

PROJECT PROPOSAL

A NEW ECOSYSTEM TO STANDARDIZE PRIMARY TEXTBOOKS ON GENERAL SUBJECTS IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This project aims to reform the textbook creation and publication process in Uzbekistan's public education system by developing and implementing state standards that ensure quality, diversity, and equitable access to educational resources. The proposed ecosystem will incorporate best practices from leading countries, establish a competitive and transparent framework for publishers, and elevate the overall quality of textbooks in alignment with global educational standards.

2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Currently, Uzbekistan's textbook publication system is dominated by a single publisher that wins the state tender. This situation leads to:

- Lack of diversity in textbooks.
- Limited competition, discouraging innovation and quality improvements.
- Restricted access for publishers who may have better expertise or resources.
- An absence of standardized criteria for creating textbooks based on pedagogical and educational excellence.

These issues hinder the country's ability to provide world-class education and adversely affect students' learning outcomes.

3. OBJECTIVES

Within this project proposal, we aim to create a research framework in order to:

- Develop a comprehensive state standard for the creation of primary textbooks.
- Establish a competitive and transparent tendering process for publishers.
- Foster diversity and innovation in educational resources.
- Incorporate international best practices into textbook creation and evaluation.
- Ensure alignment of textbooks with the national curriculum and global educational benchmarks.

4. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

4.1 Research Phase:

1. Conduct a comparative study of textbook publication standards and ecosystems in leading countries (e.g., Finland, Singapore, South Korea, Germany, and the USA).
2. Identify key criteria for quality textbook creation, including:
 - Content accuracy and relevance.
 - Alignment with curriculum standards.
 - Pedagogical and methodological soundness.
 - Inclusivity and accessibility.
3. Engage with local and international experts in education, publishing, and policy development.

4.2 Development Phase:

1. Draft a state standard for textbook creation, covering:
 - Curriculum alignment.
 - Minimum quality and accessibility requirements.
 - Criteria for visual design and age-appropriate content.
 - Evaluation metrics and review processes.
2. Develop a legal framework to regulate the competitive bidding process for textbook publishing.
3. Create guidelines for a diversified textbook market, encouraging multiple publishers to participate.

4.3 Implementation Phase:

1. Launch a pilot program to test the new standards and processes with selected publishers.
2. Train educators, authors, and publishers on the new standards and evaluation criteria.
3. Establish a review and feedback mechanism to refine the standards based on pilot results.

4.4 Monitoring and Evaluation Phase:

1. Monitor the adoption of the new standards across all schools.
2. Conduct regular evaluations of textbook quality and diversity.
3. Develop annual reports on the performance of the textbook ecosystem.

5. STAKEHOLDERS

- Ministry of Public Education
- National Center for Educational Standards and Testing
- Local and international publishers
- Educators, authors, and curriculum developers
- Parent and student advocacy groups
- International organizations and educational consultants

6. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Creation of a state standard for high-quality textbook development.
- Increased competition among publishers, fostering innovation and quality improvement.
- A diverse range of textbooks that meet the needs of students and teachers.
- Improved educational outcomes through better-aligned and high-quality resources.

7. BUDGET AND FUNDING

Funding requirements will include:

- Research and development of state standards: \$500,000
- Training and capacity-building programs: \$300,000
- Implementation of pilot projects: \$200,000
- Monitoring and evaluation systems: \$150,000
- Total Estimated Budget: \$1,150,000
- Potential funding sources:
 - Government allocations.
 - Grants from international educational organizations (e.g., UNESCO, UNICEF).
 - Public-private partnerships with publishers and educational NGOs.

8. TIMELINE

1. Research Phase: 6 months
2. Development Phase: 6 months
3. Implementation Phase: 12 months
4. Monitoring and Evaluation Phase: Ongoing

9. RISKS AND MITIGATION

- **Resistance from the existing dominant publisher:**

Mitigated by stakeholder engagement and transparent communication.

- **Delays in legal framework development:**

Addressed by involving legal experts from the start.

- **Low adoption by publishers:**

Incentivized through competitive grants and recognition programs.

10. CONCLUSION

Implementing a standardized, competitive, and transparent ecosystem for textbook publication in Uzbekistan is vital for enhancing the quality of public education. By learning from leading countries and fostering an open market, this project aims to ensure that students and teachers have access to world-class educational resources, ultimately contributing to the country's social and economic development.

REFERENCES

Singaporean Practice

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/313246274 Principles and processes for publishing textbooks and alignment with standards A case in Singapore](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/313246274_Principles_and_processes_for_publishing_textbooks_and_alignment_with_standards_A_case_in_Singapore)

Finland Practice

https://www.educationfinland.fi/sites/default/files/2019-11/finfo_education_in_finland_en.pdf

South Korean Practice

<https://www.nl.go.kr/EN/contents/EN30401000000.do>

The USA Practice

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/3445163>

The UK Practice

<https://www.oup.com.au/higher-education/publish-with-us/how-a-textbook-is-made>

General

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Wikibooks:Textbook_standards