

# Blog 1: Welcome to a FAST project



The “Field lab wider Applied for Sludge Treatment” project, FAST for short, is a HIF diffusion project and the follow up to the Microbial Sludge Quality (MSQ) project (<http://www.elrha.org/map-location/microbialsludgequality-msq-field-test-kit-faecal-sludge-monitoring/>).

In the MSQ project the project consortium led by the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (<https://www.boku.ac.at/en/>) and consisting of the Austrian Red Cross (<https://www.rotekreuz.at/i18n/en>), WASTE NL (<http://www.waste.nl/>) and Butyl

Products LTD (<https://www.butylproducts.co.uk/>) developed a field laboratory for the process and public health monitoring of faecal sludge treatment plants. The field lab was designed, constructed at the university facilities in Austria. The prototype was field tested in Blantyre Malawi at the office of WASTE Malawi for one month. During this time the monitoring of 5 different faecal sludge treatment plants was started. The field lab was left with WASTE Malawi, which is still operating the lab.



Within the FAST project the Austrian Red Cross and Butyl Products Ltd. want to increase the knowledge of the field lab within the sanitation and general WASH community.

We will try to achieve this goal by organising a field school together with the Ugandan Red Cross in Kampala, attending several conferences, publishing a scientific paper and several newsletters within the consortiums networks. We will post blogs to update you on the progress of the project.

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Pic1: Lab set up during a field test in Austria, by Gudrun Weidhofer

Pic2: Lab operation in Malawi, by Johannes Bousek

Pic3: Lab handover in Malawi, by Grover Mamani