



Regional Economic Blocs in Africa: A Comparative Study in Guinea-Bissau's Context

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Abstract

Regional economic blocs play a pivotal role in Africa's development landscape, offering strategies for regional integration and economic growth. Guinea-Bissau, as a small coastal nation, exemplifies the challenges and opportunities presented by such blocs. Qualitative research methods were employed, including semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders such as government officials, private sector representatives, and civil society organizations. Secondary data from official reports and academic journals was also utilised to enrich the analysis. Key themes emerged in the study include Guinea-Bissau's strategic location facilitating trade through regional blocs, the necessity for tailored integration strategies, and the need for enhanced economic diversification to mitigate dependency on major bloc members. The findings highlight the importance of customized membership within regional blocs for optimal economic benefits while addressing potential vulnerabilities. Recommendations focus on fostering a more inclusive and resilient economic environment. Developing a comprehensive integration strategy that balances participation in multiple blocs with local needs, enhancing trade facilitation infrastructure, and promoting economic diversification are recommended steps.

Keywords: *Regional Integration, Economic Geography, Sub-Saharan Africa, Mercosur Model, Development Strategies, African Continental Free Trade Area, Comparative Analysis*

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