



Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovations of Uzbekistan

Transforming Higher Education for a Sustainable Future

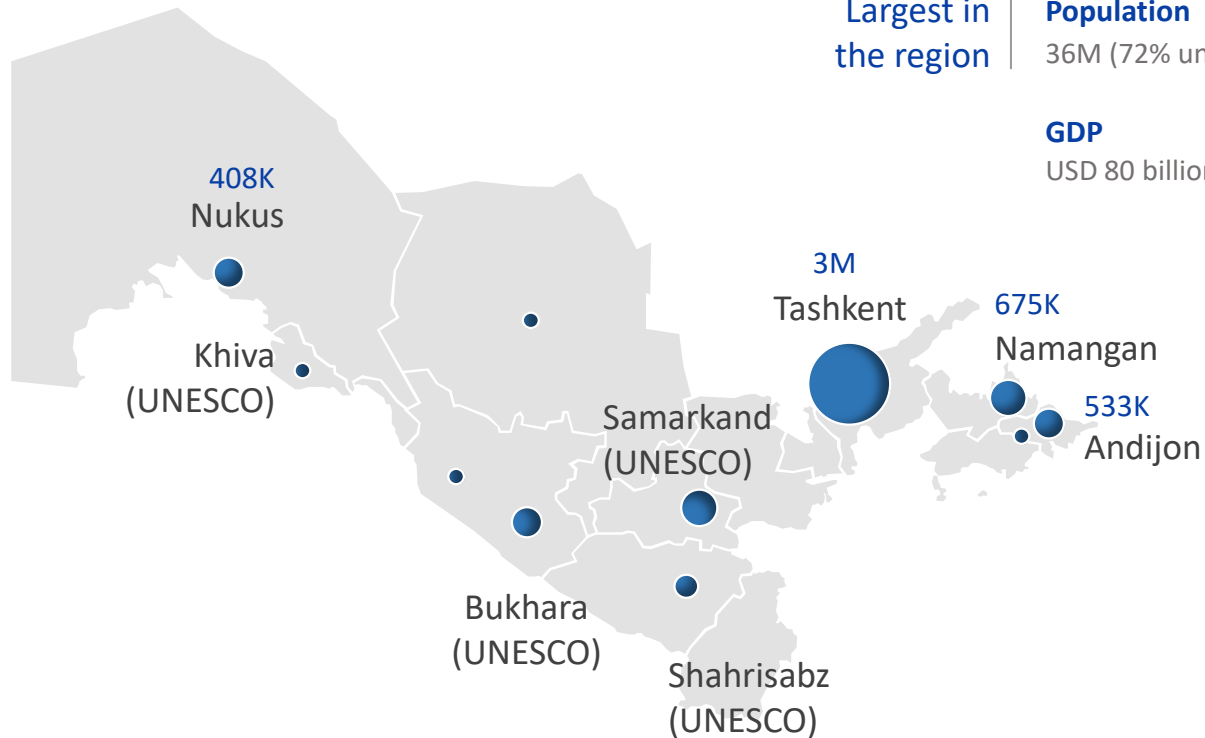
IREG Conference-2023



Background information on Uzbekistan



Uzbekistan map



● XX size of population

Key information

Comparable to Spain
or California

Area

448,978 sq. km

Largest in
the region

Population

36M (72% under 40)

GDP

USD 80 billion

Capital

Tashkent
(3M – projection data)

Urbanization

~50%

Languages

Uzbek (official), Russian
(commonly used)

Political system

Presidential multi-party
democratic republic

- Uzbekistan is a double landlocked country
- Literacy rate in Uzbekistan: 98%



Importance of Higher Education for Uzbekistan's development

- Higher education plays a critical role in Uzbekistan's economic and social development.
- It is a key driver of innovation, human capital development, and international competitiveness.
- Uzbekistan has set ambitious goals for expanding access to higher education (up to 50% by 2026) and improving the quality of teaching and research.



Overview of Higher Education in Uzbekistan

- Higher education in Uzbekistan has a long history, dating back to the medieval period (first University in Samarkand established 600 years ago).
- In the Soviet era, higher education was highly centralized and focused on technical and scientific disciplines.
- Since 2017 Uzbekistan embarked on a period of significant expansion of higher education, with a focus on increasing access and diversity of programs.



Recent Reforms in Higher Education

- In 2020, Uzbekistan passed a new “Law on education”, which aims to modernize the sector and align it with international best practices;
- Long-term (2030) Higher Education Sector development Concept was approved;
- The law introduces new standards and criteria for quality assurance, accreditation, and evaluation of higher education institutions and programs;



Priorities and goals of the reform agenda

- The reform agenda focuses on five main priorities: improving the quality of teaching and research, expanding access to higher education, strengthening governance and management, and enhancing internationalization, greater academic and financial autonomy;
- The ultimate goal of the reforms is to create a modern, efficient, and competitive higher education system that meets the needs of Uzbekistan's economy and society.



Priorities and goals of the reform agenda

- Key priority is the expansion of access to higher education. This is seen as critical for promoting social mobility, enhancing human capital development, and ensuring that all citizens have an opportunity to pursue their educational and career aspirations;
- Access to higher education, especially for underserved populations and disadvantaged groups.
- To achieve this goal: the introduction of new scholarships and grants, the expansion of distance learning programs, and the establishment of new institutions in remote and underserved areas.



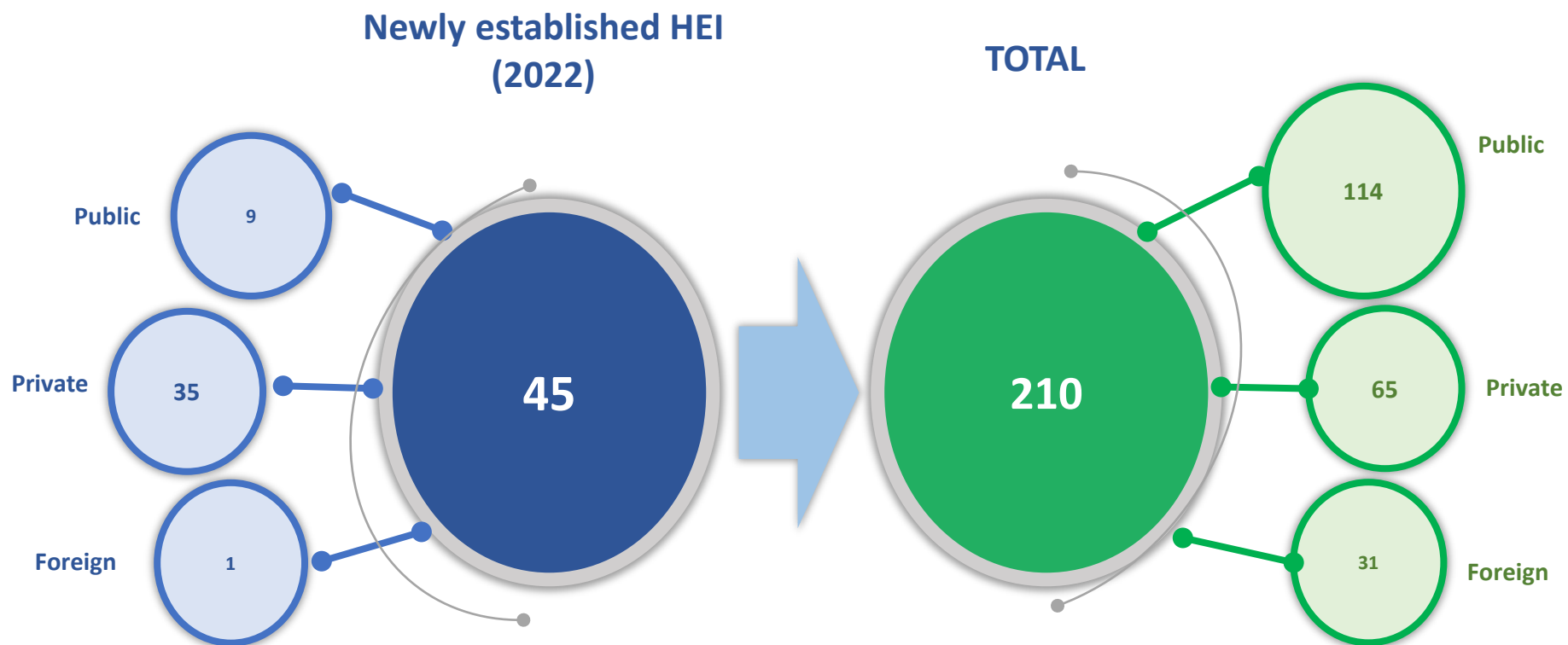
Current state of higher education in Uzbekistan

- Uzbekistan has over 210 higher education institutions, including universities and institutes.
- The majority of students are enrolled in public institutions (114), with a growing private sector (65).
- Over 1.1 mln students;
- The quality of teaching and research varies widely across institutions and disciplines.



Current state of higher education in Uzbekistan

Number of HEI





Improvements to the quality of teaching and research

- The reforms include a range of measures to improve the quality of teaching and research, including the development of new curricula, the introduction of modern teaching methods and technologies, and the promotion of research excellence and innovation;
- The reforms also aim to enhance the professional development of faculty and staff and to create a more conducive environment for academic freedom and autonomy;



Internationalization of higher education

- The reforms aim to enhance the internationalization of higher education in Uzbekistan, including the promotion of international collaboration, student and faculty mobility, and the recognition of foreign qualifications;
- Over 30 international campuses are based in Uzbekistan;
- This is seen as critical for enhancing the quality and competitiveness of higher education in Uzbekistan, as well as for promoting cultural exchange and global understanding.



Challenges and remaining issues

- The need for continued investment in infrastructure and human resources, the need for greater transparency and accountability, and the need for stronger links between higher education, industry and the labor market;
- Concerns about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the reforms.

Images of Uzbekistan





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Thank you for your attention!