Nutrient management in EU water utilities: the EurEau perspective

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EurEau - Who we are

~ EurEau is the **European federation of water services**

~ We represent **32** national associations of **drinking and waste water operators** from **29 European countries**

~ We represent both **public and private sector**

~ With **470,000 direct jobs**, we make a significant contribution to the European economy.

[www.smart-plant.eu/ENE3](http://www.smart-plant.eu/ENE3)
EurEau - What we do

Our experts exchange knowledge
We establish positions
We engage with EU policy makers.

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Sludge destination in Europe

~Extensive survey with EurEau members in 2017
Trends for the future of sludge end-point

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Driving forces for sludge destination

- Risks related to hazardous substances
- Interest in nutrient recycling
- Risks related to hygiene
- Interest in energy recovery
- Landfilling of organic waste is not favoured/permit
- The availability of phosphorus for plants
- Other
- Risks related to nutrient leakage into waters
- Interest in phosphorus recovery
- Open air composting is not favoured/permit
- Risks related to polymers
- Interest in lime content

Not important | Some effect | Important | Very important
0 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 100

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Sludge destination in Europe

~ A lot of sludge is used in agriculture
~ Tendency to go for less use due to risks more than for nutrient content
~ go for incineration and energy recovery?
~ Less technological and easier to handle
~ Evolution of regulatory framework towards P recovery (DE, AT, SE(?))
~ Recycled P market?

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Some examples in Mideterranean region

~ Spain

~ 1.5 million tons of dry matter/year

~ alkaline pH soils

~ deficiency of organic matter

~ low contents of heavy metals in sludge
Some examples in Mediterranean region

~ Greece

~ Larissa WWTP

~ **Design data:** 225,000 pe
  40,000 m³/day

~ **2016 data:** 145,000 pe
  26,200 m³/day
Some examples in Mediterranean region

~ 4.800 tn/year (45% DS) applied to farmlands of the area
~ The farmland application: dosage 3,4 tn/m² (average)
~ Crops: Wheat, barley, cotton, corn

Application Overview:
~ Period of action: 9 years (2010-2018) and still on-going
~ Total amount of DS disposed on land: 19.440 tn
~ Total amount of Nutrients returned to land: 372 tnP, 836 tnN
~ Total Cost for DEYAL: 10 €/tn (wet sludge)
Some examples in Mediterranean region

~ Greece

~ Thessaloniki WWTP

~ **Design data:** 1,333,000 pe
  296,000 m$^3$/day

~ **2017 data:**
  160,000 m$^3$/day

[Map of Greece with Thessaloniki highlighted]
Some examples in Mediterranean region

~ Limed sewage sludge (aprox. 50% DSS) are applied annually to farmlands of the area
~ Application depends on the farmers' annual needs and interest
~ Average dosage 2.5 tn/m²
~ Crops: Wheat, cotton, corn, rapeseed

Application Overview:
~ Period of action: 8 years (2011-2018) and still on-going
~ Total amount of DS disposed on land: 62.222tn
~ Total amount of Nutrients reused on land: 622tn P, 2.675 tn N
~ Total Cost for EYATH SA: 17.9 €/tn (wet sludge)
Regulatory framework (Greece)

Greek Common Ministerial Decision 80568-4225-91: “Methods, Terms and Limitations for the Agricultural Application of Sludge Deriving from the Treatment of Urban Wastewater”

1. Agricultural Soil Sampling and Analysis (from the scientific staff of the National Agricultural Institute)

2. Sewage Sludge Analysis

3. Application procedure to the Regional Governmental Authority (RGA) that includes a complete data file for each farming activity

4. Permit for a specific amount of biosolids is out after on site auditing by RGA

5. The exact amount of biosolids is transferred to the farm, mechanically spread, distributed and finally homogenized with the soil

➢ The farmer is responsible for the distribution and the homogenization procedure as well as for full compliance with the permit provisions.

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Conclusion

~ Sludge destination: return to land for the vast majority

~ New routes to be developed in the future with P recovery pushed by regulatory framework

~ Need for a functioning recycled P market

~ Important for the Waste Water Sector: Leave all doors open, we will always produce sludge

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Thank you for your attention

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