Organization of ETV - national, regional and global aspects

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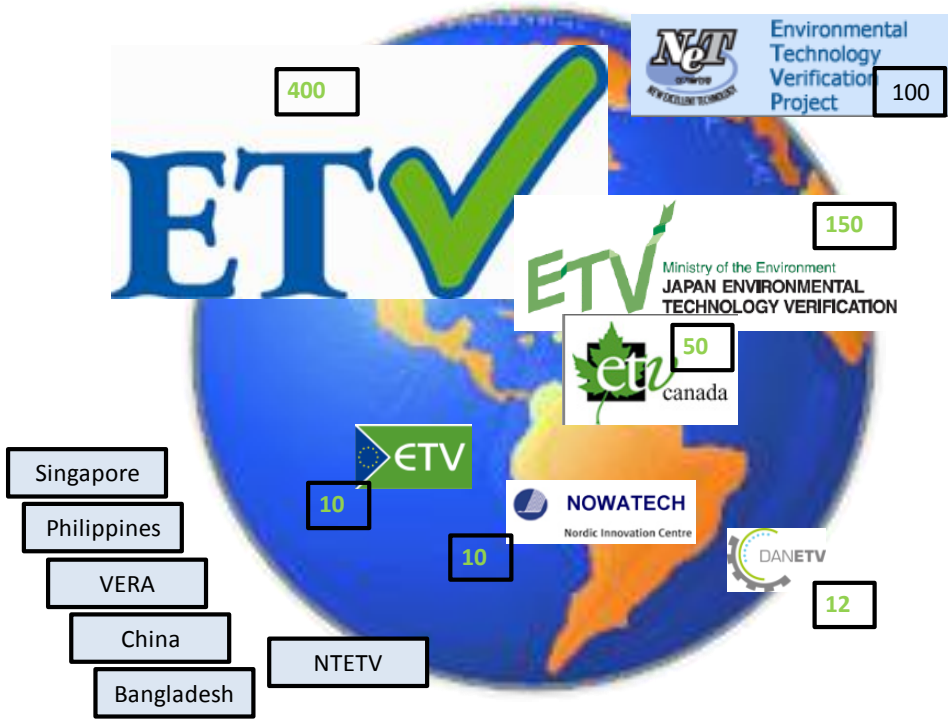
Environmental technology verification, ETV, is a form of third party assessment providing documentation of performance for innovative environmental technologies or applications. ETV is intended to support technology vendors in accessing the markets with their new technologies, technology buyers in taking the risk with new technologies and authorities in accepting them. If the full benefits of ETV are to be achieved, and the costs and delays in market introduction kept at a minimum, it is essential that ETV done under one verification scheme is accepted by other ETV schemes. Currently, a number of ETV schemes exist and more are being introduced, see Figure 1.

Figure 1: Existing ETV schemes with number of verifications done and new ETV initiatives inserted

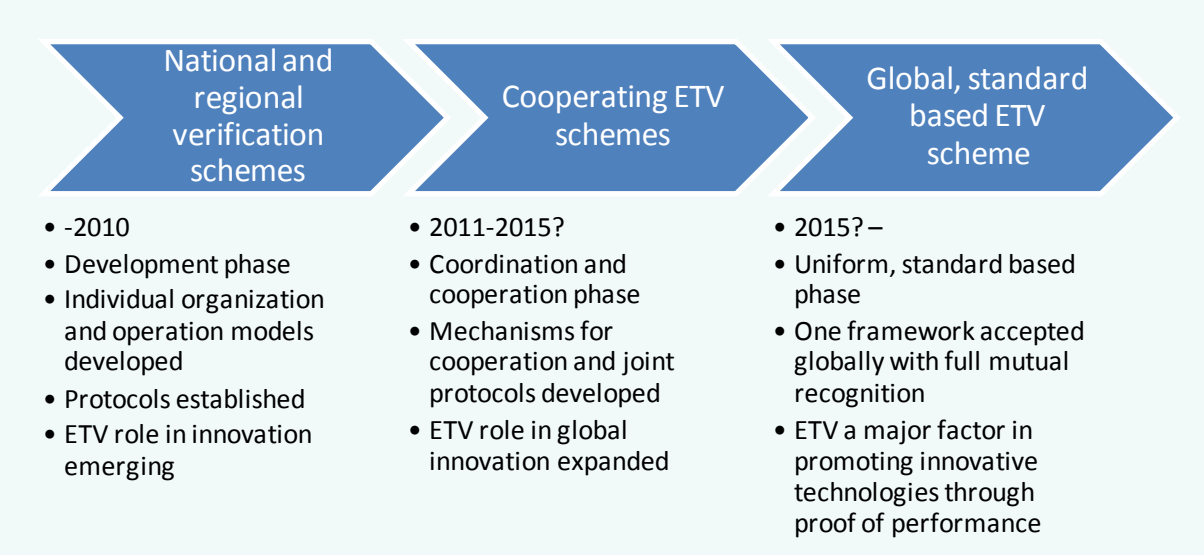


Whereas the growing number of ETV schemes may be seen as recognition of the need for ETV and accordingly as a success for the principles behind, it may ultimately jeopardize the idea of:

Verified once, verified everywhere

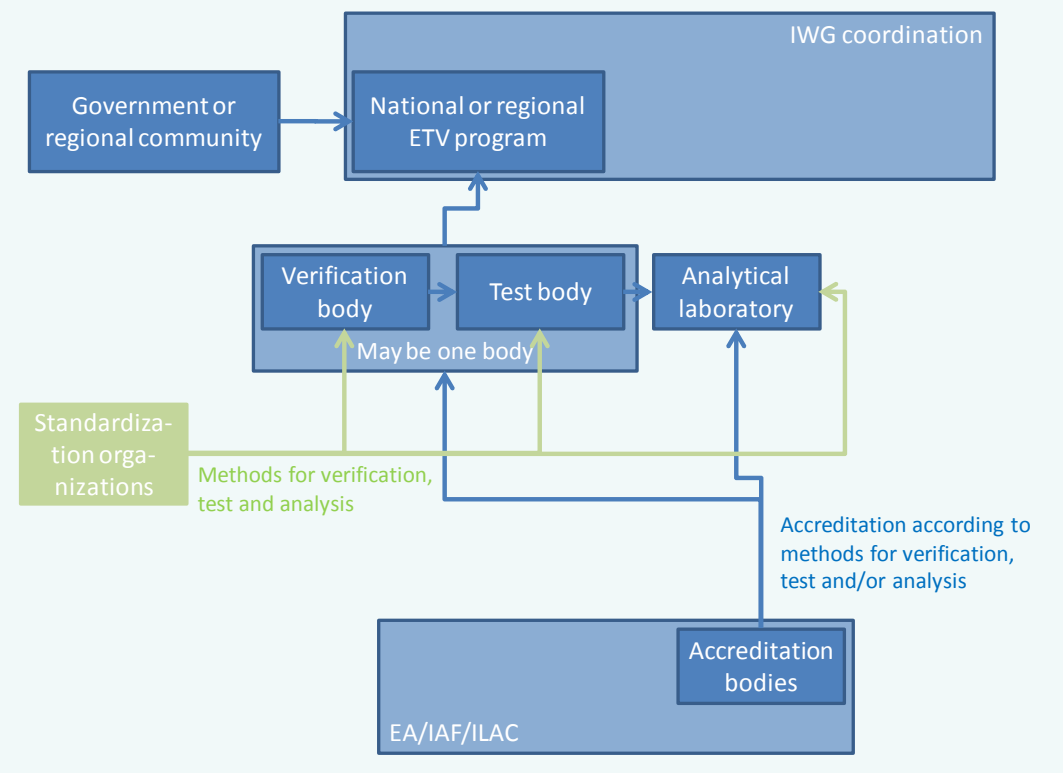
It is therefore essential for achieving the overall objective of faster use of smarter environmental technologies, that an internationalization process of ETV towards coordination, cooperation and ultimately mutual recognition is initiated. A process from national and regional ETV schemes over cooperating schemes to full mutual recognition between ETV schemes is illustrated in Figure 2.

Figure 2: An example of development process from national to global ETV



If a fully recognized global ETV regime shall be possible, it requires development of a coordinating organization (ensuring harmonized performance parameters for verified applications), involvement of the standardization organizations (providing an environmental technology verification standard) and participation of conformity assessment bodies (oversight with verification and tests bodies, and with analytical laboratories) and not the least dedicated cooperation between existing ETV schemes. A suggestion for an organization of a global ETV scheme is shown in Figure 3, combining elements from ETV, standardization and conformity assessment.

Figure 3: Suggestion for organization of a global ETV scheme



The presentation will provide the background for these statements and will discuss the benefits and draw backs from different approaches to global ETV.