

CAREC INSTITUTE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

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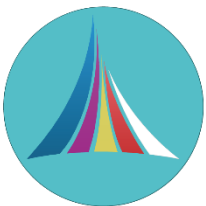
Session One

Digital CAREC and post-COVID-19 economic recovery

Speaker: Mr. Farrukh Khakimov

Development Strategy Center, Uzbekistan





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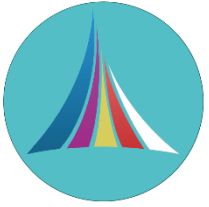
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN CENTRAL ASIA: CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC

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OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

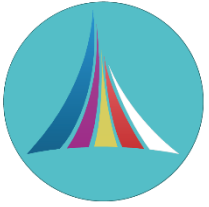
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- Aims and objectives of the research
- Research Design and Methodology
- Digital measures to the global pandemic in CAS
- National Digital Transformation Strategies
- E-Government initiatives as an effective strategy toward digital transformation
- Education during the pandemic: challenges of distance learning in CAS
- Conclusion



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ABSTRACT

The global COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the power of digital technologies and highlighted the importance of digital transformation, especially, for Central Asian States (CAS) . Digital transformation has a potential to modernize and integrate national economies of developing countries into the global economy, overcome major constraints, ensure digital upgrade and build information society for the benefit of population in post-pandemic recovery period. Under these circumstances, CAS intend to improve their digital capacity and policy reforms in order to overcome current and future challenges. In this regard, the research paper analyses digitalization policy of CAS and their digital responses to the global pandemic. The paper discusses limits and problems of hindering digital development in Central Asian region, and also presents policy recommendations to improve digital transformation of CAS and broader CAREC countries.

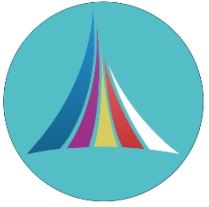


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INTRODUCTION

Aims and objectives of the research

- a) Comparative study of the current digitalization processes in CAS and
- b) National digital transformation strategies of CAS
- c) Develop policy recommendations to improve the implementation of national strategies of CAS on digitalization and ICT in post-pandemic world



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INTRODUCTION

Research Design and Methodology

The research design of the thesis applies mixed methodological approaches, qualitative and quantitative, to meet the objectives set.

Quantitatively, to assess current digital readiness and to evaluate capacity and prospects of CAS for digital transformation data from the latest United Nations E-Government Survey, including EGDI, TII, EPI have been applied.

Qualitatively, secondary sources like books, journal articles, previous research works and primary sources like national legislation, speeches, official statements, international and governmental publications have been utilized.

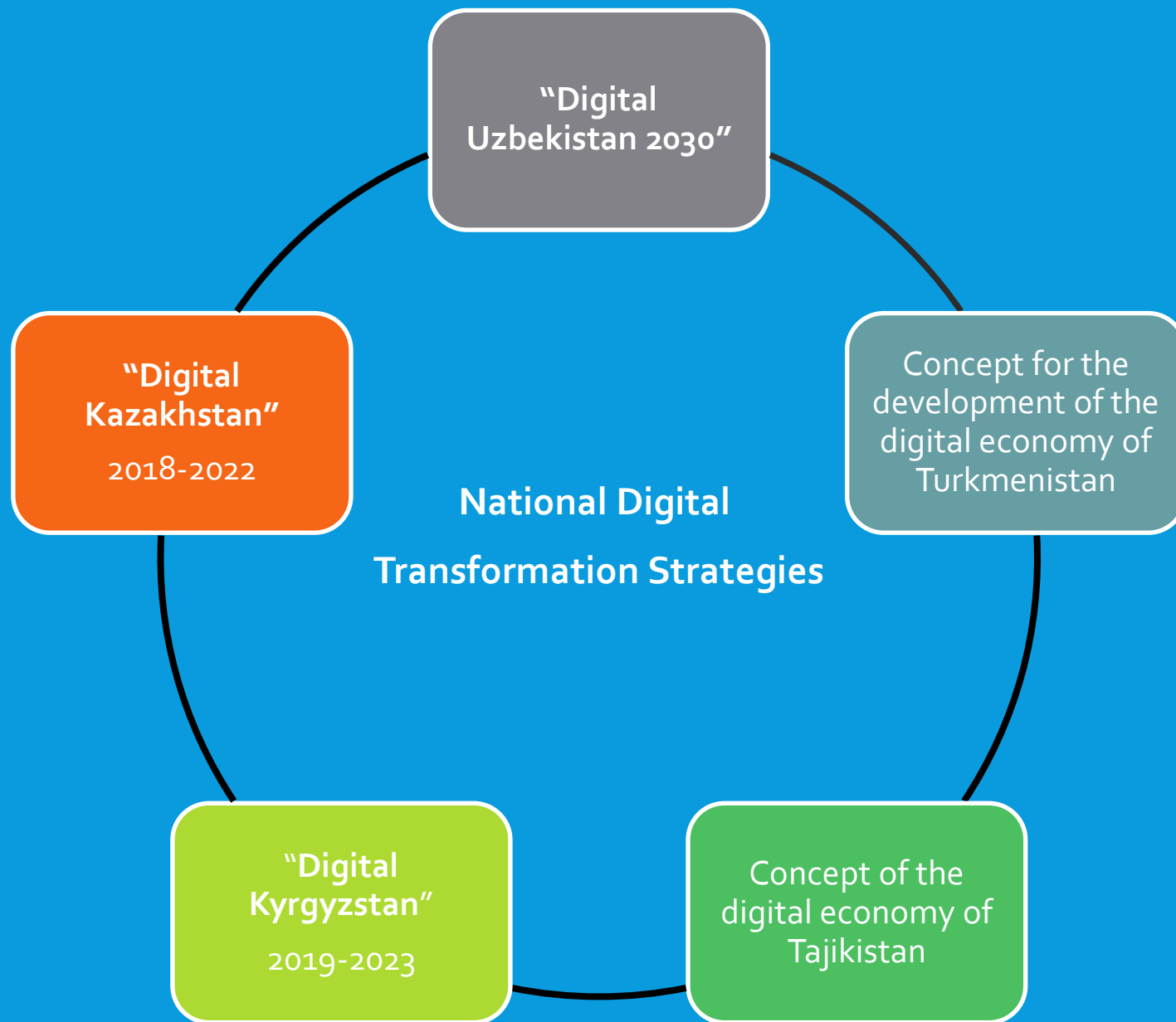


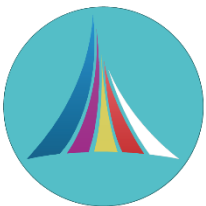
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DIGITAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19 IN CENTRAL ASIA

DIGITAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19 IN CENTRAL ASIA		KAZ	KGZ	TJK	UZB
Policies to support digital Services	Healthcare connectivity	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Public health info	✓	✓	✓	✓
	COVID-19 tracking	✓	✓*	✓	✓
	E-Learning	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Digital payments	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Telework	✓	✓	✓	
Policies to support digital infrastructure	Network expansion	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Traffic management	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Support to operators	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Reduction/Suspension of regulatory fees				✓
	Spectrum policy			✓	*
	Affordability (price, quality, coverage)		✓		✓

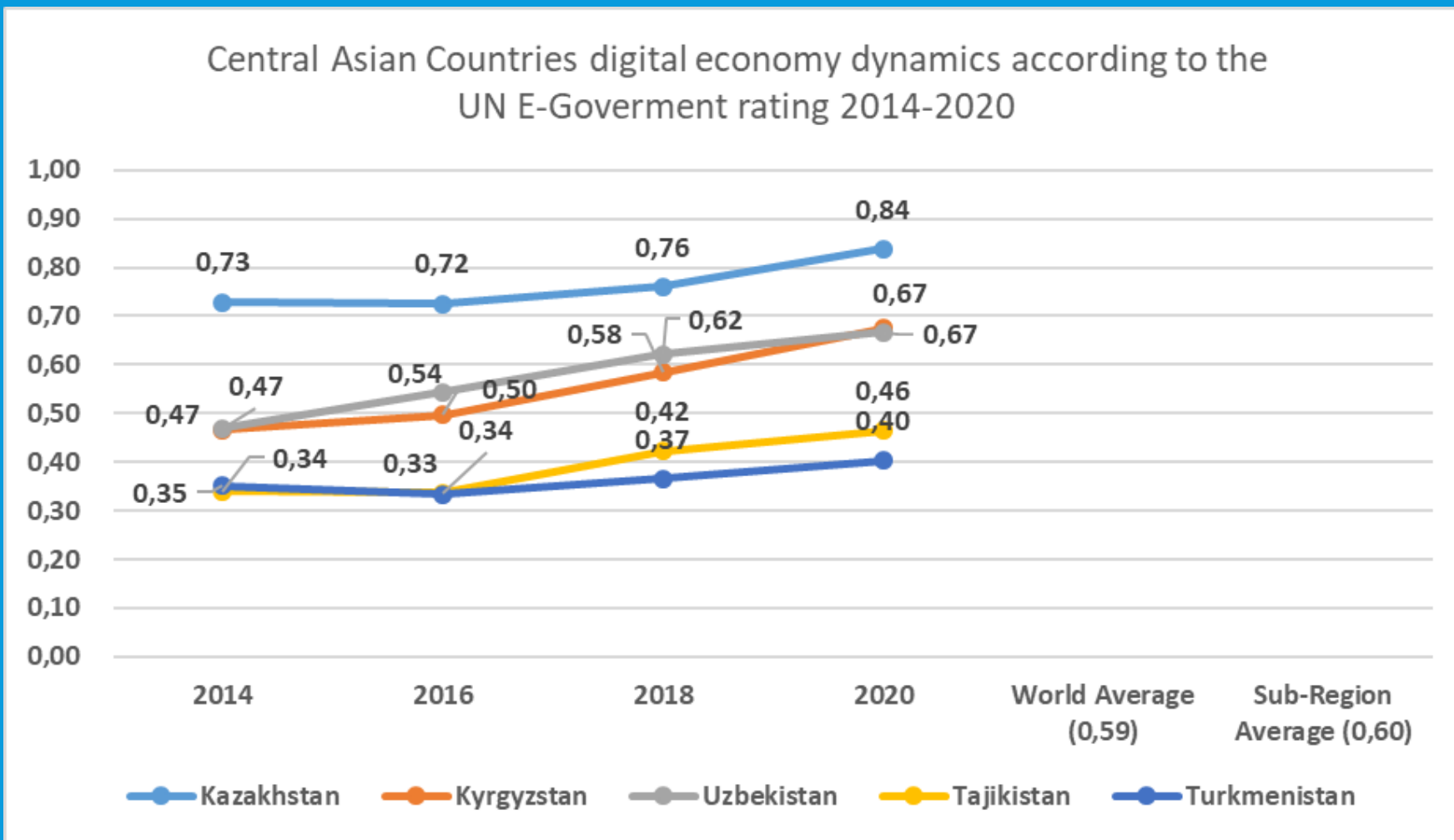
Source: World Bank Group Central Asia Online briefing “COVID-19 and the Digital Divide in Central Asia”

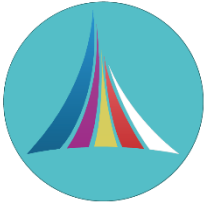




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E-GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES AS AN EFFECTIVE STRATEGY TOWARD DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION





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CONCLUSION

- The digital progress of any country is constrained by a low level of public confidence in digital documents and services, lack of highly qualified specialists in the field of digital technologies, inefficiency and insufficient government funding for digital projects.
- The digital economy and digital technologies are the driving locomotive during the crisis and structural reforms in the telecommunications sector would contribute to the accelerated development of digitalization in various areas such as education, telemedicine and employment.
- In the context of a global pandemic, the development of the digital economy and digital technologies have become the catalyst for all innovative solutions. The IT sector opens up a huge field of opportunities that need to be used for the prosperity of the nation and state.
- Expanded digitalisation and digital transformation of CAS should be the main priorities. CAS could also further support private sector's own digital transition by helping companies move toward e-commerce and by providing all possible assistance. Importantly the post-pandemic recovery plans in CAS should include support for digitalisation and digital transformation for the benefit of their population, national economy and inclusive sustainable development of the entire region.



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