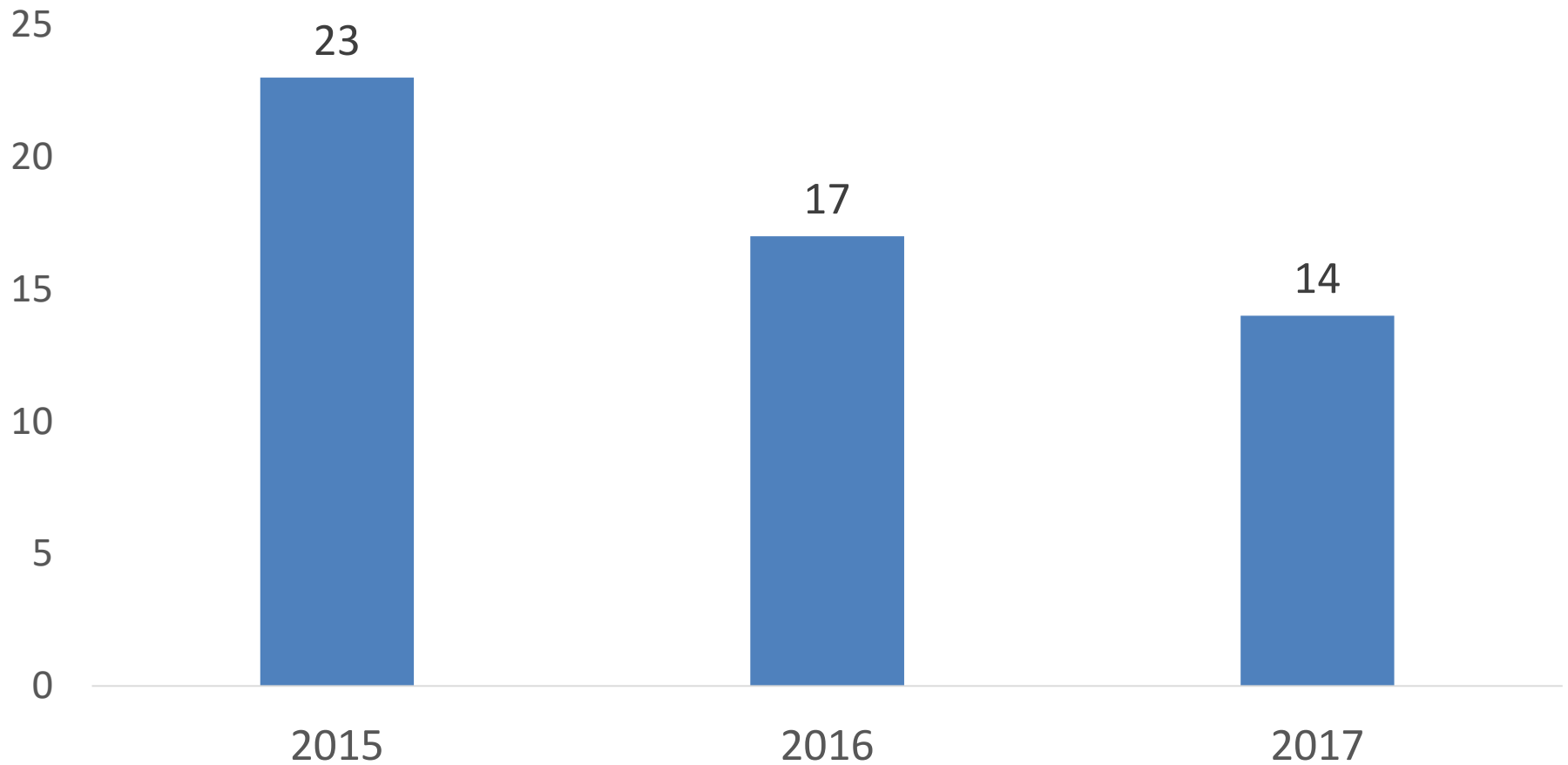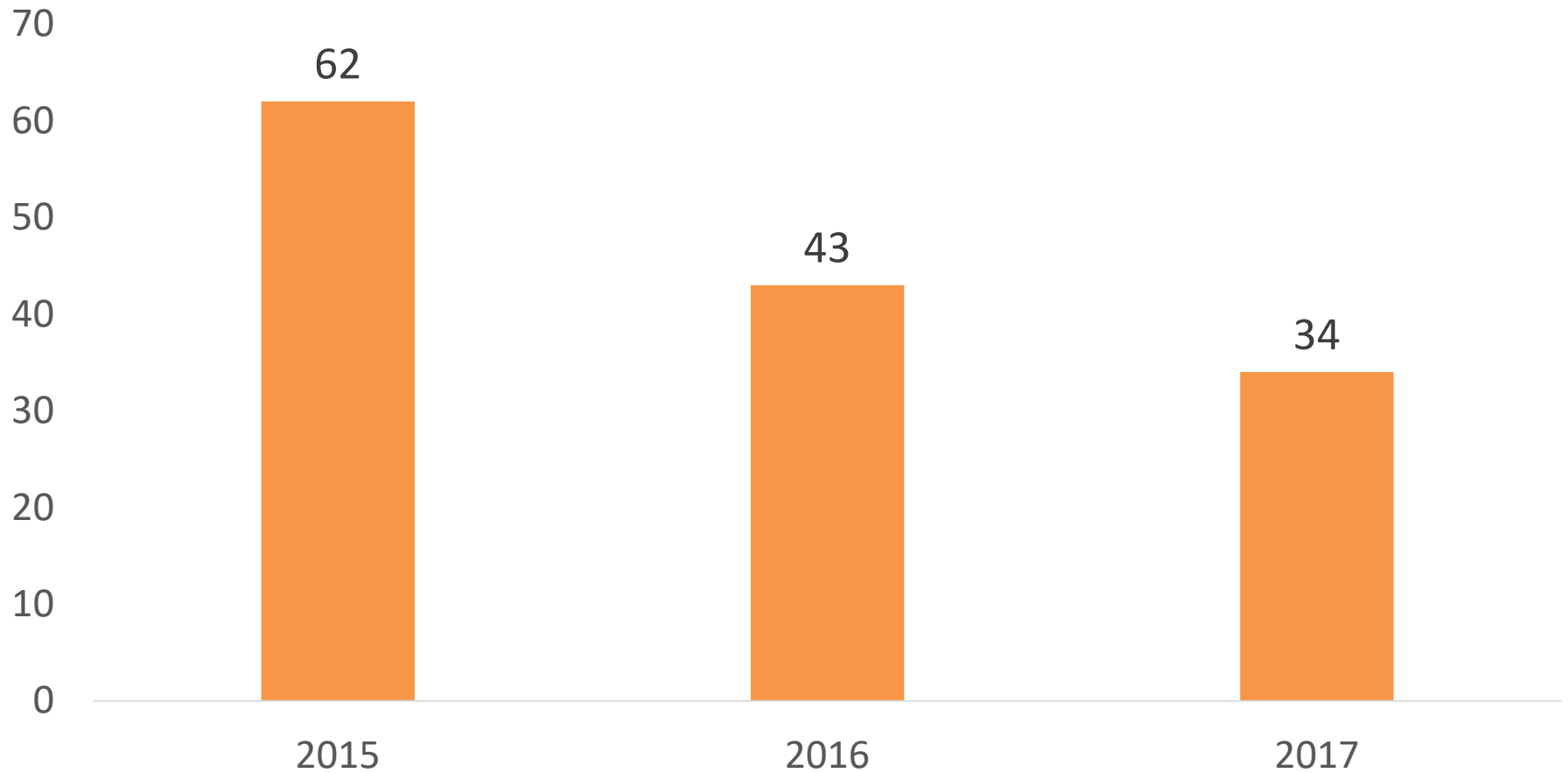# Annual Technical Reports

CWS/7 item 19

What are ATRs?

- Annual Technical Reports provide an overview of recent developments in services and information sources from Offices

- Covers patents, trademarks, and industrial designs

- Secretariat issues circulars once a year requesting information

- Submissions help other Offices and users locate information about Office activities

Number of Countries Submitting ATRs

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Number of ATR Responses Received

2018 ATR Schedule

- 2017 ATRs requested in June 2018 with responses by end of July 2018

- Secretariat issued circulars C.CWS.123, 124, 125 in June 2019 calling for submissions from Offices

- Responses would be appreciated by Aug 1

- Information will be published after review

Observations

- Declining participation rates

- 14 submissions to date for 2017

Argentina	Estonia	Poland
Australia	United Kingdom	Serbia
Bulgaria	Hungary	Russian Federation
Czech Republic	Ireland	
Ecuador	Japan	Ukraine

Questions

- What is the value of ATRs?

  - For IPOs?

  - For other users?

- Is the current ATR practice useful? Should we continue?

- Should we repurpose or discontinue ATRs?

Possible Approach

- Should IP Offices simply provide links to the information on their websites?

  - What about language translation? Current ATR submissions must be in English, Spanish, or French

  - What about minimum requirements for Office web pages?

    - Is the material formatted in a useful way for users to easily locate the relevant content?

    - Does the content provide all the information included in the current ATRs?

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ICT Recommendations

■ ICT Strategy meeting recommendation R11 (see CWS/6/3)

"IPOs should share information on ICT solutions for records management, in particular on the appropriate use of standard ICT packages and the solutions for guaranteeing authenticity of digital records, signatures, etc"

■ Should we use ATRs to address this recommendation?

■ If yes, how should we redesign the questionnaire?

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Proposed Next Steps

- IB to prepare a proposal for improving ATRs for CWS/8

- Points for consideration include:
    - Trend of declining responses
    - Evolving technology
    - ICT Strategy Recommendations

■ Thank you for your attention!

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