

Project Report

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Instrument: SUPPORT ACTION	Thematic Priority International collaboration
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Title Updated EU-CA ICT R&D cooperation potential assessment for Uzbekistan

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PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission)	
RE	Restricted to a group defined by the consortium (including the Commission)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission)	

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Abstract : This document assesses the cooperation potential between EU and Uzbekistan in the field of ICT R&D. It's an update of an older document created under ISTOK-SOYUZ project.

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1. Introduction

The program of computerization and information and communication technologies development for the period 2002 – 2010” oriented to satisfaction of society information needs and increase of domestic economy competitiveness in world markets.

To ensure the users’ access to international information networks, including the Internet, the direct connections with the use of satellite and terrestrial digital channels are organized.

Despite the rapid growth of broadband access market in Uzbekistan, the majority of residential broadband subscribers are connected at speeds not exceeding 256 Kbps. Less than 12% of subscribers are connected at 1 Mbps speed.

Uzbekistan has been developed an expertise in key fundamental research domains, such as mathematics, informatics, microelectronics, thermal physics, astrophysics, computational chemistry, molecular medicine, and other scientific domains making strong use of mathematical background. All of these require the deployment of computational resources and computing facilities. The European e-Science Grid infrastructure aims to exploit the sharing of more computing resources (including distributed supercomputing), scientific instrumentation and data facilities across multiple scientific disciplines. Uzbek R&D centers would like to involve in European Grid community in framework of collaborative projects in order to get strong expertise in Grid and Cloud computing.

2. Cooperation potential

2.1 The National ICT sector

The system of the National ICT sector in the Republic of Uzbekistan may be presented as a complex of offices and departments, including state authorities, R&D institutions, foundations, associations, etc. Legal protection of intellectual property is ensured by the Patent Office of Uzbekistan and The Uzbek Republican Agency for Copyright. Intellectual potential development is being ensured on account of state higher special education and postgraduate dedicated training systems, based on ICT vendor’s courses. Thus, on the basis of existing laws and current government policy, the ICT industry has been fulfilling its’ projects, attracting highly qualified specialists provided by the education system of the country.

2.2 The ICT governance:

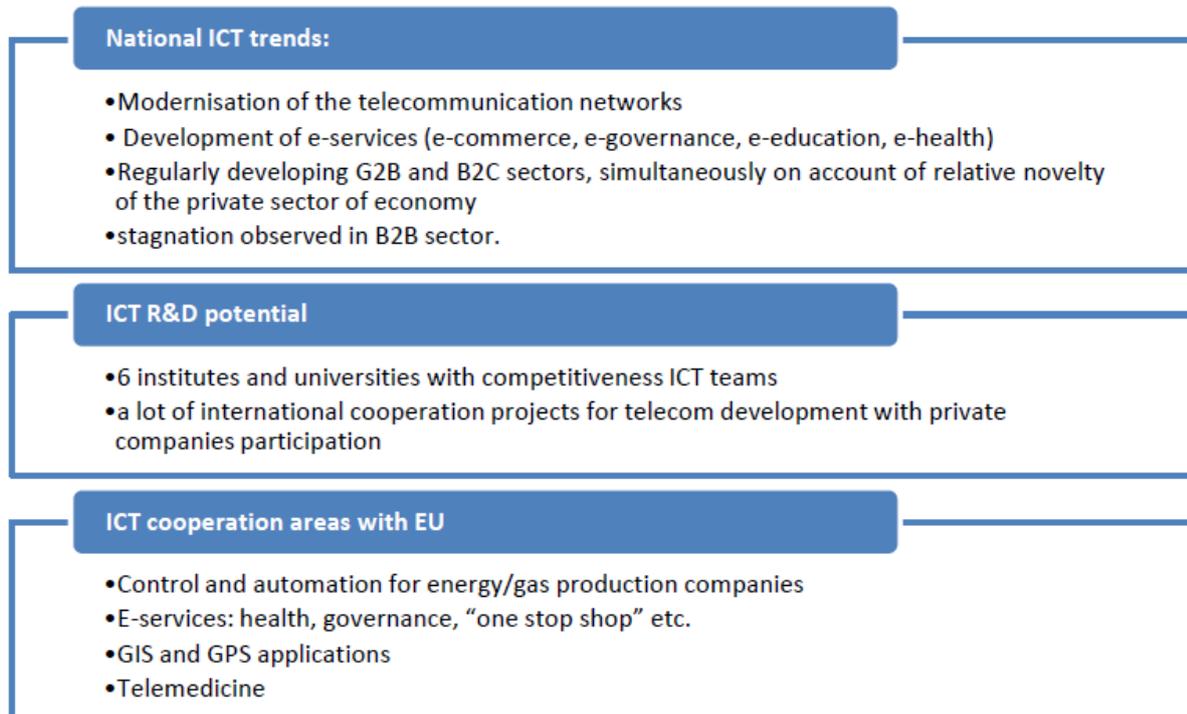
Uzbekistan ICT governance system includes:

- Infomatization development Committee under the Legislative chamber of Oliy Majlis (parliament);
- Interagency Coordination Council on the development of computerization and information and communication technologies under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Dedicated division of the Cabinet Council ;
- Communication and Information Agency of Uzbekistan ;
- Computerization and information technologies developing center “UZINFOCOM”;
- The Uzbek Republican Agency for Copyright;

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- State Patent Office under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Center for scientific-technical and marketing research UNICON.UZ;
- Center for training and support of young developers ;
- Association of IT companies ;
- Science and technology development Coordination Committee.

The structure of the regulating bodies and offices of the ICT sector works in close coordination provided and supported by the Government of Uzbekistan. Thus, their function is completing each other's responsibilities, objectives and duties.



Given the landscape of the ICT in Uzbekistan, it could be concluded that ICT is one of the priority sectors for the country's development.

2.3 Latest news

According to Resolution of Republic Uzbekistan Cabinet Council № 24 from 1st February 2012 “About arrangement of conditions for ICT progress on-sites” on the basis of computerization centers under Council of Ministries of Republic Karakalpakstan, town halls of the regions and Tashkent city will be created unitary state enterprises “Centers of computerization”. Their main goals are:

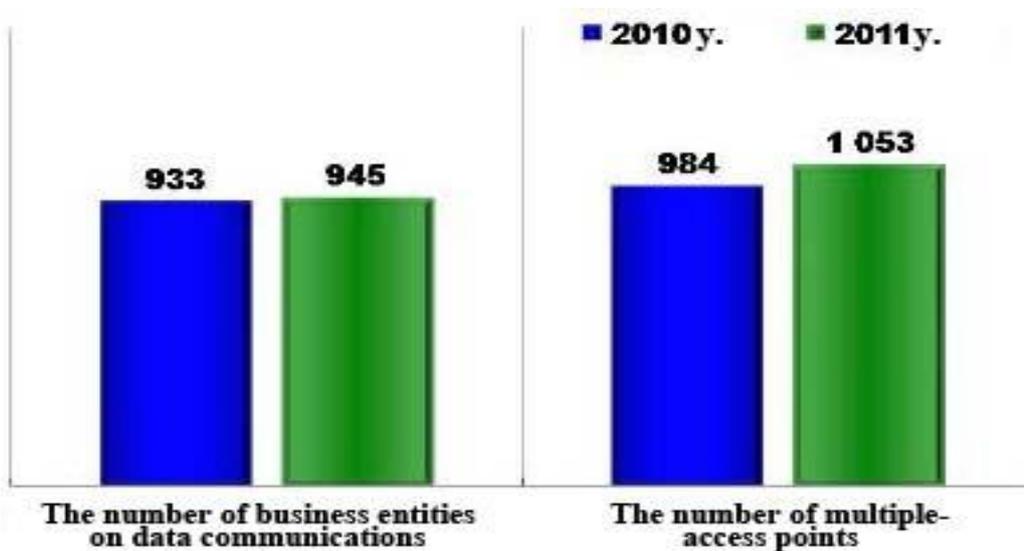
- Development and implementation actions on elaboration of ICT in according with up-to-date international trends and strategy of socio-economic progress in the regions;
- Maintenance and updating of information resources, support actions in registration of new state information resources and information systems in regions;
- Permanent updating of web-portals above mentioned offices and rendering of interactive services, including One-Stop-Shop;
- Implementation of permanent analysis of ICT current status and development perspectives in regions, making new suggestions on this basis for improving this area.
- Normative-methodical management of “Centers of computerization” will be realized by Communication and Information Agency of Uzbekistan.

Communication and Information Agency of Uzbekistan on the board meeting (January 2012)

Assessed the main achievements of 2011 and laid down a program for 2012. In 2011 at the expense of direct foreign investment and credits overall \$266,7 million and own funds overall \$42,5 million were realized some projects in ICT.

General speed of deployment of international information networks is 4,85 [Gbps](#), the number of internet users is 8,8 million. From 1st January 2012 the cost of internet channels discounted three times.

One-Stop-Shop (OSS) for government services is launched in April, 2010; <http://www.biroyna.uz>



As a December 2010 OSS represents 14 public organizations offering more than 40 administrative services to the population; OSS experience was positively greeted by the government and this resulted in the operating of 50 OSS across the country. In 2011 WWW user population reached 147,76 thousand. The number of domains registered in zone UZ went beyond 13,4 thousand. In country operates 9 centers of EDS registration, and the number of EDS keys and certificates is 206 thousand.

According to data of State Statistics Committee the number of enterprises producing software in Uzbekistan is 235.

In 2012 will be drawn \$176, 5 million for ICT progress, particularly for development of fiber channels in south of country (172 km), broadening of wireless communication coverage area (89 new stations), development of education network's second stage.

Main directions of ICT development in 2012 are:

- scientific research;
- development of new innovation projects;
- integration industry and academia;
- training of ICT specialists' new generation.

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Conclusion

However, the ICT sector is mostly application-oriented. The given circumstance explains necessity elimination of breaking between a science and industry through development of new and implantation of existing innovative technologies on the modern stage for the accelerated upgrade of a national economy. There is no ICT state-of-the-art, and no determined pool of competences, comparing to most of the EU and the associated countries. There are some promising ICT markets, emerging in Uzbekistan, which could potentially represent ground for EU- Uzbek collaboration. Clear examples for these markets are the e-services market, and mobile telecommunications.