



# Informal Cross-Border Trade Networks within ECOWAS: An Action Research Study in Togo,

Bamogo Agbegnou<sup>1</sup>, Akwassie Abanaace<br<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Lomé

<sup>2</sup> Department of Research, University of Lomé

<sup>3</sup> Department of Advanced Studies, University of Kara

**Published:** 10 November 2001 | **Received:** 11 August 2001 | **Accepted:** 09 October 2001

**Correspondence:** [bagbegnou@gmail.com](mailto:bagbegnou@gmail.com)

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18730240](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18730240)

## Author notes

*Bamogo Agbegnou is affiliated with University of Lomé and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.  
Akwassie Abanaace<br is affiliated with Department of Research, University of Lomé and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Informal cross-border trade networks play a significant role in regional integration within ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States). In Togo, these networks have been observed to facilitate economic growth and social interactions across borders. An action research approach was employed, involving semi-structured interviews with a sample of 30 traders from various regions within Togo. Data collection also included observations at key trade hubs and secondary data analysis. The findings indicate that informal cross-border trade networks in Togo operate along major roads connecting the country to neighboring countries such as Ghana, Benin, and Burkina Faso. Over 70% of traders reported engaging in transactions with partners from these countries. This study underscores the importance of informal trade networks for regional integration in Togo, highlighting their role in bridging economic gaps between different regions within ECOWAS. Policy recommendations include strengthening border management to improve cross-border security and facilitating information exchange among traders to reduce transaction costs.

**Keywords:** *West African, regionalism, ethnography, community economics, qualitative analysis*

## ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

**Email:** [info@parj.africa](mailto:info@parj.africa)

Request your copy of the full paper today!

## SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

**Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!**

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

**Submit at:** [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)



Scan to visit [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)

**Open Access Scholarship from PARJ**

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge