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# A novel green method for heavy metals stabilization process based on sewage sludge ash recovery

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**Sediment, diffuse pollution and SDG session 8**

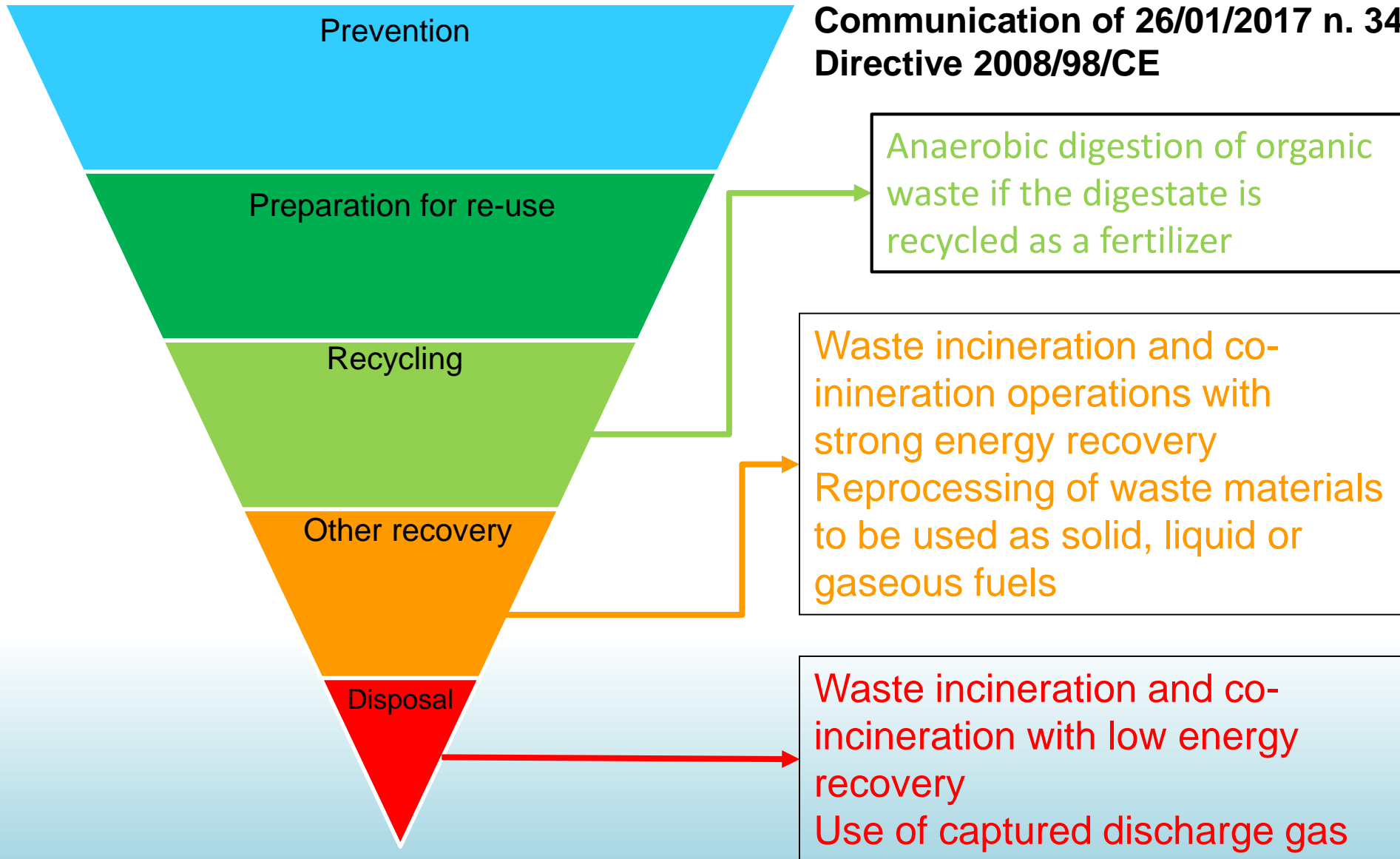
19, September 2019

RemTech Expo 2019 (18, 19, 20 September) Ferrara Fiere

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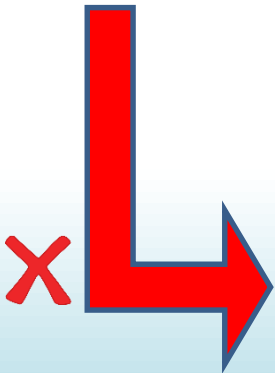
# Waste to energy

**Communication of 26/01/2017 n. 34  
Directive 2008/98/CE**

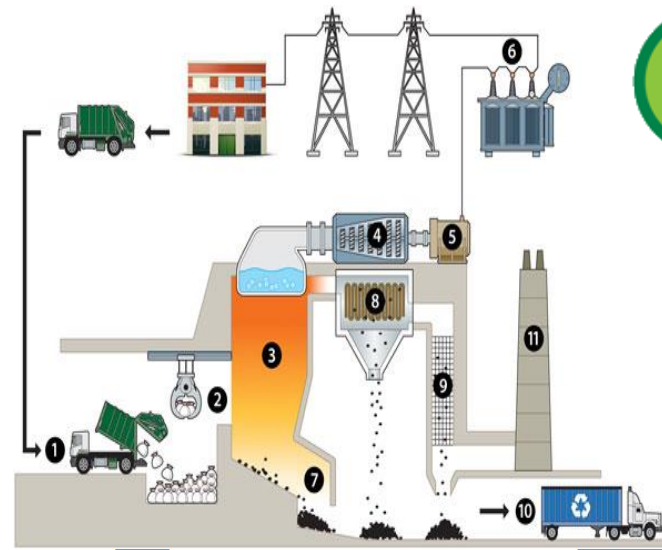


# Recovery and waste disposal

Wrong solution: Waste dumps !!!



Right and sustainable solution: Incineration plants !!!



Ashes

- Fly ash 1-3% (FA);
- Bottom ash 25-30 % (BA).



# What about Fly Ash (FA)



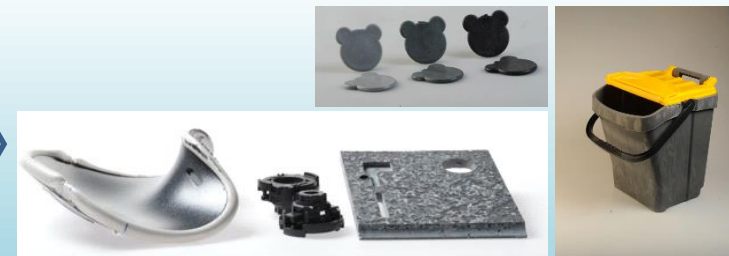
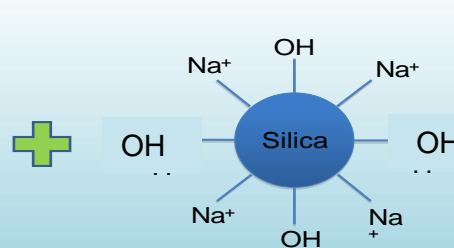
**Volatile metals:** Zn, Ni, Cu, As, Hg, Cr, Pb and Cd



**X** Waste dump



✓ Re-use of the ashes produced by incineration after the stabilization of heavy metals

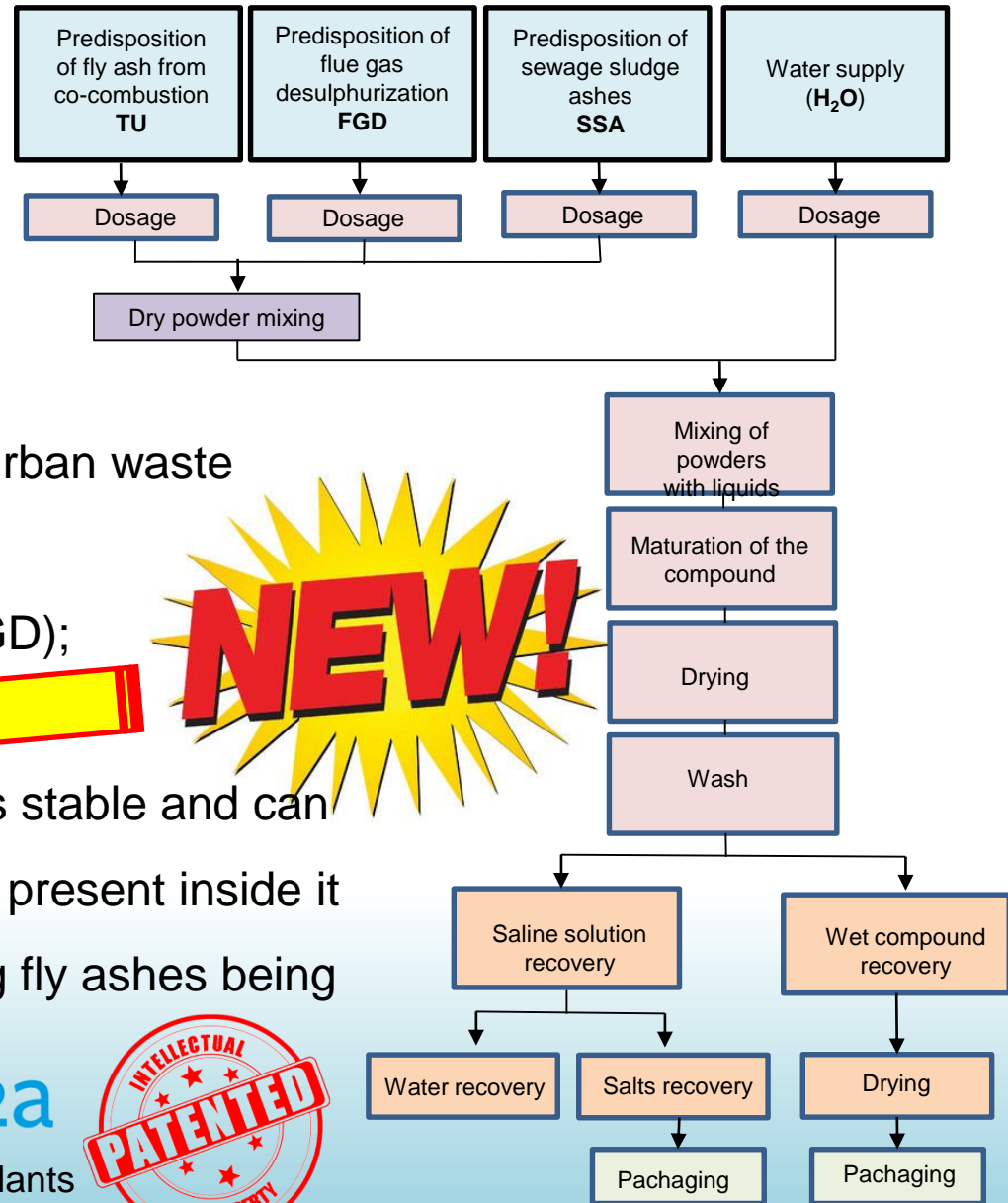


# Fly ash stabilisation process

The process is based on chemical reactions that occur by mixing with and without temperature in appropriate doses of:

- Fly ash from incineration of solid urban waste (MSWI);
- Flue gas desulphurization ash (FGD);
- **Sewage sludge ashes**

The material obtained once solidified is stable and can be washed to remove the soluble salts present inside it without the heavy metals in the starting fly ashes being leached.



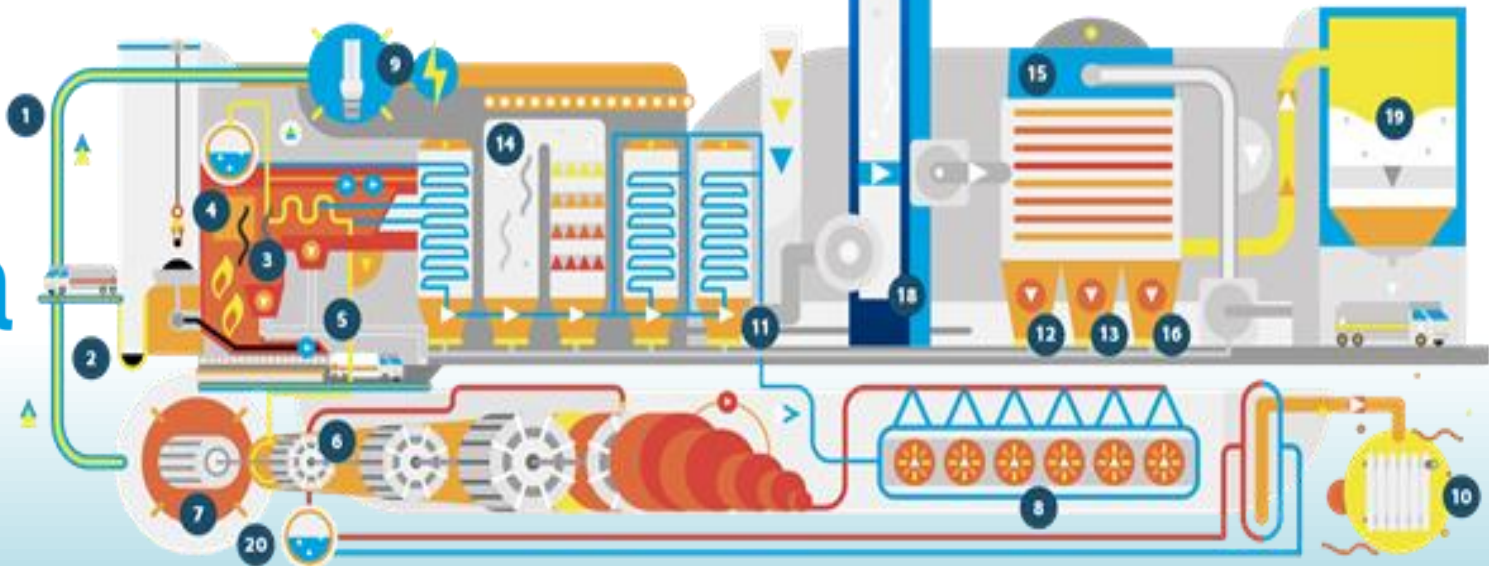
National company that operates incineration plants



# Incineration plant of Brescia

1. Control and conferment
2. Waste tank
3. Combustion chamber
4. Boiler
5. Bottom ash discharge
6. Steam turbine
7. Electricity generator
8. Steam discharge condenser
9. Electrical energy
10. Heat for district heating
11. Boiler ash discharge
12. Active carbons
13. Hydrated lime
14. Catalyze  $\text{No}_x$  abatement
15. Bag filter
16. Fly ash discharge
17. Chimney
18. Emission control
19. Silos for the storage and discharge of fly ash
20. Heat exchanger

880 tons/day of MSW  
+  
Sewage sludge



# RENDERING project



**RENDERING project  
2018-2021**

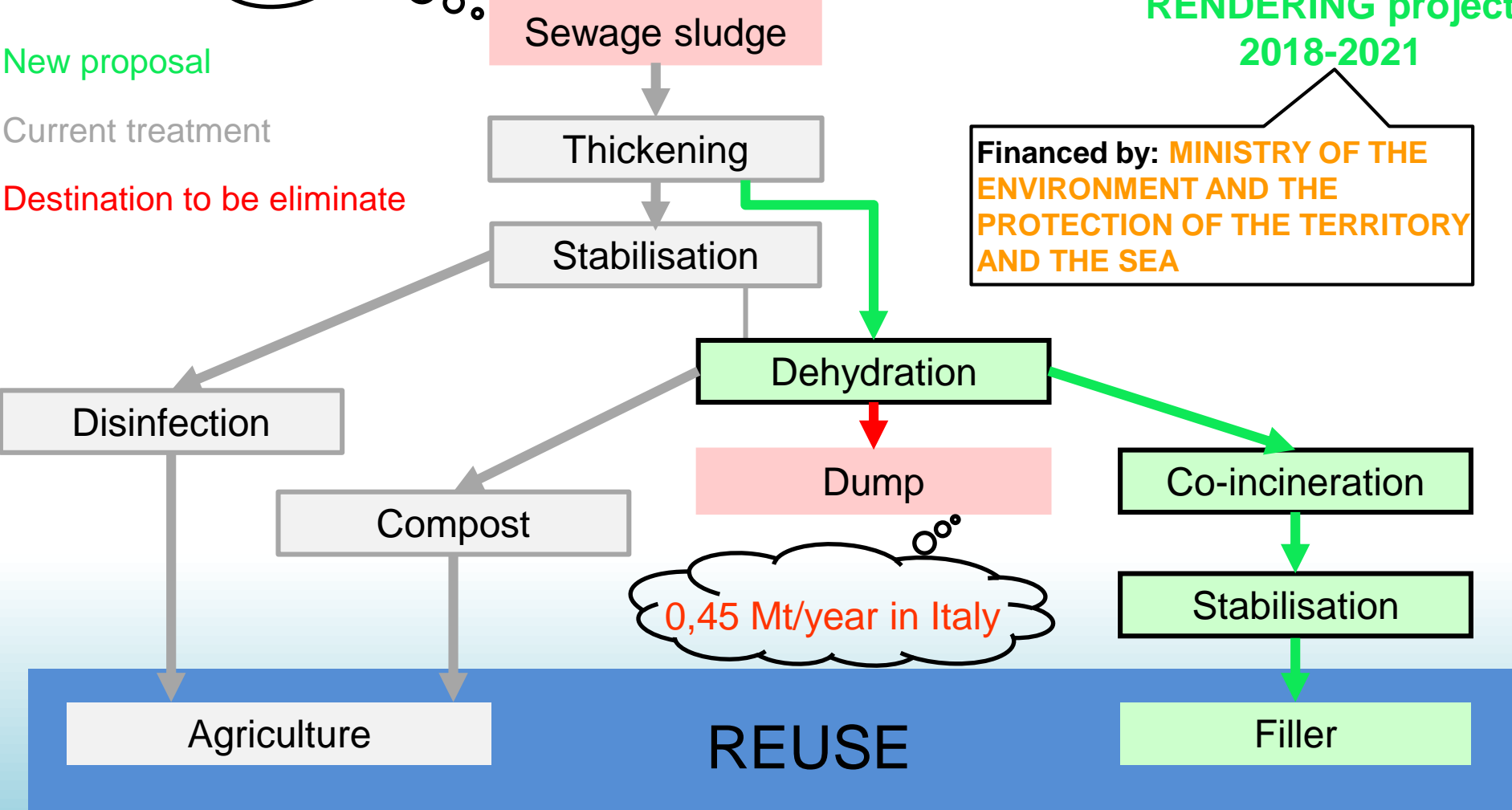
**Financed by: MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE PROTECTION OF THE TERRITORY AND THE SEA**

3 Mt/year in Italy

New proposal

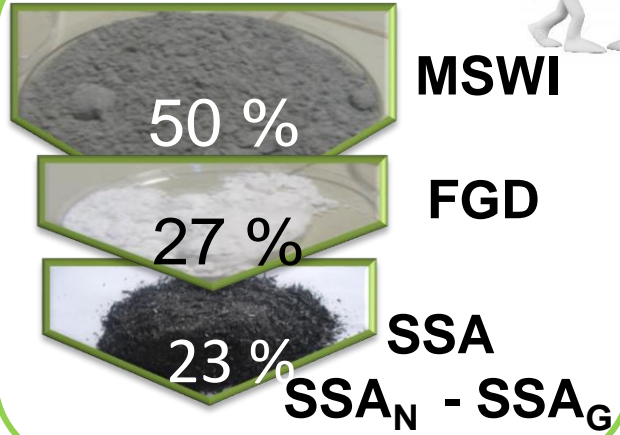
Current treatment

Destination to be eliminate

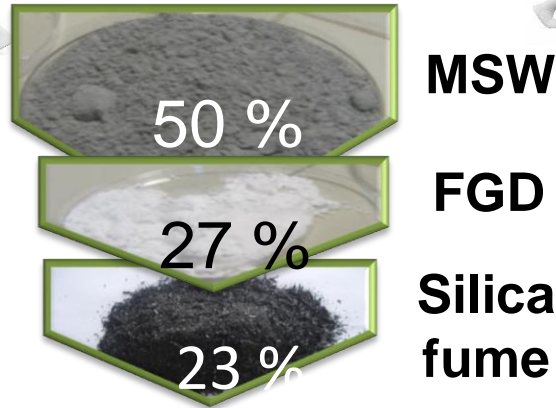


# Preparation of stabilized sample

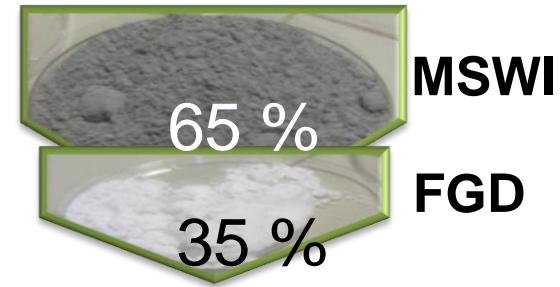
## RENDERING



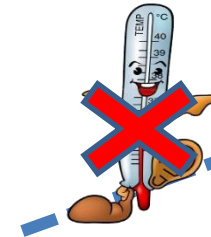
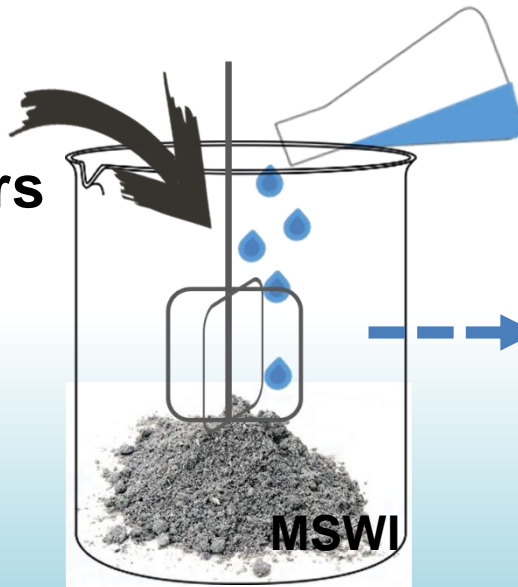
## COSMOS



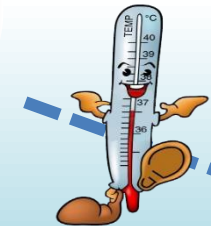
## Blank sample



Powders



Room temperature  
 $t_{\text{stabilization}} = 2 \text{ month}$



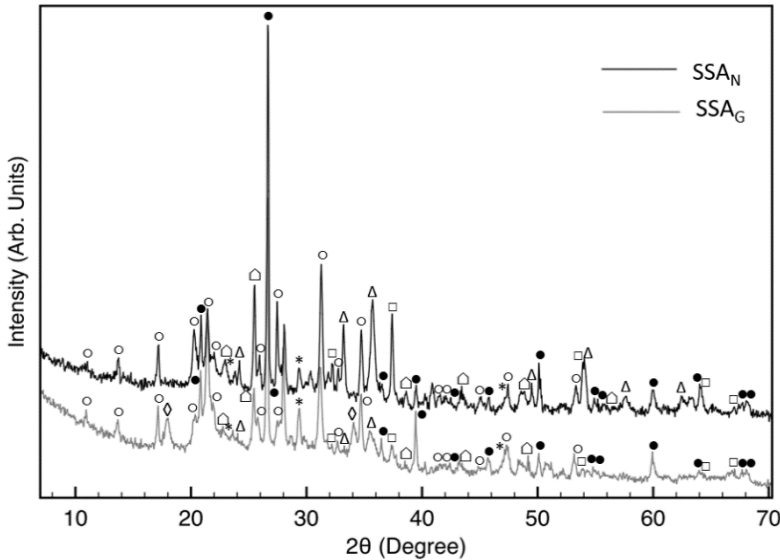
Thermal treatment  
T (120 °C) 6h



# Characterization of SSA



## XRD analysis



- \* Calcium Carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ );
- Calcium Magnesium Phosphate ( $\text{Ca}_7\text{Mg}_2\text{P}_6\text{O}_{24}$ );
- Quartz ( $\text{SiO}_2$ );
- △ Burnt ochre ( $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ );
- Calcium Oxide ( $\text{CaO}$ );
- ◇ Anhydrite ( $\text{CaSO}_4$ );
- ◇ Calcium Hydroxide [ $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ ]

## ICP MS analysis

➤ Si, P, Al, Ca, Fe.



SSA<sub>N</sub> rich of Fe } Precipitation methods  
 SSA<sub>G</sub> rich of Al } (Salts of Al or Fe)

➤ Heavy metals: As, Cd, Cr, Ni, e Zn.

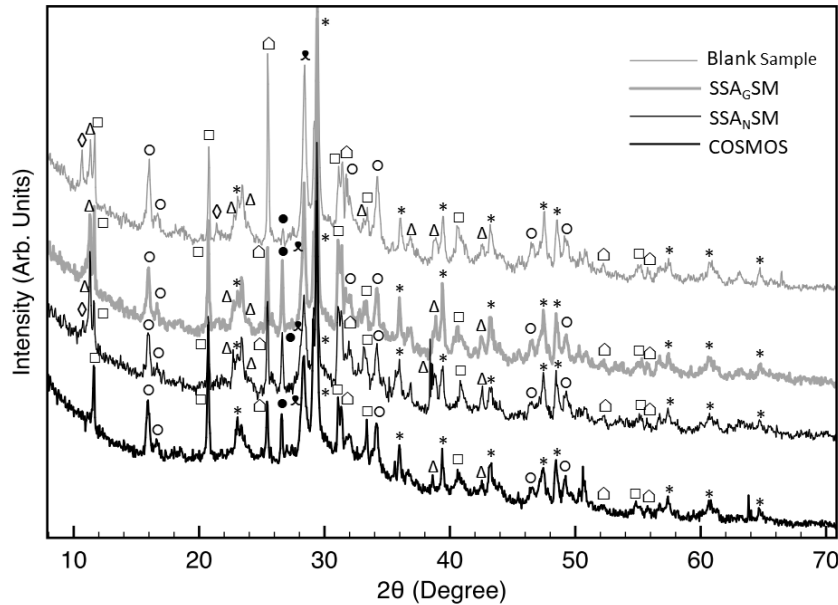
*In collaboration with BAM Federal Institute*

- ✓ Amorphous phases:  
Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and SiO<sub>2</sub>
- ✓ Crystalline phases:  
CaO, CaCO<sub>3</sub>, Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub>,  
Calcium Magnesium  
Phosphate
- ✓ SSA<sub>N</sub> → Fe
- ✓ SSA<sub>G</sub> → Al

# Characterization of stabilized samples



## XRD analysis after 2 months



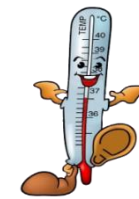
- \* Calcium Carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ );
- Hannebachite ( $\text{CaSO}_3 \cdot 0.5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ );
- Quartz ( $\text{SiO}_2$ );
- △ Calcium Aluminum Hydroxide Chloride Hydrate [ $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}(\text{OH})_6\text{Cl} \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ];
- Gypsum ( $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ );
- ◻ Anhydrite ( $\text{CaSO}_4$ );
- ◇ Calcium Hydroxide [Calcium Aluminum Silicate Hydrate  $\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_7\text{O}_{18} \cdot 1.7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ];
- ⌘ Sylvite (KCl)

- ~~$\text{CaO}$  and  $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$~~
- Chloro-complex Friedel's salt



Pozzolanic reactions  
Stabilization of heavy metals

# Leaching test

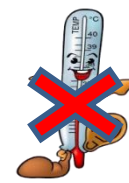


Thermal treatment  
T (120 °C) 6h

pH	pH 13.5	pH 12.5	pH 12.5	pH 10	pH 12.5
		mg/L			
Element	MSWI	SSA <sub>N</sub> SM	SSA <sub>G</sub> SM	COSMOS	Blank Sample
S	1 ± 1	162 ± 11	143 ± 4	229 ± 60	153 ± 28
Cl	10948 ± 1081	3110 ± 306	4076 ± 174	3058 ± 587	4897 ± 297
K	2597 ± 337	787 ± 98	974 ± 73	569 ± 183	1235 ± 91
Ca	6668 ± 540	2814 ± 255	2821 ± 125	2530 ± 91	3909 ± 186
Mn	1 ± 0.2	0.13 ± 0.03	0.22 ± 0.05	0.09 ± 0.04	0.28 ± 0.06
Fe	4 ± 1	2 ± 1	1.6 ± 0.9	1.4 ± 0.6	3 ± 1
Cu	1.2 ± 0.2	0.03 ± 0.01	0.07 ± 0.03	0.06 ± 0.04	0.04 ± 0.01
Zn	13 ± 1	1.4 ± 0.4	1 ± 0.4	1.12 ± 0.03	4 ± 2
Se	LLD	LLD	LLD	0.01 ± 0.01	LLD
Br	160 ± 11	44 ± 4	61 ± 1	70 ± 6	65 ± 3
Rb	8 ± 1	2.1 ± 0.2	3.17 ± 0.04	3.9 ± 0.4	3.5 ± 0.2
Sr	5.9 ± 0.3	3.9 ± 0.3	6.1 ± 0.2	6.3 ± 0.5	5.5 ± 0.2
Ba	15 ± 2	1.69 ± 0.06	2.5 ± 0.4	1.7 ± 0.3	3.5 ± 0.4
Pb	86 ± 3	1.11 ± 0.08	0.4 ± 0.1	LLD	8.7 ± 0.4

- ✓ Heavy metals stabilization with SSA;
- ✓ COSMOS best performance, pH reduction;
- ✓ No stabilization with only FGD.

# Leaching test



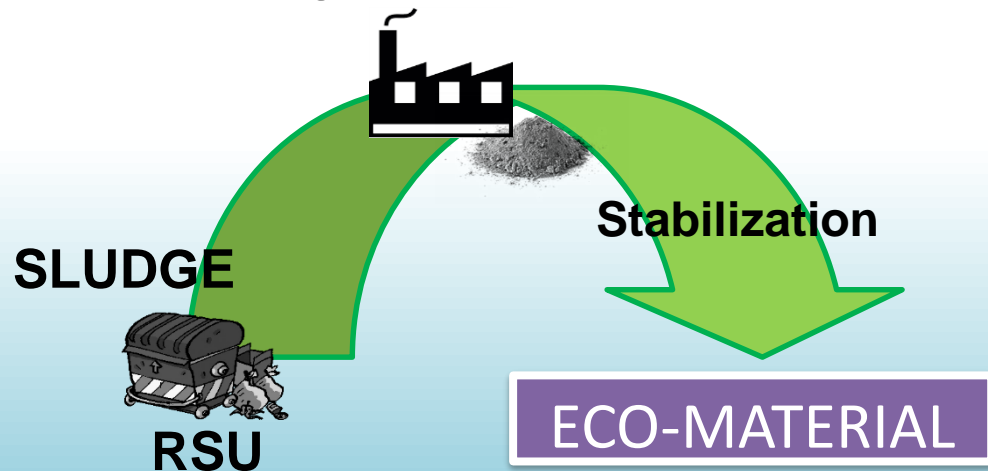
Room temperature  
 $t_{\text{stabilization}} = 2 \text{ month}$

pH	pH 13.5	pH 9.5	pH 9.5	pH 9.5	pH 12
Element	MSWI	SSA <sub>N</sub> SM	SSA <sub>G</sub> SM	COSMOS	Blank Sample
S	1 ± 1	108 ± 33	151 ± 30	201 ± 87	142 ± 15
Cl	10948 ± 1081	1835 ± 423	2274 ± 1000	2485 ± 194	4451 ± 1024
K	2597 ± 337	373 ± 110	490 ± 267	541 ± 44	1056 ± 296
Ca	6668 ± 540	1198 ± 112	1524 ± 376	1794 ± 24	2628 ± 578
Mn	1 ± 0.2	0.06 ± 0.05	0.07 ± 0.07	0.08 ± 0.03	0.27 ± 0.08
Fe	4 ± 1	0.27 ± 0.09	0.3 ± 0.2	0.3 ± 0.1	1 ± 0.22
Cu	1.2 ± 0.2	0.03 ± 0.003	0.02 ± 0.02	0.02 ± 0.02	0.02 ± 0.02
Zn	13 ± 1	0.08 ± 0.01	0.09 ± 0.04	0.07 ± 0.03	0.14 ± 0.02
Se	LLD	LLD	LLD	0.02 ± 0.01	LLD
Br	160 ± 11	38 ± 4	44 ± 14	47 ± 1	62 ± 12
Rb	8 ± 1	1.9 ± 0.3	2.2 ± 0.7	2.09 ± 0.04	3.1 ± 0.6
Sr	5.9 ± 0.3	3.1 ± 0.1	5.1 ± 0.6	3.8 ± 0.7	4.9 ± 0.8
Ba	15 ± 2	0.9 ± 0.1	1 ± 0.5	0.9 ± 0.2	2.1 ± 0.5
Pb	86 ± 3	LLD	LLD	LLD	LLD

- ✓ COSMOS and SSASM results comparable;
- ✓ Friedel's salt reduction of Cl and Ca;
- ✓ pH reduction carbonation reactions.

# Conclusions

- ✓ Use of a waste material (SSA) for the immobilization of leachable heavy metals contained in MSWI fly ashes;
- ✓ Leaching tests highlight that heavy metals concentrations (mainly Pb and Zn) are reduced;
- ✓ The mix of wastes and by-products used in the new procedure allows to promote synergic stabilization mechanisms such as pozzolanic reactions and phosphate precipitation;
- ✓ Carbonation reaction occurs, reducing the pH from 13.5 to 9.5.





# Chemistry for technologies laboratory



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DI BRESCIA



# THANKS FOR THE ATTENTION,

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