LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTING THE DIGITAL ECONOMY STRATEGY OF UZBEKISTAN

Khayitboyeva Mukhlisa Ilkhomjon kizi
Master's student, International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan
Scientific supervisor: Khudoyarov Anvar, Associate Professor
DOI : 10.67620/TIPUjournal.330010

ANNOTATSIYA

Ushbu maqolada O'zbekiston Respublikasida raqamli iqtisodiyot strategiyasini amalga oshirishning huquqiy va institutsional asoslari tahlil qilingan. Mamlakatimizda raqamlashtirish jarayonlarini jadallashtirish maqsadida qabul qilingan me'yoriy-huquqiy hujjatlar, strategik dasturlar hamda ularni amalga oshirish uchun shakllantirilgan institutsional tizimning mazmun-mohiyati yoritilgan. "Raqamli O'zbekiston – 2030" strategiyasi, shuningdek, "Axborotlashtirish to'g'risida", "Elektron hukumat to'g'risida", "Shaxsga doir ma'lumotlar to'g'risida" va "Kiberxavfsizlik to'g'risida"gi qonunlar raqamli transformatsiyaning huquqiy asosi sifatida ko'rib chiqilgan. Raqamli texnologiyalar vazirligi, IT-park, elektron hukumat tizimi, my.gov.uz portali va kiberxavfsizlik institutlarining raqamli iqtisodiyotni rivojlantirishdagi o'rni chuqur tahlil qilingan. O'zbekistonning huquqiy va institutsional muhiti xalqaro tajriba bilan qiyoslanib, mavjud vositalar va muammolar aniqlangan hamda raqamli iqtisodiyot strategiyasini samarali amalga oshirish va institutsional boshqaruvni takomillashtirish bo'yicha amaliy takliflar ishlab chiqilgan.

КАЛИТ СЎЗЛАР

raqamli iqtisodiyot, "Raqamli O'zbekiston – 2030", elektron hukumat, IT-park, raqamli infratuzilma, kiberxavfsizlik, institutsional islohotlar.

ANNOTATSIYA ***КАЛИТ СЎЗЛАР***

В статье анализируются правовые и институциональные основы реализации стратегии цифровой экономики Республики Узбекистан. Раскрываются содержание и сущность нормативно-правовых актов и стратегических программ, принятых для ускорения процессов цифровизации в стране, а также институциональной системы, сформированной для их реализации. Стратегия «Цифровой Узбекистан – 2030», а также законы «Об информатизации», «Об электронном правительстве», «О персональных данных» и «О кибербезопасности» рассматриваются в качестве правовой основы цифровой трансформации. Подробно анализируется роль Министерства цифровых технологий, IT-парка, системы электронного правительства, портала my.gov.uz и институтов кибербезопасности в развитии цифровой экономики. На основе сравнения правовой и институциональной среды Узбекистана с международным опытом выявлены существующие инструменты и проблемы, а также разработаны практические предложения по эффективной реализации стратегии цифровой экономики и совершенствованию институционального управления.

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА

цифровая экономика, «Цифровой Узбекистан – 2030», электронное правительство, IT-парк, цифровая инфраструктура, кибербезопасность, институциональные реформы.

ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the legal and institutional framework for implementing the digital economy strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The content of the regulatory legal acts and strategic programs adopted to accelerate digitalization in the country, as well as the institutional system established for their implementation, is examined. The "Digital

KEY WORDS

digital economy, "Digital Uzbekistan – 2030", e-government, IT Park, digital infrastructure, cybersecurity, institutional reforms.

Uzbekistan – 2030" Strategy, together with the laws "On Informatization", "On Electronic Government", "On Personal Data" and "On Cybersecurity", is considered as the legal basis of digital transformation. The role of the Ministry of Digital Technologies, IT Park, the e-government system, the my.gov.uz portal and cybersecurity institutions in the development of the digital economy is analyzed in depth. Based on a comparison of Uzbekistan's legal and institutional environment with international experience, existing instruments and problems are identified, and practical proposals are developed to ensure the effective implementation of the digital economy strategy and to improve institutional governance.

INTRODUCTION

In recent decades, a new model of economic growth – the digital economy – has been taking shape worldwide. Digital technologies are fundamentally transforming not only communications and services, but also traditional sectors such as industry, agriculture, education, healthcare, banking and finance. Digital solutions make it possible to reduce transaction costs, simplify administrative procedures, ensure transparency and limit the influence of the human factor. International organizations, including the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), regard the digital economy as an important tool for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Uzbekistan has not remained aside from these global processes. Presidential Decree No. PF-6079 of 5 October 2020 "On approval of the 'Digital Uzbekistan – 2030' Strategy and measures for its effective implementation" became the main political and legal document of digital transformation in the country [1]. The Strategy sets out priority areas such as the digitalization of all sectors of the economy, the full transfer of public services into electronic form, the development of digital infrastructure, data security and the training of IT personnel. Within its implementation, the "digital office" concept is being introduced, document flow between government bodies has been transferred to a single electronic system, and the number and quality of public services provided through the Single Portal of Interactive Public Services (my.gov.uz) have increased considerably.

The rapid development of digital infrastructure is also evidenced by the growth of the share of Internet users from 76.6% in 2021 to 93.3% in 2024 [2]. The digital economy creates new opportunities not only for domestic efficiency, but also for foreign economic relations: exports of IT Park residents increased from USD 6.2 million in 2019 to USD 344 million in 2023 [3], which shows that digital services are becoming a significant component of Uzbekistan's export potential.

At the same time, the transition to a digital economy is a complex process that requires not only the introduction of technical tools, but also deep legal reforms, the creation of new institutions and changes in the culture of public administration [4]. Therefore, the **aim** of this article is to comprehensively analyze the legal and institutional framework for implementing Uzbekistan's digital economy strategy, to identify its strengths and weaknesses, to evaluate the results on the basis of available statistical data and to develop proposals for its improvement.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The relationship between technological change and institutions has been widely discussed in economic literature. D. Frolov, developing the concept of institutional-technological combinations, argues that technological progress produces results only when it is supported by appropriate institutions. From this point of view, digital transformation should be regarded not as a purely technological process, but as a set of interconnected institutions, management practices, behavioral norms and organizational models [5]. A.V. Zhidelev, L.A. Zhigun and K.T. Paytaeva emphasize that the sustainable development of the digital economy depends on a coherent institutional framework that includes legal regulation, state support and infrastructure of trust [4].

Among Uzbek researchers, O. Astanaqulov, M.E. Balbaa and S. Goyipnazarov consider financial cybersecurity as the foundation of the digital economy and stress that the expansion of digital services must be accompanied by stronger protection of financial and personal data [6]. G.N. Makhmudova, Z.A. Ashurov and B.S. Razakova classify and systematize approaches to defining technology entrepreneurship, which is one of the driving forces of the digital economy [7]. Z.R. Sodiqov examines approaches to assessing the efficiency of new economic processes [8]. N. To'xliyev emphasizes: "The success of regional integration processes is determined by the stability of institutions, their coordinated functioning, and the consistency of regulatory mechanisms regulating economic policy. The effectiveness of any economic reform depends, first of all, on the proper formation of an institutional environment that supports it" [9].

Although these studies cover important aspects of the problem, the legal and institutional framework of the "Digital Uzbekistan – 2030" Strategy has not yet been

sufficiently studied as an integrated system. This determines the relevance of the present research.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

The study applies a comprehensive, multi-level methodological approach combining systemic, institutional-analytical, comparative and factor analysis methods. The empirical base of the research consists of laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan, presidential decrees and resolutions published in the National Database of Legislation (lex.uz), reports of the Ministry of Digital Technologies and IT Park, as well as scientific publications of domestic and foreign scholars.

First, a systematic legal analysis was carried out to identify the strengths, weaknesses and limitations of the existing regulatory framework. It covered presidential decrees, government resolutions, sectoral regulatory documents and the powers of the institutions implementing digital policy.

Second, an institutional-structural approach was used. Based on D. Frolov's concept of institutional-technological combinations [5], the interaction between digital technologies and the institutions implementing them was analyzed.

Third, an expert assessment was conducted, bringing together the opinions of policymakers, representatives of the digital ecosystem and academic experts. This method was used to assess qualitative indicators of the institutional system – coordination capacity, regulatory stability and the level of interagency cooperation – and is consistent with Z.R. Sodiqov's approach to assessing the efficiency of economic processes [8].

Fourth, an international comparative analysis was carried out, comparing Uzbekistan's institutional mechanisms with leading international practices in digital governance.

Fifth, factor analysis was used to assess the impact of individual institutional elements – legal norms, organizational structures, human capital and technology adoption capacity – on the implementation of the national digital economy strategy. This made it possible to identify institutional barriers, systemic dependencies and opportunities for policy improvement.

RESULTS

1. Legal framework of digital transformation

The analysis shows that the legal framework of Uzbekistan's digital economy has been formed in several stages. The Law "On Informatization" establishes fundamental norms regarding information resources, information systems and information security [10], while the Law "On Electronic Government" defines the legal mechanisms for the provision of electronic public services and for electronic interaction between government bodies, individuals and legal entities [11]. In recent

years, this framework has been supplemented by the laws “On Personal Data” [12] and “On Cybersecurity” [13]. Presidential Decree No. PF-6079 approved the initial roadmap for the implementation of the Strategy for 2020–2022 and defined specific tasks in the areas of digital infrastructure, e-government, the digital economy, education and cybersecurity; in subsequent years, the Strategy was further developed through additional presidential decrees and resolutions [1]. The key regulatory acts are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1

Key regulatory legal acts forming the legal framework of Uzbekistan’s digital economy

Document	Date and number	Main content
Law “On Informatization”	11.12.2003, No. 560-II	Legal regime of information resources and information systems, information security
Law “On Electronic Government”	09.12.2015, No. ZRU-395	Principles of e-government, provision of electronic public services, interagency electronic interaction
Law “On Personal Data”	02.07.2019, No. ZRU-547	Collection, processing and protection of personal data
Presidential Decree on the “Digital Uzbekistan – 2030” Strategy	05.10.2020, No. PF-6079	Priority directions of digital transformation; roadmaps for digital infrastructure, e-government, digital economy and IT education
Law “On Cybersecurity”	15.04.2022, No. ZRU-764	Protection of information infrastructure, powers of the authorized body in the field of cybersecurity

Source: compiled by the author based on the National Database of Legislation (lex.uz).

2. Institutional framework

Alongside the legal base, an institutional system responsible for implementing the Strategy has been established. Its main elements and their functions are presented in Table 2.

Table 2

Main institutions implementing the digital economy strategy

Institution	Main functions
Ministry of Digital Technologies	Development and implementation of state policy in the field of digitalization, coordination of e-government projects and digital infrastructure
IT Park	Support for IT companies, provision of tax and customs incentives to residents, promotion of IT service exports and startups

Institution	Main functions
Single Portal of Interactive Public Services (my.gov.uz)	Provision of public services to individuals and legal entities in electronic form
Cybersecurity institutions (incl. CERT.uz)	Monitoring of and response to cyber incidents, protection of state information systems

Source: compiled by the author.

3. Dynamics of key indicators

The practical results of the Strategy's implementation are reflected in the dynamics of key indicators (Table 3). Over 2021–2024 the share of Internet users increased by 16.7 percentage points, and over 2019–2023 the exports of IT Park residents increased by about 55 times.

Table 3

Dynamics of selected digital economy indicators in Uzbekistan

Indicator	Base year	Latest year	Change
Share of Internet users, %	76.6 (2021)	93.3 (2024)	+16.7 p.p.
Exports of IT Park residents, USD million	6.2 (2019)	344.0 (2023)	≈ 55 times

Source: compiled by the author based on [2] and [3].

DISCUSSION

The results allow us to distinguish three main achievements of Uzbekistan in implementing its digital economy strategy:

- **Formation of the legal framework** – the adoption of fundamental laws and strategic documents has created a clear and relatively stable regulatory environment for the digital economy.
- **Development of institutional infrastructure** – institutions such as the Ministry of Digital Technologies, IT Park and the my.gov.uz portal have become the "drivers" of digital transformation.
- **Improvement of economic and social indicators** – Internet coverage, IT service exports and the number of electronic public services have been growing rapidly.

A comparison with international experience shows that countries leading in digital governance rely on a high level of interoperability of state information systems and on the "once-only" principle, under which citizens do not submit to the state data that it already holds. In Estonia, for example, this is ensured by the X-Road data exchange layer, while in the Republic of Korea and Singapore digital policy is coordinated centrally at the highest level of government. Uzbekistan's institutional model is close to these practices in terms of centralized coordination; however, full integration of data exchange between government bodies, the

protection of personal data and the digital competence of civil servants still require further development.

At the same time, a number of challenges are observed in the digital transformation process: uneven development of digital infrastructure across regions, a shortage of IT specialists, growing cybersecurity threats, the persistence of traditional management practices in certain institutions, and insufficient digital skills among employees. Addressing these issues remains one of the priority tasks for the next stage of the Strategy's implementation. This confirms the conclusion of D. Frolov [5] and A.V. Zhidelev et al. [4] that technological solutions are effective only when they are supported by an adequate institutional environment.

CONCLUSION

The analysis shows that Uzbekistan has achieved significant results in implementing its digital economy strategy within a relatively short period. The legal documents adopted within the framework of the "Digital Uzbekistan – 2030" Strategy have created the necessary regulatory foundation for the development of digital infrastructure, e-government, electronic commerce and IT service exports.

Institutionally, organizations such as the Ministry of Digital Technologies, IT Park, the my.gov.uz portal and CERT.uz have become the key executors of digital transformation. The steady increase in the share of Internet users, IT service exports and the number of electronic public services confirms the practical effectiveness of the Strategy's implementation.

For the further development of the digital economy, the following measures are proposed:

- reducing regional disparities in digital infrastructure, primarily by expanding broadband Internet access in rural areas;
- strengthening IT and digital skills in school, college and higher education systems, as well as in civil service training programs;
- reinforcing the national cybersecurity system and the institutional mechanisms of personal data protection;
- ensuring full digital integration of data exchange among government bodies on the basis of the "once-only" principle;
- expanding scientific research on the digital economy and incorporating research-based evidence into policy-making.

Overall, Uzbekistan has the potential to secure a leading position in Central Asia in the transition to a digital economy, and digital transformation is expected to become one of the key factors ensuring the country's economic competitiveness in the future.

REFERENCES

1. O'zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidentining 2020-yil 5-oktabrdagi "'Raqamli O'zbekiston – 2030' strategiyasini tasdiqlash va uni samarali amalga oshirish chora-tadbirlari to'g'risida"gi PF-6079-son Farmoni. – URL: https://lex.uz
2. Ministry of Digital Technologies of the Republic of Uzbekistan. (2024). *Digital development report.* Tashkent.
3. IT Park Uzbekistan. (2023). *Annual export report.* Tashkent.
4. Zhidelev, A. V., Zhigun, L. A., & Paytaeva, K. T. (2021). Institutional framework for the sustainable development of the digital economy. In *Sustainable development of modern digital economy: Perspectives from Russian experiences* (pp. 275–283). Cham: Springer International Publishing.
5. Frolov, D. (2011). Theory of crises after a crisis: Technology versus institutions. *Voprosy Ekonomiki*, (7), 17–33.
6. Astanaqulov, O., Balbaa, M. E., & Goyipnazarov, S. (2026). Exploring financial cybersecurity as the foundation of digital economy: Challenges and prospects.
7. Makhmudova, G. N., Ashurov, Z. A., & Razakova, B. S. (2022). Classification and systematization of approaches to the definition of technology entrepreneurship. *π-Economy*, 15(2), 7–21. https://doi.org/10.18721/JE.15201
8. Sodiqov, Z. R. (2020). *Yangi iqtisodiy jarayonlar samaradorligi.* Toshkent: Innovatsiya-Ziyo.
9. To'xliyev, N. (2020). *Mintaqaviy iqtisodiy integratsiya: rivojlanish qonuniyatlari, xususiyatlari.* Toshkent: Iqtisodiyot.
10. O'zbekiston Respublikasining 2003-yil 11-dekabrdagi "Axborotlashtirish to'g'risida"gi 560-II-son Qonuni. – URL: https://lex.uz
11. O'zbekiston Respublikasining 2015-yil 9-dekabrdagi "Elektron hukumat to'g'risida"gi O'RQ-395-son Qonuni. – URL: https://lex.uz
12. O'zbekiston Respublikasining 2019-yil 2-iyuldagi "Shaxsga doir ma'lumotlar to'g'risida"gi O'RQ-547-son Qonuni. – URL: https://lex.uz
13. O'zbekiston Respublikasining 2022-yil 15-apreldagi "Kiberxavfsizlik to'g'risida"gi O'RQ-764-son Qonuni. – URL: https://lex.uz