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WAYS OF DEVELOPING DIGITAL ECONOMY IN UZBEKISTAN

Abstract: The economic development of Uzbekistan in the context of globalization of the world economy and technological development is difficult to imagine without the rapid growth of the digital economy. For example, the consulting company. This article deals with the ways of developing digital economy in Uzbekistan during the years of 2020-2022.

Key words: Digital economy, economic development, technological development, digitalization and digital commerce.

Language: English

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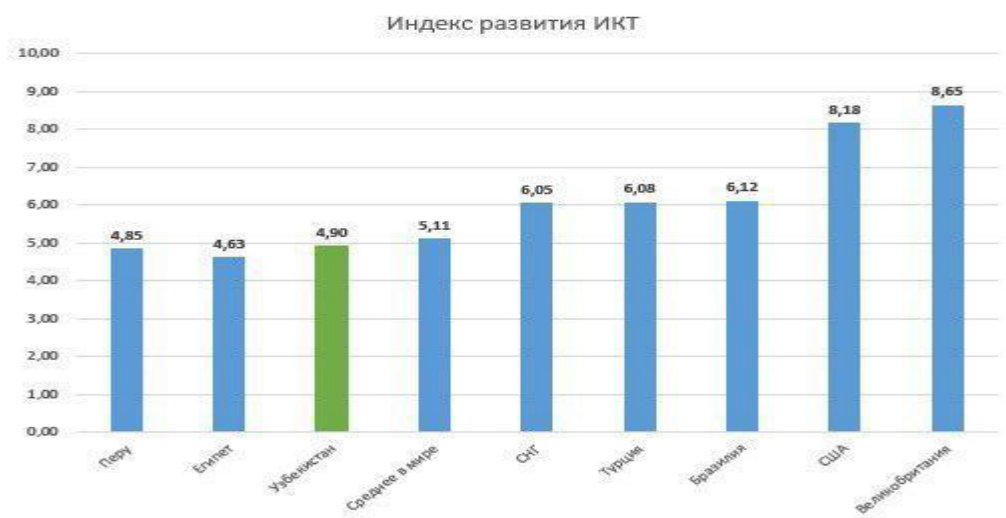
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Introduction

The economic development of Uzbekistan in the context of globalization of the world economy and technological development is difficult to imagine without the rapid growth of the digital economy. For example, the consulting company. Accenture predicts that by 2022, up to a quarter of global GDP will be in the digital sector. It is not surprising that 2019 secretly marked the beginning of the era of technological giants, when 7 companies in the technological sector

were firmly entrenched in the list of the 10 most expensive companies. However, stimulating the digital economy will require removing barriers that impede the development of digitalization and digital commerce.

Analysis. In terms of the ICT development index, Uzbekistan ranks 103rd out of more than 170 countries, ahead of, for example, Egypt, but behind Turkey and Brazil.



Pic.1

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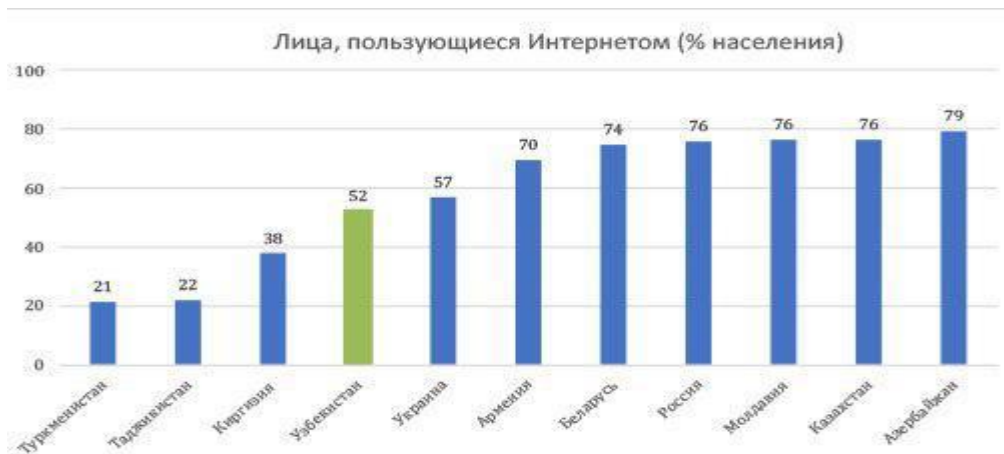
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It should be noted that the problems of the development of the digital economy in Uzbekistan are similar to the general problems faced by developing countries. One of the main problems is poor telecommunications infrastructure and communications. Due to the low investment in ICT (2.8% of the total investment in 2017), the density of base communication stations in the Republic remains very low (1 base station for 1600 residents). In contrast, in Kazakhstan, one such tower serves ICT needs for 643 residents, and in Russia for 235. This leads to the fact that poor Internet and mobile services slow down digital economic growth and widen the digital divide. Compared to the CIS average, in 2019, the average Internet speed (mobile and fixed broadband) in Uzbekistan was about two times lower. The lack of digital skills in Uzbekistan could be a serious obstacle to digital transformation. Uzbekistan,

as one of the few developing countries, has absolute adult literacy rates (100% in 2016) compared to other countries with similar levels of GDP per capita (for example, 84.66% in Lao People's Democratic Republic in 2015 year).

Discussion.

In developing countries, on the other hand, despite the high adult literacy rate, digital literacy remains at a lower level. Perhaps this can be explained by the low level of use and diffusion of ICT in schools. In 2017, 32 out of 1,000 students have personal computers. This is also confirmed by labor market trends - according to a recent study assessing the lack of skills in the Uzbek labor market, 68% of companies surveyed noted the importance of IT and computer skills as one of the key reasons when hiring new candidates.



Pic.2

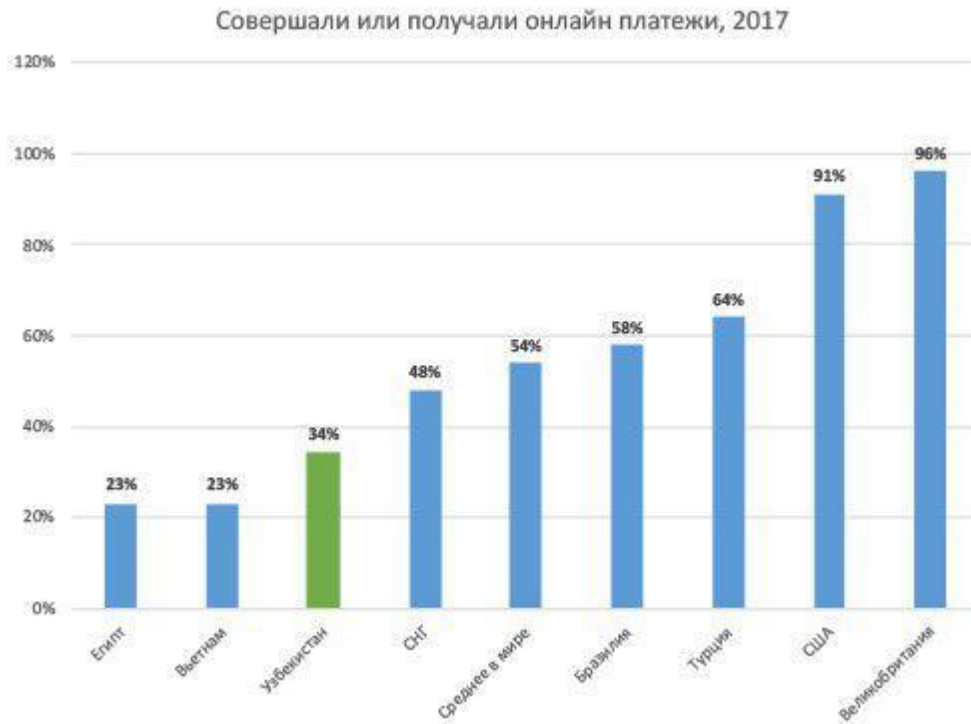
World Bank

Due to the weak digital infrastructure and lack of digital skills in the country, digital turnover is developing at a weaker pace in Uzbekistan. For

example, the decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan states that there is an insufficient level of online trading and trading platforms in the country.

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Pic.3

Source: The Global Findex Database 2017

Despite the existing payment systems (Click, Payme, M-bank, Upay, Humo, Oson, etc.) that allow online payments for mobile communications, the Internet, government services, taxes and fees, etc., only 34% of account holders made or received digital payments in 2017.

Nevertheless, over the past 13 years, the amount of the average payment through the terminal per card has increased significantly - from 207 thousand soums to 2.7 million soums. In 2018, the total amount of payments through the terminal amounted to 53 trillion. sum

Although the Parliament approved the “Law on Electronic Digital Signatures” in 2005, which became the basis for legal Internet transactions, the lack of regulation is still the main barrier to the development of electronic commerce in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Currently, the website, designed to discuss draft regulatory acts (regal.gov.uz), has posted a bill to amend and amend the Law on Electronic Commerce, which introduces improved regulations in the field of electronic commerce. In 2017, Uzbekistan began its journey to the e-government system with the development of a public services web portal.

In 2018, 127 online services were offered from various government agencies, and the number of applications reached 3.2 million. However, out of 32 million, the number of users was only 57.7 thousand people. Starting in 2019, getting public services online is 10% cheaper.

The United Nations E-Government Index reflects how a country uses information technology to provide access and integration for its people. In 2018, the indicators for Uzbekistan are almost equal to the average for the CIS and exceed the global average. Among 193 countries in the ranking, Uzbekistan ranks 81th.

Finally, the inflated cost of the Internet, insufficient coverage and low international Internet bandwidth are the result of a monopolized telecommunications industry. The market form of telecommunications in developing countries is often an oligopoly or even a monopoly. In Uzbekistan and other CIS countries, the telecommunications industry is mainly limited to one leading company, which is endowed with special powers and resources (for example, Rostelecom, Ukrtelecom, Kazakhtelecom, Aztelecom, etc.). An important step towards a digital economy will be the abolition of the state monopoly on international gateways, which is scheduled for 2020. Liberalization of the telecommunications industry will allow Uzbekistan to provide its citizens with safe and affordable Internet services and benefit from the digital economy.

The digital economy has emerged as a result of the emergence, rapid development and widespread dissemination of electronic computing, information technology and the Internet; At present, in many developed countries, the digital economy is being introduced into all industries, target laws and

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programs are being developed and approved that will become the springboard for the development of the digital economy; target indicators for the long-term development of the country are listed. The government of Uzbekistan has included a digital economy program in the strategic development plan of the state, the purpose of which is to create a full-fledged digital environment and digital field in the republic. According to the government, it is precisely the “digitalization” of the economy that will allow the country to resolve the issue of global competitiveness and national security as soon as possible.

The message of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev Oliy Majlis dated December 28, 2018 notes: “... we should start developing in 2019 the National Concept of the Digital Economy, which provides for updating all areas of the economy based on digital technologies, and implement the program on this basis” Digital Uzbekistan-2030 “. “Digital economy” is the provision of digital space for all spheres of the country's life. The main objective of the program is to create legal, technical, organizational and financial conditions for the development of the digital economy in the country and its subsequent integration with the digital economies of foreign countries. The digital economy will ensure gross domestic product growth of at least 30 percent and dramatically reduce corruption. This is confirmed by analytical studies of reputable international organizations. ” The country has embarked on the development of a program for the country's transition to a digital format in the economy. The stages of this program will last until 2030.

Developed countries of the world are characterized by dominance in the economy of the service sector and the emergence of information technologies on their basis.

However, society is not standing still, its further development and the increasing dominance of the services sector over production have led to the fact that information technology and the IT sector have begun to play a key role in this movement, which greatly simplify the very mechanism by which a person receives any service. The advent of the Internet and the reduction in the cost of access to the global network have become a real information (digital) revolution that has changed the life of mankind in general, and the economy in particular.

The digital economy, namely the emergence of new opportunities, certainly has a positive effect on human life. Thanks to the development of digital technologies, the consumer can quickly get the services he needs, save money by buying products in online stores at lower prices. In the end, the consumer can even start his own business online, become an entrepreneur without leaving home.

The World Bank in its review in 2016 noted that the digital economy contributes to the growth of labor productivity, increase the competitiveness of companies, reduce production costs, create new jobs, overcome poverty and social inequality.

The development of modern society is such that only the digital environment will allow the economy of Uzbekistan to integrate into the global space, since the business sector, in cooperation with citizens, has long been using digital technologies, including digital currency.

The development of the digital economy implies total globalization, an extremely high competitive environment, the availability of qualified personnel and high-quality education, a new quality of life, business and public services, the deployment of a modern Internet infrastructure in modern cities, increasing the digital literacy of the population and systematic training of IT specialists in all areas of economics.

An important criterion for the digital economy is to improve the quality of state and municipal services, and reduce the cost of the state in providing them. At the same time, the state must guarantee the stability and security of the infrastructure, ensure a high level of education of the population, including digital literacy, connect the digital economy with all industrial spheres, and most importantly, integrate the international digital industry into the national infrastructure.

Conclusion.

For this purpose, the Republic should work on the creation of technology parks, research and production clusters and other innovative projects, the widespread and affordable training of citizens of digital literacy, the introduction of digital technologies, ensuring the coverage of the country with the Internet with a network of 5G or higher, and the introduction of electronic document management in activities enterprises. All these measures will require huge financial investments from the state, trained specialists to educate employees of enterprises and the population in the basics of the digital economy, but this is a dictate of the time and the requirements of advanced information technologies that will be put at the service of the people. Thus, the Digital Uzbekistan-2030 program is not just another major state project of the country, it is an important aspect of the innovation activity of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the main goal of which is not only to achieve a high level of development, but also to integrate and interact with developed countries of the world.

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