

UZBEKISTAN IN MATTERS OF SOCIO-ECONOMICS - NEW PERSPECTIVES

Surayyo Mukhtarovna Usmankhodjayeva

Assistant of the Department of Management and Marketing at Al-Khorezmi University of Information Technology

[usman.surayyo@gmail.com](mailto:usman.surayyo@gmail.com),

+998983087793

**Annotation :** This article provides an overview of economic sociology using the example of the Uzbekistan, where there are unique problems associated with the transformation of socio-economic relations during the post-Soviet adaptation of the republics that were part of the Soviet Union. Social inequality, discrimination and inequality based on race, ethics, religion or gender, lack of inclusivity – these and many other social challenges and problems that our society faces require finding solutions and optimal solutions to the situation, as society and the development of society directly affect the economy of the country as a whole, the stability of society. and the quality of life of the citizens of the entire Central Asian region and each country. Social justice creates stability in market relations and promotes economic growth, and equal rights and opportunities create the necessary level of trust in society for growth and development. The article analyzes the changes that have taken place since the independence of the republics, as well as the post-pandemic period, which made significant adjustments to the lives of citizens of Central Asian countries.

**Keywords :** socio-economics, economic sociology, WTO, social services, economic integration.

Integration into the world community began in the Republic of Uzbekistan after the adoption of the status of an independent country in accordance with the resolution "On the proclamation of state independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan" and the law "On the principles of state independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan"<sup>1</sup> of August 31, 1991. And the country began a long and difficult journey to the formation of its own independence, to the search for standard and non-standard solutions to strengthen its position in the world and in the region. to economic independence from neighboring countries that were tied to each other politically and economically.

Over the 33 years of independence, a lot of work has been done to strengthen the country, Uzbekistan is successfully strengthening its position in the world, strategically developing the economy, diplomatic relations and cultural potential. The economy of Uzbekistan in 2023 grew by 6% - 1.07 quadrillion soums (about \$90.8 billion), GDP per capita increased to 28.8 million

<sup>1</sup>August

[http://iacis.ru/novosti/parlamenti/den\\_nezavisimosti\\_respubliki\\_uzbekistan\\_#:~:text=31%20%201991%20years%20on,country%20acquired%20all%20complete%20state](http://iacis.ru/novosti/parlamenti/den_nezavisimosti_respubliki_uzbekistan_#:~:text=31%20%201991%20years%20on,country%20acquired%20all%20complete%20state)

soums

(\$2468).

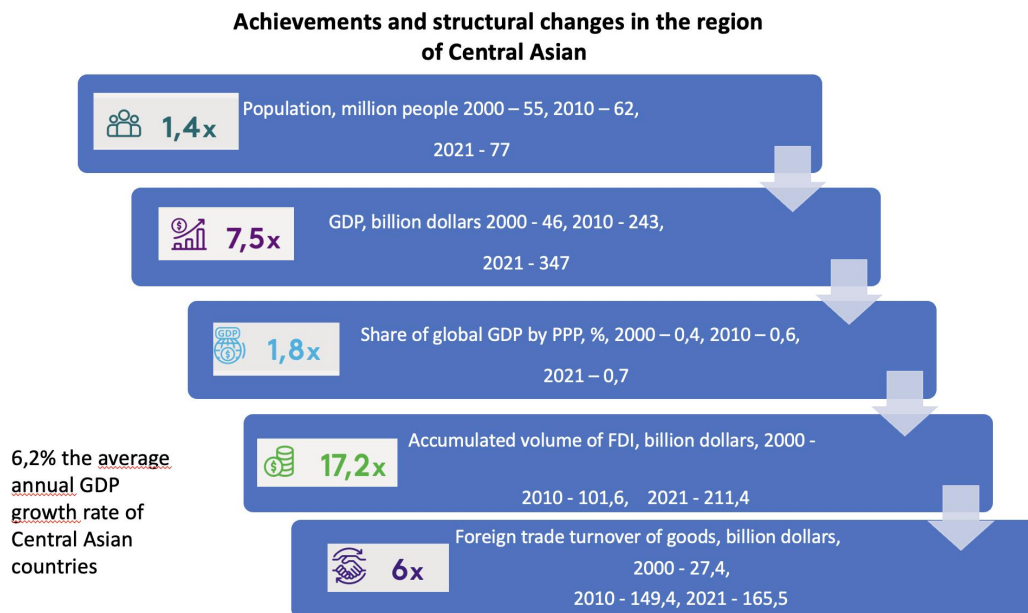


Figure 1. Achievements and Structural Changes in the Central Asian Region 2010-2021

Over the years of independence, Uzbekistan has established relations and signed credentials with more than 149 countries of the world, is a member of more than 100 international organizations, including the UN, SCO, CIS, CSTO and others. Currently, the priority task on the way to liberalization of the economy for the republic is to join the WTO (World Trade Organization), as a full member. Uzbekistan's trade turnover in 2022 reached 50.01 billion US dollars, Having increased by \$7.84 billion, or 18.6%, compared to the previous year, exports for the year increased to \$19.31 billion, or 15.9%, imports - to \$30.67 billion, or 20.4%.<sup>2</sup> Here we can cite the words of the President of Uzbekistan that "with the support of the international community, Central Asia will continue to follow the path of consolidation. The transformation of the region into a peaceful and prosperous region will remain a priority goal of Uzbekistan's foreign policy" [2]. We also cite the comment of the Director of the Institute of Eurasia of the Chinese Academy of International Affairs under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China Li Ziguo: "Since 2016, fundamental changes have taken place in Uzbekistan, which were presented in the speech of the President of Uzbekistan at the 78th session of the UN General Assembly. The leader of Uzbekistan also outlined his strategic vision of the country's policy for the coming years. In particular, the issues of promoting internal reforms and improving the national governance system, economic integration and global division of labor, early accession to the WTO, the course towards further strengthening good-neighborliness, cooperation and partnership in Central Asia were touched upon."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> <https://stat.uz/ru/press-tsentr/novosti-goskomstata/33840-o-zbekiston-respublikasi-tashqi-savdo-aylanmasi-2022-yil-yanvar-dekabr-3>

<sup>3</sup> Usmankhodjaeva Surayyo Mukhtarovna DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF UZBEKISTAN ON THE EXAMPLE OF MARKETPLACES // Raqamli iqtisodiyot (Digital economy). 2023. №5. Available at:



The cultural potential of the country is also developing rapidly - for example, the city of Shakhrisabz, located in the Kashkadarya region, in 2024 became the tourist capital of the ECO. The Great Silk Road, which gave a huge impetus to the development of Uzbekistan, enriched our country with knowledge, culture, beliefs, innovative ideas of other countries<sup>4</sup>, including 12 international conferences, forums, exhibitions, fairs, including the XII session of the Ministers of Tourism of the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the traditional forum on the theme "Crafts of the Turkic peoples", 7 international events in the field of applied arts and cinematography, including the famous XVI Tashkent Film Festival "Pearl of the Silk Road". The most famous initiative of the EU within the framework of cultural programs is a project created jointly with the film school and the FOCUS theater to teach teenagers the art of cinema. The city of Samarkand was declared the cultural capital of the Islamic world in 2025 during the 12th conference "Towards the renewal of cultural activities in the Islamic world", which was held in Qatar. Samarkand in Uzbekistan is associated with many great and famous events - it was the capital of several states, great personalities were born, lived, worked in it - Ferdowsi, Ulugbek, Babur, Amir Timur. In the Soviet years, the history of our country was distorted and partially destroyed – our language, our history and the glorious deeds of our ancestors were tried to be hushed up or, even worse, presented in a negative way. Take the example of the Emir of Turan - Amir Timur (1336-1405), who created a huge empire on the territory of more than 27 countries of the world, patronized the sciences and arts, created the "Code of Timur" - a kind of symbiosis of the theory of management and the code of laws, whose grandson and son were the smartest people - one poet, commander and statesman (Zahid ad-Din Muhammad Babur 1483-1530)<sup>5</sup>, the creator of the famous "Babur-name", treatises on Muslim jurisprudence "Mubayin", poetics "Aruz risolasi"; the second was a mathematician and astronomer, a statesman (Muhammad Taragai ibn Shahrukh ibn Timur Ulugbek Guragan, better known as Ulugbek, 1394-1449).<sup>6</sup>, Ulugh Beg's astronomical handbook was a textbook on astronomy in all existing observatories in Europe - which proves that Amir Timur encouraged the education and development of exact sciences. I have always been struck by the fact that the story of Suleiman I (1494-1566), the ruler of the Ottoman Empire, is revered and respected, no one calls him "controversial" or "bloodthirsty tyrant", although this man, in pursuit of power, gave the order to kill his own son<sup>7</sup>. The right policy, support for the history of their own country, excellent marketing have led to the fact that now Turkey and the capital Istanbul are visited by more than 50 million tourists, and 2 million of them go only to visit the legendary Topkapi<sup>8</sup>, the palace of the famous sultan. Turkey's income from tourism amounted to more than 50 billion US dollars<sup>9</sup>, and it is not difficult to calculate that the share of historical tourism is about 2 billion US dollars. For comparison, Uzbekistan in 2023 was visited by 6.6 million people, of which more than 2 million people visited Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva - the main historical cities of our country. Tourism

<https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/tsifrovaya-transformatsiya-uzbekistana-na-primere-marketpleysov> (accessed: 26.05.2024).

<sup>4</sup> <https://touristichka.ru/uzbekistan-poleznaya-informatsiya-1/kalendar-meropriyatij-2023/2page/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babur#:~:text=Zahir%2Dad%2Ddin%20Muhammad%20Babur,commander%2C%20poet%20i%20state%20figure.>

<sup>6</sup> [https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulugbek#Political\\_and\\_scientific\\_activity](https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulugbek#Political_and_scientific_activity)

<sup>7</sup> [https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suleiman\\_I](https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suleiman_I)

<sup>8</sup> <https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Topkapi>

<sup>9</sup> <https://abaidan.kz/ru/categories/turizm/turciya-zavershaet-2023-god-s-rekordnymi-pokazatelyami-turizma-2024-02-04#:~:text=How%20Announced%20Ministry%20Culture%20and,Night%20For%20Overnight%20Reached%20%2499.>

revenue amounted to \$1.72 billion. United States. In our country there is no access to the sea, there are no exotic animals and savannahs with long walks under the moon, there is no Burj al-Khalifa, but we have a history, original, beautiful and long. We have many buildings and structures that are perfectly preserved and breathe history to this day. There are frescoes, there are many scrolls, products, there are stories of people who lived, fought, created history and who need to be remembered. I would also like to separately note the topic of social tourism. Social tourism as a concept was first mentioned in the 1980 Manila Declaration on World Tourism, which states: "Social tourism is a goal that society should strive for in the interests of the less well-off citizens when they exercise their right to rest." The official website of the UN<sup>10</sup> does not give a full breakdown of the topic and does not specify which segments of the civilian population are considered the least well-off, but from this we can conclude that humanity is concerned about the situation of people who are financially incapable, as well as those who have physical disabilities, the right to rest. In the Montreal Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly of the International Bureau of Social Tourism in 1996, According to the 13th Declaration, social tourism is tourism, the purpose of which is not only to make a profit, but the main idea is that tourism is completely available on a mass scale, and not as a privilege, and only for the wealthy segments of the population. In the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 16.04.2019<sup>11</sup> "On Tourism", Chapter 2, Article 6 says: "...creation of the necessary conditions for the development of domestic tourism, including the organization of tourism and excursions for children, youth, the elderly, as well as persons with disabilities and low-income segments of the population within the framework of the development of social tourism", tourism is a direction of the economy, fully or partially financed by budgetary funds, state extra-budgetary funds (including funds allocated within the framework of state social assistance), as well as the employer's funds. That is, here we understand how you can get money for travel, and to whom it is exactly intended, for what category of people. V.A. Kwartalnov, one of the main founders of the concept of social tourism, in his article "Strategic Management in Tourism" <sup>12</sup>says that tourism is a market, but it is more correct to emphasize that this market is basically understood as a "market of good deeds". Although the profit from social services can be very tangible, which is sometimes not quite correctly perceived by our government. For example, let's take the experience of foreign countries: In some European countries, social tourism is organized by various organizations, including associations, cooperatives and trade unions, with the aim of making travel accessible to all, especially those who are less privileged. Such projects in Europe can be both international and national, a direct example of social tourism is the famous Calypso project, with a budget of 1 million euros and a duration of three years, since it was necessary to understand how justified such a project would be within the framework of the economy of the countries, in order to work out the tourism sector. The main goal of the project was to attract more citizens to tourism, to expand local, interregional and, of course, international tourism. And most importantly, it is not only about travel, but a huge role is played by the problem of maintaining health, communication between the elderly and young people, and general social integration. What is particularly important for the EU countries in the Calypso project is that people's participation in this project can strengthen their attachment to European values and

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl\\_conv/declarations/manila\\_declaration.shtml](https://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl_conv/declarations/manila_declaration.shtml)

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.lex.uz/docs/4428101>

<sup>12</sup> Kwartalnov V.A., [https://tourlib.net/books\\_tourism/kvartalnov\\_pril.htm](https://tourlib.net/books_tourism/kvartalnov_pril.htm)

traditions. The target groups of citizens in the project consisted of the elderly and pensioners, youth, disabled people and low-income families<sup>13</sup>. The main objectives of the project were:

- Identification of effective methods of stimulating tourism in the off-season;
- Development of measures at the level of European and national legislation to increase tourist exchanges among the participants of the four target groups;
- Identification of obstacles to achieving these goals and ways to overcome them.

What would the development of this project give to the countries of the European community? First of all, this is the development and growth of tourism activities, the creation of new jobs, the formation of a common consciousness among the peoples of Europe. Non-governmental organizations, travel companies were involved in the project to work with hotels, resorts and holiday homes.

If we discuss the specifics of individual countries, then we note that in France, social support for tourism is carried out by the National Agency for Holiday Cheques ANCV<sup>14</sup>. Vacation checks are not a "trade union voucher", which is strictly regulated by the place and cost of the object, but a payment check, which can be used to pay for various tourist services, such as: accommodation in accommodation facilities, meals of all kinds, you can pay for transport services, tickets for cultural events, travel agencies, visit various parks and museums. As a result, the owners of checks get the opportunity to increase the nominal value of checks by 4 times! The annual turnover of the National Agency is more than 1 billion euros, more than 3 million French citizens pay for their needs with vacation checks. The agency has more than 21,000 client organizations that finance its work and 135,000 organizations that provide services to cheque holders. Those checks that have not been claimed are shared by ANCV with various charities.

The Spanish government invests about 75 million euros in this program, but thanks to economic instruments such as VAT, personal tax, commercial and professional activities, subsidies and subsidies, the Social Tourism Program generates an annual income of 125 million euros for the country. tourism is especially valuable, because this country has clearly shown the entire world community that this topic is attractive both economically and socially – in the article by L.I. Donskova.<sup>15</sup> Studies conducted by Georgie Garcés Ferrer, Mirela Ferry Sanz, Estrella Dura Ferrandiz in the field of healthy aging, clearly showed that 2 groups of elderly people, one of which is a participant in tourism, the other is not, strikingly differed in several criteria: for example, elderly tourists have a higher level of health, integration into the community is much easier, the parameter "life satisfaction" in older people who are used to traveling, higher than in the other group that does not have the opportunity to travel. Most importantly, tourists from this group of studies have shown that they are able to perform a much better role in the activities of everyday life – that is, their cognitive and mental abilities are much higher than those of the other group of people. This is an important parameter that indicates healthy aging, which means less use of medical services. Social tourism helps to save on the consumption of medical and social

<sup>13</sup> Surayyo U. UZBEKISTAN IN THE AGE OF DIGITAL AND SOCIAL ECONOMY //Talqin va tadqiqotlar ilmiy-uslubiy jurnali. – 2024. – T. 2. – №. 15. – C. 72-80.

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.atorus.ru/news/press-centre/new/40178.html>

<sup>15</sup> Donskova L.I. Issledovanie sotsial'nogo turizma zarubezhnykh avtorov: teoriya i praktika [Study of social tourism of foreign authors: theory and practice]. 2018. №8.

services for the elderly population, which is reflected in the form of savings for existing governments and households<sup>16</sup>. Moreover, these savings are not carried out by increasing taxes and other mechanisms that irritate society, here we are talking about the triple benefit of this resource:

- Elderly people, traveling, resting in sanatoriums, hotels, visiting tours, feel better emotionally, physically and mentally, respectively, they will serve society longer and more effectively for the good;
- paying only for part of vouchers and tours, and sometimes for free, tourists of this category generate income by spending money on souvenirs, pleasant trifles, the costs of which they would not dare to spend at home;
- visiting sanatoriums, hotels and rest homes in the off-season, this group provides work for these organizations;
- It has long been known that people who travel integrate more easily into any society.

It is also worth paying special attention to social family tourism as a developing segment of the industry, and here the research in this area by Heike A. Schanzel and Jan Yeoman is interesting<sup>17</sup>, who present the results of observations of family tourism assimilated to our current realities, and presumably its appearance in the future. The one we are used to – that is, father, mother and child – can now wear a uniform – two fathers and a child, two mothers and a child, father and mother and a child whose gender has not yet been confirmed, and so on. Gender equality and a strong focus on children are changing the way travel packages and services are purchased. Naturally, such families will choose the place and destination of recreation in a familiar and convenient circle for themselves, where they will not be hung with templates and will not look at such families with their mouths open. Our country professes Islam, and the attitude of Muslims to gender equality is ambiguous, but at the same time, Uzbekistan is a modern secular country that keeps up with the times, and respect for guests and tourists has always been consistently good. Here you need to understand that guests of our country should also show respect for our traditions and religious features, as in the UAE, for example, it is forbidden to drink alcohol in public places, it is forbidden to behave provocatively in society, it is forbidden to be topless on the beaches, you cannot walk in translucent clothes, you cannot show public displays of tenderness, even if it is a husband and wife. In Spain, it is also forbidden to walk in a bathing suit outside the beach, In Bali, tourists are prohibited from entering temples and behavior that offends sacred places, in Tanzania it is forbidden to use plastic bags and pollute lakes, springs, and the sea. In Iran, women are required to wear a headscarf and cover their wrists and ankles, while men are not recommended to wear shorts and T-shirts.

There are no such restrictions for tourists in our country, except for environmental pollution, which will not be welcomed in any country, but propaganda and exposure of one's principles, which are not compatible with the principles and traditions of our country, will be condemned by society and the government. It should be understood that different views on family traditions,

<sup>16</sup> Usmanhodzhaeva S. M. DIGITAL ECONOMY AND SOCIETY–ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES // Raqamli iqtisodiyot (Digital economy). – 2024. – №. 7. P. 101-110

<sup>17</sup> Donskova L. I. EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE OF SOCIAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT (SCIENTIFIC REVIEW OF FOREIGN AUTHORS) // STANDARDIZATION AND CERTIFICATION. – 2018. – P. 277.

the form of relations, and ways of life differ greatly in different countries, but this should not prevent society from getting to know each other, visiting other countries and enjoying cultural values, communication and the development of their own cultural baggage<sup>18</sup>.

In this light, I believe that it is absolutely necessary for the government of our country to consider alternative options to encourage tourism of social groups, and not only people of the elderly segment, but also other groups in need of social assistance. Additional measures for the development of tourism were taken by the President of our country in 2023, in accordance with the Presidential Decree of 26.04.2023<sup>19</sup> "On additional measures to accelerate the development of the tourist potential of the Republic, as well as to further increase the number of local and foreign tourists". The resolution says that in order to increase the tourism potential of the regions, universities will actively carry out work on the study and promotion of tourist facilities, the application of research in practice, improving the quality of tourism services and the training of qualified personnel. From 01.05.2024 to July 1, 2024, enterprises providing tour operator services will have the opportunity to receive a 20% VAT refund through a subsidy from the republican budget on invoices for tour packages. In the tourism sector, tour operators and entrepreneurs have the opportunity to defer the payment of VAT when importing buses with 10 or more seats without accruing interest until May 1, 2026. This provides important support for the development of tourism in Uzbekistan. Within the framework of the resolution, the following documents were developed:

1. Target indicators of tourism development.
2. Work plan for road repair to ensure comfortable movement of tourists.
3. "Road maps" for solving problems arising in the field of tourism.
4. Composition of the working group on tourism development.
5. Schedule for attracting foreign tourists to increase the flow of visitors.

These measures allow the tourism sector to develop and lead to stability in the overall economy of our country<sup>20</sup>, but it is necessary to understand that social tourism in Uzbekistan is becoming an increasingly potentially profitable direction, contributing to the further development of the country's economy. Travel, visits not only to cultural sites, but also to have a good rest in sanatoriums, hotels, visits to various recreation areas, the purpose of which is to participate in charitable projects or exchange cultural experience, attract more and more foreign guests and do not leave the local population indifferent. This type of tourism can not only generate income, but also contribute to a significant improvement in the socio-economic situation of the population. Implementation of social tourism support programs in Uzbekistan can lead to long-term positive results.

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<sup>19</sup> [https://www.norma.uz/novoe\\_v\\_zakonodatelstve/utverjdeny\\_dopolnitelnye\\_mery\\_po\\_razvitiyu\\_turizma](https://www.norma.uz/novoe_v_zakonodatelstve/utverjdeny_dopolnitelnye_mery_po_razvitiyu_turizma)

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