

39th Conference of
Rectors and Presidents of European Universities of Technology

Universities of Technology addressing the challenges that planet earth is facing

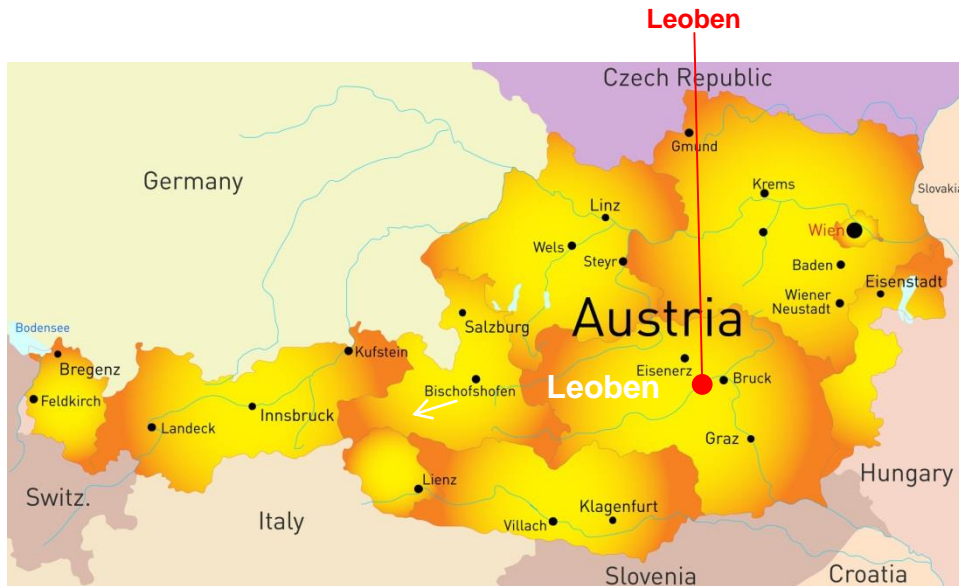
Compiègne, September 17th-18th, 2021

Wilfried Eichlseder, Montanuniversität Leoben / Austria



Content

1. Montanuniversität Leoben
2. Challenges that occupy the world
3. Situation at the TU's
4. Strategic orientation of the Montanuniversität Leoben
5. International cooperation: KIC/European University
6. Summary



-  **1840** founded as „Styrian Corporate School of Mining & Metallurgy“
-  **1904** doctoral degree programmes introduced, renamed as „University of Mining and Metallurgy“
-  Since **1955**: new degree programmes added
-  **2014** Study programme „Recycling Technology“ closes raw materials cycle

- Appr. **3,800** students,
 > **400** doctoral students
- **24 %** female students
- **19 %** international students,
 from 80 nations
- **53** professors / chairs
- **1300** employees



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From a University of Resources & Materials point of view:

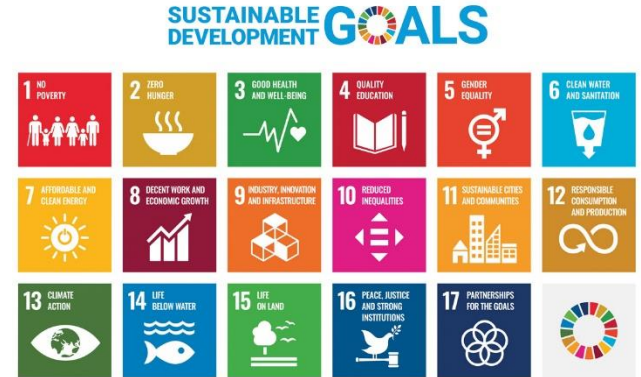
- population growth
- economic development
- climate change
- increase in resources & energy demand
- etc.

Demand on

- new technologies,

but we also need

- change of consumer's behaviour: responsible consumption



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Significant decline of students

Significant and ongoing decline in student numbers; declining student numbers lead to lack of in-house research talent:

- Demographic development
- Decline in STEM interest
- Apparent lack of attractiveness of the range of studies offered
- Difficult studies? Poor preparation by schools?
- Technology is seen as a problem maker, not a problem solver

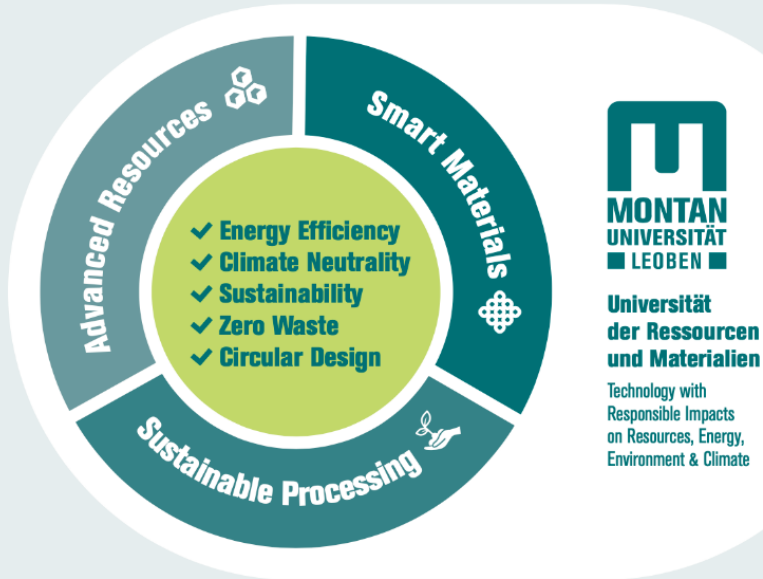
Demands from society and politics

- **Need** for more academically trained employees and desire for better education, higher income and reputation (academisation of society)
- **Opening up** of universities and higher education, cooperation with companies and institutions

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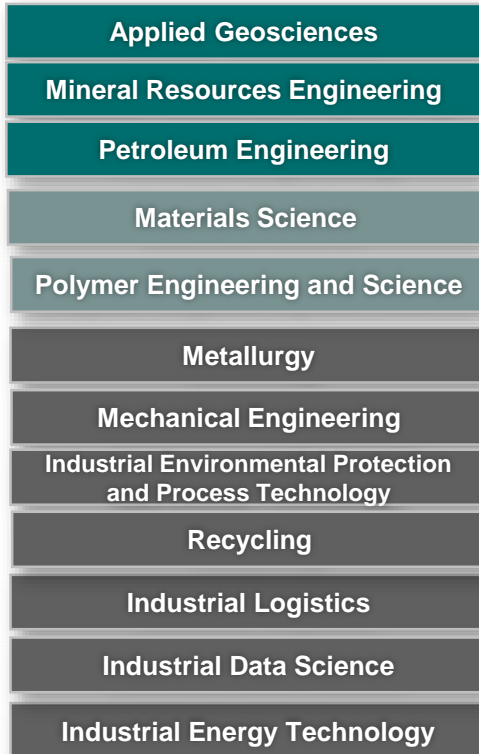
Fundamental repositioning



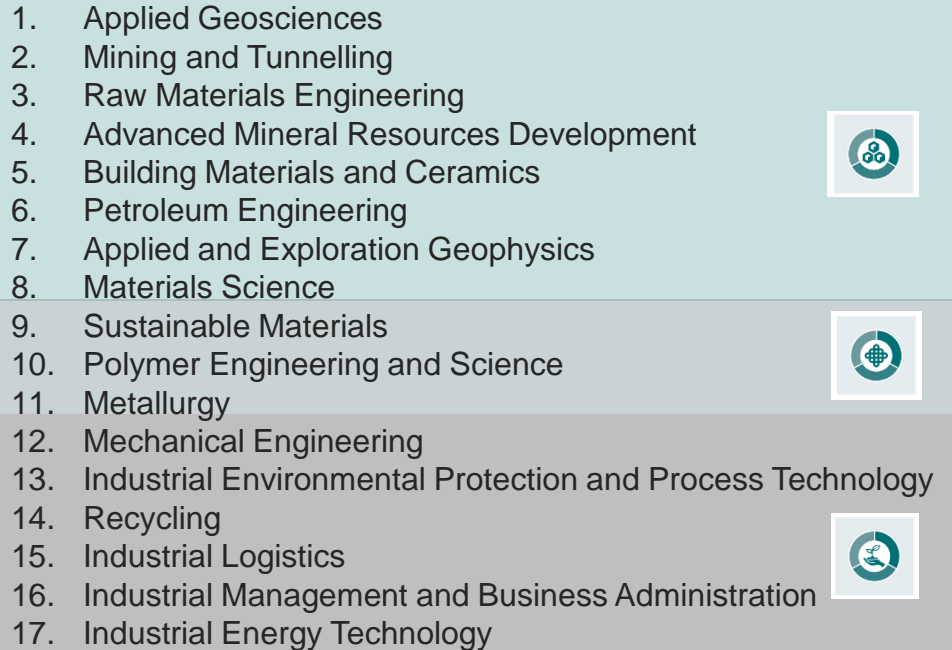
Key messages

- The major societal challenges in the areas of resource scarcity, climate, energy and the environment must be met predominantly with technical and scientific methods.
- The Montanuniversität Leoben sees its task in making significant contributions to this through excellent science and outstanding education.
- Our actions are aligned with five core values that form the "DNA" of our offerings and guide all our actions

Bachelor studies



Master studies

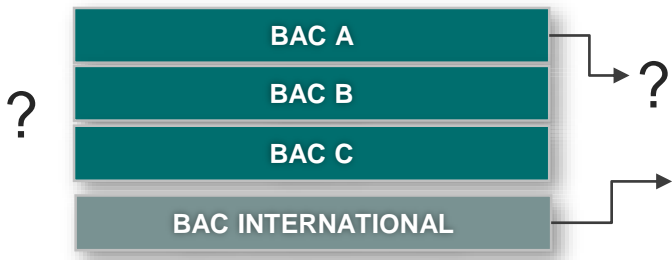


Bachelor Reform




Key objectives

- Sharpening of the curricula (environment, climate, scarcity of resources, ...)
- Increase coherence and clarity of the overall offer
- Reduction of the number of BAC studies
- Bachelor International Studyability, horizontal and vertical permeability, mobility
- Shortening of the average duration of studies
- Focus on essential course content and competencies
- Realistic ECTS weightings
- High degree of digitalization

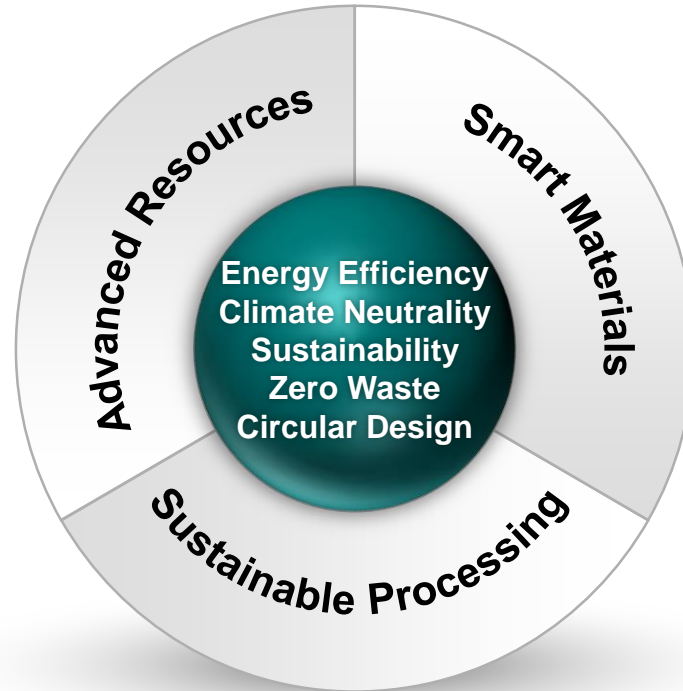
Bachelor studies



Master studies

- 1. Applied Geosciences
- 2. Mining and Tunnelling
- 3. Raw Materials Engineering
- 4. Advanced Mineral Resources Development 
- 5. Building Materials and Ceramics
- 6. Petroleum Engineering
- 7. Applied and Exploration Geophysics
- 8. Materials Science
- 9. Sustainable Materials 
- 10. Polymer Engineering and Science
- 11. Metallurgy
- 12. Mechanical Engineering
- 13. Industrial Environmental Protection and Process Technology
- 14. Recycling
- 15. Industrial Logistics 
- 16. Industrial Management and Business Administration
- 17. Industrial Energy Technology

Highly attractive specialties



Future field "Energy & Storage"

- Earth's crust as potential for energy supply and energy storage
- CO₂-neutral, alternative use of conventional deposits of energy raw materials including geothermal energy
- Energy transformation & storage
- Hydrogen with focus on production, transport and storage, use as process gas and in interaction with materials

Future field "Space & Extreme Environments"

- Mining of critical resources on asteroids, moons or planets.
- Space exploration: space mining, remote sensing, materials and systems for space transportation and exploration, extraterrestrial geology
- Materials for harsh environments and extreme conditions
- Utilization underground / tunneling: construction, storage, logistics

Future field "Design to Sustainability"

- Climate-neutral production to combat climate change.
- Material and product design considering primary/secondary materials and recyclability; Zero Waste.
- Improved recyclable materials, disassembly & re-use strategies
- Holistic consideration of raw material use with regard to the generation of residual materials and greenhouse gas emissions as well as other environmental impacts

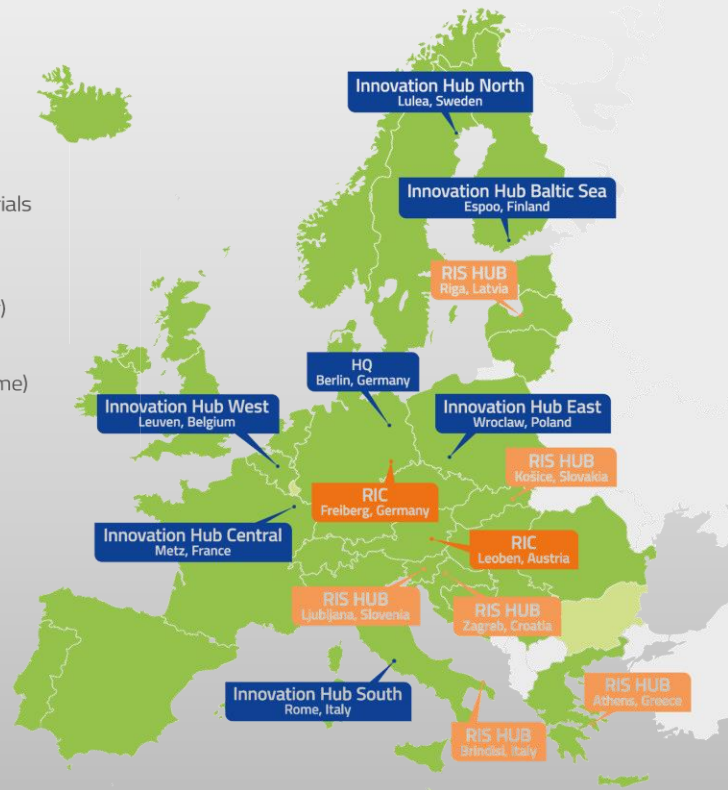
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Sustainable supply of Europe with responsibly produced raw materials from European Deposits

Sustainability starts with Europe's mineral resource potential

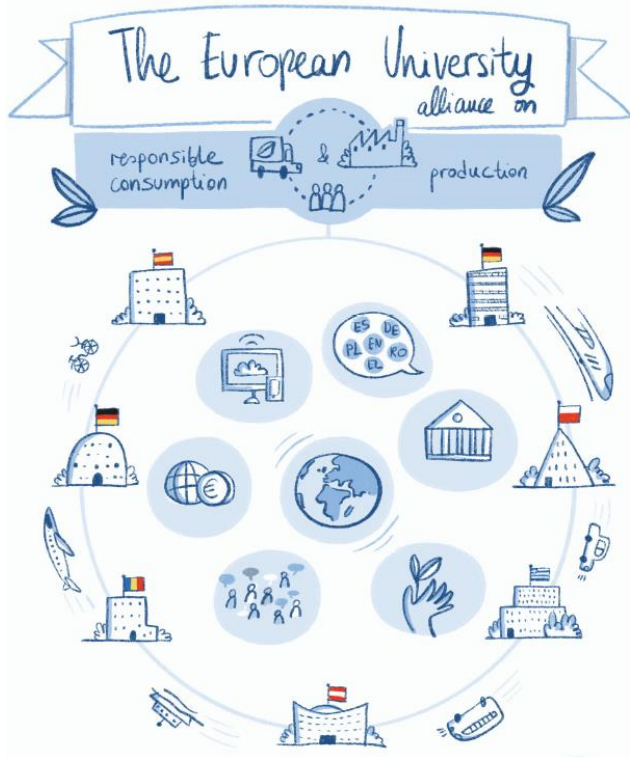
- Countries covered by EIT RawMaterials
- EU countries
- Innovation Hub (Co-Location Center)
- RIC (Regional Innovation Center)
- RIS HUB (Regional Innovation Scheme)



EURECA-PRO: European University on Responsible Consumption and Responsible Production

- Montanuniversität Leoben, Austria (MUL) – *Lead University*
- Technische Universität Bergakademie Freiberg, Germany (TUBAF)
- Technical University of Crete, Greece (TUC)
- Silesian University of Technology, Poland (SUT)
- University of León, Spain (ULE)
- University of Petrosani, Romania (UP)
- Mittweida University of Applied Sciences, Germany (HSMW)





EURECA-PRO

7 Higher Education Institutions
based in 6 EU member states

Uniting over
54.500 students,
9.400 staff members and
60 departments/faculties

Supported by
24 associated partners from all over
Europe

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Summary

- Problems are global, so ultimately they can only be solved globally.
- Nevertheless, solutions need to be developed locally and then scaled to the entire planet
- Without technological progress, the challenges will not be met; however: social changes are additionally necessary
- Technical universities have an important role to play in solving the challenges facing planet Earth

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