



# Informal Cross-Border Trade Dynamics within ECOWAS Regional Integration in Nigeria: A Theoretical Framework

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## Abstract

Informal cross-border trade (ICT) within ECOWAS has emerged as a significant phenomenon in Nigeria's regional integration efforts. A qualitative analysis will be employed to explore existing literature and expert opinions on Nigerian ICT patterns and their implications for regional economic development. This framework underscores the need for policy interventions to formalize and regulate ICT within ECOWAS, thereby enhancing regional economic integration. Theoretical recommendations include fostering closer collaboration between Nigerian and ECOWAS regulatory bodies to streamline trade procedures and reduce compliance costs.

**Keywords:** *Sub-Saharan, African, Ethnicity, Dual-Economy, SocialCapital, Cross-National, Migration, InformalSector*

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