



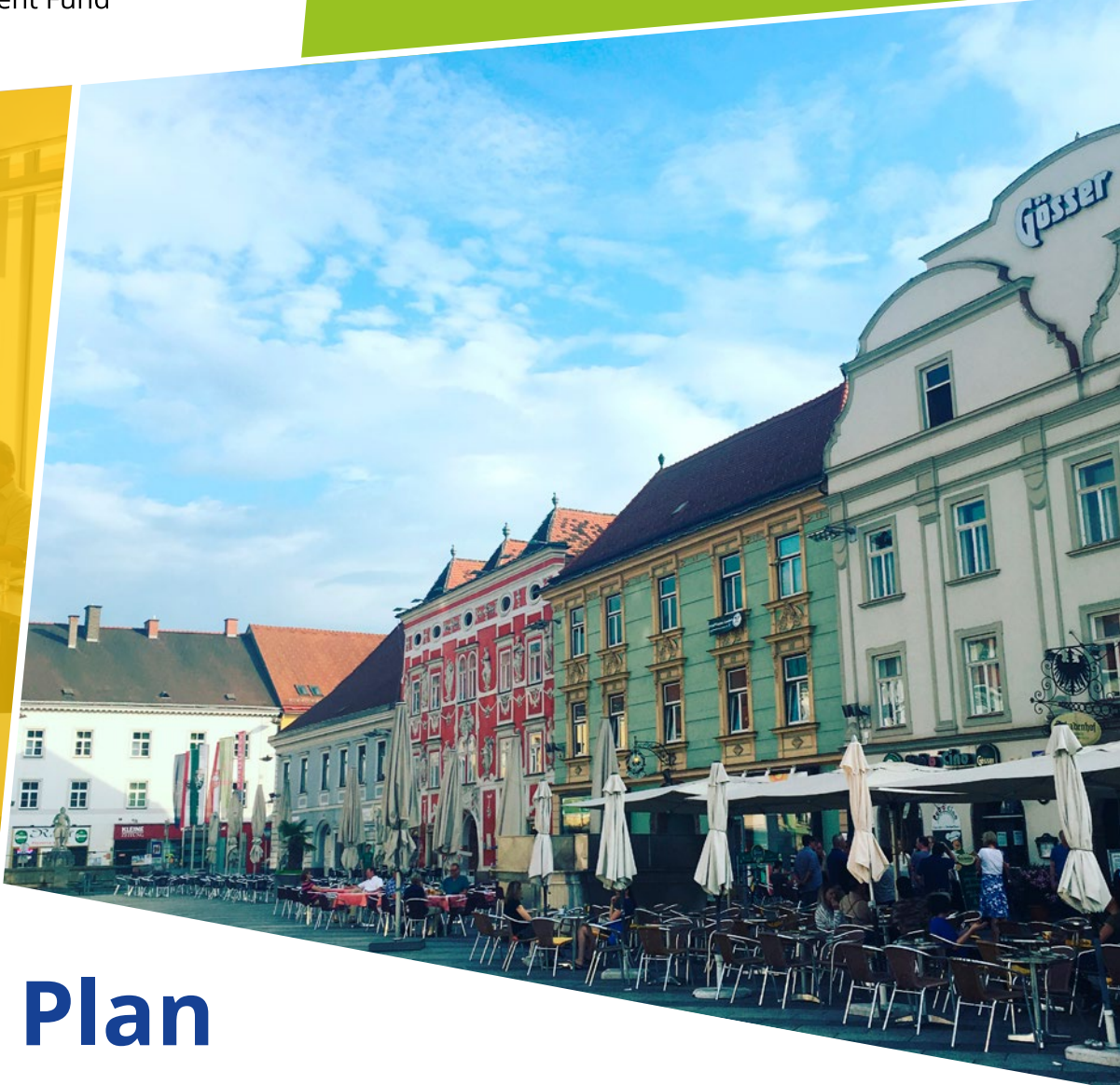
# REMIX

Interreg Europe



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

Smart and Green  
Mining Regions of EU



# Action Plan Austria



 Federal Ministry  
Republic of Austria  
Sustainability and Tourism



Research &  
innovation

Leading the European policies  
towards more sustainable mining  
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# Contents

Go to the content by clicking the section title

<b>1. General information</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Policy context</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>3. Action: Updating the Austrian Mineral Resources Plan</b> .....	<b>6</b>
3.1. The background .....	<b>6</b>
3.2. Process .....	<b>7</b>
3.3. Players involved .....	<b>8</b>
3.4. Timeframe .....	<b>8</b>
3.5. Costs and funding sources .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Letter of Endorsement</b> .....	<b>11</b>



# REMIX Action plan for Austria: Updating the Austrian Mineral Resources Plan

## 1. General information

**Project:** REMIX – Smart and Green Mining Regions of EU

**Partner organisation:** Montanuniversität Leoben (MUL)

**Country:** Austria

**NUTS2 region:** AT 22

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## 2. Policy context

### **The Action Plan aims to impact:**

- Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
- European Territorial Cooperation programme
- Other regional development policy instrument

### **Name of the policy instrument addressed**

Austrian Mineral Resources Plan (AMRP)

### **Further details on the policy context and the way the action plan should contribute to improve the policy instrument**

Within the framework of the Austrian Integrated Raw Materials Strategy (AIRMS), which encouraged the co-design of the policy through collaboration between enterprises, academia and authorities, the Austrian Minister of Economy prepared the Austrian Mineral Resources Plan (AMRP), published in 2012, as is the spatial translation of the 2nd goal of the AMRS 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, i.e. concerning aggregates, to create new sustainable business.

Mineral extraction and usages are competing and sometimes even conflicting with other land-use options, which is part of a political and planning brokering process. Some mineral occurrences might be worth to be protected in land use plans in order to avoid conflicts and possible sterilisation in the future. Such land use planning procedures/tools/instruments should also enable innovations in mining and a sustainable supply of raw materials. Distinguished mineral zones can 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.

The AMRP has been seen as a vital component 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 AMRP was identified as a “Best Practice Model” by the European Commission, as an example for an active minerals planning policy. The Austrian Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism (BMNT), which is currently in charge of Austria`s mining agenda, is starting the process of updating the AIRMS and its integrative part - the AMRP, with the goal to 1) review AIRMS/AMRP and bring them up to date (e.g. concerning new land use and mining developments since 2012) and 2) improve them.

Montanuniversität Leoben will use relevant results of the first phase of the REMIX project (see below) to feed into this update – especially to contribute to the second goal, i.e. to improve the AMRP – and thus contribute also to the policy delivery of the AMRS since those two policy instruments are linked with each other.

# 3. Action: Updating the Austrian Mineral Resources Plan

## 3.1. The background

As explained above, the AMRP is a methodological approach for the identification and evaluation of the mineral occurrences: it provides a nuanced methodology depending on different commodity types, such as construction minerals and occurrences of metallic ores, industrial minerals or mineral fuels (except hydrocarbons). Special attention is paid to the systematic process to identify conflict reduced zones.

The REMIX project, through the second peer review held in Leoben 26-28 June 2017 and an analysis done by the project partner Montanuniversität Leoben looked at opportunities to improve the policy instrument, i.e. the link to innovation (peer review) and the implementation and uptake of the ARMP in Austria's federal states (analysis).

A key result of the REMIX peer review concerning the improvement of the ARMP is the suggestion to (better) link the ARMP to the Austrian innovation strategy and explore opportunities for smart specialisation (RIS3) related projects – relevant projects have been identified through the participation in the peer reviews in Cornwall (i.e. the Cornwall Mining Alliance and their actions “to go beyond mining” with a digital and a circular economy) and Castilla y Leon (i.e. concerning the St. Barbara Foundation and related innovations), as well as ongoing exchanges with Lower Silesia and the Czech Republic (since the latter two are also working on policy related actions). The Cornwall Mining Alliance might also provide useful ideas regarding stakeholder involvement, given their broad involvement of different stakeholder groups.

The analysis done by Montanuniversität Leoben looking at the ARMP implementation status in the federal states and selected municipalities resulted in a number of conclusions and improvement suggestions concerning the key issue of stakeholder engagement, i.e. related to the federal states, who are responsible for land use planning.

Montanuniversität Leoben will use these results of the first phase of the REMIX project to feed into this update to further improve the AMRP.

## 3.2. Process

After the Austrian council of ministers decision on 8 May 2019 the mandate to update the AIRMS/ARMP has been given to BMNT.

Given the short period since that decision, at this stage no detailed planning has been done. BMNT is envisioning a two staged process for the update, i.e. a “green book” (drafting of the update) and a “white book” (stakeholder consultation and finalisation) phase.

**Montanuniversität Leoben will work with BMNT on the update in the following way:**

### 1. Planning

Meet with BMNT in Vienna to find the exact framework to create a more detailed plan/road map for the update process.

### 2. Green Book

Provide input to the “green book” phase by providing suggestions in the form of a short report concerning better linkages to the Austrian innovation strategy and smart specialisation, i.e. ideas based on projects in other REMIX regions such as Cornwall (i.e. the Cornwall Mining Alliance and their actions “to go beyond mining” with a digital and a circular economy) and Castilla y Leon (e.g. concerning the St. Barbara Foundation and their innovations). The output of this first phase of the update will be the “green book”, which will be used as an input for the second phase.

### 3. White Book

Montanuniversität Leoben will

- provide a report on the current status of policy implementation in the federal states,
- make suggestions and provide support for the stakeholder consultation process (e.g. by organising and facilitating meetings) and policy implementation with the federal states, i.e. concerning the selection of stakeholders (e.g. based on the Cornwall Mining Alliance), possible governance mechanisms (e.g. incentivisation and links to the Austrian innovation strategy concerning smart specialisation in mining regions), next to more traditional ones of ‘classic’ spatial planning (e.g. priority zoning).

Throughout the process, Montanuniversität Leoben will cooperate with and use applicable learnings from Lower Silesia and the Czech Republic, other REMIX regions working on similar policy instruments.

The final output of this action will be the updated AIRMS/AMRP, with the ultimate measurement of success being the acceptance of the update by the Austrian council of ministers.

### 3.3. Players involved

Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism, other federal ministries, land use planning authorities from federal states, regional development authorities from mining and metallurgy regions (e.g. Styria), companies and chamber of commerce, other stakeholders involved in the PRV and listed in the REMIX proposal

**Additionally:** better involvement of (environmental) NGOs, project partners from REMIX regions (i.e., Cornwall, Castilla y Leon, Lower Silesia and Czech Republic)

### 3.4. Timeframe

The timeframe shown below is preliminary only and could be delayed based on the current political situation in Austria with a caretaker government installed until general elections in September 2019.

- Council of ministers decision to update Austria's Integrated Raw Materials Strategy: 8 May 2019
- By August 2019: Define, together with BMNT the role of Montanuniversität Leoben and prioritise REMIX results.
- By December 2019: Drafting of Strategy ("Green Book")
- By June 2020: Stakeholder consultation and finalisation of Strategy ("White Book")
- By December 2020: Council of ministers decision on Strategy



## 3.5. Costs and funding sources


The Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism will cover the costs of the update from the Austrian federal budget. It is estimated that Montanuniversität Leoben will spend about 6 person months on this action.



Montanuniversität Leoben (MUL) is committed to delivering and monitoring this action plan.

**Date:** 28 / 6 . 2019

**Signature:**


The signature is a blue ink scribble on a horizontal line. The seal is circular with the text 'MONTANUNIVERSITÄT LEOBEN' around the top and 'Vize-Rektorat' at the bottom, with a small asterisk below it. The center of the seal contains a shield with various symbols.

Peter Moser,  
Vice-Rector for infrastructure and International Relations  
Montanuniversität Leoben (MUL)

 **Federal Ministry**  
 Republic of Austria  
 Sustainability and Tourism  
[bmnt.gv.at](http://bmnt.gv.at)

## Endorsement for REMIX – Smart and Green Mining Regions of EU Action Plan for Austria

The Austrian Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism is the designated authority for the implementation of the Austrian Raw Materials Strategy and Plan, the Policy Instrument connected to the Interreg Europe project REMIX.

Our ministry has followed the REMIX project through participation in the Austrian Peer Review Meeting, local stakeholders' meetings and interregional events) and thus, acknowledges the efforts of REMIX partner Montanuniversität Leoben towards the improvement of the Austrian Raw Materials Strategy and Plan.

In this respect the Action Plan, which has been submitted by Montanuniversität Leoben within the context of the REMIX project - to use relevant findings from the first phase of the REMIX project for an update of the Austrian Raw Materials Strategy and Plan - is considered to be very timely and welcome by our ministry.

Accordingly, the Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism endorses the Action Plan submitted by Montanuniversität Leoben and will support the activities during its implementation from July 2019 until June 2021.


**Yours sincerely,**

25. June 2019

For the Federal Minister:

**Mag. Dr. Robert Holnsteiner**

Signed *electronically*.

	Unterzeichner	Bundesministerium für Nachhaltigkeit und Tourismus
	Datum/Zeit	2019-06-25T10:31:03+02:00
	Aussteller-Zertifikat	CN=a-sign-corporate-light-02,OU=a-sign-corporate-light-02,O=A-Trust Ges. f. Sicherheitssysteme im elektr. Datenverkehr GmbH,C=AT
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