



LEGAL BASIS AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE OF CRAFTSMANSHIP DEVELOPMENT IN UZBEKISTAN

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Article history:	Abstract:
Received: 10 th October 2025 Accepted: 8 th November 2025	The formation of small businesses in Uzbekistan was accompanied by the development of a diversified economy, the transformation of a significant part of it into a form of private property. The reason is that it was impossible to create a truly competitive economic environment in Uzbekistan without fundamentally changing property relations. It was necessary to train craftsmen to work according to world standards. It became an urgent issue to rid the population of Uzbekistan, especially young people, of the spirit of dependency, and to awaken in them a business passion. As a result of measures aimed at developing national crafts in Uzbekistan, in 2016-2021 the number of craftsmen engaged in craft activities increased by 7 times, and the number of apprentices receiving training under their hands increased by 9 times, and the number of people working in it reached 230 thousand people. A national catalog of folk applied arts of craftsmen was created, and 340 masters were included in it. In addition, about 1.5 thousand artisans were included in the tourism register.
Keywords: national crafts, Hunarmand Association, development, food, clothing, household goods, housing.	

INTRODUCTION. By the end of the 1980s, the entire Soviet region was facing a deep social and economic crisis. It became difficult to provide the population with food, clothing, household goods, and housing. The problem of unemployment was especially acute in Uzbekistan. After all, the cotton monopoly that had dominated the republic's economy for many years did not allow the development of other sectors of the national economy. As of January 1, 1986, the population of Uzbekistan was 18,487 thousand people. Of these, 10,742 thousand or 59.1% lived in rural areas, and 7,745 thousand people or 41.9% lived in cities. The population of Surkhandarya region was 1,133 thousand, of which 910 thousand or 80.4% lived in rural areas, and 223 thousand, or 19.6%, lived in cities. Of the 1,444,000 inhabitants of Kashkadarya, 1,079,000, or 74.7%, lived in rural areas, and 365,000, or 25.3%, in urban areas. [1.6-7.] Given that the majority of the population in the southern regions of the republic lives in rural areas, it is clear that a large part of the social problems also fall on the villages.

In Uzbekistan, eliminating unemployment and ensuring employment have become urgent tasks. For this, it was necessary to establish small and medium-sized businesses. That is why the government of Uzbekistan has begun to determine the legal status of businessmen.

Legal acts related to private entrepreneurship in Uzbekistan, including crafts, can be conditionally divided into three groups. These include:

1. Laws adopted by the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Supreme Council in 1990-1994);
2. Decrees and resolutions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
3. Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The laws adopted in the 1990s are of great importance in analyzing the efforts to develop private entrepreneurship. In particular, the Law "On Property", adopted on October 31, 1990, established the inviolability of property and the right of every person to be an owner. The law also recognized property rights and noted their protection by law. [2.]

The Decrees and Resolutions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan play a special role in changing the attitude of the population towards private property and in forming a sense of ownership of property. For example, the Decree No. PF-745 of January 21, 1994 "On measures to further deepen economic reforms, protect the interests of private property and develop entrepreneurship" made a fundamental turning point in the development of private property. This decree outlined measures to transfer property from state ownership to private property, and to establish real



estate and republican stock exchanges. Also, in accordance with this Decree, customs duties were removed from all goods imported into Uzbekistan by businessmen until July 1, 1995. [3]

In coordinating the activities of craftsmen in Uzbekistan, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan № PF-1741 dated March 31, 1997 "On measures to provide state support for the further development of folk artistic crafts and applied arts" was of great importance. In particular, it was indicated that it was necessary to provide folk craftsmen who produce high-quality artistic products at home with raw materials and equipment, to organize a network of specialized stores for the sale of finished products, and to create conditions for young people to study in the field of crafts. In addition, 150 million soums were allocated for the activities of the Republican "Hunarmand" association. [4]

In subsequent years, support for craftsmen was raised to the level of state policy. For example, according to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan № PF-3983 dated April 1, 2008 "On additional measures to stimulate the development of folk crafts and applied arts", individuals working individually in the production of folk crafts and applied arts at home were exempted from tax payments until April 1, 2010. [5]

As a result of measures aimed at developing national crafts in Uzbekistan, the number of craftsmen engaged in craft activities increased by 7 times in 2016-2021, and the number of apprentices receiving training under their guidance increased by 9 times, reaching 230 thousand people. A national catalog of folk crafts was created, in which 340 craftsmen were included. In addition, about 1.5 thousand craftsmen were included in the tourism register.

MATERIALS AND METHODS. The formation of small businesses in Uzbekistan was carried out in conjunction with the development of a diversified economy, the transformation of a significant part of it into a form of private property. The reason is that it was impossible to create a truly competitive economic environment in Uzbekistan without fundamentally changing property relations. It was necessary to train craftsmen to work according to world standards. It became an urgent issue to rid the population of Uzbekistan, especially young people, of the spirit of dependency, and to awaken in them a business spirit.

In 1993, when the Sherabad Ceramics Factory was transformed into a joint-stock company, work began to flourish. The factory began to produce about 30 ceramic products. 15 young artists were employed here. They

were mentored by Kudrat Akhrorov, a member of the Artists' Union of Uzbekistan. The "Nilufar", "Zilola", "Sovga" plates, "Jayhun", "At-Termiziy" vases polished by young people were purchased with particular interest by foreign tourists. [6] In the same year, about 25 million soums worth of products were sold. Ceramic products made at the factory participated in various exhibitions held in countries such as England, Japan, and China. [7]

In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan № PF-4210 dated March 30, 2010 "On further support for the development of folk crafts and applied arts", consistent efforts have been made in our country to develop the industry. [8] As stipulated in this legal document, district branches of the "Hunarmand" association were established in Surkhandarya region. These branches have managed to support family entrepreneurship and thereby create new jobs. In particular, in January-April 2011, banks allocated loans in the amount of 4.6 billion soums to develop women's entrepreneurship and crafts. The result was as expected. 1432 jobs created in the region under the employment program were due to family business and crafts. [9.12]

In the conditions of the new Uzbekistan, the activities of young craftsmen are becoming increasingly prominent. Among them, Maftuna Azizova, after graduating from the Boysun Agro-Industrial Vocational College in 2012, began working as an individual craftsman. She was engaged in weaving national carpets and made a name for herself. Currently, she employs 20 rural youth. In 2018, the carpets woven by M. Azizova and the national costumes sewn by her were awarded the "Quality Mark" by UNESCO. Now the craftswoman can participate in international exhibitions and competitions with this "Quality Mark". On her initiative, the "Young Craftsmen" school was established in the Boysun district in 2018. Maftuna Azizova's services were recognized by the state and in 2018, by Presidential Decree, she was awarded the "Shuhrat" medal. [10]

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Conclusion. The development of national crafts in Uzbekistan has become one of the important directions of state policy during the years of independence. Legal and regulatory documents aimed at the formation of private ownership, support for small business and family entrepreneurship have created a solid foundation for the consistent development of the craft sector. Presidential decrees and Government resolutions have provided tax incentives, loans, infrastructural and organizational conditions for craftsmen.

As a result of the measures taken, a sharp increase in the number of craftsmen, the creation of new jobs, and the employment of youth and women have been achieved. In particular, in the Surkhandarya and Kashkadarya regions, regional economic activity based on crafts has increased, and the opportunities for preserving national cultural heritage and folk applied arts and exporting them to the world market have expanded.

The legal framework and state support for the development of crafts in Uzbekistan serve as an important factor in ensuring the sustainable development of this sector, increasing the well-being of the population, and preserving national values.

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