



Informal Cross-Border Trade in ECOWAS Region: Implications for Regional Integration in Morocco

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Abstract

Informal cross-border trade (ICT) in the ECOWAS region has significant implications for regional integration efforts, particularly when considering the case of Morocco. The research employs a qualitative approach to explore ICT dynamics and their influence on regional integration, focusing on Morocco's role in this context. A notable finding is that informal border crossings account for approximately 20% of total cross-border trade volumes, highlighting the substantial economic significance of unregulated trade routes. The study concludes by emphasising the need to integrate regulatory frameworks with existing trade practices to enhance regional integration and economic stability in Morocco and ECOWAS. Recommendations include developing harmonized border management policies and fostering dialogue among stakeholders to address challenges associated with informal trade.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, Regionalism, Mercosur, Globalisation, Informality, Integration, Migration*

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