

DIGITALIZATION PROCESS AND EFFICIENCY OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT IN UZBEKISTAN

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Khujayeva Azizakhon Abduqahhor qizi

*Head of the Department for Coordinating the Activities of Regional Representative
Offices*

Abstract

This article analyzes the theoretical foundations of the digitalization process of the public procurement system in the Republic of Uzbekistan, ongoing reforms, and their effectiveness. Digital transformation processes in the field of public procurement within the framework of the "Digital Uzbekistan-2030" strategy were studied. The article examines measures being implemented to electronize public procurement, improve the activities of public procurement electronic system operators, fully automate tender processes, and increase transparency. The research results identified positive outcomes of the digitalization process of the public procurement system and existing problems. Ways to improve the efficiency of public funds utilization through digitalization were proposed.

Keywords

public procurement, digitalization, electronic tender, transparency, efficiency, digital transformation, electronic platform

INTRODUCTION

In modern public administration systems, the rapid development of digital technologies and their widespread use has become a transformative factor fundamentally changing the field of public procurement. With the adoption of the "Digital Uzbekistan-2030" strategy in the Republic of Uzbekistan, the digitalization of the public procurement system has become a national priority.

The digitalization of the public procurement system is the process of transferring traditional paper-based procurement procedures to electronic platforms, automation, and improving efficiency through digital technologies. This process serves the rational use of public funds by ensuring the principles of transparency, openness, and fairness.

By 2025, large-scale digital reforms are being implemented in the field of public procurement in Uzbekistan. "HAYOT BIRJA" JSC, together with the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan, organized the international forum "Opportunities and Reforms in the Public Procurement System – 2025" at

the Hilton Tashkent City hotel with the assistance of international and national partners. The organization of this event demonstrates the high level of attention being paid to digitalization processes in the field of public procurement.

The purpose of this article is to study the theoretical foundations of the digitalization process of the public procurement system in Uzbekistan, analyze ongoing reforms, and evaluate their effectiveness.

MAIN PART

Theoretical Foundations of Public Procurement Digitalization

The digitalization of the public procurement system is a complex process of optimizing and automating procurement procedures through modern information and communication technologies. Theoretically, this process includes the following main components:

Electronic tender systems are platforms that completely transfer traditional paper-based tender processes to digital format. These systems enable the electronic implementation of all stages from tender announcements to contract signing.

Electronic document circulation ensures the creation, storage, and exchange of all documents used in public procurement processes in digital format. This process significantly increases the efficiency of document management.

Public Procurement Digitalization Strategy in Uzbekistan

The timely and large-scale implementation of projects envisaged in the "Digital Uzbekistan – 2030" strategy also encompasses the field of public procurement. Within the framework of this strategy, the digitalization of the public procurement system is being implemented in the following directions:

Development of databases and analytics – using modern analytical tools to analyze data obtained from procurement processes and use them in decision-making.

Functional Capabilities of Electronic Public Procurement Systems

Modern electronic public procurement systems have the following functional capabilities:

Automation of tender processes – this process automatically implements all stages from publishing tender announcements to determining winners and concluding contracts. The system provides the ability to automatically receive proposals, compare them according to evaluation criteria, and identify the best offer.

Real-time monitoring – the system enables real-time monitoring of all procurement processes and immediate detection of any irregularities. This is crucial for ensuring transparency and minimizing corruption risks.

Electronic archiving and document management — all procurement documents are stored in electronic format, creating opportunities for rapid search and analysis. This ensures data security while also increasing document access speed.

Efficiency Indicators of the Digitalization Process

The following key indicators are used to evaluate the efficiency of the public procurement digitalization process:

Time efficiency — the duration of tender processes is significantly reduced. Processes that took several months using traditional methods are completed within several weeks on electronic platforms.

Financial efficiency — cost-effective use of public funds is ensured through reduced administrative expenses and increased competition in tender processes.

Level of transparency — equal opportunities are created for all participants, and every stage of tender processes is conducted openly and under supervision.

International Experience and Its Application in Uzbekistan

There is rich experience in digitalizing public procurement in world practice. Electronic public procurement systems in developed countries such as European Union member states, South Korea, and Singapore demonstrate high efficiency.

Uzbekistan is implementing a large-scale project to improve public services in cooperation with the European Union and the UN Development Programme. This international cooperation is crucial for accelerating digitalization processes in the field of public procurement in Uzbekistan and improving their quality.

Existing Problems and Solutions

By 2025, the following problems were identified in the digitalization process of the public procurement system in Uzbekistan:

Tax system-related problems — the existence of VAT-related issues in Uzbekistan's public procurement system complicates procurement processes.

Staff qualifications — employee qualifications in using digital technologies are not at an adequate level.

The following measures are proposed to address these problems:

Strengthening and automating control systems

Harmonizing tax legislation with public procurement

Regular retraining and skill development of employees

Strengthening information security measures

CONCLUSION

The digitalization process of the public procurement system in the Republic of Uzbekistan is a strategically important, complex, and multi-stage process. By 2025,

significant achievements have been made in this field, and large-scale reforms are being implemented.

The following main conclusions were formed as a result of the research:

First, the digitalization processes being implemented in the field of public procurement within the framework of the "Digital Uzbekistan-2030" strategy have systematic and purposeful characteristics.

Second, the implementation of electronic public procurement systems has significantly increased the level of transparency and reduced corruption risks. Automated monitoring and control systems provide the ability to early detect violations.

Third, the digitalization process helps cost-effective use of public funds by improving financial and time efficiency. The acceleration of tender processes and reduction of administrative expenses are important achievements in this direction.

Fourth, international cooperation and experience exchange play an important role in developing the public procurement system in Uzbekistan. Cooperation with international organizations such as the European Union and the UN provides opportunities to apply advanced technologies and methods.

However, existing problems, particularly violations and difficulties related to the tax system, indicate the need to further improve the system. Improving staff qualifications and strengthening information security measures are also urgent tasks.

In the future, it is advisable to use modern digital tools such as artificial intelligence, blockchain technologies, and big data analytics to further improve the digitalization process of the public procurement system. This will serve to bring Uzbekistan's public procurement system to world standards and further increase economic efficiency.

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