



Comparative Analysis of Regional Economic Blocs in Benin's Development Context

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Regional Economic Blocs

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Abstract

Regional economic blocs play a significant role in the development strategies of African countries, including Benin. These blocs often serve as platforms for regional integration and cooperation aimed at enhancing economic growth, reducing trade barriers, and fostering sustainable development. This policy analysis article employs a qualitative approach to review literature from various sources including official documents, academic journals, and reports related to regional blocs in Africa. The data is analysed using thematic coding for themes and strategies identified within the blocs. Findings indicate that while Benin has been a member of several economic unions, its participation in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) has resulted in a 15% increase in bilateral trade with other WAEMU members over five years. The study concludes that regional economic blocs can be effective tools for promoting economic development when aligned with national priorities. However, more tailored strategies are needed to maximise benefits and address challenges specific to Benin's context. Recommendations include strengthening policy coordination within the WAEMU framework, enhancing infrastructure connectivity between member states, and fostering innovation in trade facilitation mechanisms.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, Mercosur, Community of African States, Preferential Trading Areas, Regionalism, Integration, Development Strategies*

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