

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

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ANALYSIS OF SURVEY RESULTS ON IP DATA EXCHANGE

Document prepared by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

1. The Secretariat has analyzed the results of the survey on intellectual property (IP) data exchange practices among IP offices and submits its findings for consideration and approval for the publication by the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) .

BACKGROUND

2. At its thirteenth session in November 2025, the CWS requested its IP Data Exchange Task Force to prepare a survey questionnaire to gather information on IP offices' current practices and suggestions with regard to facilitating IP data exchange. Furthermore, the CWS requested the Secretariat to issue a circular, inviting Offices to respond to the survey (see paragraph 91 of document CWS/13/33).

3. The IP Data Exchange Task Force subsequently prepared a survey questionnaire to collect information on how IP offices currently exchange IP data and use it, as a provider and/or a recipient, with the aim of identifying opportunities to improve and harmonize international IP data exchange practices.

4. When preparing the survey questionnaire, the IP Data Exchange Task Force focused on the following substantive areas:

- Collecting consistent and comprehensive information on current practices of IP offices in providing and collecting IP data;
- Identifying challenges and barriers encountered by IP offices in both providing and collecting IP data, including those of a technical, legal, resource-related, or policy nature;

- Understanding Offices' practices, expectations and policies regarding the use, redistribution, and reciprocity of IP data;
- Understanding Office expectations for developing recommendations that enhance IP data exchange globally and contribute to more efficient, accessible, and interoperable IP information systems; and
- Gathering input on potential solutions, including the possible development of a new WIPO standard, communication platforms, and IP data exchange infrastructure.

SURVEY RESULTS

5. In June 2026, the Secretariat issued circular [C. CWS 211](#), inviting IP offices to participate in the survey on IP data exchange. The survey was conducted from June to August 2026. At the time this document was prepared, the Secretariat was finalizing the publication of the individual responses and collated results. These materials, together with the survey questionnaire, will be made available in [Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook](#) of the Intellectual Property Information and Documentation under a new section, Part 7.20, titled *Practices for IP Data Exchange*.

6. The survey received responses from a total of 42 respondents, comprising the following IP offices : Algeria (DZ), Australia (AU), Brazil (BR), Bulgaria (BG), Burundi (BI), Canada (CA), China (CN), Croatia (HR), Finland (FI), Georgia (GE), Germany (DE), Hong Kong, China (HK), Hungary (HU), Indonesia (ID), Israel (IL), Japan (JP), Jordan (JO), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Norway (NO), Oman (OM), Paraguay (PY), Peru (PE), Philippines (PH), Republic of Korea (KR), Republic of Moldova (MD), Russian Federation (RU), Saudi Arabia (SA), Serbia (RS), Singapore (SG), Slovakia (SK), Sweden (SE), Switzerland (CH), Türkiye (TR), Uganda (UG), United Kingdom (GB), United States of America (US), Uruguay (UY) and Zimbabwe (ZW); and the following Organizations: Eurasian Patent Organization (EA), European Patent Office (EP) and European Union Intellectual Property Office (EM).

7. The IP Data Exchange Task Force reviewed the survey results, including the key findings, the challenges identified by the respondents and the proposed solutions for improving IP data exchange. The Task Force's discussion focused on data quality, the interoperability of formats and delivery methods, legal and policy considerations, reciprocity and redistribution, and the possible development of recommendations or a new WIPO standard to promote more consistent and efficient IP data exchange among Offices and Organizations.

SURVEY ANALYSIS

8. The Secretariat presents below the analysis of the survey responses received, for consideration by the CWS.

Types of IP data exchanged

9. The survey findings show that IP data exchange is a well-established and widely used practice among Offices and Organizations. Out of the 42 respondents, 36 (85.7 per cent) currently exchange IP data: 14 respondents (33.3 per cent) only provide data, while 22 respondents (52.4 per cent) both provide and collect data. No respondent reported collecting data without also providing it, suggesting that data exchange relationships are rarely unidirectional from the recipient's perspective. 2 respondents (4.8 per cent) do not currently exchange data but intend to do so, while 4 respondents (9.5 per cent) reported no involvement in data exchange. Figure 1 presents these results.

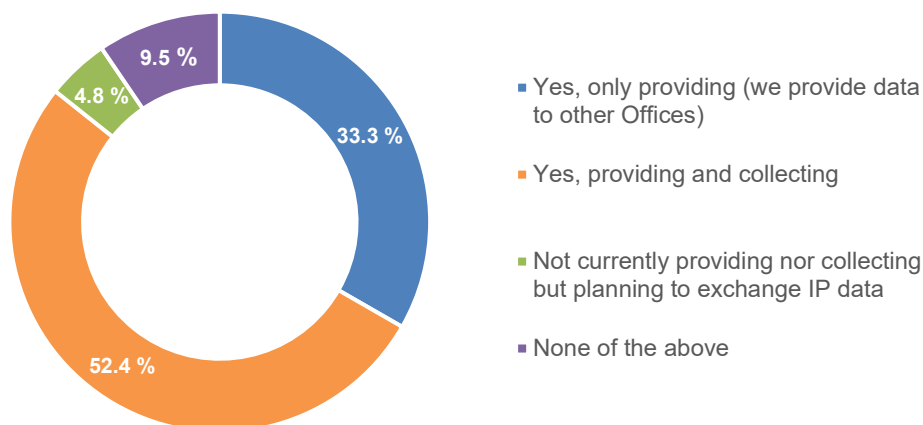


Figure 1: Survey recipients involved in IP data exchange

10. Bilateral agreements were the most common legal basis for IP data exchange, cited by 34 respondents, followed by the direct upload or download of bulk data (25 respondents) and multilateral agreements (19 respondents). Open-data licensing arrangements remain comparatively rare, 6 respondents reported using a standardized open-data license, while only 1 respondent reported using a restricted open-data license. Figure 2 presents these results.

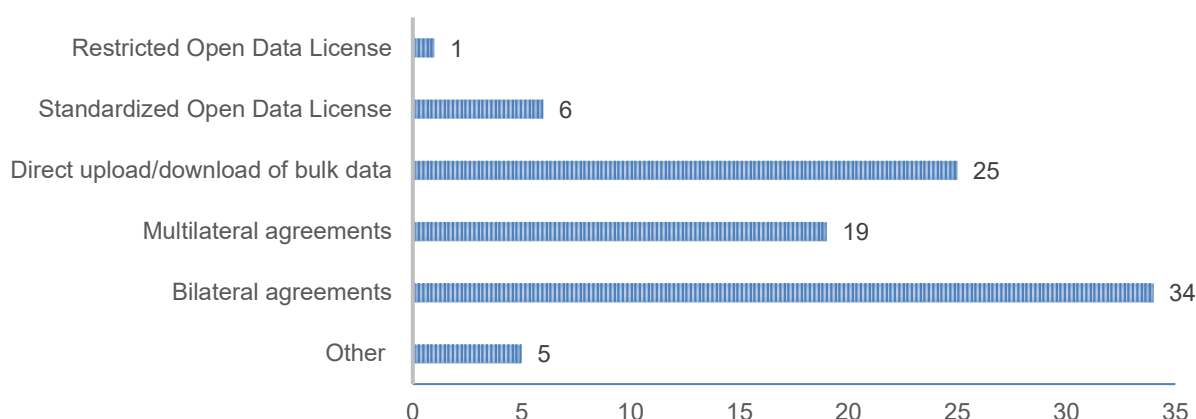


Figure 2: Legal bases and arrangements for IP data exchange

11. Among the 4 IP domains surveyed, patent data was the most frequently exchanged, whether provided or collected, as reported by 35 respondents. It should be noted that utility models were considered as a patent. Trademark data followed closely, reported by 34 respondents, and industrial design data by 33 respondents. Geographical indication (GI) data was exchanged by considerably fewer respondents (15), while 21 respondents indicated that this domain was not applicable to their work. The consistently high levels of exchange for patent, trademark and industrial design data indicate that practices in these domains are well established and broadly integrated into the operational frameworks of most respondents. The small differences among these three domains also suggest a mature and relatively uniform level of engagement across these IP types. Figure 3 presents these results.

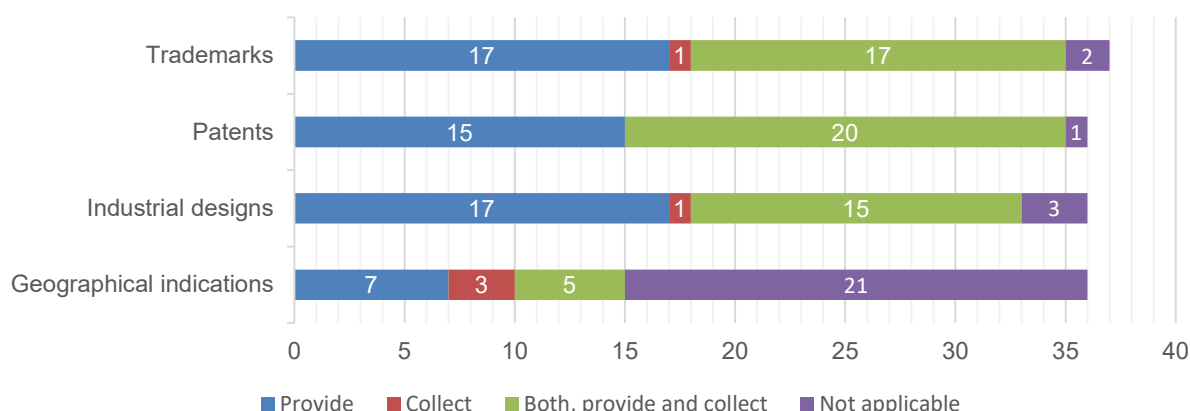


Figure 3: IP data exchange by IP domain

12. Within the patent domain, bibliographic data was the most frequently exchanged data type, reported by 35 respondents, followed by full-text publication data, reported by 34 respondents. Full-image publication data and drawings or 2D or 3D images were each exchanged by 32 respondents. Sequence listing data was exchanged by 27 respondents, while legal status data was exchanged by 27 respondents. Citation information from search or examination was exchanged by 23 respondents. Process-specific and added-value data types showed lower levels of exchange: examination reports or search reports were exchanged by 20 respondents, statistical data by 20 respondents, and office actions by 17 respondents.

13. Within the trademark domain, bibliographic data (34 respondents), mark representation data (31 respondents), and legal status data (29 respondents) were the most commonly exchanged (collected or provided) data types, reflecting their foundational role in registration and publication processes. Full-text publication data showed lower exchange level (20 respondents), while other data types were exchanged considerably less often, statistical data by 17 respondents, office actions by 14 respondents, and examination reports or search reports by just 7 respondents, the lowest rate among all trademark data types.

14. Within the industrial design domain, bibliographic data (33 respondents), design representation data (30 respondents), and legal status data (28 respondents) were the most commonly exchanged data types, mirroring trends seen in patents and trademarks. Full-text publication and statistical data showed more limited exchange (19 and 17 respondents, respectively). As elsewhere, process-specific data types were least exchanged, office actions by only 11 respondents, and examination reports or search reports by just 6 respondents.

15. Data exchange levels within the GI domain were notably lower overall, reflecting the smaller number of respondents administering GI systems. Bibliographic data was most commonly exchanged (14 respondents), followed by GI representation data (12 respondents) and legal status data (11 respondents). Both full-text publications and statistical data were exchanged by 7 respondents each and office actions represented the least exchanged data type overall, reported by 2 respondents.

16. Across the file format categories surveyed, document and archive formats showed the highest and most standardized adoption on the IP data exchange practices, with Extensible Markup Language (XML) (36 respondents) and Portable Document Format (PDF) (31 respondents) emerging as the dominant formats, followed by data compression and archiving - ZIP (21 respondents) for bulk data transfer, while formats such as JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) (14 respondents), Comma-Separated Values (CSV) (11 respondents), and Microsoft Word Open XML Document - DOCX (9 respondents) saw more moderate use. For Two-Dimensional (2D) images, Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG) (34 respondents) and TIFF

(26 respondents) were the most widely adopted formats, with Portable Network Graphics (PNG) (21 respondents) also commonly used and only 2 respondents reporting this category as not applicable. Audio, video, and multimedia formats saw considerably lower overall adoption, with 15 respondents indicating this category as not applicable; among those that do exchange multimedia data, Moving Picture Experts Group Audio Layer III (MP3) (16 respondents) and Moving Picture Experts Group - 4 (MP4) (12 respondents) were most common, likely tied to sound mark representation.

17. Three-Dimensional (3D) model and image formats were the least prevalent category, with 27 respondents reporting non-applicability, though Object (OBJ) and Stereolithography (STL) (8 respondents each) were the most-used formats among a small number of respondents, suggesting that 3D data exchange remains an emerging practice primarily linked to industrial design registration. Some respondents also reported additional format practices, including alternative image formats, Graphics Interchange Format (GIF) without motion formats for trademarks, 3D PDF, and Uniform Resource Locator (URL) -based attachment delivery, along with plans for future adoption of 3D models for industrial designs.

18. Regarding WIPO Standards used on the IP data exchange, WIPO Standard ST.96 (Processing of IP information using XML) was the most widely used, applied by 18 respondents for trademarks and by 17 respondents each for patents and industrial designs. WIPO Standard ST.97 (Processing of IP Data Using JSON) showed lower implementation, with only 7 respondents applying it to patents, 2 respondents for trademarks and industrial each, and just 1 respondent for GI, while 29 respondents reported WIPO Standard ST.97 as not applicable, highlighting the early-stage nature of JSON-based standards compared to XML. Among others, the WIPO Standards ST.36 (Processing of patent information using XML) and ST.26 (Presentation of nucleotide and amino acid sequence listings using XML) showed the strongest usage, at 25 and 24 respondents respectively, followed by WIPO Standard ST.37 (Authority file of published patent documents) at 21 respondents, while WIPO Standards ST.27 (Exchange of patent legal status data) was adopted by 14 respondents.

19. Trademark and design related WIPO Standards saw moderate adoption, including WIPO Standard ST.66 (Processing of trademark information using XML) at 16 respondents and WIPO Standard ST.86 (Processing of industrial design information using XML) at 15 respondents. Other WIPO Standards, such as ST.91 (Recommendations on digital three-dimensional (3D) models and 3D images) and ST.69 (Electronic management of motion and multimedia marks), each saw only 5 respondents report adoption. Only 4 respondents indicated that no WIPO Standard applied to their operations, underscoring the broad overall relevance of the WIPO Standards on IP data exchange.

Reasons for collecting IP data

20. The respondents primarily collect IP data from other Offices for internal purposes. Examination activities, including prior art searches, were the most frequently cited use, reported by 20 respondents. Other common uses included preparing internal reports and conducting analytics (14 respondents) and training artificial intelligence and machine-learning models (10 respondents). A small number of respondents also cited other purposes, such as supporting regional search tools shared with their national Offices.

21. For further public dissemination was another common use of collected IP data. 17 respondents reported using such data to populate free public search tools and databases. 5 respondents use the data to prepare and publish value-added reports or statistical analyses, while 17 respondents indicated that further public dissemination was not applicable to their activities. Some respondents also noted that collected data may be incorporated into bulk data products or used in both internal and public search tools. 1 respondent indicated that certain resulting publications may be subject to fees.

22. External redistribution was the least common use of collected IP data. 6 respondents reported sharing reports and analyses with third parties, such as government agencies or research institutions, while only 3 respondents reported sharing collected data with commercial data providers. 25 respondents indicated that external redistribution was not applicable to their activities, suggesting that most Offices limit the use of collected IP data to internal operations or public-facing services.

23. Overall, the findings indicate that Offices collect IP data mainly to support internal operations. Public dissemination is also relatively common, whereas redistribution to commercial providers or other third parties remain limited. Table 1 below presents these results.

Group	Reason for collecting IP Data	Count
Internal use	Examination purposes (e.g., prior art searches, examination)	20
	Training AI/machine learning models used by our Office	10
	Internal reports and analytics	14
	Other internal use (please specify)	2
	Not applicable	13
Public dissemination	Publishing on our Office's free of charge public search tools/databases	17
	Prepare and publish free of charge added value data, reports and statistical analysis	5
	Other public dissemination (please specify)	4
	Not applicable	17
External distribution	Sharing with commercial data providers	3
	Reports and analytics exchanged with third parties (e.g., government agencies, research institutions)	6
	Other external re-distribution (please specify)	5
	Not applicable	25

Table 1: Reasons for collecting IP data from other Offices

IP data delivery methods/means

24. Regarding the methods that respondents currently use to provide IP data, SFTP, FTP or FTPS was the most widely used approach, adopted by 33 respondents. Application Programming Interfaces (API) were also commonly used, cited by 21 respondents, indicating growing adoption of more modern, real-time data-sharing infrastructure. Individual document downloads directly from Office websites were reported by 17 respondents, while bulk downloads from Office websites were somewhat less common, used by 11 respondents. Physical media, such as hard drives, USB drives, or CDs/DVDs, remain in limited use, with only 6 respondents relying on this method. A small number of respondents (4) reported using other methods, including blockchain-based data sharing, open data downloads via dedicated portals, and HTTPS-based access. Overall, these results suggest that while traditional file-transfer protocols and website-based downloads remain the dominant methods for IP data provision, a growing number of Offices are beginning to adopt more advanced technologies, such as APIs and blockchain, to support more dynamic and secure data-sharing practices.

Challenges

25. Respondents reported a range of organizational and technical challenges when providing IP data to other Offices. The most frequently cited issue was the need for ongoing data cleansing and correction, reported by 17 respondents. In addition, 11 respondents indicated

that digitized data remained of insufficient quality and required correction before it could be shared. 7 respondents identified insufficient IT resources as a barrier, while 4 respondents reported that some IP data had not yet been digitized and therefore could not be exchanged.

26. Legal and policy considerations related to IP data provision were also prominent. Compliance with personal data protection requirements was the most widely reported concern, cited by 25 respondents. 13 respondents indicated that data could be shared only for legitimate purposes, while 11 respondents raised concerns about ownership, redistribution rights and attribution after data had been shared with partner Offices. A further 8 respondents reported legal concerns relating to the hosting of data outside the geographic jurisdiction of the providing Office.

27. Financial barriers to providing IP data appear comparatively uncommon, based on the responses received. Only 2 respondents indicated that treating IP data as a potential source of revenue limited free sharing, whereas 36 respondents reported no financial barriers. These findings suggest that legal and policy requirements and technical data-quality issues constitute more significant obstacles to data provision than financial considerations.

28. Respondents also identified several organizational and technical challenges when collecting IP data from partner Offices. 9 respondents cited the use of non-standard, incompatible or unfamiliar data formats. Poor data quality, incomplete datasets, irregular or inconsistent data provision, discontinuation of data delivery without prior notice, and insufficient IT resources among partner Offices were each reported by 8 respondents. In addition, 7 respondents noted that experts from partner Offices were not always available to provide the necessary support.

29. Legal and policy challenges related to data collection were reported less frequently. Concerns about ownership and redistribution rights and compliance with personal data protection requirements were each cited by 5 respondents. 3 respondents referred to differences in data commercialization policies among partner Offices. Legal concerns about correcting IP data, restrictions on hosting data outside the jurisdiction of a partner Office, and conditions limiting use to legitimate purposes were each cited by 2 respondents.

30. Financial constraints were again the least frequently reported challenge. Only 3 respondents indicated that partner Offices regarded their IP data as a potential source of revenue, thereby limiting free access, while 36 respondents reported no financial barriers to collecting IP data.

31. Overall, the results show that the principal challenges to both providing and collecting IP data appear to be legal, policy-related and technical rather than financial. For data provision, compliance with personal data protection requirements and the need for continuing data cleansing were especially prominent. For data collection, the main operational difficulties concerned incompatible formats, poor or incomplete data, and irregular or discontinued delivery. These findings underscore the need for clearer conditions governing data use and redistribution, greater standardization of exchange formats, and more reliable quality-control and delivery arrangements between partner Offices.

32. Table 2 presents these results.

Activity	Challenge category	Challenge reported	Count
Providing IP data	Organizational and technical	IP data are not digitized and therefore cannot be shared	4
		IP data are digitized but have poor quality and need to be corrected first	11
		IP data cleansing and correction is ongoing	17
		Lack of IT resources (databases, tools, storage, etc.)	7
		Use of non-standard or incompatible data format (please provide details)	3
		Other (please specify)	7
		Not applicable	14
	Legal and policy	IP data should be shared in compliance with applicable personal data protection requirements	25
		Legal concerns about ownership, redistribution and attribution	11
		IP data is shared on condition that it is used for legitimate purposes	13
		Legal concerns about hosting data outside the geographic area of the Office's jurisdiction	8
		Other	3
		Not applicable	12
	Financial	The Office views IP data as a potential source of revenue that cannot be shared free of charge	2
		Other	4
		Not applicable	36
Collecting IP data	Organizational and technical	Use of non-standard, incompatible or unfamiliar IP data format	9
		Poor quality of IP data	8
		Incomplete IP data	8
		Irregular or inconsistent data provision	8
		Discontinuation of data delivery without prior notice	8
		Lack of experts from partner Offices to provide support	7
		Lack of IT resources of partner Offices	8
		Other	5
		Not applicable	25
	Legal and policy	Different data commercialization policies	3
		Legal concerns about ownership and redistribution of IP data	5
		Legal concerns about IP data correction	2
		Legal concerns about hosting data outside the partner Office's geographic jurisdiction	2
		IP data collected is not in compliance with applicable personal data protection requirements	5
		IP data is shared on condition that it is used for legitimate purposes	2
		Other	5
		Not applicable	31
	Financial	The Office views IP data as a potential source of revenue for the partner Office that cannot be shared free of charge	3
		Other	4
		Not applicable	36

Table 2: Challenges reported when providing and collecting IP data

Proposed solutions

33. Respondents expressed the strongest support for collecting and sharing best practices on IP data exchange, cited by 29 respondents. Establishing a global platform as a central hub for data exchange was the second most widely supported solution, cited by 20 respondents, followed closely by creating a portal through which Offices could communicate and share their data exchange experiences, cited by 19 respondents. 14 respondents supported developing a new WIPO standard, setting out recommended practices for the exchange and use of IP data. Considering WIPO Standards are based on the best practices, the top cited solution is closely related to the solution, developing a new WIPO standard. The results are shown below in Figure 4.

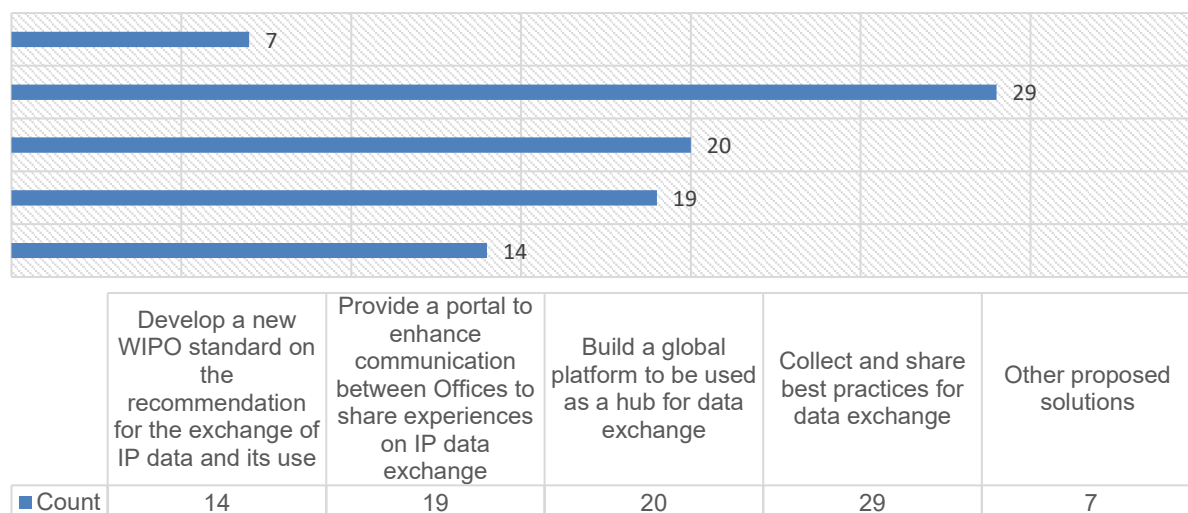


Figure 4: Proposed solution reported by the respondents

34. Among the proposed technical recommendations to be included on the WIPO Standard on IP Data Exchange, recommendations on data formats, including XML, JSON and other unified formats, received the strongest support, cited by 14 respondents. Recommendations on the means and methods of data exchange followed closely, with support from 13 respondents. Recommendations on exchange frequency were supported by 11 respondents, while data quality and data security and privacy protection were cited by 10 and 9 respondents, respectively.

35. Among the proposed legal and policy recommendation, the principle of reciprocity between exchanging Offices received the strongest support, cited by 11 respondents. 10 respondents supported recommendations requiring the mutually agreed scope of, and authority for, data distribution to be clearly recorded in formal exchange agreements. Recommendations concerning redistribution to third parties and authorization for internal use of exchanged data were each cited by 9 respondents, while authorization for external use was cited by 8 respondents. 1 respondent emphasized that the recommendations should promote the greatest possible openness of patent data and refer to existing provisions adopted at the IP5 level as a possible model.

36. Among the proposed procedural and operational recommendations, templates or examples of data exchange agreements, such as memorandum of understanding, memorandum of cooperation or terms of use, received the strongest support, cited by 10 respondents. Recommendations on cost structures, including whether data should be provided free of charge or on the basis of marginal cost recovery, were supported by 9

respondents. Guidance on consultation processes for data exchange cooperation was cited by 7 respondents, while 6 respondents supported recommendations on other matters relevant to consultation and negotiation. 1 respondent reiterated that any procedural guidance should favor greater openness of data.

Legal and contractual framework for data exchange

37. Regarding whether Offices are subject to national or regional laws governing the cross-border transfer of IP data, responses were a near-even split: 22 respondents (52.4 per cent) confirmed that such laws or regulations apply, while 20 respondents (47.6 per cent) reported no such requirements. Among respondents with applicable legal frameworks, personal data protection legislation emerged as the most commonly cited category, with many respondents referencing laws modeled on or directly implementing well-known data protection frameworks or comparable national personal data protection laws. Several respondents also cited IP specific legislation, such as patent and trademark regulations, or broader data governance and cybersecurity frameworks. A few respondents noted more particular restrictions, such as Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)-based limitations on third-party sharing, or a requirement for defense ministry clearance on specified patent applications, illustrating that while personal data protection is the dominant legal driver, additional sector-specific or security-related regulations also shape cross-border data transfer practices. The results are shown below in Figure 5.

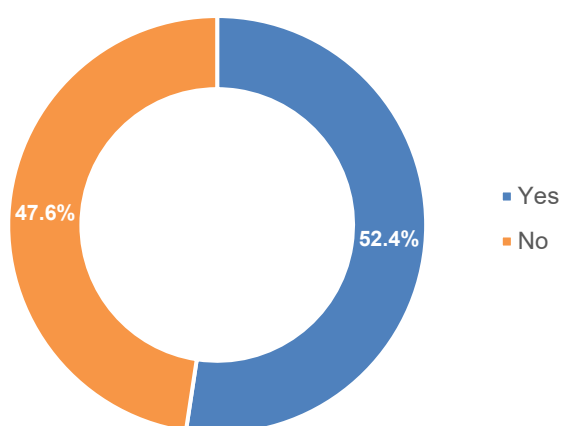


Figure 5: National and regional laws governing cross-border transfer of IP data

38. With regard to the requirement of formal written agreements governing data exchange with other IP offices, the most common response, cited by 25 respondents, was that a bilateral contract, memorandum of understanding (MoU), memorandum of cooperation (MoC), or terms of use (ToU) is required. A smaller number of respondents indicated more flexible approaches, such as, 7 respondents said formal agreements are recommended but not mandatory, while another 7 respondents said requirements depend on the specific circumstances of the exchange, such as whether the data includes personal information or non-public IP data. Only 2 respondents require a standardized open data license, and 5 respondents reported open exchange without any formal agreements at all. Additionally, 7 respondents indicated this question was not applicable, as their Office does not currently exchange IP data. Comments suggested that practices are often shaped by the type of data involved, with some respondents using template-based MoU specifically for personal data protection compliance, while others rely on open, freely accessible website-based data provision instead of formal agreements.

39. Regarding formal agreements for providing data to third parties, practices varied more widely. 10 respondents reported requiring formal agreements for any third party, while 6 respondents require agreements only for bulk or API-based access, and 9 respondents

indicated that requirements depend on the terms specified within their existing bilateral data exchange agreements. Only 1 respondent reported requiring agreement exclusively for commercial users, while 6 respondents reported no agreement requirement at all due to open data policies. 8 respondents selected "other," citing varied practices such as tiered access models combining open data with fee-based backfile access, fair use data agreements, or the absence of any third-party data-sharing arrangements altogether. Overall, these responses suggest that while many respondents apply consistent, conditionally tiered rules for third-party data access, often distinguishing between commercial and non-commercial use, or bulk versus individual access, a notable subset of respondents continue to develop or formalize their third-party data-sharing policies, particularly considering evolving personal data protection regulations.

Conditions for provision, use and dissemination of IP data

40. Respondents reported several approaches to authorizing the use and subsequent dissemination of exchanged IP data. Direct consultation between the 2 respondents concerned was the most common approach, cited by 22 respondents. 10 respondents relied on applicable national or regional legislation, while 6 respondents required no authorization. A further 6 respondents reported other approaches, including compliance with regional or international treaty provisions. The results are shown below in Figure 6.

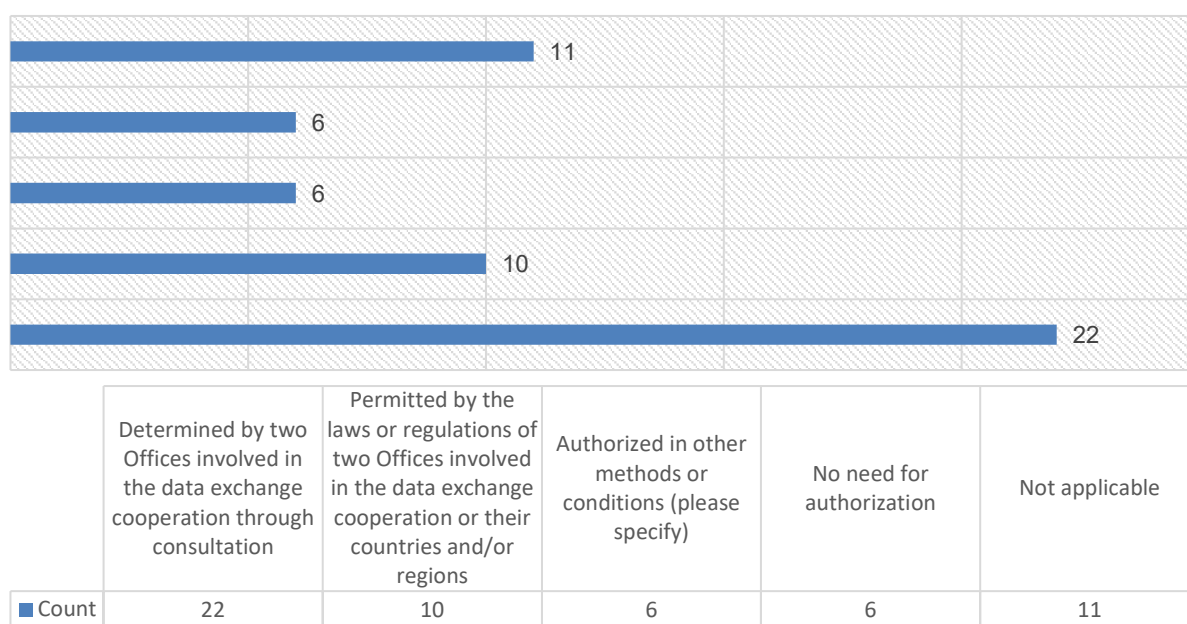


Figure 6: Methods for authorizing the use and further dissemination of exchanged IP data

41. Bilateral agreement was the predominant approach to reciprocity, reported by 25 respondents. 11 respondents permitted one-way data sharing without a reciprocal obligation, while 7 respondents exchanged data without requiring exact one-to-one equivalence. Only 3 respondents require the categories of data exchanged by each party to correspond exactly.

42. Approaches to redistribution were more evenly divided. 12 respondents (28.6 per cent) supported redistribution subject to specific restrictions on use, while another 12 respondents (28.6 per cent) selected "other", often indicating that authorization was determined on a case-by-case basis. 10 respondents (23.8 per cent) did not support redistribution rights, whereas 8 respondents (19.0 per cent) permitted unrestricted redistribution. Several respondents noted that the applicable policy depended on whether the data is open or published, as opposed to personal or unpublished. The results are shown below in Figure 7.

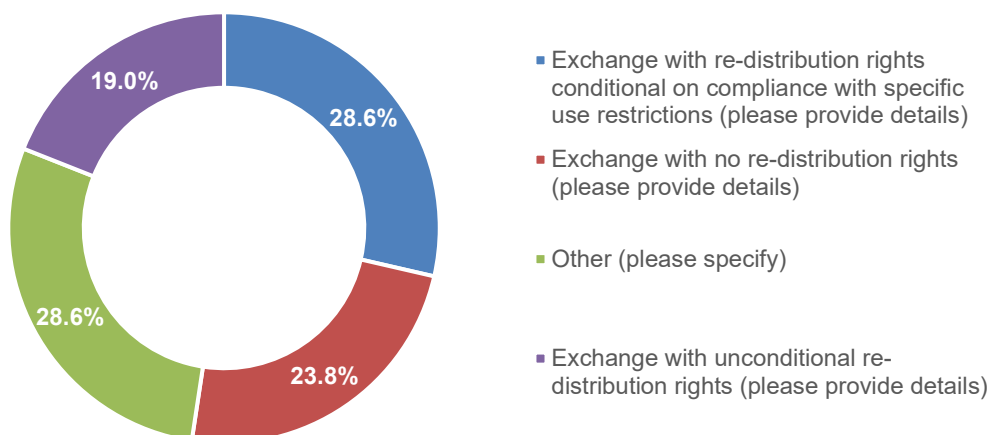


Figure 7: Conditions governing the redistribution of exchanged IP data

43. A clear majority of 27 respondents (64.3 per cent) supported providing IP data free of charge. 10 respondents (23.8 per cent) were uncertain, referring to ongoing policy reviews or distinctions between access by partner Offices and access by commercial entities. 4 respondents (9.5 per cent) supported provision at marginal cost, generally limited to shipping or media expenses. Only 1 respondent (2.4 per cent) did not support free or marginal-cost provision, citing applicable cost-recovery requirements.

44. Most respondents permitted broad internal use of shared data. 24 respondents (57.1 per cent) allowed unrestricted internal use, while 8 respondents (19.0 per cent) limited use to specified applications. 9 respondents (21.4 per cent) indicated that the question was not applicable, and 1 respondent (2.4 per cent) permitted no internal use. Among respondents applying restrictions, examination and search were the most frequently authorized purposes, cited by 7 respondents, followed by research and development and online publication, each cited by 4 respondents.

45. Third-party redistribution was generally permitted only under defined conditions. 20 respondents allowed such redistribution conditionally, 9 respondents permitted it without restriction, 3 respondents prohibited it, and 1 respondent indicated that the question was not applicable. The most common condition, cited by 15 respondents, was that the scope of eligible third parties and data be recorded in a formal agreement or written authorization. Reciprocity-based permissions were cited by 6 respondents, while compliance with data protection requirements and other applicable laws were each cited by 5 respondents. Fewer respondents referred to legitimate-purpose requirements (4 respondents), prior notification (3 respondents) or payment of fees (1 respondent). Some respondents additionally required redistribution to be limited to published data or to involve substantive added value rather than onward distribution of the data “as is”.

46. Among the small number of respondents that prohibited third-party redistribution, the reasons cited included the risk of misuse or unauthorized derivative products (2 respondents), difficulty maintaining data quality after redistribution (2 respondents), challenges in tracing and updating redistributed data (1 respondent), and conflicts with national legislation (1 respondent). Overall, the findings show broad support for flexible bilateral arrangements, free provision and internal use of exchanged data, while redistribution to third parties is more commonly subject to formal conditions and legal safeguards.

Data quality and error correction

47. Most respondents had mechanisms in place to verify data quality before sharing IP data. 29 respondents (69.0 per cent) confirmed that they applied such mechanisms, while 6 respondents (14.3 per cent) reported that they did not. 7 respondents (16.7 per cent) indicated that the question was not applicable because they did not share IP data. The results are shown below in Figure 8.

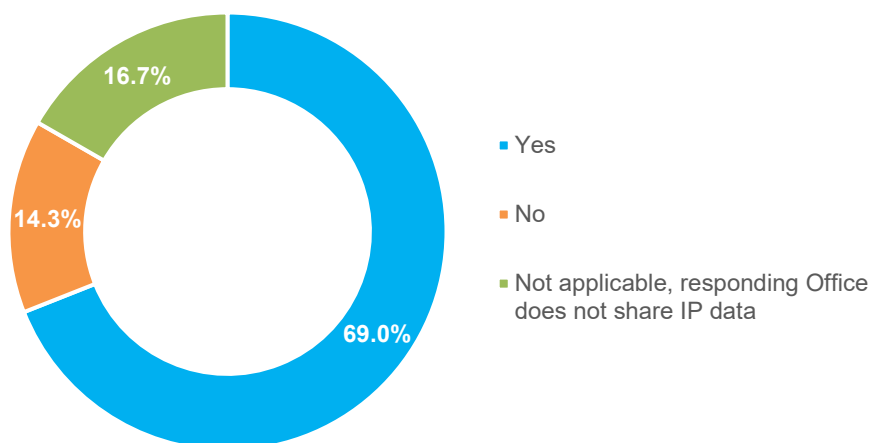


Figure 8: Use of data quality verification mechanisms before sharing IP data

48. Manual review was the most frequently reported quality-assurance method, used by 20 respondents, closely followed by automated validation checks, used by 19 respondents. These automated controls included validation tools, internal database rules, XML schema validation and business-rule checks applied before publication or exchange. 16 respondents used user feedback mechanisms, while 10 respondents conducted regular audits. 5 respondents reported other methods, including controls embedded in examination procedures, verification of company and personal names against national registries, and compliance with formal information-quality guidelines.

49. A large majority of respondents, 33 in total, were willing to allow partner Offices to apply their own quality-assurance mechanisms to identify errors and report them for correction at the source, only 2 respondents did not support this approach. Responses varied considerably on whether partner Offices should be permitted to correct errors directly before internal use, publication or further sharing. The most common position, reported by 19 respondents, was that direct correction should not be permitted and that errors should instead be reported to the source Office, which would issue corrected data. 7 respondents permitted corrections without restriction, 6 respondents allowed corrections only for predefined categories of error, and 3 respondents required prior written approval for each correction.

50. Among Offices permitting certain corrections, formatting errors, such as errors in date formats or spacing were the most commonly accepted category, cited by 6 respondents. These were followed by standardization issues, such as country or classification codes, cited by 5 respondents; character-encoding issues, cited by 4 respondents; and obvious typographical errors, cited by 3 respondents. Correction timeframes varied considerably and often depended on the nature and complexity of the error. Reported timeframes ranged from two to three months to undefined or case-by-case periods, and several respondents noted that formal correction procedures were still being developed or piloted.

51. When asked whether corrections can be made directly by the Office or require applicant involvement, 12 respondents reported being able to make corrections directly, particularly for technical, linguistic, or formatting errors, while 7 respondents indicated that applicant or IP right holder permission is required, particularly when corrections affect substantive legal content or rights.

52. Tracking and management of corrections varied significantly across respondents, ranging from formal issue-tracking systems and structured administrative procedures with defined publication timelines, to manual tracking by internal experts, or reliance on notification from partner organizations to trigger review and correction processes.

53. Regarding whether Offices apply quality assurance mechanisms specifically to data collected from other Offices, responses were evenly split: 12 respondents (28.6 per cent) confirmed applying such mechanisms, commonly including automated validation, XML schema checks, duplicate detection, and consistency checks, while 15 respondents (35.7 per cent) reported not applying any such mechanisms, and another 15 respondents (35.7 per cent) indicated this was not applicable, as they do not collect IP data from other Offices.

Update frequency

54. Update frequencies varied across IP domains. For patent data, monthly updates were the most common, reported by 9 respondents, followed by weekly updates, reported by 8 respondents; only 4 respondents supported real-time updates. Trademark and industrial design data showed similar patterns, with daily updates most frequently supported by 17 and 16 respondents, respectively, followed by real-time updates. GI data had the lowest capacity for frequent updating: only 7 respondents reported daily updates, while 27 respondents indicated that the question was not applicable, reflecting the smaller scale of GI data management. Across all IP domains, quarterly and annual updates were rarely selected, indicating that respondents generally prefer more frequent update cycles when exchanging IP data. Several respondents noted that update frequency may vary according to the type of data and, in some cases, the partner Office involved. The results are shown below in Figure 9.

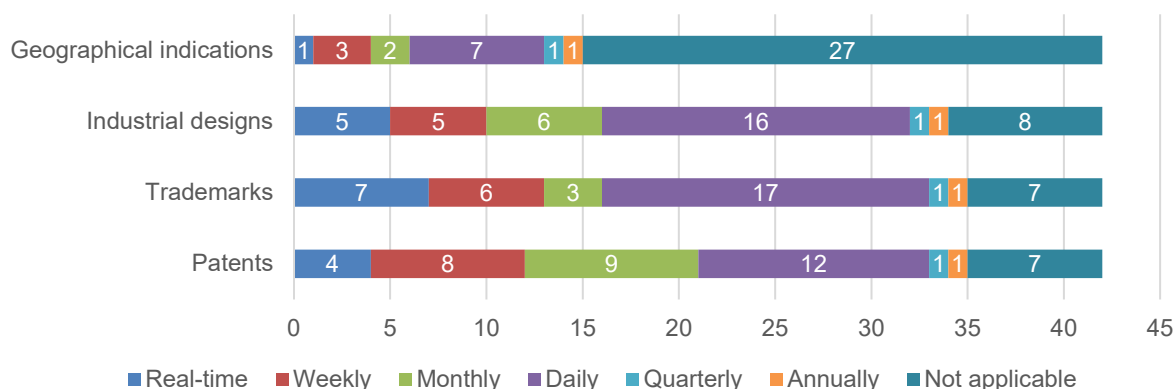


Figure 9: Frequency of IP data updates by IP domain

PROPOSAL FOR A NEW WIPO STANDARD ON IP DATA EXCHANGE AND ITS USE

55. 14 respondents supported the development of a dedicated WIPO standard, and respondents provided detailed input on its possible technical, legal and procedural content. On this basis, the IP Data Exchange Task Force has prepared a draft WIPO standard on IP Data Exchange addressing, among other matters, data formats, exchange methods, reciprocity and procedural guidance. The draft standard is presented in document CWS/14/13 for consideration and, where appropriate, adoption by the CWS.

PROPOSED NEXT STEPS

56. In light of the survey findings, in addition to the development of a new WIPO standard on the IP data exchange and its use, the Secretariat proposes that the CWS consider the following next steps to support more consistent, efficient and sustainable IP data exchange among Offices.

Sharing of experience on IP data exchange and development of a communication platform

57. The collection and sharing of best practices received the strongest support among respondents, cited by 29 respondents. Establishing a portal to facilitate communication and the exchange of experience was also widely supported, cited by 19 respondents. Accordingly, it is proposed that the IP Data Exchange Task Force compile a repository of current practices, drawing on the survey responses, and explore the development of a dedicated communication platform through which Offices could share experience, practical approaches and challenges on an ongoing basis. Together, these initiatives would provide a practical reference and collaborative resource for Offices seeking to establish or improve their data exchange arrangements.

Global IP data exchange platform

58. A central platform for IP data exchange was identified as a priority solution by 20 respondents. It is therefore proposed that the IP Data Exchange Task Force further assess the survey findings, examine the functional, technical, governance, legal and resource implications of such infrastructure, consult interested Offices as appropriate, and submit recommendations to the CWS on the feasibility and possible scope of a global platform on IP data exchange.

59. The CWS is invited to:

(a) *note the content of this document;*

(b) *consider the survey analysis as captured by paragraphs 8 to 54 and approve their publication in Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook; and*

(c) *note the proposed next steps set out in paragraphs 56 to 58 above, and request IP Data Exchange Task Force to include the proposed activities in its work plan.*

[End of document]