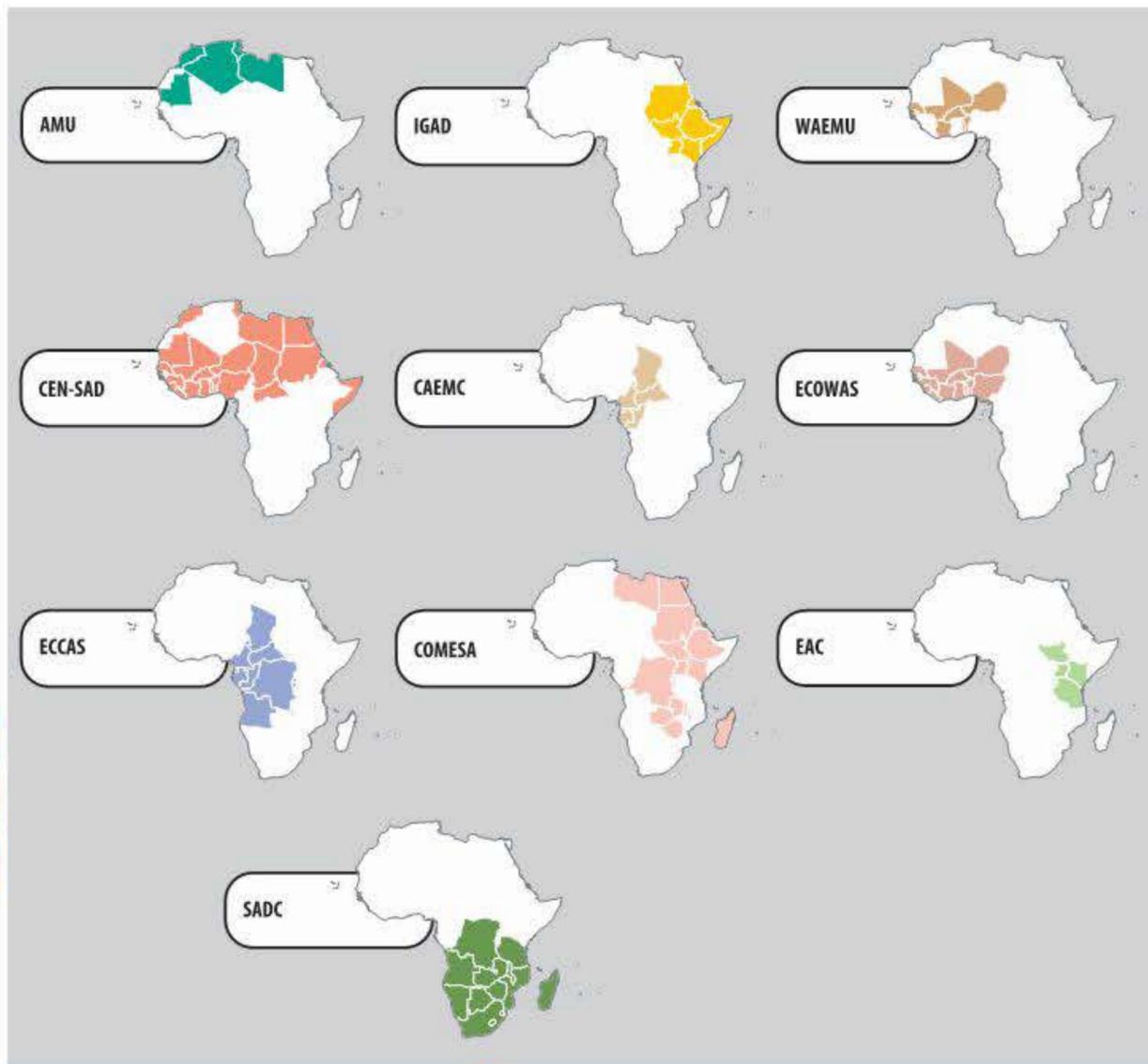


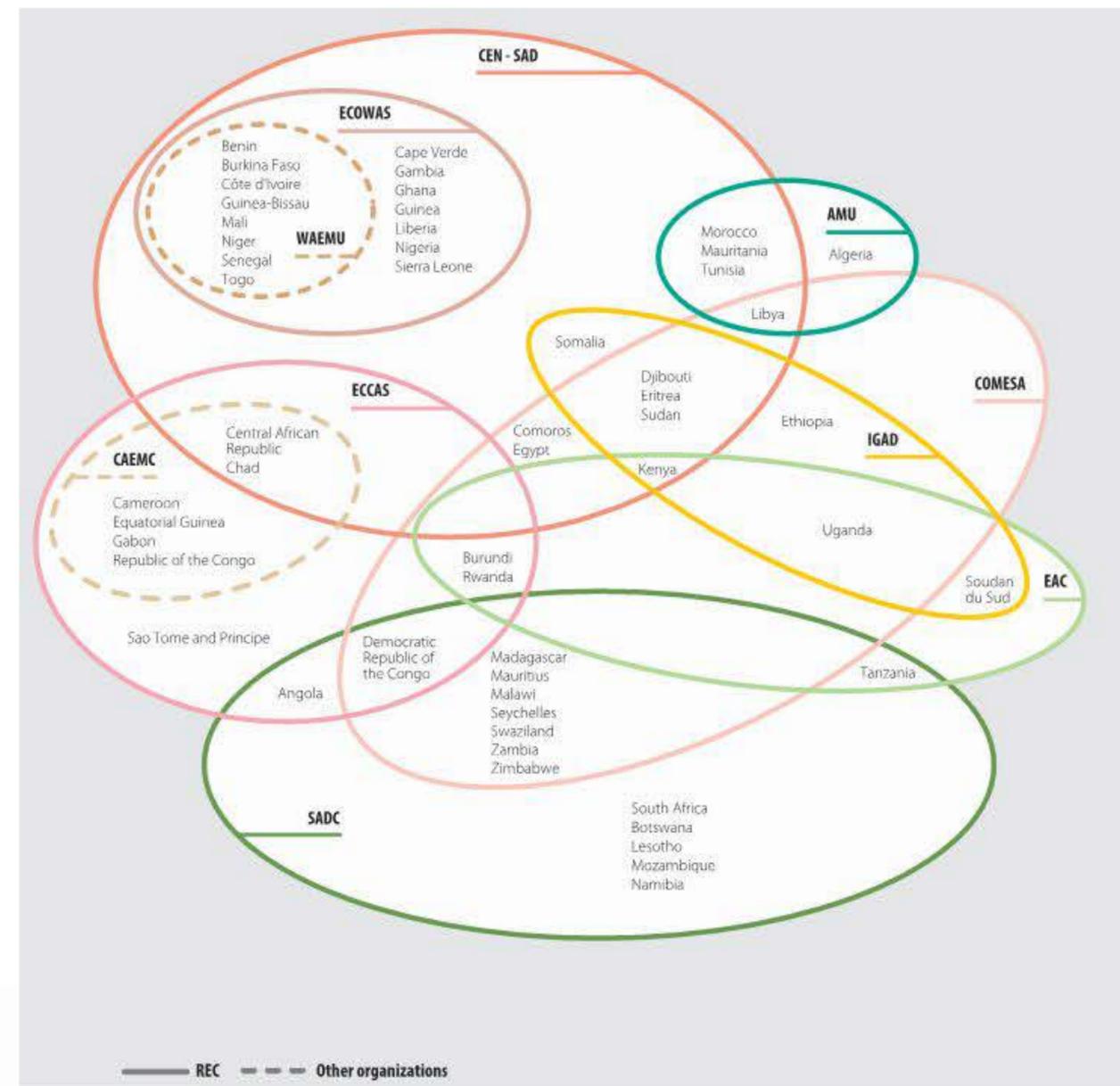
M14. Regional organisations in Africa and countries members

Source: auteur



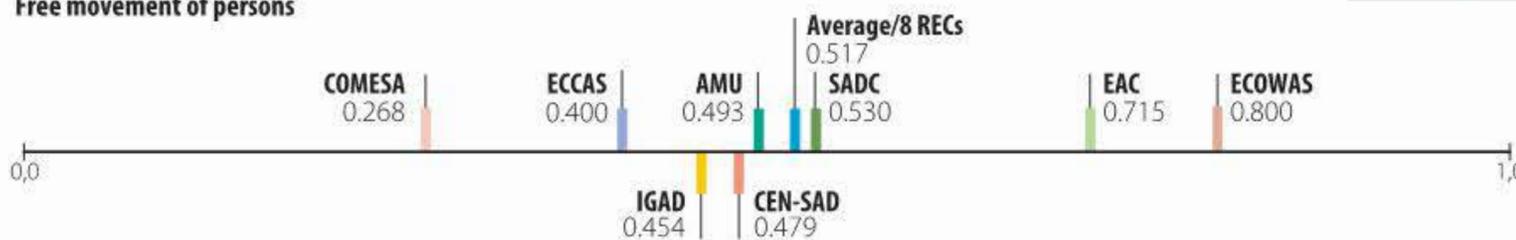
M15. Overlaps between the regional organisations in Africa

Source: auteur



Mean score per REC

Free movement of persons



Trade integration

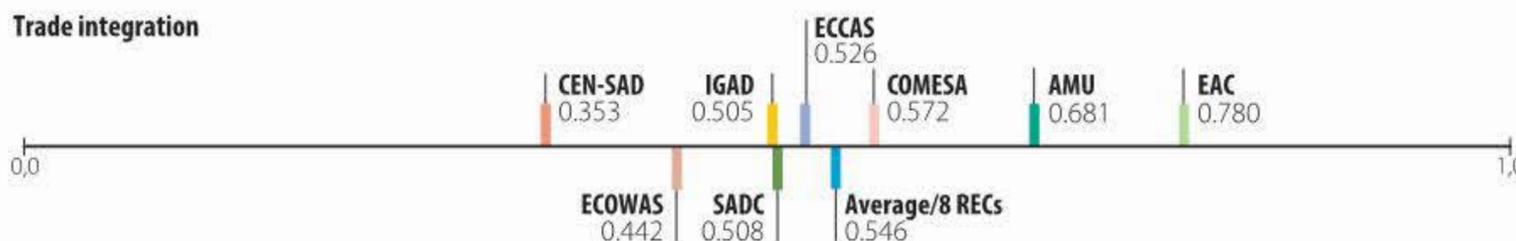


Fig. 7. Average scores for the free movement of people and the trade integration

Source: BAD, 2016 (see note page 69)

REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN AFRICA: OVERLAP, COLLABORATION AND ACTION

For Africa, with its 1.15 billion inhabitants in 2015, a market of 54 countries and a young, rapidly growing population, the opportunities are great. But the continent's transformation and development must be inclusive and African regional organisations have a key role to play in integrating the different regions into the process of change.

• New places for public policy making?

The regional integration process is generally economically and politically motivated. Against the backdrop of globalisation, the states are seeking to increase their influence in international negotiations. The complexity of development processes and environmental issues, their cross-border nature and the increase in tensions and conflicts are also driving the states to cooperate within the regional areas under construction. African integration gained momentum in 2002, when the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) became the African Union (AU). But there are many regional organisations in Africa that form a complex and dynamic architecture. These organisations overlap and some countries are members of several of them, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which belongs to ECCAS, COMESA and SADC, or Uganda, which belongs to COMESA, IGAD and EAC. This complexity sometimes hampers coordination initiatives, since each organisation applies different standards and controls, as with UEMOA and ECOWAS.

Today, the African Union's integration strategy is based on the use of Regional Economic

Communities (RECs) as "milestones" leading to the creation of a single continental trade bloc. However, although the Abuja Treaty provides for the creation of five RECs corresponding to the five regions initially recognised by the OAU, there are still eight RECs at present.

Few regional organisations truly benefit from the transfer of sovereignty: this is the case, but still very partially, for COMESA and UEMOA. SADC and ECOWAS are playing an increasingly important role in terms of peace and security. ECOWAS and EAC have introduced a community passport to facilitate the movement of people and to build a regional identity.

Some smaller regional organisations, which include a number of states for a specific problem, have made real progress in terms of coordination, such as the Organisation pour la mise en valeur du fleuve Sénégal (OMVS – Senegal River development organisation) for water management. In addition to these regional treaties, informal cross-border integration zones are being created in Africa. An economic zone is being developed around Nigeria, with cross-border trade, especially in food products. The Sikasso-Khorogo-Bobo Dioulasso zone, which straddles three countries but has cultural unity, is contributing to informal integration. And large-scale transnational urban basins are taking shape, such as the one in the Gulf of Guinea, which stretches from Abidjan in Côte d'Ivoire to Port Harcourt in Nigeria.

• Progress in regional integration

In order to evaluate progress made in terms of regional integration, the African Union

Commission examines 16 indicators reflecting the Africa Regional Integration Index in five key fields: trade integration, productive integration, regional infrastructure, the free movement of people, and financial and macroeconomic integration. The examples of financial and macroeconomic integration and the free movement of people show that, depending on the criterion selected, the gaps between regional economic areas vary in terms of performance.

To strengthen Africa's position in a context of globalisation, continental organisations have been created under the OAU and later the AU. The establishment of NEPAD in 2001 reflects the continent's political will to follow "a path of sustainable growth and development, and, at the same time, to participate actively in the world economy and body politic".

• Agriculture and rural areas: leverage for integration

Some regional organisations have developed specific policies for the agricultural sector: this is the case of the UEMOA Agricultural Policy (UAP) in 2002 and of ECOWAS with ECOWAP in 2005. NEPAD, with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), is continuing these coordination efforts on agricultural and rural policies. Recognising that the majority of Africans live in rural areas, NEPAD's "Rural Futures" programme seeks to boost action in sectors that drive growth: infrastructure, human resources, agriculture, environment, culture, science and technology. On the assumption of an increase in productivity and in agricultural production through market integration, these agricultural and rural policy frameworks increasingly take into account the importance of territories, with decentralisation and greater stakeholder involvement in natural resource management. Rural areas in Africa and their small towns are

undoubtedly a basis for quieter development than the growth of large cities, but also a sounder one for the African continent..

ECOWAS – Economic Community of West African States

CEMAC – Communauté économique et monétaire des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale (Monetary and Economic Community of Central Africa)

CEN-SAD – Communauté des États sahélo-sahariens (Community of Sahel-Saharan States)

COMESA – Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa

EAC – East African Community / Communauté est-africaine

IGAD – Intergovernmental Authority on Development

NEPAD – New Partnership for Africa's Development

SADC – Southern African Development Community

AU – African Union

UEMOA – Union économique et monétaire Ouest Africaine (West African Economic and Monetary Union)

UMA – Union du Maghreb arabe (Arab Maghreb Union)

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