

2ND

EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE NUTRIENT INITIATIVE



ESNI 2020

27 OCTOBER 2020

Speakers Bios





Erik Meers

Coordinator of the Biorefine Cluster Europe

Prof. Dr. ir. Erik Meers holds a degree in Bioscience Engineering (Ghent University), an MSc in Environmental Sanitation (Ghent University) and a PhD in Environmental Technology / Environmental Chemistry (Ghent University) with focus on phytoremediation.

He is currently a professor at the Department of Green Science and Technology from the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering of Ghent University in Belgium. He is one of the group leaders of the Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry and Applied Ecochemistry (Ecochem), focusing on nutrient recycling and circular economy. He is currently involved in 15 international research projects (Interreg and H2020) and supervises a team of 30 PhD students and researchers. He is a Chairman to the EBA (European Biogas Association) scientific advisory council, has created and coordinates the UGent Business Development Platform “End-of-Waste” and the project network “Biorefine Cluster Europe” and has started the European Sustainable Nutrient Initiative.

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Wim Debeuckelaere

Policy Officer, DG Environment, European Commission

Graduated in Biology and Agricultural Science in 1987, at the University of Ghent, Belgium.

For 12 Years, worked for the Belgian consumer organisation, Test-Achats, in charge of testing quality and safety of food. He also represented the interests of the consumer at national and international level.

In 2002, joined the European Commission, in the Food and Veterinary Office of DG SANCO.

In 2004, joined the policy Unit responsible for chemicals, contaminants, and pesticides. First responsible for the file on flavourings, later on food additives and as head of Sector for the Food Improvement Agents to coordinate the activities related to evaluation and authorisation of food additives, food enzymes and flavourings at the Commission Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, DG SANTE.

Since 2017, Policy Officer for the implementation of the Nitrates Directive at the Commission Directorate-General responsible for EU policy on the environment. This includes evaluation of the nitrate action programmes prepared by Member States, preparation of decisions granting derogations requested by the Member States to the Nitrate Directive, preparing the Nitrates Report and managing the activities related the safe use of processed manure above the threshold established for Nitrate Vulnerable Zones.

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Annika ESKUSSON

*Policy Officer, DG Research and Innovation
European Commission*

Annika Eskusson is a Policy Officer in the Circular Economy and Bio-based Systems unit of Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG R&I) in the European Commission. She deals with the EU research and innovation policy in the area of circular economy and the sustainable management of nutrients.

She holds a BA in Environmental Geography from King's College London and an MSc degree in Environmental Technology, specialising in Energy Policy, from Imperial College London. Previously she has worked for the Estonian Research Council's Brussels office and the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA).

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Harmen Dekker

Director, European Biogas Association

Harmen Dekker has worked for almost 15 years within the sustainability sector and is devoted to the mitigation of climate change.

He has built his career in the Water Market, Environmental Engineering Services and Biogas/Bio-Methane industry, where he has held different management positions. He joined the EBA after 5 years of service at DMT Environmental Technology. As manager for business development, he worked on the expansion of the biogas sector in new geographic regions. During those years, he also focused on transitioning companies and organisations into new markets and products

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Ludwig Hermann

Senior consultant, Proman Consulting

Ludwig has 35+ years of experience as technology, sustainability and innovation manager and consultant on 3 continents, was co-founder and long-term CEO of ASH DEC Umwelt AG, is co-inventor of minerals/ash decontamination, phosphorus recovery, energy conversion and efficiency technologies, author and co-author of several patents, reports, papers and book chapters on recovery of critical materials, nutrient recycling and renewable energy.

Ludwig is president and member of the board of the European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform (ESPP), Brussels, member of the scientific advisory board “Environment” of the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing, Berlin and in the Steering Committee of the International Water Association’s (IWA) Resource Recovery Cluster, The Hague.

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Niamh Power

Lecturer & Researcher

Department of Civil, Structural & Environmental Engineering Cork
Institute of Technology

Dr. Niamh Power is a Lecturer and Researcher in Civil, Structural & Environmental Engineering, in Cork Institute of Technology, Ireland.

She received an honours degree in Civil & Structural Engineering coming top of her class, before being awarded with a highly esteemed Irish Research Scholarship to pursue her PhD in the area of waste management, anaerobic digestion and biogas as a transport fuel. She is an active member of the Sustainable Infrastructure Research and Innovation Group in CIT.

Her interests are; biogas, anaerobic digestion, renewable energy from wastes & crops, transport & CHP, Life Cycle Analysis and policies & drivers for change. She is an active Council Member of the Environmental Science Association of Ireland. She is involved in a number of large EU research projects on the circular economy, concentrating on the sustainable use of nutrients these projects including Phos4You and ReNu2Farm.

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Rembert van Noort

*Specialist in manure processing
Southern Agriculture and Horticulture Organization (ZLTO)*

Rembert van Noort works as a specialist in manure processing for the Southern Agriculture and Horticulture Organization (ZLTO), a farmers' association in the southern part of The Netherlands, representing the interests of farmers and growers. He has over 20 years of business experience in both pork production chain and the production and export of organic fertilizer pellets. His driving force is cooperation to close nutrient cycles and market driven development of processed manure products.

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Massimo Pugliese

Associate Professor, University of Torino

Massimo Pugliese is Associate Professor at the Department of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences (DISAFA), University of Torino and professor at the School of Agriculture and Veterinary Science (SAMEV) of University of Turin. He actively collaborates with the Centre of Competence AGROINNOVA in research activities, technology transfer and in coordinating R&D projects. He is author of over 70 research papers, 3 patents and the promoter of 2 start-up companies. His main expertise is on biofertilizers, circular economy and biocontrol and in particular on: assessment and valorization of quality of biofertilizers, biostimulants and biopesticides; suppressiveness of compost and organic fertilizers (silicon, biochar, digestate...) against soil-borne pathogens; selection of biological control agents from biofertilizers; climate change effects on plant diseases; impact of biofertilizers on soil microbial communities.

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Fabian Kraus

Project Manager

Kompetenzzentrum Wasser Berlin gGmbH

After completing his master's degree Environmental Science and Technology in 2014, Mr. Kraus started as a research assistant at the Berlin Centre of Competence for Water. He worked on various projects in the field of circular economy, especially regarding environmental evaluation of technologies and products. Since 2017 he has been the project manager for now 7 national and international projects dealing with the practical implementation nutrient recovery and recycling.

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