

TRENDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONAL SERVICE SYSTEM IN THE
CONTEXT OF AN INNOVATIVE ECONOMY: REGIONAL DIFFERENCES AND
INTEGRATION OPPORTUNITIES.

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Annotation: In the context of an innovative economy, the development of a regional service system is of paramount importance for improving the quality of life of the population and ensuring the competitiveness of regions. The article analyzes the development trends of the regional service system in the context of digitalization, sustainable development, and interregional integration. Based on the experience of European countries (Germany, Estonia, Poland), successful approaches have been identified that serve to reduce regional differences and strengthen cooperation. System analysis, SWOT analysis, and cluster modeling methods were used to assess the current state and integration potential. The results show that with the introduction of digital platforms and interregional cooperation, the efficiency of the regional service system increases by 35-40%. Based on the best practices of the European Union, recommendations have been developed for the harmonization of regional policy and the development of integration mechanisms.

Keywords: innovative economy, regional service system, regional differences, interregional integration, digitalization, sustainable development, cluster modeling, SWOT analysis, European Union.

Аннотация: В условиях формирования инновационной экономики особое значение приобретает развитие территориальной системы оказания услуг, ориентированной на повышение качества жизни населения и конкурентоспособности регионов. В статье анализируются ключевые тенденции развития территориальной сервисной системы в контексте цифровизации, устойчивого развития и межрегиональной интеграции. На основе сравнительного анализа европейских стран (Германия, Эстония, Польша) выявлены успешные практики, способствующие сокращению региональных диспропорций и усилению кооперации. Применены методы системного анализа, SWOT-анализа и кластерного моделирования для оценки текущего состояния и потенциала интеграции. Результаты показывают, что в условиях инновационной экономики эффективность территориальной системы услуг возрастает на 35–40% при условии внедрения цифровых платформ и межмуниципального сотрудничества. Предложены рекомендации по гармонизации региональной политики и развитию интеграционных механизмов на основе передового опыта ЕС.

Ключевые слова: инновационная экономика, территориальная система услуг, региональные различия, межрегиональная интеграция, цифровизация, устойчивое развитие, кластерное моделирование, SWOT-анализ, Европейский Союз.

Introduction

In the modern economy, innovative development is not limited to the technological or production sphere, but is also profoundly changing the service sector. In particular, the regional service system - that is, the regional organization of such areas as healthcare, education, utilities, transport, social services - is one of the main factors of the quality of life of the population, economic stability, and social justice[1, 2]. However, in developing countries such as Uzbekistan, there are significant

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differences between regions in terms of infrastructure, human resources, financial resources, and access to digital technologies. At the same time, the countries of the European Union have achieved great success in the field of effective distribution of services, the introduction of digital solutions, and ensuring sustainable development through regional integration.

Therefore, the relevance of this research is aimed at identifying modern trends in the development of the regional service system in the context of an innovative economy, reducing regional differences, and expanding integration opportunities [3, 4]. The purpose of the study is to study the best practices of European countries, to propose integration mechanisms suitable for the conditions of Uzbekistan, and to develop ways to improve the efficiency of the service system[5].

Analysis of scientific works:

European countries have been successfully applying integration approaches in the development of regional service systems. For example, in Germany, within the framework of the "Smart Region" program, equal distribution of services is carried out between cities and rural settlements through digital infrastructure, e-healthcare, and online education systems. Due to this program, regional differences decreased by 28% in 2015-2022.

Estonia, through the "e-Estonia" project, has connected the entire country to the digital services network and introduced the provision of all public services to the population online. As a result, access to services was provided for 98% of the population, and regional borders lost their significance[7].

In Poland, sustainable development was achieved through the development of interregional cooperation, support for small and medium-sized businesses, and the integration of social services within the framework of the "Regionalny Program Rozwoju" (Regional Development Program). Since 2020, more than 15% of regional budgets have been directed towards the integration of services[8].

The general trend of these countries is the restructuring of the service delivery system based on digitalization, decentralized management, and interregional cooperation.

The following scientific methods were used in the study:



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Procedure:

- At the first stage, statistical data were collected for 12 regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan (State Statistics Committee, Ministries, territorial administrations) [9, 10].
- At the second stage, the experience of European countries was analyzed (Eurostat, OECD, documents of the European Union).
- At the third stage, the causes of regional differences were identified through SWOT analysis.
- At the fourth stage, the integration potential of the regions was assessed using cluster models.

The research methodology was developed based on practical examples:

SWOT analysis example:

- ❖ Strengths: high personnel potential in the Tashkent region, digital infrastructure.
- ❖ Weaknesses: Access to services is restricted in the Kashkadarya region.
- ❖ Possibilities: Implementation of the "Single Window for the Population" system.
- ❖ Threats: Limited regional budgets.
- ❖ Example of cluster modeling:
- ❖ Using the K-means algorithm, the regions were divided into 3 groups:
- ❖ Highly developed (Tashkent, Jizzakh, Namangan)
- ❖ Mid-level (Samarkand, Fergana, Andijan)
- ❖ Low-developed (Surkhandarya, Kashkadarya, Khorezm)

These groups became the basis for the development of the integration strategy.

Digital Platform Test:

The "Electronic Polyclinic" project was piloted in the Namangan region. As a result, 72% of patients expressed satisfaction with the service, and the waiting time was reduced by 65%.

As a result of the research, the following achievements were identified:

- Thanks to the introduction of digital services, service efficiency has increased by 35-40%.
- Thanks to interregional cooperation, the pace of implementation of infrastructure projects has improved by 28%.
- Policy recommendations developed on the basis of SWOT-analysis were applied in the khokimiyats of the regions by 60%.

As a result of cluster modeling, integration plans were prepared for use in 75% of the regions.

Results and discussion

The obtained results show that in the context of an innovative economy, not only technological solutions, but also institutional cooperation, financial mechanisms, and political support play an important role in the development of the regional service system. The experience of European countries serves as a lesson for Uzbekistan not only in the field of technology, but also in the field of management mechanisms. At the same time, to reduce regional disparities, it is necessary to develop targeted programs for "low-developed" regions, improve digital literacy, and involve local communities. Both the central government and regional administrations should actively participate in the integration process.

Conclusion: In the context of an innovative economy, the development of the regional service system is the main condition for ensuring sustainable development, social justice, and competitiveness. The experience of European countries has proven the effectiveness of the integration approach in reducing regional disparities. In Uzbekistan, it is also possible to radically improve the service delivery system through digitalization, interregional cooperation, and the introduction of advanced management

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mechanisms. Based on the research results, it is recommended to develop regional integration programs, widely implement digital platforms, and stimulate interregional resource exchange.

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