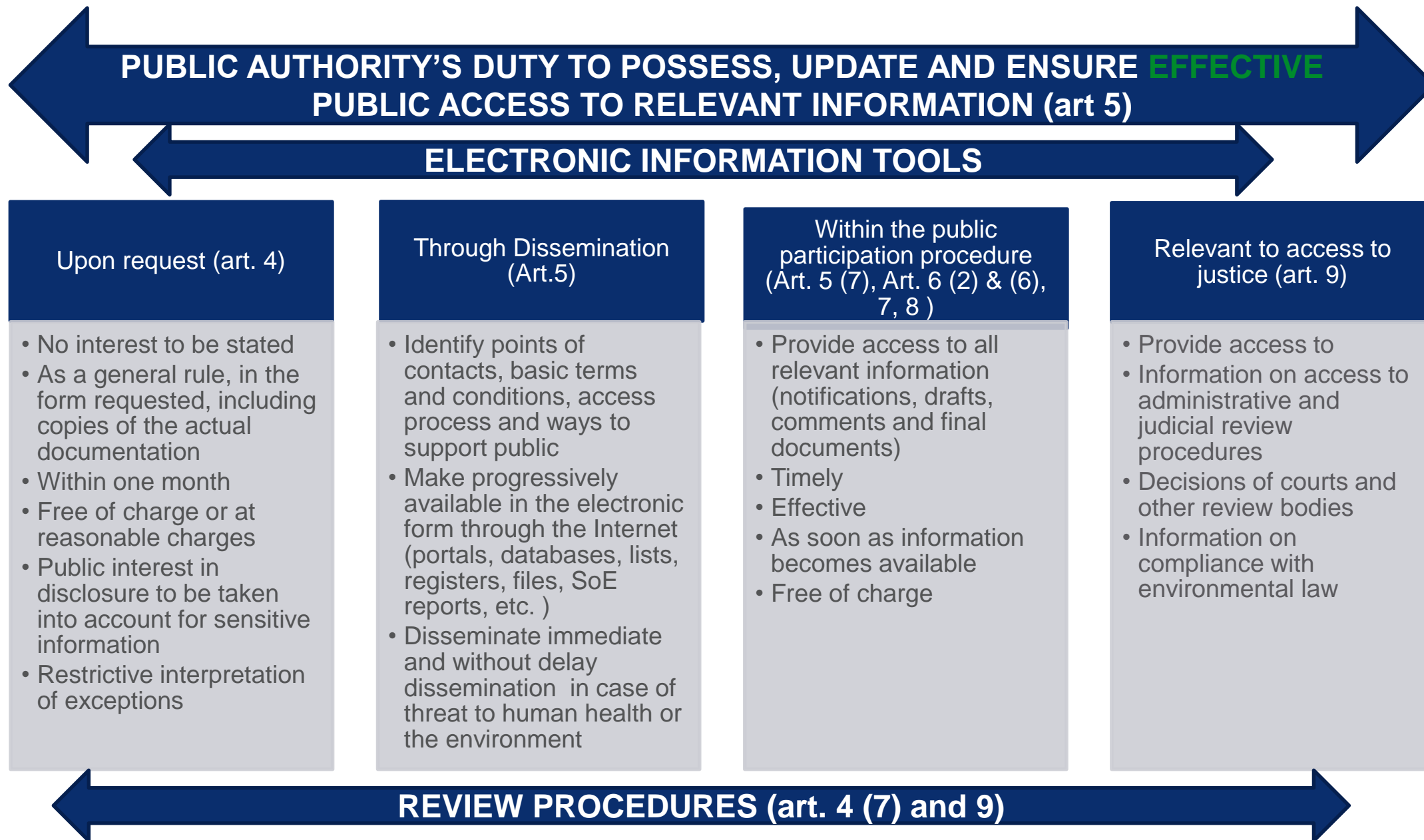
SEIS in the pan-European Region

- 2011 Astana and 2016 Batumi EfE Ministerial Conferences
- Focus on Regular Assessment
- 49 ECE Environmental Indicators system
- Support the development of information
- ECE Member States

Aarhus Convention: scope and types of environmental information



- **Broad definition providing indicative and non-exhaustive list of examples (see also [decision VI/1](#) of the Meeting of the Parties, para. 6)**
- **Cross-sectoral nature of environmental information and its linkages with geospatial, statistical, hydrometeorological, health, Earth observation and other relevant information possessed by various public authorities**
- **Priority categories of information to be disseminated – see also [Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers](#), [2005 Recommendations on Electronic Information Tools](#) (assessment reports in [2007](#), [2013](#) and [2017](#)), [49 ECE Environmental Indicators](#)**
- **The potential of reports on the state of the environment and other assessments at the national, regional and global levels**



Recommendations on Electronic Information Tools / Priority Categories of Information for disclosure through the Internet



Statistical



Geospatial



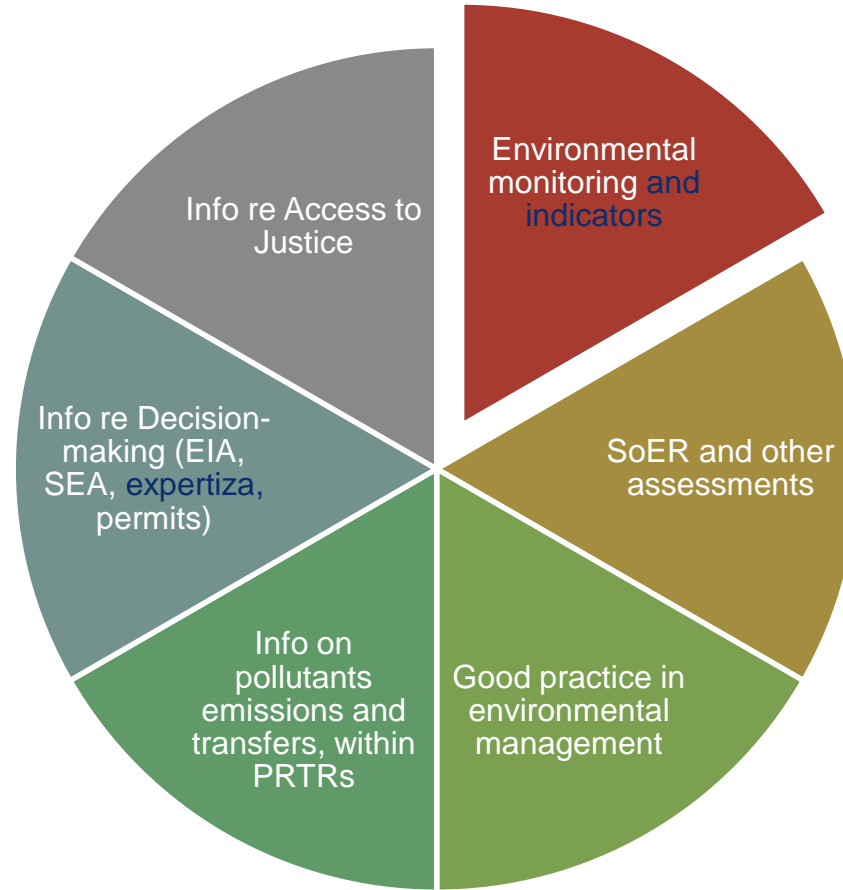
Health



Earth Observation



E-Government / Open Data



Metadata

Machine readable format

Spatial attributes

Interoperability / APIs

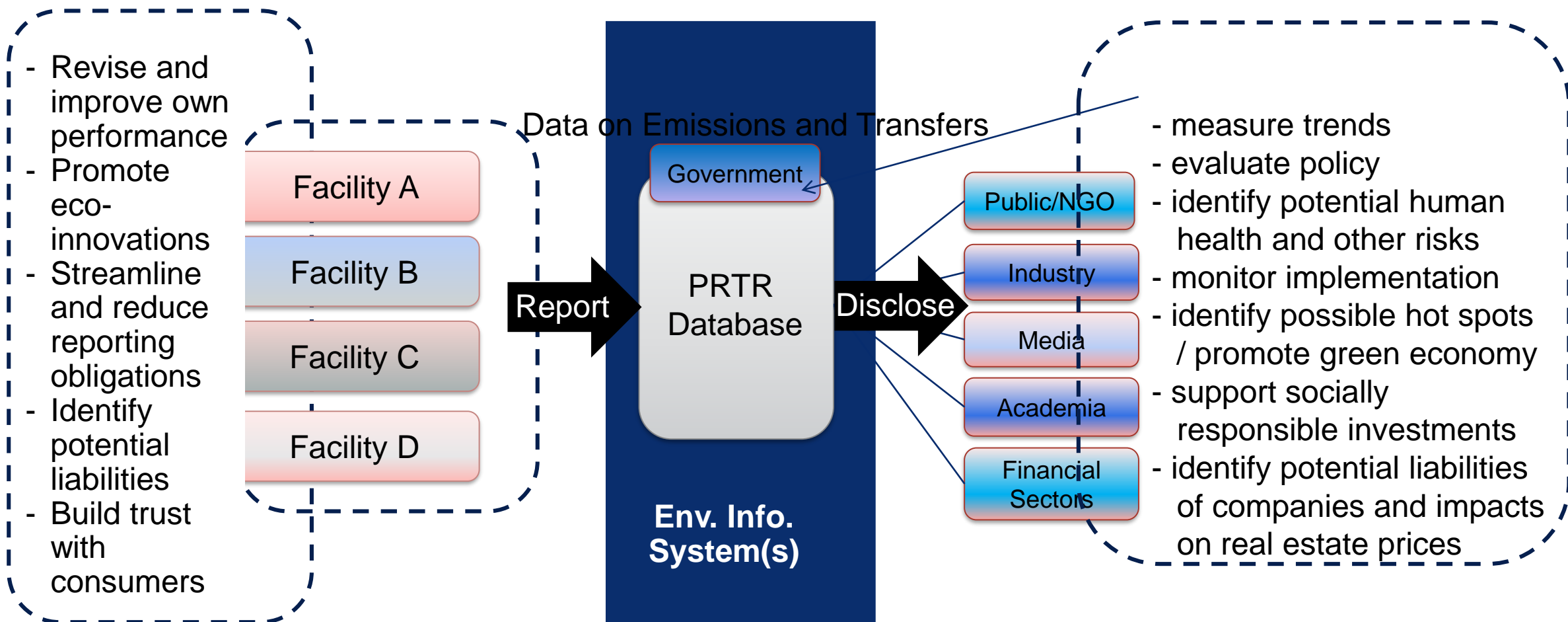
Quality and Comparability

User engagement and Discoverability

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Scoping Environmental Information System(s)

Protocol on PRTRs: win-win tool for industries, government and the public



65 activities / 86 substances, categories

Aarhus Decision VI/1: improving data sharing, dissemination and re-use

- **E-government initiatives encompassing activities of the public authorities to deploy information and communication technologies for improving knowledge and information in the service of the public**
- **Open government data initiatives encompassing activities to make information or data produced or commissioned by governments available for everyone to access, reuse and redistribute without any restrictions**
- **Shared Environmental Information System in the pan-European region launched at the EfE Ministerial Conference in 2011**
- **Establishment of single web access points, conceived to be user-friendly, that aggregate data and information resulting from different reliable sources**
- **Promote public accessibility to real-time, as appropriate, up-to-date, accurate and functional environmental information in forms and formats meeting the needs of different users**
- **Address gaps in access – information on the quality of the environment and emissions into the environment in accordance with the Convention, hazardous substances and wastes, environment-related product information and decision-making in environmental matters**

Thank you!

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Web page: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/welcome.html>

Clearinghouse: <https://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org/>