

# ReUseWaste Ph.D students graduated

April 2016

Most of the Ph.D students in ReUseWaste have by now defended their theses at Ph.D viva or examination seminars with external assessor(s), depending on the local university Ph.D school requirements. Most recently the 'greek team', Ph.D students at University of Copenhagen, George Bekiaris and Athanasios Pantelopoulos, presented and defended their Ph.D theses successfully – on the 18 and 31 March, respectively. George has worked in the first part of the ReUseWaste manure-chain ([Manure organic matter and nutrients characterization](#), WP3), while Thanos worked in the latter part of the chain (Recycling and utilisation of carbon and nutrients to land, WP6).



George defended his thesis titled 'Application of Fourier transform infrared-photoacoustic spectroscopy for the characterisation of organic wastes and determination of their usefulness for bioenergy and as soil amendments' and with this he has produced ground-breaking results from applications of new IR spectroscopy for waste characterization. He received numerous compliments for his work from the assessment panel consisting of prof. Bo Stenberg (Dept. of Soil and Environment, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences), prof. Hartwig Schulz (Dept. of Ecological Chemistry, Plant Analysis and Stored Product Protection, Julius Kühn-Institut, Germany) and prof. Søren Barsberg (Dept. of Geosciences and Natural Resource Management, University of Copenhagen).

Thanos defended his thesis titled 'Thermochemical treatment of biogas digestate solids to produce organic fertilisers - The effect of acidification and drying on N losses, soil N turnover and plant fertilizer value', which reports novel trials with acidifications and drying of organic waste solids, and how this results in major reductions in ammonia losses, increases in soil N mineralization and availability and significantly higher plant N uptake and fertilizer equivalent value. The assessment panel, Prof. Dave Chadwick (School of Environment, Natural Resources and Geography, Bangor University, UK), Senior Res. Peter Sørensen (Dept. of Agroecology, Aarhus University, Denmark) and Prof. Andreas de Neergard (Dept. of Plant and Environmental Sciences, University of Copenhagen) greatly acknowledged the novelty of Thanos work, and pointed to the potential implications and commercial value of his results for producing stable, high quality, bio-based fertilizers.

George and Thanos are both very happy about the successful completion of their projects and are now looking for postdoc positions or other career opportunities – so please feel free to contact them if you have an interesting opportunity or just want to receive a copy of their PhD thesis ([bekiaris.george@yahoo.com](mailto:bekiaris.george@yahoo.com) and [apantelopoulos@gmail.com](mailto:apantelopoulos@gmail.com)).

