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Sludge-mining for CRM in an abandoned polluted deviation river channel

- **Problem:** An **abandoned deviation channel** of the River Drava, formed during the construction of a hydroelectric plant, was **contaminated by discharges** from aluminum production, the food and fodder production industry, and municipal wastewaters. In the water body (500 m long, 50 m wide, and 2 m deep) approximately **22,000 m³ of toxic sludge** has accumulated, containing **P, N, Cu, Zn, Cd, Cr, Ag, Pb, V, Tl, Sr, and Ni**.

With the appropriate extraction technology (by avoiding the re-suspension and mobilization of toxins) this sludge could become a valuable source of CRM.
- **Expected synergies and complementarities:** Interdisciplinary cooperation between experts from chemistry, civil engineering, combustion, and the recycling industry in order to achieve efficient recovery of CRM from the sludge.
Outcomes: Possible service development for Upscaling project
Market & Business opportunities: Business opportunity for EU SME sector having knowledge on extraction for more sustainable revitalization of EU degraded areas (brownfields)
Partners already identified: ZAG, NGO task partner for communication with local society, consulting company task partner
- **Wanted additional partners:**
Technology-based providers with knowledge of CRM extraction.

Schematic presentation of the proposed solution

