Methods of State Regulation of Informatization Processes in the Republic of Uzbekistan

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Abstract:
In the era of information technologies, specialists at various levels of management are faced with the problems of the competent use of tools for regulating the processes of informatization and the issues of the ways of information development of Uzbekistan are being actively discussed. In this article, we have considered on the concept of "informatization" from a legal, socio-economic point of view. Furthermore, we have identified the main groups of methods used in the state regulation of informatization processes in Uzbekistan.

Key words: the process of informatization, methods of state regulation, information technologies, digital economy, Uzbekistan.

One of the priority areas of the Republic of Uzbekistan at present is the digitalization of economy. The state is taking large-scale measures to develop the digital sector of the economy. For instance, electronic document management systems are being introduced, electronic payments are being developed, and the regulatory framework in the field of electronic commerce is being improved. The state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of informatization is aimed at creating a national information system, taking into account the modern world principles of development and improvement of information resources, information technologies and information systems.

In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 6079 of October 5, 2020 "On the approval of the strategy "Digital Uzbekistan-2030" and measures for its effective implementation", the Strategy of “Digital Uzbekistan-2030” was formed and strategic goals and priorities for digital development have been identified [1]. By the document, a wide range of long-term issues related to the introduction of digital technologies in telecommunications, public services, the real sector of the economy, healthcare, the state cadastre is being resolved. On the basis of the Strategy the country is implementing more than 260 projects aimed at the consistent implementation of elements of the digital economy and e-government, as well as digitalization of the banking sector [2].

The methodological basis of our study included analysis, synthesis, comparison, study of a package of Uzbek national standards, scientific research on the problem, etc. Before considering the methods of state regulation, we define the term "informatization", based on the main document in the field of information technology - the Law "On informatization” [3]. It directly gives the concept of "informatization". The 3rd Article of the Law states that, “informatization” - an organizational,
socio-economic and scientific-technical process of creating conditions for the use of information resources, information technology and information systems to meet the information needs of legal entities and individuals.

Having analyzed the definitions of informatization and studied the tasks given in the laws, we can also generally identify the following main tools in the field of regulating informatization processes. Firstly, the state can apply legislative methods of regulation. Legislative methods in case of non-compliance with the prescribed laws entail punishment up to criminal. This type of instrument includes not only Uzbek legislation, but also international. In addition, currently, there are more than 65 international agreements of a universal and regional nature that regulate various aspects of international information relations [4].

Sharing the opinion of the well-known researcher in the field of information law I. L. Bachilo [5], we note that the regulation of relations in the information space should be based primarily on “national legislation”, until the “supranational law” has been finally formed. Therefore, in further analysis, we will focus on national regulatory legal acts.

So, the issues of legislative regulation in the field of informatization processes at the national level are reflected in the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the law “On informatization”, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 6079 of October 5, 2020 "On the approval of the strategy "Digital Uzbekistan-2030", the Order of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On measures for the further modernization of the digital infrastructure for the development of the digital economy” [6], law “On telecommunications” [7], laws “On electronic digital signature” [8], “On electronic document management” [9], “On e-commerce” [10] and others. Improving e-government system is one of the priorities of the informatization process. This system serves to develop the affairs of government agencies, and the electronic document management saves the time and money of citizens, and ensures openness and transparency.

Secondly, state regulation of informatization implies the use of organizational measures. That is, specialized organizations can be created to regulate informatization processes. For instance, the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Innovative Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the committees that are part of them, Information and Communication Technology Development Fund [11] and others. Among these, the role of the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications Development in the informatization process is significant. This Ministry was established in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan № 4702 dated February 4, 2015. Main tasks of the Ministry are realizing the implementation of a unified state policy on information technologies and communications, implementing "e-government", developing integrated programs for the introduction and development of the national information and communication system according to the world level and requirement, protecting and using information and others.

Thirdly, budgetary support and financing of informatization processes is important for development and regulation. Financing happens with the allocation of financial resources of the country or targeted programs (tenders, competitions, grants and etc.). For example, the Strategy "Digital Uzbekistan-2030" provides for the launch of more than 280 IT projects in all the sectors of economy, including public administration in all the structures of the vertical. Except for this, 12 venture funds have been launched in the country to finance startup projects, more than 40 startups were able to raise more than $80 million from foreign investors and funds.
If we look at the area of financing from the state budget, on December 30, 2021, the law "On the state budget for 2022" was adopted. And the main aim of this law is the regulation of relations related to the formation and implementation of the consolidated budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2022. Annex 3 of the law defines the forecast of revenues and expenditures of the State Targeted Funds and the Fund for Reconstruction and Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2022. There we can see the revenues and expenditures in the sphere of informatization.

The fourth method is that, administrative measures. Among them, the requirements and regulations of the information society for participants are specifically indicated in accordance with the allocated services for business processes. Administrative measures may include requirements for government agencies that have a concept of information development, as well as advisory acts of international organizations and national informatization programs. The role of this method in the process of informatization is to keep the affairs of all responsible organizations in order.

So, to sum up the information given above, we can briefly summarize some of the main features. There are four instruments of state regulation of informatization process in Uzbekistan. All of them are a complex mechanism that is not fully formed. Inspite of this, there is a close interaction between the financial, administrative, organizational, and legislative methods of state regulation of informatization process. The development of informatization processes takes place under the influence of international events which effects not only this sphere, but also any other branches of social life.

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