

Innovative Changes and Tendencies in the Development of Statistics

Dilshodakhon Eshmukhammadovna Safarova

Fergana State University, Department of Accounting and Economic Analysis, Teacher

Abstract: This article reveals the main directions of reforms carried out in the modern period in the field of statistics of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In particular, the authors noted that at present, a whole range of activities has already been carried out in the statistical industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which has made it possible to achieve certain results in national and international rankings.

The research of the authors of the article states that reforms in the field of statistics of the Republic of Uzbekistan are being carried out in such areas as improving the organizational and legal infrastructure, developing the statistical infrastructure, establishing optimal interaction between providers and users of statistical data, effective development of information and communication infrastructure, improving sectoral and regional statistics, improving the quality of training and comprehensive development of staff, improving the country's performance in the World Bank's Statistical Capacity Index.

The author notes that recently a lot of work has been done to bring a number of indicators of macroeconomic and social statistics, methods of statistical assessment of the shadow economy, tourism statistics, employment, environmental accounting, transport, public finance and other sectors in line with the requirements of international standards, a thorough preparation for censuses (population, agriculture, business), etc.

Keywords: statistical sphere, data, openness, transparency, reliability, development, international standards, digital transformation, optimization, modern techniques, efficiency.

INTRODUCTION

Currently, large-scale reforms are being carried out in the Republic of Uzbekistan as part of the implementation of the Action Strategy for the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017–2021, which are also reflected in the activities of statistical bodies.

In particular, the President and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted a number of legal acts aimed at reforming the field of statistics, the widespread introduction of international standards in the field of statistics and the best world practices that help ensure the accuracy, reliability and transparency of statistical information.

At the same time, the results of studies of the statistical potential of countries have shown that in the modern period, on an international scale, medium-term comprehensive documents are being adopted and implemented - "National Strategies for the Development of Statistics", which determine the priorities for

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the future development of the national statistical system. The importance of adopting the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics in the Republic of Uzbekistan is due to an integrated approach to development, taking into account not only the activities of national statistical agencies, but also the activities of all other producers of statistics in the country.

It should be noted that until now there has not been a single document aimed at the comprehensive development of the national statistical system of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The existing regulatory and legal framework did not fully ensure the comprehensive development of the entire national statistical system of the country and was mainly aimed at improving the activities of the State Committee on Statistics without taking into account other producers of statistics, such as producers of financial statistics, health statistics, education, ecology, environment, crime, etc.

In addition, the assessment of the country's statistics in the World Bank's Statistical Capacity Index shows unsatisfactory results, which requires a comprehensive and evidence-based approach to improve it. At the same time, the Law "On State Statistics", adopted in 2002, needs to be updated.

This article attempts to highlight the measures taken in recent years and their results aimed at developing the statistical system of the Republic of Uzbekistan, their impact on the World Bank Statistical Capacity Index, as well as the importance and significance of the "National Strategy for the Development of Statistics" as a continuation of reforms.

LITERATURE ANALYSIS AND METHODS.

In the course of this scientific study, a whole range of literary sources devoted to the development of the field of statistics on an international scale was studied, special attention was paid to its development in the context of the digitalization of the economy.

These are the works of such authors as Andryushkevich O.A., Denisova I.M. [1], Balatsky E.V., Ekimova N.A. [2], Begalova B.A. [3], Vasilyeva E.K., Lyalin V.S. [4], Gorbashko E.A. [5], Gray K.F., Larson E.W. [6], Zhukovskaya I.E. [7], Dolzhenko A.I., Shpolyanskaya I.Yu., Glushenko S.A. [8], Lapidus L.V. [9], Polyakova V.V. [10] etc.

Along with the scientific literature, the regulatory legal acts adopted by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, aimed at developing the country's statistics, were studied, such as:

Resolution dated July 31, 2017 № PP-3165 "On measures to improve the activities of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics", in accordance with which, a five-year comprehensive program of measures was approved, including specific tasks to improve the functioning of the system, ensure adherence to the generally recognized principles of openness, availability and transparency of statistical data.

The Decree of September 12, 2017 "On Measures to Ensure Openness and Transparency of Economic and Financial Indicators in the Republic of Uzbekistan", which served as an important basis for ensuring the openness of previously unpublished indicators and connecting to the internationally recognized "Enhanced General Data Dissemination System" of the IMF.

Decree of February 5, 2019 №UP-5655 "On Approval of the Concept of the Population Census of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2022", which serves as the necessary legal basis for holding a major event in the country - the population census in 2022. In this regard, on March 16, 2020, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the population census" was adopted.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As a result of the measures taken in recent years in accordance with the above regulations, the statistics provided to users have been radically improved in terms of quality, transparency and volume. Statistical publications and compilations have been improved based on international experience and best practices.

In addition, transparency was provided to previously inaccessible key macroeconomic and financial indicators, and the Republic of Uzbekistan joined the “enhanced Common Data Dissemination System” of the International Monetary Fund.

The main information resource, the official website of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics, has been improved in accordance with modern standards, and measures have been taken to improve the operation of the open data portal. In addition, recently, in the statistical sphere, a phased introduction of innovative technologies (tablets) into the processes of statistical surveys has begun.

Particular attention was paid to the process of professional development of the system personnel. The Center for Retraining and Statistical Research under the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics has been transformed into the Institute for Training and Statistical Research.

A scientific-electronic journal "Statistical Information Bulletin of Uzbekistan" and a Scientific Council on the specialty "Econometrics and Statistics" and "Information Systems and Technologies in Economics" were created at the institute.

In order to continue the reforms in the field of statistics, in accordance with the best international practice and recommendations of international organizations, the current state of the national statistical system was analyzed, problems and shortcomings were identified, as well as priority areas for development, as a result of which the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan № PP-4796 was adopted "On measures for further improvement and development of the national statistical system of the Republic of Uzbekistan".

It can be said with certainty that the adoption of this resolution marked a new stage in the development of the national statistical system.

In particular, this resolution establishes a number of norms aimed at further improving the functioning of the national statistical system:

firstly, in order to further strengthen the independence of state statistics bodies, the independence of the territorial divisions of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on statistics from local authorities was established, and the procedure for appointing their heads directly from the chairman;

secondly, the coordinating role of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on statistics in the national statistical system has been strengthened, in particular, the Committee has been given the right to audit the statistical methodologies of all ministries and departments that produce statistical data for compliance with international standards;

thirdly, the creation of separate statistical units in all ministries and departments for the collection of statistical data and the relationship with the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on statistics is strictly defined;

fourthly, the activities of the Statistical Council and the Public Council have been resumed in order to actively participate in the development of the country's statistical system;

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fifthly, the task was set to integrate the information systems of ministries and departments in order to optimize the processes of formation of official statistics, the widespread introduction of advanced information and communication technologies in the field of statistics.

In addition, in accordance with the “Model Law on Official Statistics” developed and recommended by the UNECE for the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, a new Law “On Official Statistics” has been developed, which is under approval. The adoption of this Law will raise the regulatory framework in the field of statistics to a qualitatively new level, in line with advanced international standards.

In addition, the decree approved the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics for 2020-2025, which for the first time in the history of the country serves as a comprehensive program for improving the entire national statistical system of the country.

The strategy provides for the implementation of comprehensive measures in 6 areas, and in order to implement them in practice, a "Road Map" was adopted, which includes more than 200 practical actions for the implementation of 86 main events.

Legislation in the field of national statistics of the Republic of Uzbekistan will soon receive a new impetus for development. In particular, the draft Law “On Official Statistics” will be improved.

The formation of the digital economy requires the constant development of the statistical information system. In this direction, it is planned to develop and launch a modern automated information system for receiving statistical reports in electronic form (eStat-4.0) based on modern web technologies.

The IT base of the system will be completely updated, the necessary servers, computer equipment, printers, other equipment and IP telephony devices will be purchased and installed.

Studying advanced foreign experience, a new version of the Open Data Portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan will begin to exist, new services and functions will be introduced, administrative information systems of all state bodies of the country will be integrated with the portal of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on statistics.

Statistical registers will be improved in line with international practice. In addition to the census of population and agriculture, a business census will be conducted in 2024, on the basis of which modern business registers will be launched.

A high-quality energy balance of the country will be formed based on the recommendations of the UN and the International Energy Agency.

In order to increase the representativeness of the data and obtain the necessary data, the process of designing statistical surveys and their sampling methods will be improved.

Human resources play an important role in improving work efficiency, therefore, in the modern period in the statistical field, special attention is paid to the training and advanced training of employees, and the further improvement of scientific research in the field of statistics.

A good example is the fact that by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of August 17, 2020 No. 686, the Center for Retraining and Statistical Research under the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics was transformed into the Institute for Training and Statistical Research.

The Institute regularly organizes training courses in 8 areas, constantly holds events on topical issues in the field of statistics and annually receives about %% of statistics employees for advanced training (1100–1200 people per year).

At the Institute of Personnel Training and Statistical Research, the scientific journal "Statistical Bulletin of Uzbekistan" was created, which publishes current scientific articles, research and developments in the field of economics and statistics in the country.

Also, the Academic Council began its work at the institute to award the academic degrees of Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Science in the specialties "Econometrics and Statistics" and "Information Systems and Technologies in Economics".

As an integral part of the strategy, the institute will create a system of professional development in the field of statistics on the basis of agreed plans and schedules for employees of state and economic administration bodies, as well as local self-government. The administration and faculty of the Institute regularly train students in the subject "Fundamentals of Statistics", organize special training courses on the use of econometric packages such as "Statistica", "SPSS", "Evies", "Stata", etc.

In the near future, based on the need for personnel in the field of statistics, training of middle-level personnel will be organized in professional educational institutions of the country.

In the field of economic education in higher education institutions, new areas will open ("Business Analyst", "Analysis of Large Numbers", "System Analyst", "Data Explorer", "Integration Analyst", "Mathematical Statistics", "Probability Theory", etc.) to train competitive specialists on the basis of joint programs with prestigious foreign higher education institutions.

The World Bank developed the Statistical Capacity Index in 2004 to study and evaluate the statistical capacity of countries.

The index reflects the statistical potential of more than 140 countries, their achievements in this area and the results of ongoing reforms to develop the national statistical system.

The sources of assessment in the index are the databases of international organizations, the national information space of countries (members of the national statistical system) and related documents (metadata, classifications, reviews, etc.).

Thanks to the work done over the past two years, today (report for 2019) Uzbekistan has been assigned 64.4 points out of the maximum available 100 in the index, and the country occupies 84th place in the ranking.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, it should be noted that the implementation of the above measures will achieve the following priorities:

- an advanced statistical system will be formed that fully meets modern requirements and international standards;
- a solid legislative base has been created, the new Law "On Official Statistics" will comply with advanced international standards;
- the reporting burden on respondents will be significantly reduced through the use of alternative sources of information and administrative data, and as a result, the quality of statistical data will be improved;
- human resources saved by the proper distribution of work and the introduction of advanced ICT will be mobilized for new types of statistical surveys in order to meet the ever-increasing demand of users for information;

- as a result, the volume of transparent, high-quality and up-to-date statistical data in the national information space will be significantly expanded, which, in turn, will increase the level of user satisfaction and confidence in the information;
- awareness of international organizations, financial institutions and foreign investors about the socio-economic situation and processes in the country will be increased;
- results in the ranking of the World Bank countries on the Statistical Capacity Index will improve.

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