



# PostMinQuake

Monitoring of induced seismic events in German hard coal post-mining areas

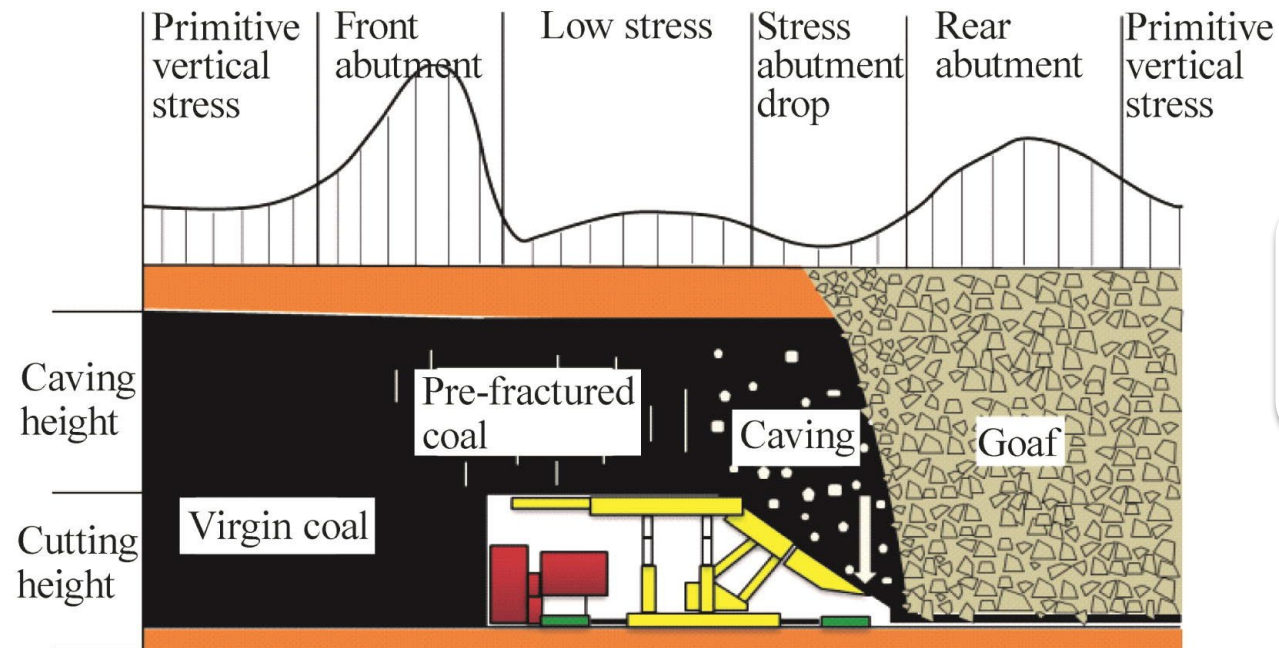
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[stefan.moellerherm@thga.de](mailto:stefan.moellerherm@thga.de)

05<sup>th</sup> June 2023

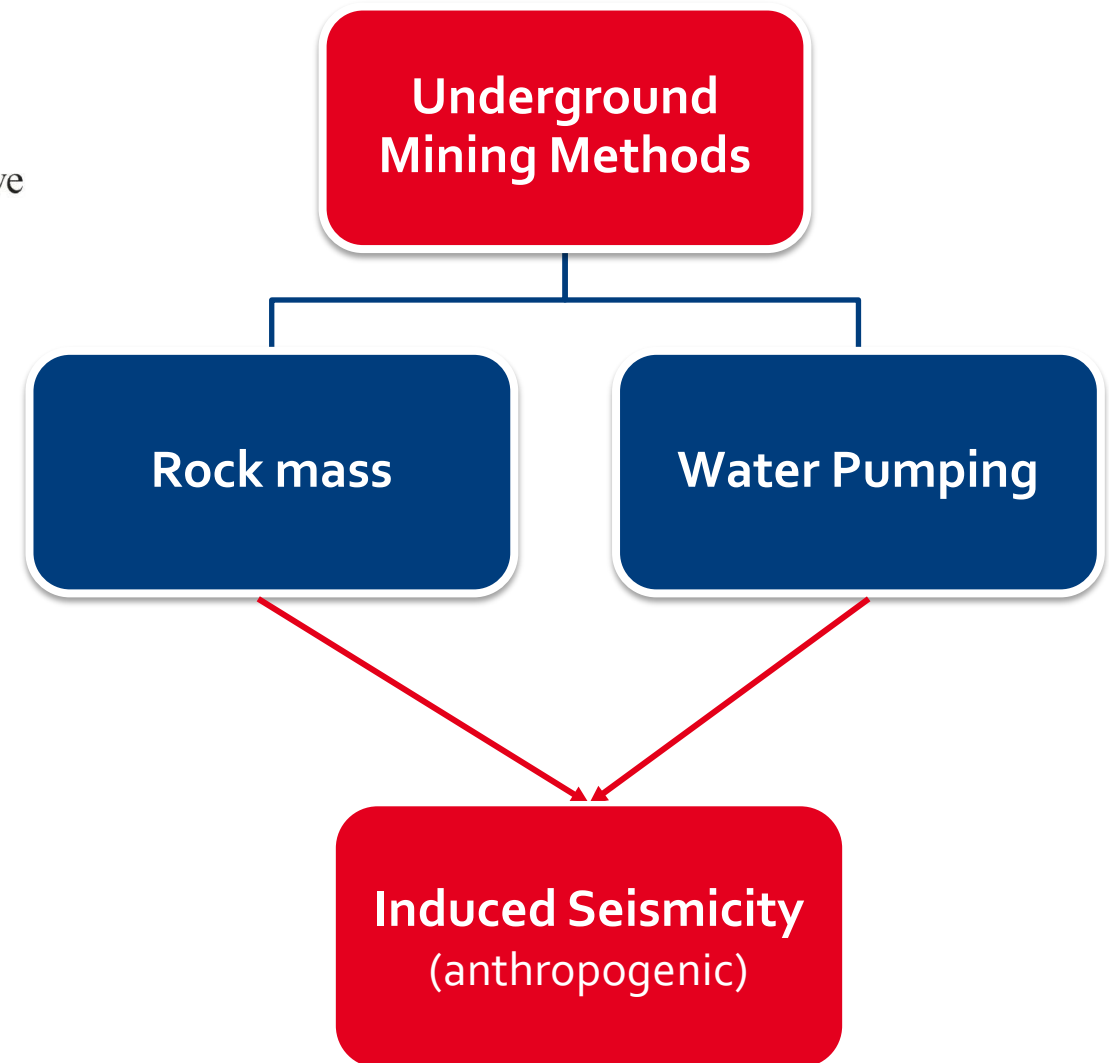
This project has received funding from the Research Fund for Coal and Steel under grant agreement No 899192”.

# Hard Coal Mining

What happens to the rock and water underground?

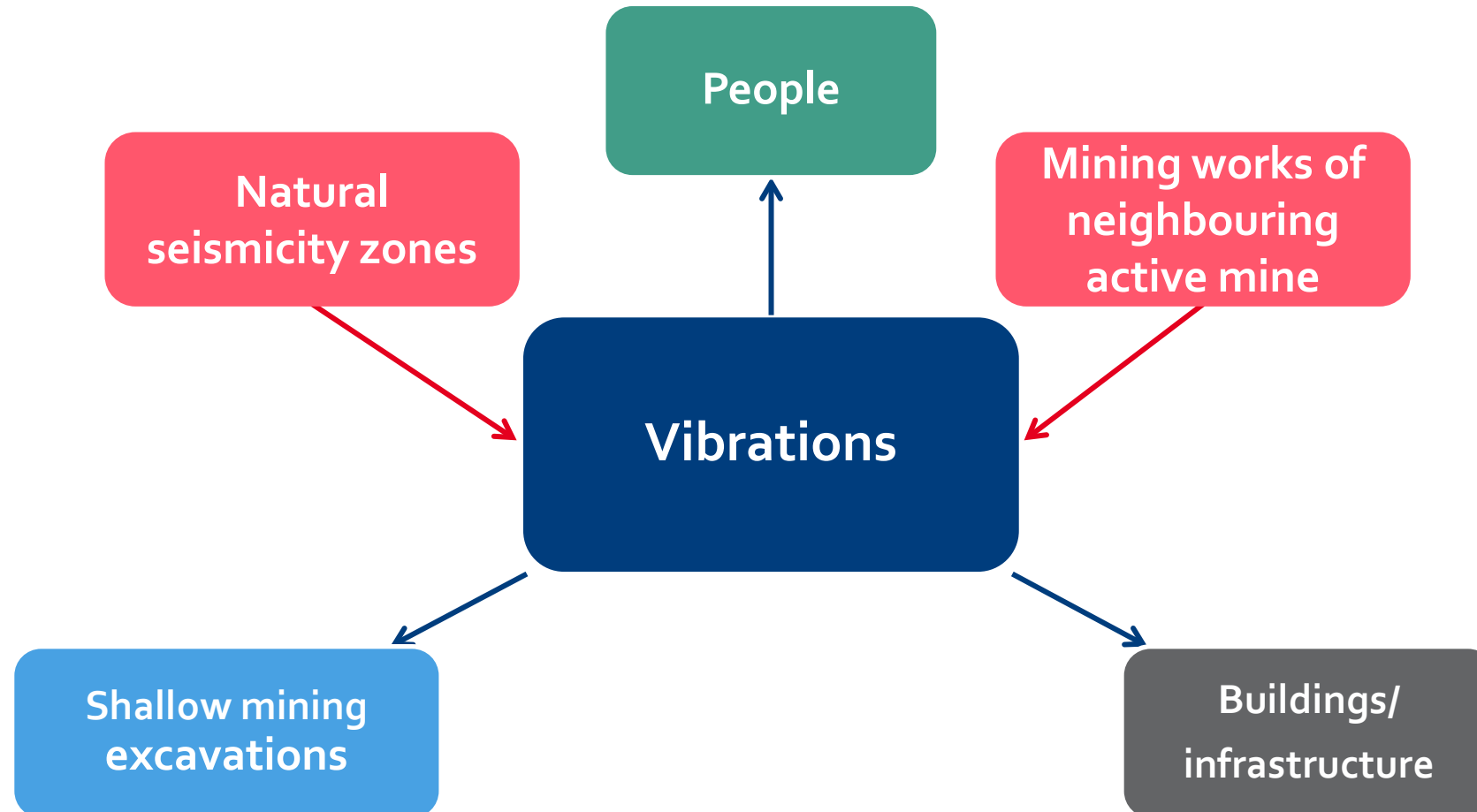


Source: Tien Dung Le et al. 2017



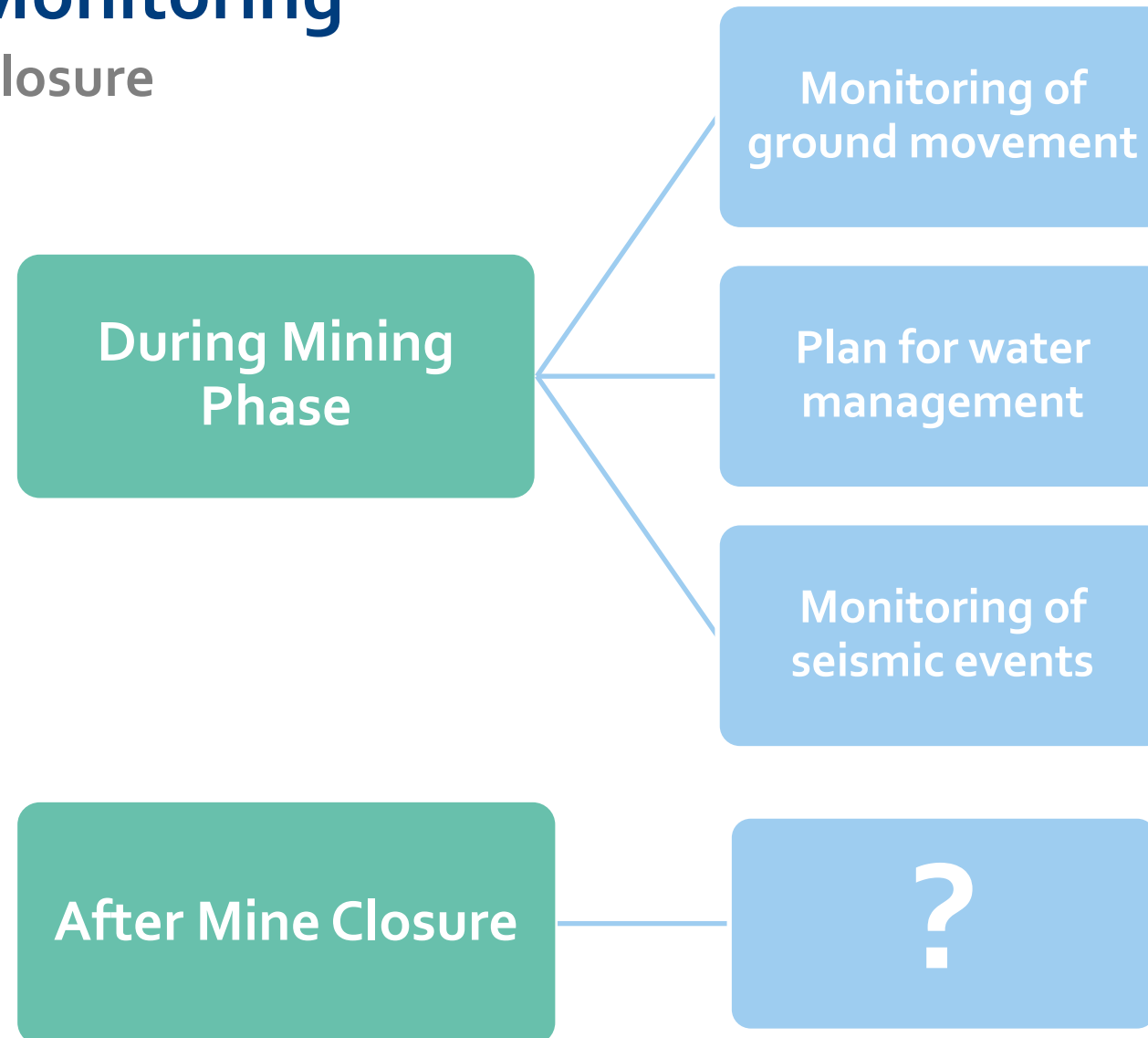
# Risks and Consequences of Seismicity

Instability below surface and damage on the surface



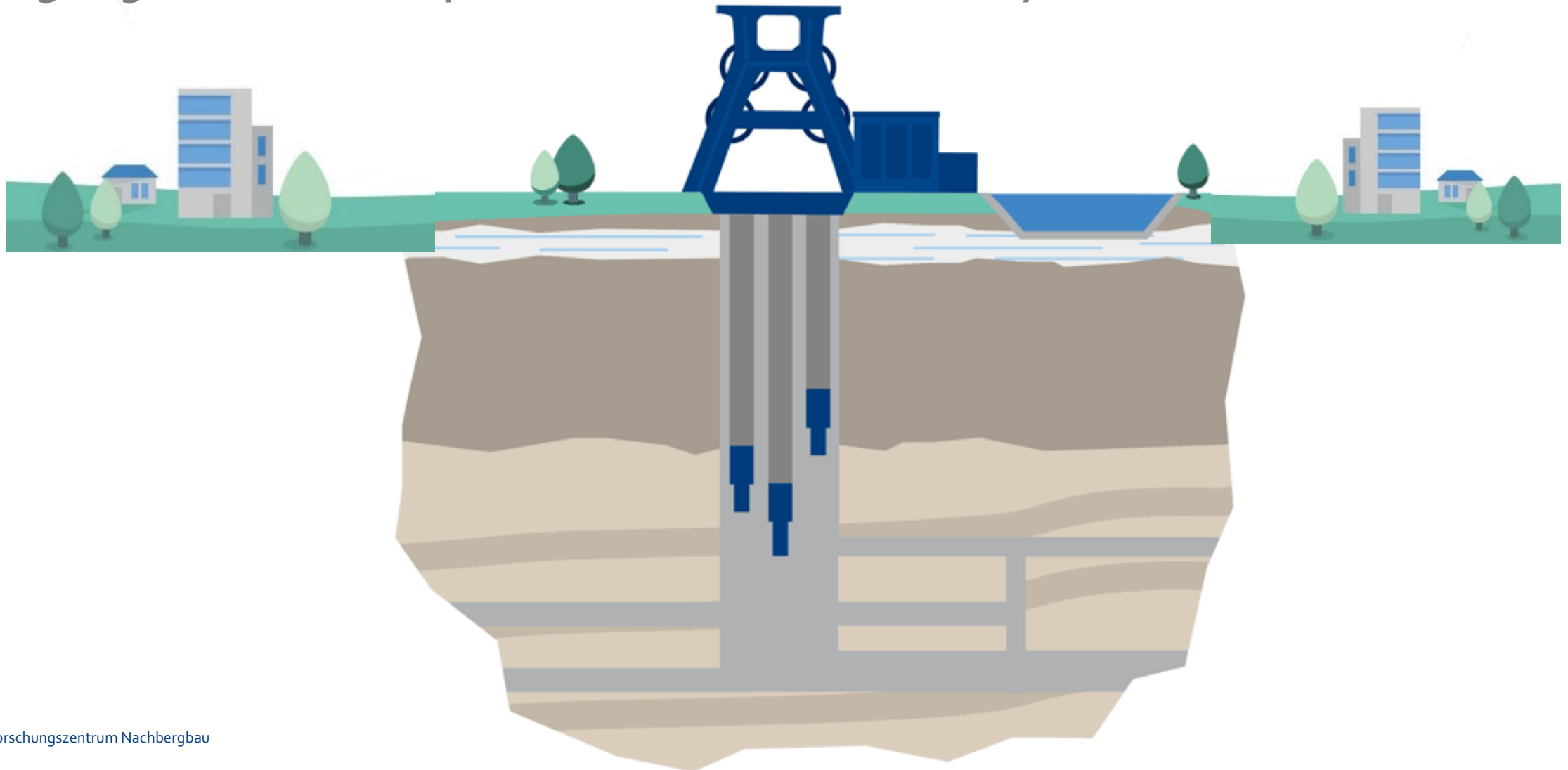
# Mandatory Monitoring

Less after mine closure



# Post-Mining of Hard Coal

Rising of groundwater responsible for induced seismicity?



# PostMinQuake Partners

10 Partners – 4 Countries

Helmholtz Zentrum Potsdam  
Deutschesgeoforschungszentrum  
(GFZ)

Research Center of Post-Mining,  
Technische Hochschule Georg  
Agricola  
(THGA)

Institut National de  
l'Environnement et des Risques  
(INERIS)

Bureau de Recherches  
Geologiques et Minieres  
(BRGM)

Spolka Restrukturyzacji  
Kopaln SA  
(SRK)

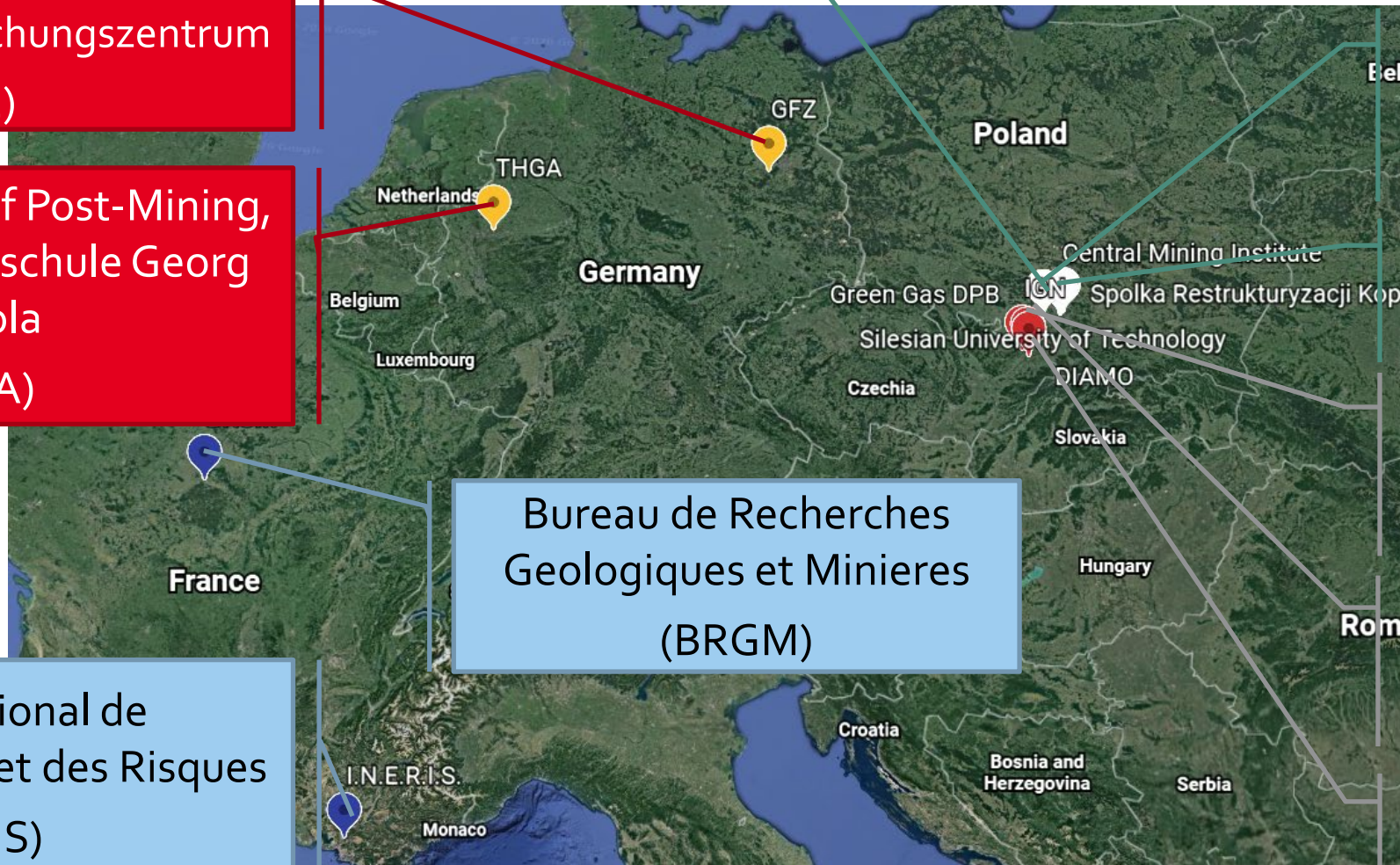
Główny Instytut  
Gornictwa  
(CMI)

Politechnika Slaska  
(SUT)

Institute of Geonics  
of the AS CR  
(IGN)

Diamo Statni  
Podnik  
(DIAMO)

Green Gas Dpb AS



# PostMinQuake Basins

## NRW (Germany)

- Ruhr Area
  - Prosper-Haniel
  - Auguste-Victoria
  - Hamm
- Ibbenbüren
- Aachen-Limburg
  - Cross-country deposit Germany-Netherlands
  - Several seismic events
  - Sophia-Jacoba (Erkelenz)

## Provence (France)

- located about 20 km NNE of Marseille (Bouches-du-Rhône)
- covers ~60 km<sup>2</sup>.
- land subsidence or/and collapses in areas of high population density.
- industrial exploitation: first half of the 19th century to 2003
- more than 500 km of tunnels
- levels exploited up to 1 350 m deep



## Upper Silesian Coal Basin (Poland)

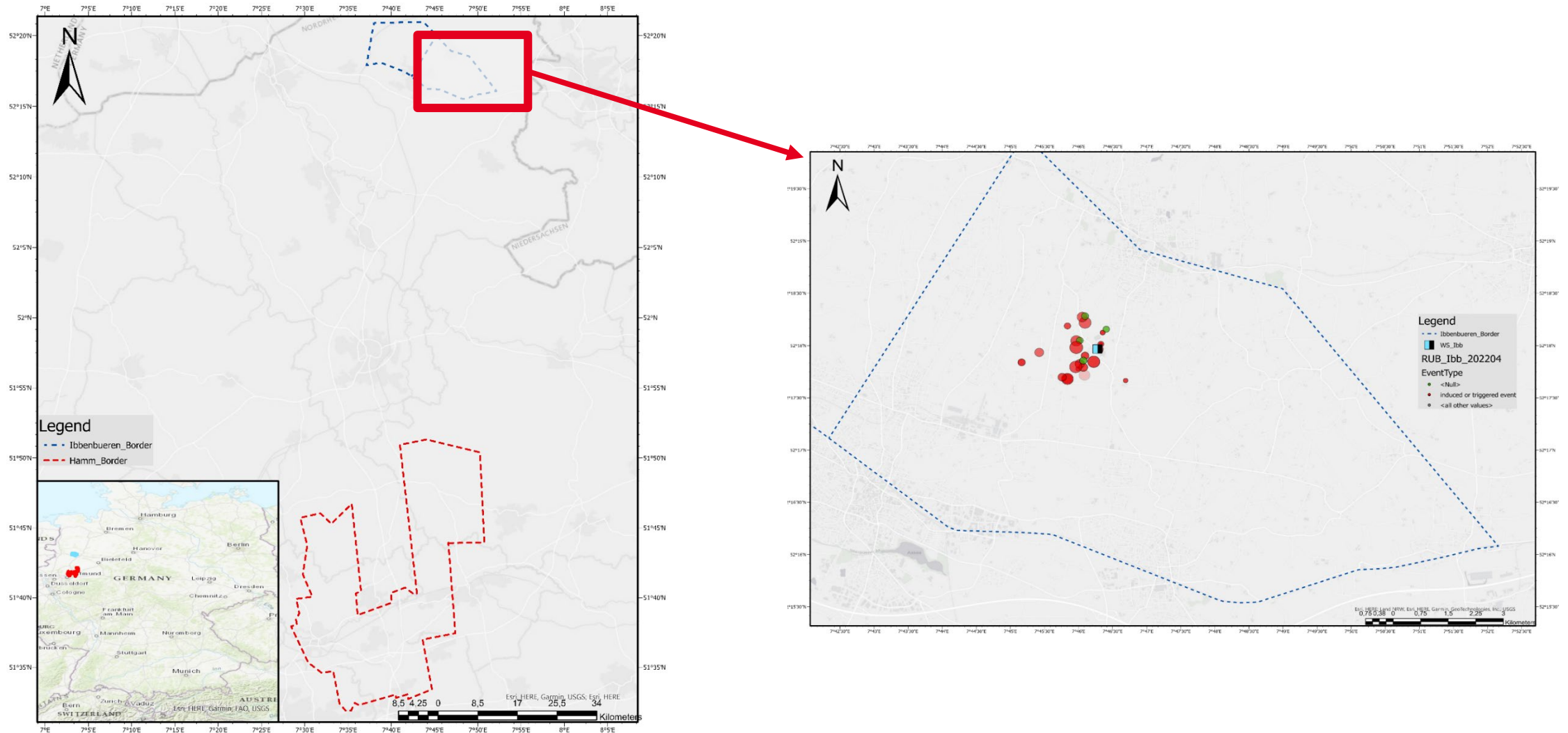
- Kazimierz-Juliusz closed in 2016
- water table lowered to depth 700 m
- Process of flooding the mine is in the early stage.
- Kazimierz-Juliusz very seismically active mine in the past (induced earthquakes with magnitudes of 2-3 until 2015).
- In 2017, systematic flooding of the mine began
- In 2018 few seismic events with magnitude higher 2 during flooding

## Upper Silesian Coal Basin (Czech Republic)

- Ostrava sub-basin: finished in 1994, flooding started
- 2001: water level on altitude -388.5 m below sea level (depth 600 m below surface) in Jeremenko pumping shaft
- 2001: water level on altitude -483 m below sea level (depth 680 m below surface) in Zofie pumping shaft
- Petrvald sub-basin
- Karvina sub-basin: to prevent of water over flooding due to connection of all sub-basins (tectonic structures and underground openings)

# Ibbenbüren

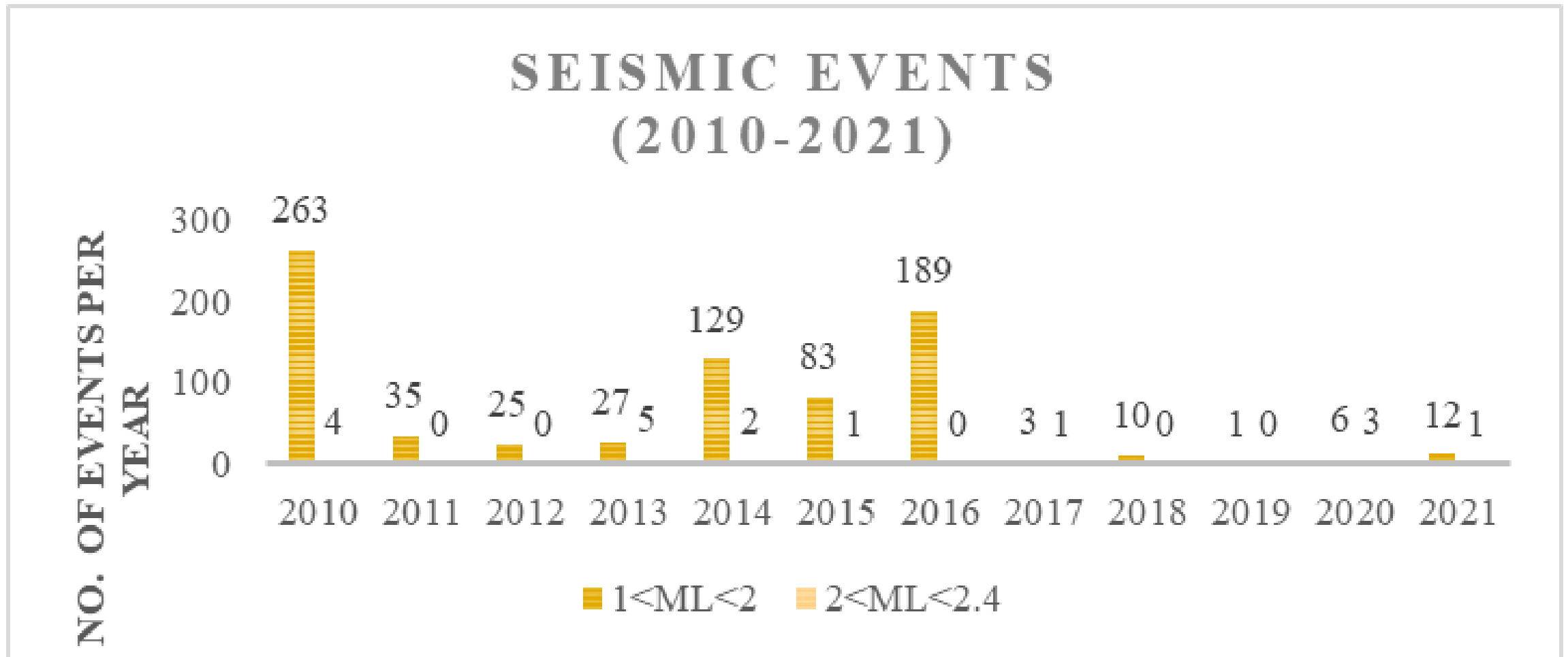
Closed in 2018 - only 3 Seismic Stations and 1 for Groundwater Level





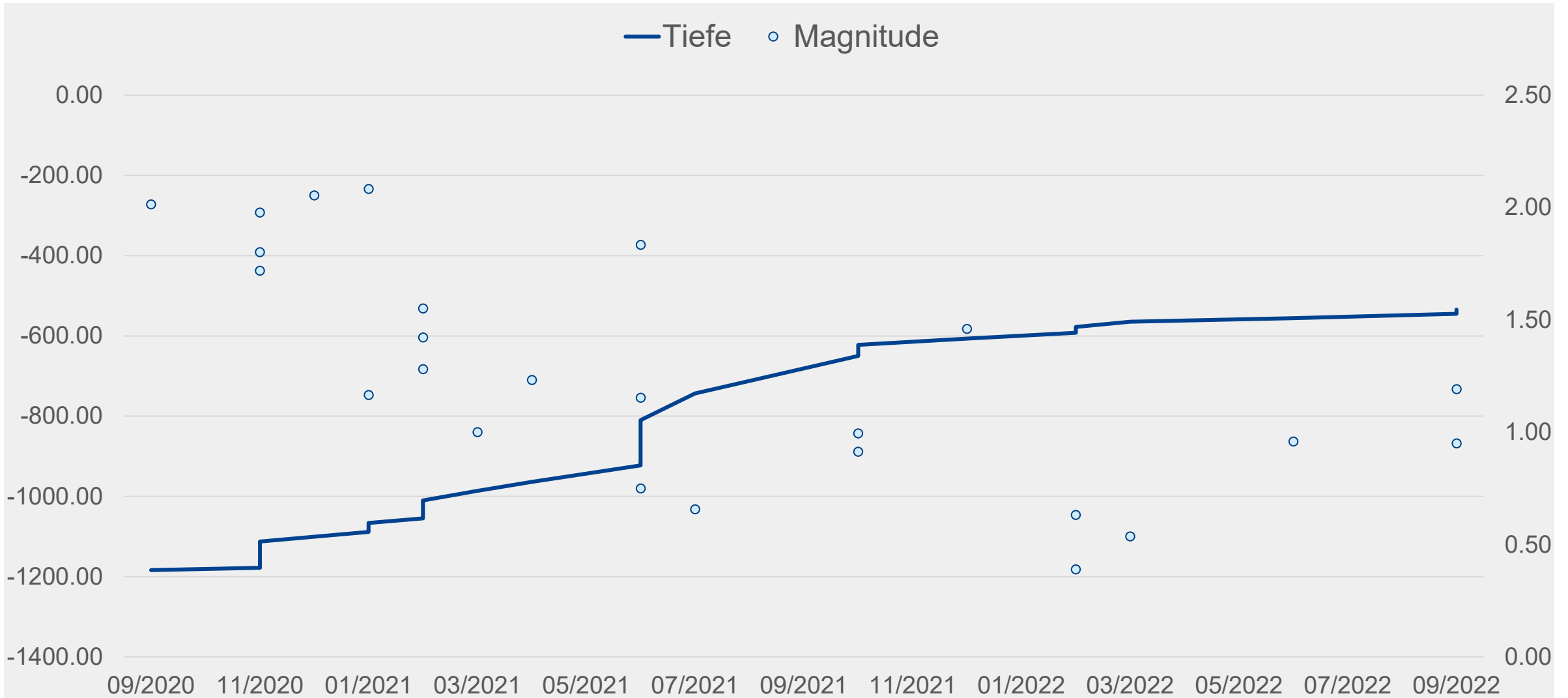
# Ibbenbüren

Induced seismic events in Ibbenbüren Ostfeld with  $ML > 1$



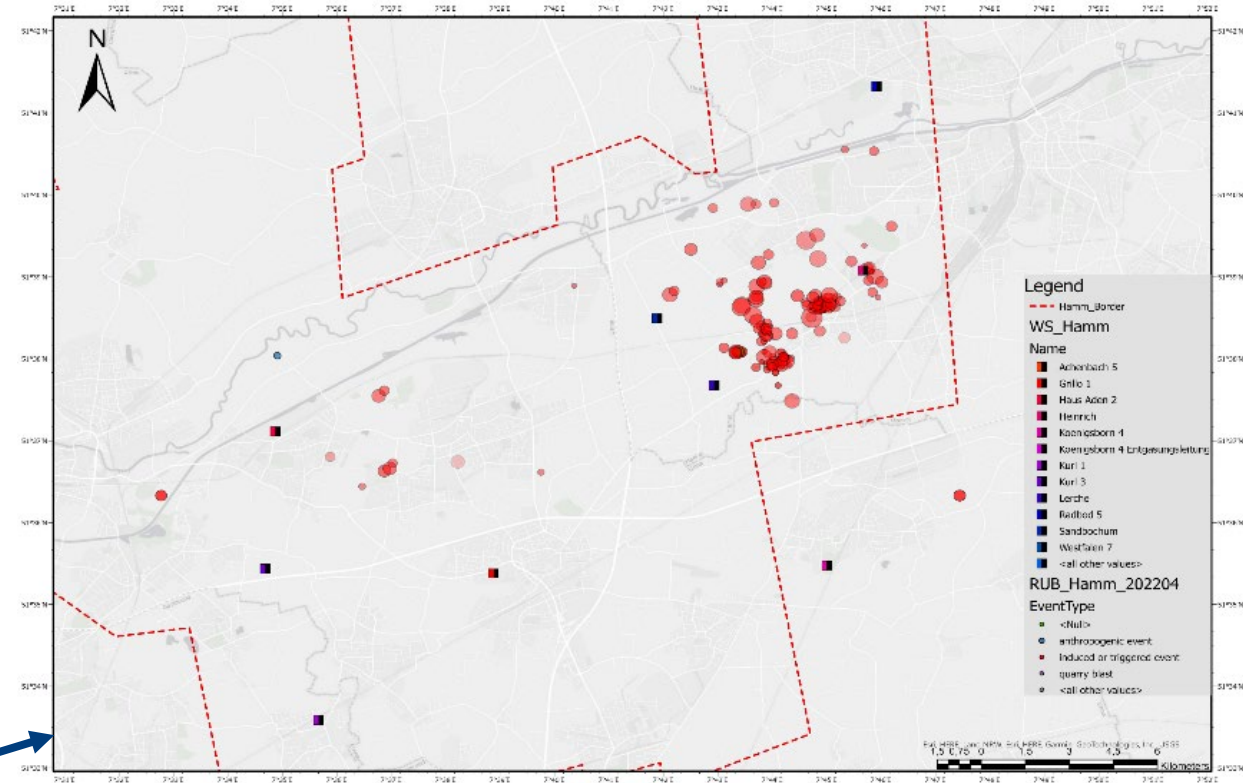
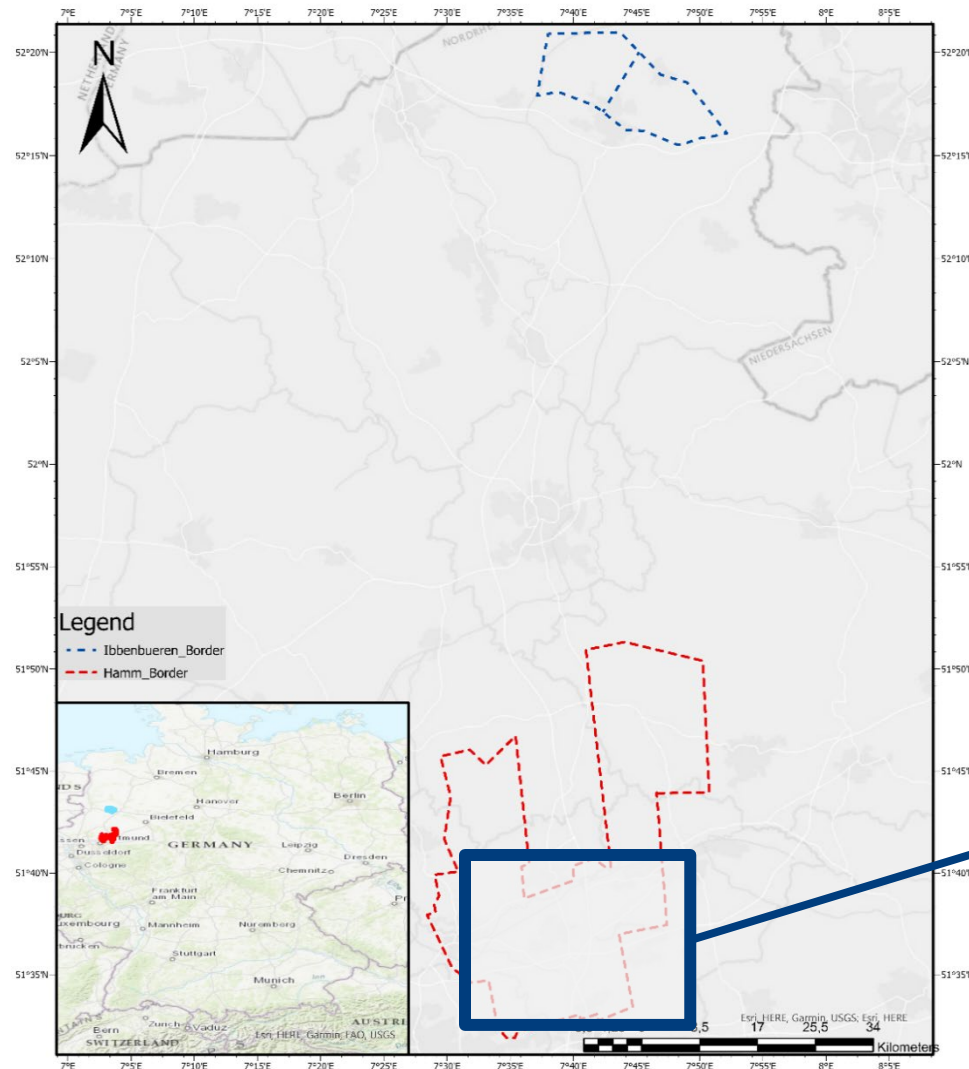
# Ibbenbüren

## Watertable vs Magnitude of Seismic Events



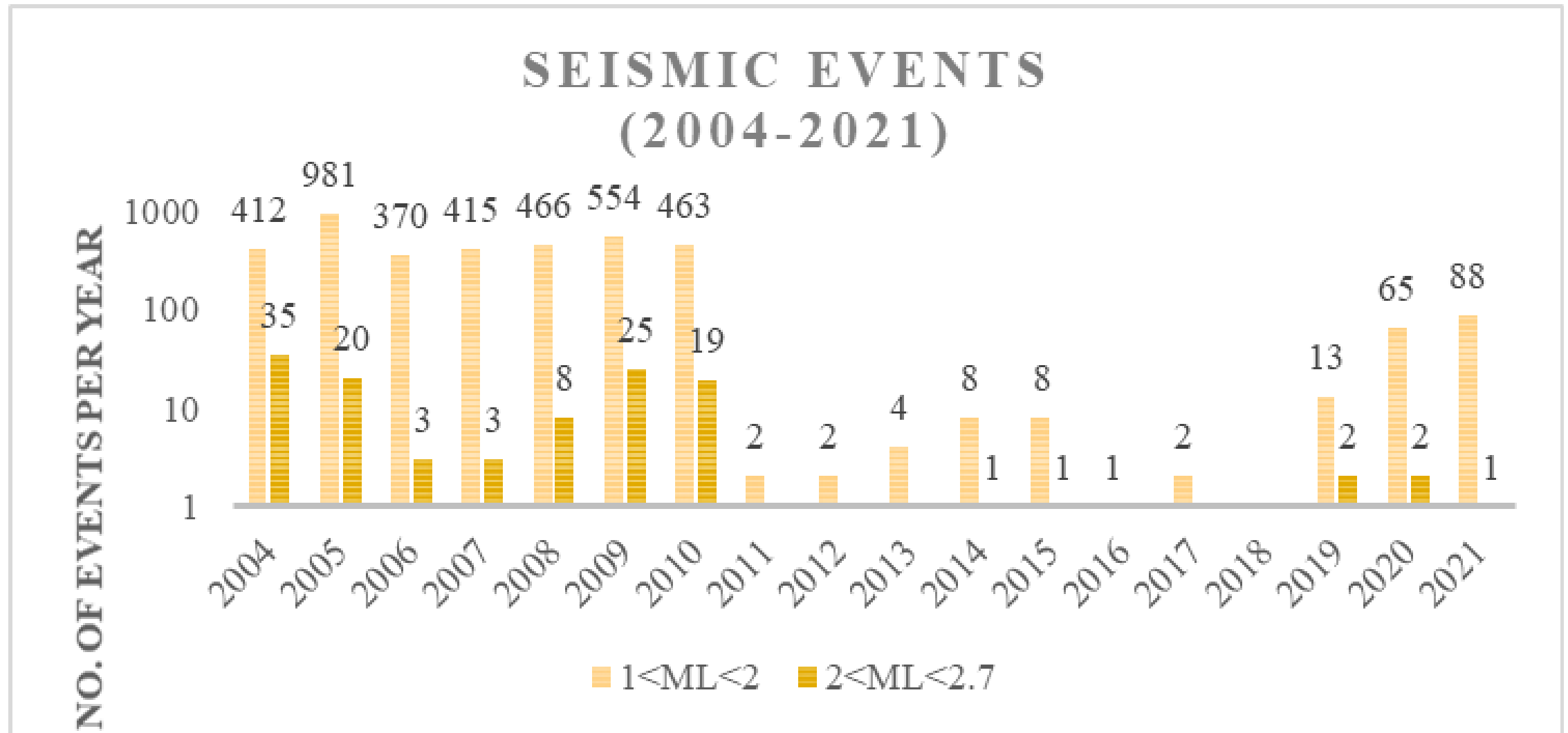
# Hamm (Ruhr Basin)

## Closed in 2010 – More Monitoring Stations, More Microseismicity



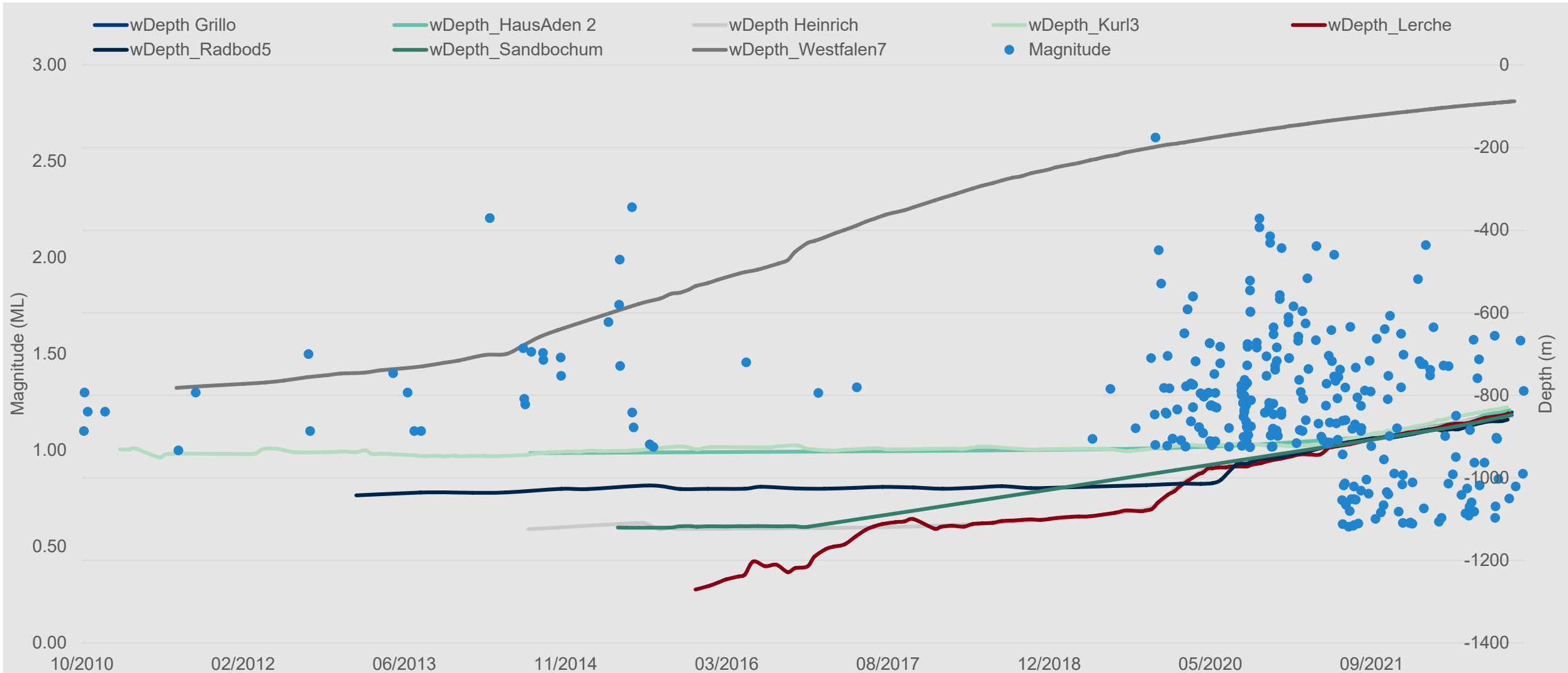
# Hamm (Ruhr Basin)

Induced seismic events in Hamm with  $ML > 1$



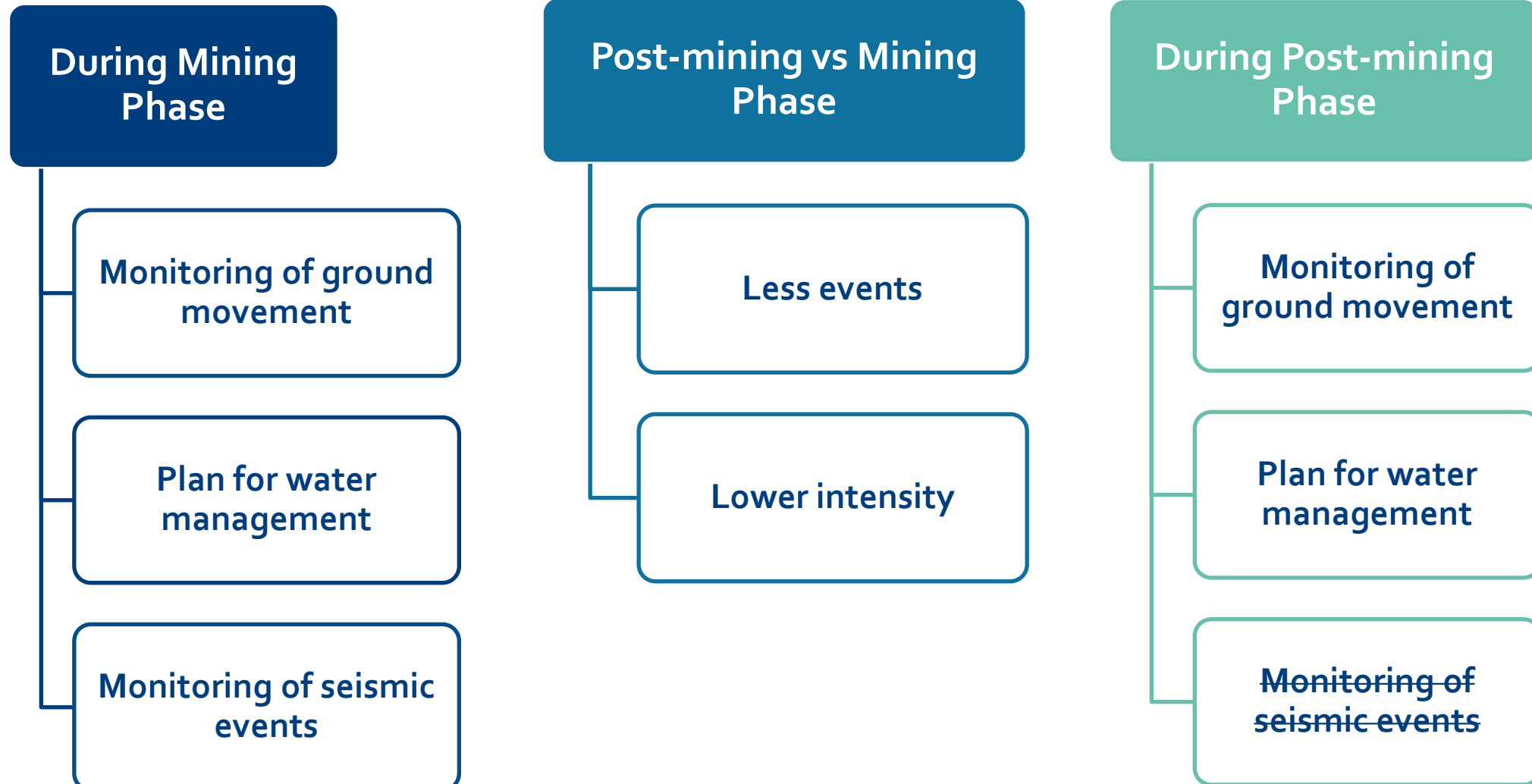
# Hamm (Ruhr Basin)

## Watertable vs Magnitude of Seismic Events



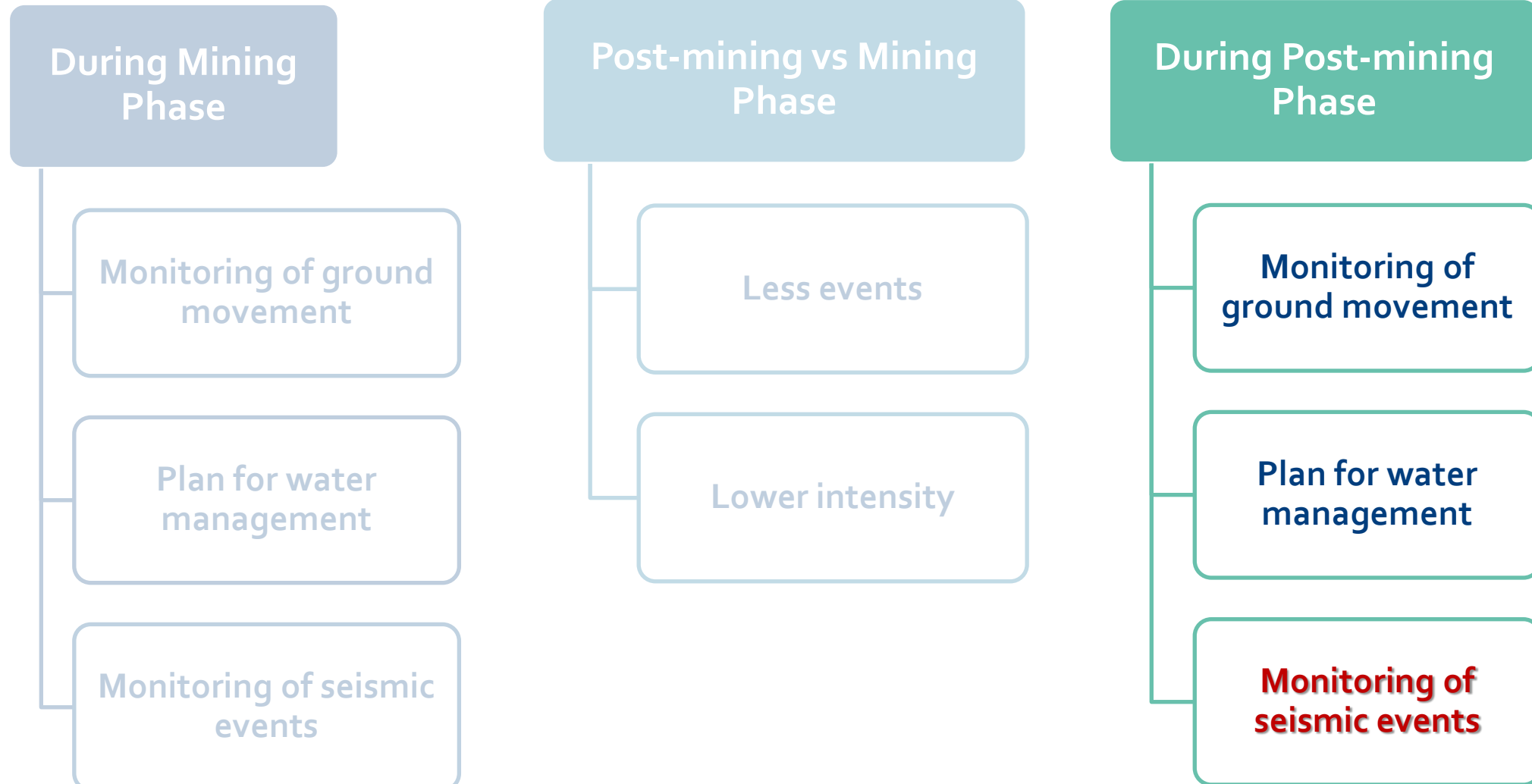
# Future Steps for Post-Mining Monitoring

Although Lower Magnitudes and Events of Seismicity...



# Future Steps for Post-Mining Monitoring

Seismic monitoring is a must!



Thank you for your attention!

**Glück auf!**



Technische  
Hochschule  
**Georg Agricola**  
Forschungszentrum Nachbergbau

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