

# *Development of Estonian Legislation and certification system, basis for End of Waste for sewage sludge*

Vallo Lemmiksoo

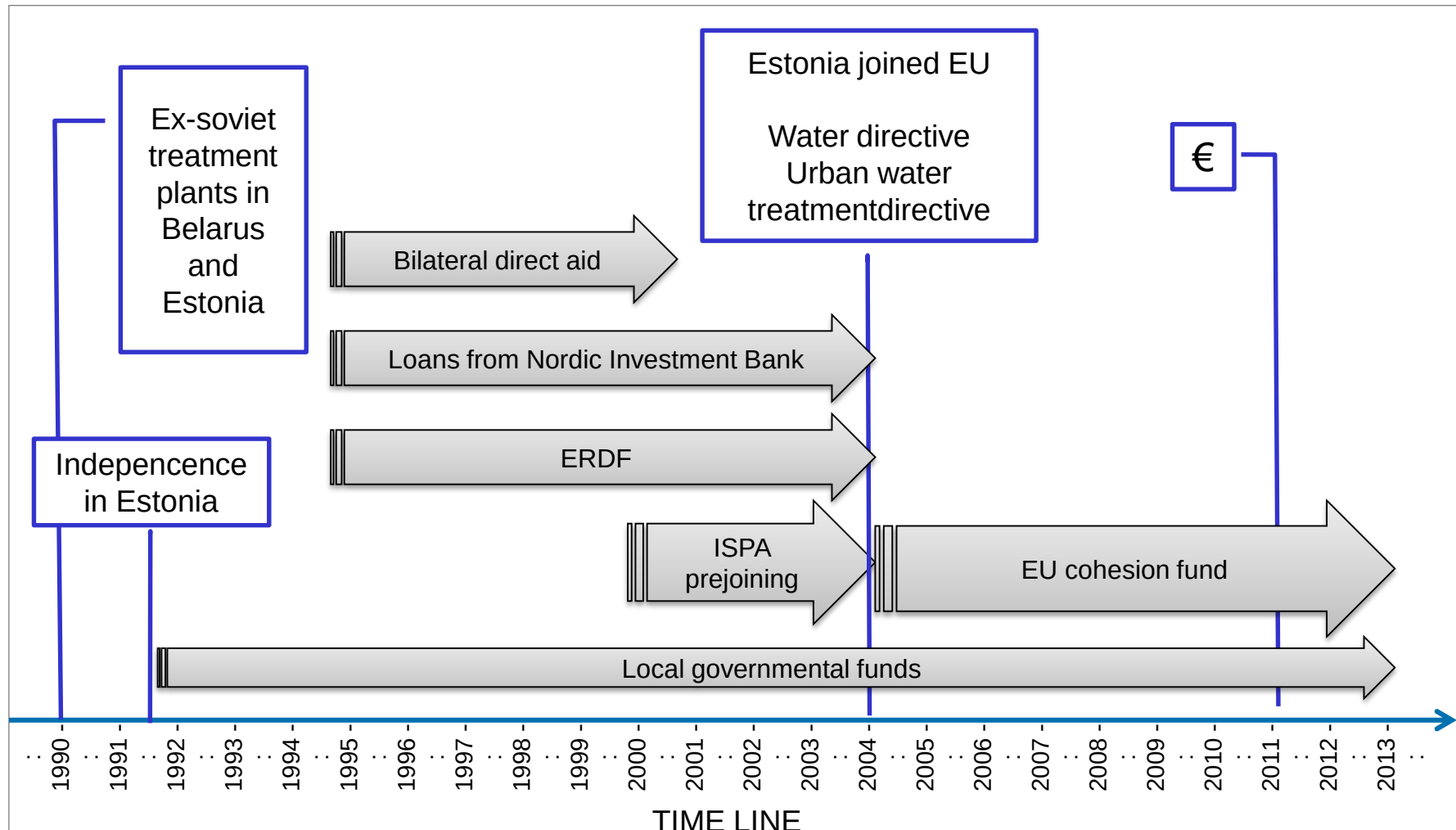
Aqua consult Baltic  
Estonian University of Life Sciences



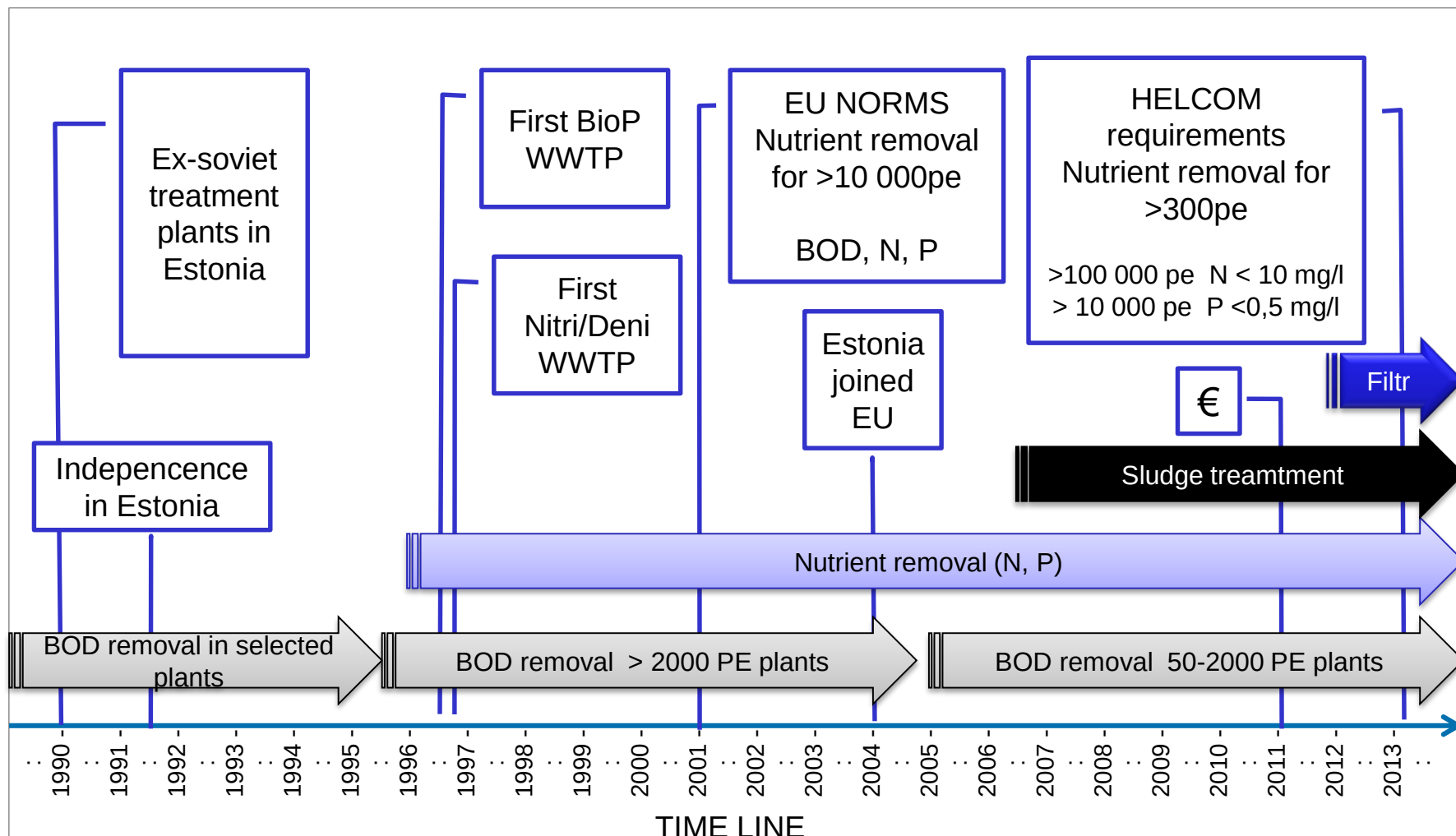
# Estonia- overview



# Milestones- financing WSS infra



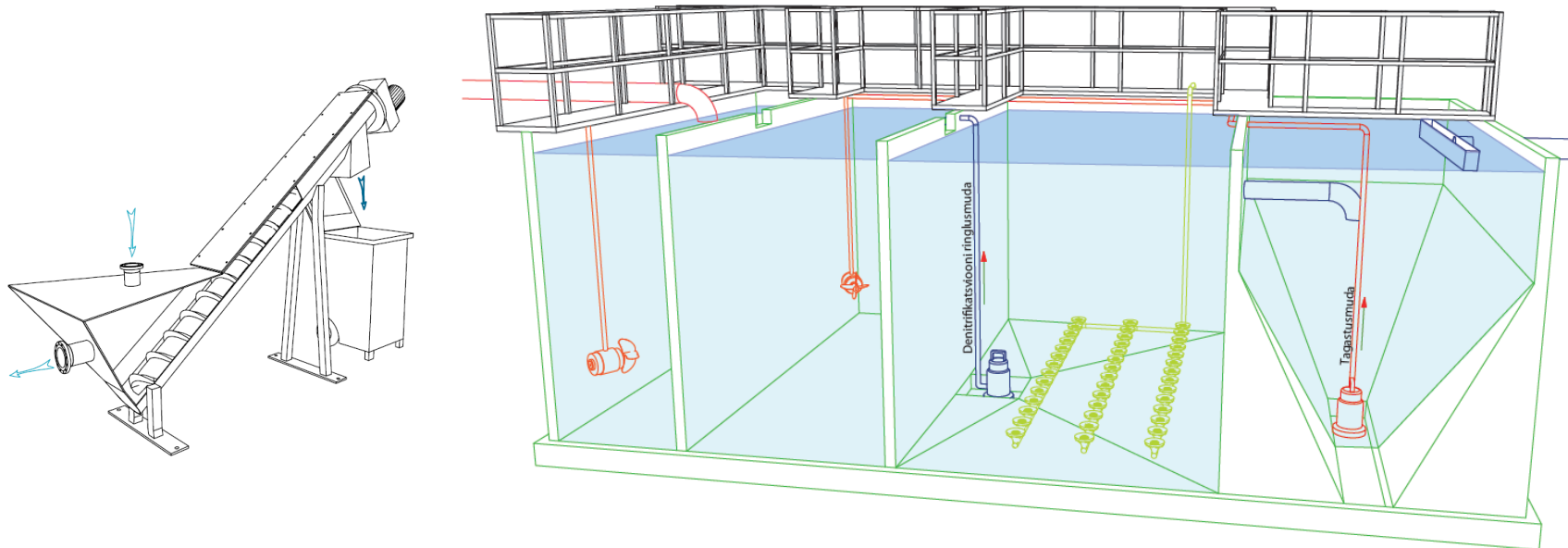
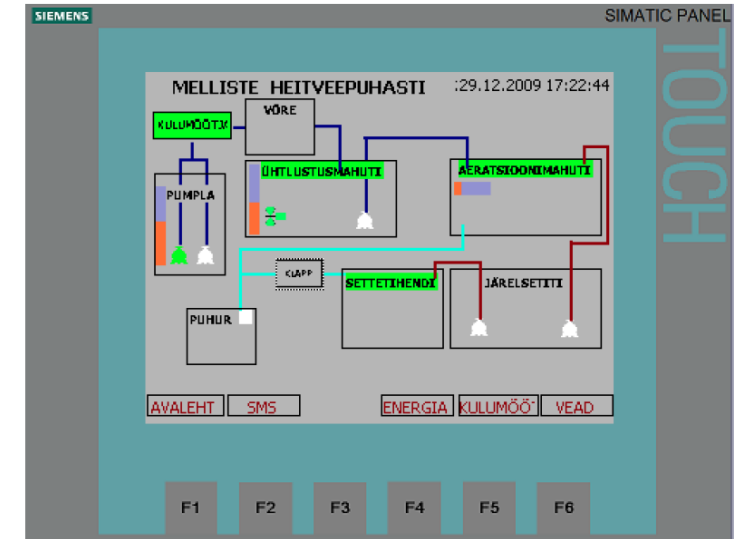
# History of Estonian WWTP from 90's





## Result:

Most small (200-1000PE) WWTP technology is activated sludge



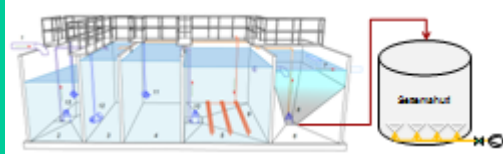
The Estonian Ministry of the Environment contract

- Investigation of the sludge management strategy in Estonia
- Development of the solutions for regional sludge treatment and elaboration of the waste discontinuation criteria for wastewater sludge

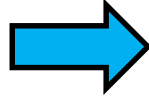
June 2014 – April 2016

- **Stage I – Overview of the sludge management**
- **Stage II – Sludge usage and clarification of the sludge potential users**
- **Stage III – Discontinuation criteria**
- **Stage IV – Financial and economic study for sludge management**

# Sludge management at the end of CF 2007-2013 period



Local dewatering and  
transport to larger plant



Reactor composting



Anaerobic digestion

Extended aerobic

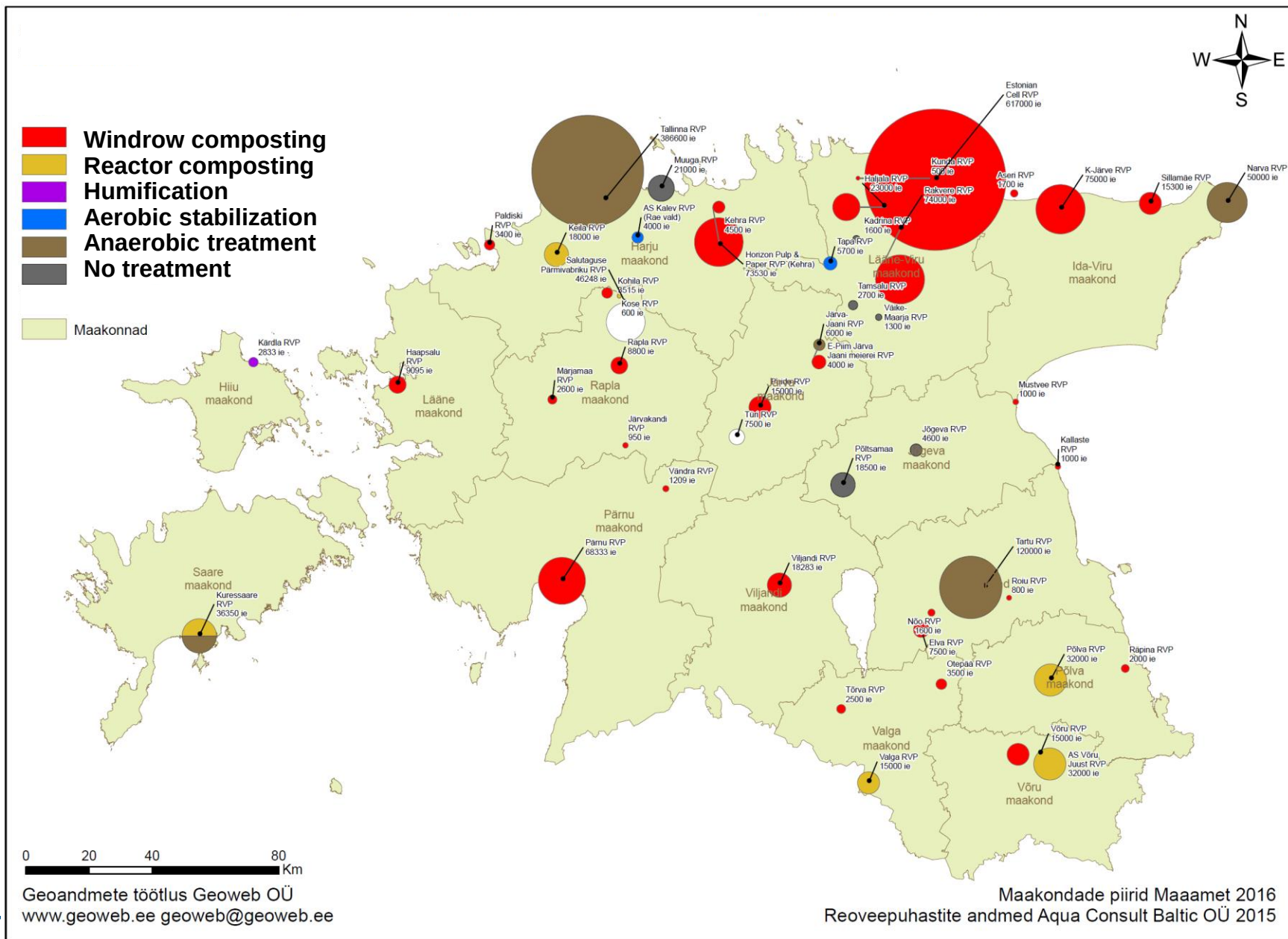


Windrow composting

**Drying/  
Incineration at  
Future?**

5 ... 50 ... 100 ... 500 ... 1000 ... 5000 ... 10 000 ... 50 000 ... 100 000 ... 500 000 PE

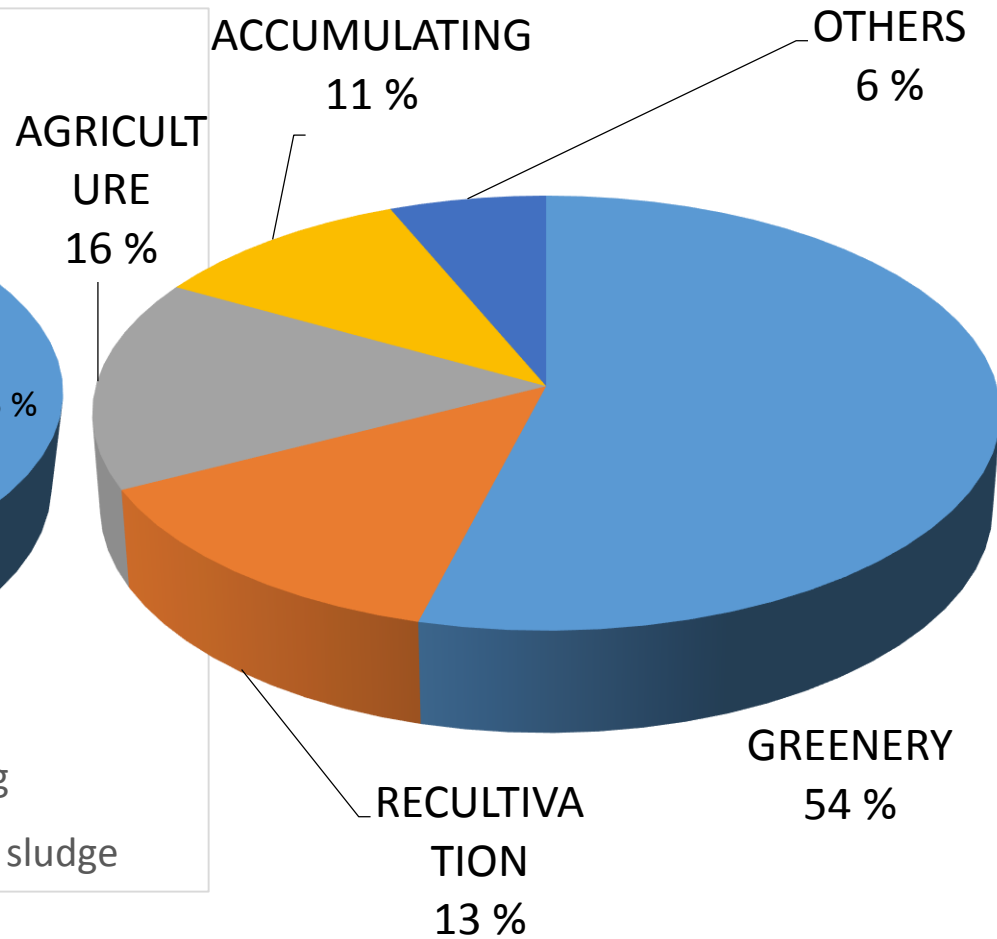
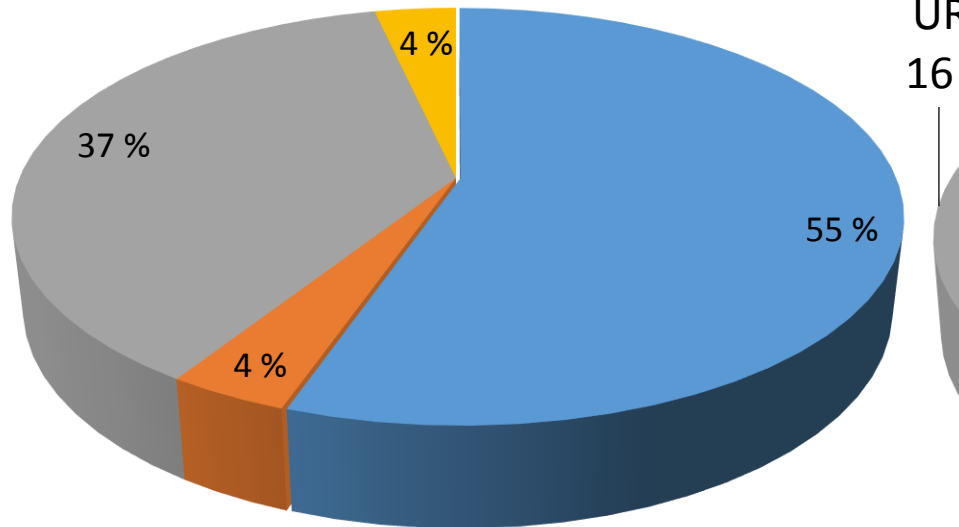
# Larger WWTP loadings and sludge treatment technologies





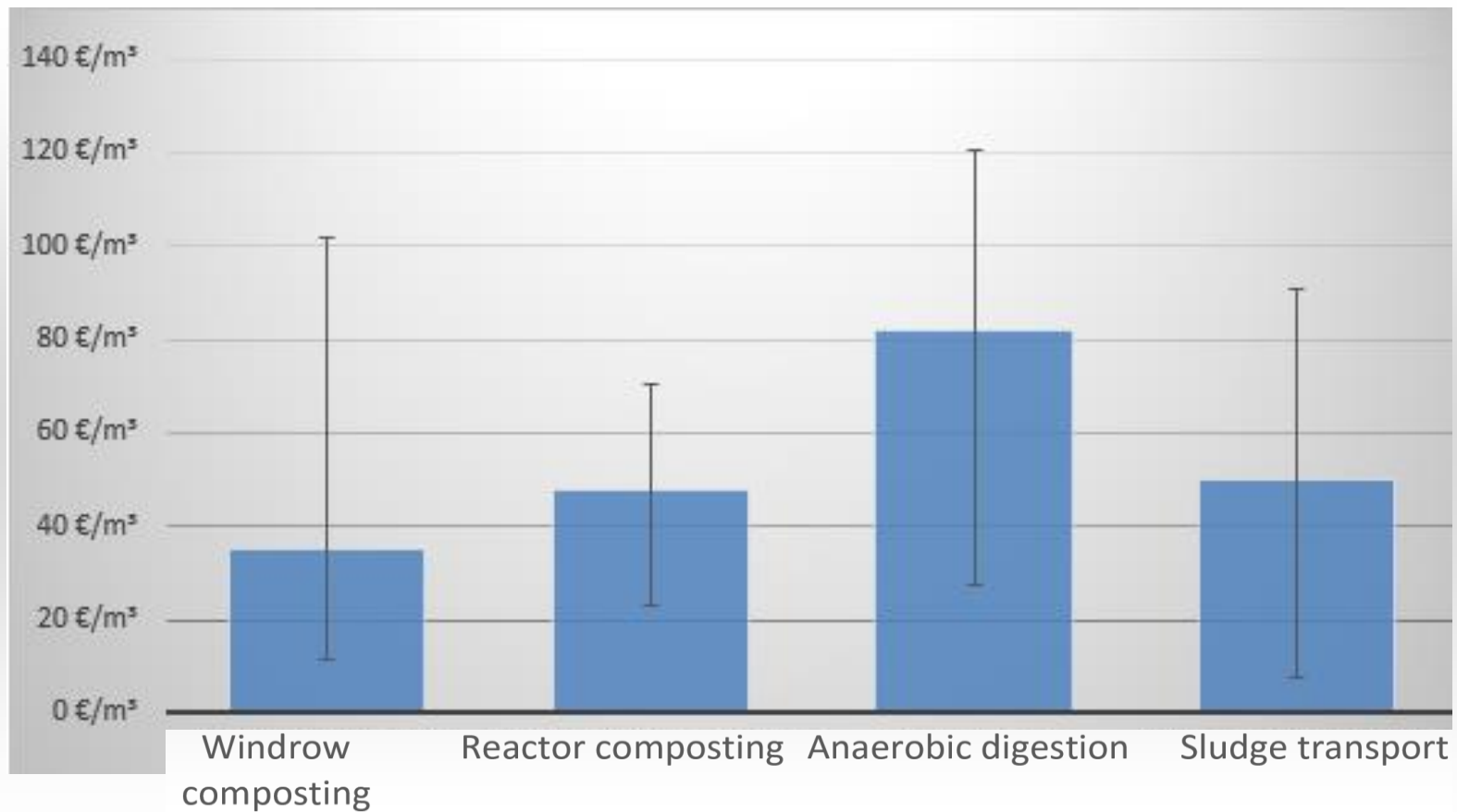
# Conclusion of 2015y sludge treatment status

Sludge treatment method



- Windrow composting
- Anaerobic digestion
- Reactor composting
- Transporting of the sludge

## Conclusion of 2015y sludge treatment



- Greenery
- Recultivation
- Forestry
- Agriculture
- Others

## Citations

- „Usage like this is completely forbidden in all over the world, it contains **bacteras** and **heavy metals**,„

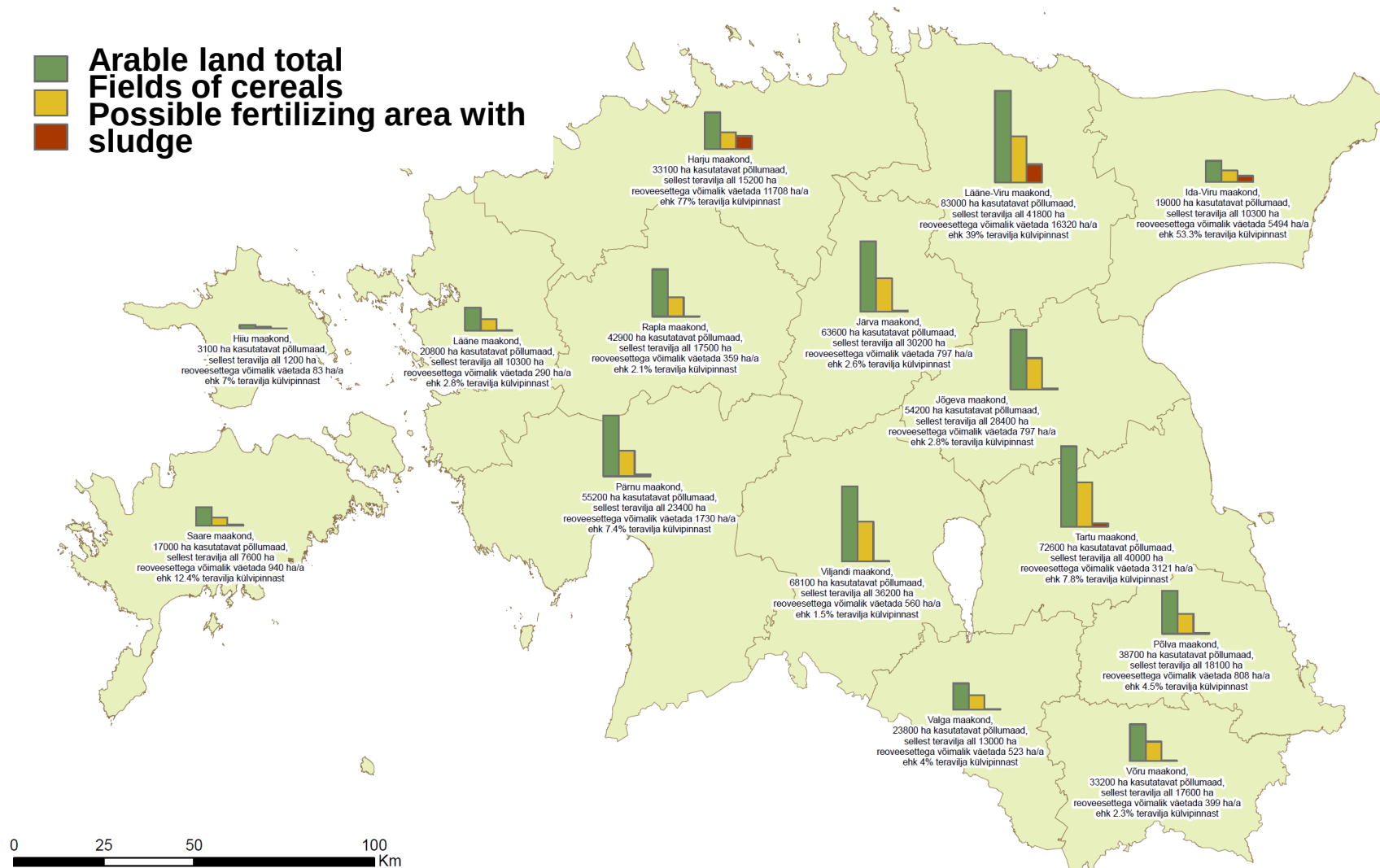
Media has large impact  
to possible users!



# Potential as fertilizer in agriculture

S

 **Arable land total**  
 **Fields of cereals**  
 **Possible fertilizing area with sludge**



Geoandmete töötus Geoweb OÜ  
[www.geoweb.ee](http://www.geoweb.ee) [geoweb@geoweb.ee](mailto:geoweb@geoweb.ee)

Maakondade piirid Maaamet 2016  
 Reoveepuhaustite andmed Aqua Consult Baltic OÜ 2015

# Sludge quality – what is the current quality?

- **Stabilisation**

- Content of organics



ESTONIAN SLUDGE  
LEGISLATION

- **Hygienisation**

- Content of pathogens



ESTONIAN SLUDGE  
LEGISLATION

- **Anthropogenic inorganic contaminants**

- Heavy metals (Cd, Hg, Ni, Zn, Cu, ...)



ESTONIAN SLUDGE  
LEGISLATION

- **Anthropogenic (toxic) non-biodegradable organics**

- Drugs, antibiotics, hormones, PCB, ...



NOT IN EVALUATION  
NO AVAILABLE DATA



## Heavy metals – Legislation EU / Estonia

### COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

of 12 June 1986

on the protection of the environment, and in particular of the soil, when sewage sludge is used in agriculture

(86/278/EEC)

- Limits for heavy metals in Estonian legislation are accordance with EC directive 86/278/EEC
- Limits apply for sludge usage in **agriculture, greenery and recultivation**

| Heavy metal |    | Limit      |
|-------------|----|------------|
|             |    | mg / kg TS |
| Cadmium     | Cd | 20         |
| Copper      | Cu | 1000       |
| Nickel      | Ni | 300        |
| Lead        | Pb | 750        |
| Zinc        | Zn | 2500       |
| Mercury     | Hg | 16         |
| Chromium    | Cr | 1000       |

## Heavy metals – levels in Estonia

- Study of Estonian wastewater sludge by Estonian Central Lab
- 8 wastewater treatment plants, total 80 sludge analyses
- Proportion of samples which are nonconforming with the respective limits



|                                                              | Cd,<br>mg/kg | Cr,<br>mg/kg | Cu,<br>mg/kg | Hg,<br>mg/kg | Ni,<br>mg/kg | Pb,<br>mg/kg | Zn,<br>mg/kg |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Limits in the Estonian legislation - 30.12.2002 nr 78</b> | <b>20</b>    | <b>1000</b>  | <b>1000</b>  | <b>16</b>    | <b>300</b>   | <b>750</b>   | <b>2500</b>  |
| - UNTREATED sludge - nonconforming analyses                  | 0%           | 2%           | 0%           | 0%           | 0%           | 0%           | 1%           |
| - TREATED sludge - nonconforming analyses                    | 0%           | 0%           | 0%           | 0%           | 0%           | 0%           | 0%           |

What about EOW?

# Sludge legislation - EU

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

of 12 June 1986

on the protection of the environment, and in particular of the soil, when sewage sludge is used in agriculture

(86/278/EEC)

## **WORKING DOCUMENT SLUDGE AND BIOWASTE 21 SEPTEMBER 2010, BRUSSELS**



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
ENVIRONMENT  
Directorate C - Industry  
**ENV.C.2 - Sustainable Production and Consumption**

This Working Document is intended as a basis for discussions with stakeholders. It does not necessarily represent the position of the Commission.



## Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices  
Copenhagen, Denmark, 20-21 November 2014

AGRI 1-2014

|                        |                                                             |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Document title</b>  | Drafting of HELCOM Recommendation on sewage sludge handling |
| <b>Code</b>            | 9-2                                                         |
| <b>Category</b>        | INF                                                         |
| <b>Agenda Item</b>     | 9 – Phosphorous recycling                                   |
| <b>Submission date</b> | 17.11.2014                                                  |
| <b>Submitted by</b>    | Sweden and Germany                                          |
| <b>Reference</b>       | 2013 Ministerial Declaration                                |

| Parameter                                                                  | Concentration (mg/ kg DS) | Concentration (mg/kg P)                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Cd                                                                         | <del>1</del> 5            | 40                                           |
| Cu                                                                         | 900                       | 21 400                                       |
| Ni                                                                         | <del>50</del> 80          | 1 400                                        |
| Pb                                                                         | <del>100</del> 150        | 1 600                                        |
| Zn                                                                         | <del>2 500</del> 5000     | 800                                          |
| Hg                                                                         | 1                         | 40                                           |
| Cr                                                                         | 300                       | 2 100                                        |
| <del>Ag</del>                                                              | <del>5</del>              | <del>180</del>                               |
| As                                                                         | <del>18</del> 40          | -                                            |
| <del>Al</del>                                                              | <del>1</del> 5            | -                                            |
| <del>U</del>                                                               | -                         | 50 mg Uran/ kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> |
| <del>B(a)P (Benzo(a)pyren)</del>                                           | <del>1</del>              | -                                            |
| <del>PCB (Polychlorinated Biphenyls)</del>                                 | <del>0</del> 1            | <del>2</del>                                 |
| PCDD/F (Polychlorinated Dibenzo-dioxins and Polychlorinated Dibenzofurans) | 30*                       | 700*                                         |

|                                                                                   |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
|  | ECN-QAS |
|                                                                                   | Summary |

Table 2: Precautionary requirements on the protection of environment and consumers

|                                                           | Parameter                            | Assessment        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Hygienic aspects                                          | Salmonellae                          | 0 in 25 g DM      |
| Undesired ingredients                                     | Impurities (glass, metals, plastics) | ≤ 0.5 % DM        |
|                                                           | Weed seeds                           | ≤ 2 per litre     |
| Harmful matter<br>Precautional limit values <sup>1)</sup> | Heavy metals                         | mg / kg DM        |
|                                                           | Lead (Pb)                            | 130               |
|                                                           | Cadmium (Cd)                         | 1.3               |
|                                                           | Chromium (Cr)                        | 60                |
|                                                           | Copper (Cu) <sup>2)</sup>            | 300 <sup>3)</sup> |
|                                                           | Nickel (Ni)                          | 40                |
|                                                           | Mercury (Hg)                         | 0.45              |
|                                                           | Zinc (Zn) <sup>2)</sup>              | 600 <sup>3)</sup> |

<sup>1)</sup> Amlinger, F. et al. 2004: Heavy metals and organic compounds in waste used as organic fertilisers.

<sup>2)</sup> Copper and zinc are classified as essential nutrients. Values over 110 mg Cu kg<sup>-1</sup> DM and over 400 mg Zn kg<sup>-1</sup> DM must be declared.

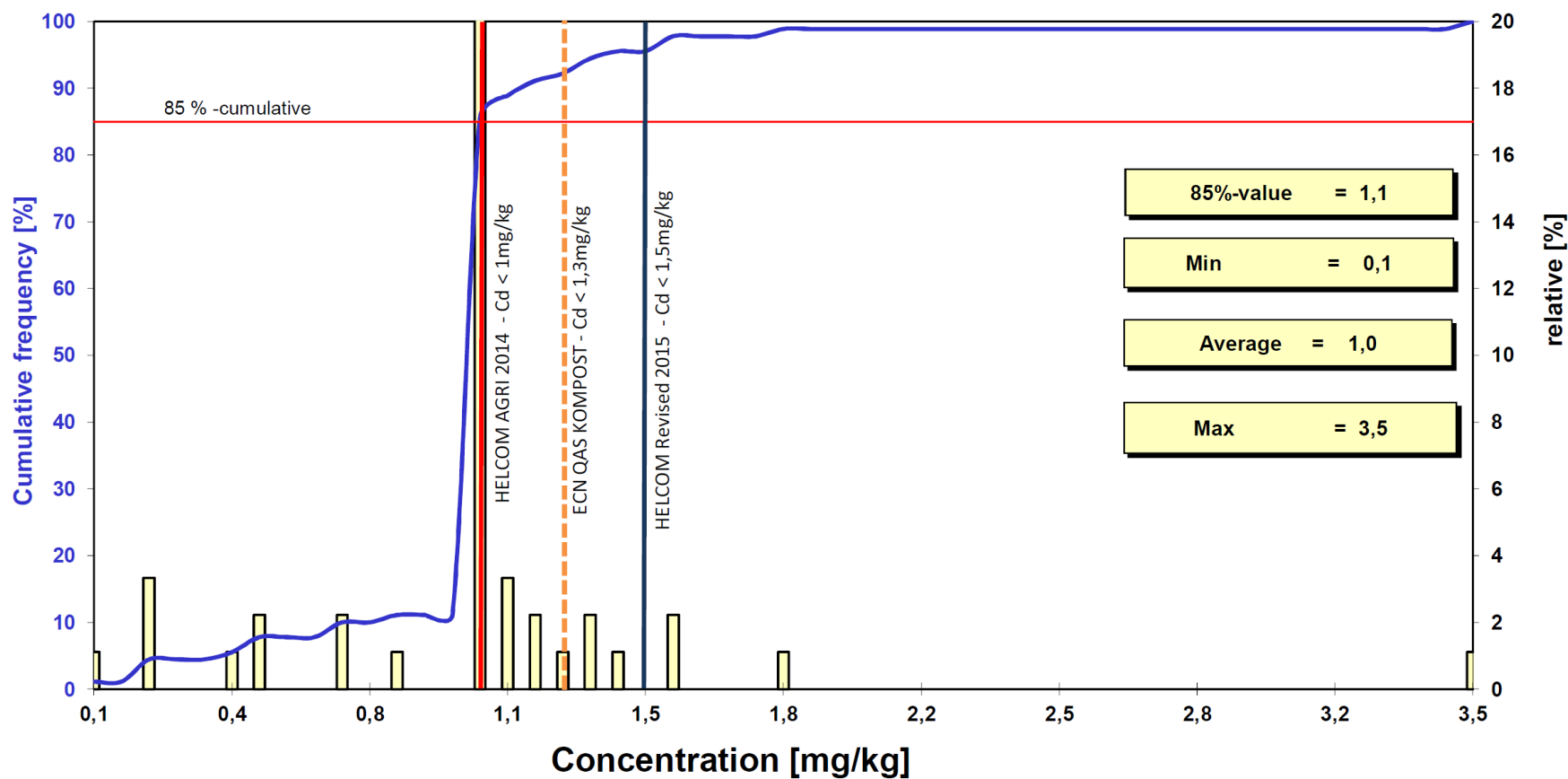
<sup>3)</sup> These values are classified as benchmarks.

Estonian EOW biowaste  
compost legislation  
13.04.2013

# Evaluation of data- example Cd

## Sludge study - Cd

Heavy metal content in Estonian treated sludge composts (n=90)



Source: KUK 2010; EMÜ 2015



## Heavy metals – Result in current EOW legislation

| Heavy metals  | Estonia<br>Sludge as<br>WASTE<br><br>[mg/kg TS] | <b>Estonia EOW</b><br><br>related to TS<br><br>[mg/kg TS] | ECN-<br>QAS<br><br>[mg/kg<br>TS] | HELCOM<br><br>[mg/kg TS] | <b>Estonia<br/>EOW</b><br><br>Related to P<br><br>[g/kg P] |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mercury (Hg)  | 16                                              | <b>1</b>                                                  | 0,45                             | <del>4</del> 1,5         | <b>0.1</b>                                                 |
| Cadmium (Cd)  | 20                                              | <b>2</b>                                                  | 1,3                              | 1                        | <b>0.15</b>                                                |
| Lead (Pb)     | 750                                             | <b>130</b>                                                | 130                              | <del>400</del> 150       | <b>7.5</b>                                                 |
| Zinc (Zn)     | 2 500                                           | <b>2500</b>                                               | 600                              | <del>2500</del> 5000     | <b>125</b>                                                 |
| Nickel (Ni)   | 300                                             | <b>40</b>                                                 | 40                               | <del>50</del> 80         | <b>4</b>                                                   |
| Chromium (Cr) | 1 000                                           | <b>60</b>                                                 | 60                               | 300                      | <b>15</b>                                                  |
| Copper (Cu)   | 1 000                                           | <b>200</b>                                                | 200                              | 900                      | <b>45</b>                                                  |

| Limits in soil             |                              |                             |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| good<br>condition<br>mg/kg | residential<br>land<br>mg/kg | Industrial<br>area<br>mg/kg |
| 0,5                        | 2                            | 10                          |
| 1                          | 5                            | 20                          |
| 50                         | 300                          | 600                         |
| 200                        | 500                          | 1000                        |
| 50                         | 150                          | 500                         |
| 100                        | 300                          | 800                         |
| 100                        | 150                          | 500                         |

# Sludge quality at EOW criteria

- **Stabilisation**

- Content of organics

← SPECIFIED

- **Hygienisation**

- Content of pathogens

← SPECIFIED

- **Anthropogenic inorganic contaminants**

- Heavy metals (Cd, Hg, Ni, Zn, Cu, ...)

← SPECIFIED

- **Physical residues**

- Particles , garbage , unwanted seeds etc...

← SPECIFIED

- **Anthropogenic (toxic) non-biodegradable organics**

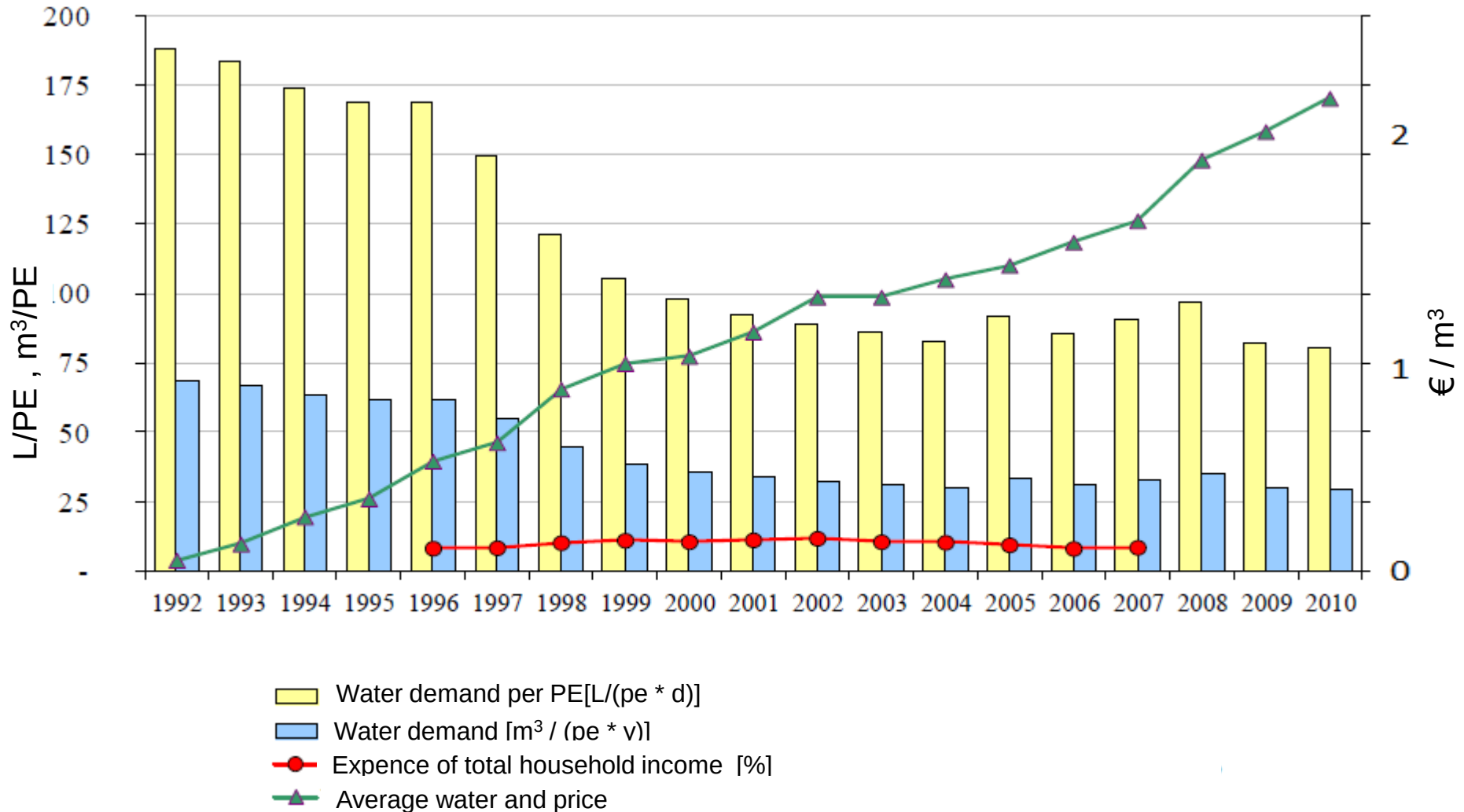
- Drugs, antibiotics, hormones, PCB, ...

.....

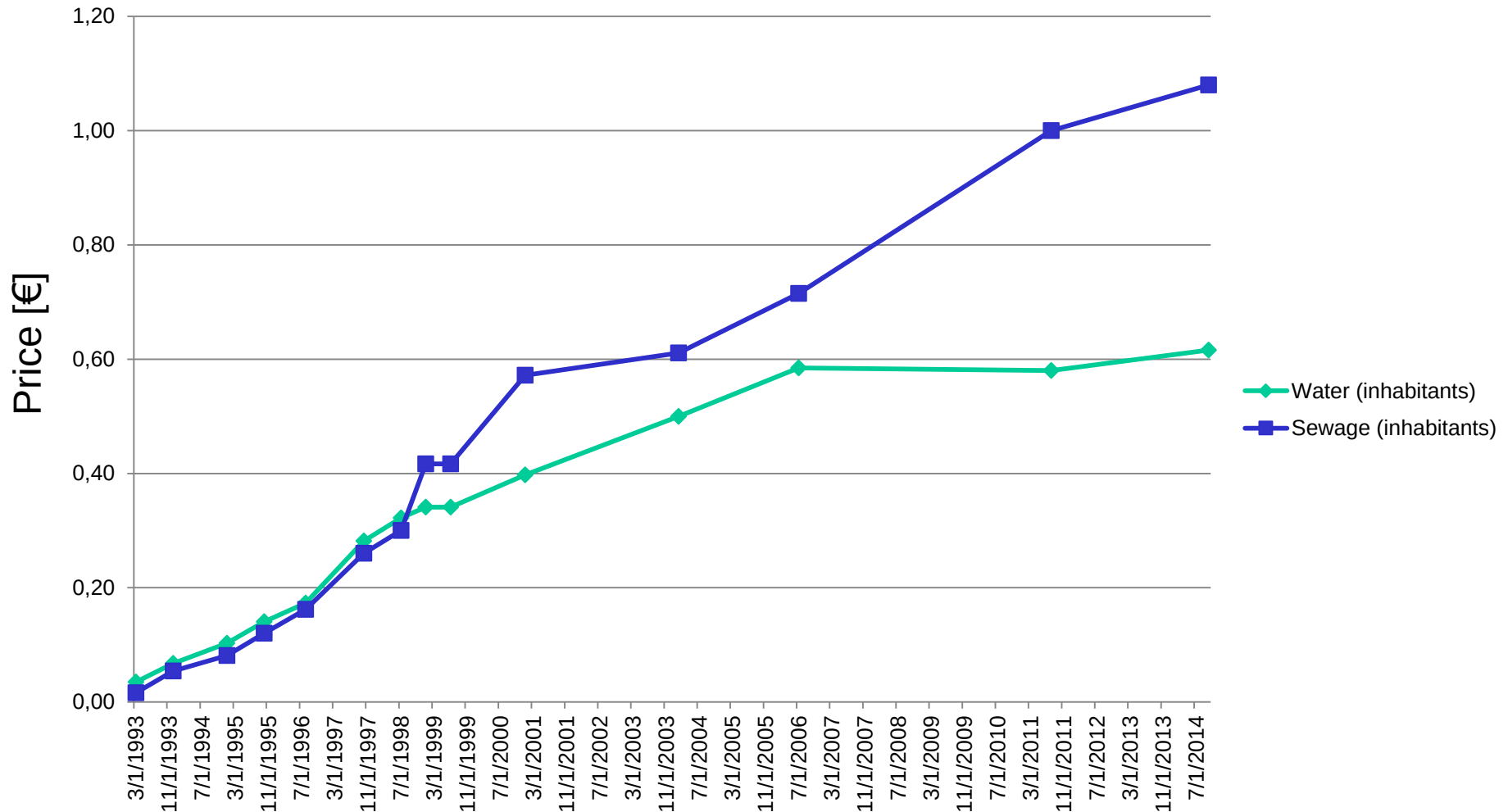
**RISK**

← NOT IN EVALUATION  
NO AVAILABLE DATA

# Feasibility-influence of household income

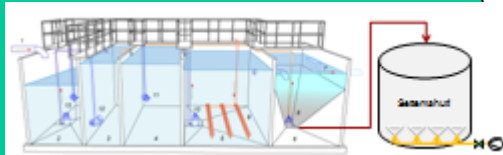


# Water price development in Tartu

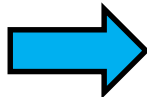


# Alternatives of feasibility (for final use):

## A and A+B



Local dewatering and  
transport to larger plant



Reactor composting



Windrow composting



Anaerobic digestion

**A- Sludge  
treatment centres  
for complete  
Estonia**

**A+B- Achieving  
EOW criteria**

# Alternatives of feasibility (for final use):

## C and D

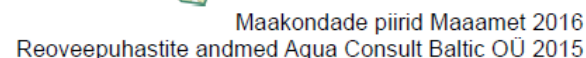


Incineration

**C- One incineration  
centre**

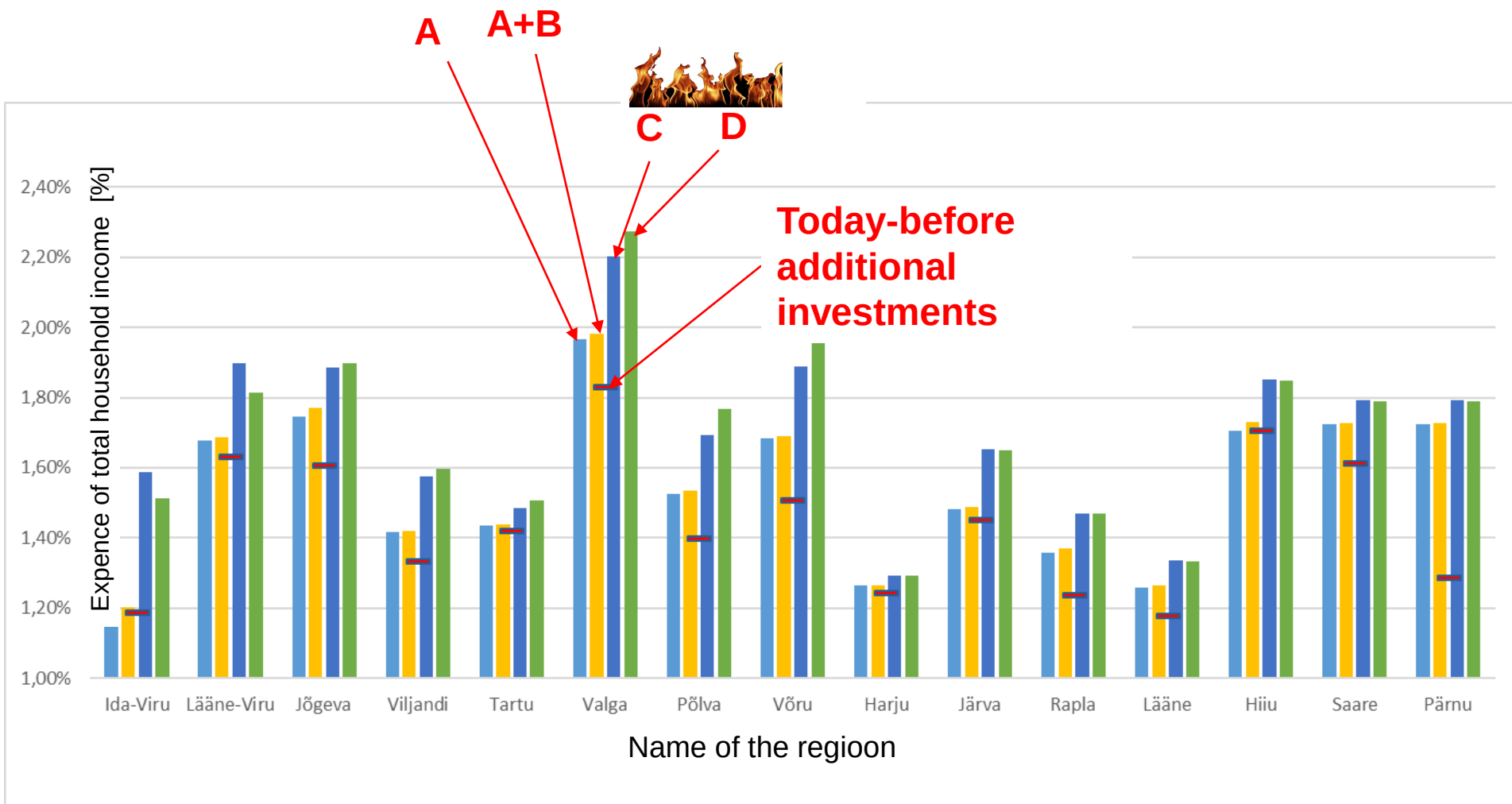
**D- Three  
incineration  
centres**

3 pc





# Conclusion of Feasibility



## Fate of Sludge

### FERTILIZER

- N, P, K, Mg, ..
- Organic fertilizer
- Cheap

### LEGISLATION

### WASTE

- Organics
- Pathogens
- Heavy metals
- Drugs, hormones

„Quality sludge“  
EOW criteria

Hazardous sludge  
Incineration

# Conclusion

- Sludge is used as waste according to Directive 86/278/EEC
- EoW Legalisation
  - Biowaste compost 2013 (based on ECN)
  - Biowaste digestate 2016
  - Sewage sludge 31.07.2017
- Certification center
  - Biowaste compost 17.02.2016
  - Sewage sludge 31.07.2017



Thank you for your attention

Vallo Lemmiksoo

[vallo@aquacconsult.ee](mailto:vallo@aquacconsult.ee)  
[www.aquacconsult.ee](http://www.aquacconsult.ee)

