



EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE  
CENTRAL EUROPEAN REGIONAL OFFICE – EFICENT

# **Towards Improving International Forest Products Price Information - A Feasibility Study**

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EFICENT  
and its Observatory  
for European Forests



# OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

1. Introduction
2. Methodology
3. Forest product price information systems (FPPIS)
4. Concluding remarks





# INTRODUCTION (1/2)

- ✓ Why price information important?
  - To make informed decisions (all stakeholders).
  - To explain nonindustrial private forest owners' behavior (short- and long- run).
- ✓ The study jointly undertaken by UNECE/FAO and EFI:
  - Price series compiled since 1960 by the UNECE/FAO.
  - EFI/WFSE built a forest products trade flow database in 2000.





## INTRODUCTION (2/2)

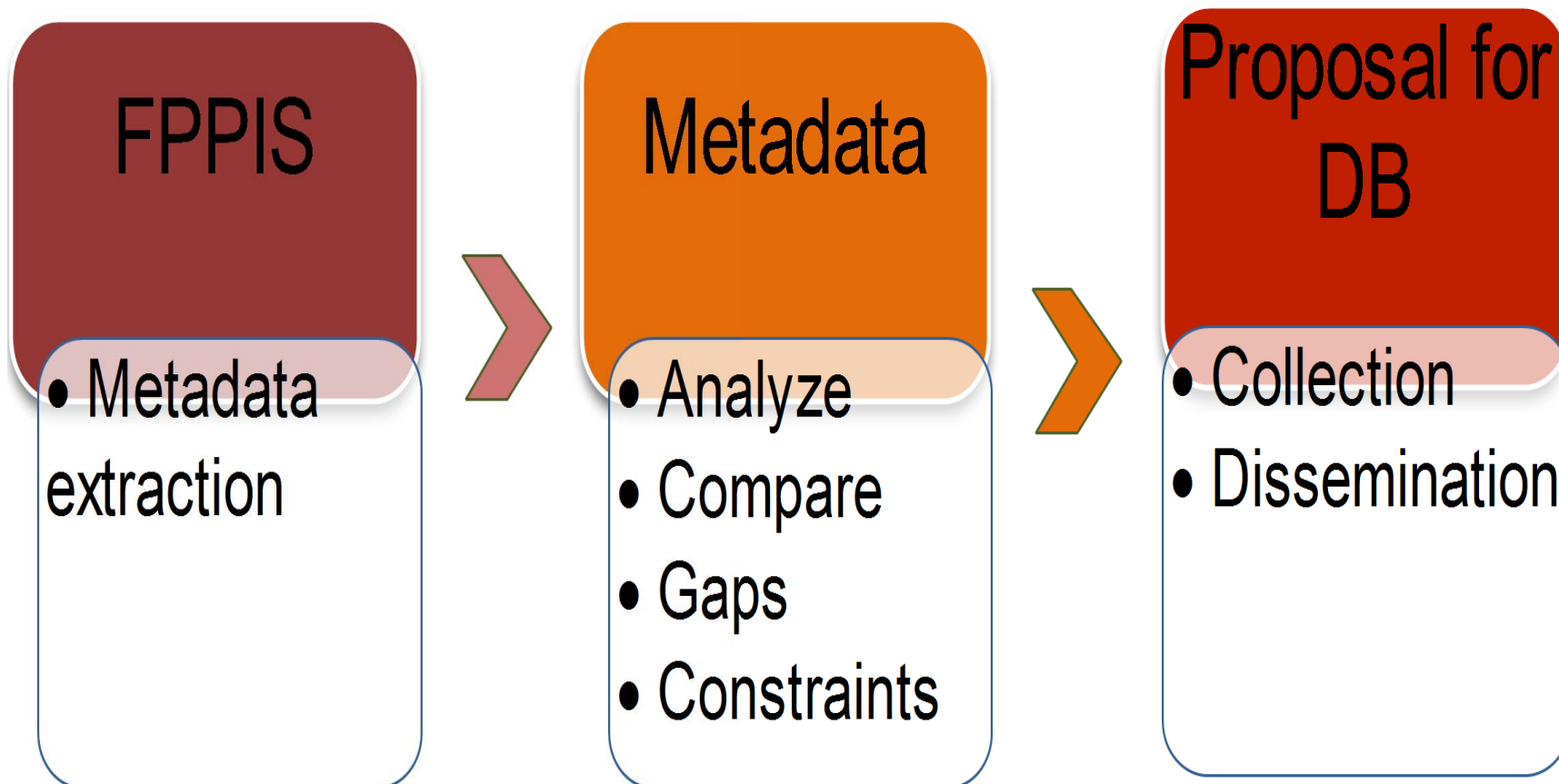
Objectives of the study:

- ✓ To improve data coverage and quality of price information.
- ✓ To propose best options for data collection and dissemination.
- ✓ To provide a metadata source portal on price information.





# METHODOLOGY







# FPPIS (1/9)

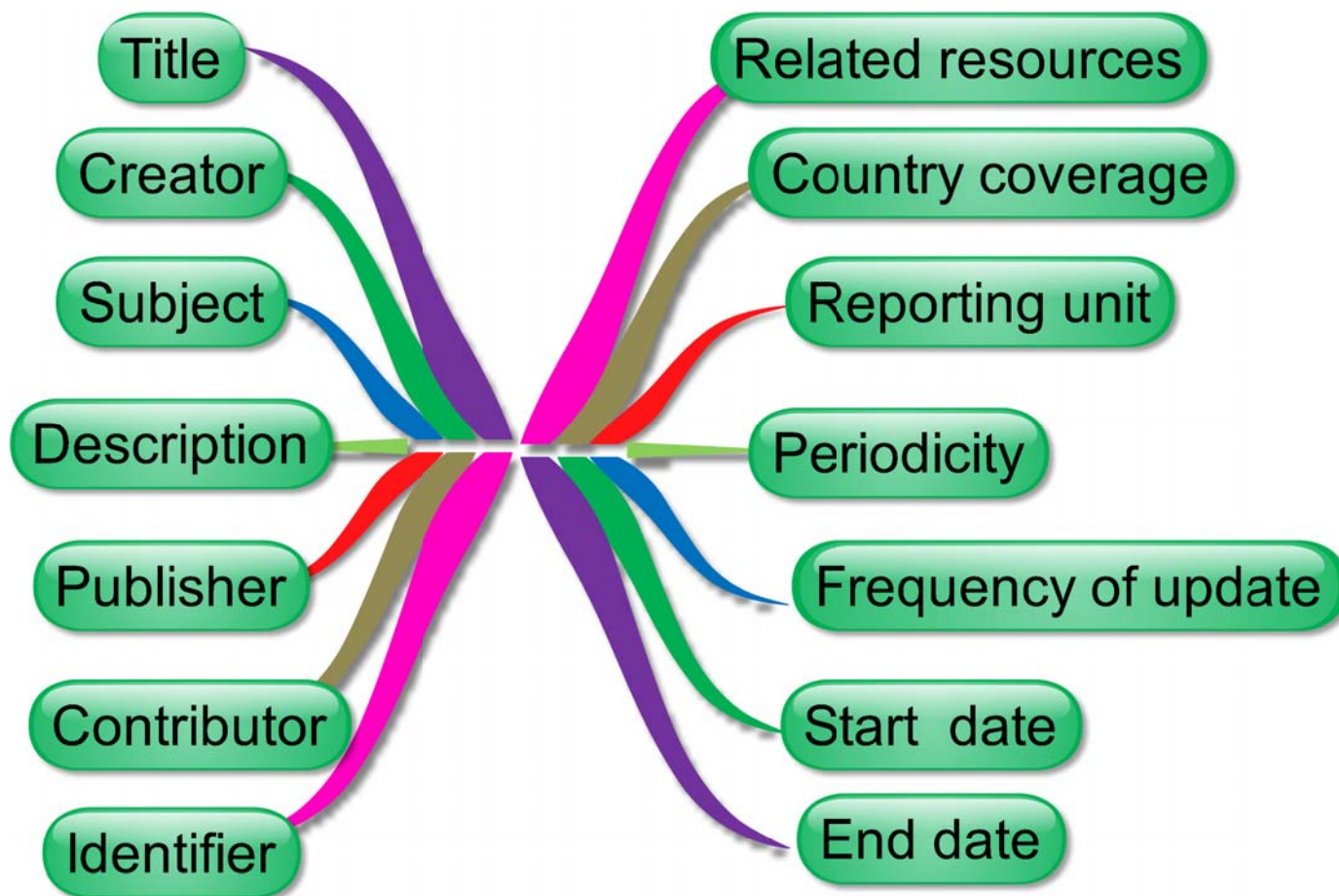
- ✓ What is FPPIS?
- ✓ Metadata = data, information and knowledge of data, information and knowledge (BIPM Institute)
- ✓ Metadata extraction using Dublin Core schema with modifications to suit the study.





## FPPIS (2/9)

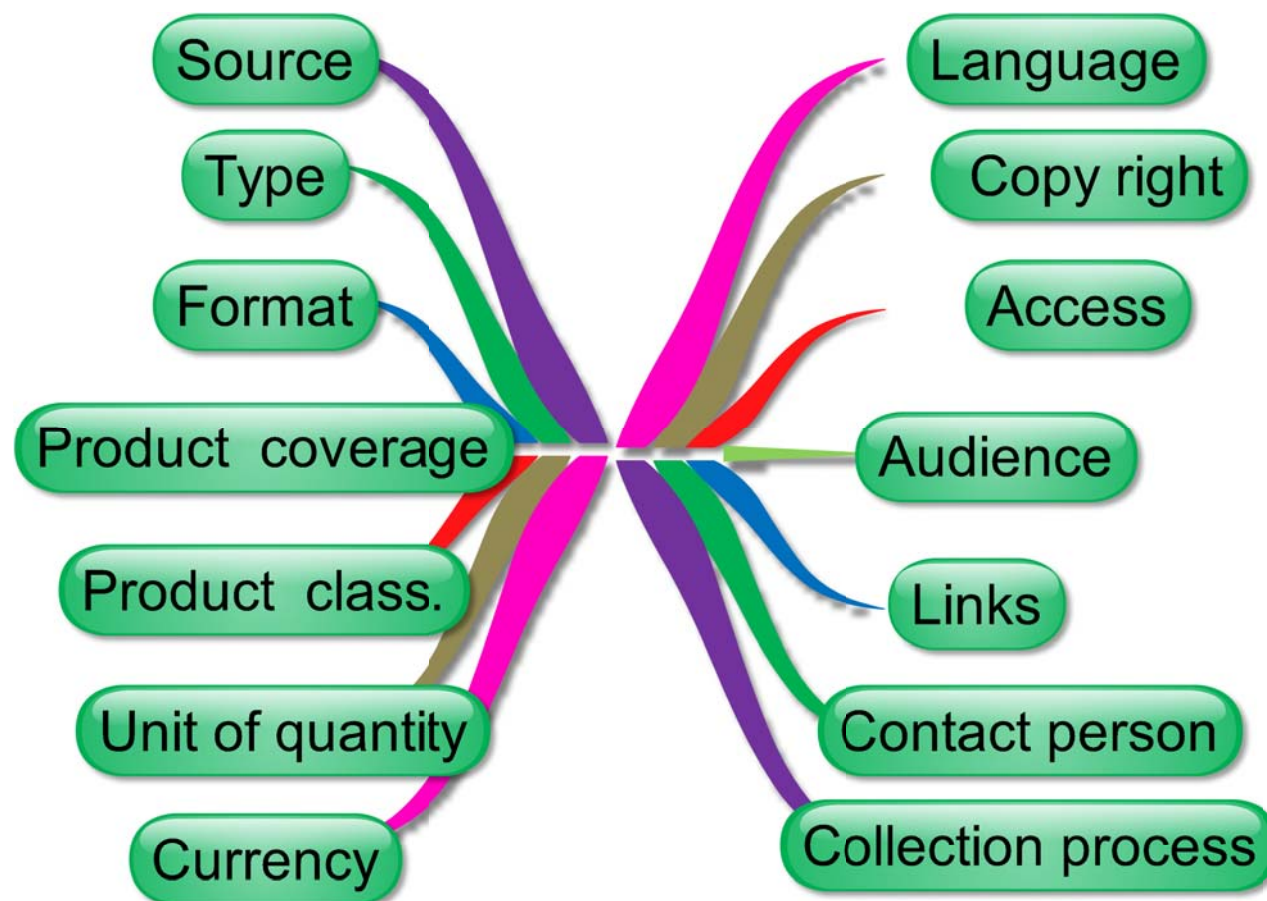
### Metadata schema





## FPPIS (3/9)

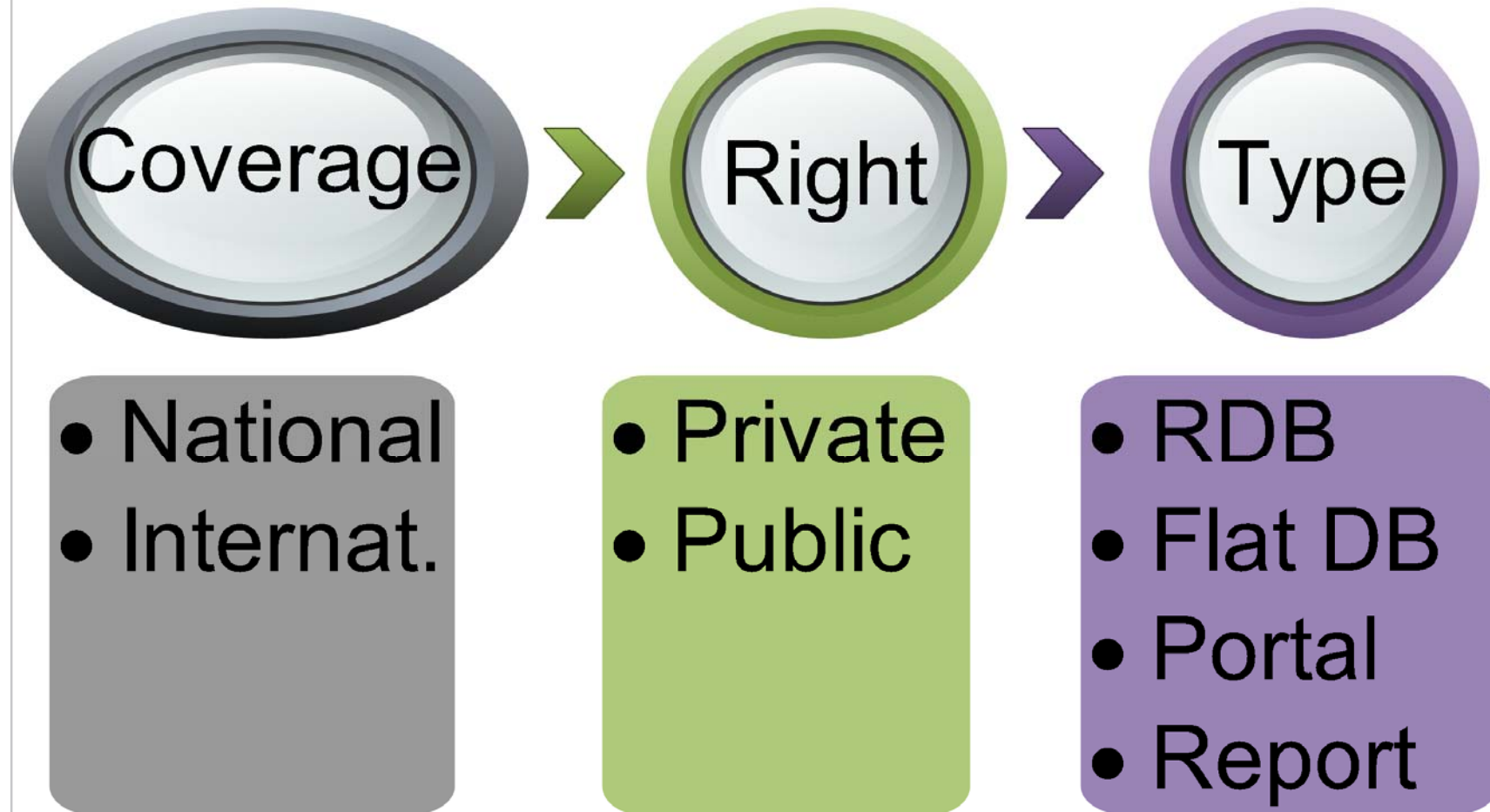
### Metadata schema







# Classification of metadata sources





## FPPIS (5/9)

- ✓ Some examples of FPPIS:
  - SICOP in Portugal : 2000 to 2006
  - Southern Forest Resource Assessment USA : 1995 to 2030.
  - ITTO price bulletin on tropical timbers.
  - UNECE/FAO: 1960 to 2009.





## FPPIS (6/9)

- ✓ Case study of UNECE/FAO price data
- Metadata:
  - 31 products
  - 7 product groups
  - 47 species categories (including tropical species)
  - Time coverage: 1960-2009
  - Periodicity: weekly, monthly, quarterly , semi-annual and annual
  - Data from 24 countries, of which only 12 EU





## FPPIS (7/9)

- Data availability
  - Weekly data: 3 series for sawnwood (USA).
  - Monthly data : 33 series (15 for logs).
  - Quarterly data: 31 series (19 for logs).
  - Semi-annual data: 1 series from slovenia.
  - Annual data: 2 series from Czech Rep (pulpwood and fuelwood).







## FPPIS (8/9)

- Data sources and quality of forest product prices
  - National statistical offices and forest agencies.
  - Wide and varied specifications of products





## FPPIS (9/9)

- Application interface:
  - Desktop application based on Excel.
  - Familiar user interface.
  - Query results not unique for the period of interest.





## CONCLUDING REMARKS (1/2)

- ✓ Existence of a host of FPPISs.
- ✓ Case study of UNECE7FAO price data points out:
  - Limited data coverage (product, country and time).
  - Only monthly and quarterly have more price series.
  - Wide and varied specifications of products.
  - Physical database not relational.





## CONCLUDING REMARKS (2/2)

- ✓ Some questions for improvement of price information to Working Party members:
  - How to collect data at national and pan-European levels?
  - How can data be disseminated?
  - Does JFSQ provide opportunity for improved data collection?







## CONCLUDING REMARKS (3/3)

- Does the Internal Marketing Information System of EU has prospects for sectoral application to ease data collection?
- Should the private sector involve actively in price data collection (as done by the ITTO)?

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