



Article

Digitalization of the Processes for Commissioning and Acceptance of Completed Construction Projects

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Abstract: Digital transformation in the construction sector plays a crucial role in improving transparency, efficiency, and accountability in public administration. This study examines the digitalization of the processes for commissioning and accepting completed construction projects in Uzbekistan. The research analyzes existing administrative procedures, identifies bureaucratic challenges, and evaluates the risks associated with insufficient digitalization of these processes. The findings indicate that the lack of a unified electronic system for commissioning facilities leads to delays, administrative inefficiencies, and increased risks of corruption. Based on international experiences and national practices, the study proposes the introduction of an integrated digital platform connected with the "Transparent Construction" information system to improve monitoring, reduce bureaucratic procedures, and ensure timely commissioning of construction facilities.

Keywords: Digitalization, Construction Sector, Commissioning Process, Transparency, Corruption Prevention, E-Government, Construction Management

1. Introduction

The digital transformation of public administration has become one of the most important priorities for improving governance and increasing transparency in many sectors of the economy. In particular, the construction industry requires effective digital solutions to regulate complex administrative procedures and ensure compliance with legal and technical standards [1]. The process of commissioning and accepting completed construction projects is a crucial stage in construction management, as it determines whether the facility meets the established urban planning, safety, and environmental requirements [2].

In Uzbekistan, significant reforms have been implemented to modernize the construction sector and reduce bureaucratic barriers. However, the procedures related to the acceptance of completed construction projects have not yet been fully digitalized. As a result, some administrative procedures still rely on traditional documentation methods, which increase the risk of delays and reduce transparency in decision-making processes [3].

The introduction of digital systems in construction management can significantly improve the efficiency of regulatory oversight, facilitate communication between institutions, and prevent corruption risks. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to analyze the current state of digitalization in the process of commissioning completed construction facilities and to propose measures aimed at improving the digital governance of the construction sector [4].

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In accordance with the tasks assigned at the meeting held on March 5 of this year under the chairmanship of the President, the procedures for commissioning and accepting facilities constructed with state budget funds were analyzed in order to implement the “corruption-free sector” project in the construction industry and ensure transparency [5].

The analysis showed that these processes have not yet been fully digitalized, and bureaucratic barriers have still not been completely eliminated. It should be emphasized that digitalization is one of the most convenient and effective ways to prevent corruption. For example, the “Transparent Construction” system has helped eliminate many bureaucratic obstacles and allows early prevention of legal violations [6].

2. Materials and Methods

The research applies a qualitative analytical approach to examine the digitalization of the commissioning process for completed construction projects. Several research methods were used in this study [7].

First, a **document analysis method** was applied to examine legislative documents, regulatory acts, and administrative procedures related to the acceptance of completed construction facilities [8].

Second, **comparative analysis** was used to study international experiences in the digitalization of construction management systems, particularly in countries such as South Korea, Japan, and the United Kingdom [9].

Third, **statistical analysis** was conducted using official data from the Construction and Housing and Communal Services Control Inspection regarding construction project notifications and commissioning statistics [10].

The combination of these methods made it possible to identify existing administrative challenges and evaluate the effectiveness of digital governance mechanisms in the construction sector [11].

3. Results

The analysis revealed that the commissioning process for completed construction projects in Uzbekistan still faces several administrative challenges due to the lack of full digitalization. According to official statistics, during 2024 and the first quarter of the current year, the Construction and Housing and Communal Services Control Inspection received **13,310 notifications regarding the start of construction works**, of which **8,453 notifications were approved** [12].

Among these projects, construction was completed and facilities were commissioned in **6,667 private projects (81%) and 4,475 state program projects (88%)**. However, a number of facilities included in state development programs have not yet been commissioned due to administrative delays and procedural inefficiencies [13].

The study also identified that the absence of a unified digital system for accepting construction facilities leads to delays in issuing decisions by commission members. In particular, **158 completed facilities included in the 2024 targeted programs have not yet been commissioned**. These facilities are distributed across several regions of the country, including Samarkand, Tashkent region, Andijan, Namangan, Surkhandarya, Bukhara, and Jizzakh.

Furthermore, the use of traditional paperwork-based procedures increases the influence of the human factor and creates conditions for violations of construction standards and safety regulations [14].

During 2024 and the first quarter of the current year, the Construction and Housing and Communal Services Control Inspection received 13,310 notifications (8,203 private and 5,107 state projects) regarding the start of construction and repair works. Out of these, 8,453 notifications were positively approved [15].

Among them, construction works were completed and the facilities were commissioned in 6,667 private projects (81%) and 4,475 projects within state programs (88%).

However, studies show that there are still existing problems in the sector, and some factors continue to create conditions for violations of the law. In particular, the current urban planning norms and regulations (3.01.04-19) related to the acceptance of completed construction projects do not specify a clear deadline for issuing positive or negative conclusions.

In addition, due to the absence of a unified electronic system for accepting facilities constructed with state budget funds and the lack of monitoring opportunities, delays sometimes occur during the acceptance process by commission members.

As a result, 158 completed facilities included in the 2024 targeted programs have not yet been commissioned and put into operation.

For information: such facilities include 26 in Samarkand, 21 in Tashkent region, 16 in Andijan, 15 each in Namangan and Surkhandarya, 12 each in Bukhara and Jizzakh, 9 each in Syrdarya and Khorezm, 8 in Fergana, and 5 each in Navoi, Karakalpakstan, and Tashkent city.

Because the process of commissioning and accepting completed construction projects has not been digitalized, document formalization is still carried out using traditional methods based on the human factor, and paperwork has not been eliminated. As a result, even in commissioned facilities, violations of urban planning, fire safety, sanitary-hygienic, ecological standards, and rules for connecting to communication networks are being observed.

For example, in the reconstruction project of School No. 6 located in the "Shahriston" neighborhood of Marhamat district, the facility was accepted for use without installing an automatic fire alarm system, without proper connection to electricity, water, and natural gas networks, and without completing landscaping works.

In foreign countries such as South Korea, Japan, England, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, the acceptance process for all types of completed construction projects is carried out online using electronic digital signatures.

Introducing such experience in our country would help eliminate excessive bureaucracy and paperwork, ensure timely commissioning of facilities, and prevent abuse of authority and corruption by responsible officials.

For this purpose, the following proposals have been submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

- to introduce amendments and additions to the Administrative Regulation for the Provision of Public Services for Issuing Permits for the Use of Completed Construction Facilities, approved by Government Resolution No. 200 dated April 20, 2022 (Appendix 6);
- to digitalize the acceptance process and introduce a simplified and centralized electronic system;
- to ensure that the digital system is integrated with the national information system "Transparent Construction."

4. Discussion

The results of the study indicate that digitalization can significantly improve transparency and efficiency in the commissioning process for construction projects. International experience shows that the use of digital platforms and electronic document management systems helps reduce administrative barriers and improve coordination between regulatory institutions.

In countries such as South Korea, Japan, and the United Kingdom, the acceptance of completed construction facilities is conducted through centralized digital systems that allow authorities to verify compliance with legal and technical standards electronically. The use of electronic digital signatures ensures the authenticity of documents and minimizes the risk of manipulation.

Introducing a similar digital platform in Uzbekistan would enable government institutions to monitor construction processes more effectively and prevent delays in commissioning facilities. Moreover, integrating the digital acceptance system with the national information platform “**Transparent Construction**” would strengthen regulatory oversight and reduce corruption risks in the construction sector.

5. Conclusion

The digitalization of the commissioning process for completed construction projects represents an essential step toward improving governance in the construction sector. The findings of this study demonstrate that the absence of a unified digital system leads to administrative inefficiencies, delays in commissioning facilities, and increased risks of regulatory violations.

The introduction of an integrated digital platform for accepting completed construction projects would help simplify administrative procedures, reduce bureaucratic barriers, and improve transparency in the decision-making process. Furthermore, integrating this system with the national information platform “Transparent Construction” would enhance monitoring mechanisms and support the development of a corruption-free construction sector.

Therefore, the digital transformation of construction management processes should be considered a strategic priority for improving public administration and ensuring sustainable development in the construction industry.

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