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Multi-sectoral wide EU approach for the closure of the loop of a critical raw material: the European phosphorus platform

Anna Laura Eusebi – Università Politecnica delle Marche



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Phosphorus importance

Without mineral phosphate fertilisers

**we could feed
maybe 1/5th
of the current
world population**

Adapted from Dawson et al., Food Policy 2011:

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/03069192>

**Without Haber-Bosch
(mineral nitrogen fertilisers)**

**We could feed half
of the world population**

Fertilizers Europe / Wageningen University



<https://phosphorusalliance.org>

*Courtesy of C. Thornton European
Phosphorus Platform*

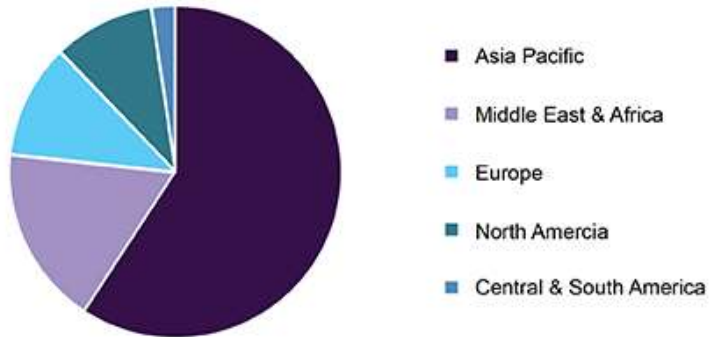


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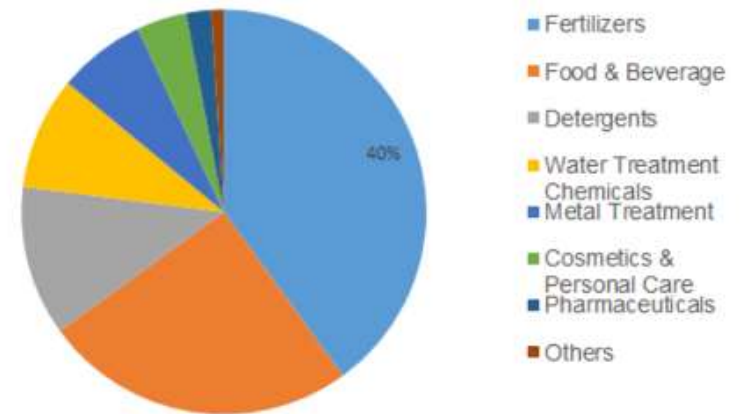
Requests and final uses

Global phosphate rock market share, by region, 2018 (%)



Source: www.grandviewresearch.com

Global Phosphate Market Share, by Application, 2017 (%)

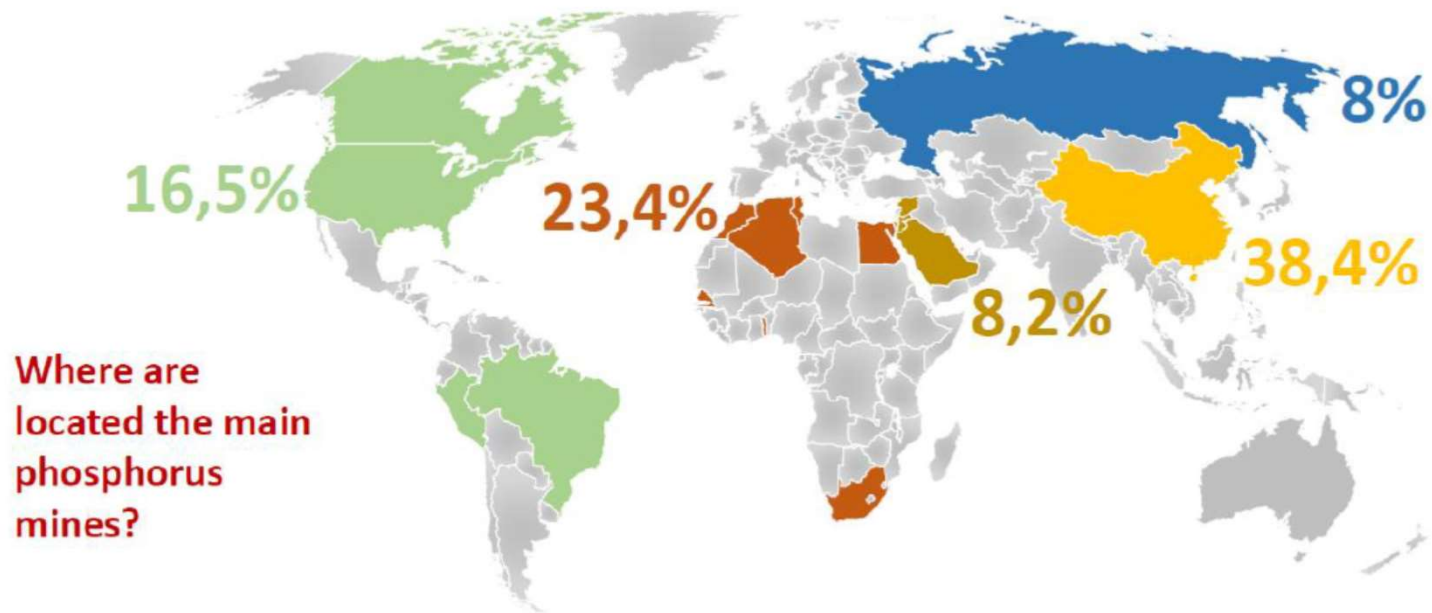


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Location of resources in the world

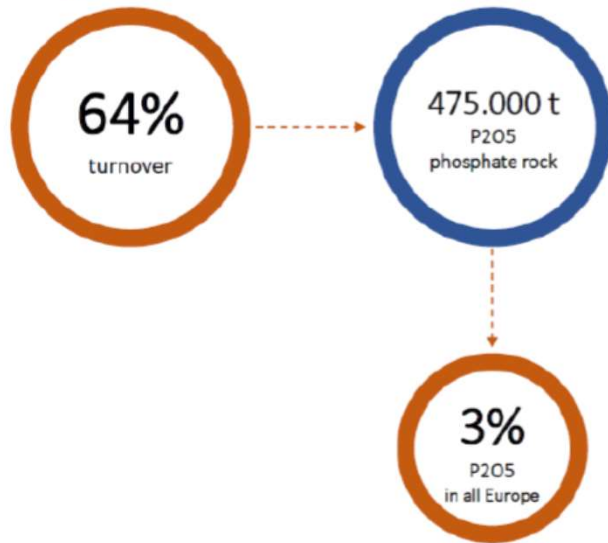
1 PHOSPHATE ROCKS



Location of resources in/for Italy

1 PHOSPHATE ROCKS

Italy totally depends from import



MAINLY from Africa



www.smart-plant.eu/ENE3

Source: IFA 2017



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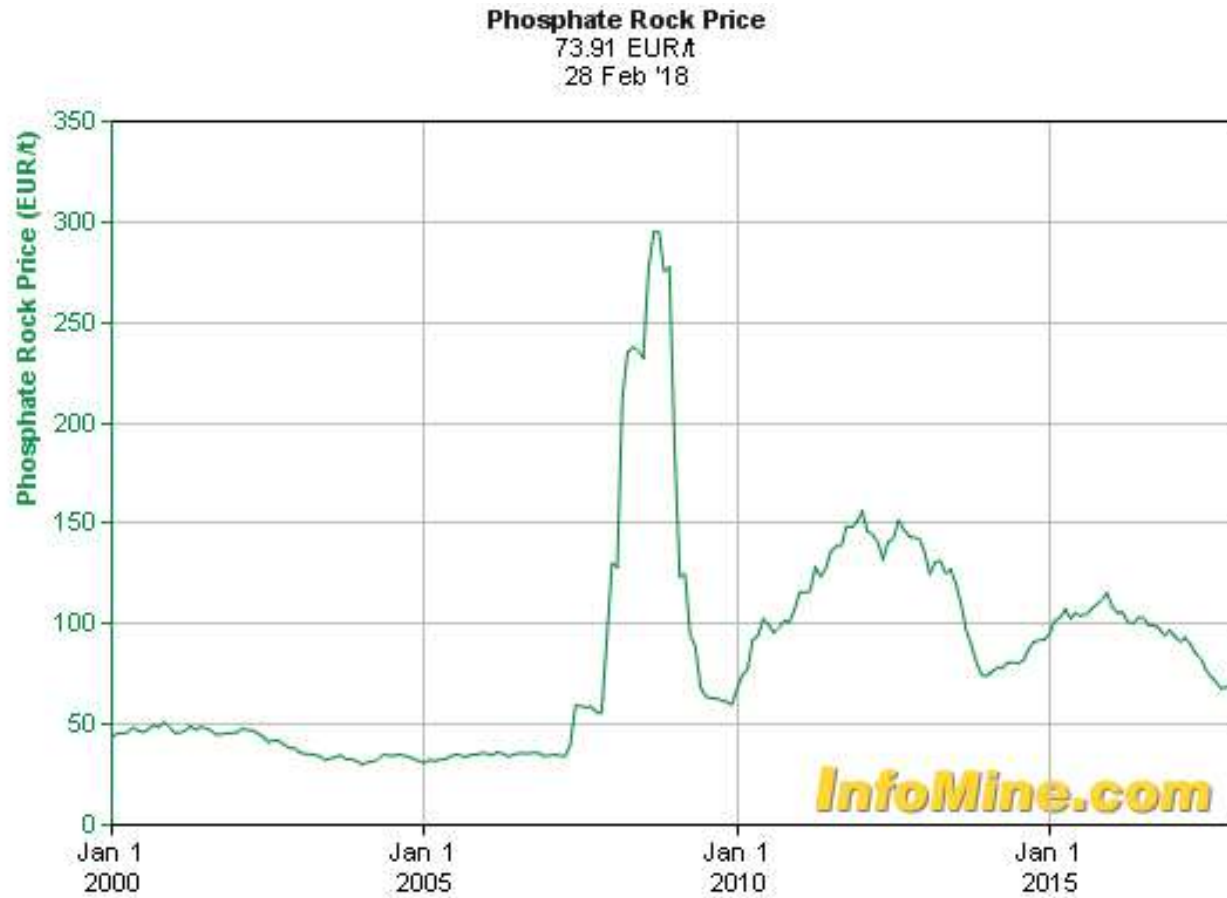


Impurities of mineral Phosphorous

Phosphate Rock - Main Impurities

Country	Deposit	P2O5 (wt %)	As (ppm)	Cd (ppm)	Cr (ppm)	Hg (ppb)	U (ppm)	V (ppm)
Israel		32	5	25	227	130	150	200
Jordan		32	8	5	92	48	78	70
Morocco	Bu Craa	35.1		37.5			75	
	Kouribga	32.6	13.4	15.1	200	855	88	106
	Yousoufia	31.2	9.2	29.2	255	120	97	200
Togo		36.7	10	58.4	101	365	94	60
USA	Florida	31.9	11.3	9.1	60	199	141	108
	Idaho	31.7	23.7	92.3	290	107	107	769
	N. Carolina	29.9	11.2	38.2	158	233	65	26
South Africa		39.5	11	<2			9	17
Tunisia		29.3	4.5	39.5	144		44	27
Senegal		35.9	17.4	86.7	140	270	67	523
Australia		28.9	14	4	35	75	84	63
Syria		31.9	4	3	105	28	75	140
China		31	26	2.5	33	4990	22.8	80

Price of mineral Phosphorous



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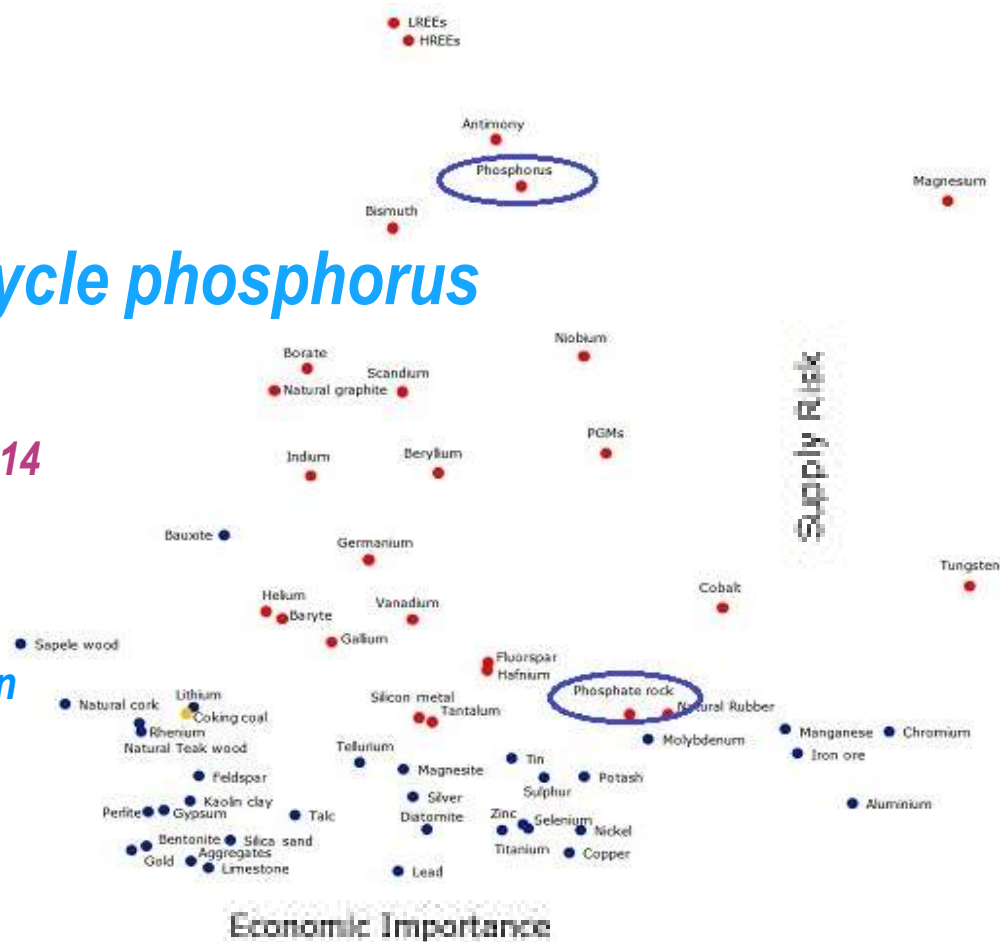


Summary...

Pressure to recycle phosphorus

Phosphate is on the EU Critical Raw Materials List since 2014 and White Phosphorus since 2017

- *Non substitutable*
- *Non renewable*
- *Geopolitical resource concentration*
- *EU 90% dependent on imports*



https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/raw-materials/specific-interest/critical_en
http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-599_en.htm

Courtesy of C. Thornton European Phosphorus Platform



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Pressure to reduce phosphorus losses

- **Phosphorus is first cause of (non-morphological) quality status failure under the EU Water Framework Directive**
- **55% of UK rivers and 74% of lakes exceed P level for good ecological status**
- **... despite sewage works P discharge reduced 70% 1987 - 1996**

EEA Report | No 7/2018

European waters

Assessment of status and pressures 2018

ISSN 1977-8449



- **Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 1991/271**
- **Nitrates Directive 1991/676**
- **Water Framework Directive 2000/2000**
- **quality objectives 2015 / 2021 / 2027**
- **Groundwater Directive 2006/118**
- **phosphorus on monitoring list (2014)**

ENDSEurope 3 July 2018

News

Threat of legal action after damning EU water report

The European Commission has warned that governments may face legal action over a failure to implement EU water quality legislation, as a report published on Tuesday

Courtesy of C. Thornton European Phosphorus Platform



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Summary...

Recycling potential

- **European Commission ¹**
STRUBIAS¹ recycled products could replace 25-40% of EU mineral phosphate fertilisers
- **European Commission ²**
Phosphorus recycling could replace 30% of EU mineral phosphate fertilisers
- **i.e. market value of recycled phosphates of c. 600 M€ ³**

P recycling potential in EU-27

kton P/year	Total	Recycled	Potential
Sewage sludge	297	115	182
Biodegradable solid waste	130	38	92
Meat & bone meal	128	6	122
Total	427-555	153-160	274-396
Manure recycling =		1 736	
Mineral fertiliser use =		1 448	

Van Dijk et al. "Phosphorus flows and balances of the European Union Member States", Science of the Total Environment Volume 542, Part B, 15 January 2016, Pages 1078-1093
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2015.08.048>

¹ = JRC STRUBIAS draft « Market » report 20/12/2017

STRUBIAS products = recovered phosphate salts, ashes, biochars

² = IP/18/6161 http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6161_en.htm

³ = ESPP estimate



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EU nutrient recycling legal framework

EU Fertilising Products Regulation (FPR)

- Flagship of Commission ‘Circular Economy Package’
- All fertilisers (mineral & organic), plant materials, composts & digestates, soil amendments, growing media, biostimulants, liming materials, etc.
- First EU product legislation to confer “End-of-Waste” status
- Opens European market for recycled fertilisers and for recycling technologies

Published 25th June 2019: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2019:170:TOC>

- **STRUBIAS**: aims to add struvite/phosphate salts, biochars/pyrolysis materials, ash-based materials



Courtesy of C. Thornton European Platform



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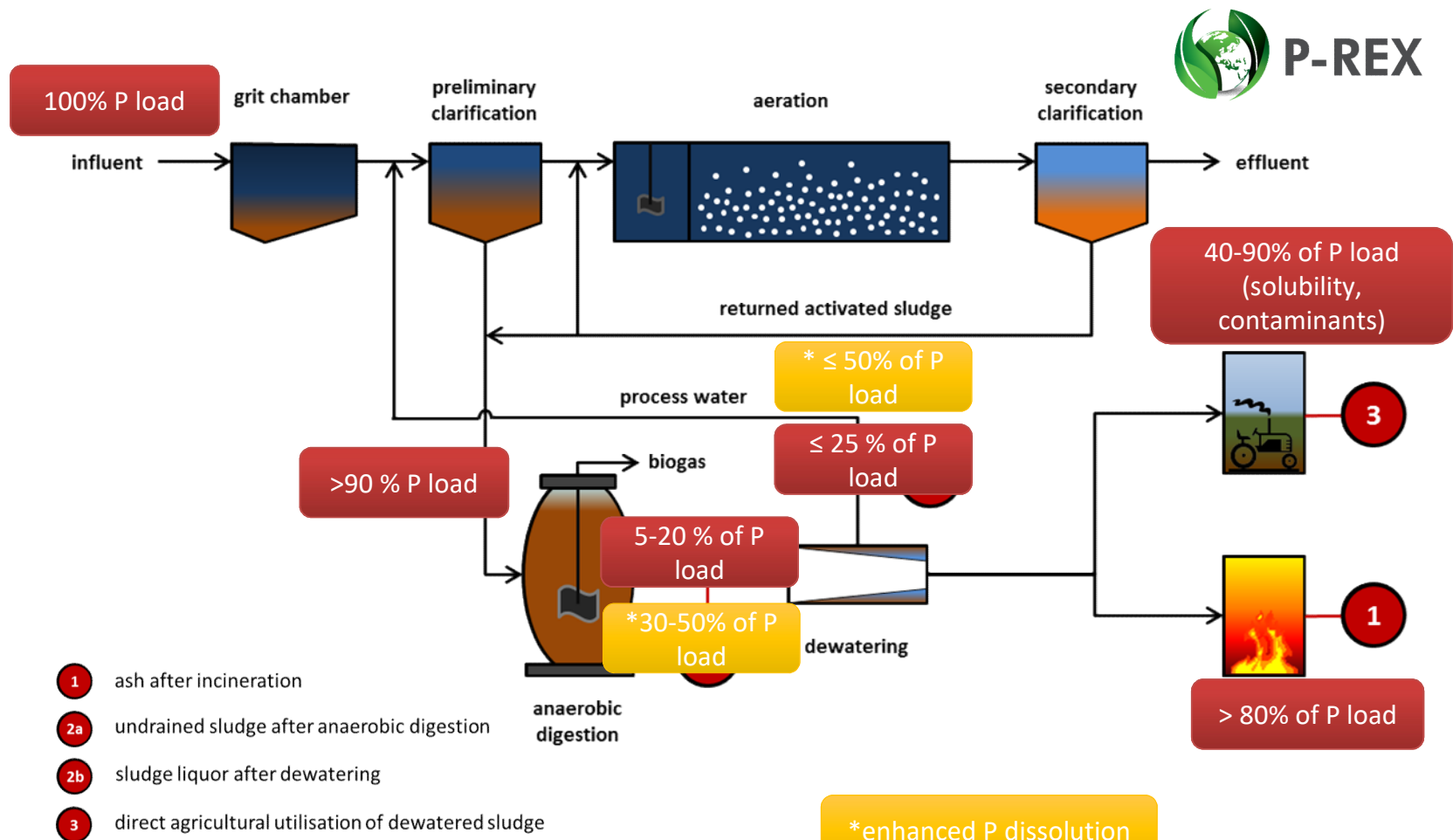


Opportunities to recycle wastewater nutrients?

under new EU Fertilising Products Regulation and **STRUBIAS**

<i>in? or out?</i>	Sewage	Manure	Animal By-Products		Food waste / biowaste	Food industry	
			Cat 2&3	Cat 1			
CMC3: compost	X	✓	✓	X	✓	(X)	
CMC5: digestate	X	✓	✓	X	✓	(X)	
CMC6: food-industry by-products	X	X	X	X	X	ONLY limes, molasses, vinasse, distillers grains	
CMC11: animal by-products (ABPs)	Undefined empty box (but already included in CMC3, CMC5, STRUBIAS ...)						
STRUBIAS P-salts	<i>Including when used as fertiliser production ingredient</i>	✓	✓ (sterilised ?)	✓ (sterilised ?)	X	✓	✓
STRUBIAS ashes		✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
STRUBIAS biochars etc	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	

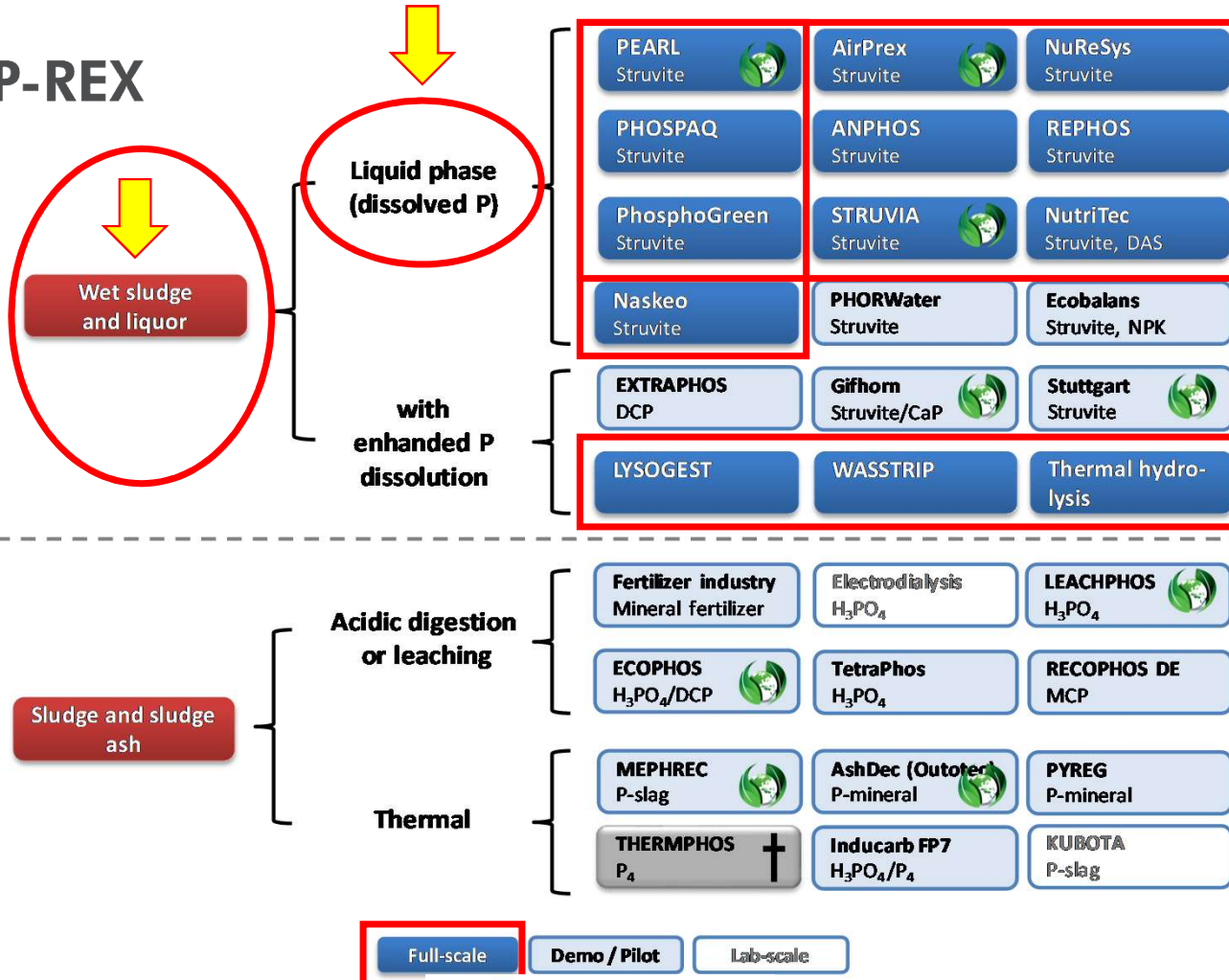
Phosphorus load distribution



Technical solutions ? Several



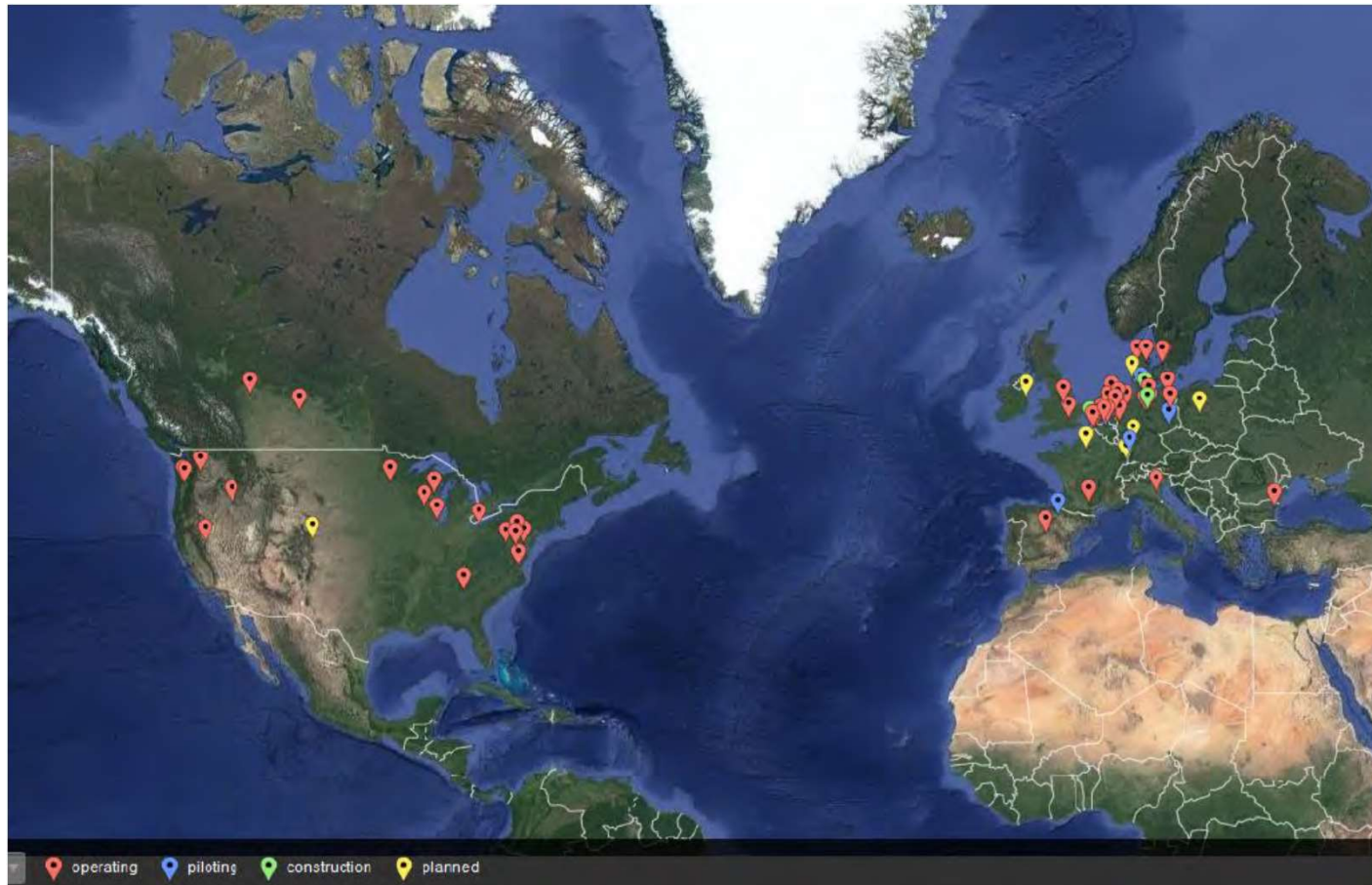
P-REX



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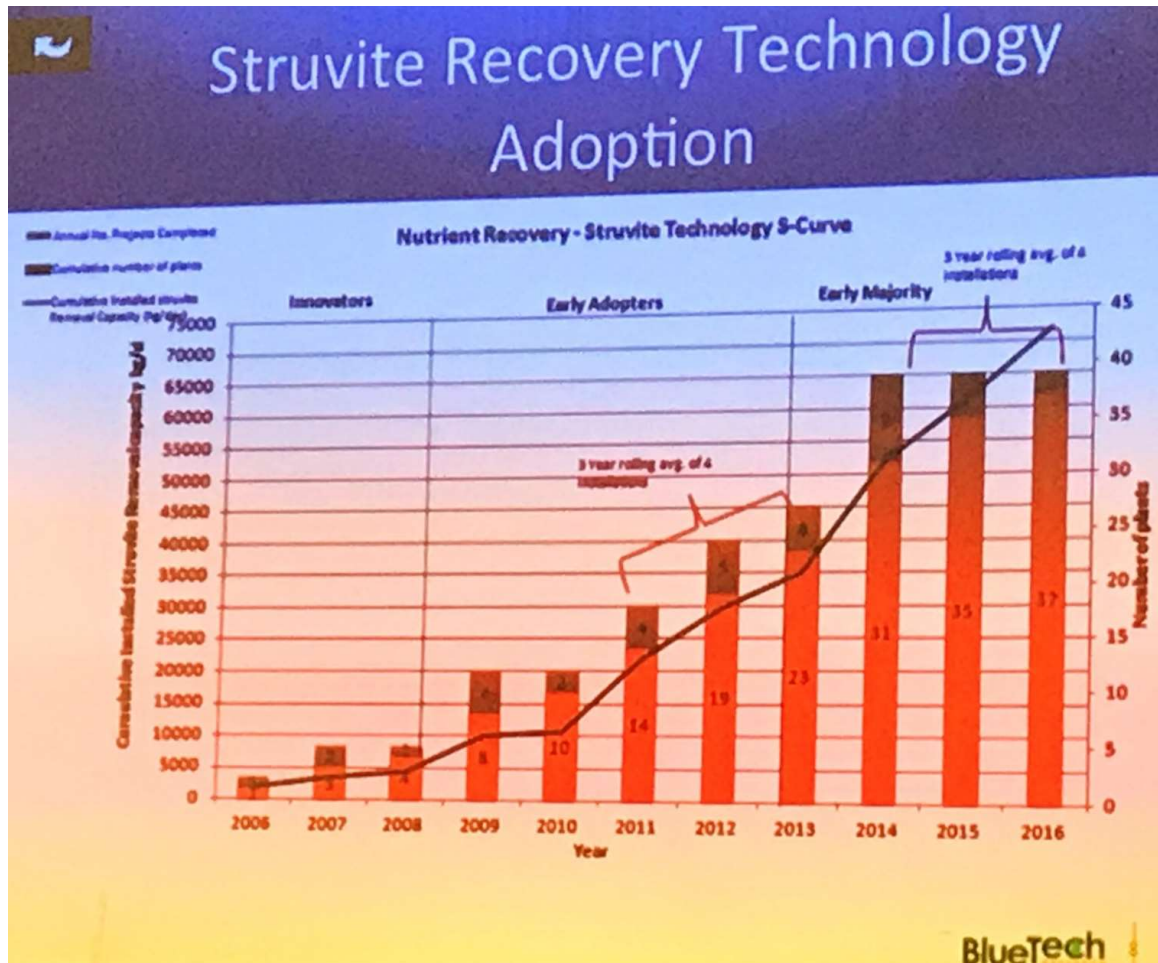


Global Implementation



Global Implementation

Plants to
struvite
recovery



(Source: O'Callaghan – IFAT 2018)



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Struvite – essentially a by-product

- Driven and paid-back by maintenance improvements and savings in EBPR plants
- <10% of European wastewater treatment plants qualify for the current „struvite“ process
- Average P recovery rate from the aqueous phase 8-15% of the potential, up to 40% recovery with sludge pre-treatment
- Plants produce a few hundred to few thousands tons of P-fertilizer. Different shapes, impurities, pollutants and fertilizing efficiency.
- Constant high quality products from Ostara.



P-recycling from sewage sludge ash

> 85% P-recovery rate

- Several financially sound, industry owned technology suppliers
- Independent of P-removal process in sewage plant
- Some processes recover iron/aluminium salts for P-removal in wastewater treatment plants
- Some processes recover silicates for cement production



EasyMining
EcoPhos - Technophos



But...still no full scale



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Agronomics Characteristics and Depollution necessity

Fonte P-Rex

Technology	Recovery potential		TRL	Depollution technology and potential										Recovered material: solubility, relative fertilizer efficiency, pollution potential, handling								
	Recovery process	Related to WWTP influent		heavy metals	As	Cd	Cr	Cu	Hg	Ni	Pb	Zn	OM	Recovered material	Solubility			Relative fertilizer efficiency		Pollution		Handling
															H ₂ O	CA	NAC	acidic soil	alkaline soil	DU _p	RSM (yr)	
REM-NUT®	90%	50-60%	5-6/-	ion exchange									(+) ¹	MAP	<1%	90-100%	90-100%	100%	75%	0.010	50,502	+
AirPrex®	85-90%	10-max. 25%	9/9	not necessary									(+) ¹	MAP	<1%	90-100%	90-100%	100%	75%	0.015	21,510	++
DHV Crystalactor®	85-90%	10-max. 25%	9/9	not necessary									(+) ¹	CaP	<1%	90-100%	90-100%	75%	50%	0.018	13,681	++
Ostara Pearl Reactor®	85-90%	10-max. 25%	9/9	not necessary									(+) ¹	MAP	<1%	90-100%	90-100%	100%	75%	0.011	14,514	++
P-RoC®	85-90%	10-max. 25%	5-6/8	not necessary									(+) ¹	CaP/MAP	<1%	80-100%	80-100%	100%	75%	0.007	20,434	+
PRISA	90%	10-max. 25%	5-6/-	not necessary									(+) ¹	MAP	<1%	90-100%	90-100%	100%	75%	0.072	9,058	+
Sewage sludge	100%	90%	-	no									(-)	sludge	<1%	85%	80-90%	50-90%	70%	0.499	832	-
AquaReci®	~70%	~60%	5-6/7-9	caustic leaching									(+) ²	CaP/FeP	<1%	90%	-	75%	50%	0.016	26,875	+
MEPHREC®	~80%	~70%	5-6/7-9	iron slag									(+) ³	P-rich slag	<1%	80-90%	25%	0%	75%	0.105	1,419	++
PHOXNAN	~60%	~40-50%	5-6/-	(ultra/nano-) filtration									(o) ²	MAP	<1%	90-100%	-	100%	75%	0.004	80,613	+
Gifhorn	max. 50%	35-50%	9/9	precipitation									(o)	MAP/CaP/FeP	<1%	50-90%	95%	100%	75%	0.004	71,057	+
Stuttgart	max. 50%	35-50%	5-6/9	complexation									(o)	MAP/CaP/FeP	<1%	60%	50%	100%	75%	0.033	18,363	+
Sewage sludge ash	100%	87%	-	no									(+) ³	ash	<1%	30-50%	30-40%	25-50%	20%	0.352	1,103	o
AshDec® depoll.	98%	~90%	5-6/9	thermo-chemical									(+) ³	depolluted ash	<1%	30-60%	85%	90%	0%	0.052	2,776	o
AshDec® Rhenania	98%	~90%	5-6/9	thermo-chemical									(+) ³	partly depoll. Ash	<1%	80-90%	-	90%	75%	0.206	762	+
LEACHPHOS®	~70-80%	~60-70%	5-6/7-9	leaching									(+) ³	CaP	<1%	40-90%	90-100%	100%	75%	0.131	878	+
PASCH	~70-80%	~60-70%	5-6/7-9	leaching + organic agent									(+) ³	CaP	<1%	80-90%	90-100%	75%	50%	0.025	14,965	+
EcoPhos®	95%	~85%	9/9	leaching + ion exchange									(+) ³	Phosphoric acid	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0.002	-	++
RecoPhos®	100%	87%	9/9	no									(+) ³	Mineral fertilizer	75%	100%	75%	100%	100%	0.158	3,408	++
Fertilizer Industry	100%	87%	9/9	no									(+) ³	Mineral fertilizer	40-50%	80-90%	20-40%	100%	75%	0.352	1,103	++
Thermphos®	95%	~85%	9/-	silica slag									(+) ³	P ₄	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	++
Single Superphosphate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mineral fertilizer	80%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0.225	1,450	++

Depollution related to the input flow	
	no data
	<20%
	20-40%
	41-59%
	60-80%
	>80%

Organic Micropollutants (OM)	
+	total destruction of OM
o	OM significantly reduced
-	no OM destruction/depollution
¹ no incorporation of OM during crystallisation process	
² OM (partly) destruction due to oxidation process	
³ OM destruction due to sludge incineration	

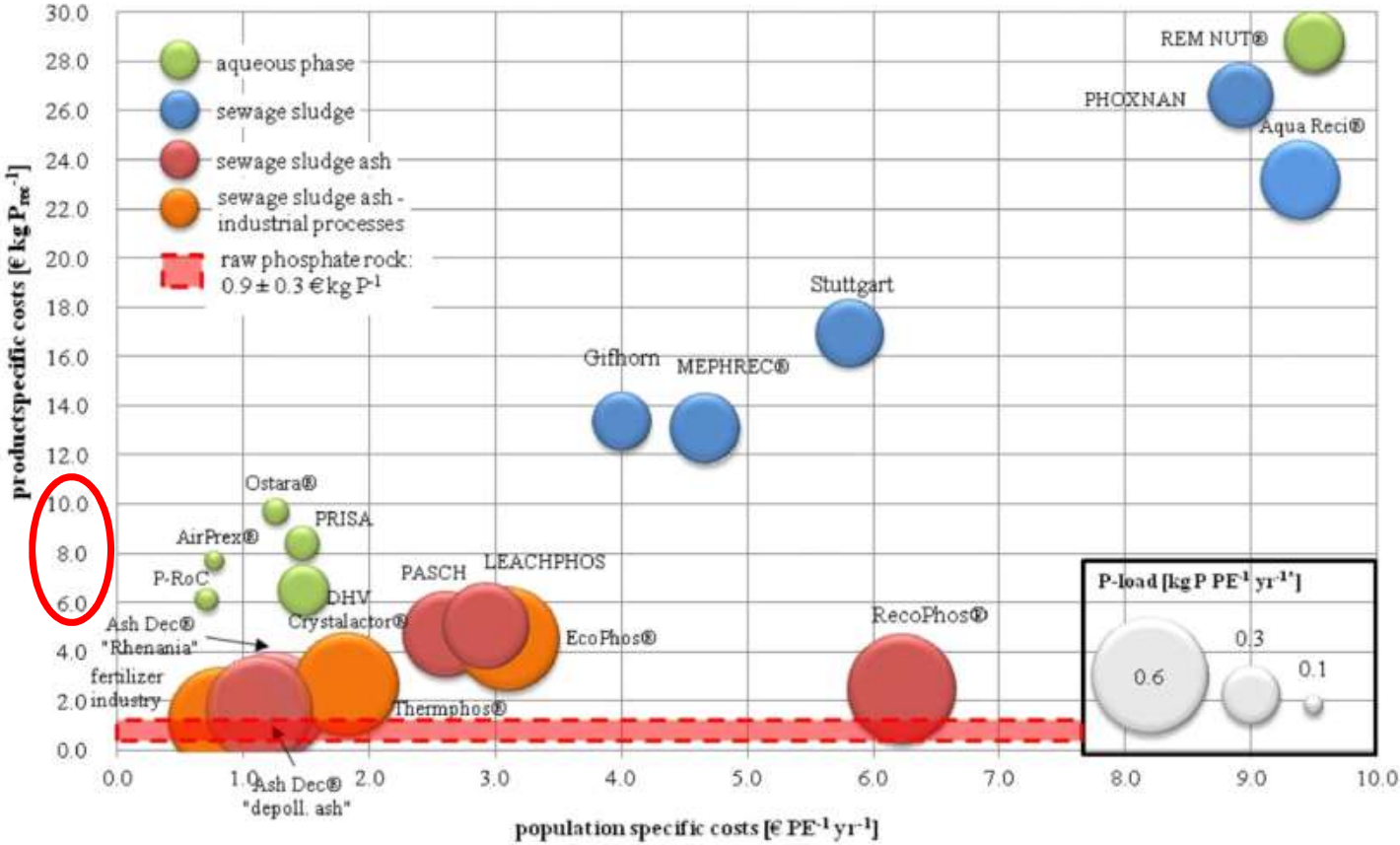
Handling	
++	Direct use in agriculture industry
+	Processing as e.g. granulation necessary
o	Extraction/Mixing and granulation
-	reactive, high water content



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Management costs



Engle et al., 2016



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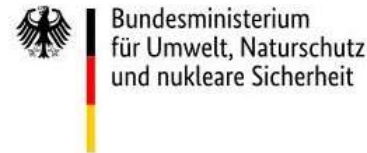


Legislation as driver ? Example Germany 2017+

National phosphorus recycling legislation

Germany

- **Legislation May 2017**
makes phosphorus recovery obligatory
 - within 12/15 years
 - for all wwtp > 50 000 p.e.
 - if sewage sludge P > 2% of dry matter
- **Requires to either recover >50% of P or to reduce sludge P to <2%**
 - **national guidance document under discussion (2019):**
%P depends on organics: change with hydrolysis, digestion → may favour mono-incineration (80% of P recovery)
- **Land sewage biosolids use banned for larger sewage WWTP,**
and lower contaminant limits will reduce spreading for smaller WWTP



National | Verordnungen | AbfklärV

Verordnung zur Neuordnung der Klärschlammverwertung

Klärschlammverordnung

Legislation as driver ?

National phosphorus recycling legislation

Switzerland

- **2016 Decree makes phosphorus recovery obligatory by 2026 from sewage sludge incineration ash* and meat and bone meal ash**
 - * **Switzerland banned land use of sewage biosolids in 2006**
- **Still under discussion:**
 - **%P recovery to be required**
 - **recycled fertiliser criteria**

(Bundesrat decision expected 24/10/2018)



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Principales nouveautés dans l'ordonnance sur le traitement des déchets

L'ordonnance sur le traitement des déchets (OTD) est soumise à une révision totale. Voici en résumé les principales modifications :

- Des exigences sont formulées pour la valorisation de certains déchets, laquelle n'était pas encore réglementée dans le droit fédéral. Il s'agit notamment des biodéchets (y compris réglementation relative aux possibles installations de traitement) **et des déchets riches en phosphore.**
- Un plan d'élimination des déchets est exigé pour tout projet de construction. Le maître d'ouvrage est tenu de déterminer les déchets dangereux pour la santé et pour l'environnement (p. ex. amiante, déchets de chantier contenant des hydrocarbures).

Courtesy of C. Thornton European Phosphorus Platform



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Legislation as driver ?

National P-recycling policy developments

Baltic

- **HELCOM:**
8 EU Member States, plus Russia and the EU
- “Recommendation” March 2017 = obligation
 - maximise phosphorus and other useful substance recycling
 - regular State reporting on measures taken to implement this
- Ministerial Declaration March 2018:
 - define Nutrient Recycling Strategy by 2020



Courtesy of C. Thornton European Phosphorus Platform



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Legislation as driver ?

National P-recycling policy developments

Sweden

- 13 July 2018:
Government announces 'enquiry' into
 - ban on agricultural use of sewage sludge
 - phosphorus recycling regulation
- Currently working on regulatory proposal - Conclusions mid 2019?

<http://www.government.se/press-releases/2018/07/inquiry-to-propose-ban-on-spreading-sewage-sludge-on-farmland-and-a-phosphorus-recycling-requirement>



Government Offices of Sweden



Austria

- P-recovery obligation included in Government mandate plan
- Waste Management Plan 2017: P-recovery from 65-85 of sewage sludge by 2030

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Legislation as driver ?

EU regulation and studies underway

“SAFEMANURE” study

ED ENVI study on recycled nutrient products from **manures** for the Nitrates Directive (“processed manures”)

<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/science-update/call-participation-eu-wide-monitoring-campaign-manure>

REACH contaminants studies

to prepare possible “Restrictions’ under REACH

→ **composts and digestates** – completed not published

→ **mineral and organic fertilisers** – tender underway

<https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=5131>

REACH ‘Registration’ (Annex V) exemption

for **digestates**: regulation expected to be published soon



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE
Directorate D – Sustainable Resources
Water and Marine Resources Unit

Ispira, Thursday, 31 May 2018

EU-wide monitoring of manure supporting the development of safe processed manure criteria

In order to promote the sustainable recovery of nutrients from manure, a careful evaluation of agronomic benefit versus possible risks to the environment and health is of pivotal importance. Such an evaluation should be the basis for the development of harmonised criteria that better assess nitrogen fertilisers that are partially or entirely derived from manure.

Within this framework, the role of agricultural application of manure (processed or not) in the propagation of anti-microbial resistance (AMR), interspecies exchange and antibiotic resistant genes as well as the role of veterinary antimicrobial agents is a priority field of research of the European Commission. Indeed, there is a significant data gap on the distance of nutrients from lands that have been treated with

Courtesy of C. Thornton European Phosphorus Platform



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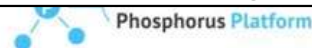
European Founding possibilities?

EU R&D funding

- **R&D funding:**
 - FP7 (e.g. P-REX project)
 - Horizon 2020
 - **Horizon Europe (2021-2028)**
- **Agriculture R&D funding**
- **DG ENVI: - LIFE**
- **DG REGIO: - InterReg**
- **National / regional programmes:**
 - e.g. **Baltic Bonus**



Upcoming Horizon 2020 calls 22/1/2020	
CE-RUR-08-2018-2019-2020	Closing nutrient cycles - IA Innovation action + RIA Research and Innovation action
CE-FNR-17-2020	Pilot circular bio-based cities – sustainable production of bio-based products from urban biowaste and wastewater
CE-FNR-15-2020	A network of European bioeconomy clusters to advance bio-based solutions in the primary production sector
FNR-18-2020	Sustainability of bio-based products – international governance aspects and market update



European Phosphorus Platform (2013)

<http://www.phosphorusplatform.eu/members>

ESPP: a coalition for action

- **Wide objectives:**
phosphorus stewardship
 - global food security
 - circular economy
 - environmental protection
 - healthy diet and food safety
- **Bringing together:**
 - water & waste industries,
 - mineral and organic fertilisers, chemicals,
 - P-recycling technology suppliers,
 - national & regional governments,
 - knowledge institutes ...



- **Actions:**
 - vision & awareness
 - stakeholders & networking
 - dissemination
 - policy and regulation dialogue

More information: www.phosphorusplatform.eu



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European Phosphorus Platform

<http://www.phosphorusplatform.eu/members>

How ESPP operates

Legally established
not-for-profit association

→ **important for transparency,
clarity of decision making,
representation**



- statutes are public <https://www.phosphorusplatform.eu/platform/about-espp>

- EU Transparency Register no. 260483415852-40 <http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/>

100% membership funded



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European Phosphorus Platform: Events

ESPP and research

- **1st European nutrient research event, Berlin 2015**
at **ESPC2 (European Sustainable Phosphorus Conference)**
with **FP7 project P-REX**, see **ESPP SCOPE Newsletter n° 111**
conclusions published by **European Commission**
<http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/circular-approaches-approaches-approaches-to-phosphorus-pbKI0115204/pbKI0115204/pbKI0115204/>
- **2nd European nutrient research event, Basel 2017**
with **InterReg project Phos4You**, see **ESPP eNews n° 16**
- **3rd European nutrient research event, Rimini 2018**
with **Horizon2020 project SMART-Plant**, see **ESPP eNews n° 28**
- **4th European nutrient research event - planned at ESPC4**
Vienna, 15-17 June 2020 <https://www.phosphorusplatform.eu/espc4>



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Nutrients Platform in the word

Nutrient platforms and networks worldwide

Netherlands 2010 <http://www.nutrientplatform.org/>



Germany 2015 www.deutsche-phosphor-plattform.de



Baltic: ESPP works with Baltic Sea Action Group www.bsag.fi



ESPP European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform 2013

North America Sustainable Phosphorus Alliance (SPA) 2017
(launched as NAPPS in 2015) <https://phosphorusalliance.org/>



Japan PIDO 2011 (Phosphorus Industry Development Organization of Japan) www.pido.or.jp

Global Partnership for Nutrient Management (UNEP)
<http://www.unep.org/gpa/what-we-do/global-partnership-nutrient-management>



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Nutrients Platform in the word

Nutrient platform projects

Czech Republic Česká Fosforová Platforma www.fosforovaplatforma.cz

Ireland All Ireland Phosphorus Platform www.nutrientsustainability.ie

Italy Piattaforma Italiana del Fosforo Contact ENEA roberta.decarolis@enea.it

Norway Phosphorus Platform

Contacts [Daniel Mueller](mailto:Daniel.Mueller@ntnu.no) Helen Ann Hamilton helen.a.hamilton@ntnu.no

Switzerland

Swiss Phosphorus Network www.pxch.ch

AMTP Platform for cooperation on phosphorus recovery technologies

<http://www.klaerschlammm.ch/>

United Kingdom Nutrient Platform Contact r.sakrabani@cranfield.ac.uk

Canada Phosphorus Hub <https://www.phosphorushub.com>



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<http://www.phosphorusplatform.eu/members>

Thank you for your attention!

a.l.eusebi@univpm.it



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