

Acceptance of Mining Activities

Austrian Experiences



- Mineral resources are the basis for our industrial production, infrastructure development and maintenance
- Sufficient supply with mineral resources is an indispensable fundament for functioning and successful economies
- > 11 million jobs in the EU depend on the availability of raw materials

Access to mineral resources is an important competitiveness factor in industrialized countries.

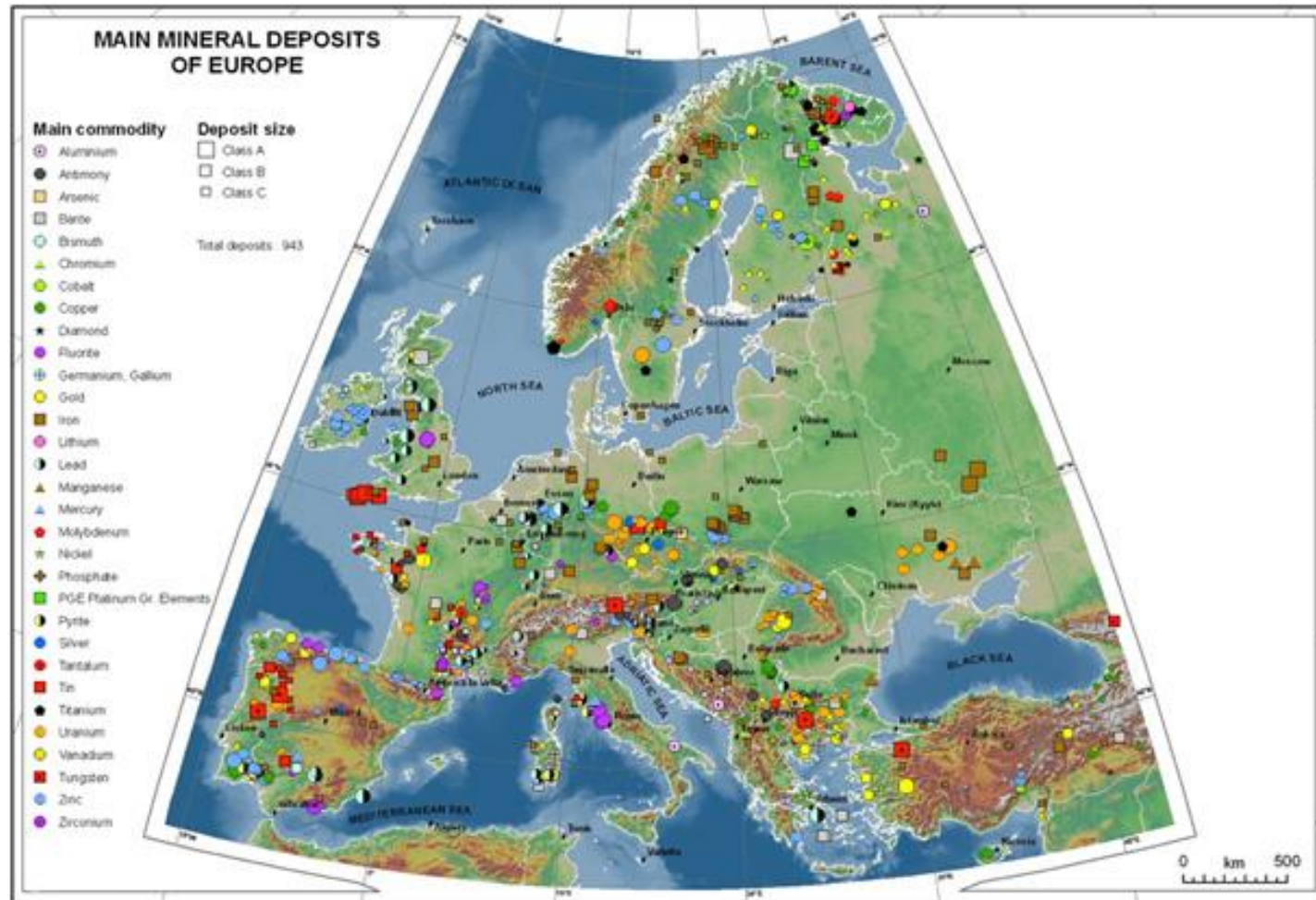
Mining's importance Austria

www.bmwf.gv.at

- ✓ share of GDP: ca. 0,4%
- ✓ ca. 4.600 directly employed
- ✓ value added of mineral resources
(physical goods + construction industry):
ca. 26% share of GDP

Minerals potential in Europe

www.bmwfw.gv.at



Euromines/Minerals for EU

NGO's agenda on mining

www.bmwfw.gv.at

bmwfw

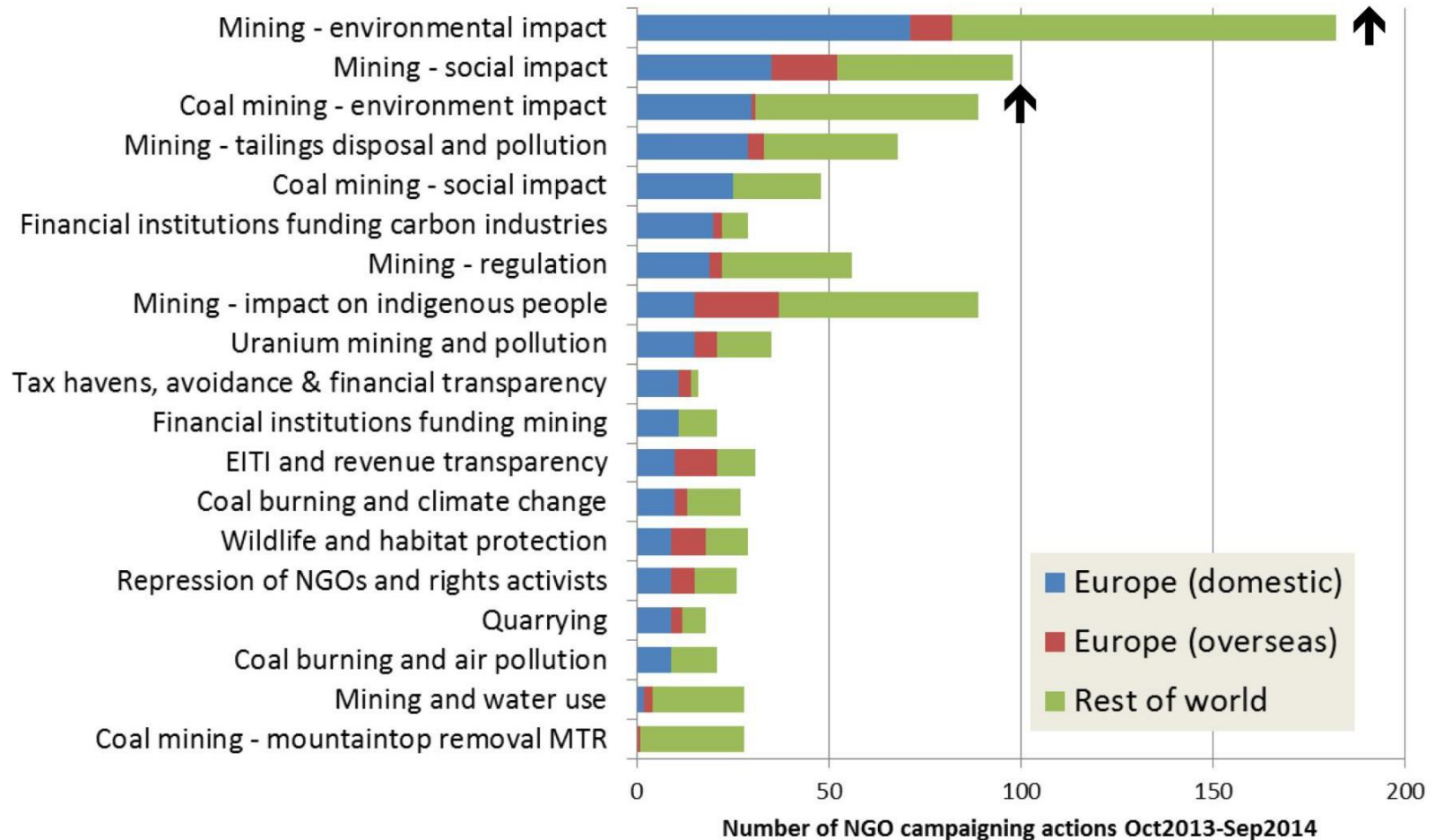
Federal Ministry of
Science, Research and Economy



www.meinbezirk.at

NGO's agenda on mining

www.bmwfw.gv.at



- In the meanwhile it is frequently no longer enough for mining companies to simply meet the formal obligations of a license to mine.
- Local communities, neighborhood, NGO's in particular, require something more

- ➡ Social license to operate (SLO)
- ➡ Voice in decision-making processes
- ➡ Authorities have to cope with changing conditions

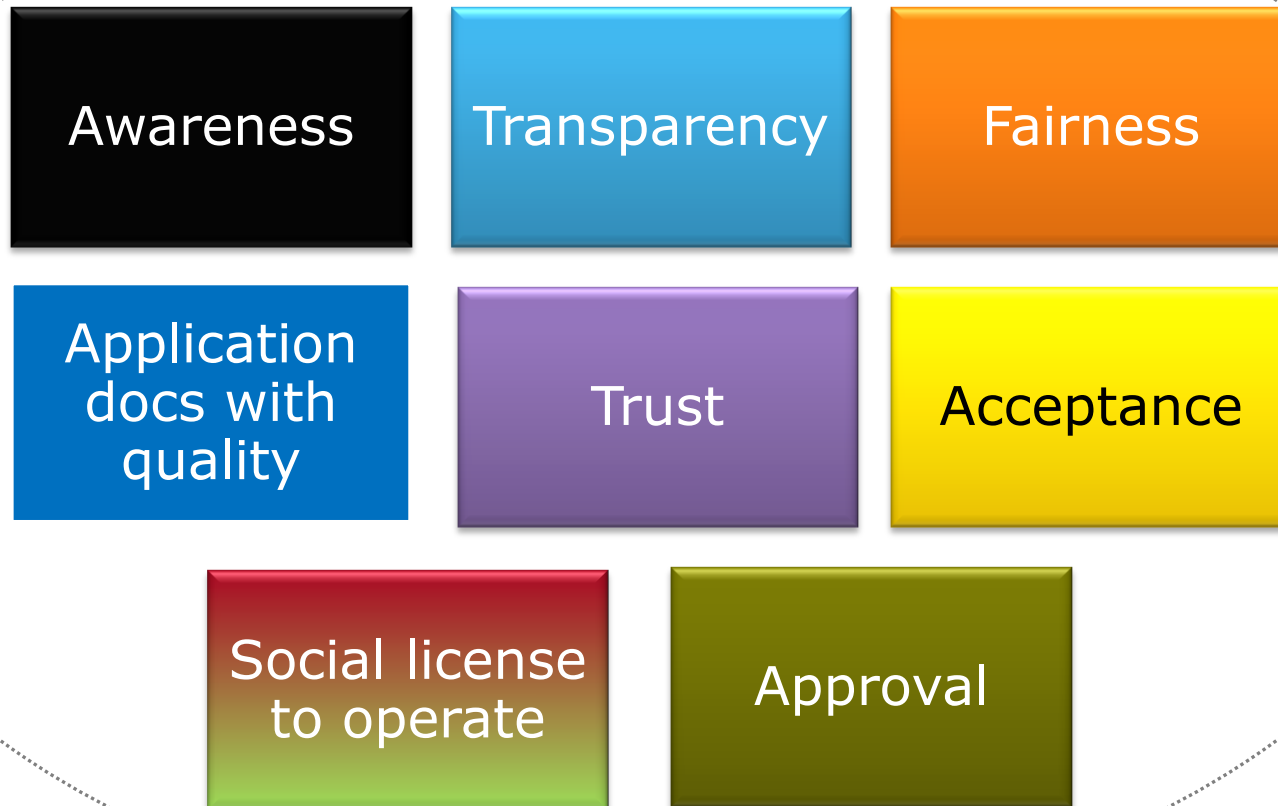
- Adapt. of legal framework, broader implementation of participation rights (Aarhus C.)
- Projects are getting more and more complex and costly
- Documentation is getting more and more voluminous
- Administrative procedures are getting more complex, costly and lengthy (by the way owing the effect, that governments intend to reduce the size of administrative bodies due to restrictive public budgeting)

- How do these developments fits to the EU- and national strategies to improve resource supply in the EU from domestic resources??
- How do these developments fits to the EU- and national strategies increasing the contribution of industry to GDP (20% in 2020)??

Pillars for successful approval

www.bmwfw.gv.at

apprpr. political & legal framwork



Acceptance?

www.bmwf.wg.at

Those directly affected and the citizens of the region consider a project to be appropriate and affirm that the challenges associated with the project are adequately solved.

Acceptance does not mean that the persons concerned fully agree with the project and certainly not that all parties concerned agree with the project.

- ➡ Does the knowledge about the importance of mineral resources play a role in the curricula of our schools?
- ➡ Knowledge about the environmental performance of state of the art mining?
- ➡ Objective reporting?
- ➡ Performance of companies?
- ➡ Readiness for objective causal research on reasons of negative image of mining?

It is a society wide task to work towards an ideological liberated raw materials awareness based on knowledge and facts rather than on fears.

Rohstoffgewinnung Gesamtbericht

Diese Studie wurde erstellt für:
Bundesministerium für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Wirtschaft

Wien, im Mai 2016
Archivnummer: 23805 003

IFES

INSTITUT FÜR EMPIRISCHE SOZIALFORSCHUNG GMBH
Teinfaltstraße 8 • 1010 Wien
Telefon: (01) 54 670-0 • Fax: (01) 54 670-312
E-Mail: ifes@ifes.at • Internet: <http://www.ifes.at>

BMWFW commissioned 2016 survey on public acceptance of mining:

- ➡ gain knowledge about possible problems and obstacles
- ➡ derive possible measures and recommendations for improvements

Questions asked:

- ➡ minerals awareness
- ➡ mining in Austria – pro`s and con`s
- ➡ beyond mining – usage of closed mines
- ➡ personal concerns

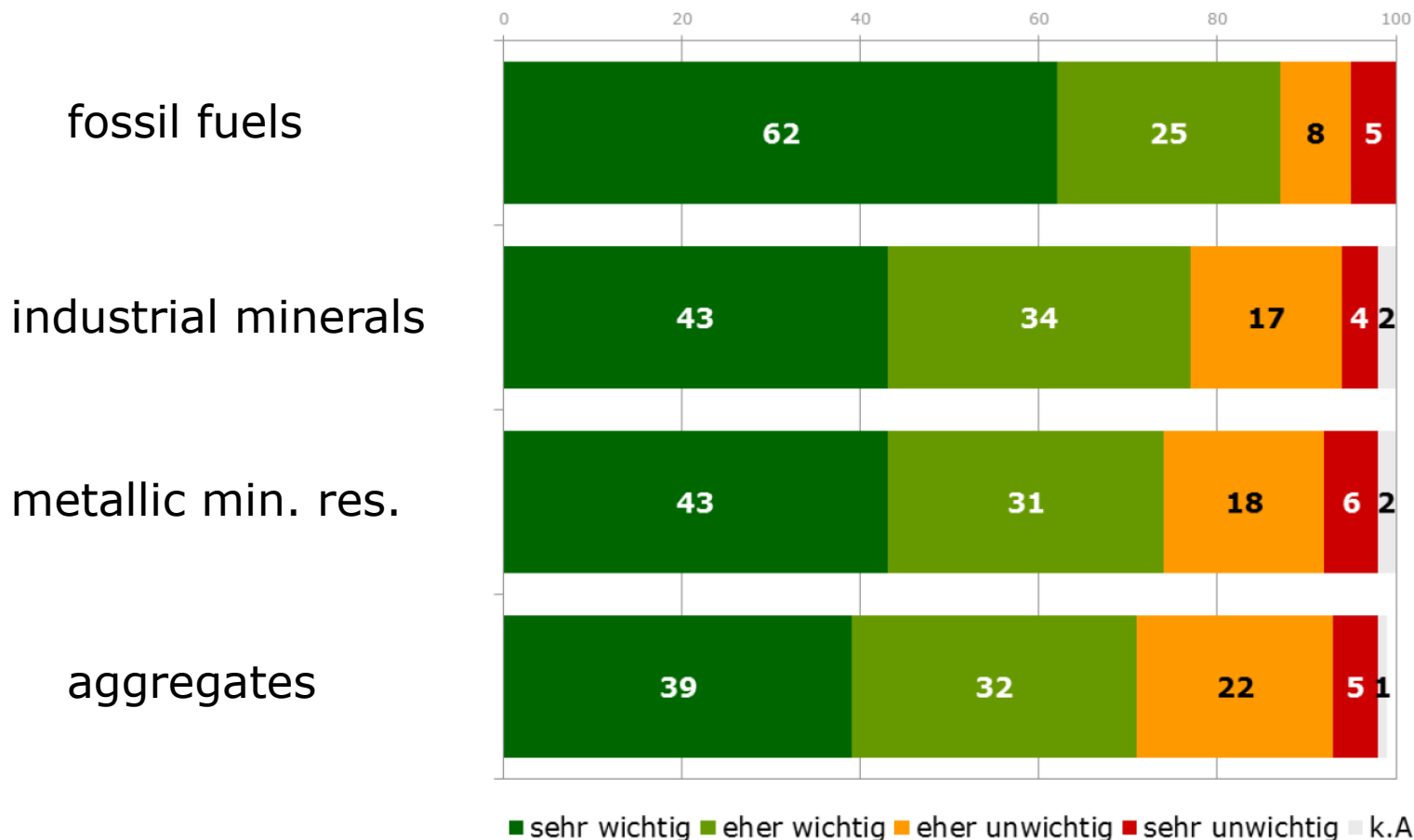
AT acceptance study

www.bmwf.w.g.v.at



Federal Ministry of
Science, Research and Economy

Do you think, that following mineral resources are very important, important, rather unimportant, totally unimportant in your daily life? [%]



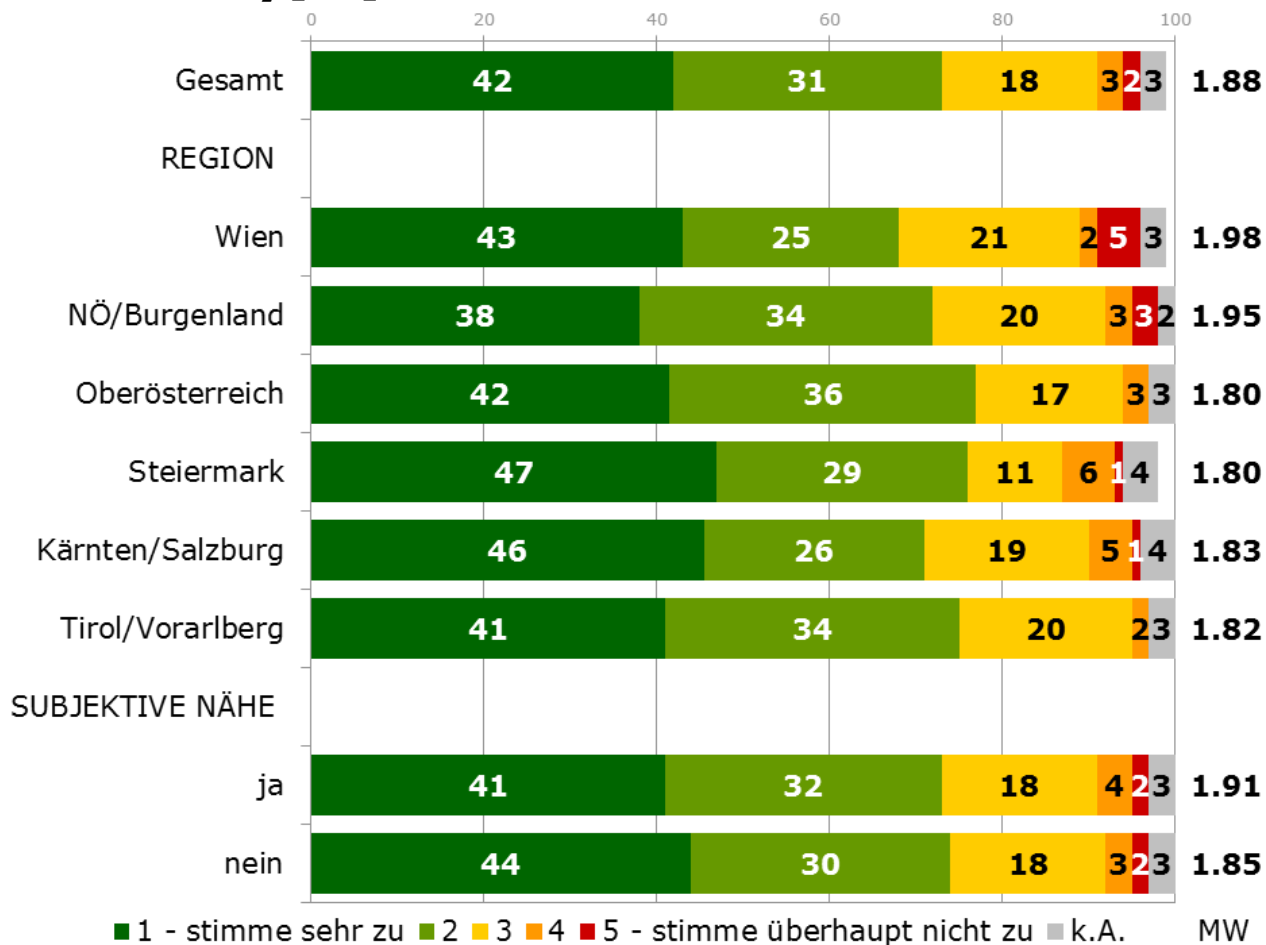
AT acceptance study

www.bmwf.w.gv.at



Federal Ministry of
Science, Research and Economy

Minerals exploitation is an important column of our industrialized society [%]



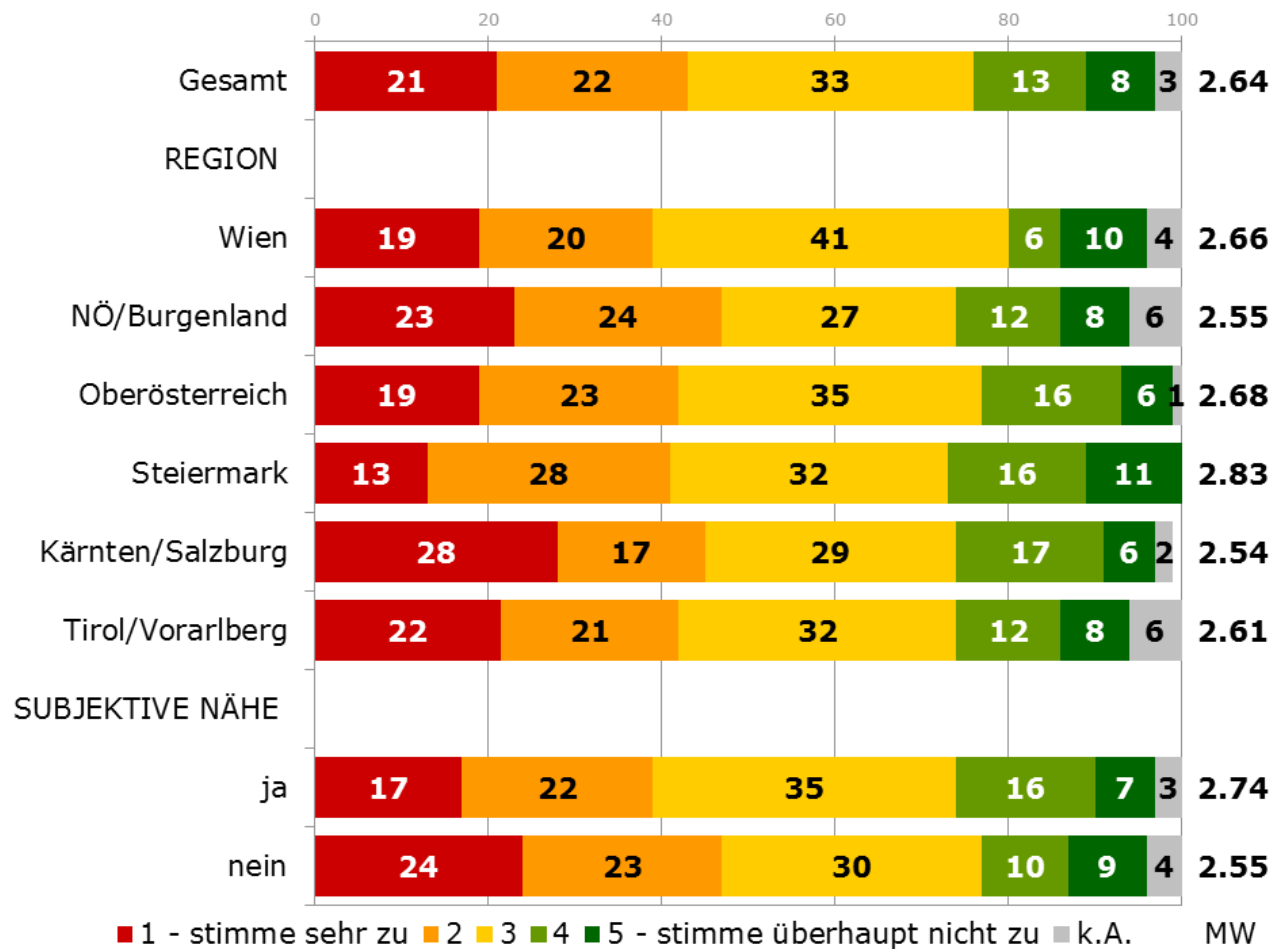
AT acceptance study

www.bmwf.w.gv.at



Federal Ministry of
Science, Research and Economy

Extraction affects environment [%]



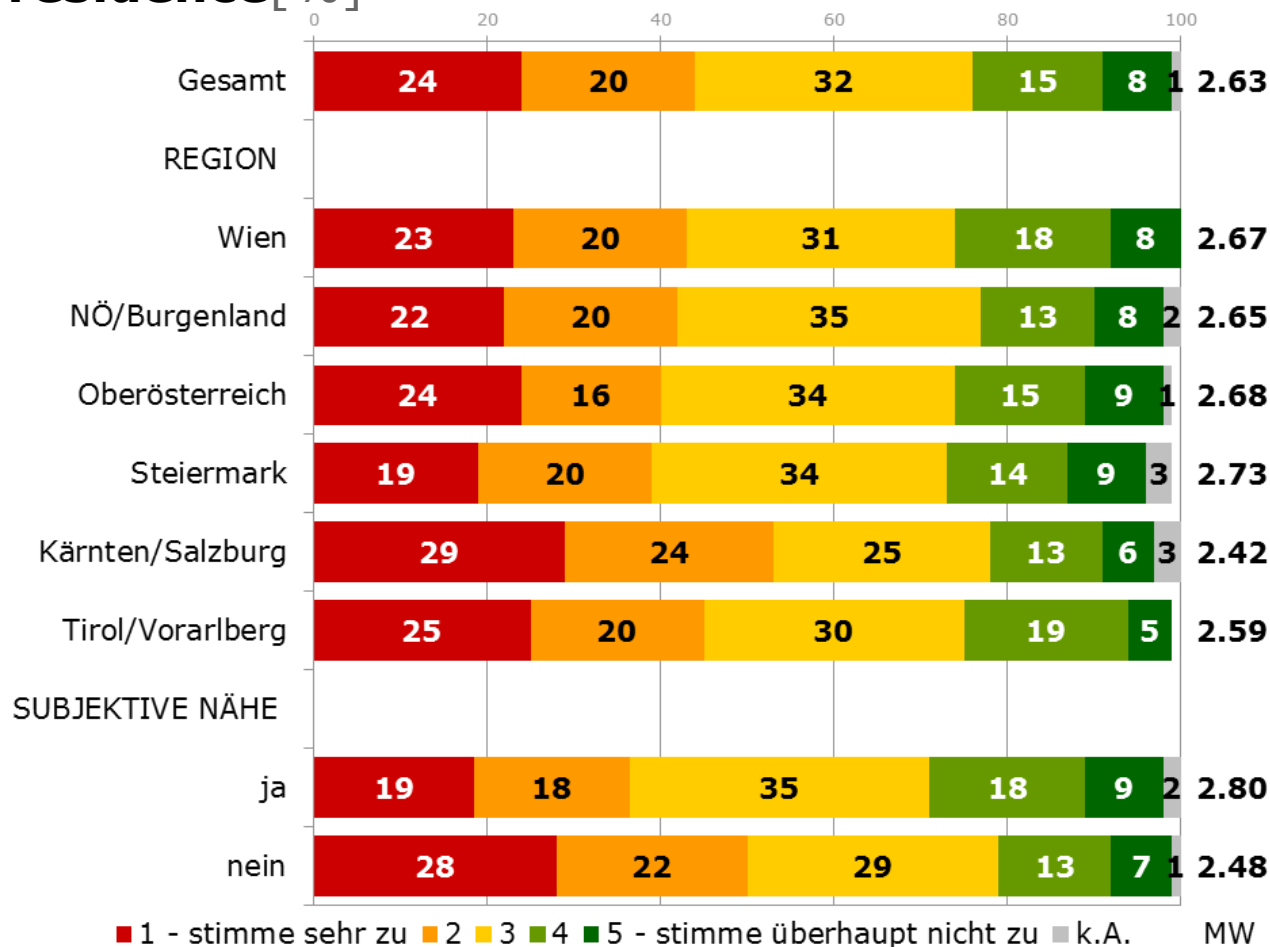
AT acceptance study

www.bmwf.wg.at



Federal Ministry of
Science, Research and Economy

Extraction sites are making communities unattractive as places for residence [%]

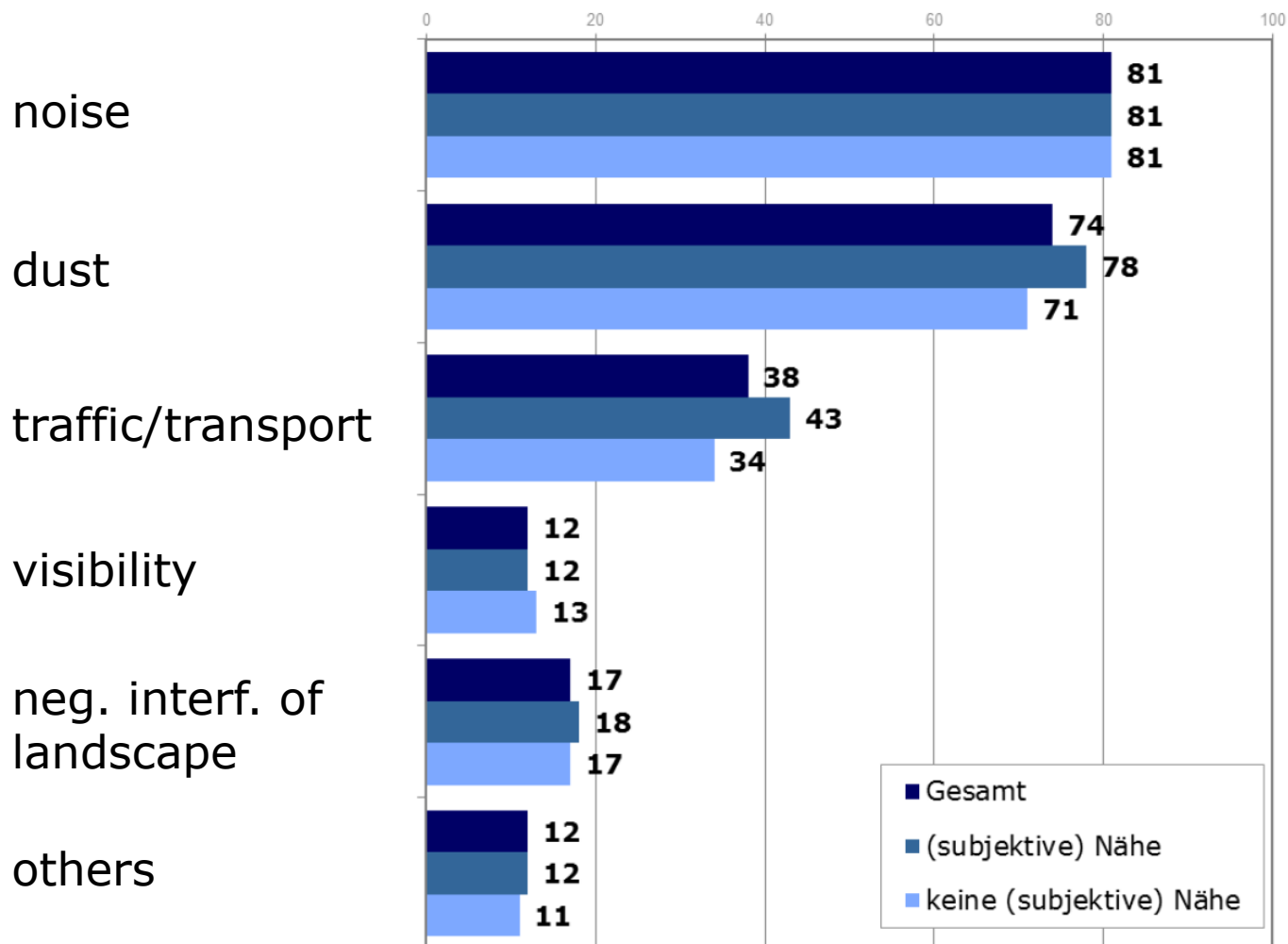


MW

AT acceptance study

www.bmwf.w.gv.at

Factor of disturbances for people living in the vicinity of extraction sites [%]



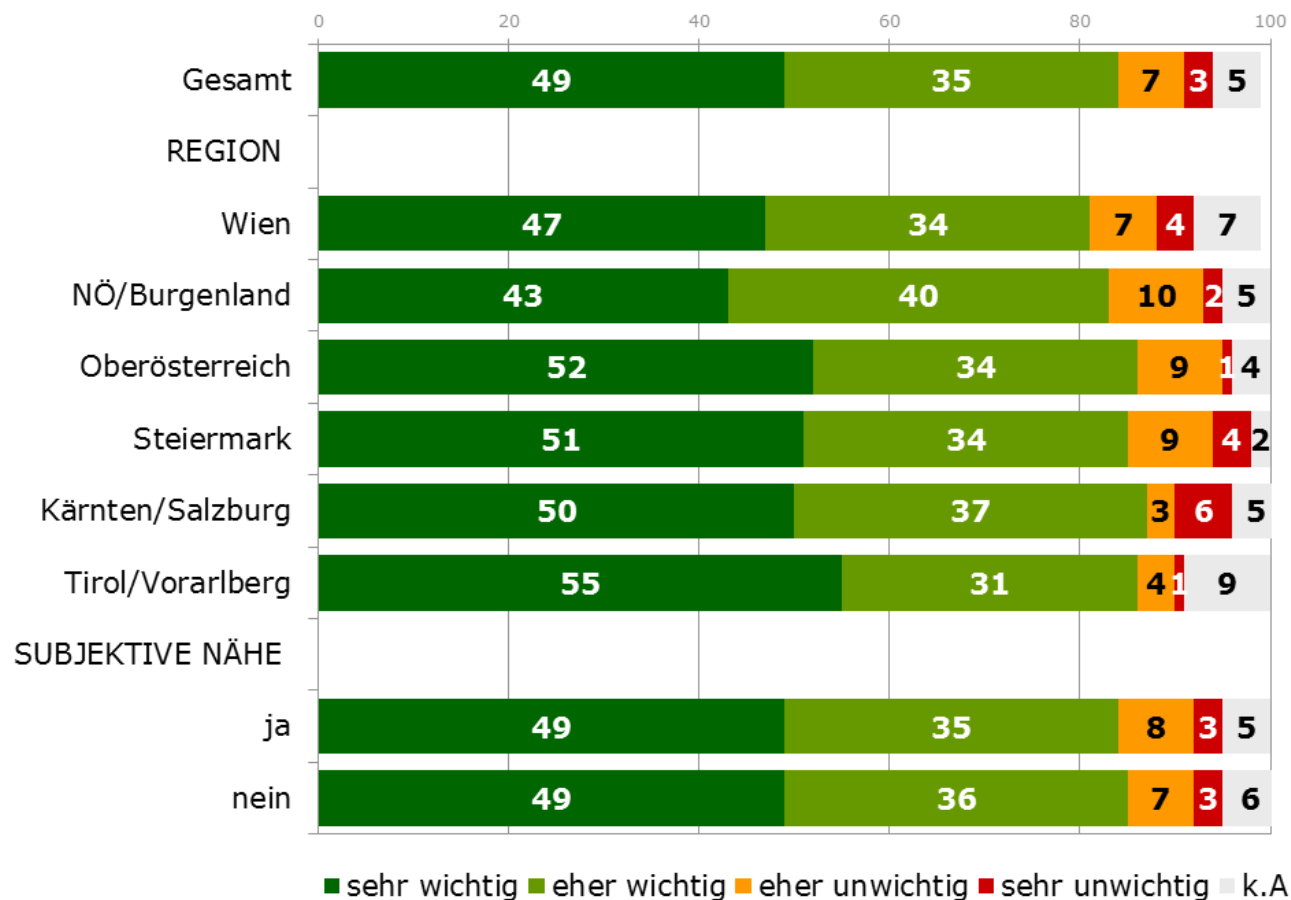
AT acceptance study

www.bmwf.wg.at



Federal Ministry of
Science, Research and Economy

Importance of participation in licencing/permitting procedures [%]



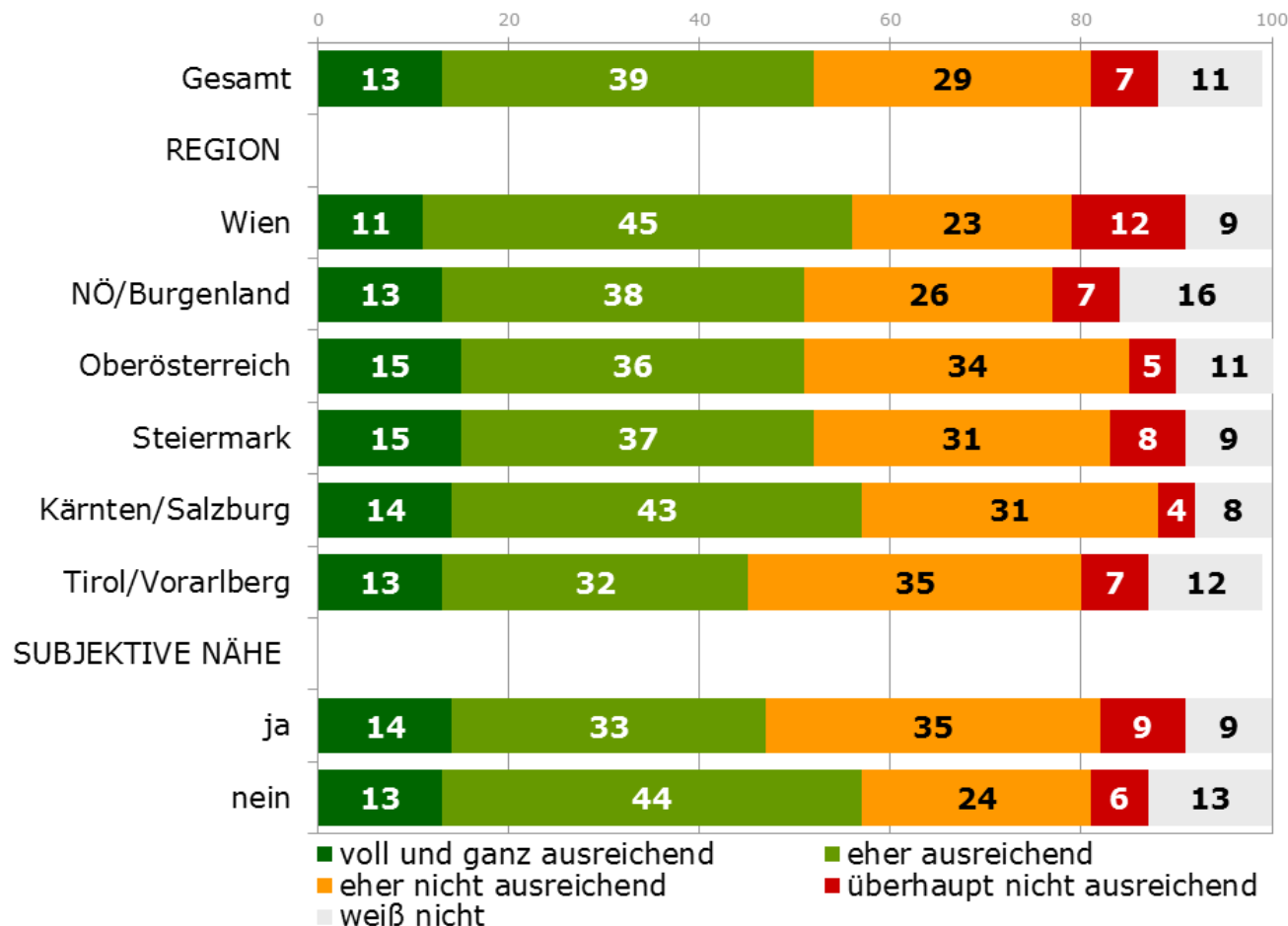
AT acceptance study

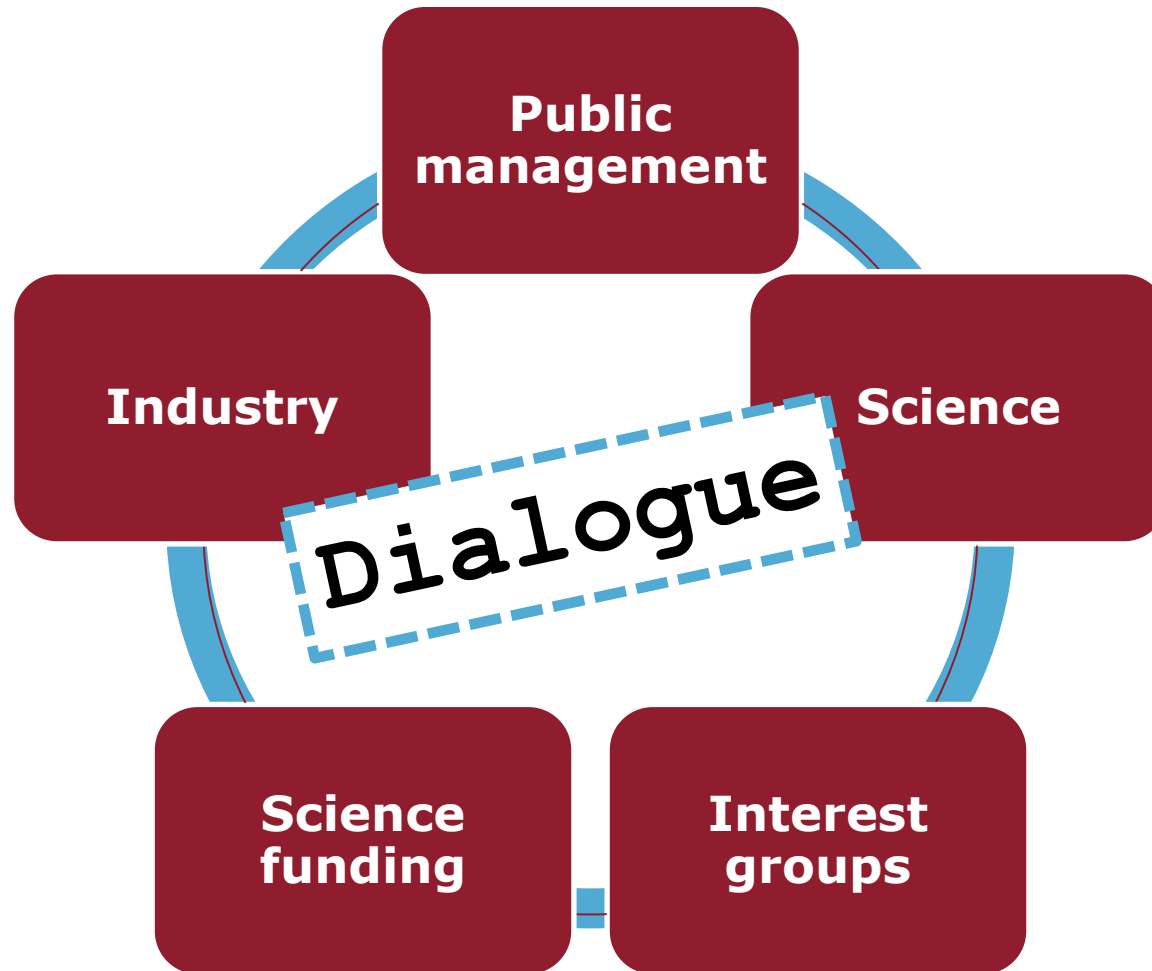
www.bmwf.w.gv.at



Federal Ministry of
Science, Research and Economy

Possibility for Austrians to advocate their participation rights sufficiently in licencing/permitting procedures [%]





Role of Federal Ministry:

- ➡ appropriate legal framework
- ➡ granting legal security
- ➡ create and enhance awareness for the importance of mining activities (importance of raw materials in the society is widely unknown)

Role of Mining Authorities:

- ➡ execution of legal regulations
- ➡ transparent and traceable procedures
- ➡ transparent and traceable information policy
- ➡ equidistance to all parties involved
- ➡ appropriate conflict management

Role of Companies:

- ➡ transparent, honest and traceable communication & information policy, starting at an very early stage of a project
- ➡ transparent and traceable procedures
- ➡ appropriate involvement of parties in the planning process
- ➡ appropriate conflict management
- ➡ reliable operation of mines (safety issues, damage prevention...)

Role of NGO`s...:

- ➡ fair play
- ➡ transparent, honest and traceable communication & information policy
- ➡ realistic goals
- ➡ mission dedicated to the really concerned people (neighbors...)

Sometimes people are not accessible to reasonable arguments.

They simply keep insisting to be against!

R. Holnsteiner

Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy

Dept. „Energy and Mining“, Div. „Minerals Policy“

A-1200 Vienna, Denisgasse 31

www.bmwf.gv.at

robert.holnsteiner@bmwf.gv.at