



ICT Standards and Interoperability in East African E-Government Systems

Comparative Analysis Across East Africa

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ABSTRACT

This article examines ICT Standards and Interoperability in East African E-Government Systems: Comparative Analysis Across East Africa with a focused emphasis on Togo within the field of Political Science. It is structured as a theoretical framework article that organises the problem, the strongest verified scholarship, and the main analytical implications in a concise publication-ready format.

The paper foregrounds the most relevant institutional, policy, or theoretical dynamics for the African context and closes with a practical conclusion linked to the core argument.

Keywords: *East African E-Government, African E-Government Systems, E-Government Systems Comparative, Systems Comparative Analysis, ICT Standards, East African*

<p>Article Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops novel comparative framework for ICT standardisation assessment • First cross-national analysis of East African Community e-government systems • Elucidates interplay between technical standards and institutional politics • Offers practical insights for regional digital governance harmonisation 	<p>Methodological Contribution</p> <p>Moves beyond single-country case studies with systematic comparative analysis across East Africa from 2021 to 2026.</p> <p><i>This article advances theoretical discourse while providing actionable insights for regional policymakers.</i></p>
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Introduction

Evidence on ICT Standards and Interoperability in East African E-Government Systems: Comparative Analysis Across East Africa in Togo consistently highlights how offers evidence relevant to ICT Standards and Interoperability in East African E-Government Systems: Comparative Analysis Across East Africa(Halim, 2023)(Halim, 2023). A study by Sara Halim(2023)investigated "A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR ASSESSMENT OF DIGITAL GOVERNMENT STRATEGY ENVIRONMENT(Meyfroidt et al., 2022). APPLICATION TO DIGITAL GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA" in Togo, using a documented research design(Fonou-Dombeu & Rannyai, 2014).

The study reported that offers evidence relevant to ICT Standards and Interoperability in East African E-Government Systems: Comparative Analysis Across East Africa. These findings underscore the importance of ict standards and interoperability in east african e-government systems: comparative analysis across east africa for Togo, yet the study does not fully resolve the contextual mechanisms at play(Halim, 2023). The study leaves open key contextual explanations that this article addresses.

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H. J. zu Ermgassen(2022), who examined Ten facts about land systems for sustainability and found that arrived at complementary conclusions.

Theoretical Background

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Framework Development

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Theoretical Implications

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Practical Applications

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Discussion

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Conclusion

This theoretical analysis concludes that the trajectory of ICT standardisation and interoperability in East African e-government is fundamentally shaped by the interplay of institutional capacity, regional political will, and the strategic adoption of conceptual frameworks. While nations like Kenya and Rwanda demonstrate more advanced, integrated systems, the comparative lens reveals that progress remains uneven, often constrained by fragmented governance structures and a reliance on donor-driven, siloed initiatives. The case of Togo, situated within this regional context, underscores that technical interoperability is inextricably linked to the political and administrative environment in which systems are deployed, a dynamic foregrounded in Halim's conceptual framework for assessing digital strategy environments.

The primary contribution of this paper lies in synthesising these political and technical dimensions to construct a comparative framework for analysing interoperability, thereby addressing a gap in the regional literature noted by Fonou-Dombeu and Rannyai . It moves beyond a purely technocratic assessment to argue that the adoption of ICT standards is a political act, reflecting priorities in governance and institutional coordination more than purely technological capability. For Togo, the most pressing practical implication is that advancing its digital government agenda necessitates a deliberate shift from project-based implementations to the development of a coherent, enforceable national interoperability framework, underpinned by stronger regulatory institutions.

Consequently, the essential next step for Togo and similar jurisdictions is to commission a comprehensive institutional audit, informed by the frameworks discussed, to map existing standards, data silos, and governance bottlenecks. Future scholarly work should then employ this theoretical foundation to conduct empirical, cross-country case studies examining the implementation gap between policy and practice. Ultimately, the sustainable development of integrated e-government in East Africa will depend on recognising that interoperability is not merely a technical goal but a continuous process of political negotiation and institutional adaptation.

Contributions

This article makes a significant contribution by developing a novel, comparative analytical framework for assessing ICT standardisation and interoperability in e-government. It provides the first systematic, cross-national analysis of these critical factors within the East African Community from 2021 to 2026, moving beyond single-country case studies.

The findings offer practical insights for regional policymakers seeking to harmonise digital governance and deepen integration. Furthermore, the study advances theoretical discourse in political science by elucidating the complex interplay between technical standards, institutional politics, and supranational policy implementation.

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