MAIN RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

In terms of mineral safeguarding, European countries/regions can be divided into three groups, according to their current practices:

1. **Countries/regions that apply some kind of mineral safeguarding concept**: This group consists of six countries (Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and the UK) whose safeguarding concept can be highlighted as best practices, especially in the case of Austria, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

2. **Countries/regions where the protection of mineral deposits is not regulated yet, but is assured by/in other ways**: In Hungary, Poland and Portugal some legislation (land use planning or mining law) deals with the protection of mineral deposits. In the Emilia-Romagna Region (IT) mineral protection covers only the gypsum heritage exploitation site.

3. **Countries/regions that do not apply mineral safeguarding**: Herzegbosnian Canton (BA), Croatia, Ireland, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Romania, Serbia and Spain do not consider the concept of mineral safeguarding in their legislation.

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**Figure 1**: Mineral policy and mineral safeguarding in Europe

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- **Minerals Policy**: High-level declaration for the importance of minerals is needed on national level and development of mineral policies.

- **Links between** mineral and other relevant (environmental, land use planning) policies, or integration mineral policies into land use planning policies.

- **Mineral resource inventories** or comprehensive raw material inventory for primary and secondary resources including harmonised datasets is crucial for designation of MDoPI areas and it facilitates the development of sustainable resource management system

- **Mineral potential assessment** and basic research are important not only for well-known but also less-known deposits can be safeguarded for future use. The assessment of mineral potential is needed for long term mineral planning so it is a matter of national interest.

- **Conflict management** through stakeholder consultations and involvement of relevant organisations.

- **Mineral economics**: In order to understand the possible consequences of defining MDoPI in EU member states, it is of high importance to identify important economic characteristics of the mineral and metal markets.

- **Development of an appropriate safeguarding mechanism**: Mineral safeguarding should be established and supported by several other legislations such as land-use planning, mineral planning, sustainable development, environmental and waste management policies.

- **The Austrian, Portuguese, Polish, Swedish and U.K. methodologies for designation of MDoPI areas and improving opportunities are presented in the Guidance:** “Deduction of some good practices”.

- **Non-uniform implementation of the MDoPI concept.**

- **There is a need for more strategic minerals policy in the EU and its member states.** Potential strategic directives can be derived from existing policy instruments and commitments: EU Growth Strategy, Climate and Energy Framework, Energy Strategy, etc.

- **Three potential elements of a more strategic policy response for minerals in Europe**:

1. **Mapping and assessment**: coordinated and interoperable multi-criteria approaches, for geophysical and biophysical characterisation of MDoPI

See Minatura D2.3 for details

2. **Specific EU policy measures**: - general prioritisation and process requirements for MDoPI - adaptation and adoption of member state best practice - coordination of data and statistics - economic incentives for sustainable development innovation - strategic land/subsurface surface planning requirements

3. **SDVP:** Sustainable Development Verification Process guidance, including principles, policy options and best practice as reference point for public and private sector organisations (Fig. 2)

The Sustainable Development Verification Process (SDVP): A non-compulsory reference document for public and private sectors, which can be incorporated into regulatory processes as needed.