

# Status report of Montanuniversitaet Leoben

PP5 – Montanuniversitaet Leoben  
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Status Report is meant as an internal tool for the project to help the project partners follow the process and how the work in each region progresses. Furthermore, it is essential in preparation for the Peer review work. Every partner must go through the hosting partners status report before the PRV as preparation for the meeting/review. Every partner must complete the Status report at the end of semester one and at the end of semester 5.

## 1. BASIC FACTS OF ADRESSED POLICY AREA

Austria is a Federal State and land use planning is generally under competence of the nine different provinces/regions (Vorarlberg, Tyrol, Salzburg, Carinthia, Upper Austria, Lower Austria, Burgenland, Styria, Vienna).

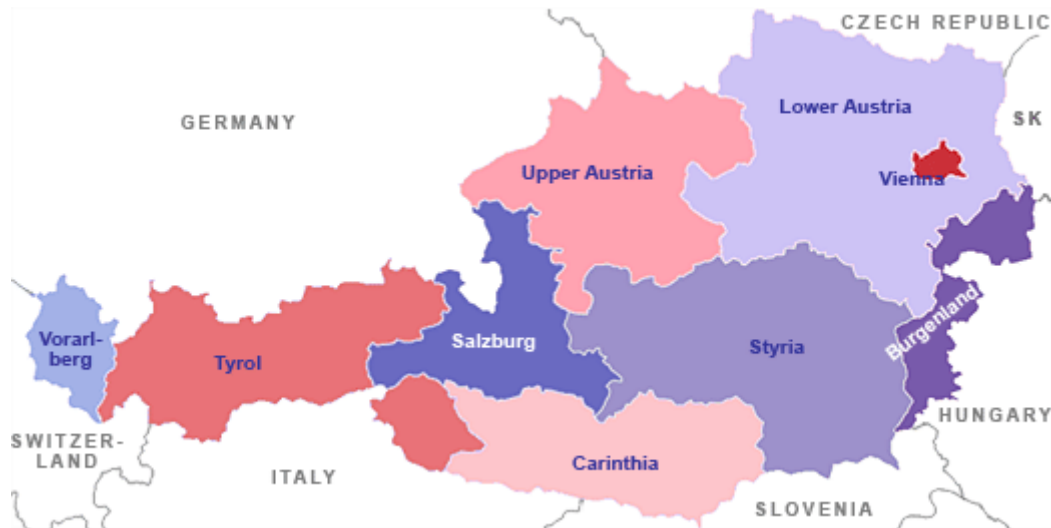


Abbildung 1: Provinces of Austria

Austria has a long history of mining and today the country may not be renowned as a mining country but it is rich with some deposits and mines like being a home for one of the largest tungsten mines in the world, as well as three magnesite mines and the headquarters of the global market leader for refractory. Austria's high quality micaceous iron oxide is also used worldwide. As well Austria is rich in other minerals important for the construction and other industrial sectors. The economical and efficient use of natural resources is considered one of the key strategies in the sustainable development of Austria's economy and society. The main challenge for the Austrian mining industry like in any EU country is to secure supplies of

high quality mineral raw materials for the need of its industry. From the geological point of view, number of minerals particularly contraction minerals are abundant. The challenge lies in the current land use planning practices when it is becoming more and more difficult to access to the reserves.

Today there are number of conflicts how to utilise and treat reserves between sources of livelihood and other purposes like protection of groundwater and residential areas. In many areas, the extracting of minerals is out of the question and the actual available potential is small. Scarcity is not only due to the size of the deposit of the resource, but is in many cases a consequence of conflicting user interests in the society. This situation will directly influence in to the development of the economy in the national and in the regional level. The strategic thinking in land use planning in the relation of use of the minerals is not seen as a part of the responsibilities of the provincial land use planning practices. With the scarcity of the available land resources, the more holistic thinking is needed.

## 2. ADDRESSED POLICY INSTRUMENT

The Austrian Minister of Economy prepared the Austrian Mineral Resources Plan (AMRS) as a national master plan to secure supply of mineral resources and to serve as a planning basis for future mining innovations with the federal states and municipalities in relation to their specific needs to create new sustainable business. Many areas containing mineral occurrences are in contradiction with land use planning. Some occurrences, proved as worth to be protected to not coinciding with conflict zones in land-use and innovation. Without sustainable land use planning, there won't be innovations in mining and sustainable supply of raw materials. Distinguished mineral zones are to be declared as "mineral protection zones" for land use planning purposes to eventually create new sustainable innovations. Securing the supply of minerals is an issue of private enterprise. Considering this, the public administration within the framework of the AMRS performed the groundwork where AMRS encourage the collaboration between enterprises, academia and authorities. This is seen to be vital within the context of an active raw materials policy and innovations. The competitiveness of Austrian companies in mining innovation is a key issue in Austria and the whole of EU. It is largely dependent on the quality of activities in the fields of RDI of mining. It's important to promote investment in RDI and to create appropriate conditions for strengthening Austrian companies (particularly SMEs).

The "Austrian mineral Resources Plan" was identified as a "Best Practice Model" by the European Commission, as an example for an active minerals planning policy. With special regards to the Austrian Mineral Resources Plan the second pillar of the Raw Material Initiative calls for:

*"setting up a land use planning policy for minerals that comprises a digital geological knowledge base, a transparent methodology for identifying mineral resources, long term estimates for regional and local demand and identifying and safeguarding mineral resources (taking into account other land uses)..."*  
(European Commission, 2011, p17)

The Austrian Mineral Resources Plan gives a methodological approach for identification and evaluation of the mineral occurrences, taking into account the different methodology for construction minerals and occurrences of metallic ores, industrial minerals or mineral fuels (except hydrocarbons). Special attention is payed to the systematic process to identify

conflict reduced zones and the different safeguarding processes by the land use authorities of the federal provinces.

### 3. CURRENT STATUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY INSTRUMENT (E.G OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME OR SMART SPECIALISATION IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES, RELATED LOCAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS)

At the time of March 2011 the nine provinces of Austria showed a different status of implementation of the above mentioned AMRS, but also their willingness to implement the ideas is not always given. According to the legal framework in Austria the implementation has to be done by the provinces, but therefor it is always a political issue too. Changes are only possible if all relevant stakeholders agree, and even then the success cannot be guaranteed.

The following overview tries to summarize the status 2011 in the different provinces:

- **Burgenland:** Implementation of AMRS is partly done or at least planned.
- **Carinthia:** Regional Development plans for all regions, considering the results of AMRS
- **Lower Austria:** Political opinion on implementation has not yet been finalized
- **Upper Austria:** Maintaining the principle of negative expulsion. So called “Kiesleitplan” defines where no raw materials extraction is to take place.
- **Salzburg:** The results of AMRS are to be taken into account as far as possible in regional land use planning
- **Styria:** The results of AMRS are integrated in the regional development plan. The way of protection was not clear in 2011, as well as if through negative or positive planning.
- **Tyrol:** “Gesteinsabbaukonzept” was developed in 2004. As art of this concept a full inventory of resources and production rates was carried out. This concept is the basis for decisions in the official approval process. Results of AMRs are included to the “Gesteinsabbaukonzept”.
- **Vorarlberg:** Results of AMRS are integrated to provincial laws. Resource areas are protected from land use conflicting with mining.
- **Vienna:** Political opinion on implementation has not yet been finalized

There are several other projects, which are linked – some strict, some loose – to the AMRS, whereas mainly Min-Guide, Minatura and Min-Land (at proposal stage) need to be mentioned.

The main focus of all activities (including REMIX) is on construction minerals, because for all other materials (ores, industrial minerals, ...) the Austrian MinroG gives enforcement rights to the authorities, whereby the regional implementation of AMRS is not the crucial point.

### 4. STAKEHOLDER GROUP AND STAKEHOLDER GROUP ACTIVITIES DURING THE PROJECT

The Austrian Stakeholder group is consisting of several parties, which are having interests in the interaction of land use planning and raw materials extraction, or rather :

- Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy, BMWFW
- Chamber of Commerce (Division Raw Materials)
- Geological Federal Institute
- Global 2000
- WWF
- Austrian Institute for Spatial Planning, OIR
- Environmental Advocacies of the provinces
- Land use authorities of the provinces
- Representatives of industry (construction minerals)

The role of the stakeholders mentioned above lies in their contribution (knowledge from permission processes, daily work experience) to elaborate the consequences of integrating the Raw materials planning and management at regional level in a compulsory way. They will provide input information into the model to be run to demonstrate the consequences for a sustainable raw materials supply.

Stakeholders have an important role in the development of the regional innovation chain and generating the smart specialisation in to the practise.

Stakeholder meeting per semester will be organised as stated in the approved REMIX project proposal. PP5 will organise these meeting and it is planned to link those meeting to common national events related to mineral extraction.

### **5. OBJECTIVES SET FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE POLICY INSTRUMENT AND ACTIVITIES THAT WILL BE DONE TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES**

To improve the "Raw materials planning and management at national and regional level" it is a compulsory to integrate this policy instrument in the regional (provincial) land use planning to create innovations. Sustainability of mining and successful innovation process starts from land use planning to improve exploration and extraction methods. Innovations could mean best practices in environmental protection, better environmental and social impact assessment, environmental remediation and protection, mining with no surface footprint, improvements in minerals processing.

The work will be done based on the development of the governance by engaging the stakeholders important for the land use planning. By developing the land use planning practices, involving different stakeholders from the very beginning and to develop the dialog are crucial factors to avoid the conflict situations. Integration of the Austrian Raw Materials Plan (AMRS) at a regional level by establishing a best practise pilot needs collaboration between enterprises, academia and authorities and will need to include also an element of innovation and learning from other REMIX PPs in order to improve the AMRS and future projects' acceptance.

## **6. ONGOING OTHER ACTIVITIES TARGETING TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE POLICY INSTRUMENT DURING THE PROJECT (E.G. PROJECTS, SUPPORT FOR GOVERNANCE, S3 LINKAGE/IMPLEMENTATION, STRUCTURAL CHANGE)**

Min-Guide, Minatura and Min-Land (at proposal stage)

## **7. SME ENGAGEMENT TO REMIX/STAKEHOLDER GROUP ACTIVITIES DURING THE PROJECT**

Through the contacts of the economic chamber, EIT Raw Materials and existing informal networks SMEs, should be integrated into the national stakeholder group, to allow them to benefit from the project activities and results.

The Chamber of Commerce is supervisor of interest for SMEs and industry in the region. Cities and municipalities are responsible for the direct operational environment for mining and act as the enablers for the ecosystems. Research and education institutes are the main actors of knowledge transfer activities for the SME benefits and lay important role in regional development.

## **8. CLUSTERS, INSTITUTIONS AND REGIONS LINKED TO REMIX PARTNER (OTHERS THAN REMIX PPS)**

In addition to the already mentioned stakeholder group, foremost EIT RIC ESEE, EIT Raw Materials. EIT RIC ESEE has wide network and strong contribution to the provincial, national and European level raw material policy.

## **9. LEADING QUESTIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ADRESSED POLICY INSTRUMENT – BASIS FOR PRV**

In the following, some preliminary Peer Review Visit questions are given as a guideline for the discussions in Leoben.

### **1. General Feedback to the Austrian Mineral Resources Plan!**

- What is your impressions of the presented Policy Instrument?
- In your opinion, is there something missing?
- Is it really a best practice example?
- ...

### **2. How can the area of conflict between different authorities be handled?**

- Horizontal: Mining vs conflicting land use
- Vertical: Federal State vs. Provinces
- Are these conflicts really the major problem?
- ...

### **3. How can the results of the project be implemented?**

### **4. How can political decisions be influenced?**

### **5. What needs to be done, to guarantee success of REMIX project in relation to the Austrian Mineral Resources Plan?**