



# Current nutrient research – what is going on – R&D projects flash presentations

**3rd EUROPEAN NUTRIENT EVENT @ ECOMONDO 2018**

European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform (ESPP)  
Kimo van Dijk – [kimovandijk@phosphorusplatform.eu](mailto:kimovandijk@phosphorusplatform.eu)

**8 - 9 November 2018, Rimini, Italy**



European Sustainable  
Phosphorus Platform



This project has received funding  
from the EU Horizon 2020  
research and innovation  
programme under grant  
agreement No. 690323



SMART-Plant

Italian Phosphorus  
Platform

75  
ANNI

GRUPPO  
HERA



Green & Circular Economy  
6-9 Novembre 2018  
Rimini Italy  
IN CONTEMPORANEA CON  
KEY ENERGY



# ESPP catalogue of research projects on nutrient recycling and stewardship

- *Running and finished projects, including: name, summary, funding sources, start and end date, website, contact person and contact details*
- *Funding sources: EU H2020 (FP), LIFE, INTERREG, national / industry / university funded R&D projects on nutrient recycling and stewardship*
- *The full ESPP R&D project catalogue and more information can be found on the R&D activities page of ESPP: [www.phosphorusplatform.eu/R&D](http://www.phosphorusplatform.eu/R&D)*
- *Please correct and add projects, see document what information is required.*
- *Please send your question and input to Kimo van Djik ([kimovandijk@phosphorusplatform.eu](mailto:kimovandijk@phosphorusplatform.eu))*



*The following research projects on nutrient recycling and stewardship will present*

	Acronym	Presenter	Email
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3	Circular Agronomics	Victor Riau Arenas	victor.riau@irta.cat
4	DOP	Giuliana D'Imporzano	giuliana.dimporzano@unimi.it
5	HYDROUSA	Simos Malamis	smalamis@central.ntua.agr
6	INCOVER	Peder Gregersen	psg@pilerensning.dk
7	MEMORY / Innovation Deal	Aurora Seco	Aurora.Seco@uv.es
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9	NEWBIES	Mariana Rodrigues	Mariana.Rodrigues@wetsus.nl
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11	NuReDrain	Pieter Van Aken	pieter.vanaken@kuleuven.be
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13	PeGaSus	Paolo Sckokai	paolo.sckokai@unicatt.it
14	RAVITA	Paula Lindell	Paula.Lindell@hsy.fi
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20	Vitison	Federico Sambo	federico.sambo@unimi.it
21	ViviMag	Leon Korving	Leon.Korving@wetsus.nl
22	Water2REturn	Robert Reinhardt	robert@algen.si

# BEST – Better Efficiency for Industrial Sewage Treatment

Duration: 1.10.2017 – 30.9.2020

@BestBalticBSR

- 1) Assessment of the current situation
- 2) Capacity development
- 3) Local cooperation models and investments
- 4) Final outcome:  
National and BSR wide guidelines  
for improved management of  
industrial effluents

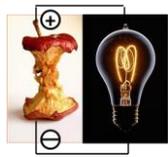
## Our BEST aim:

Promote cooperation and best practices between industries, waste water treatment plants and local environmental authorities to ensure efficient treatment for industrial waste waters in the Baltic Sea Region.

City of Helsinki

Kajsa Rosqvist, Project manager

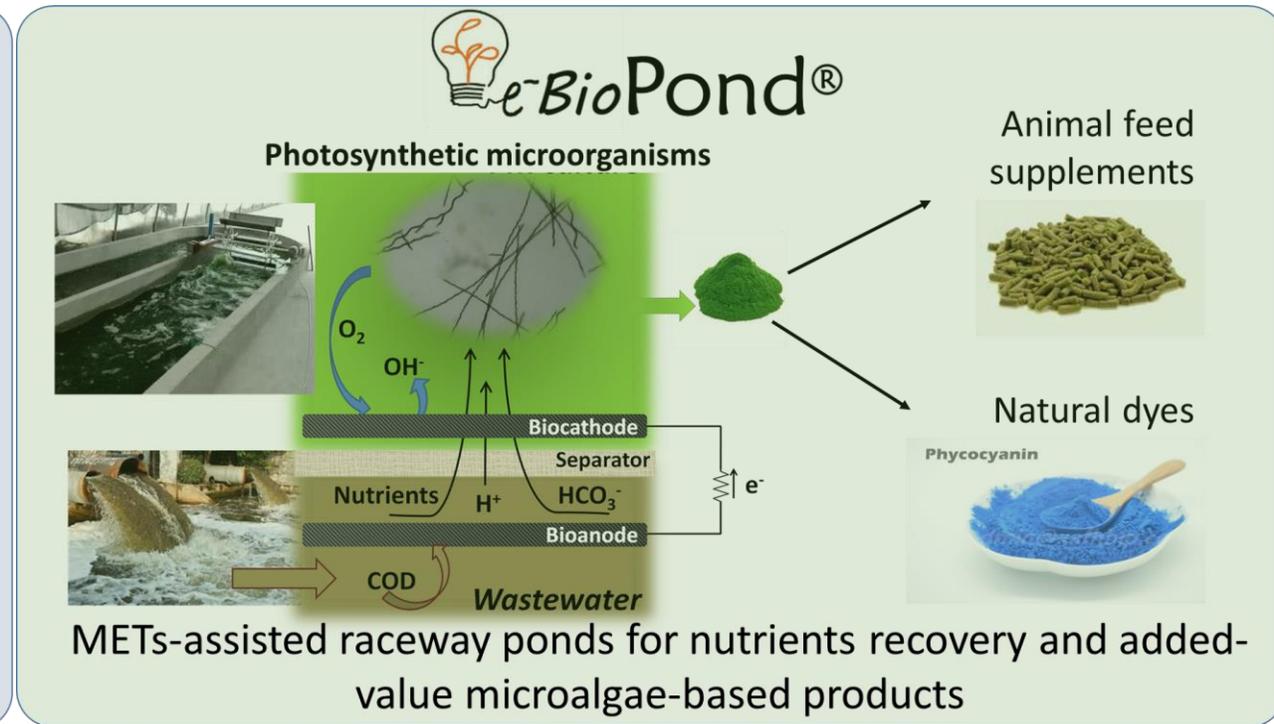
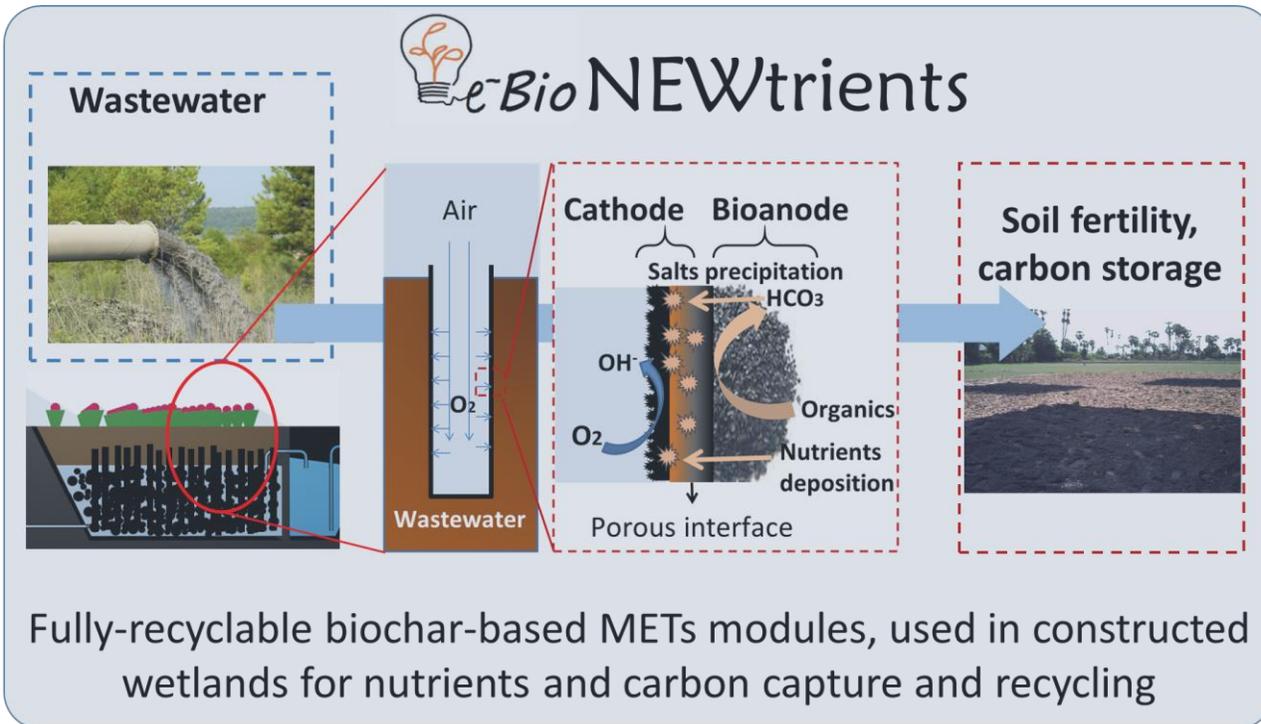
[Kajsa.rosqvist@hel.fi](mailto:Kajsa.rosqvist@hel.fi)



# Scaling-up APPLICative microbial electrochemical technologies for agro-industrial wastewater recovery

PI: Dr. Andrea Schievano  
[andrea.schievano@unimi.it](mailto:andrea.schievano@unimi.it)

Project duration:  
Sept. 2015 - Sept. 2019





# Efficient carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus cycling in the European agri-food system and related up- and down-stream processes to mitigate emissions

01/09/2018 – 31/08/2022

## OBJECTIVES

- Increase the understanding of **C, N, P flows** and the related potential to reduce environmental impacts (...)
- **Closing loops** within cropland farming, from livestock to cropland farming.
- Increase the reuse of waste/wastewater from food-industry to improve soil fertility and to increase nutrient use efficiency.
- Highlight the performance of different prototypes and increase sustainability of food production in the EU (...)
- To contribute to the improvement of the European Agricultural Policies (...)

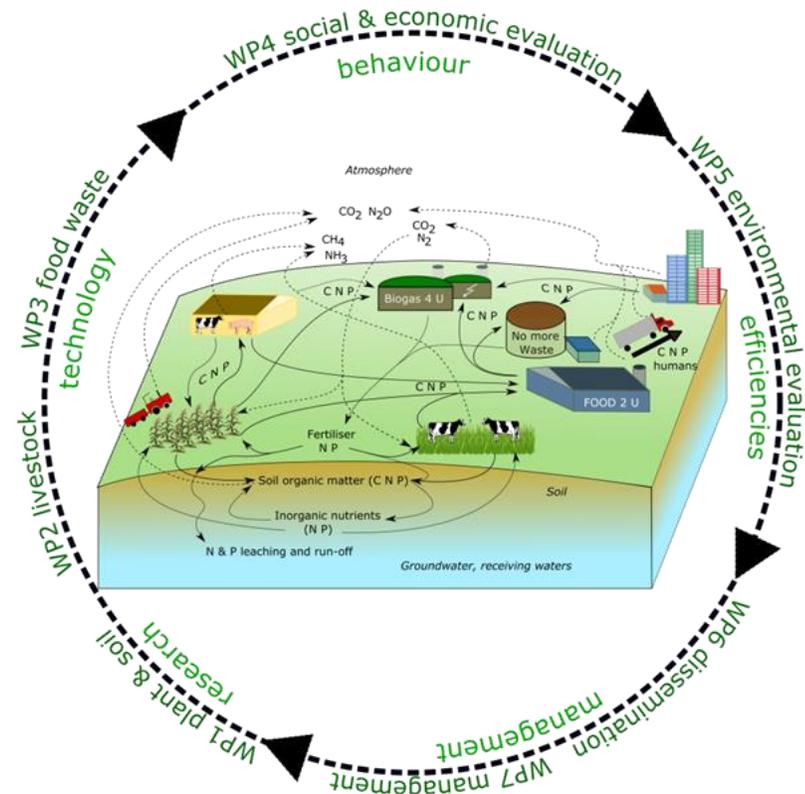
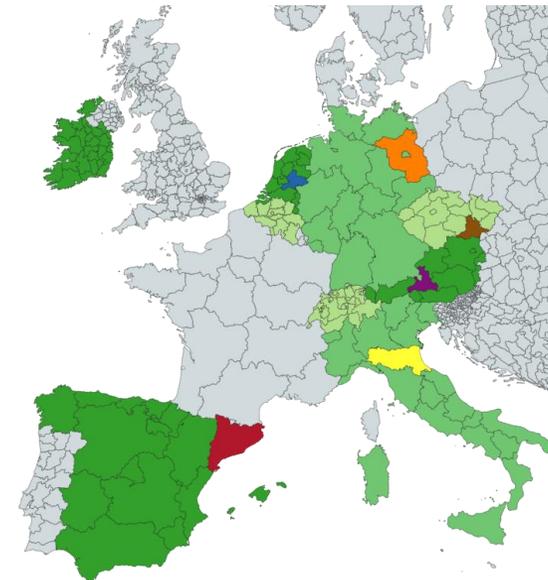


Image: Nellie Hobley (TUM)



Grant Agreement No 773649



## LIFE DOP - Demonstrative mOdel of circular economy Process in high quality dairy industry

Start: 9/2016  
End: 2/2021



Implement a demonstration model using innovative and **sustainable practices** from **feed** production in the field to stable and **manure management** for the production of Parmigiano Reggiano and Grana Padano cheese

*Objectives and results contributing to nutrient recycling and management in the proposed model:*

Implement AD of slurry to increase nutrient management efficiency

Implement proper distribution of liquid digestate in the cheese district (high efficiency)

No use of synthetic fertilizers

Export of solid digestate to non-breeding areas

Manage slurry by an on line stock exchange platform to re-balance nitrogen load and create value

Implement LCA to asses the save of impacts of the proposed model with respect to the reference.



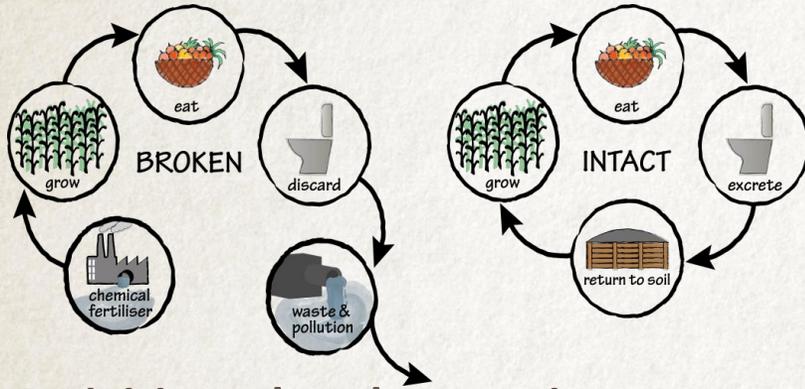
# HYDROUSA

Demonstration of water loops with innovative regenerative business models for the Mediterranean region

Duration

Start: 1/07/2018

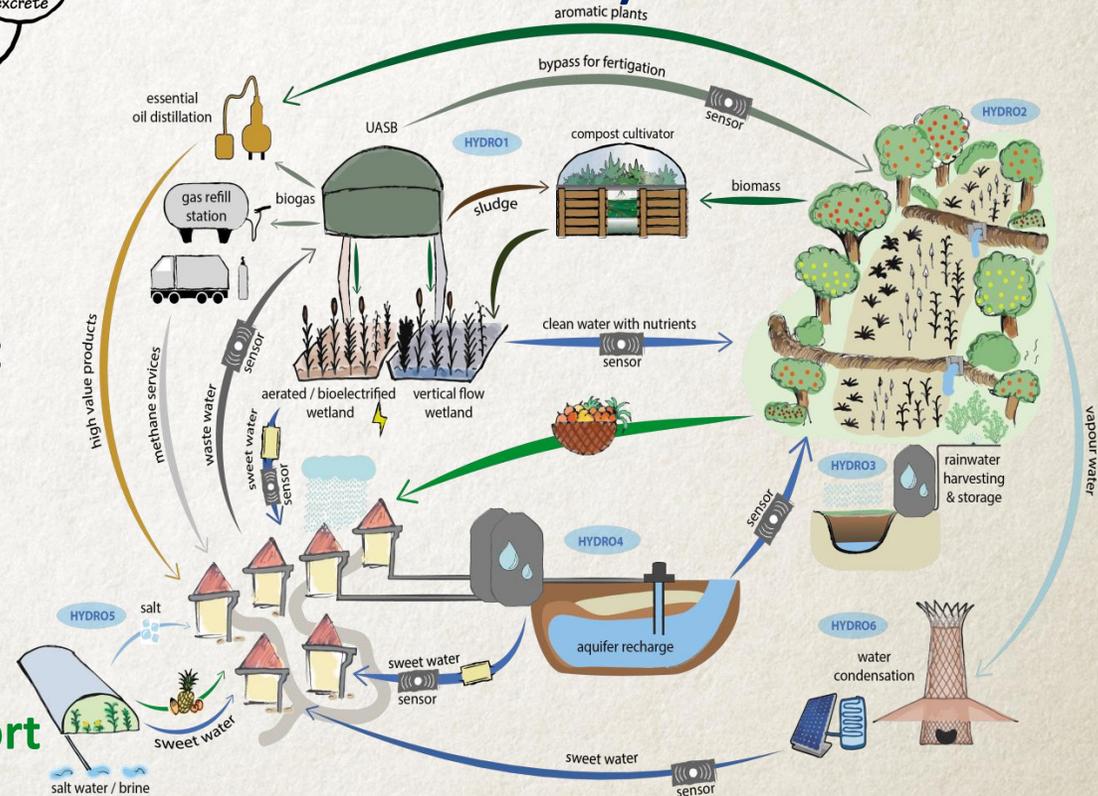
End: 31/12/2022



Activities related to nutrient management

- Integrating anaerobic treatment and nature based solutions for wastewater treatment, **energy recovery** and **nutrient recycling**
- Fertigation of an **agroforestry**
- Smart irrigation systems
- 100% decrease of **fertilizer import**

Challenge: **Valorise non-conventional water sources through innovative water cycle solutions**



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research programme under grant agreement No 776643



**Target:** Waste stream into a source of new added-value bio-products through 3 case-studies at demo scale.

**Nutrient recovery activities:**

- To validate P and N adsorption technologies from wastewater using innovative adsorbent materials
- To demonstrate nature-based processes and a hydrothermal carbonization technology to produce bio-fertilizer
- Smart solar disinfected water with excess nutrients and sensor networks irrigation technology



## INCOVER Consortium



<http://incover-project.eu>





<http://www.life-memory.eu>



## Prototype scale AnMBR



### Bioenergy



### Biosolids



### Effluent



The most sustainable option

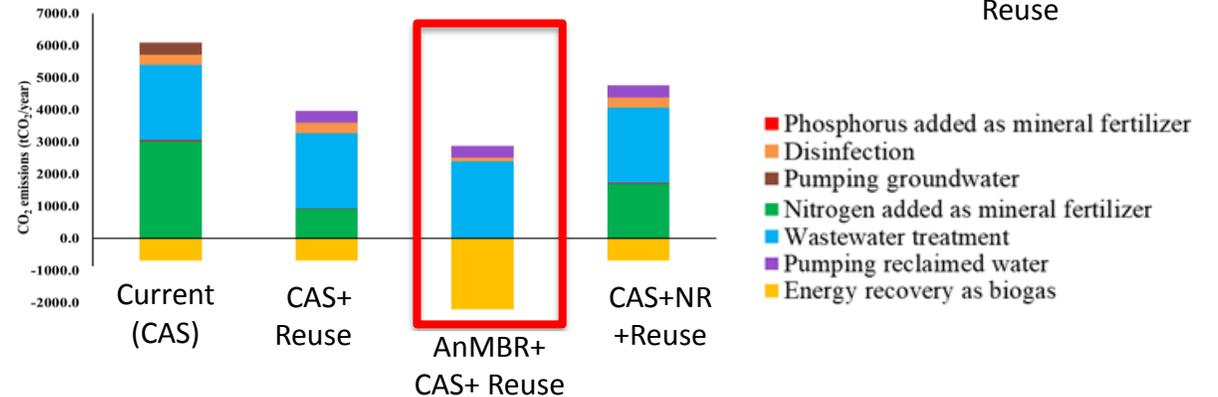
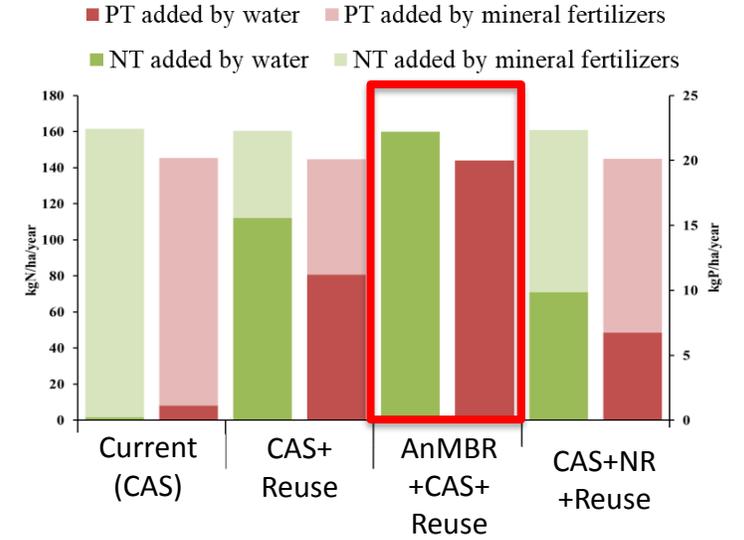
**FERTIGATION  
for Nutrient  
Recovery**

BUT Bottlenecks

# INNOVATION DEAL on Sustainable Wastewater Treatment Combining Anaerobic Membrane Technology and Water Reuse



## Peschiera Borromeo



Aurora Seco Torrecillas



UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE VALÈNCIA



UNIVERSITAT DE VALÈNCIA

Unidad Mixta UV-UPV



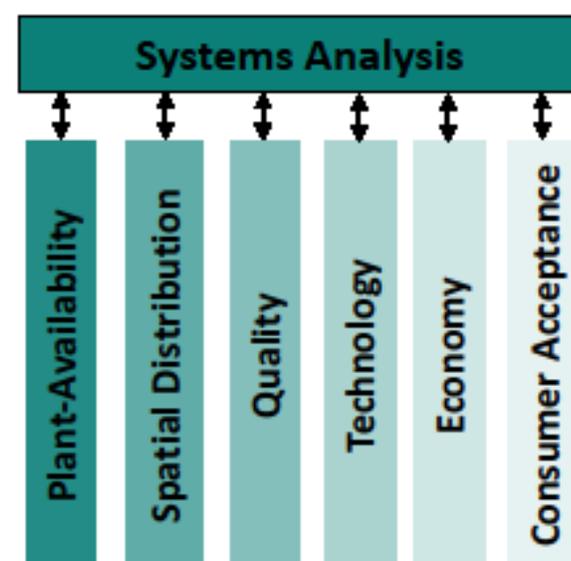
# Nutrients in a Circular Bioeconomy: Barriers and Opportunities for Mineral Phosphorus Independence in Norway

Funded by the Research Council of Norway  
Period: 2017 - 2020

**Objective: Analyze pathways towards mineral P independence in Norway through improved recycling with a focus on manure and fish sludge.**

**Achieved through:**

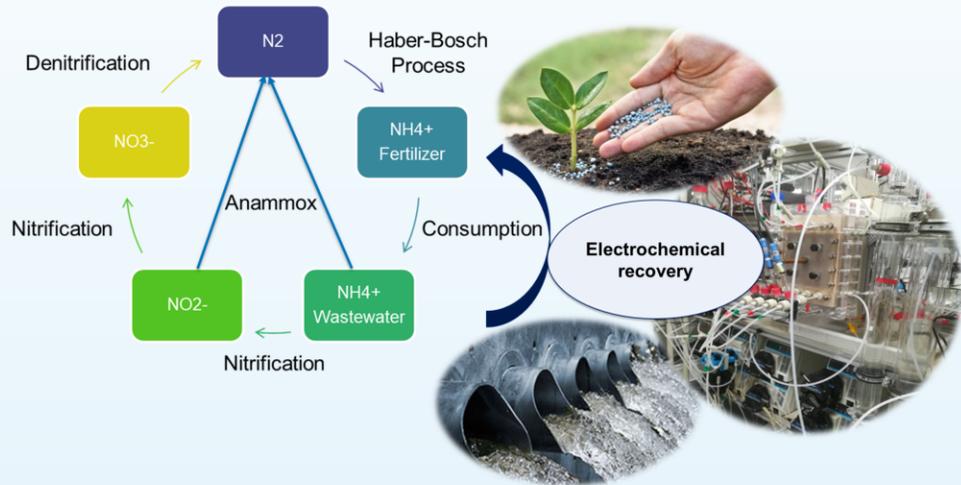
- **Estimating local secondary P supply potential**
- **Analyzing the key barriers and opportunities for utilizing this potential**
- **Testing different strategies and technologies in model simulations and scenarios developed in close collaboration with key stakeholders**



Barriers that need to be overcome through implementation into a systems context

## Background

The intensive use of fertilizers in EU region is degrading sensitive water bodies. When the nutrients make their way into rivers, they considerably disturb aquatic ecosystems. Recycling the reactive nitrogen could reduce the energy needed to both produce and dispose of fertilisers, cutting greenhouse gas emissions on both ends of their production chain.



## Objectives

- Demonstrate a novel technique to extract ammonium.
- Develop a pilot system capable of recovering from different wastewater in an economic, effective and energy-efficient way.
- Evaluate the economic and environmental impact by comparing with the existing nitrogen removal technologies.
- Select strategic partners to ensure a market for the produced fertilizer.

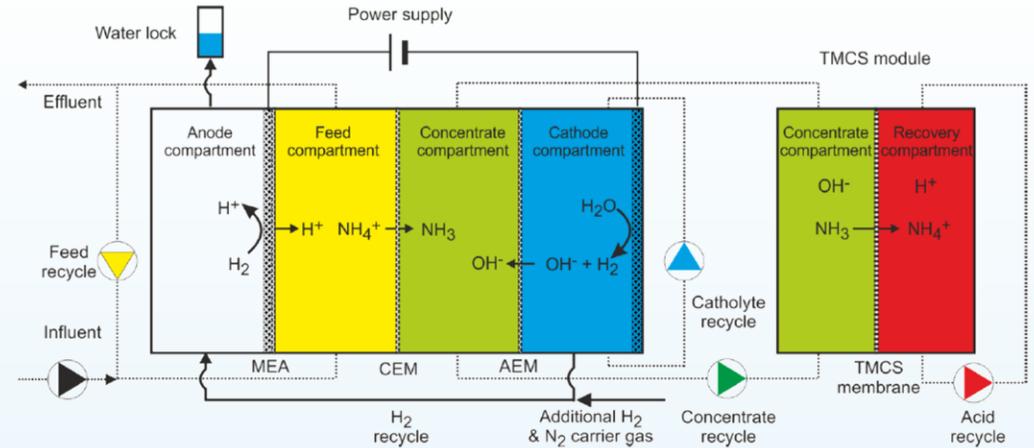
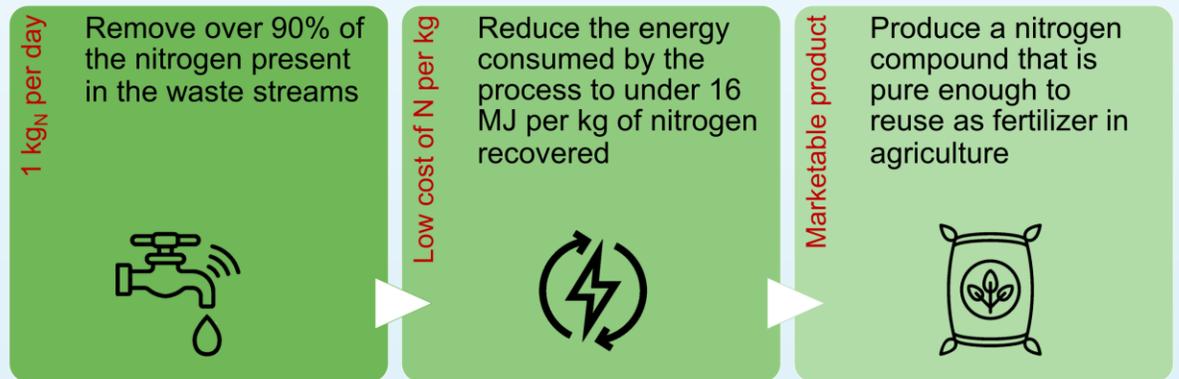


Fig 1. Scheme of the up-scaled electrochemical system for ammonia-nitrogen recovery. Source: P. Kuntke et. al, Journal ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering (2018) 7638-7644.

## Expected Results





No Waste

<http://www.lifenowaste.pt>

Management of Biomass Ash and Organic Waste in the recovery of degraded soils: A Pilot Project set in Portugal

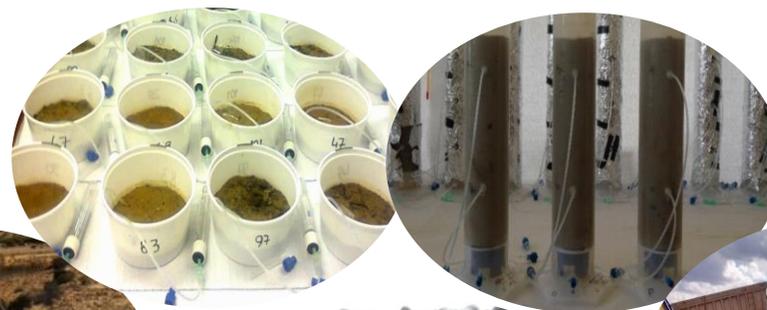
Jan 2016 to Dec 2019

AIM

Demonstrate the sustainable use of biomass ash combined with organic wastes (from the pulp and paper industry) to recover degraded soils from mining areas

Expected Results:

- Prepare new ash-based soils improvers (liming agent and macronutrient fertiliser)
- **Pilot Field Application:** determine liming capacity; agronomic value; plant nutrients' availability; salinity; potential plant stress
- Address **environmental and human health** protection issues
- Assess market potential and provide a technical framework for the **large-scale application** of ash-based soil improvers (Revised EC Fertiliser Regulation (2003/2003))





*Phosphorus recovery potential  
and fertilizer value of recovered  
materials*



*Field demonstrations of  
nutrient filter systems*



## Nutrients Removal and Recovery from Drainage Water

Start Date: March 2017

End Date: September 2020

*Bench scale evaluation  
of nutrient filter systems*



Raf Dewil, Nico Lambert, Sofie Houtmeyers & Pieter Van Aken  
KU Leuven - Process and Environmental Technology Lab  
raf.dewil@kuleuven.be - [www.northsearegion.eu/nuredrain](http://www.northsearegion.eu/nuredrain)

**KU LEUVEN**

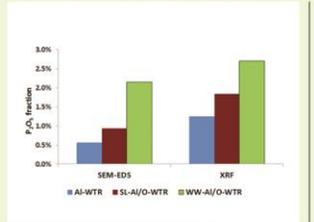
# P-Al/Fe-WTR

## Phosphorus capture, recycling and utilization for sustainable agriculture and a clean environment using water treatment residuals (WTRs)

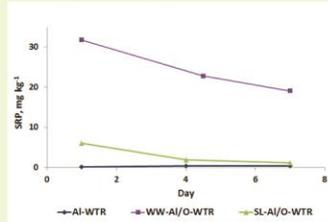
**Objectives:** To recover P, from agro-waste streams, using Al-water treatment residuals (Al-WTRs) or iron desalinization residuals (Fe-WTR). This would address both future P scarcity and environmental pollution.

**Results:** Both Al-WTR and Fe-WTR have a great potential to capture P from dairy wastewaters that contain 10s mg P L<sup>-1</sup> and subsequently release it when applied as a fertilizer. Screenhouse experiments indicated the P-enriched Al-WTR and Fe-WTR successfully supported plant growth (lettuce as a test crop) similar to the commercialized granular and liquid P fertilizers.

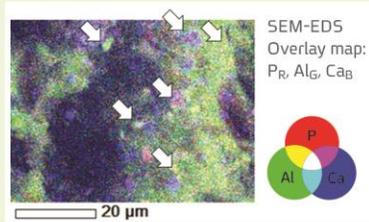
P surface accumulation associated with organic C



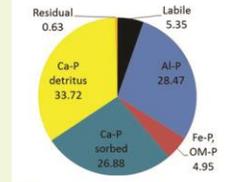
P improved release from Al/O-WTRs



P associations and pools upon Al/O-WTRs

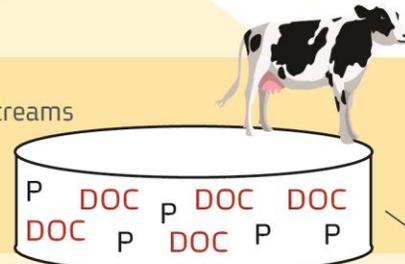


WW-Al/O-WTR Seq Ext, %

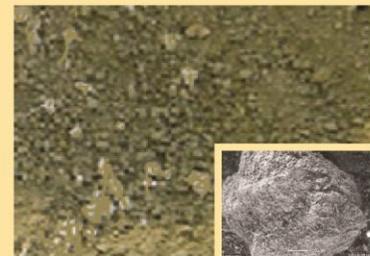


NH <sub>4</sub> Cl ext	Labile
NH <sub>4</sub> F ext	Al-P
NaOH ext	Fe-, OM-P
Na-acetate ext	Sorbed Ca-P
HCl ext	Detritus Ca-P
Oxalate ext	Residual P

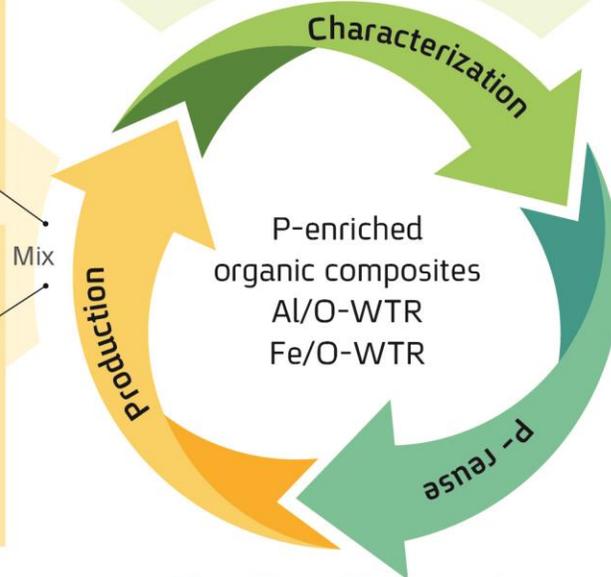
Dairy waste streams



Al-Water treatment residual (Al-WTR)

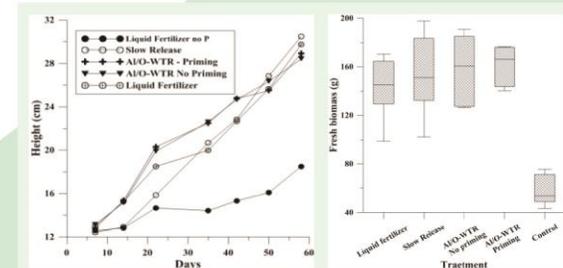


SEM image



Start: 1/1/2015  
End: Open-ended

**Further Research**  
Efficient P recycling Fe bioavailability



Al/O-WTR Slow release Control

**Funding:** BARD agricultural research and development, Israel Ministry of Agriculture and EU CEREHA (Centre of Excellence for Research on Environment, Health and Aging)



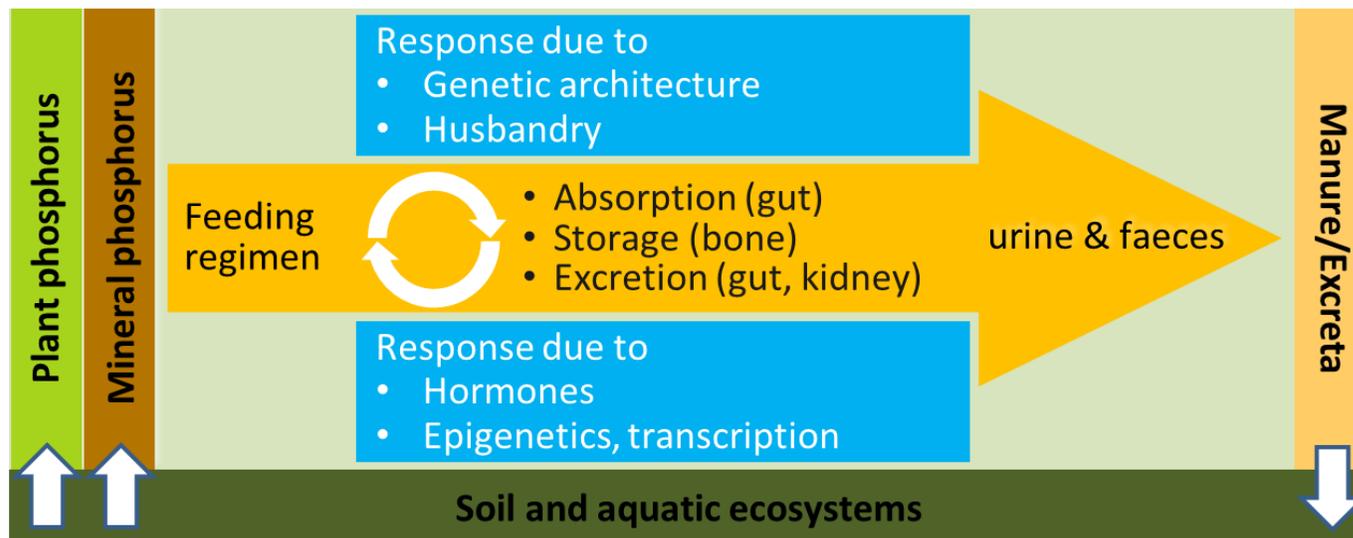
# Phosphorus efficiency in pigs & poultry: bridging the gaps in the P value chain

(September 2017 – August 2020) <http://pegasus.fbn-dummerstorf.de>

## Project aims

- Strategies to increase bioavailability, digestibility & efficiency of plant P in mono-gastric animals
- Reduce P losses and emissions from pig & chicken husbandry
- Technical, policy & governance strategies to minimize P runoff from soil and enrichment in aquatic ecosystems

## P cycle in animal production



## Research areas

- Animal husbandry
  - Feeding strategies (P-conditioning, phytase, pre-digestion)
  - Alternative feed sources (e.g. comfrey, low-phytate cereals)
  - Genetics and gut microbiota affecting the efficiency of P digestion
  - Methods of manure handling
- Soil systems – characterizing fodder crops & slurry/manure
- P losses to nature and ways to reduce them
- Reuse options – providing incentives to close the loop on P
- Bio-economy model – looking at the economic gains and losses and environmental impact
- Governance and policy



ERA-NET SUSAN

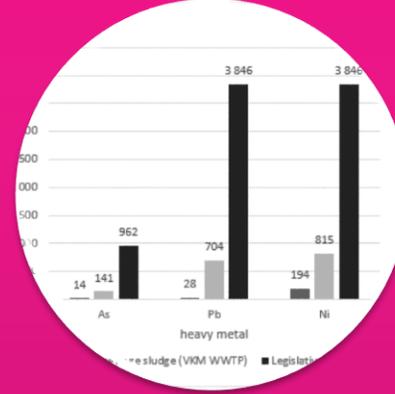
# RAVITA- thinking outside the recovery box 01/2015 – 12/2019



P recovery  
directly from  
wastewater



Products:  
 $H_3PO_4$   
&  
MAP/DAP



Low  
concentration  
of MPs



Demo plant at  
Viikinmäki  
WWTP  
(1000 PE)

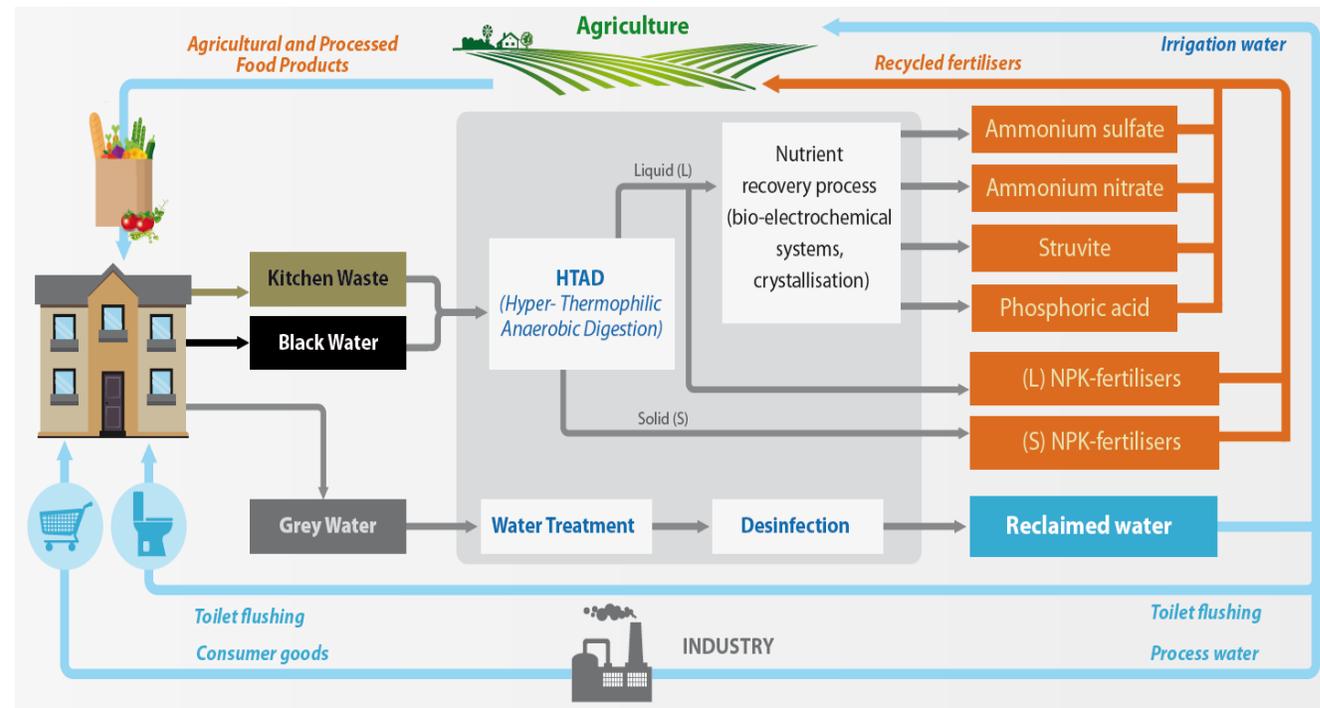
**GOVERNMENT  
KEY PROJECT**

# Recovery and Utilization of Nutrients

## 4 Low Impact Fertilizer

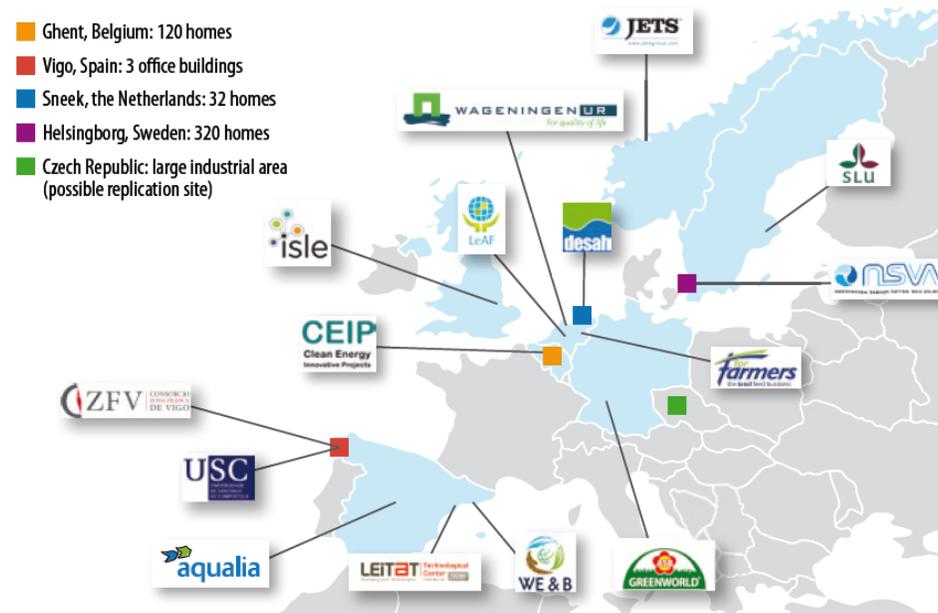


June 2017 → May 2021



- **Domestic wastewater:** important nutrient carrier not exploited currently
- **Decentralized nutrient recovery** from wastewater at the **source**

- Improve innovative technologies
- Large scale demonstration of nutrients recycling
- Evaluate impacts on environment, society and economy
- Promote acceptance of recycled products
- Value chain for the recovered products

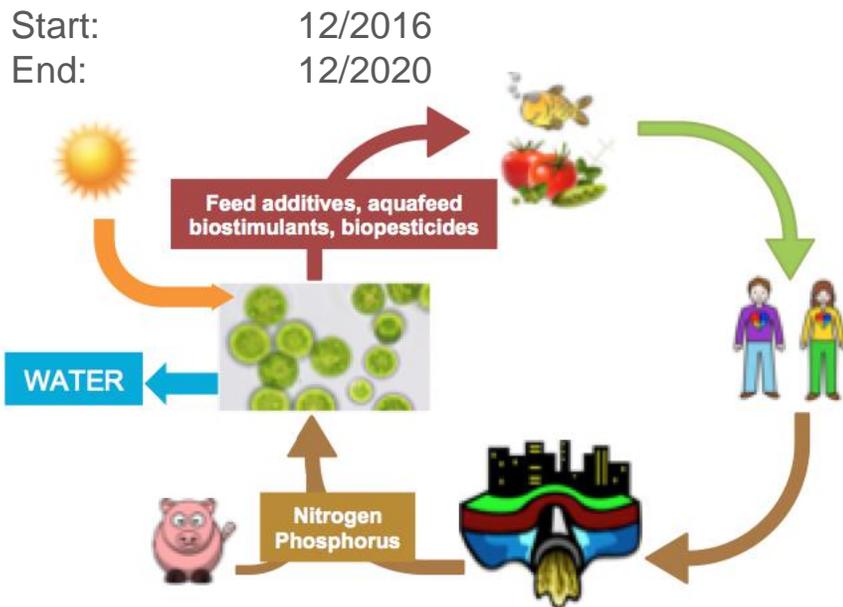


The Run4Life project receives funding from the EU Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme, under G.A. No 730285.



This project is funded by the European Union

# SABANA : Sustainable Algae Biorefinery for Agriculture aNd Aquaculture



*Objectives contributing to nutrient recycling and management :*

Implement large scale microalgae production recovering nutrient from wastewater and slurry

No use of synthetic fertilizers

Recovery of nutrients contained in wastewater

Recovery of waste CO<sub>2</sub> and minimization of greenhouse gas emissions from wastes (wastewater and flue gases)

Implementing LCA of the whole model

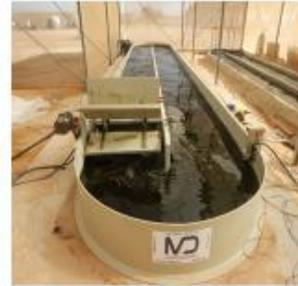
Assure economic sustainability and market penetration of final algae products

Demonstrate an integrated microalgae-biorefinery to produce high-value and low-value products for agriculture and aquaculture

accomplishing market and social requirements

**Duration:** June 2016 - May 2019

20 partners, budget 9,8 M€



## Objectives and achieved results:

- techno economically viable solution for treatment of **saline wastewater**
- **3 DEMO SITES - 3 different WW: Slovenia** (tannery ww), **Italy** (whey WW), **Israel** (fish WW); salinity up to 100 g NaCl/L
- 2 stage AD adapted to salinity up to 50g Na<sup>+</sup>/L
- Halotolerant algal-bacterium consortium selected
- LCA, LCCA and novel HP pump
- **Valorisation of effluents:** algae based coatings, filters, animal feed, extraction of lipids

**Demo sites open for visits!**

Systemic large scale eco-innovation to advance circular economy and mineral recovery from organic waste in Europe (2017 -2021)



*Using existing large scale digesters plants as a technology hub for new business in recovery & recycling of energy, nutrients and soil improvers*

- Advancing TRL (5 → > 7) at 5 demonstration plants (NL, B, D, UK, It) including development of viable business cases (leading pioneers)
- Business opportunities for 10 outreach locations (first followers)
- Policy advise to overcome innovation barriers and advancing CE in the EU



## BACKGROUND

Chemicals are an essential part of European Union citizens' daily lives, and the chemical sector is also a **major strategic sector for the EU**;

Chemistry is in every aspect of our life, even if often we do not see it.

But, if not properly used and controlled, some chemicals can pose a severe threat to the **environment and health**.

Several specific **phosphorus derivatives** are used in a wide range of applications, including pharmaceuticals, childcare products, detergents, lubricants, plastic additives and flame retardants.

## STATE OF THE ART

Although there is no conclusive data on their toxicity for human health and the environment, **these chemical additives' production can involve intermediaries (such as specific amines)** that need to be treated and recovered, or **the use of phenol**.

These intermediates are often categorized as highly dangerous. Additionally, **wastewater produced** in the process needs to be treated before disposal or recycling and by products are not fitting with the circular economy concept



**An innovative and sustainable continuous process for the development of high quality trimethyl phosphite**



**LIFE14/ENV/IT/000346**

Start date:16/07/2015

End date:16/07/2019

## OBJECTIVES of LIFE TRIALKYL:

- Set up an **innovative, highly sustainable and efficient** industrial chemical process;
- **Avoidance of** the production of hazardous intermediaries, useless by-products and the use of dangerous chemicals for waste water treatment;
- Reduction of **energy consumption** in the process **by 20-30%**
- **Reduction water consumption by up to 100%**, compared to the current production process and **eliminate** any need of **waste water treatment**
- Impact on agrochemistry **with regard to:**
- **Production of insecticides that acts as acetylcholinesterase inhibitors to control insects in a wide range of crops.** This production of insecticides in EU consumes around 1500 MT/y of imported, low sustainable trialkylphosphite.
- Inclusion of  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  solid phase secondary product **for agro applications fitting with Circular economy concept**
- **Enhancement of the multiple waters strategy by making the industrial water reusable in agriculture**
- **Increase awareness about alternative sustainable and eco-friendly chemical processes in the chemical industry.**





LIFE15 ENV/IT/000392

# LIFE15 ENV/IT/000392 – LIFE VITISOM:



VITiculture Innovative Soil Organic Matter Management: variable-rate distribution system and monitoring of impacts

**DURATION:**

Junior Researcher Federico Sambo – Università degli Studi di Milano

**Start** 01/07/2016 - **End:** 31/12/2019

## MAJOR PROBLEMS

- 1) Loss of Soil Organic Carbon → < Soil fertility
- 2) < Level of innovation for the distribution of organic matter in vineyard → waste of resources



**OBJECTIVE 1 :** Improve the quality of vineyard soils in terms of soil structure, organic matter content and biodiversity

**OBJECTIVE 2 :** improve the organic fertilization distribution systems using VRT

## CURRENT SITUATION

Periodic monitoring of the vigor and of the GHG emission on 12 hectares, 22.000 fluxes of CO2 recorded; 252 soils(QBS-ar) and 2.300 grapevines analyzed, 84 microvinification carried out



## EXPECTED IMPACTS

**Upgrade of economical and environmental efficiency of vineyard fertilization:**

**Reduction** of chemical fertilizers, and, in organic vineyards, of organic matter distributed;

**Increase** the homogenization of vineyards vigor.

**Validation of Soil protection system in 5 pilot contexts(representatives of EU vineyard variability):**

**Reduction** of emissions from vineyard soils (10%), of costs (20%);

**Increase** of the organic matter of the soil (5%), of soil biodiversity (5%).

Rimini 09/11/2018

3rd EUROPEAN NUTRIENT EVENT



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DEGLI STUDI  
DI MILANO

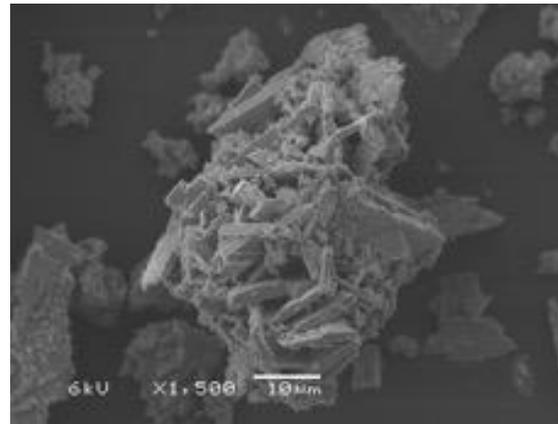


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DEGLI STUDI  
DI PADOVA



# VivimAG

Magnetic recovery of vivianite from iron phosphate containing sewage sludge



## CONSORTIUM



Pilot host:



## PRINCIPLE

- Vivianite,  $\text{Fe(II)}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$ , is the main P bearing precipitate in digested, Fe containing sewage sludge
- Up to 70-90% of all P can be present as vivianite
- Commercial wet magnetic separators can recover the vivianite from the sludge in pure form

## IMPACT

- Opens P recovery from wwtp's using chemical P removal
- High potential recovery efficiencies (>50%)
- 10-20% reduction of sludge volume expected
- Vivianite can be used as such (paint, batteries, Fe-fertiliser) or transformed in water soluble P fertiliser and FeO for reuse of Fe



1 m<sup>3</sup>/h pilot facility at wwtp Nieuwveer, NL



Project period:  
1/1/2018 – 1/7/2020

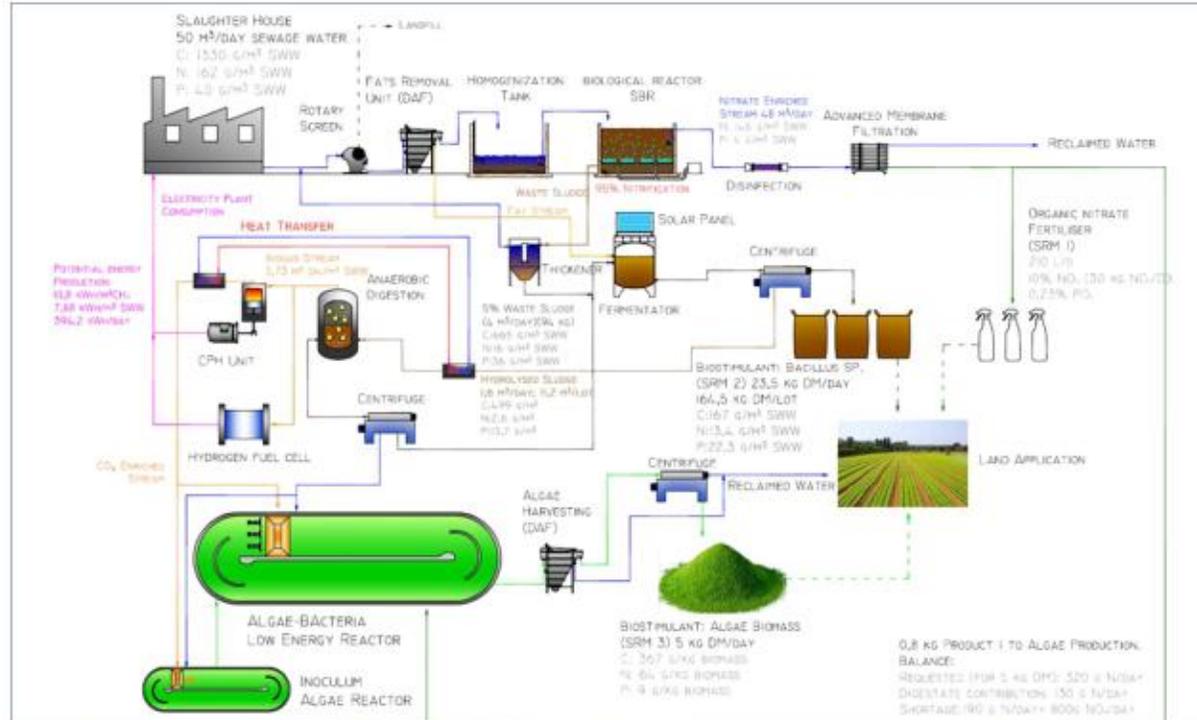


This activity has received funding from the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union, under the Horizon 2020, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

# REcovery and REcycling of nutrients, TURNing wasteWATER into added-value products for a circular economy in agriculture



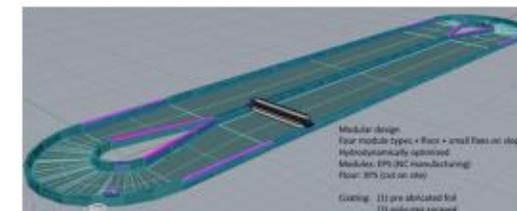
01-Jul-2017 – 31-Dec-2020, 15 partners, budget: 7.1 M€



Treating slaughterhouse WW, recovering energy and nutrients, fertilizers and biostimulants for agricultural use.

- Aerobic SBR waterline with membrane separation
- Fermentation by bacillus subtilis
- UASB energy valorisation of sludge
- Nutrient recovery by algae

Demo in Seville, 50 m<sup>3</sup> WW daily



H2020-Water-1b-2015



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Innovation Action programme WATER under grant agreement no 689785

[www.saltgae.eu](http://www.saltgae.eu)

3rd European Nutrient Event, November 8th – 9th, 2018, Rimini (Italy)



European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform



This project has received funding from the EU Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 690323



SMART-Plant

Italian Phosphorus Platform



Green & Circular Economy  
6-9 Novembre 2018  
Rimini Italy  
IN CONTROPARANZA CON  
KEY ENERGY



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