

THE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR IMPROVING INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN UZBEKISTAN

Sativaldieva D.A.

Associate Professor, Department of Accounting, TSEU,

Abstract: The article discusses the legislative basis of information and communication technologies. Currently Uzbekistan is standing at the initial stage of economy digitalization. An effective transition requires a strong legal framework that will provide a solid foundation for the digital economy. Relevant conclusions are made and proposals are given for reforming the legislative framework of information and communication technologies in Uzbekistan.

Keywords: digital economy, information technology, legislative framework, foreign experience, qualifications, information security, electronic document management.

Introduction. In order to achieve sustainable development, we must deeply master digital knowledge and information technologies, which provide an opportunity of going along the shortest path towards comprehensive progress. Nowadays under current conditions digital technology plays a crucial role in all areas.

Definitely, it is obvious that the formation of a digital economy requires appropriate infrastructure, huge resources and manpower. However, no matter how difficult it is, we must already get start the work today otherwise tomorrow will be too late. Therefore, an accelerated transition into digital economy will become our priority for the next five years, said the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev in his Address to the Oliy Majlis (Mirziyoyev, 2020).

The use of digital technologies in the economy due to the development of the public services availability and efficiency, business services entire ecosystem development, enhancing business conditions transparency facilitates the improvement of the business environment. The world experience illustrates that the competitiveness of the national economy as whole is associated with the development of information and communication technologies.

The use of information and communication technologies in public administration provides good opportunities for improving the correlation of the government with the population and commercial agencies, as well as for raising the performance efficiency of the public authorities. In this regard, the Government of Uzbekistan pays a particular attention to the development and widespread use of information and communication technologies in public administration.

Various aspects of the e-government development have been studied in Uzbekistan. Informatization of the most important sectors of the economy and implementation of the state projects for the development of information technology stimulates creation of the new and promotion of the operating business areas.

Literature comments. As B.Yu. Khodiev notes in his article “the consistent implementation of the “e-Hujjat” electronic document management system in Uzbekistan, combining databases of over 150 agencies, constitutes the platform for the successful practical implementation of another main trend of service, e-government - individualization of service packages in compliance with a set of components for each individual legal and individual consumer” (B.Yu. Khodiev, 2017).

Currently e-government is widely applied, particularly in:

- national regulatory legal acts base of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- a taxpayer’s portal providing the electronic tax reporting reception and processing;
- a single portal of the licensee, in which full information on the licensed activities list and licensing procedures is available, as well as the required documents for obtaining licenses and permits;
- a single portal of declarants, of customs cargo declarations processing in electronic form;
- E-Stat automated electronic statistical reporting system;
- E-Visa information system;
- information system of banking services, money transfers, etc.

In order to ensure consistent continuation of the measures undertaken and bringing them to a new level on the development of science and education, upbringing young people as a individuals who possess in-depth personal knowledge, high culture and spirituality, and creating a competitive economy, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan declared 2020 as the “Year of the development of science, education and digital economy”.

Uzbekistan is at the initial stage of digitalization of the economy. The efficient transition requires a strong legal framework providing a solid foundation for the digital economy and the information security of the state. Most of the legislative foundations of the information and communication technology of the Republic of Uzbekistan were adopted between 2000 and 2005 (Laws, 2000-2005). However, some laws changed too frequently, while others did not change at all or only once.

Analysis and discussion. Studying the information and communication technology legislation resulted in revealing the following problems:

- most standards are hopelessly outdated;
- lack of unification and systematization. This is evident in the legislation analysis of communications and telecommunications field. Communications and telecommunications are regulated by two laws, although they regulate the same public relations;
- gaps in regulation. ICT legislation does not regulate many related areas of activity that cover the field directly;
- lack of fundamental acts and principles in the field of information and communication technology at the legislative level;
- lack of regulatory status in legislation;
- fragmental regulation of information and communication technologies. The information and communication technologies field legislation regulates only specific issues, and such areas as competition, investment, dispute resolution, sanctions application etc., are either not regulated or are regulated by separate legislation.

In our opinion, to eliminate the above problems and for perfect digitalization of the economy of Uzbekistan, efficient legislative reforms based on the best practices of foreign countries like the USA, Great Britain and the EU, undertaking of the following steps would be appropriate:

- adopting the single law on information and communication technologies. Adoption of this law will facilitate solution of problems in the area, firstly to set up fundamental regulatory provisions, as well as to adopt normative legal acts in the field of ICT.

- adopting industry laws in the field of information and communication technologies. Industry laws cover telecommunication, information security, the digital economy, the protection of personal data, electronic document management, the regulation of the Internet, electronic payments, electronic commerce, etc. The laws will fully regulate the relevant areas and after their adoption no decrees, resolutions and decisions will be adopted any more.

- operational review of legislation. This will enable to urgently respond not only to occurrence of new concepts in this area, but also threats, particularly in the field of information security.

- full liberalization of legislation. The information and communication technologies legislation are expected to be fully liberalized in compliance with world standards so that it would become as favorable as possible for investors (B.Yu. Khodiev, 2017).

In order to successfully improve the legislative framework on the information and communication technologies, it is required to ensure a proper approach which will lead to the efficient transformation of the digital economy in. In fact, this is the most important issue that requires an urgent solution.

Conclusions and proposals. To resolve the issue, we propose the following steps:

- studying the foreign experience on creating legislative foundations of the information and communication technologies;

- creation of new jobs in the IT industry;

- raising the level of local specialists' qualifications and competence;

- creation of own scientific and engineering base in the IT industry;

- optimization of all levels of education aimed at comprehensive use of the IT technologies;

- creation for everyone of free educational resources in terms of the IT and online certification, etc.

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