

THE MAIN DIRECTIONS OF CHANGES IN THE DIGITIZATION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROCESSES IN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract

The main basis of important socio-economic processes of today's rapidly developing countries is digitized. Therefore, the development of this field in our country, that is, the improvement of the level of digitalization of socio-economic processes, determines the prospects of our country's development.

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The development path of our country today is based on the principle "From the Strategy of Actions to the Strategy of Development". This principle is the establishment of a people-friendly state through the promotion of human dignity and the development of a free civil society, making justice and the rule of law the most basic and necessary condition for development, developing the national (digital) economy, ensuring the growth rate at the level of modern requirements, national security and includes priority issues aimed at strengthening the defense capacity, conducting an open and pragmatic, active foreign policy. Digitization of socio-economic processes determines the perspective of our country's development.

Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On approval of the Digital Uzbekistan - 2030 strategy and measures for its effective implementation", "On measures to create conditions for the rapid introduction of artificial intelligence technologies" ", "On the improvement of electronic commerce administration and creation of favorable conditions for its further development" are among the measures aimed at the implementation of digital transformation in the national economy, industry and society as a whole.

There are a number of problems that need to be solved regarding the development of the digital economy in Uzbekistan. These include the following:

- low internet speed and poor quality;
- monopoly in many fields;
- low computer literacy among citizens;
- non-transparency of legislation;
- lack of information technology specialists;
- slowness of development of science and especially exact sciences.

A number of works are being carried out in our Republic to eliminate the above problems. The main system of the electronic government of our country - the Single interactive state services portal

(my.gov.uz) was launched, significant progress was made in this field, as well as in the introduction of new technologies and digitization in public administration. As a result, as of February 2024, the number of public services on this electronic government platform reached 586, and more than 1.4 million citizens used electronic public services.

In the areas of entrepreneurial activity, the share of the population employed in the ICT sector in the republic is increasing. In 2019, the number of employees working in legal entities operating in the field of ICT was 47,697, and by 2023, this indicator was equal to 71,627 (Table 1).

Table 1 Number of employees in legal entities working in the field of ICT (people) [14]

Republic of Uzbekistan	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	47 697	50 157	53 782	60 462	71 627

In addition, during the past period, a large amount of investments were attracted to the field in order to improve the ICT systems and digital infrastructure of the republic. As a result, according to the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in 2017-2022, the gross added value in the field of information and communication increased by more than 2.5 times and reached 16131.1 billion soums in 2022 (Table 2). In 2017, the amount of gross added value created in the information economy and e-commerce sector was equal to 6,377.8 billion soums, and in 2022, it increased by almost 4.5 times and reached 27,755 billion soums.

Table 2 Gross value added created in sector of information economy and e-commerce (billion soums) [14].

Indicators	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Sector of information economy and e-commerce	6 377,8	7 732,1	8 491,9	10 777,0	16 939,5	27 755,0
Sector of information and communication technologies	5 849,0	6 876,8	7 323,0	9 095,9	11 567,6	16 131,1
ICT production	238,3	301,9	279,4	540,1	503,3	820,3
ICT trade	281,6	236,2	293,3	252,3	367,8	580,8
ICT services	5 329,1	6 338,7	6 750,3	8 303,5	10 696,4	14 730,0
Content sector and mass media	518,7	750,1	908,9	1 089,7	1 464,6	1 929,9
E-commerce	10,1	105,2	260,0	591,4	3 907,3	9 694,0

The total length of optical fiber communication lines in our country has grown significantly since 2017. For example, according to the information of the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in 2017-2022, this indicator increased almost 7 times, and by the end of 2022, the total length of optical fiber communication lines reached 170.9 thousand kilometers.

As can be seen from the data of Table 3, the number of people provided with the Internet for every 100 permanent residents has more than doubled compared to 2017 and is 70.6. It should be said that the Internet system of the country is growing every year, which increases the effective activity of the technology age.

Table 3 The number of subscribers with Internet access (per 100 people of the population) [14]

Indicators	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total	34,5	40,4	48,8	58,4	65,8	75,0
individuals	33,2	39,1	46,9	56,2	63,3	70,6

By 2030, by ensuring stable high growth rates in economic sectors, in the next five years, to increase the gross domestic product per capita - 1.6 times and the income per capita from 4 thousand US dollars, and "income it is planned to create the ground for entering the ranks of "above average countries".

In recent years, Uzbekistan has achieved high results in the field of ICT development and digitization, especially in the provision of electronic government services. At the same time, along with ongoing cooperation with South Korea, Russia, Estonia, and China, it is important to attract technologically advanced countries such as Germany, Great Britain, the United States, Singapore, and Japan to the country's IT sector, and to diversify the geography of international partners. Investments in the digital ecosystem, IT infrastructure and e-services serve to further modernize the national economy and accelerate inclusive growth in all sectors.

Based on the needs of the times, great attention is being paid to the improvement of the telecommunications infrastructure, digitization of industries and networks in our country. This year alone, 100 software projects have been developed as part of the digital transformation of such fields as education, banking, finance, customs, agriculture, geology, and cadastre. More than 500 new IT companies were established, and 475 million dollars of foreign direct investment entered the industry.

On December 20, 2023, under the chairmanship of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, a video selector meeting was held regarding the priority tasks for the development of information technologies in networks and regions and the digitization of state administration. At the meeting, it was decided to create additional conditions for the development of the industry:

- IT companies are accommodated in vacant buildings in the regions free of charge for a period of one year;
- talented programmers are given computers and equipment with the condition of paying in installments within a year;
- Up to 15% of the salary costs for one year of companies employing more than 50 IT specialists will be reimbursed;
- 50 percent of the costs of attracting foreign experts and participating in international conferences will be compensated to exporting enterprises.

Also, in order to bring the IT park to the international level, its subsidiaries will be opened in Germany and Saudi Arabia. Due to such new opportunities, the volume of IT services can be doubled in 2024. This year, the project "At least two programmers in every neighborhood" will be launched, and 20,000 people will be employed within the framework of the "Inclusive Digitization" project with US partners.

In 2026, the International Informatics Olympiad will be held in our country for the first time. In order to prepare for this, competitions are held, potential students are selected, and qualified trainers are recruited from abroad. Tasks such as strengthening cyber security and developing uniform requirements for all electronic payment systems will be carried out.

If the above tasks are fulfilled, the level of digitization of socio-economic processes will increase, corruption in society will decrease, the competitive environment will improve, and the unemployment rate will decrease.

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