



## Valorise your Waste and restore soil health

The launch of the BIN2BEAN project



*Partners of BIN2BEAN gathered in Milan*

By the end of 2023, EU Member States will have to implement separate collection schemes for organic waste. This is a very crucial step since around 34% of all the waste generated by our cities is of organic origin (biowaste). Among Member States and also within single countries and regions there are many different collection schemes or no schemes at all applicable to biowaste.

The challenge is to widely adopt biowaste collection schemes able to meet the target of recycling 65% of municipal waste by 2035.

### **What to do with biowaste?**

While it is now common to use products made of recycled plastics and paper, not everyone knows the potential of recycling biowaste.

Indeed, biowaste can have plenty of usage and one example is to make organic soil improvers out of it with the potential to improve the physical, chemical and/or biological properties of the soil. With more than 60% of European soils being “degraded” and unhealthy, the restoration of soil health is a pressing issue and one of the key objectives of the EU.

This is also the objective of the EU-funded project **BIN2BEAN** (*Boosting the market deployment of safe, effective, and sustainable innovations for soil improvement from bio-waste, towards regenerative soil systems*), which just kick-started in September 2023. The project will support European cities by promoting innovations that aim to valorize bio-waste and optimize their recycling into soil improvers through innovative and economically viable value chains. The project will implement 3 Living Labs in the cities of **Amsterdam** (NL), **Hamburg** (DE), and **Egaleo** (EL). Here, partners will develop and validate solutions that other cities across Europe could replicate in order to valorize their bio-waste streams and produce soil improvers.

Thanks to these activities, **BIN2BEAN** will help to reach Europe's 2035 objectives of reducing landfill to 10% of total waste while reinjecting nearly 135,000 tonnes of nitrogen and 45,000 tonnes of phosphorus into soils in an environmental, social, and sustainable way.

### The BIN2BEAN project

Funded within the EU Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe, the project is coordinated by CONSORZIO ITALBIOTEC (Italy) which leads a consortium of 11 partners from 7 countries across Europe.

Leveraging on a wide diversity of expertise required in soil system transformation, BIN2BEAN activities will range from bio-waste management to soil sciences, from safety testing to regulatory advice and from behavioral sciences to business strategies.

The project partners met on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2023 in Milan to fine-tune the actions for the upcoming months. The meeting was also an opportunity to visit the local company [Acqua & Sole](#) and their organic waste recovery plant, unique in Europe in terms of size, process and feedstock, characterized by a thermophilic anaerobic co-digestion process.



*Aqua & Sole Sewage sludge treatment plant*

Now the project is entering its initial phase, where the three cities involved will set up the living labs, kick starting the very first activities. Stay tuned for more updates!

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