



Article

# The Potential of Industrial Symbiosis: Case Analysis and Main Drivers and Barriers to Its Implementation

Angela Neves <sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Radu Godina <sup>3,\*</sup>, Susana G. Azevedo <sup>2,4</sup>, Carina Pimentel <sup>3,5</sup> and João C.O. Matias <sup>5</sup>

- Department of Mechanical Engineering, Polytechnic Institute of Viseu, 3504-510 Viseu, Portugal
- University of Beira Interior, 6201-001 Covilhã, Portugal; sazevedo@ubi.pt
- UNIDEMI, Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, Faculty of Science and Technology (FCT), Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, 2829-516 Caparica, Portugal; carina.pimentel@ua.pt
- CEFAGE—Department of Business and Economics, University of Beira Interior, 6201-001 Covilhã, Portugal
- 5 GOVCOPP and DEGEIT, University of Aveiro, 3810-193 Aveiro, Portugal; jmatias@ua.pt
- \* Correspondence: aneves@ipv.pt (A.N.); r.godina@fct.unl.pt (R.G.)

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Abstract: Industrial symbiosis, which is characterised mainly by the reuse of waste from one company as raw material by another, has been applied worldwide with recognised environmental, economic, and social benefits. However, the potential for industrial symbiosis is not exhausted in existing cases, and there is still a wide range of opportunities for its application. Through a comprehensive literature review, this article aims to compile and analyse studies that focus on potential industrial symbiosis in real contexts, to highlight the margin of optimisation that is not being used. The cases reported in the publications identified here were characterised and analysed according to geographic location, type of economic activity, waste/by-products, main benefits, and the methods employed in the studies. From this analysis, we conclude that there is great potential for applications involving industrial symbiosis throughout the world, and especially in Europe, corresponding to 53% of the total cases analysed. Manufacturing stood out as the sector with the highest potential for establishing symbiosis relationships, and the most common types of waste streams in potential networks were organic, plastic and rubber, wood, and metallic materials. This article also discusses the main drivers and barriers to realising the potential of industrial symbiosis. The diversity of industries, geographical proximity, facilitating entities and legislation, plans, and policies are shown to be the main drivers.

**Keywords:** industrial symbiosis; potential industrial symbiosis; sustainability; eco-industrial parks; circular economy

# 1. Introduction

In recent years, resource-intensive use, rising industrialisation and urbanisation, modern lifestyles, energy-intensive use, and land use patterns have led to increased greenhouse gas emissions, with negative consequences for the environment and the population [1–3]. It is therefore urgent to find solutions that do not hinder economic development but can provide ways to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, which are largely responsible for greenhouse gases, and to use resources more efficiently. As a subfield of industrial ecology, industrial symbiosis, which is often defined as a collective approach in which one company's waste is used as raw material by another company [4], can help to address these problems without compromising economic development. This practice is similar to biological processes, in which different organisms associate in a "mutually beneficial relationship" [5], as it allows entities and companies that operate separately to come together in the physical exchange of materials, by-products, energy, and water, with competitive advantages for all participants [6]. In addition to

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waste/by-product exchanges, this sharing of resources also encompasses infrastructure sharing and the joint provision of services [7,8].

Some of the problems faced by industries, such as increases in waste, waste treatment costs and high resource consumption, are common in urban areas [9–11]. Thus, if cooperation between companies is extended to urban regions, there is potential for both parties to achieve environmental and economic benefits and to mitigate certain common problems. This cooperation has been referred to in several publications as Industrial and Urban Symbiosis (also called Urban and Industrial Symbiosis) and takes place when waste generated in an urban area is used as a raw material or energy source in industry or when industries provide urban areas with waste heat resulting from their operation [12,13]. However, some authors have also used the term Urban Symbiosis to refer to the use of waste from urban areas as a raw material or source of energy [14–16].

The most well-known case of industrial symbiosis, and the one most often cited in the literature, is in Kalundborg, Denmark. This network arose spontaneously from a self-organising initiative between companies to address water scarcity [4,5,17] and over the years has increased not only in terms of the number of symbioses but also the number of participants and remains a successful case to this day.

However, industrial symbiosis is not confined to the Kalundborg case, and numerous examples of synergistic networks around the world have been reported in the literature, with a wide variety in terms of the numbers of participants, types of economic activities, and how they are organised. In Europe, numerous foci of industrial symbiosis [18] are spread across different countries, and most of the cases reported in the literature are in northern and north-western Europe, with the United Kingdom reporting the highest number of cases [19]. This is due to the voluntary programme that the government has launched to help companies find partners to use their waste as raw material, called the National Industrial Symbiosis Programme [20]. Finland also has several cases of industrial symbiosis, largely arising from the strong presence of the pulp and paper industry, which has driven the creation of synergy relations [21,22]. In Asia, a number of industrial symbiosis initiatives have also been reported, with the highest number of cases in China, largely due to constraints on carbon dioxide emissions and the numerous plans and policies that have been implemented to foster circular economy practices [23–25]. In Japan, there have been cases of industrial symbiosis and industrial and urban symbiosis across several cities, driven by the Japanese Eco-Town Programme that encourages the use of industrial, municipal, and commercial waste in industrial applications, with the aim of boosting the economy and reducing waste disposal [14,15]. In North America, and particularly in the US, there have been cases of industrial symbiosis that date back to the late 1970s. The case most frequently mentioned in publications is located in Barceloneta, Puerto Rico, where the strong presence of pharmaceutical companies has spurred the creation and development of industrial symbiosis between various companies [26,27]. Several cases of industrial symbiosis have also been reported in Australia [28,29], Brazil [30], Morocco [31], and Algeria [31].

Despite the recognised benefits that these synergy cases have provided to the environment, the companies involved and the local population, the potential for industrial symbiosis is not exhausted in these existing cases, and there is still great potential for application not only in developed countries but also in countries with developing economies. Of the various articles published on industrial symbiosis, a significant proportion have focused on the best ways to foster industrial symbiosis and the most effective ways of overcoming the various obstacles, including economic, technological, legal, and social obstacles, that are faced in the creation and development of industrial symbiosis. Although some of these publications have a predominantly theoretical content e.g., [23,32,33], most present in-depth studies conducted in real contexts, that is, in a given region, with a holistic analysis of those industries, wastes and products with potential for developing industrial symbiosis e.g., [34–37]. In some of these studies, the implications of these new synergies for the environment, the economic development of companies, and the surrounding population have also been studied e.g., [36,38,39]. This article focuses on the latter type of publication, and identifies these as cases of potential industrial symbiosis. All articles that study the possibility of implementing new industrial symbiosis relationships in a given

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location and that indicate the types of economic activities and industrial symbiosis are included in this designation.

The various studies that have been carried out on potential cases of industrial symbiosis have a wide scope, not only in terms of the characteristics of the synergy network but also in terms of the existence or otherwise of industrial symbioses in the location under study. In places where symbiosis networks already exist, relationships of trust are already established, and there is a knowledge of the benefits of this practice that can help to facilitate the process of mobilising other companies. Studies carried out of the industrial symbiosis networks in Weifang Binhai Economic-Technological Development Area, China [40], in the Västra Götaland region of Sweden [41], and in the Taranto provincial industrial district in Italy [42] represent some of these examples. In these cases, proposals have been put forward to extend the industrial symbiosis network to other companies, with the aim of repurposing some of the waste that was not yet being shared. However, several studies have been published that have proposed the creation of industrial symbiosis relationships in areas where this practice is not yet implemented but bring together a set of characteristics that reveal the potential for establishing synergy networks. Examples include studies of the development of industrial symbiosis carried out in Perth and Kinross, Scotland [43], Botoṣani and Piatra Neamţ in Romania [44], and Konia, Liberia [45].

Although the potential for the application of industrial symbiosis is high, there are a number of constraints on its implementation. A lack of trust, uncertainty about the benefits, a lack of knowledge of the concept of industrial symbiosis, and a lack of information sharing [20,33,34,46–48] are the main factors that have been identified as restraining this process. However, there are also factors that are often referred to as drivers for the creation and development of industrial symbiosis networks, such as the need to reduce raw material and waste disposal costs and the potential generation of revenue [18,34,49–51]. In addition to these aspects, existing policies and legislation have also been identified as influencing industrial symbiosis practices. Regulatory pressure and landfill tax, which drive companies to find solutions for using resources more efficiently and reducing waste disposal [50,52], are examples of these. Policies and plans that aim to foster synergy networks, such as those in China [23,25] and the United Kingdom [20], have greatly contributed to the spread of these practices. However, existing legislation can also restrict these practices, for example if it is unclear or very restrictive on the use of waste, and can thus create difficulties for companies with regard to the application of industrial symbiosis [53].

A literature review reveals that although there are many studies of the compilation and analysis of case studies relating to industrial symbiosis [18,19,23,54–58], these focus on synergies that have already been implemented. Furthermore, although a study of the evolution of industrial symbiosis was carried out by Chertow and Park [59], with an analysis of the number of articles published and the countries that were the subject of the various publications, this work only included articles published until 2014. A comprehensive analysis of the cases of potential industrial symbiosis is still absent.

This article therefore aims to compile and analyse the various cases of potential industrial symbiosis in real contexts reported in the literature, and to highlight the margin of optimisation that is not being used. It also aims to identify and discuss the main drivers and barriers to the implementation of industrial symbiosis, as well as the various strategies for overcoming these barriers. To this end, the various cases are characterised and analysed by geographical location, type of economic activity, type of waste/by-product exchange, infrastructure sharing, and joint provision of services. Moreover, the methods employed in the different cases are analysed, as are the main environmental, economic, and social benefits that would be achieved if industrial symbiosis were to be realised. The cases of potential industrial symbiosis have been separated into those concerning the symbiosis between industries and those concerning the manufacture of new products and new uses for the different wastes enhanced by industrial symbiosis.

The rest of the article is organised as follows. Section 2 describes the methodology adopted for the research, selection, and analysis of publications, as well as the inclusion and exclusion criteria.

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Sections 3 and 4 contain the results and a discussion. Section 3 presents the results and an analysis of the cases of potential industrial symbiosis, in terms of the companies involved, the production of new products and new uses of waste. Section 4 discusses the main drivers, barriers, and strategies for overcoming these barriers to the creation of industrial symbiosis networks. Finally, Section 5 presents the main conclusions and discusses the limitations of this study and the scope for future research.

#### 2. Materials and Methods

In order to fulfil the proposed objectives, a methodology was developed consisting of several stages, as illustrated in Figure 1. This methodology can be grouped into three main steps: a deep and systematic collection of the existing literature, the selection of publications and a content analysis.

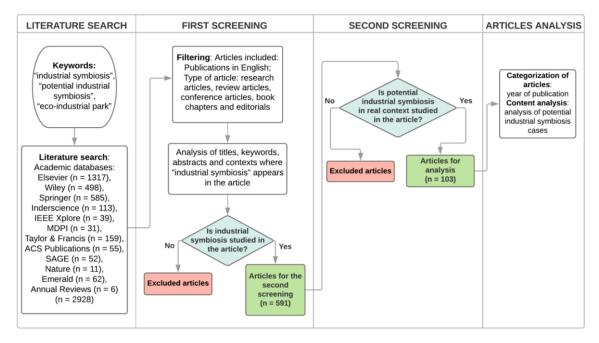


Figure 1. Flow diagram of literature search and screening.

To enable a systematic and thorough review of the existing literature, several steps were followed. The first was the choice of keywords. To avoid limiting the search and thus obtain a more comprehensive set of publications, the terms "industrial symbiosis", "potential industrial symbiosis", and "eco-industrial park" were combined. These were used to search for articles in databases with more publications in this area, such as, Elsevier, Wiley Online Library, Springer, MDPI, Inderscience Online, IEEE Xplore, Taylor & Francis Online, ACS Publications, SAGE Journals, Nature Research, Emerald Insight, and Annual Reviews. In this research, no time interval was imposed, and the only exclusions were articles that were not written in English. The publications that resulted from this initial collection were submitted to a screening process in order to select the most relevant ones for the study. Titles, keywords, and abstracts were read, with the aim of selecting articles that focused mainly or significantly on industrial symbiosis. If there were any doubts about the inclusion of the articles, we analysed the frequency with which the keywords appeared throughout the publication and the context in which they were inserted in order to verify whether industrial symbiosis was the focus of the study or whether it only appeared as an example or to contextualise other concepts. This selection resulted in 591 publications, including research articles, review articles, conference articles, book chapters, and editorials. In our analysis, the references cited in these publications were used as secondary sources; however, this resulted in only a few articles, which may indicate the wide-ranging of the initial research.

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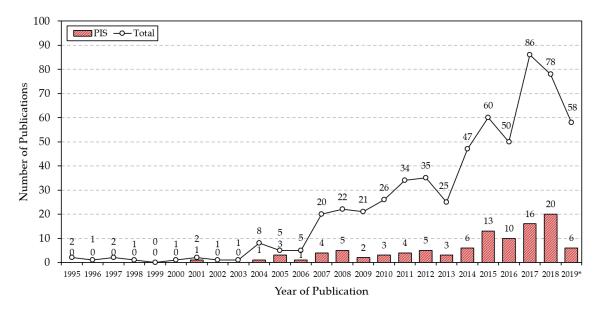
In the next step, the 591 articles on industrial symbiosis were screened with the aim of finding only the publications whose object was the study of potential industrial symbiosis in a real context. This resulted in 103 articles, and these made up the final body of articles for which a more detailed content analysis of potential industrial symbiosis was carried out. Of these 103 articles, 89 concerned industries and 14 concerned potential uses of industrial symbiosis to manufacture new products or use different wastes. A content analysis of all these articles was then conducted to gather and analyse information on potential industrial symbiosis, such as location, types of economic activities involved in potential synergies, types of waste/by-products, and the existence or otherwise of infrastructure sharing. We also analysed the methods employed in the different analyses, the main environmental, economic and social benefits, and the factors underlying the potential for creating industrial symbiosis, which may condition or favour it.

# 3. Potential Industrial Symbiosis

The results of the study are presented below and are structured according to the main themes that emerged from the research and analysis of publications on potential industrial symbiosis, namely its scope, evolution over time, geographical distribution, and cases of potential industrial symbiosis relating either to companies or to the production of new products or new uses of waste.

#### 3.1. Evolution of the Number of Published Articles

Of the 591 articles on industrial symbiosis selected and analysed according to the selection criteria defined in Section 2, 103 related to potential industrial symbiosis, accounting for approximately 17% of the total. Although these articles on industrial symbiosis were published from 1995 onward, it was only around 2001 that articles on potential industrial symbiosis began to appear, as illustrated in Figure 2.



**Figure 2.** Number of publications on industrial symbiosis and potential industrial symbiosis (PIS) per year.

Figure 2 shows the growing evolution of the number of publications on industrial symbiosis. Although low numbers of studies were published during the early years, from 2007 onward, there was a growth in the number of publications, which continued over the following years. Despite these small numbers, publications on potential industrial symbiosis have also shown growth. The evolution of these publications essentially comprises two distinct periods. In the first, between 2001 and 2014, there was a greater oscillation between the number of publications and in which the growth of articles was not very significant. In the second, between 2015 and the current year, more pronounced growth

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could be seen, and whilst there was a drop in 2016, this was insignificant in light of the increase over the following years. Although this second period was shorter in terms of years, the proportion of publications was clearly higher than those in the first and accounted for 63% of the total number of publications. This increase coincided with the increase in publications on industrial symbiosis, and although it began to grow more significantly from 2007 onward, it was from 2014 onward that it began to obtain greater expression, revealing the growing scientific interest in this issue and the recognition of its potential to achieve sustainability in terms of its environmental, economic, and social aspects.

The proportion of the articles on potential industrial symbiosis in relation to the total number of publications on industrial symbiosis did not show significant variation over the years, except for 2001 and 2005, in which these articles made up 50% and 60% of the total number of publications, respectively. Three periods are of note, due to the fact that the values were very close in consecutive years—the period between 2006 and 2008, with an average of 20% of the total number of publications on potential industrial symbiosis; the period between 2009 and 2014, with an average of 12%; and the period between 2015 and 2018, with an average of 21%. Most of these 103 publications (about 84%) relate to research articles, while 12% are conference papers, and the remaining 4% are book chapters.

# 3.2. Geographic Distribution

The study of potential industrial symbiosis has shown great diversity with regard to geographical location; it has been studied in 31 different countries, revealing the great potential of this practice both in developed countries and in countries with emergent economies, as illustrated in Figure 3. Europe leads in terms of the number of publications on potential industrial symbiosis, with 48 articles, corresponding to approximately 53% of the total published. It is followed by Asia, with 26 publications, corresponding to 29% of the total, and North America, South America, and Oceania, with six, four, and four publications, respectively, corresponding to 7%, 4%, and 4% of the total. With three publications, equivalent to 3% of the total, Africa has the fewest studies of potential industrial symbiosis. This distribution is very different from that presented for industrial symbiosis publications [59]; here, China very significantly predominates in terms of publications, followed by the US and Australia.

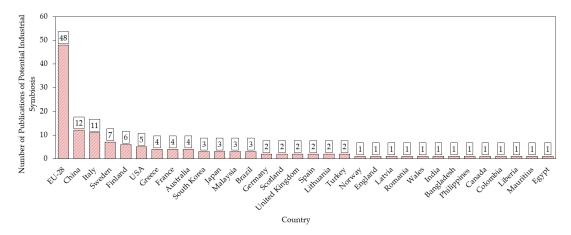


Figure 3. Distribution of the number of published studies on potential industrial symbiosis by country.

The European countries in which most case studies of potential industrial symbiosis were carried out were Italy, Sweden, and Finland, with 11, seven, and six articles, respectively. All cases in Sweden were related to the study of potential industrial symbiosis between industries, while those in Italy and Finland focused both on synergies between industries and on the investigation of waste and new products fostered by industrial symbiosis.

Of the eight countries in Asia with studies of potential industrial symbiosis, most related to China, with approximately 46% of the total for Asia.

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The US occupies the fifth place on the list of countries with articles published on potential industrial symbiosis, with three articles focusing on the synergy between industries and two more on the study of new uses for waste produced by the automobile industry. This figure is still low compared to the countries with the most publications, which is also true for case studies of industrial symbiosis—although the USA occupies second place on this list, the difference between the number of articles published compared to China, which ranks first, is very significant [19]. While some incentive measures have been applied to create synergies, such as an Environmental Protection Agency–funded project to identify possible synergies in six counties in North Carolina [60], they have not had a major impact on the increase in cases of symbiosis, and even existing studies of potential industrial symbiosis between industries date back many years.

In recent years, studies have been carried out to analyse the implementation of industrial symbiosis practices in developing countries such as the Philippines, Liberia, India, Bangladesh, Colombia, Mauritius, and Egypt. While these countries have little in the way of a tradition of synergy practices between companies and the number of published case studies is still small [19], the important role of industrial symbiosis is recognised as a means to enhance the development of these regions [34,45,61].

#### 3.3. Cases of Potential Industrial Symbiosis

Although industrial symbiosis is well established in many countries, there are still many possibilities for creating and developing new industrial symbioses. The numerous studies that have proposed and evaluated new synergy networks are examples of this. In places where there is already industrial symbiosis, the process of creating new relationships is facilitated, since there are already relationships of trust between the actors and the benefits offered by this practice are well known; however, this is not an essential factor. In places where there is no synergy, factors such as the location, the waste generated, or the nature of the industries can drive the creation of symbiosis relationships. Moreover, this potential is not bound to a particular region, country, type of activity, or number of entities (NE) involved, as proven in the many studies that have been performed to evaluate the creation of new industrial symbioses (shown in Table 1). This table summarises the main characteristics of the various cases of potential industrial symbiosis that have been published (Table A1 in Appendix A provides more details of these cases). By analysing Table A1, it is possible to verify the huge untapped potential and the huge diversity of opportunities for the development of industrial symbiosis. These cases are characterised by the location, number of entities involved (NE), type of economic activity, waste/by-product exchange, sharing of infrastructure, joint provision of services, methods used in the study, and assessment of the potential of industrial symbiosis. The various economic activities are grouped into sections, which are defined according to the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 4 (ISIC, Rev.4). Of the 21 sections defined in the ISIC, 16 are relevant to the various cases of potential industrial symbiosis. In Table 1, the section designations are more concisely defined. The different streams of waste exchanged in these cases are grouped into types, such as organic (e.g. food and food processing wastes, biomass, livestock and fisheries wastes); plastics and rubber; wood; metallic; non-metallic (e.g. glass, waste from construction and demolition, lime-based waste), paper, waste heat and steam; ash, water, and wastewater; chemicals; sludge; waste oil; and others (e.g. textile waste).

**Table 1.** Potential industrial symbiosis applications and analysis studies.

Country	Location/Region	NE 1	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
				Europe				
	Murano		Manufacturing	Chemicals	Water treatment	BATTER tool, direct measurements	2007	[62]
Italy	Brancaccio, Carini, and Termini Imerese		Manufacturing	Plastics and rubber		Questionnaire and interviews, life cycle assessment	2010	[63]
,	Val di Sangro Industrial Area	19	Manufacturing		Collective management of scraps	Questionnaires, interviews, site visits, and focus groups	2014	[64]
	Fucino upland		Agriculture and manufacturing	Paper, plastics and rubber, and wood	Common local recycling platform	On-site survey and interviews.	2015	[65]
	Emilia-Romagna		Agriculture and manufacturing	Organic, sludge, paper, non-metallic, wood, and others		Interviews, guided collective discussion, visits to laboratories, and conferences	2015	[53]
	Catania and Siracusa districts		Agriculture, manufacturing, energy, water and waste, construction, sale and repair, transportation and storage, information and communication, professional and scientific activities, administrative and support service, education, human health and social work, and other service activities	Water and wastewater, organic, sludge, wood, metallic, waste oil, plastics and rubber, chemicals, non-metallic, and paper	Energy, equipment, expertise, and services	Invitation emails and phone calls, meeting tables	2016	[66]
	Brescia	12	Manufacturing, energy, and public administration	Metallic, wood, sludge, and waste heat and steam		SWOT analysis	2017	[67]
	Brescia	2	Agriculture and manufacturing	Chemicals		Economic model	2018	[35]
	Province of Pescara		Agriculture, manufacturing, water and waste, and construction	Organic, metallic, non-metallic, paper, plastics and rubber, waste heat and steam, and water and wastewater		Qualitative analysis and critical analysis	2017	[11]
	Marche Region	3	Manufacturing and water and waste	Plastics and rubber		Web platform, economic assessments, life cycle assessment	2018	[38]

 Table 1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
Sweden	Small town in southern Sweden		Manufacturing, energy, water and waste, and the municipality	Waste heat and steam, wood, organic, ash, sludge, and paper		Interviews and group discussion, direct observation and participation at the sites, mass and heat balances over the system	2005	[68]
o weater.		4	Manufacturing and energy			MIND method	2008	[69]
		4	Manufacturing and energy	Organic, waste heat and steam, and wood		MIND method. Commercial optimization solver, assessment of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	2008	[70]
	Luleå, Borlänge, Finspång, Manufacturing and energy Sandviken  Waste heat and steam and Chemicals			System perspective evaluation	2011	[71]		
	All 290 municipalities		Agriculture, mining, manufacturing, energy, water and waste, and construction			Looplocal method, life cycle inventory	2015	[72]
	Västra Götaland		Agriculture, manufacturing, energy and water, and waste	Chemicals, ash, metallic, and water and wastewater		Top-down approach with three consecutive steps	2017	[73]
France	Territoire de la Côte Ouest		Agriculture and manufacturing	Organic		'Follow the Technology' method and Companion Modelling or Commod	2017	[74]
Tunec		7		Waste heat and steam		Mixed integer linear programming, direct method, key process indicators, sensitivity analysis, multi-objective model and Pareto front analysis, weighted sum method	2018	[75]
	16 regions		Manufacturing and energy	Waste heat and steam		Average energy intensity, production value, and heat consumption; spatial mapping methods and geographical information system; techno-economic model; linear programming problem	2018	[36]
	Salaise-sur-Sanne and Sablons		Manufacturing, water and waste, and urban areas	Industrial waste	Shared infrastructures	SWOT analysis	2018	[76]

 Table 1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
	Oulu		Manufacturing	Metallic, ash, and others		Literature review	2010	[77]
Finland	Agricult		Agriculture, manufacturing, water and waste, and municipality	Sludge and organic		Interviews, collaborative research approach, replication approach	2015	[78]
			Agriculture and manufacturing	Organic		Survey	2018	[79]
Greece	Viotia		Manufacturing	Metallic		Ontology engineering approach—eSymbiosis; metrics for industrial symbiosis benefits	2015	[80]
	Pili Manufacturing, energy, and Wood, ash, and organic Utility sharing		Utility sharing	Methodology to determine the most appropriate location and bioclimatic criteria	2017	[81]		
	Achaia		Manufacturing	Water and wastewater and others		Interviews and visits	2017	[82]
Germany	Rhine–Neckar				Network structure, waste software, and intranet platform	On-site surveys	2004	[83]
	Central Germany		(i) Manufacturing; (ii) manufacturing and energy; (iii) manufacturing and energy	(i) Wood; (ii) wood and organic; (iii) wood		Communications and site visits; life cycle assessment and CML 2013 method	2018	[84]
Scotland	Perth and Kinross		Manufacturing and energy	Wood		Questionnaires and focus groups	2007	[85]
	Perth and Kinross		Agriculture, manufacturing, and energy	Wood		Questionnaire survey and an attitude survey	2007	[43]
Spain	Besaya	80	Manufacturing, construction, sale and repair, and transportation and storage	Waste oil, metallic, non-metallic, plastics and rubber, wood, waste oil, paper, organic, and others	Joint waste management	Questionnaires and visits	2015	[86]
	Cartes, Cantabria autonomous community	25	Manufacturing and construction	Organic, paper, etc.	Service or infrastructure	Georeferencing, geographic information systems, and application programming interface; SymbioSyS tool	2017	[87]

 Table 1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
Lithuania	Jonava		Agriculture, manufacturing, water and waste, and administrative and support service	Waste heat and steam, organic, and sludge	environmental indicators and comparative analysis. Feasibility analysis		2016	[88]
			Agriculture and manufacturing	Organic		Indicators	2018	[89]
United Kingdom			Agriculture and manufacturing	Organic and others			2008	[90]
Norway	Mongstad	6	Agriculture, manufacturing, and energy	Chemicals and waste heat and steam		Mass and energy balance assessment, material and energy flow analysis, carbon and hydrogen flow analysis, CO <sub>2</sub> emission evaluation, and sensitivity analysis; hierarchy analysis method	2008	[91]
England	Five areas				Utilities-sharing	Habitat suitability mapping, and multi-criteria-evaluation mapping; sensitivity analysis	2012	[92]
Finland and Sweden	Gulf of Bothnia	7	Manufacturing	Metallic		Strengths and weaknesses assessment and common pool resource management analysis	2012	[93]
Latvia		2	Manufacturing and energy	Organic		Site visits, cumulative intensity indicator of a considered factor	2015	[94]
European country			Agriculture and Manufacturing	Chemicals and Water and wastewater		Concept analysis	2015	[95]
Romania	Botosani and Neamt		Agriculture, manufacturing, energy, water and waste, construction, sale and repair, accommodation and food, and administrative and support service	Chemicals	Infrastructure for utilities and supply process optimization	Interviews	2017	[44]

 Table 1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
-				A	Asia			
	Handan		Agriculture, manufacturing, and energy	Ash, water and wastewater, plastics and rubber, waste heat and steam, metallic, and others			2009	[96]
China	Shanghai City and Jiangsu Province		Manufacturing and urban areas	Plastics and rubber, organic, and others		Divisia analysis, energy demand analysis, and regression analysis	2011	[97]
	Jinqiao		Manufacturing, energy, and water and waste	Sludge and waste oil		Experiments in a laboratory, life cycle assessment, total environmental impact	2011	[98]
	Yunfu	3	Manufacturing and energy	Chemicals and waste heat and steam		Production cost and sale revenue analysis	2011	[99]
	Shenyang		Manufacturing and transportation and storage			Coefficient of industrial agglomeration degree, Space Gini coefficient and Hector Fanta coefficient, logistic model, index of competitive analysis, expert evaluation method relational degree taxis	2012	[100]
	Guiyang		Manufacturing, energy, and commercial and residential area	Metallic, plastics and rubber, ash, waste heat and steam, and others		Questionnaires, material flow analysis, environmental benefit evaluation and CO <sub>2</sub> emission reduction, cost reduction	2015	[39]
	Guiyang		Manufacturing, energy, and commercial and residential area	Metallic, plastics and rubber, ash, waste heat and steam, and others		Questionnaires, material/energy flow analysis, process life cycle assessment, avoided consumptions and emissions, CO <sub>2</sub> emission reduction, hybrid physical input and monetary output model, hybrid life cycle assessment model integrating both process life cycle assessment and input–output model, life cycle emissions change, scenario analysis	2016	[9]
	Hangu, Tanggu, and Dagang Districts		Agriculture, manufacturing, and energy	Water and wastewater and others		Satellite images analysis, geospatial data processing and analysis software, manual visual interpretation and landscape type classification system	2015	[101]

 Table 1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE 1	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
	Liuzhou	5	Manufacturing, energy, and communities	Plastics and rubber, ash, and others		Questionnaires, onsite survey, urban level hybrid physical input and monetary output model, hybrid evaluation model integrating process-based life cycle assessment and input-output analysis, calculation of increased or avoided consumption, trade-off emission, scenarios design	2017	[37]
	Liuzhou		Manufacturing, energy, and communities	Chemicals, waste heat and steam, plastics and rubber, and ash		Onsite survey, analytical approach integrating material flows analysis, and emergy evaluation model, avoided consumption and emissions and CO <sub>2</sub> emission reduction, emergy evaluation index and dilution emergy	2017	[10]
	280 proper cities and 357 county-level cities		Manufacturing, energy, and residential and commercial buildings	Waste heat and steam, ash, and metallic		Cross-sectoral symbiosis modelling; energy cascade algorithms; material-exchange algorithms; estimating reductions in fuel use, CO <sub>2</sub> and PM2.5 emissions, life-cycle analysis, and national-economy-wide economic input output-based life-cycle analysis; PM2.5 pollution and health benefit calculations and AERMOD atmospheric dispersion modelling system	2017	[102]
	Wuhan		Agriculture, manufacturing, and water and waste	Water and wastewater, sludge, and paper		Integrated life cycle management assessment method on the resource flows of industrial ecosystem	2019	[103]
South Korea			Manufacturing	Water and wastewater		Mathematical optimization model, general algebraic modelling system software, life cycle assessment and life cycle costing	2010	[104]
			(i) Manufacturing; (ii) manufacturing and urban area	(i) Others; (ii) wood and plastics and rubber		Interview, quantitative estimation of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions, uncertainty analysis	2015	[105]
	Ulsan		Manufacturing and/or urban area	Waste heat and steam		Interviews, scenarios analysis, heat load analysis procedure, $CO_2$ emission reductions, fuel cost reduction	2018	[106]

 Table 1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
Japan	Shinchi Town		Manufacturing and energy	Waste heat and steam		Technical and economic feasibility assessment, sensitivity analysis, cost-benefit assessment and spatial analysis; energy generation model; energy distribution model; energy consumption model	2014	[107]
	Shinchi Town	Model framework including energy system design, land use scenario, inventory survey and urban area  Waste heat and steam and urban area  Waste heat and steam and geographic analysis; district heating network design and simulation; cost-benefit assessment; sensitivity analysis;		2018	[13]			
	Tanegashima		Agriculture, manufacturing, and energy	Waste heat and steam, organic, and wood		interviews; scenario analysis, energy flow analysis; greenhouse gas emissions based on life cycle analysis	2016	[108]
Malaysia	_	4	Manufacturing and energy	Organic		Disjunctive fuzzy optimization approach; overall degree of satisfaction, annual gross profit, net present value, and payback period of a processing plant	2014	[109]
			Manufacturing		Cooperative safety management	Interview	2014	[110]
	Kedah		Manufacturing, energy, and water and waste	Chemicals, Plastics and rubber, Water and wastewater, and Sludge	Infrastructure sharing	Questionnaires. SWOT analysis. Materials Flow Analysis and the Input-Output data based on previous Life Cycle Analysis data	2017	[111]
Turkey	Gaziantep		Manufacturing, Energy and Water and waste	Organic, Plastics and rubber, Sludge, Chemicals, Non-metallic, Waste heat and steam, and Others		Industrial symbiosis match-making platform (ESOTA®, Industrial Symbiosis Opportunity Screening Tool). Visits and workshops	2017	[112]
	Ankara	10	Manufacturing	Waste heat and steam		Tool for defining data about companies and process, cleaner production potential and costs and environmental impact graph of processes. Analysis of mass balance and all materials	2018	[113]
India	Puducherry		Manufacturing			Survey method; trend analysis, causal chain analysis, policy analysis, training needs assessment, technology needs assessment, and barrier analysis; content analysis; SWOT analysis	2015	[114]

 Table 1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
Bangladesh	Chittagong Export Processing Zone		Manufacturing, energy, and water and waste	Waste heat and steam, water and wastewater, and others		On-site energy audit and equipment/waste emission survey, visits, input and output analysis, feasibility analysis, business model development	2015	[115]
Philippines	Laguna					questionnaires and survey, decision making trial and evaluation laboratory	2016	[116]
				North	America			
USA	Six counties, North Carolina	87	Manufacturing and water and waste	Chemicals, plastics and rubber, wood, ash, metallic, non-metallic, organic, waste heat and steam, water and wastewater, and others		telephone calls, interviews and site visits, discussions and brainstorming sessions, geographic information system maps	2001	[60]
	Texas		Manufacturing and water and waste	Commercial, industrial, and municipal waste		Questionnaire survey, modified total design method	2005	[117]
	Pittsburgh		Manufacturing and construction	Ash and others	Highway density map, road density. and total highway density; optimization analysis; life cycle analysis; transportation cost analysis		2008	[118]
Canada	Ontario		Agriculture, manufacturing, and water and waste	Non-metallic, chemicals, and waste heat and steam		Inputs and outputs analysis	2009	[119]
				South	America			
Brazil			Agriculture and manufacturing	Organic, ash, and others		Economic evaluation, environmental and social analysis, emergy method	2007	[120]
	Norte Fluminense region	14	Agriculture, manufacturing, energy, and water and waste	Organic, chemicals, waste oil, ash, and others		Interviews and visit; scenario analysis, mass balance, synergy matrix, and material flow analysis; environmental, social, and economic indicators	2018	[121]
Colombia	15 towns	34	Agriculture, manufacturing, energy, water and waste, construction, sale and repair, accommodation and food, and administrative and support service	Wood, plastics and rubber, paper, organic, non-metallic, sludge, water and wastewater, and others	Service sharing	Workshops, observations, surveys, and interviews	2018	[34]

 Table 1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE 1	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
				Af	rica			
Liberia	Konia		Agriculture, manufacturing, and accommodation and food	Organic and others	Fishponds	Interviews, optimization model	2014	[45]
Mauritius			Manufacturing and water and waste	Organic, sludge, metallic, and others		Interviews and framework for adopting industrial symbiosis	2017	[122]
Egypt	Borg El-Arab		Agriculture and manufacturing	Organic, metallic, non-metallic, paper, plastics and rubber, wood, and others		Data from internal unpublished sources	2018	[61]
				Oce	ania			
Australia	New South Wales		Mining, manufacturing, and energy	Chemicals, ash, metallic, and others		Aspen modelling	2012	[123]
	Kwinana	12	Manufacturing, energy, water and waste, and construction	Chemicals and others		Triple bottom-line perspective and preliminary sustainability assessment	2013	[124]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> NE: Number of enterprises

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The cases compiled here are organised by region, and these are arranged into descending order based on the number of cases studied, i.e., Europe, Asia, North America, South America, Africa, and Oceania. Within each region, the various countries are also listed in descending order based on the number of cases studied, and within each country, the same process was carried out in ascending order based on the date of publication of the article.

In the following sections, the main characteristics of the cases of potential industrial symbiosis, the methods used in the analyses and the main potential benefits of these synergies are analysed and discussed.

# 3.3.1. Level of Implementation

Similar to industrial ecology and the circular economy, industrial symbiosis can be implemented at three levels: the micro, meso and macro levels [40,125–128]. These are related to the boundaries at which industrial symbiosis relationships develop, i.e., at company (micro) level; between businesses with geographic proximity, such as eco-industrial parks (meso level); and activities that are carried out at regional or national level (macro level). Table 2 illustrates the diversity of potential industrial symbiosis cases, shown in Table 1, for each level of implementation.

Levels of Implementation	Potential Industrial Symbiosis Cases (Refs.)
	Industrial park/eco-industrial park: [75,76,87,91,98,104,110,114];
Mana	business park: [81]; local industrial network: [64]; industrial districts
Meso	(companies with geographical proximity): [67]; nearby companies:
	[35,36]; clusters: [73,107]
	Region: [43,53,66,80,83,93]; region (residential, industrial, rural
2.6	dimensions): [11]; city (industrial park and urban area, industrial and
Macro	urban symbiosis): [9,37,39,106]; municipality: [72]; island: [74,122];
	agro-industrial symbiosis: [120]; automotive sector: [63]

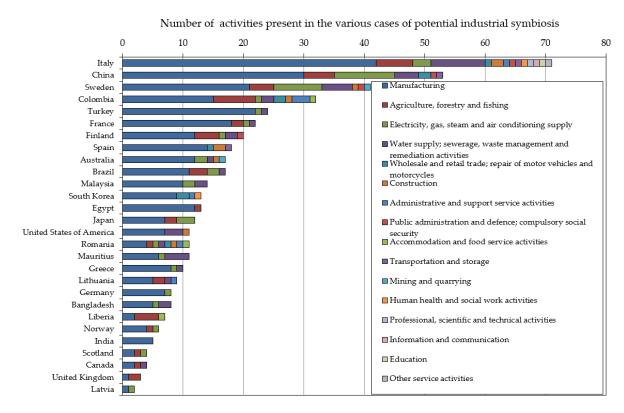
**Table 2.** Distribution of potential industrial symbiosis cases by level of implementation.

#### 3.3.2. Industries Potentially Involved in Industrial Symbiosis

The diversity of economic activities with the potential to become part of an industrial symbiosis network is very wide, as illustrated in Tables 1 and A1. Manufacturing, which comprises activities involving the transformation of materials into new products, is the predominant sector in these cases of potential industrial symbiosis, as shown in Figure 4. This figure represents the distribution by country of all the economic activities involved in the various cases, grouped into sections according to the format established in the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 4 (ISIC, Rev.4). Of the 21 sections defined in ISIC, 16 are relevant to the various cases studied, with manufacturing accounting for 63% of the total occurrences of all sections. Sections such as agriculture, forestry and fishing, electricity and water, and waste management and recycling are also among the most frequently seen.

Within the manufacturing sector, the most frequent economic activities in the cases of potential synergy involve chemical, iron and steel, pulp and paper, construction materials, and wood and wood products. While there are cases in which manufacturing is the only sector in the synergy network, such as the study conducted in the Val di Sangro Industrial Area in Italy [64] or in Achaia in Greece [82], most of the cases involve several different industries within the manufacturing sector and other entities in the network that carry out other types of activity. This diversity of sectors has been highlighted by some authors [18,129] as being very important for the establishment of industrial symbiosis networks, as it widens the opportunities available.

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**Figure 4.** Distribution of the categories of economic activities existing in cases of potential industrial symbiosis by country.

# 3.3.3. Types of Waste/By-Product Exchange, Infrastructure Sharing, and Joint Provision of Services

The types of waste/by-product that have the potential to be used in the various cases of industrial symbiosis are very diverse, and are directly related to the nature of the economic activities that are carried out in the various networks of potential synergy. The most frequently reported wastes are organic (food and food processing wastes, biomass, livestock and fisheries wastes), plastics and rubber, wood, metallic, waste heat and steam, non-metallic (e.g. glass, waste from construction and demolition, lime-based waste), ash, water and wastewater, chemicals, sludge, and paper.

The sharing of infrastructure and the joint provision of services between companies has also been highlighted as a kind of symbiosis between entities, with potential to be developed and to provide benefits to the participants, albeit in lower numbers than for waste flow. The most frequently mentioned cases are facilities associated with the management and treatment of waste, water and recycling [34,62,64,65,86]. This type of scheme can assist companies in their waste management by freeing them of some of the costs associated with the storage and treatment of waste and by facilitating the direction of waste to various other companies. In addition to these aspects, the sharing of expertise, consultancy, equipment, logistics and transport, energy, and water supply infrastructure have also been identified as having potential to be established. Economic, environmental, and social benefits are identified as being likely to be attained if these types of sharing are established, such as cost savings in the construction of facilities [111], saving of resources used in waste treatment [62], reduction of inefficiencies [64], and job creation [65], and these can serve as drivers for the creation of new symbiosis relationships. Furthermore, the existence of shared and efficient infrastructures can foster new synergies between existing companies in the area and can also be an incentive for new companies to establish themselves in the region with the intention of being part of this symbiosis network. The sharing of services such as transport can also be an important factor in promoting symbiosis networks. Since most of the waste sold does not have a very high commercial value, any reduction in costs such as via

the sharing of services can increase the potential economic benefits to the companies involved in these synergies and can foster the creation of new symbiosis relationships.

#### 3.3.4. Methods Used in the Analysis and Assessment of Potential Industrial Symbiosis

In order to identify potential synergy relationships and assess the feasibility of implementing various cases of industrial symbiosis, several methods were used, as listed in Tables 1 and A1. The main objectives of this work were to study the best ways to establish synergy networks with regard to the most potential waste streams and the companies with the highest potential for integration and to assess the potential impacts that industrial symbiosis can have on the environment, the companies involved and the local population.

One of the first steps in the design and analysis of a potential synergy network is the collection of information and quantitative data. Various methods have been used for this, such as interviews [44,65,78,82,106], questionnaires [9,37,63,85,111], site visits [64,84,86,112], and focus groups [53,64,68,85].

To enable the realisation of industrial symbiosis networks, it is also essential to obtain knowledge not only of the possible participants but also of the numbers and types of waste/by-product available. Thus, in addition to meetings with local businesses that help foster possible relationships, as achieved in Emilia-Romagna, Italy [53], the Catania and Siracusa districts in Italy [66], and Colombia [34], the use of digital programs and platforms can also facilitate this interaction by building a common base with potential participants and waste and by optimising possible relationships. Examples of these are the development of a digital web platform for the electrical and electronic equipment sector [38], the Looplocal tool, which is useful in countries with geographically dispersed industries [72], the eSymbiosis multilingual service, implemented as an accessible web service [80], the SymbioSyS tool [87], and the ESOTA®platform, which is based on relationship mimicking [112].

One of the factors that can enhance the realisation of industrial symbiosis relationships is realisation of the potential benefits to businesses, not only the economic benefits, which are essential in encouraging companies to create synergies, but also the environmental and social benefits. While some of the studies carried out only a qualitative analysis, a significant proportion assessed at least one of these benefits. Of the three dimensions of sustainability, the environmental aspect was the most frequently discussed, and the most commonly applied method was the use of environmental indicators [10,13,39,88,105]. The reduction of carbon dioxide emissions was the most frequently addressed in the various analyses [35,36,38,63,70,73,98], followed by quantification of savings in the consumption of resources such as energy, water, raw materials and fossil fuels [9,39,63,88,95], and quantification of the reduction of waste sent to landfills [9,34,39] resulting from the potential application of industrial symbiosis. Life cycle assessment [9,38,63,84,98] was the method most commonly used to assess the environmental impact. The economic aspect, which was the second most frequently assessed, was measured using the life cycle costing method [104] and several metrics that primarily reflected reductions in raw material [39,60], fuel [13,106], energy consumption [35,36], waste disposal costs [38,39], and increased revenue [34,35,38,45,109]. Job creation [45,80,120,121] was the indicator most commonly used to assess the social benefits of realising potential industrial symbiosis relationships. The material flow analysis method [9,10,39,88,111] has also been used several times to quantitatively assess potential industrial symbiosis.

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The environmental and economic components of sustainability have also been used to optimise and select the best potential symbiosis relationships. In order to compare industrial symbiosis with an equivalent system in which companies remain separate, several forms of synergy network integration have been evaluated and optimised based on their total costs [69] and carbon dioxide emissions [70] using the MIND method, an optimisation method based on mixed integer linear programming. Three models were developed using mixed integer linear programming to model and optimise waste streams in an industrial park in France with regard to cost and environmental impact [75].

SWOT analysis has also been used several times [67,76,111,114] to study the internal and external factors in the potential application of industrial symbiosis networks.

#### 3.3.5. Potential Environmental, Economic, and Social Benefits

An analysis of the various cases of potential industrial symbiosis leads to the conclusion that most of them intend to achieve environmental, economic and social benefits through these practices. Table 3 gives some examples of this. The environmental component was most frequently measured, largely due to international constraints on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as well as national constraints on emission reductions and the amount of waste sent to landfills and incinerators. It is therefore important to ascertain whether these practices can be effective in meeting these limitations.

The economic component, which is often cited as a determinant factor in decisions by companies to establish symbiosis relations [34,130], was the second most frequently quantified component of sustainability. However, not all cases of industrial symbiosis have the potential to provide economic benefits to all participants, such as an example of symbiosis in a chemical industrial park in the west of Urumqi City, China. In this case, one of the companies did not receive economic benefits, largely due to the fact that the price of the raw material was lower than some types of industrial solid waste that were used for the production of bricks [130]. The environmental benefits, such as reduced consumption of natural resources and greenhouse gas emissions, justify the implementation of these networks of synergy, even without economic benefits, although, in these cases, it is important that local or national governments provide economic incentives that encourage companies to create these synergies.

It can therefore be concluded that the implementation of these cases of industrial symbiosis can provide a number of environmental, economic, and social benefits that translate into an efficient use of waste and resources.

**Table 3.** Main environmental, economic and social benefits of potential industrial symbiosis.

Potential Industrial Symbiosis (Refs.)	Environmental Benefits	Economic Benefits	Social Benefits
[62]	Improved air quality (emissions reduced up to 65%), water quality (pollution reduced by 20–30 times), water and energy consumption and $\mathrm{CO}_2$ emissions (reduced up to 60%)		
[69]		Reduction in system cost by 17.6%, increase in electricity production by 0.5%, decrease in steam discharge by 78.0%, decrease in waste heat discharge by 80.4%, and increase in bark sales in 72.8% compared to the reference case	
[85]			On-site and off-site jobs creation, contribution to the alleviation of rural fuel poverty
[63]	Reduction of resource depletion, air emissions, and landfilled wastes	Costs of secondary polypropylene are reduced up to a factor of 10, compared with virgin plastics; reduction of waste costs; reduction of 93% of supply costs	
[73]	Reduction of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions, reduction of the amount of waste that is currently sent to landfill, long-term storage of the CO <sub>2</sub> , water savings, and reduction of dependence on petroleum-based materials	Increase of the production, cost reduction, and creation of new sources of income	
[36]	Industrial symbiosis complexes with two and six factories would allow to avoid equivalent CO <sub>2</sub> emissions of approximately 78 kteCO <sub>2</sub> /year and 377 kteCO <sub>2</sub> /year, respectively	Implementation of a steam exchange system between the two chemical plants and the thermal plant, with a distance of 1.8 km, could reduce the annual heat costs of the plants by approximately 15%, with a payback period of	
[34]	Twenty projects would prevent 7207 tons of waste disposal and 1126 tons of greenhouse gas emissions and would reduce energy consumption by 619,500 kWh and water consumption by 146,000 m <sup>3</sup> per year	It is estimated that the 20 projects can generate economic benefits in the amount of approximately \$760,000 USD, considering both cost savings and additional revenue; on average, each project was estimated to generate about \$38,000 USD, with a three-month payback period	

 Table 3. Cont.

Potential Industrial Symbiosis (Refs.)	Environmental Benefits	Economic Benefits	Social Benefits
[95]	Energy reduction up to 35%, reduction in water consumption up to 50%, and reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 20%	Cost of waste disposal is practically eliminated	
[39]	Save raw material 2.5t and energy 12.25 GJ/t steel; 1t waste plastic could substitute 1.2 t coke; save material of clinker 500 kt/year; reduce slag by 500 kt/y; in total, resource saving and waste reduction reduce the CO <sub>2</sub> emissions by 1028.06 kt-CO <sub>2</sub> /y	In terms of raw material saving, fossil fuel saving, and solid waste reduction, cost reduction is 54.14MUSD/y, 13.84MUSD/y and 4.23MUSD/y	
[106]	In the scenario for the total of industrial and urban symbioses, the $CO_2$ emission could be reduced to 1,108,682 ton $CO_2$ /yr (this reduction of $CO_2$ emission is approximately 2% of the total $CO_2$ emissions in Ulsan)	The fuel cost could be reduced to \$352.5 million USD/yr	
[120]	Rationalization of land use, avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions and toxic gases, and minimization of the needed inputs and equipment	Liquid present value: \$10.93 million USD, economical revenue: 16.29%/year, and return time: 4.6 years	Creation of 241 jobs in the initial phase and more than 5400 in the eight months of harvest, construction of civil and social facilities
[124]	Chemical release due to dust containment avoided, avoidance of release of toxic chemicals to environment and ground water contamination, avoids CaCl <sub>2</sub> release to marine environment, less use of virgin resources and less environmental burdens by avoiding nitrogen oxide emissions	Avoid fines from dust emissions, from waste water and from emissions; savings to company and savings in the costs of using less water from other sources; revenue from CaCl <sub>2</sub> , from the sale of ammonium nitrate, and from SiO <sub>2</sub> sales	Respiratory effects from fine dust avoided; less health risks due to reduced emissions, avoidance of long-term exposure to SiO <sub>2</sub> , and avoidance of release of nitrogen oxides

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## 3.4. Cases of Potential Industrial Symbiosis Applied to New Products and New Uses of Waste

Research into new uses for waste and the manufacture of new products based on industrial symbiosis is essential in order to reduce the consumption of raw materials and reduce waste sent to landfills and incineration plants. However, despite the environmental and economic benefits of this reduction, the process of moving from research to practice is not always rapid or, indeed, possible. In addition to the barriers to the creation and development of industrial symbiosis, which are often referred to in the literature, such as a lack of trust among potential collaborators [33,116], the risks and uncertainties associated with the costs and benefits of such synergies [18,131], and a lack of knowledge [34,41], there are other more specific obstacles that impede these new uses. Current legislation restricting the integration of new waste materials into productive processes [132,133] and the toxicity of some of these waste materials [134] are examples of barriers that can hinder the flow of waste materials and thus condition the development of future synergies. Thus, several studies have investigated future relationships of industrial symbiosis with a focus on the use of new waste materials and their reutilisation in the manufacture of existing or new products. Table 4 presents a summary of these studies, and in addition to the location and main characteristics of the industrial symbiosis, describes the methods used in the various studies. The different case studies are grouped into regions, i.e., Europe, Oceania, North America, and South America, which are sorted into descending order in terms of the frequency with which they appear in the studies. In cases with an equal number of articles, the ordering was carried out based on the date of publication, in ascending order.

It can be seen that, although these cases are few in number, a great variety of industries is involved in potential industrial symbiosis, and there is a wide range of different waste materials and potential uses of these in the manufacture of new or existing products. The geographical distribution is also relatively varied, with studies carried out in Europe, North America, South America, and Oceania. Although not all of these studies were contextualised with regard to a specific location, the vast majority studied the potential for using new waste materials within a given geographical context.

**Table 4.** Potential applications of industrial symbiosis to various products and wastes, and studies analysing these applications.

Country	Location/Region	Activity/Process	Waste/By-Products	Final Product/Use	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
Finland		Bioenergy production and forest products industry waste water treatment	Bio fly ash and bio sludge	Forest fertilizer	Laboratory scale production and test, life cycle assessment	2016	[135]
Finland	Oulu, Raahe and Kemi	Pulp and paper mill, carbon steel plant, mine, and power plant	Lime waste residues, green liquor dregs, steel ladle slags, desulphurization slag, attle rock, bottom ash, fly ash, and paper mill sludge	Soil amendment pellets, low-grade concrete, and mine filler	Life cycle assessment, CML impact assessment method, global warming potential assessment and exergy analysis method, dimensional analysis approach, primary exergy conversion efficiency of the production process	2016	[133]
Greece		Biodiesel plants, agro-industries, lignite-based power generation plant, and agricultural biomass-based combined heat and power plant	Crude glycerol and agricultural biomass	Alternative fuels production	Experiments in a laboratory scale	2016	[136]
United Kingdom	North east of England	Integrated steel mill	Vanadium-bearing steel slags		Semi-structured interviews with industry representatives, industry associations, and consultants	2017	[132]
Wales	Baglan	Foundry and research centre	Platinum from waste thermocouples	Catalytic electrodes suitable for dye-sensitized solar cell production	Synthesis and analysis of chloroplatinic acid samples, fabrication and characterization of platinized counter-electrodes, electrical impedance spectroscopy analysis, chemical analysis, supply and environmental impact analysis, cost-benefit analysis	2018	[137]

 Table 4. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	Activity/Process	Waste/By-Products	Final Product/Use	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
Italy	S. Angeli di Rosora, Marche	Building and automotive sector	Retired lithium-ion electric vehicle batteries	Battery energy storage systems	Experimental tests, simulation of the energy system, integrated load match analysis and life cycle assessment approach, grid interaction indicators	2019	[138]
Australia	Western Australia	Nitric acid plants and fertilizer producer	By-products formed from chemical absorption of nitrogen oxide	Potassium nitrate fertilizer	Life cycle assessment and life cycle inventory; process engineering applications: stoichiometric balances, thermodynamic properties of chemical reactions. and solubility conditions; Australian Environmental Impact method; uncertainty analysis	2016	[139]
Australia	Kwinana	Phosphoric acid manufacture	Phosphogypsum	Paper and fertilizer	Life cycle assessment and life cycle inventory; economic and social analysis; Economic Analyzer software; sensitivity analysis; indicators for social implications assessment: employment opportunity, intergenerational social equity, and avoided land use	2018	[140]
USA	Southwest region	Original equipment manufacturer dealership, battery diagnostic centre, and photovoltaic industry	End of life electric vehicles lithium-ion batteries	Storage of renewable energy generated through photovoltaic technology	Avoided environmental impacts for reusing degraded electric vehicles batteries and tool for reduction and assessment of chemicals and other environmental impact	2019	[141]

Table 4. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	Activity/Process	Waste/By-Products	Final Product/Use	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
USA		Automobile industry and building and construction industry	Waste steel scrap	Metal facade systems for buildings' exteriors	Required capital cost and required energy consumption for making a new metal building facade product by recycling and by directly reusing waste steel scrap; potential capital cost savings and energy consumption savings by reusing waste steel scrap when compared with recycling	2019	[142]
Brazil	Quadrilátero Ferrífero, Minas Gerais	Iron mining and steel, and brick manufacturing industry	Steel slag and iron ore tailings	Solid brick	Evaluation of chemical composition of the samples by energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy, expansibility test using the method defined in Brazilian Standard ABNT NBR NM 13, experimental procedures, visual analysis, mechanical tests, comparative evaluation, QE-CO <sub>2</sub> method	2018	[143]
			Wastes from laptop and photovoltaic system		Design measures and technological, environmental, and economic implications analysis	2012	[144]
		Cement industry and municipal solid waste management	Energy-from-waste air pollution control residues (fly ash and calcium or sodium salts from scrubbing of acid gases)	Blended cements	Analysis of pH-dependent leachability of pollutants from granular material and diffusion-controlled leaching from monolithic specimens; laboratory investigation of eight EfW APC residues	2014	[134]

 Table 4. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	Activity/Process	Waste/By-Products	Final Product/Use	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
		Winery and environmental industries	Grape marc	Bioadsorbent for the desalination of water containing copper (II) sulfate	Elemental analysis, preliminary adsorption experiments, experimental design for establishing the optima conditions to remove copper(ii), quantification of copper(ii) through a spectrophotometric analysis, quantification of adsorbent capacity and percentage of copper removal, X-ray diffraction analysis, statistical analysis—response surface method, and multiple regressions using the least squares method	2018	[145]

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In some cases, geographical location was not constraining, and the use of certain waste materials could be transferred to several locations. For example, waste materials from common industries and those available in most countries can be used to extend the range of application of industrial symbiosis. One example of this is a case study of the production of potential symbiosis products such as soil amelioration pellets, low-competence concrete, and mine filler from a mixture of waste materials from multiple industries, such as pulp and paper mills, carbon steel plants, mines, and power plants [133]. Although this was studied in the context of Finland, this symbiosis could be replicated in numerous different locations due to the nature of the industries available. Another example was a study of the use of wine grape pulp to produce a bio-adsorbent for the removal of copper sulphate from water [145]; this symbiosis between the winery and environmental industries could also be reproduced in several distinct locations.

In other cases, however, geographical location can condition or incentivise the use of certain waste materials in the symbiotic process. For example, the strong presence of a particular type of industry can be an enhancer for industrial symbiosis and the search for new solutions to the waste generated by the production process. One example is the pulp and paper industry, which has a long tradition in Finland and is responsible for large volumes of production [21] and consequently high levels of waste generation. One of the studies focused on the potential uses of sludge resulting from the processes of wastewater treatment in the forestry industry and of fly ash resulting from the production of bioenergy for the production of a forest fertiliser [135]. In Brazil, the steel, mining, and construction sectors have a strong presence and are responsible for large-scale generation of waste and greenhouse gas emissions, and this has boosted the search for sustainable solutions. Thus, new solutions for the use of iron and steel mining waste were studied as an example of potential symbiosis in the production of solid brick/construction blocks in the Quadrilátero Ferrífero zone [143].

Current progress and the consequent emergence of new products have created new streams of waste, and with them the need to provide solutions which promote a more sustainable end of life. If these wastes result from or are integrated into a sector or product that has a significant environmental impact over its life cycle or a certain part of it, industrial symbiosis makes it possible to reduce the environmental impact of this sector or product. One of the examples found in the literature was the potential use of end-of-life electric vehicle lithium-ion batteries as storage systems for the renewable energy produced from photovoltaic systems in the generation of electricity for buildings [138,141]. In addition to using a waste material that is expected to increase over the next few years, this potential synergy also contributes to the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions from two sectors that are responsible for high greenhouse gas emissions—buildings and the automotive sector.

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The study of new solutions based on industrial symbiosis is not only due to the inherent characteristics of certain waste materials, such as their toxicity and associated value, but also to the fact that the recycling process is often expensive and a large consumer of energy, meaning that it is not a viable solution. In the case of retrieval of valuable metals such as platinum, the recovered value sometimes does not cover the costs inherent in retrieval [137] if these are present in low concentrations, and industrial symbiosis can address this limitation. One example is a case study of Baglan, South Wales, in which, due to the local proximity between the stakeholders of potential synergy, the recovery of platinum for the production of catalytic electrodes for dye-sensitised solar cells could be translated into environmental, economic, and social benefits [137]. The potential direct use of sheet metal scrap from the automobile industry in the manufacture of new facade systems for the exterior of buildings could also lead to a reduction in costs of approximately 40% and a reduction in energy consumption of approximately 67% compared to a conventional recycling process [142].

All these studies were supported by several methods with different objectives. Since the main aim of these publications was to promote the use of new waste materials or the production of new products empowered by industrial symbiosis, it is not surprising that the predominant methods were those associated with laboratory-scale experiments. These tests were carried out to study not only the characteristics of waste materials [137,138] but also the final products [135,143] in order to guarantee their functionality and suitability for these purposes. A knowledge of the potential environmental, economic and social benefits that these new uses of waste can provide is also very relevant, as these can drive realisation. In the same way as for studies of potential industrial symbiosis between companies, the environmental component was the most frequently analysed aspect [135,138–140], followed by economic factors [137,140,142,144], and finally social components [140]. The potential benefits from the use of new waste materials and the manufacture of new products based on industrial symbiosis are extremely diverse. Table 5 lists the main environmental, economic, and social benefits that could be achieved if some of these potential symbioses were put into practice.

**Table 5.** Main environmental, economic, and social benefits of the potential use of waste and products through industrial symbiosis.

Potential Industrial Symbiosis (Refs.)	Environmental Benefits	Economic Benefits	Social Benefits
[135]	Reduction of global warming potential (GWP) by 99%: production of 1000 kg of potential symbiosis granules would produce GWP burdens of 11.75 kg CO <sub>2</sub> -equiv. and the existing NPK-fertilizers produced a GWP burden of 1304.92 kg CO <sub>2</sub> -equiv.		
[139]	Reduce the overall GWP, acidification potential and eutrophication potential per kg KNO $_3$ produced by 7.8 kg of CO $_2$ -e, 0.122 kg SO $_2$ -e and 0.075 kg PO $_4$ -e respectively in comparison to the production of conventional KNO $_3$ fertilizer and could reduce GHG emissions by 45%		
[142]		Reusing the sheet metal scrap over conventional recycling of the same material would lead to a cost reduction of approximately 40% (\$400 USD/ton) and savings of approximately 67% (10,000 MJ/ton) of energy consumption	
[136]	Provide a rather short-term solution to the existing environmental problem of waste glycerol, contributes to increase sustainability and reduce environmental footprint	Decrease in the cost of biodiesel production	
[132]	Removal of elements of environmental risk, such as vanadium	Income from the sale of recovered metals	
[137]	Per year, divert $\sim 50$ g of platinum from landfill, avoid up to $1400$ kg of $CO_2$ emissions associated with primary production of an equivalent quantity of platinum, and give enough platinum to produce catalytic electrodes for $\sim 500$ m $^2$ of dye-sensitized solar cells, which could supply clean energy for 12 homes in the locality (South Wales)	Provide 63% materials cost savings for electrode preparation in comparison to purchasing commercially available chloroplatinic acid hydrate	Provide ∼5 days employment

 Table 5. Cont.

Potential Industrial Symbiosis (Refs.)	Environmental Benefits	Economic Benefits	Social Benefits
[140]	Reduce solid waste associated with traditional paper production, where the average amount of solid waste reduction from studied options is 0.01 kg/kg of paper, reduction of contamination of underground water sources or land from leaching of the phosphogypsum (PG) constituents	PG recycling is expected to reduce approximately 12,000 m <sup>2</sup> of land used for stockpiling of PG (based on the average annual operation of the plant of 25,000 tons of PG), which could be reutilized for other economic benefits such as expansion of the industrial plant or be sold for revenue generation	Employment opportunities for people in the surrounding areas; it is expected that 18 job opportunities will be needed
[143]	Reduction in GHG emissions. The construction of the 126,000 households using the T2 brick would generate a reduction of $465,588.9$ tons of $CO_2$ , when compared to the concrete block	The carbon credits related to CO <sub>2</sub> reduction in the simulated venture could be traded for \$4.3 million USD	Access to lower-cost housing

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# 4. Drivers and Barriers to the Realisation of Potential Industrial Symbiosis and Strategies to Overcome These Barriers

A knowledge of the drivers and barriers to the implementation of industrial symbiosis is essential in order to develop measures that enhance the application of this practice. Based on the studies of potential industrial symbiosis analysed above, this section compiles the various drivers, i.e., factors that promote and facilitate the development of industrial symbiosis, and barriers, i.e., the factors that hinder the implementation of this practice. Selected strategies for overcoming the various barriers are also highlighted, as these can create conditions for the various cases of potential industrial symbiosis to materialise.

# 4.1. Drivers and Enablers of the Realisation of Potential Industrial Symbiosis

An analysis of the articles on potential industrial symbiosis leads to the conclusion that there are a number of factors that play important roles in the realisation of industrial symbiosis relationships. Knowing the environmental, economic and social benefits that this practice provides is important in promoting the creation of synergy networks [146]; however, these are not always the main drivers of this practice, and many other drivers have been identified in studies of potential industrial symbiosis as being conducive for companies to participate in symbiosis networks. In most cases, it is not one factor but a set of factors that create favourable conditions for the development of symbiosis.

The economic, environmental, political, and social context of a country can be decisive in the way sustainability issues are addressed and consequently in how they can favour or condition the development of industrial symbiosis. The distribution of a number of potential industrial symbiosis articles by country, as illustrated in Figure 3, reflects the characteristic context of each country.

Existing legislation, plans and policies in each country are also repeatedly referred to as drivers of industrial symbiosis [82,101,115,118,120]. Companies are encouraged to set up synergy networks through imposing limits on emission or waste disposal through regulations and taxation, facilitating the use of waste, and allocating funds.

The higher numbers of studies of potential industrial symbiosis in Europe cannot be dissociated from the efforts that have been undertaken by European countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to promote the more efficient use of resources. These efforts have been driven by the European Commission, which has established a number of directives, communications and programs with the provision of funds. One example is the "Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe" communication, which proposed a framework for action to ensure the sustainable management of all resources without sacrificing economic growth [147]. Another example is the communication "Closing the loop—An EU action plan for the Circular Economy". This communication underlined the importance of industrial symbiosis and proposed to facilitate this practice through cooperation with the Member States, guaranteed funding through cohesion policy funds, and the research and innovation framework program Horizon 2020 [148]. Another initiative launched by the European Commission was Directive 2018/851 on waste; in addition to highlighting the great advantages of improving the efficiency of waste management and recognising waste as a resource, this acknowledges the importance of industrial symbiosis and encourages Member States to take steps to facilitate it [149].

The European countries for which the highest numbers of cases of potential industrial symbiosis have been published are Italy, Sweden, and Finland. All of these countries have common factors that may have contributed to fostering the study of new industrial symbiosis relationships and their implementation, such as (i) a greater concern with environmental issues and the search for sustainable solutions, (ii) the established existence of cases of industrial symbiosis over several years, (iii) a considerable number of cases of self-organised symbiosis networks, (iv) the existence of facilitators through national agencies or local governments, and (v) more stringent environmental regulations [18,21,41,150,151].

The realisation of two cases of industrial symbiosis, involving the automotive [64] and agri-food [65] industries in the Italian Region of Abruzzo, is another example of the combination of several factors in

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realising the potential of symbiosis. In this case, good communication routes, favourable geographical positions, stakeholder involvement, and the facilitating role of the president of Consorzio Italiano Subfornitura Impresa (CISI) in the case of the automotive industry were viewed as driving factors in the development of industrial symbiosis [152].

China has the highest number of published cases of industrial symbiosis [19] and potential such cases. This may be associated with a set of measures that China has implemented over recent years, such as the implementation of policies and plans, financial incentives, and research incentives. These measures have attempted to contain the negative effects of increasing industrialisation and urbanisation in recent years [153,154], such as increased carbon dioxide emissions [153,155,156], increased amounts of industrial solid waste [154,157], and increasing resource consumption [39,97]. The National Pilot Circular Economy Zone Programme, launched by the State Environmental Protection Administration in 2001, and the laws that have been applied since 2003 to promote the circular economy, are examples of these measures. While not primarily aimed at promoting industrial symbiosis, they contribute to the spread of this practice by providing increased awareness of the importance of resource reuse and recognition of the fundamental role of the circular economy in China's development [23,24]. The China National Eco-Industrial Demonstration Programme launched in 2000 by the State Environmental Protection Administration [25] has also contributed to the increase in the number of potential industrial symbiosis cases and China's leadership in the publication of case studies [19]. This programme has enabled the development of the largest national network of eco-industrial parks, in which industrial symbiosis practices have been promoted [158,159].

The predominance of certain types of industry within countries can also be a driving factor for the creation of industrial symbiosis networks. This is particularly true if they are large consumers of resources and emitters of greenhouse gases, such as the steel and iron industry in China [97,160], and if they play a key role in economic development, such as the agri-food industry in Italy [65] and the iron, steel, and cement industries in China [160,161]. Moreover, these industries have a longstanding tradition in these countries and are located in industrially mature areas, which Jensen et al. [92] have shown to facilitate industrial symbiosis.

A diversity of industries has also frequently been highlighted as conducive to the establishment of industrial symbiosis relationships [76,114], since this opens up a range of opportunities due to the variety of wastes and the numbers of companies that produce them and have the potential to incorporate them into their processes. If there are several companies carrying out the same type of economic activity, this can be an added advantage, since it ensures a more constant flow of waste [77], while if there are no other companies nearby to ensure the incorporation of these wastes into their processes, the viability of industrial symbiosis is compromised. The fact that there are several industries carrying out the same type of economic activity may also enhance other synergies, such as infrastructure sharing and the joint provision of services.

If a company can function as an anchor tenant, this can be an important factor in driving the realisation of industrial symbiosis relationships [76,82,91,93,114]. These companies are able to attract and anchor a network of companies, not only in terms of the supply of materials but also the reuse of waste. There are some examples of such cases reported in the literature, such as a power plant in Honolulu in the US [162], mining firms in Gujiao, China [163], and a pulp and paper mill in Kouvola, Finland [164].

Although not an indispensable requirement for establishing the synergy network, geographical proximity between the potential participants in industrial symbiosis is often referred to as a facilitator [11, 36,82,91]. Establishing symbiosis networks with nearby companies can increase trust in the relationship. In addition, the fact that waste is mostly of low economic value, transportation and environmental costs may no longer compensate for the symbiosis connection over long distances.

The existence of industrial symbiosis networks that have already been established in a given place can be a driving force for creating new synergy linkages and extending the network to new companies, since the internal structures [114] and trust relationships that facilitate this development [40] are

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already established. In addition, there is evidence that these networks can be of benefit to the parties involved, not only in terms of the reduction of waste treatment and landfill costs, but also in terms of the savings made in the acquisition of raw materials, and profits from the sales of waste. If there are entities that can support and facilitate existing on-site cases of industrial symbiosis, these can also act as enablers for the creation of new connections. This role can be played either by public entities such as local governments or by private entities such as business associations [18,41]. These entities, which are aware of the reality of the site, can more easily identify new partners for infrastructure sharing and joint provision of services, as well as new companies that may be able to use waste that is not yet in use, or that can provide waste to companies already involved in industrial symbiosis. However, in places where no synergy networks have been established, the role of these facilitators can be highly relevant, as mentioned in some of the cases analysed here [60,76,82,107]. They can provide training for companies, facilitate the exchange of information [53], foster cooperation and trust between companies [76], and coordinate and help identify possible symbiosis relationships [107].

### 4.2. Barriers to the Realisation of Potential Industrial Symbiosis

Despite the recognised environmental, economic and social benefits that industrial symbiosis can provide, there are a number of barriers that hinder its development. The literature review shows that these barriers can be of various types, such as economic, technical, regulatory/legal, organisational, social, and cultural [18,33,47,131,165]. By analysing selected publications on potential industrial symbiosis, it was possible to identify several of these barriers.

Several studies of potential industrial symbiosis have pointed out the lack of appropriate policies as a barrier to the application of this practice [53,65,116,122]. Low taxes on landfill disposal [122], a lack of policies that encourage and regulate industrial symbiosis [116], a lack of funds to promote this practice [116], and deficient regulatory frameworks [122] are some of these barriers. In addition, existing legislation may limit the implementation of synergy relationships, especially if it is too rigid, unclear, or inconsistent. One example is Italy's regulatory system, which is referred to in studies of potential industrial symbiosis [53,65] as constraining companies with regard to the use of waste.

There are also others barriers to the creation of industrial symbiosis networks. The first is associated with the reluctance of companies to establish synergistic relationships, not only due to a lack of knowledge of the industrial symbiosis mechanism [116,122] but also due to a lack of knowledge of other companies with the potential to receive or provide waste [9,68]. In addition, a lack of trust [82,116], resistance to providing data on processes and generated waste [122], and uncertainty related to the profitability of the symbiosis network [75] and the associated costs and risks [82] were also identified as barriers to the development of symbiosis relationships.

The fact that companies are implementing measures to reduce waste generation has also been identified as a barrier to the development of industrial symbiosis [68], as there is a concern that the stream of waste involved cannot be guaranteed.

The economic component has been referred to by various authors [18,166,167] as being essential in inducing companies to take the initiative to establish an industrial symbiosis relationship. If the economic value of raw materials is very close to that of waste, there is no incentive for companies to use waste in their production processes [37]. Moreover, the price that companies are willing to pay for waste may not be economically advantageous for the company producing such waste. In this case, there is no incentive for companies to divert waste from landfills and start a symbiosis relationship [68]. In addition to these factors, the role of stakeholders in deciding whether or not to initiate symbiosis relations should be highlighted, as there is often a lack of openness [34] and willingness [116] to initiate this kind of collaboration.

For the establishment of some symbiosis relationships, such as the sharing of waste heat, the initial costs associated with infrastructure are very high, and this makes companies reluctant to establish such symbioses [75,106,107]. A lack of availability of technologies required [9,116] and the high costs

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of equipment [85] for the realisation of industrial symbiosis have also been identified as inhibiting the realisation of this practice.

The social and economic instability of a country can also condition the establishment of synergies, since although the issue of sustainability is recognised as being important; there may be social issues which take precedence [168]. In addition, the issue of survival is imperative in some countries with developing economies, and since the time between setting up projects and achieving results may often be long in these countries, this may constitute a barrier to the implementation of symbiosis [45].

# 4.3. Strategies for Overcoming the Barriers to the Realisation of Potential Industrial Symbiosis

Regulations and policies were most often referred to as being important for encouraging or limiting the establishment of industrial symbiosis relationships [85,111,122,169]. While the decision to establish a symbiosis relationship is made by a given entity, the role of policies is critical in encouraging this practice. Thus, in order for these to not function as barriers, it is necessary to provide legislation and policies that are clear, consistent, and less bureaucratic and can facilitate the process of waste use [170].

Economic incentives have also been highlighted as being important in the realisation of industrial symbiosis [9,122]. To create more efficient legislation to facilitate this practice, programmes can be coupled with the provision of funds to promote industrial symbiosis and offer monetary support for companies in terms of the construction of infrastructures or the acquisition of the equipment necessary for the realisation of these relationships [122].

However, even if there are a number of policies and programs that facilitate and encourage companies to establish symbiotic relationships, the companies themselves are often reluctant to make such connections. Thus, to drive the implementation of industrial symbiosis, it is necessary to disseminate information to companies. This can be realised through workshops, working group discussions, and other actions [116,122] that provide the necessary information to companies on industrial symbiosis and its potential benefits. A knowledge of this practice can create the willingness to cooperate, which is fundamental for the realisation of symbiosis networks [68].

The role of facilitators such as local governments and industry associations has also been highlighted as a way to overcome various barriers [34,111], including a lack of confidence, a reluctance of companies to share their data and a fear of relying on other companies. These entities can provide training to various employees on the concept of industrial symbiosis, assist in the creation of trust and cooperation relationships, and help to identify new symbiosis relationships [34,165].

Some barriers such as a lack of knowledge of companies with potential to start symbiosis relationships and lack of trust can be overcome using digital platforms and programs [87]. These tools can enable social interaction between companies and facilitate a search for companies that can provide or receive waste. In addition, where appropriate, they can facilitate the choice of the best option based on prices, distances and potential environmental and economic benefits [38,80,87].

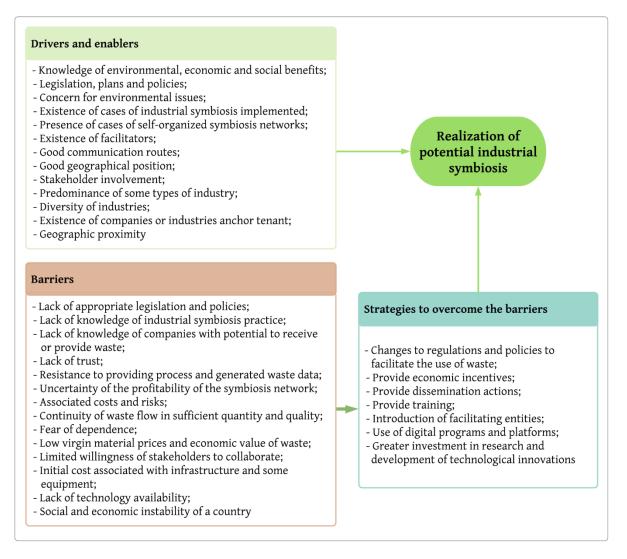
In order to overcome the barriers associated with a lack of available technology, there is a need for increased investment by governments in research and development into technological innovations and greater involvement with research teams from university or business associations [9,37].

In the case of poorer countries with social problems such as high unemployment rates, low incomes, illiteracy, or low life expectancy, such as the cases studied in the Philippines, Liberia, India, and Bangladesh, the implementation of industrial symbiosis practices is more difficult. However, when properly supported, the implementation of this practice can make a positive contribution to the long-term sustainable development of these countries, as it makes it possible to combine environmental and economic issues with social aspects. These advantages translate into job creation, long-term links between companies and the possibility of small businesses entering the synergy network [45,61,171]. It is therefore essential to support these countries in the development of industrial symbiosis. Several authors have proposed measures for overcoming the characteristic barriers in these countries, such as (i) extending the symbiosis network to other stakeholders such as

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community leaders and government organisations [45], (ii) the establishment of policies that encourage symbiotic relationships between small businesses, such as small farms [45], (iii) the provision of subsidies [122], and (iv) helping to obtain international support created specifically for sustainable projects in developing countries [122].

The main drivers and barriers to achieving potential industrial symbiosis are very diverse, as illustrated in Figure 5, and overcoming the various barriers and achieving further dissemination of industrial symbiosis requires concerted action at various levels. It is therefore essential to coordinate the various entities and resources and to restructure existing regulatory systems. It is also necessary to support companies in paradigm shifting and raising awareness of the advantages of more sustainable practices, and in particular industrial symbiosis.



**Figure 5.** Key drivers, enablers, and barriers to the realisation of potential industrial symbiosis, and strategies to overcoming these barriers.

#### 5. Conclusions

Despite the large number of existing cases of industrial symbiosis, there is still huge scope for growth, as evidenced by the various studies that have been carried out to assess the potential application of this practice. A comprehensive review of the literature reveals that there is potential for the development of new industrial symbiosis relationships around the world, with a wide diversity in terms of network size, the types of economic activities involved and the types of waste stream.

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Most existing studies focus on countries where symbiosis is already widely applied, such as China, Sweden, Finland, and the US. However, the potential for industrial symbiosis has also been studied in countries where this practice has few or no existing cases, such as Egypt, the Philippines, and Colombia. Although most of these cases reproduce existing symbiosis relationships with regard to the activities and types of waste involved, there have been studies that have looked into the potential use of new waste and the manufacture of new products based on industrial symbiosis relationships. Furthermore, the potential for applying industrial symbiosis is not limited to replacing resources with waste; there are also many opportunities for other types of synergies, such as infrastructure sharing and joint provision of services.

Despite this great potential, it was only possible to verify the realisation of two of the cases of potential industrial symbiosis in the literature review. It can be inferred that there was either no interest from industry in the implementation of industrial symbiosis or, if the potential was realised, there was no follow-up that resulted in a publication. However, it is important to understand that there is interest from industry in implementing these cases. Some of the studies have a more theoretical character, and many of them resorted to interviews and site visits, which implies that industry is aware of the potential for industrial symbiosis. Thus, it is important to monitor the implementation of symbiosis in order to better understand the dynamics of implementation of this practice and the main factors enhancing its development. If potential cases of industrial symbiosis are not realised, it is relevant to analyse with companies the main barriers to this implementation.

The work carried out in this paper regarding knowledge of the potential for industrial symbiosis and the main barriers and drivers to its implementation may have theoretical implications. The characterisation of the various cases can contribute positively to the research efforts that have been developed to increase the application and diffusion of industrial symbiosis. Knowledge of the main drivers and barriers may also have implications for the development of theory, in terms of an understanding of industrial symbiosis and the main mechanisms that can drive or hinder it.

While an effort was made to ensure that the review of the bibliography was as comprehensive as possible, we limited our search to articles written in English and using only research articles, conference articles, book chapters and editorials, and this may have overlooked some cases of potential industrial symbiosis that could provide a greater understanding of this topic.

Of the various types of resource sharing available, most studies address the potential use of waste and the advantages that arise from its integration as a raw material in the production process. However, in future research, it is important to examine more case studies assessing the potential of infrastructure sharing, the joint provision of services, and the potential benefits to the companies, environment, and society. It will also be important to focus on the most favourable conditions and the factors determining implementation of symbiosis.

Future research could also assess whether various cases of potential industrial symbiosis have been implemented in order to increase our understanding of the mechanisms that drive or condition the creation of synergies and thereby promote the growth of industrial symbiosis initiatives.

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## Appendix A

**Table A1.** Potential industrial symbiosis applications and studies analysing these applications.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
				Europ	e			
Italy	Murano, Venetian Lagoon		Glass-based industry	Oxygen	Water treatment	BATTER tool; direct measurements at single installations, mass flow estimations, total amount of air pollutants emitted, technical options score, and evaporation treatment costs for a single water treatment plant	2007	[62]
Italy	Brancaccio, Carini, and Termini Imerese		Automotive sector and neighbouring companies	Plastic sub products and scraps		Questionnaire data survey to organizations and interviews, life cycle assessment	2010	[63]
Italy	Val di Sangro Industrial Area, Abruzzo Region	19	Motorcycle industry		Collective management of scraps: pre-treatment centre and on-site management of the end-of-life of products manufactured by the industrial network	On-site data collection, performed by using semi-structured questionnaires, direct, and e-mail interviews of the leaders, site visits, and focus groups	2014	[64]
Italy	Fucino upland, Abruzzo Region		Agri-food companies, paper mill, PVC sewer pipes producer company, pellets and plywood panels producer company	Paper and cardboard wastes, plastic wastes, and wood wastes	Common local recycling platform	On-site survey; face-to-face non-structured interviews with the head of the provincial Association of Agricultural Producers and semi-structured interviews with the technical staff by telephone or e-mail	2015	[65]

Table A1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
Italy	Emilia-Romagna		Agrofood sector, industries with the technologies able to transform and enhance the by-products, and companies reusing by-products	Agro-food waste, mud, packaging, waste from construction and demolition, textile waste, waste from petroleum refining and natural gas purification, waste from wood processing, and digested		Interviews with private companies and public administrators, guided collective discussion, visits to laboratories, and conferences	2015	[53]
Italy	Catania and Siracusa districts, Sicily		Agriculture, forestry and fishing, manufacturing, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities, construction, wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, transportation and storage, information and communication, professional, scientific and technical activities, administrative and support service activities, education, human health and social work activities, and other service activities	Water, fuels, materials from agriculture, electrical and electronic compounds, municipal wastewater treatment sludge, industrial sludge, packaging, wood and wood products, metals and metal products, construction minerals, industrial minerals, mineral waste oils, plastics and plastic products, foodstuffs, inorganic chemicals, organic chemicals, organic chemicals, products from livestock and fisheries, construction, demolition, excavation materials, paper and paperboard, sands from separation processes, glass and glass products	Energy, equipment, expertise, consultancy and services, logistics and transportation	Invitation emails and phone calls; meeting tables	2016	[66]
Italy	Brescia	12	Multi-utility company, steelmakers, cement producer, waste treatment and biomass power station, woodchips producer, car fluff treatment, asphalt producer, caviar producer, the municipality and public service facilities	Black slag, car fluff, dust, mill scales, pallets and waste wood, sludge, and energy (electrical and thermal)		SWOT analysis	2017	[67]

Table A1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
Italy	Brescia	2	Energy-intensive factory (with forging processes), and greenhouse horticulture installations	Carbon dioxide emissions		Economic model: increase of revenues due to the CO <sub>2</sub> enrichment process, savings due to the reduction of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions in the industrial installation, and savings due to avoided natural gas consumptions (used in traditional CO <sub>2</sub> enrichment methods)	2018	[35]
Italy	Province of Pescara, Abruzzo Region		Crop/vegetable production, cattle breeding, greenhouses, fish farming, industrial processing, production of pellets, urban furniture production, road works company, residential system, and waste and energy system (thermal treatment plant, composting, biofuels production, recovery and recycling activities, biomass/biogas energy plant, and wastewater treatment)	Vegetable wastes, plant waste, vegetable waste (dry fraction, e.g. from pruning, sawdust), differentiated residential waste (aluminium, steel, glass, paper, plastics), construction and demolition waste, heat waste, hot water or steam, wastewater, and industrial waste		Qualitative analysis of the scientific literature and secondary data and critical analysis	2017	[11]
Italy	Marche Region	3	Waste electrical and electronic equipment treatment centre, material recycler and a compound producer	Plastics from electrical cables insulation		Web platform. Economic assessments. Life cycle assessment methodology	2018	[38]
Sweden	Small town in southern Sweden		Sawmill, paper mill, paper processing industry, local energy service company, the municipality, ecocycle company, and local waste management company	Waste heat, sawdust, bark, woodchips, ashes, sewage sludge, organic waste materials, paper residues, and fibre residues		Conversational and open-ended interviews and group discussion, direct observation and participation at the sites, mass and heat balances over the system	2005	[68]

Table A1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
Sweden		4	Chemical pulp mill, sawmill, biofuel upgrading plant, and district heating system			Method for analysis of industrial energy systems (MIND method), based on mixed integer linear programming	2008	[69]
Sweden		4	Chemical pulp mill, sawmill, biofuel upgrading plant and district heating system	Bark, steam, heat, chips, and sawdust		Method for analysis of industrial energy systems (MIND method) based on mixed integer linear programming. Commercial optimization solver (CPLEX). Assessment of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from biofuel and electricity for different accounting models (marginal coal, marginal new technology and average Swedish production)	2008	[70]
Sweden	Luleå, Borlänge, Finspång, Sandviken		Iron and steel industry (integrated steel plant and scrap-based steel plant), pulp and paper industries, district heating consumers, and district heating distributor	Excess heat and gasified biomass residues		System perspective evaluation	2011	[71]
Sweden	All 290 municipalities		Agriculture, forestry, and fishing; mining and quarrying; manufacturing; electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities; and construction			Looplocal method, life cycle inventory	2015	[72]

Table A1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
Sweden	Västra Götaland		Waste incinerators, steel mill, cement industry, manufacture of concrete products industries, polymer industry, algae production, power stations, refineries, paper and pulp industry, municipal and industrial wastewater treatment plants, biogas upgrading plants, greenhouse operator, and methanol production unit	CO <sub>2</sub> , fly ash, bottom ash, steel slag, municipal solid waste ash, wastewater, and hydrogen		Top-down approach with three consecutive steps: generic matrix of CO <sub>2</sub> sources, generic matrix of CO <sub>2</sub> receivers, and matching the sources with the receivers at regional level	2017	[73]
France	Territoire de la Côte Ouest, Réunion Island		Agricultural activities, fertilizer production facility, market gardeners, and complementation and granulation factory	Livestock wastes (pig manure, droppings from broiler chickens, and laying hens) and shredded green waste		'Follow the Technology' method and Companion Modelling or Commod	2017	[74]
France		7		Waste/unused energy		Mixed integer linear programming; single objective model to minimize the total cost, single objective model to minimize the total environmental impact and bi-objective model to minimize the total cost and total environmental impact; direct method to quantify the heat energy of firms; key process indicators: demand satisfaction, weighted demand satisfaction, supply utilization, and carbon tax reduction; uncertainty evaluation using sensitivity analysis; multi-objective model and Pareto front analysis; weighted sum method	2018	[75]

Table A1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
France	Gravelines, Penly, Fessenheim, Tricastin, St Alban, Nogent sur Seine, Civaux, St Laurent des Eaux, Bugey, Chinon, Blayais, Chooz, Cattenom, Flamanville, Paluel, Golfech		Nuclear plants, agri-food industries (fruit and vegetables, dairy products, starch products, sugar refinery and malt production), wood, pulp and paper (wood panels, pulp and paper, card and paper and corrugated card), chemical and pharmaceutical industries (dyes and pigments, other basic organic chemicals and basic pharmaceutical products) and plastic, rubber and other elastomers (basic plastic materials and synthetic rubber)	Steam		Average energy intensity in a subsector, production value, average heat consumption of a factory in a subsector, and heat consumed by a factory in a subsector; spatial mapping methods and geographical information system; techno-economic model: energy consumption sub-model (maximum thermal power required), energy generation sub-model (infrastructure cost of a combined heat and power upgrade, required cost, and additional CO <sub>2</sub> emissions to compensate for power generation losses), and energy distribution sub-model (pipe diameter, heat loss assessment, pumping cost, CO <sub>2</sub> assessment, pipeline installation cost, and annual rental cost); linear programming problem	2018	[36]
France	Salaise-sur-Sanne and Sablons		Chemical, recycling and raw material transformation, and urban areas	Industrial waste	Shared infrastructures (for energy supply, cogeneration, solid waste treatment, reclaimed water, etc.)	SWOT analysis	2018	[76]
Finland	Oulu		Steel, pulp and paper industry, cement products manufacturer, soil amendment, soil fertilization, and pellets/ameliorants manufacturers	Granulated blast furnace slag, ashes, fibre clay, and alkaline residues		Literature review and study of a spectrum of residue-based product concepts for further research	2010	[77]

Table A1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
Finland			Waste management, wastewater treatment, municipality, biogas producer, crop farm, and animal farm	Sewage sludge, manure, organic household waste, and digestate		Interviews with companies, collaborative research approach, replication approach	2015	[78]
Finland			Horse industry, agriculture and pellet production industry	Horse manure		Survey sent to companies	2018	[79]
Greece	Viotia		Aluminium casting company, and companies which have capacities to buy and use aluminium waste	Aluminium waste		Ontology engineering approach—eSymbiosis. Metrics for industrial symbiosis benefits: Economic: cost savings to business, and additional sales to business; Environmental: landfill diversion, CO <sub>2</sub> reduction, virgin raw materials saved, hazardous waste eliminated, and water savings; Social: jobs created, and jobs saved	2015	[80]
Greece	Pili		Power plant, furniture manufactures, sewage treatment plant, concrete industry, and food industries	Sawdust, ash, whey of cheese dairies, and salad residues	Utility sharing: autonomous water supply system	Methodology proposed and implemented to determine the most appropriate location and bioclimatic criteria	2017	[81]
Greece	Achaia		Olive-oil production facility, biopolymers (PHAs) production facility, and plastics production facility	Olive mill wastewater and PHAs		Telephone interviews, visits, and face-to-face interviews	2017	[82]

Table A1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE 1	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
Germany	Rhine-Neckar				Network structure, waste management software, waste analyser software, and intranet platform	On-site surveys	2004	[83]
Germany	Central Germany		(i) Lignocellulosic biorefinery plant, and chipping; (ii) lignocellulosic biorefinery plant, chipping, refinery plant and waste wood-fired CHP units; (iii) lignocellulosic biorefinery plant, waste wood-fired CHP units, refiner plant, chipping, bio-based resins and adhesives, wood panel production, composite manufacturing, and engineered wood products	(i) Beech wood chips from industrial residues; (ii) waste wood, bark residues, and sawmill by-products; (iii) residues from industrial wood		Communications and site visits, life cycle assessment and CML 2013 method, indicator assessment for the CML impact categories and relative advantage or disadvantage of the environmental impact	2018	[84]
Scotland	Perth and Kinross		Sawmill, pellet mill, and combined heat and power plant	Milling wood residues, sawdust, and residual wood fibre		Questionnaires to estate owners, forestry consultants, wood processors and equipment suppliers, and five focus groups with 45 residents	2007	[85]

Table A1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
Scotland	Perth and Kinross		Forest industry, sawmill, combined heat and power plant, and wood pellet mill	Woodchips and sawdust		Questionnaire survey of representatives from the wood fuel supply chain and an attitude survey of a sample of off-mains gas residents	2007	[43]
Spain	Besaya	80	Commerce, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, manufacture of basic metals and of fabricated metal products, construction, manufacture of mechanical machinery and equipment, manufacture of paper and paper products, printing and reproduction of recorded media, manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products, other manufacture activities, manufacture of food products, beverages and tobacco products, transport and storage, manufacture of chemicals and chemical products, manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork, manufacture of rubber and plastic products, and manufacture of transport equipment	Waste oil, used metal containers, used coolants, ink slag, waste sand, rubble and waste material from construction, solid wastes (plastic, discarded tires, wood cuttings and slag from varnishes and paint), waste products from oils and grease (food, machining, hydraulics, motor, separators), lime-based waste products (plasters and slag), waste products from plastic (plastic, shavings and burns), waste products from ferrous metals (ferrous metals, ferrous metal filings and shavings, scrap metal), waste products from lead batteries, waste products from used tires and slag, waste products from catalysers, waste products from catalysers, waste products from catalysers, waste products from ceramic materials (roof tiles, ceramic materials, bricks), waste products from plaster, waste products from plaster, waste products from cellulose, and waste products from food	Joint waste management: central areas for communal waste storage, shared use of waste storage space, shared transport of waste to municipal management points, joint management of waste products for sale or exchange, joint management of waste by an external agent, and shared use of waste treatment and recovery installations	Questionnaires and visits to various companies	2015	[86]

Table A1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
Spain	Cartes, Cantabria autonomous community	25	Automotive industry, metallurgy and manufacturing, building industry and other various manufacturing industries	Edible oil and fat, paper and cardboard packaging, etc.	Service or infrastructure: common transport and waste collection and waste treatment services	Relational database management system, georeferencing, geographic information systems, and application programming interface; SymbioSyS tool	2017	[87]
Lithuania	Jonava		Nitrogen fertilizers and chemical products manufacturer company, cattle farms, slaughterhouses, municipal wastewater treatment plant, bio-fuel production and/or solid recovered fuel production in pellet form company, administration, and special purpose facilities	Waste heat energy, biodegradable waste (manure and slurry), and sewage sludge		Material flow analysis, material and energy balances of each processes, fuel and energy balances of energy production processes, evaluation of environmental indicators (relative environmental indicators, energy savings, loss of waste heat energy and volume of carbon dioxide emissions) and comparative analysis; feasibility analysis (technical, environmental and economic evaluation)	2016	[88]
Lithuania			Nitrogen fertilizer production company, cattle farms and slaughterhouses	Biodegradable waste		Indicators: geostrategic supply risk and economic importance	2018	[89]
United Kingdom			Bio-refineries, agricultural production, and forestry	Lignocellulose and municipal solid waste (organic food and packaging)			2008	[90]
Norway	Mongstad	6	Refinery plant, coal gasification, combined heat and power plant, production of synthetic transportation fuels, carbon capture and utilization, and aquaculture	$\mathrm{CO}_2$ and waste heat		Mass and energy balance assessment, material and energy flow analysis, carbon and hydrogen flow analysis, CO <sub>2</sub> emission evaluation, and sensitivity analysis; hierarchy analysis method	2008	[91]

Table A1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
England	Thames estuary, Port of Bristol, east Birmingham, Mersey estuary, and Teesside				Utilities-sharing	Habitat Suitability Mapping: Habitat Suitability Index, Geographic Information System model, Symbiosis Suitability Index, Symbiosis Suitability Map, Symbiosis Suitability Index Variables and Variable Aggregation, and Multi-Criteria-Evaluation mapping. Sensitivity analysis	2012	[92]
Finland and Sweden	Gulf of Bothnia	7	Carbon steel mills, stainless steel mill, zinc plant, and iron regeneration plant	Iron and zinc dusts and scales, jarosite, direct reduced iron, zinc oxide, and manganese dregs		Strengths and weaknesses assessment in national and European Union waste regulation and common pool resource management analysis	2012	[93]
Latvia		2	Brewery and biogas plant	Brewer's spent grain		Site visits. Cumulative intensity indicator of a considered factor (energy consumption and CO <sub>2</sub> emission generation)	2015	[94]
European country			Sugar-beet production, microalgae cultivations, and agro-energy sector	CO <sub>2</sub> and water effluents		Concept analysis	2015	[95]
Romania	Botosani and Neamt		Manufacture of profiles and fittings from steel, manufacture of ceramic sanitary fixtures, institutions and small businesses (tourist pensions, offices, kindergartens, etc.), construction of residential and non-residential buildings, supply of steam and air conditioning, manufacture of garments, manufacture of furniture, agriculture, collection, purification and distribution of water, and retail sale of audio/video equipment in specialized stores	Hot gas	Infrastructure for utilities and supply process optimization	Interviews with the board, or the manager, of each company	2017	[44]

Table A1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
				Asia				
China	Handan		Heavy chemical industry, cement industry, coal chemical industry, iron and steel industries, building materials factory, power plant, agricultural production, aquaculture, and urban heating	Fly ash, grey water, coal gangue, PVC profile processing waste, waste water, waste heat, and steel slag			2009	[96]
China	Shanghai City and Jiangsu Province		Cement and steel industries, urban areas and industrial sectors	Municipal wastes (plastics and organic wastes) and by-products from industries		Divisia analysis: total output and energy intensity of each sector and "Divisia" index approach; energy demand analysis and regression analysis: regression equations using the Vector Auto-regression model defined for forecasting gross regional product, population, energy consumption, and cement and steel production	2011	[97]
China	Jinqiao		Central heat-supplying company, waste treatment company, enterprises, and wastewater treatment plant	Sewage sludge and used oil		Experiments in a laboratory, life cycle assessment (global warming potential, acidification potential, eutrophication potential and human toxicity air), total environmental impact potential	2011	[98]
China	Yunfu	3	Sulphuric acid industry, chemical enterprise, and power plant	Sulphur acid, residue steam and heat		Production cost and sale revenue analysis	2011	[99]

Table A1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
China	Shenyang		Equipment manufacturing industry and logistics industry			Coefficient of industrial agglomeration degree, Space Gini coefficient, and Hector Fanta coefficient of an industry; logistic model. Index of competitive analysis; expert evaluation method; relational degree taxis	2012	[100]
China	Guiyang		Iron/steel industry, cement industry, coal chemical industry, phosphorus chemical industry, aluminium industry, power plants, and commercial and residential area	Steel slag, slag, red mud, waste steel, waste plastics, coal gangue, coal fly ash, and waste heat		Questionnaires. Material flow analysis, environmental benefit evaluation (avoided resource consumption or avoided waste emission due to the symbiotic activity) and CO <sub>2</sub> emission reduction, effects of resource efficiency enhancement, cost reduction	2015	[39]
China	Guiyang		Iron/steel industry, coal chemical industry, phosphorus chemical industry, aluminium industry, cement industry, power plants, and commercial and residential area	Steel slag, slag, red mud, coal gangue, coal fly ash, waste heat, waste steel, and waste plastics		Questionnaires, material/energy flow analysis. Process life cycle assessment, avoided consumptions and emissions for a company, CO <sub>2</sub> emission reduction from the avoided resource or waste in a company, hybrid physical input and monetary output model hybrid life cycle assessment model integrating both process life cycle assessment and input-output model, life cycle emissions change. Scenario analysis.	2016	[9]

Table A1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
China	Hangu, Tanggu, and Dagang Districts, Tianjin Municipality		Seawater desalination plant, sea salt production, mariculture, power plant cooling, Artemia culture, bromide extraction, and salt chemical industry	Clarified seawater, concentrated saline, and bittern		Satellite images analysis, geospatial data processing and analysis software, manual visual interpretation, and landscape type classification system	2015	[101]
China	Liuzhou	5	Iron and steel making, power generation, ammonia, carbonate production, cement and construction material manufacturing companies, and communities	Waste plastics recycling, scrap tire recycling, coal flying ash recycling, biomass utilization, and carbon capture by slag carbonization		Questionnaires, collaboration with national and local governmental agencies, institutes, and industrial persons; onsite survey.  Research meetings and expert reviews; urban level hybrid physical input and monetary output model; hybrid evaluation model integrating process-based life cycle assessment and input-output analysis; calculation of increased or avoided consumption, and emission in the industrial symbiosis process and each related sector; trade-off emission; scenarios design	2017	[37]
China	Liuzhou		Iron and steel company, power plant, chemical company (ammonia production), hydrogen manufacturing, cement and construction material manufacturing companies, central heating for the residential sector, nearby plants and communities	Metallurgical gas, waste heat, waste plastics, scrap tires, and coal flying ash		Onsite survey, analytical approach integrating material flows analysis (includes material and energy flows analysis) and emergy evaluation model, avoided consumption and emissions for a company and CO <sub>2</sub> emission reduction, emergy evaluation index and dilution emergy	2017	[10]

Table A1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
China	280 proper cities and 357 county-level cities		Electric power plant, cement plants, steel plants, district energy, residential and commercial buildings, food/beverage, and other low temperature industries	High-grade, medium-grade and low-grade waste heat, fly ash, and steel slag		What-If scenario modelling approach. Cross-sectoral symbiosis modelling though energy cascading and material exchange. Energy cascade algorithms. Material-exchange algorithms. Estimating reductions in fuel use, CO <sub>2</sub> and PM2.5 emissions at different scales, life-cycle analysis and national-economy-wide economic input output-based life-cycle analysis. PM2.5 Pollution and health benefit calculations and AERMOD atmospheric dispersion modeling system	2017	[102]
China	Wuhan		Pulp and paper industry, city greening, agriculture, paper downstream industries including printing, publishing and other corresponding industries, wastepaper collection and disposal industry, and wastewater disposal industry	Wastewater, sludge and waste paper		Integrated life cycle management assessment method on the resource flows of industrial ecosystem including the eco-environmental assessment by the life cycle assessment and the sustainable use assessment by an indicator system	2019	[103]
South Korea			Iron and steel industry: galvanized and aluminized steel sheets producer, electrolytic steel plates producer, and reinforced material producer for automobile tires	Wastewater		Mathematical optimization model. General algebraic modeling system software. Life cycle assessment and life cycle costing. Estimation of present value	2010	[104]

Table A1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
South Korea			(i) magnesium plant and cement plant; (ii) magnesium plant and urban area	(i) waste slag; (ii) waste energy resources (waste wood, waste plastic and waste tire)		Interview with magnesium production-related specialists. Quantitative estimation of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions: CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from fuel combustion, CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from transportation, CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from electricity consumption and limestone calcination-related CO <sub>2</sub> credits. Uncertainty analysis	2015	[105]
South Korea	Ulsan		Industries, factories and companies and/or urban area (residential and non-residential buildings such as hypermarkets, department stores, office buildings and hospitals)	High and low-grade waste heat		Manager interviews. Scenarios analysis. Heat load analysis procedure (estimation of gross floor area of a building, calculation of heating and cooling area, connected heat load, and peak heat load, and estimation of heat demand quantity of the target region). CO <sub>2</sub> emission reductions from the avoided fuel in the company. Fuel cost reduction from the avoided fuel in the company	2018	[106]

Table A1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup> Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
Japan	Shinchi Town, Fukushima Prefecture	Coal-fired thermal power plants and plant factories	Waste heat		Technical and economic feasibility assessment, sensitivity analysis, cost-benefit assessment and spatial analysis. Energy generation model: influence on power generation efficiency, electricity loss for extracting heat energy, and required cost and additional CO <sub>2</sub> emissions to compensate for power generation losses. Energy distribution model: heat loss evaluation, pumping cost and CO <sub>2</sub> evaluation (energy consumption of the system, required cost, and additional CO <sub>2</sub> emissions in the operation of a pumping system), and pipeline installation cost (pipeline installation cost and annual rental cost with a discount rate method). Energy consumption model: estimated energy consumption due to heating in a plant factory	2014	[107]
Japan	Shinchi Town, Fukushima Prefecture	Natural gas power plant, coal-based thermal power plant, ceramic factory, chemical factory, urban area and greenhouse type plant factory	Waste heat		Model framework including energy system design, land use scenario, inventory survey and geographic analysis. District heating network design and simulation: hydraulic analysis, pipeline diameter, pressure drop, necessary pumping power and temperature drop. Cost-benefit assessment: economic costs (heat distribution cost, heat transport cost and management and maintenance cost), benefit of fuel cost reduction and CO <sub>2</sub> reduction. Sensitivity analysis	2018	[13]

Table A1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
Japan	Tanegashima		Combined heating and power plant, sugar mill, wood production industry, wood chip factory, wood pellet factory, and forestry industry	Waste heat, sugarcane bagasse, thinning residues, sawmill residues (sawdust and bark), and wood chipping residue (bark)		Interviews and discussions with the on-site experts and stakeholders. Scenario Analysis. Energy flow analysis. Greenhouse gas emissions based on life cycle analysis. Adjusted environmental load for a scenario	2016	[108]
Malaysia		4	Palm oil mill, palm oil-based biorefinery, and combined heat and power plant	Empty fruit bunches, palm mesocarp fiber, palm kernel shell, wet short fiber and dry short fiber		Disjunctive fuzzy optimization approach. Overall degree of satisfaction, annual gross profit, net present value, and payback period of a processing plant	2014	[109]
Malaysia			Various types of industries within the Halal Park		Cooperative safety management	Open-ended interview with seven industrial safety experts	2014	[110]
Malaysia	Kedah		Fertilizer industry, rubber block processor, tire producer, glove manufacturer, electricity co-generation, biomass disintegration, cement concrete industry, polymer asphalt binder industry, wastewater integrated facilities and methane recovery unit	Ammonia nitrogen waste, rubber waste, waste water from cooling system, rejected glove pieces, rubber traps, sludge and rubber woods, rubber latex waste and waste water	Co-generation unit for electricity, wastewater integration unit, methane development unit, and central storage unit	Questionnaires. SWOT analysis. Materials Flow Analysis and the Input-Output data based on previous Life Cycle Analysis data	2017	[111]

Table A1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
Turkey	Gaziantep		Manufacturing of textile products, food products, rubber and plastic products, leather products, chemicals and chemical products, other metallic and mineral products, ready-made clothing, furniture, fabricated metal products, paper and paper products, and wood and wood products, basic metal industry, production and distribution of electricity, gas, steam and aeration systems, and collection, disposal and recycling of wastes	Used carpets, PET wastes, animal hides, carpet and textile fibrous waste, waste polyurethane and ethylene-vinyl acetate, flax fiber residues, polyester and polyurethane based textile wastes, cotton and polypropylene fiber based textile wastes, dairy by-products, waste tyre rubber, granular and fibrous particles from a range of plastic, rubber and textile waste, waste water treatment sludge, waste foundry sand, calcium carbonate wastes, polyvinyl chloride wastes, polyurethane foam wastes, waste polyvinyl alcohol, polypropylene-based plastic wastes, waste paint, waste glass, red mud, polypropylene-based carpet wastes, food processing waste, dust, waste rubbers, black glass waste, acrylic butyl styrene, dried sludge, organic wastes (pistachio processing wastes, etc.), synthetic shoe processing wastes, and waste heat		Industrial symbiosis match-making platform (ESOTA®, Industrial Symbiosis Opportunity Screening Tool). Assigning NACE and EWC codes to industries and wastes. Company and stakeholder visits, stakeholder analysis and workshops	2017	[112]
Turkey	Ankara	10	Machining, metals and metal processing, rubber, painting and plating sectors	Waste heat		Tool for defining data about companies and process, cleaner production potential and costs and environmental impact graph of processes. Analysis of mass balance and all materials for process work flows	2018	[113]

Table A1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
India	Puducherry		Sugar, paper, galvanizing, granite, and gypsum industries, etc.			Survey method with open-ended questions. Analytical methods: trend analysis, causal chain analysis, policy analysis, training needs assessment, technology needs assessment and barrier analysis. Content analysis.  SWOT analysis	2015	[114]
Bangladesh	Chittagong Export Processing Zone		Garments manufacturing company, textile mills, towel manufacturing company, shoe accessories company, power generation and distribution company, crown mills, incineration plant and purification plant	Waste heat, solid waste and wastewater		On-site energy audit and equipment/waste emission survey. Visits to companies. Input and output analysis. Feasibility analysis (techno-economics and environmental feasibilities assessment). Business model development	2015	[115]
Philippines	Laguna					Questionnaires and survey with ten participants from different sectors of the industrial park. Decision Making Trial and Evaluation Laboratory	2016	[116]
				North America				
USA	Johnston, Chatham, Lee, Orange, Durham and Wake Counties, North Carolina	87	Pharmaceutical, computer, telecommunication equipment manufacturers, resin manufacturer, amino acids manufacturing, and tool manufacturing industries and municipal wastewater treatment plant	Acetone, carbon, desiccant, hydrochloric acid, methanol, packaging materials, plastic bags, sawdust, sodium hydroxide, wood ash, wood chips, wood fluff, absorbents, blasting media, coal ash, conveyor belts, copper, drums, electricity, ethanol, fiberglass, floppy disks, food waste, foundry sand, furniture fluff, glass vials, ink, paint, plastic, rubber blankets, steam, steel, sulfuric acid, unheated water, wire and wood		Telephone calls, in-plant interviews and site visits. Discussions with multiple potential suppliers and users and brainstorming sessions with local manufacturing experts. Geographic information system maps with an associated project database	2001	[60]

Table A1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
USA	Texas		Recycling, remanufacturing and waste treatment firms	Commercial, industrial and municipal waste		Questionnaire survey of a sample of recycling, remanufacturing and waste treatment firms. Modified total design method	2005	[117]
USA	Pittsburgh		Roadway construction and/or repair, steel and iron industry	Coal ash, foundry sand, and slag		Geographic Information System data; highway density map, road density, and total highway density; optimization analysis; life cycle analysis (Pavement Life Cycle Assessment Tool for Environmental and Economic Effects program); transportation cost analysis	2008	[118]
Canada	Ontario		Solar photovoltaic manufacturing plant, glass manufacturing plant, glass recycling facility, greenhouses, and grow rooms	Crushed cullet, waste heat, and CO <sub>2</sub>		Inputs and outputs analysis	2009	[119]
				South America				
Brazil			Agricultural activities, livestock sector, and alcohol-chemical industry	Industrial by-products, animal waste, straw, ashes, and bagasse		Economic evaluation; indexes of economic efficiency: financing, liquid present value, internal return tax, contribution margin, economical revenue, return time, equilibrium point, and accumulated cash register flow; environmental and social analysis; emergy method; emergy indices: transformity, emergy yield ratio, emergy investment ratio, environmental loading ratio, renewability, and emergy sustainability index	2007	[120]

Table A1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
Brazil	Norte Fluminense region	14	Sugarcane farm, sugar and ethanol production facilities, combined heat and power generation unit, biorefinery consisting of the Pre-treatment & Separation, Saccharification & Co-fermentation, and Concentration & Recovery units, soft drink production, distilled spirits production, animal feed production, industrial surfactants production, effluent treatment facility and biogas production unit, adhesives manufacturer, wax production, and lube oil re-refinery	Bagasse, straw, filter cake, vinasse, CO <sub>2</sub> , fusel oil, used yeast, ash, lignin, pentose, mother liquor, flue gas and particulate matter, molasses, bio-SA off-specification, diluted salt effluent, off-gases (non-recycled portion), used lube oil, and other effluents		Interviews with stakeholders and coordinators and visit to the mill facilities; scenario analysis, mass balance, synergy matrix, and material flow analysis; environmental, social, and economic indicators: waste emission reduction, greenhouse gases savings, potential job creation, and feedstock remuneration premium from bio-SA production	2018	[121]
Colombia	Bogotá, Tocancipá, Sopó, Soacha, El Rosal, Cajicá, Madrid, Mosquera, Cota, Chía, Bojacá, San Francisco, Funza, Nemocón, Saboyá	34	Food processing (coffee), engineering, construction, waste management, beverage (soft drinks), chemical (specialty, agriculture polyethylene films), packaging, container, gas supply, food (dairy, bakery and snacks), glass, agriculture (flower, poultry, mushroom), construction supplies, Styrofoam, construction and home supplies, furniture, flower, consulting, cosmetic, wood, and restaurant	Wood from stowage, plastic waste, polystyrene foam, cardboard boxes, coffee residues, paper, cardboard, glass, sludge/fertilizer, fruit syrup, food residues, wood waste, mycelium, sawdust, plastic waste/geomembrane, Styrofoam, and drainage water	Service sharing: sludge management and shared collection of hazardous waste	Workshops with companies, observations, surveys to the representatives with questions that require evaluations and open answers and semi-structured interviews	2018	[34]
				Africa				
Liberia	Konia		Piggery, rabbit farm, fishponds, rice mill, anaerobic digester, garden, and guest house	Rice bran, manure, and biogas digestate	Fishponds	Interviews with a Liberia nongovernmental organization staff; optimization model: maximum number of people supported per year	2014	[45]

Table A1. Cont.

Country	Location/Region	NE <sup>1</sup>	Activity	Waste/By-Products	Infrastructure Sharing/Joint Provision of Services	Method	Publication Year	Refs.
Mauritius			Slaughterhouse, edible oil refinery, scrap metal recycling plant, cement manufacturer, wastewater treatment plant, construction products manufacturer, plants operating a boiler, biogas production plants, composting plant, animal feed manufacturer, and agro-industry	Scale, spent bleaching earth, sludge, slag, dust, and paunch manure		Desk analysis, interviews to recyclers, officers at the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Disaster, and Beach Management and environmental officers, and framework for adopting industrial symbiosis	2017	[122]
Egypt	Borg El-Arab		Food industry, textile factories, wood factory, metal factories, factories for paper products, construction materials factory, chemicals and pharmaceuticals factories, plastic factories, electrical and engineering products factories, brick production factory, animal feed production and fish farms, and organic fertilizers and soil amendments factories	Suspended solid particles, alkaline industrial drainage, chemicals packs and barrels, food residues (organic wastes), gypsum, metal scrub, paper sacks and chips, PVC residues, sawdust, plastic flashes, and wooden pallets		Data from internal unpublished sources at the Ministry of the Environment of Egypt	2018	[61]
				Oceania				
Australia	New South Wales		Serpentinite mining industry, carbonation plant, power generation plants, iron and steel making, and cement and concrete production	CO <sub>2</sub> , waste ash, slag, tailings, and fly ash		Aspen modelling	2012	[123]
Australia	Kwinana	12	Titanium dioxide plant, fused materials company, refractory manufacturing industry, coal-fired plant, aluminum industry, chemical manufacturing, construction industry, water supply and treatment company, cement manufacturer, steel market mills, refinery, and fertilizers company	Petroleum coke, phosphate rock digestion off-gases, nitrogen oxides waste gases, and calcium chloride		Triple bottom-line perspective and preliminary sustainability assessment (social, economic, and environmental)	2013	[124]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> NE: Number of enterprises

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