Sewage sludge destination in Europe

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Sludge destination in Europe

~ Extensive survey with EurEau members in 2017

~ 4.5 M t/a in agriculture
~ 1.2 M t/a in recultivation / land reclamation

~ 5.7 M t/an (61.6%) of sewage sludge directly returned to land
Sludge destination in Europe
Trends for the future of sludge end-point

- Agriculture
- Landfill
- Storage
- Landscaping
- Forestry
- Green areas
- Indirect use
- P recovery (from ash)
- P recovery (other)
- Other

- Decrease substantially (>10%)
- Decrease (0-10%)
- Stay unchanged
- Increase (0-10%)
- Increase substantially (>10%)
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/permittted
- The availability of phosphorus for plants
- Other
- Risks related to nutrient leakage into waters
- Interest in phosphorus recovery
- Open air composting is not favoured/permittted
- Risks related to polymers
- Interest in lime content

Legend:
- Not important
- Some effect
- Important
- Very important
Sludge destination in Europe

~A lot of sludge is used in agriculture
~Tendency to go for incineration:
  ~ risks more than for nutrient content
  ~ incineration and energy recovery easier
~Regulatory framework towards P recovery (DE, AT, SE(?))
  ~ Is there a market for Recycled P?
~Control at source
Thank you for your attention

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