



Summary of the workshop
**Towards harmonized Forest Observation, Reporting
and Data Collection framework** held in Kutná Hora
Czech Republic
from 14th to 16th of September 2022, prepared by the Czech
Presidency.

Participants of the workshop:

1. stressed the importance of reliable, verified harmonized or standardized and up-to-date information and communication on the state and development of EU forests, inter-alia for informed both policy- and decision-making at the EU level;
2. reiterated the irreplaceable role of field-collected data for ensuring reliability, accuracy and comprehensiveness of derived information;
3. acknowledged fast development of new and innovative technologies in data acquisition, especially in the area of remote sensing, as well as in their processing;
4. stressed the importance of combining remote sensing and field-collected data for improving information on forests, and the need for mutual and timely exchange of both kinds of data;
5. acknowledged the importance of international processes steered by e.g. FAO, UNECE and Forest Europe for further development of existing sets of forest-related indicators;
6. stressed the importance of relevant tools to communicate information on forests, such as FISE, FRA platform and INForest;
7. welcomed the results of previous efforts on harmonization and evaluation carried out by ENFIN¹, ICP Forests, the scientific community, and others;
8. noted that different types of information on forests serve different purposes, and therefore has to be communicated clearly to safeguard the credibility and coherence of forest information systems;
9. noted the joint efforts towards a harmonized Forest Observation, Reporting and Data Collection framework (Framework);
10. emphasized the role of national and international experts in the interpretation and validation of the results of the Framework.

¹ European National Forest Inventories Network





The participants encouraged the European Commission and other relevant decision makers to:

11. further clarify objectives of the future Framework including forest strategic planning as well as interlinkages with EU policies and legislation;
12. prepare together with the Member States and in consultation with relevant stakeholders the list of indicators to be covered by the Framework based on clear principles, taking into account existing data sources, reporting demands and the cost-effectiveness of the whole process notably within the proposal impact assessment;
13. build on the available knowledge and create further synergies in collecting forest-related data and indicators;
14. promote further harmonization or standardization of forest-related information;
15. support further development of widely available tools for estimating the above-mentioned indicators (see paragraph 12) based on synergistic use of existing field data, remote sensing data relying on an unbiased statistically rigorous inference; in these efforts to respect the legal limitations and ensure the integrity of the national monitoring systems;
16. work together with the Member States to ensure the consistency of forest-related information at national and EU levels to safeguard its credibility.

They also encouraged EU Member States to:

17. support further development and implementation of spatially and temporally harmonized or standardized national forest inventory and monitoring methods, designs and analytical tools combining ground based and remotely sensed data;
18. participate actively in the development of the Framework, including sharing of national expertise on combining field data and remote sensing.

