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**Media policy of Kazakhstan: digital inequality or progress?**

**Abstract**

In the framework of the “Digital Kazakhstan” State Program, it is planned to increase gradually the level of digital literacy of the population to 83% by 2022. Would that be enough to reduce the level of the digital divide in society? Unfortunately, the gap between the spread of new technologies and the benefits that they can give to society is still great. It influences the pace of development of the economy, education, health care, government agencies, small and medium businesses and the quality of life of citizens. The development of new technologies in the media industry of Kazakhstan should be considered in three periods. The first period, from the 90s to the 2000s as the period of the emergence of the Internet in the country, joining American satellites like Intelsat, access to world media. The second period from 2000 to the year 2011 the launch of its own satellites “Kazsat”, the active development of the Internet, the emergence of Kazakh-language content on social networks; the number of Internet users in Kazakhstan has increased from 70 thousand to 2.3 million people. The third period from 2011 to the present. A state-of-the-art Kazmedia center was opened, a transition to digital broadcasting is underway, traditional media newspapers, radio, and television are switching to an online standard.

The purpose of this article is to show what has been done in Kazakhstan to overcome the digital inequality, and what measures have been taken by the state to implement the Digital Kazakhstan-2020 program, media policy of Kazakhstan.

The author shall monitor and review different sectors of the economy that are being digitalized, but the main focus of the research will be on media and communication sphere.

Research method – a survey of the population, as well as monitoring the activities and implementation of the state program in the regions and major cities of the country. As a result, the author will be able to name the factors influencing the digital divide and issues slowing down the development of different spheres including media in Kazakhstan.

**Keywords: digital divide, Kazakhstan, Internet, media, new media, inequality.**