



REFORMS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SECTORS AND REGIONS OF THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

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ABSTRACT

This article examines reforms aimed at the digital transformation of sectors and regions within the framework of the digital economy. The study analyzes digitalization strategies, their contribution to competitiveness, productivity growth, innovation development, and sustainable economic progress. Special attention is devoted to the experience of Uzbekistan, where large-scale reforms are being implemented under the Digital Uzbekistan–2030 strategy. The paper identifies the main achievements, challenges, and opportunities associated with digital transformation and proposes recommendations for improving regional and sectoral digital development.

Keywords: Digital economy, digital transformation, digitalization, regional development, information technologies, innovation, smart cities, sustainable development.

Introduction

In recent decades, digitalization has become one of the most important determinants of economic growth and competitiveness. The rapid diffusion of information and communication technologies has transformed business processes, public administration, healthcare, education, and financial services. Uzbekistan has actively embraced digital transformation through national programs and reforms designed to strengthen economic resilience and improve public services. The Digital Uzbekistan–2030 strategy aims to establish a modern digital infrastructure, expand e-government services, and stimulate innovation-driven development. The objective of this study is to evaluate the impact of digital reforms on sectoral and regional development and identify future priorities for sustainable growth.



LITERATURE REVIEW

The concept of the digital economy has been widely discussed in academic literature. Castells emphasized the emergence of the information society and network economy. Schwab highlighted the transformative effects of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Bresnahan and Trajtenberg argued that digital technologies create new opportunities for productivity growth and innovation. Contemporary studies indicate that digital infrastructure, government support, and human capital are key determinants of successful digital transformation. Researchers also note that regional disparities in digital access can hinder balanced development and reduce the effectiveness of reform initiatives.

METHODOLOGY

The research is based on comparative, descriptive, and analytical methods. Data were collected from official reports, statistical bulletins, and international publications. Content analysis was applied to identify major trends in digital transformation. Comparative analysis was used to evaluate regional differences in digital development. SWOT analysis was employed to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats associated with the digital economy. The study also considers indicators of economic growth, productivity, employment, and digital infrastructure.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings reveal substantial differences in digital development across regions and sectors. Tashkent and Samarkand demonstrate relatively high levels of digital maturity due to stronger infrastructure and investment. Finance, transportation, and logistics represent the most successful sectors in terms of digital transformation. Digital banking, electronic payment systems, and online services have improved efficiency and accessibility.

Agriculture and healthcare face greater challenges due to shortages of qualified personnel, limited technological infrastructure, and insufficient investment. The analysis indicates that digital technologies contribute positively to productivity growth, service quality, and innovation capacity. However, regional disparities remain significant and require targeted policy interventions.



The study also demonstrates that government support plays a critical role in accelerating digital transformation. Investments in broadband internet, data centers, and digital education contribute to the creation of a favorable environment for innovation. International cooperation and technology transfer further enhance opportunities for sustainable digital development.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The successful development of the digital economy depends on technological infrastructure, institutional support, human capital, and financial resources. Uzbekistan has achieved notable progress in digital transformation, yet several challenges remain. To accelerate reform implementation, it is necessary to expand broadband internet coverage, strengthen digital education programs, support innovative start-ups, establish regional digital clusters, and invest in emerging technologies such as 5G and the Internet of Things. Continuous monitoring of reform outcomes and stronger international cooperation will contribute to long-term sustainable development and greater competitiveness.

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