

# **Analysis of mesophilic and thermophilic anaerobic digestion of pressed biowaste and mesophilic co-digestion with waste activated sludge**

Micolucci F., Gottardo, Bolzonella D., Pavan P., Cecchi F.

*University of Verona  
University of Venice*



# AD of biowaste is a well established and still growing technology

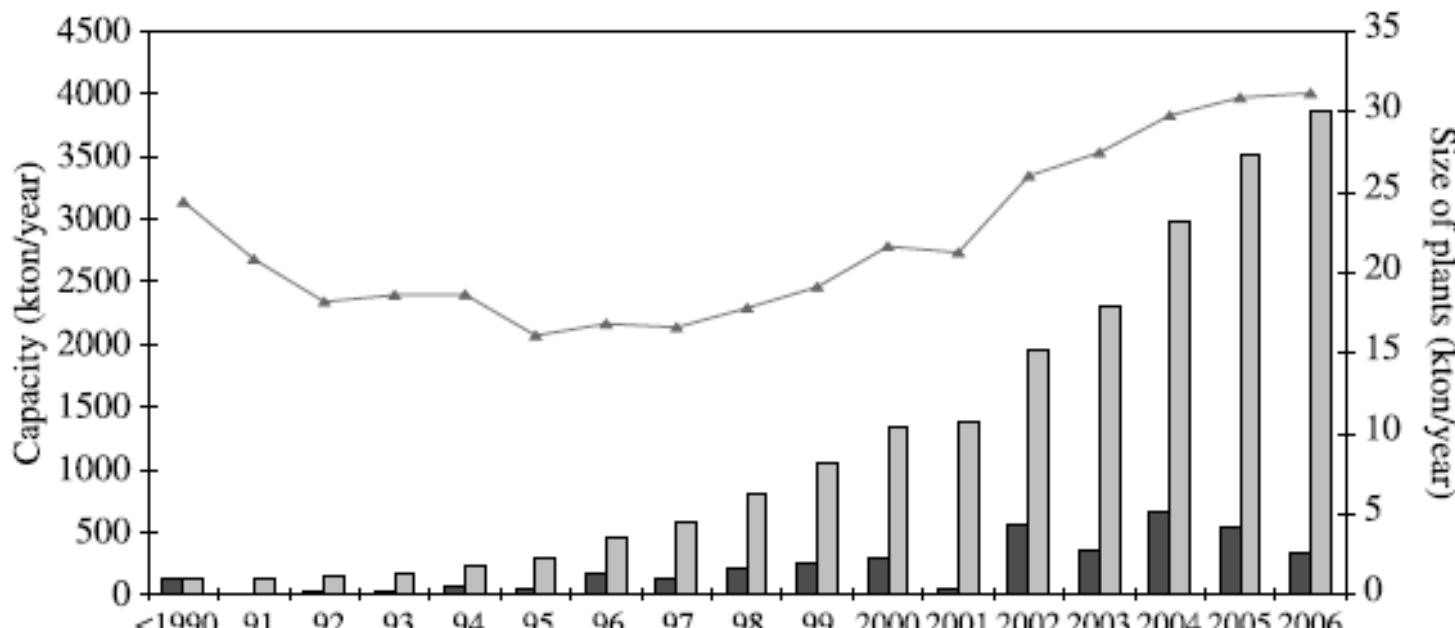
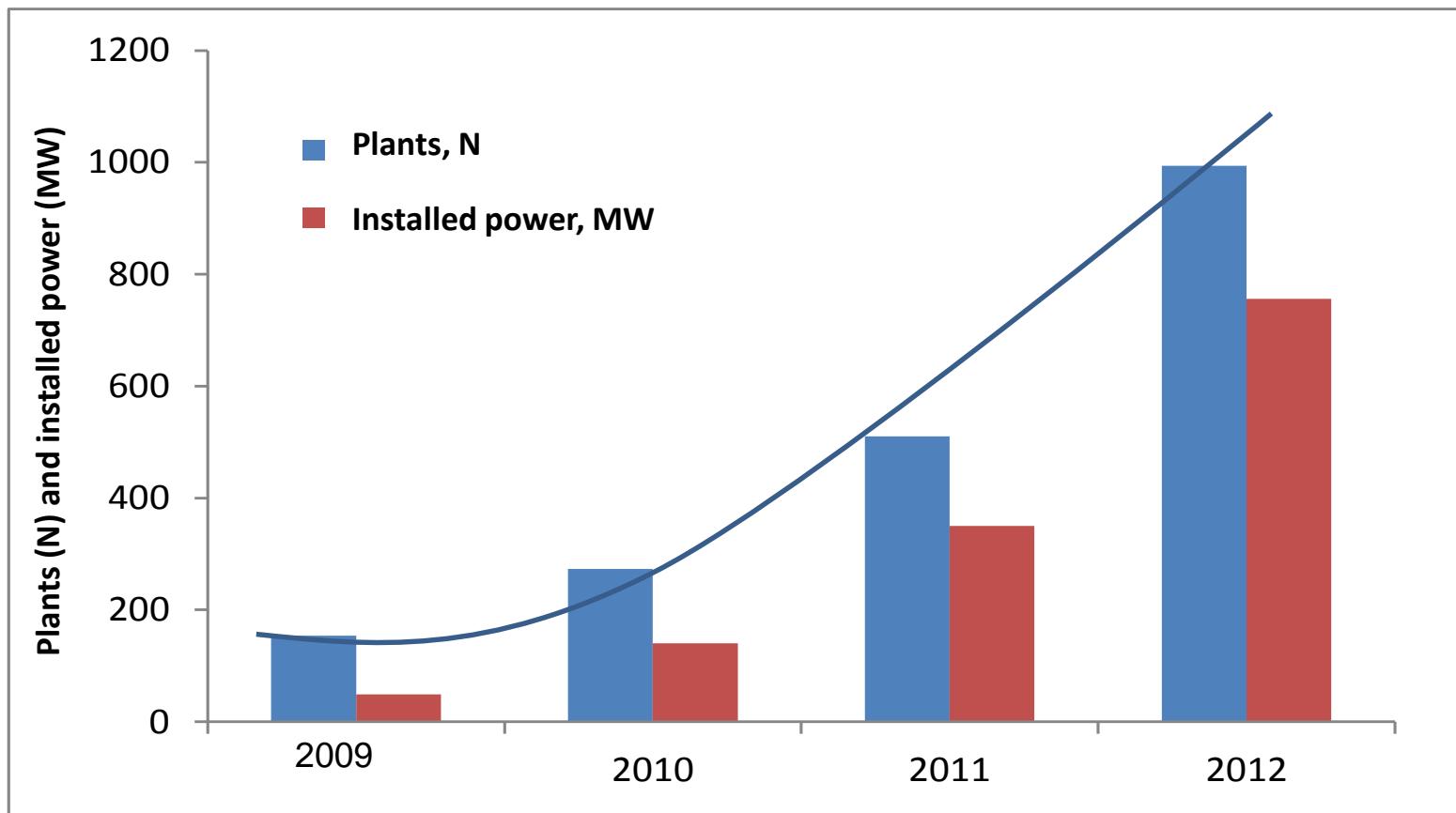


Figure 1 annual ■, cumulative □, and cumulative average installed capacity ◆-



De Baere, WST, 2006

**1000 plants in 2012, 3,5 billions Euros investments, 800 MW installed,  
7,000 GWh/year produced (electric)**



**Efficient separate collection is the key for AD success !!**

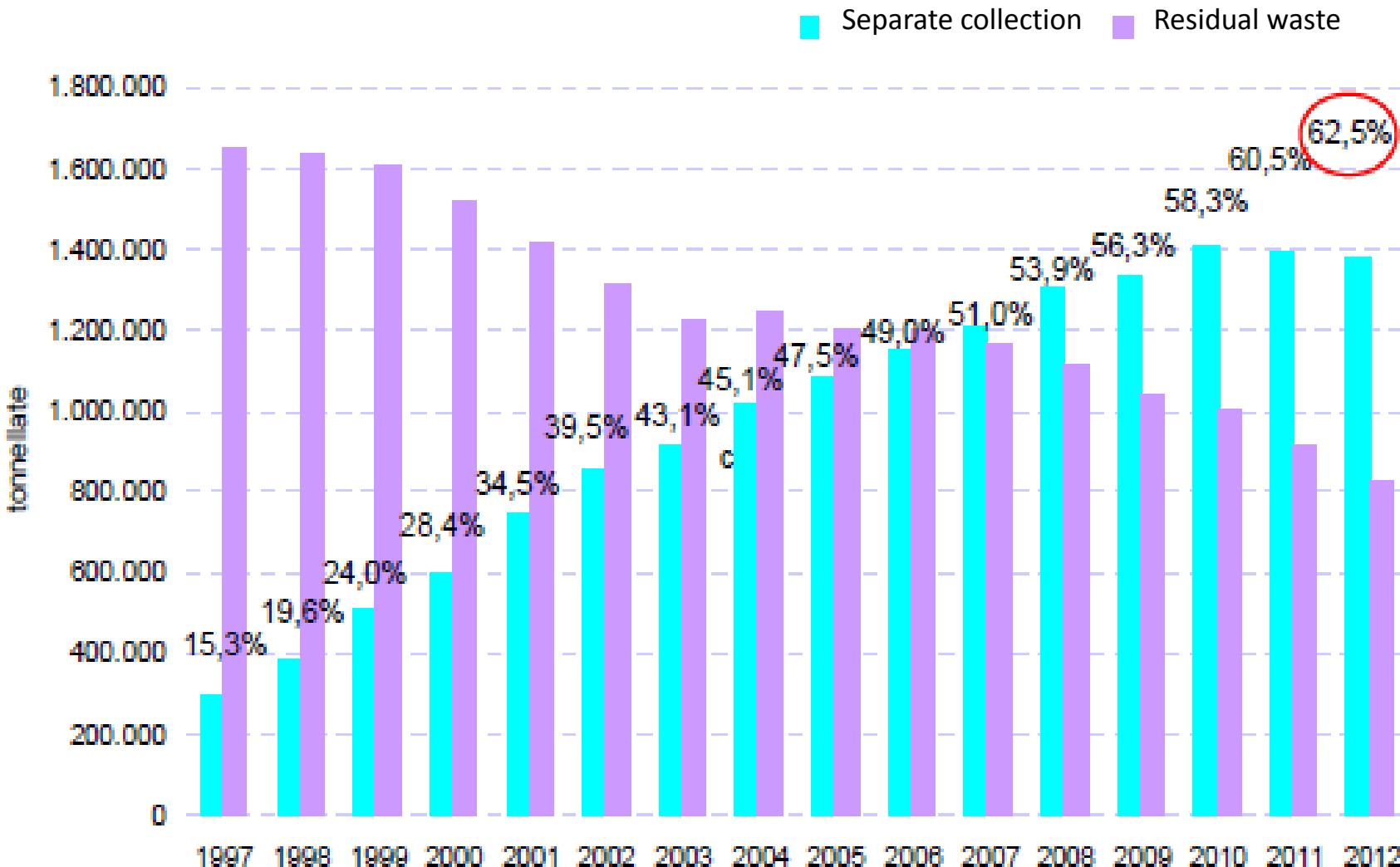




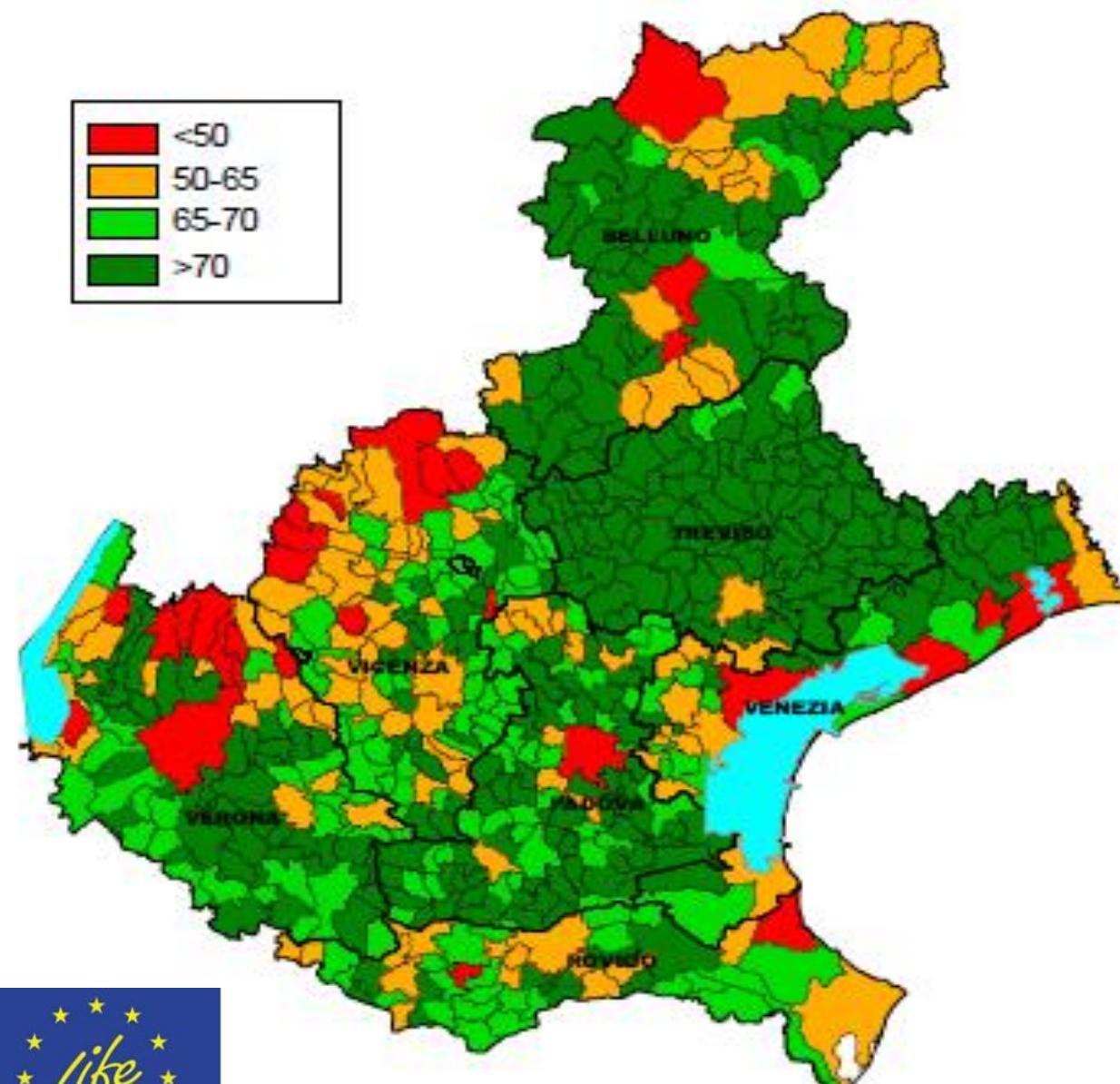
## Case study the Veneto Region

- **7 Provinces**
- **5,0 milion people**
- **2,213,653 tons municipal waste**
- **63% separate collection (on avg.)**
- **647,000 tons organic**
- **284,000 tons paper**
- **191,000 tons glass**
- **98,000 tons plastic**





Successful in areas with a “low population density” ... less impressive in the cities ...



## Collection schemes: street bins for biowaste, glass, paper, plastic ...

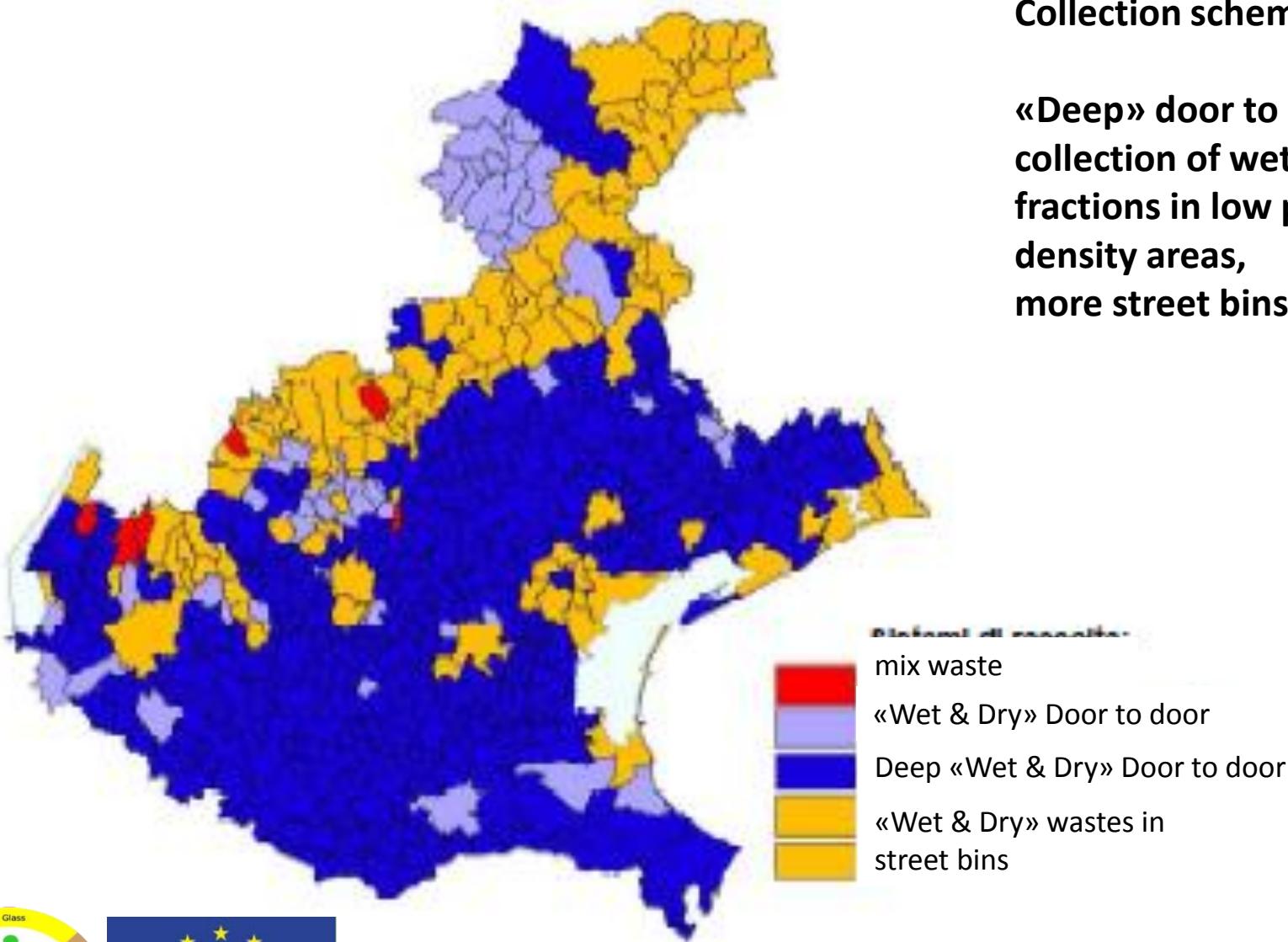


**Door to door collection in small caddies.  
Bio-polymer or paper bags are used for biowaste**



## Collection schemes:

**«Deep» door to door collection of wet and dry fractions in low population density areas,  
more street bins in the cities**





**143 € per inhabitant per year  
(290 € per ton of waste)**

**60 € per inh per year for mixed waste  
(collection+transport+disposal)**

**30 € per inh per year for separate waste streams  
(collection+transport+treatment)**

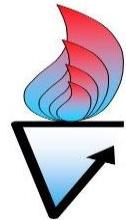
**12 € per inh per year for street cleaning**

**35 € per inh per year for management/admin**

**6 € per inh per year for capital cost (amortisation)**



# Changing biowaste characteristics changes the paradigm in plants pre-treatments configuration .....



Courtesy of Michael Chesshire



Passing from “complicated” pre-treatment lines .....



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Figure 2: Waste separation using a trommel screen



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Figure 2: Waste separation using a trommel screen



## Passing from “complicated” pre-treatment lines .....



..... to simplified systems ....





..... to simplified systems ....







**Solid stream**



**Liquid stream**



According to this scenario In the TINOS LIFE+ ENVIRONMENT PROJECT LIFE 10/ENV/GR/000610 we decided to treat the separately collected organic waste in a press and to anaerobically digest the liquid stream ... .



**ISWM-TINOS**

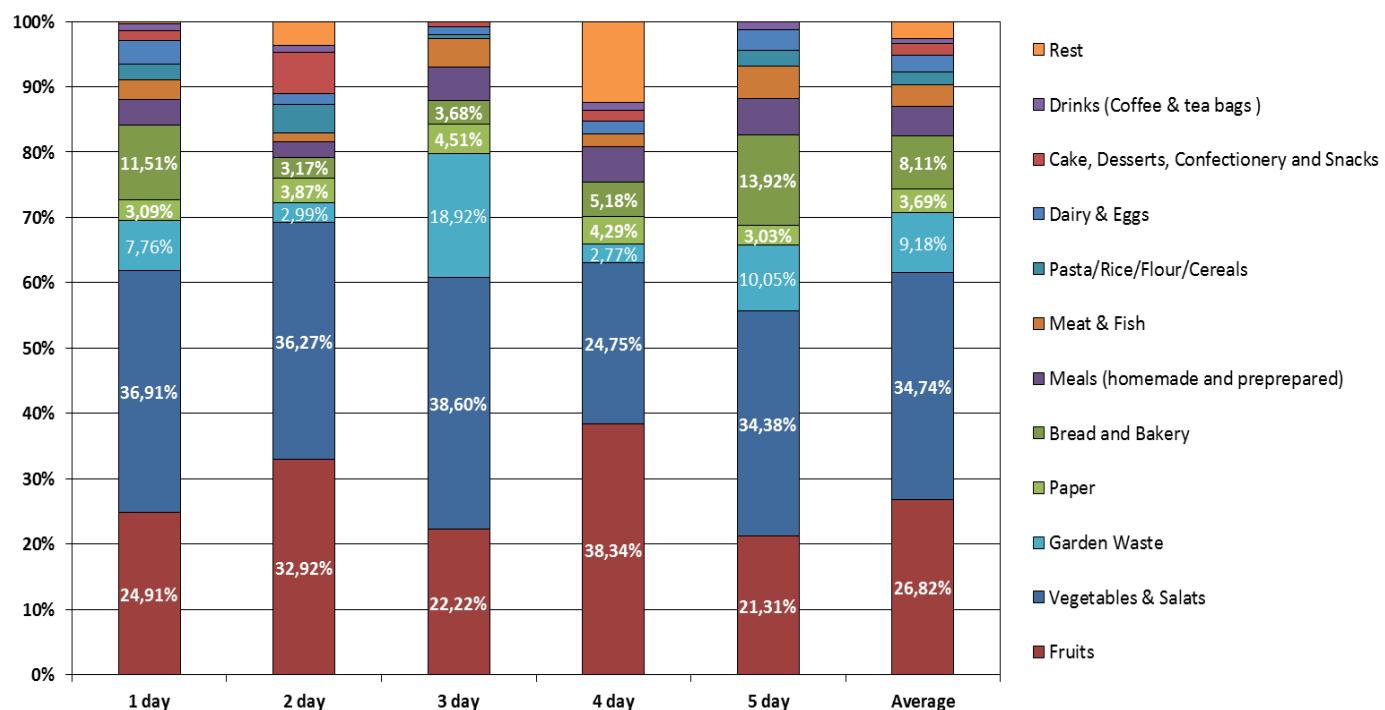
LIFE10 ENV/GR/000610



Panormos  
(or Pyrgos  
Village)



## Tinos Biowaste composition analysis



Source Collected  
biowaste



Liquid stream  
to meso-  
thermo  
AD

Solid

Shredding

Press

Liquid stream  
to  
meso/thermo  
AD



Digestate to  
Post-treatment





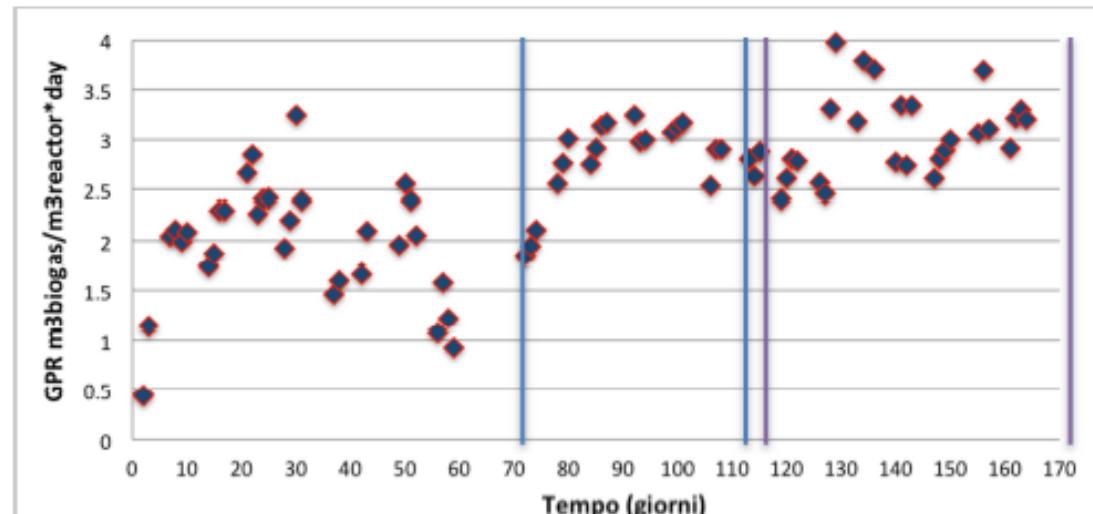
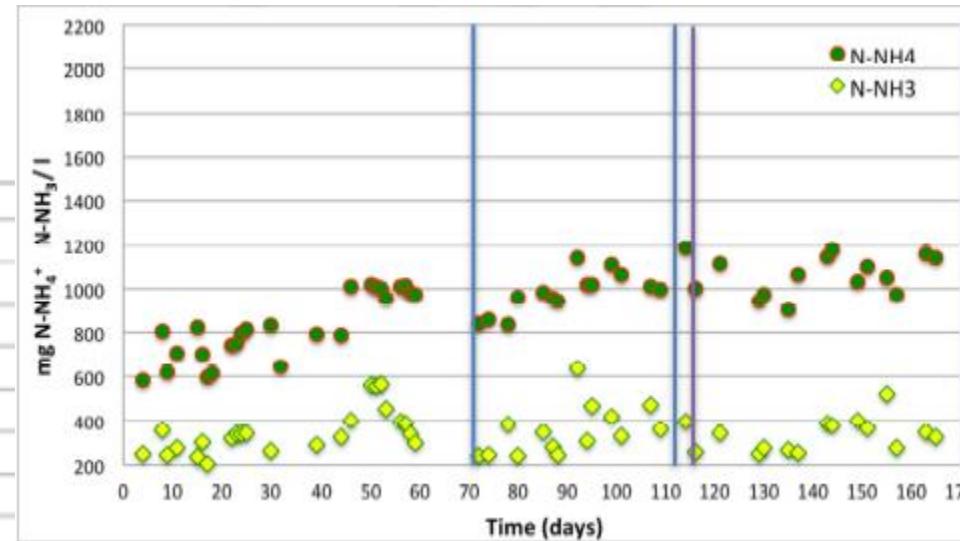
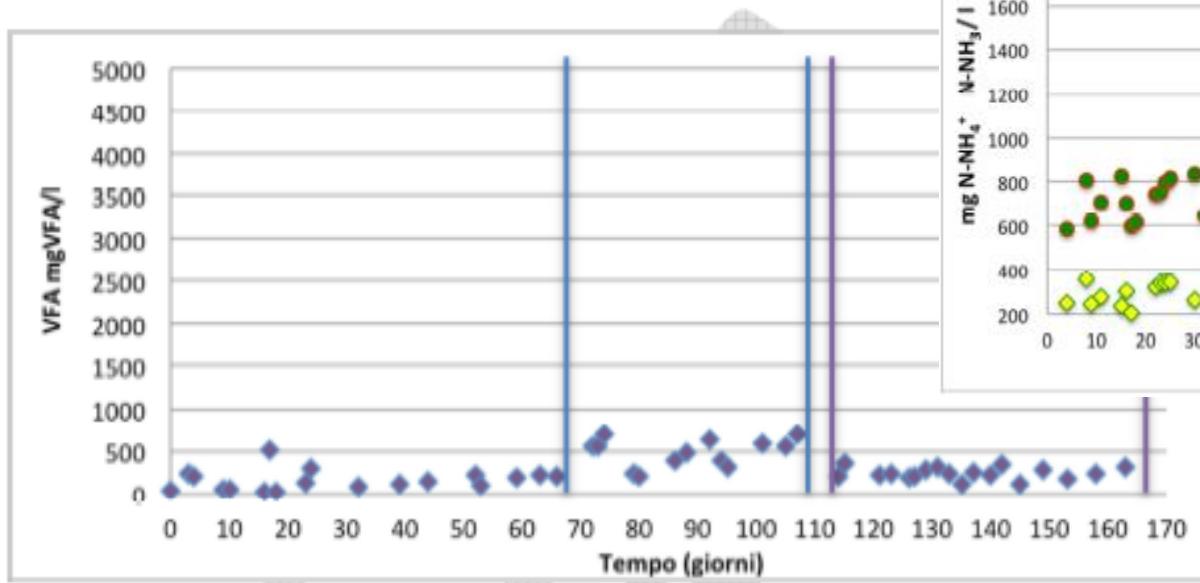
	Mesophilic	Thermophilic
Temperature, °C	37	55
OLR, kgVS/m3d	3,5 up to 4,5	3,5 up to 4,5
HRT, d	20	20
<i>Yields</i>		
SGP, m3/kgVS	0,64 up to 0,82 (0,76)	0,78 up to 0,94 (0,85)
GPR, m3/m3d	2,2 up to 3,6 (3,1)	2,7 up to 4,2 (3,4)
GP, m3/ton biowaste	160	180
CH4, %	66	66
VS removal, %	80	90



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# Stable process, also in thermophilic conditions !



## Digestate quality and EoW – heavy metals

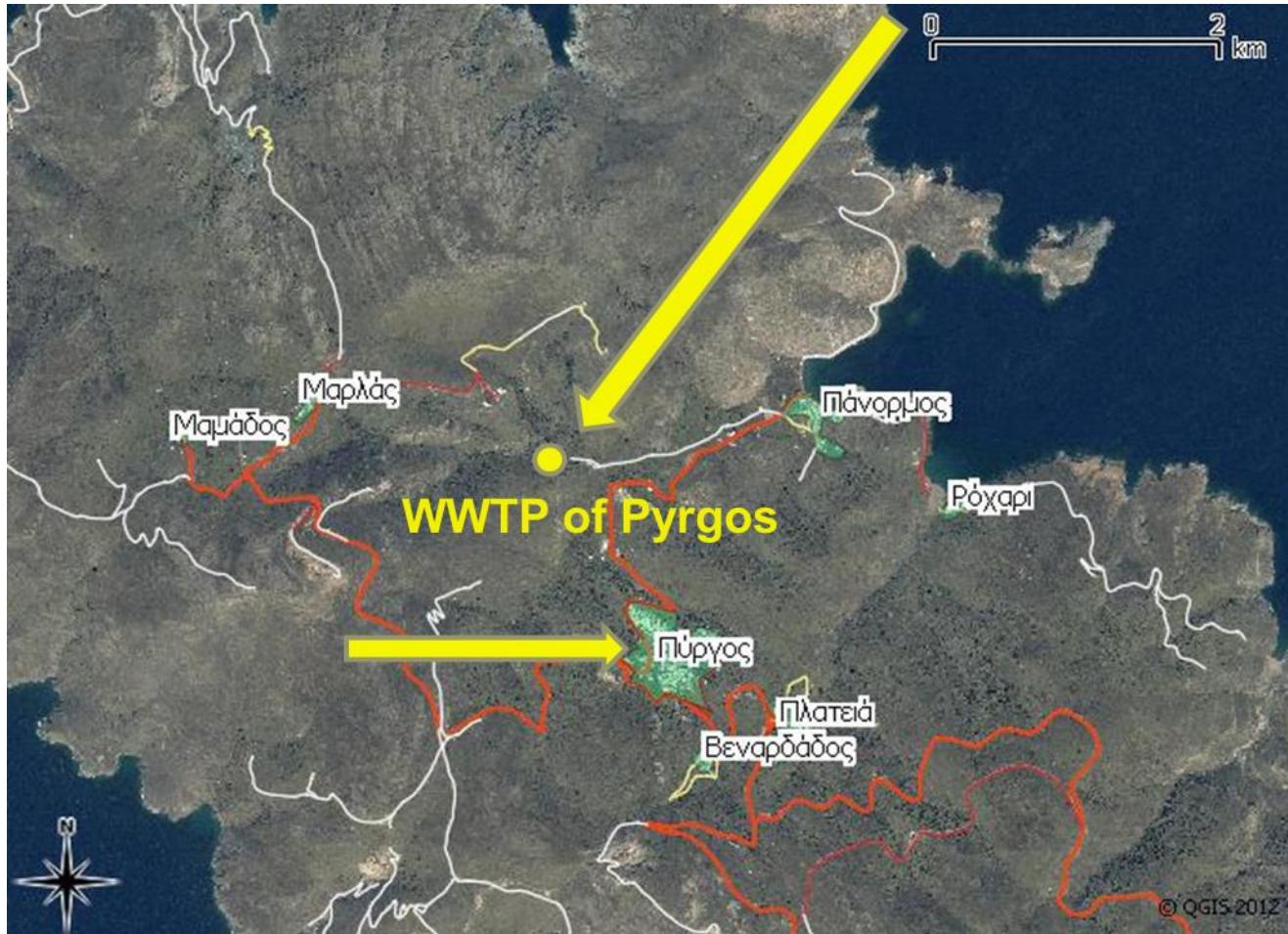
	Italian DLgs. 75 – 2010	EoW 2014	Biowaste	Meso digestate	Thermo digestate
Cu mg/kg s.s.	150	200	47	68.1	52.5
Zn mg/kg s.s.	500	600	112	155	129
Pb mg/kg s.s.	140	120	1.54	17.3	7.81
Ni mg/kg s.s.	100	50	43.7	42.1	27
Cr <sub>tot</sub> mg/kg s.s.	-	100	61.5	85.9	51.5
Cd mg/kg s.s.	1.5	1.5	0.4	0.23	0.26
Hg mg/kg s.s.	1.5	1	0.055	0.24	0.08
As mg/kg s.s.	5	10	0.24	0.25	0.19



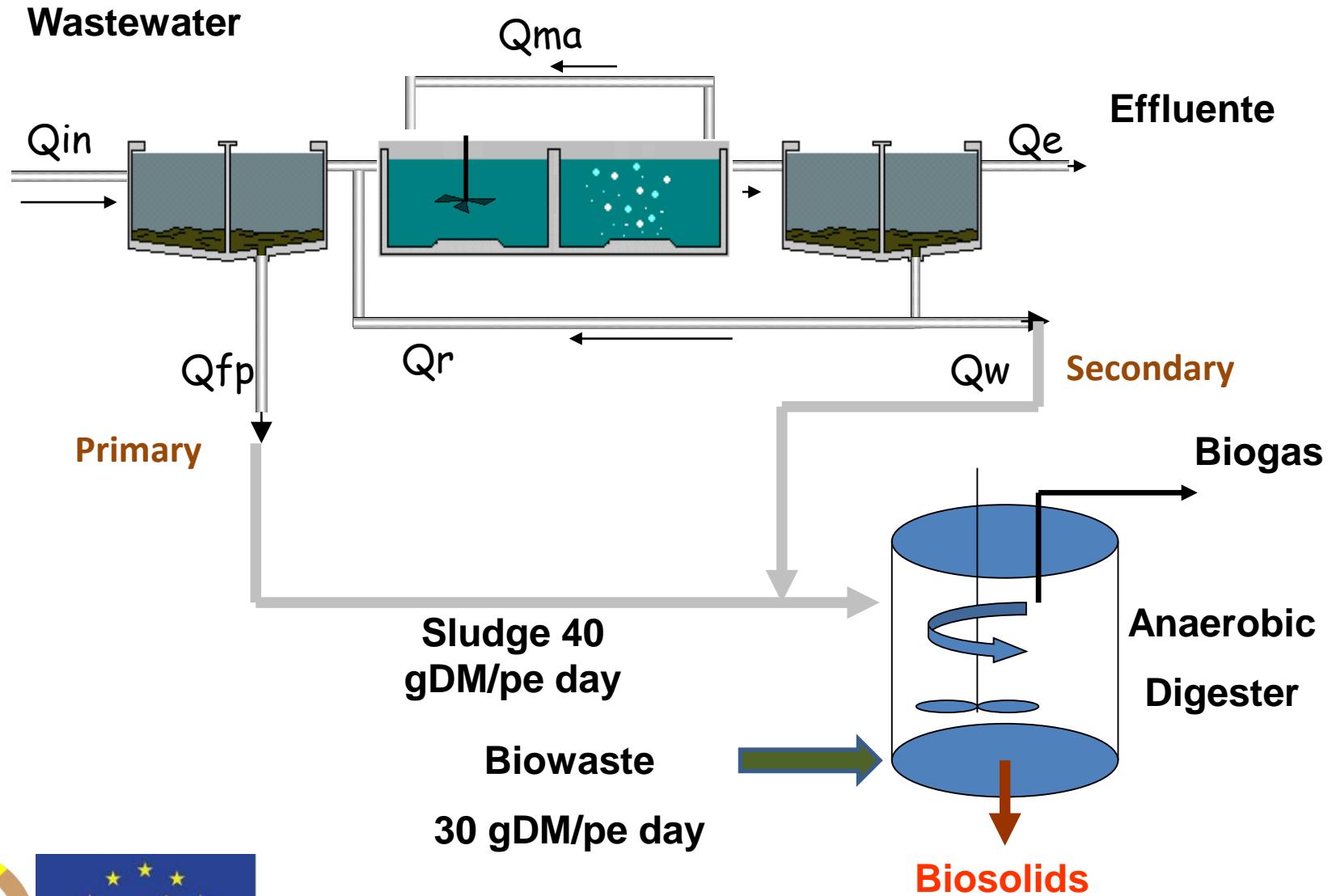
## Digestate quality and EoW – pathogens

	<b>Escherichia coli</b>	<b>Total Coliphorms</b>	<b>Salmonella spp</b>
<b>Biowaste</b>	$4 \cdot 10^4 - 7 \cdot 10^5$ UFC/g	$6 \cdot 10^5 - 1 \cdot 10^6$ UFC/g	Absent in 25 g
<b>Meso digestate</b>	$2-3 \cdot 10^3$ UFC/g	$2-3 \cdot 10^3$ UFC/g	Absent in 25 g
<b>Thermo digestate</b>	$1-4 \cdot 10^3$ UFC/g	$10^3 - 10^4$ UFC/g	Absent in 25 g
<b>EoW 2014</b>	1000 UFC/g	---	Absent in 25 g

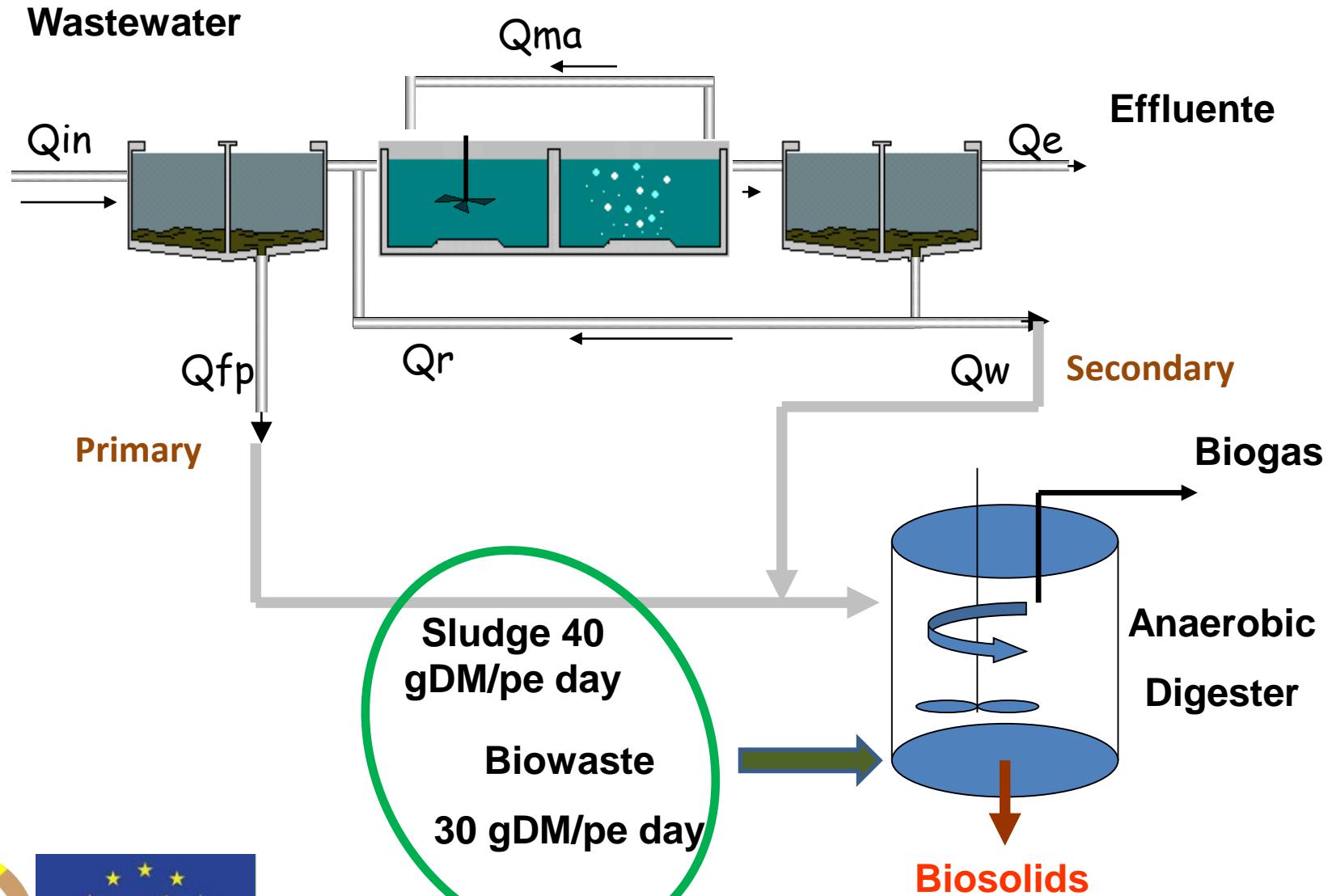




# Co-digestion of biowaste and sludge



# Co-digestion of biowaste and sludge



	Mesophilic	Thermophilic
Temperature, °C	37	55
OLR, kgVS/m <sup>3</sup> d (60/40 sludge/biomass)	1,7	1,7
HRT, d	20	20
<b><i>Yields</i></b>		
SGP, m <sup>3</sup> /kgVS	0,56	0,63
GPR, m <sup>3</sup> /m <sup>3</sup> d	0,9	1,0
CH <sub>4</sub> , %	66	66
VS removal, %	50	55



	Mesophilic	Thermophilic
Temperature, °C	37	55
OLR, kgVS/m <sup>3</sup> d (60/40 sludge/biomass)	1,7	1,7
HRT, d	20	20
<b><i>Yields</i></b>		
SGP, m <sup>3</sup> /kgVS	0,56	0,63
GPR, m <sup>3</sup> /m <sup>3</sup> d	0,9	1,0
CH <sub>4</sub> , %	66	66
VS removal, %	50	55



## Digestate quality and EoW – heavy metals

	EoW 2014	Biowaste	Sludge	Meso co- digestion	Thermo co-digestion
Cu mg/kgs.s.	200	47	249	138	106
Zn mg/kgs.s.	600	112	1015	452	352
Pb mg/kgs.s.	120	1.54	39	0.2	0.1
Ni mg/kgs.s.	50	43.7	30	17.4	23.5
Crtot mg/kg s.s.	100	61.5	40	34.8	29.4
Cd mg/kgs.s.	1.5	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1
Hg mg/kgs.s.	1	0.055	0.2	0.1	0.1
As mg/kgs.s.	10	0.24	9	0.2	0.1



	<b>Escherichia coli</b>	<b>Coliformi Totali</b>	<b>Salmonella spp</b>
<b>Biowaste</b>	$7 \times 10^5$ UFC/g	$6 \times 10^5$ UFC/g	Absent in 25 g
<b>Sludge (WAS)</b>	$1 \times 10^4$ UFC/g	$3 \times 10^6$ UFC/g	Absent in 25 g
<b>Thermo co-digestate</b>	$3 \times 10^3$ UFC/g	$1 \times 10^3$ UFC/g	Absent in 25 g
<b>Meso-co-digestate</b>	$3 \times 10^3$ UFC/g	$2 \times 10^4$ UFC/g	Absent in 25 g
<b>EoW 2014</b>	$1 \times 10^3$ UFC/g	---	Absent in 25 g



## Conclusions – take home messages

- ✓ separate collection is a pre-requisite to have waste streams of good quality for further treatment .... Treating low quality streams will result in low yields and poor by-products (no market)
- ✓ it can be implemented at reasonable costs
- ✓ anaerobic digestion of biowaste from a door to door collection scheme is highly effective both in terms of energy recovery and final digestate quality

