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DIRECTION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE OF AFRICAN REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES

Abstract:

African countries and their regional economic communities are trying to achieve integration through free trade, creation of customs unions and organization of common markets. International trade is a means for acquisition of fixed assets, equipment, materials and processed goods that are critical to economic growth. In this regard, African countries and the institutions of their integration entities must work to expand the volume of total trade, as well as the trade flows between each other, using the means of trade liberalization. The paper analyses the dynamics of trade flows and the trends in trade patterns of African countries and regional economic communities with special focus on intraregional and intra-continental trade. The study presents the main import and export destinations both in continental and global terms thus outlining the trends in African countries' and Regional economic communities' direction of trade for the period 2003-2012 and trying to draw some conclusions on the realization of potential benefits of integration.

Keywords:

African integration, Regional economic communities, African trade

JEL Classification: F15, N17

1 Introduction

African countries and their regional economic communities (RECs) are trying to achieve integration through free trade, creation of customs unions and organisation of common markets. The ultimate goal is the merger of these integration communities in an African common market and the creation of the African Economic Community (AEC) with common for the whole continent economic, monetary, social and sectorial policies. The creation of such a market would strengthen the economic independence and the position of African economies in terms of the global economy.

In this regard, African countries and the institutions of their integration entities must work to expand the volume of total trade, as well as the trade flows between each other, using the means of trade liberalisation. The establishment of functioning free trade areas and customs unions is a must. This shall be done through common strategic actions to remove tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade and through the adoption of common customs tariffs to third countries.

Trade is a major contributor to the revenues of most developed and developing countries. It allows them to specialize and to export goods produced more efficiently at the expense of other products that could be imported cheaper than their own production costs. International trade is also a way for acquisition of fixed assets, equipment, materials and processed goods that are critical to economic growth. Trade is one of the main drivers of growth and a means to achieve development, thus the elimination of barriers to it would only help increase its positive effects. These are the reasons why free trade is regarded as an important tool to overcome such barriers and to promote higher levels of interexchange between African countries.

It is widely recognized that the best indicator of the success of an integration agreement is the increase of the share of intra- and inter-community trade in the total trade flows of member states. . Although this is an important aspect of integration it should not be seen as a means to its end. Equally important are the industrial development, the adequate infrastructure, the increase of the technological level, etc. Furthermore, the growth of regional trade may be the result of trade diversion from more efficient and competitive third countries. Therefore it can be regarded as positive only if it is combined with improving global competitiveness as a whole.

An integration agreement will bring more benefits in terms of welfare if the share of intraregional trade is growing, while trade with the rest of the world is decreasing. Studies show that trade between developing countries is always much weaker than that between developed countries, suggesting that the benefits of integration regarding welfare will also be smaller. However, this assumption should not always be taken for granted. There are several factors that restrict trade among developing countries, arguing that if these barriers are removed, trade flows between developing countries engaged in an integration process will likely increase. These factors include: first, the low level of economic development; second, inadequate transport infrastructure and facilities; third, foreign currency control and other restrictions on imports; fourth, inadequate marketing; fifth, the lack of standardization etc. [1]

The paper analyses the dynamics of trade flows and the trends in trade patterns of African countries and regional economic communities, with special focus on intraregional and intra-continental trade. The study presents the main import and export destinations both in continental and global terms and makes an attempt to outline the trends of African countries' and Regional economic communities' direction of international trade for the period 2003-2012. The first section of the paper presents the selected RECs, the second discusses the main trading partners of African RECs, the third – the intra-continental and inter-REC trade, the fourth focuses on each REC's intraregional trade and the final part of the study outlines the main conclusions.

Methodological notes

The study discusses those regional economic communities that are recognized by the African Union (AU) as building blocks of the African Economic Community – the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), the Common Market for Eastern and Central Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the South African Development Community (SADC). As the Maghreb Union (UMA) de facto is not a part of the AEC (for it has not yet signed the Protocol on Relations) even though it is officially recognized as such, it will not be discussed in the current paper.

The time frame of the study is a 10 years period – 2003-2012. For IGAD 2012 will not be considered as there is no data for the fully independent as of 2011 South Sudan which it is the main fuel exporter in the community and thus the lack of data biases the statistical picture with over 10 Billion USD, of which over 90% is in exports.

Data on international trade are form IMF's Direction of Trade Statistics. There are no data for the international trade of Botswana, Eritrea, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland – the total share of those countries in African trade is 2,5%, it varies in the different RECs, being higher only for SADC – 7,6%.

2 Main characteristics of selected RECs

Currently there are 16 African regional economic communities, 8 of them are recognized and serve as pillars for the establishment of an African Economic Community. The different RECs are at different stages of the integration. Table 1 are presents the main data for the selected RECs.

Table 1. Main data on selected RECs

[1] For a comprehensive study on the theoretical concepts of economic determinants of regional integration in developing countries see Marinov, E. 2014. Economic Determinants of Regional Integration in Developing Counties. In: Proceedings of the 2nd Economics & Finance Conference, Vienna, Austria. Jiri Rotschedl, Klara Čermáková (eds). IISES, Prague. ISBN 978-80-87927-01-4, pp. 363-383.

	CEN-SAD	COMESA	EAC	ECCAS	ECOWAS	IGAD	SADC
Member states	23	19	5	10	15	7	15
LCDs	16	11	5	6	12	6	8
Area (mln. sq. км)	13427	11603	1823	6640	5115	5210	9862
Area (% of Africa)	50,9	38,6	6,1	22,0	13,9	17,3	32,8
Population (mln.)	508	459	149	121	340	226	286
Population (% of Africa)	53,5	42,9	13,6	13,3	14,1	20,4	27,0
Population density	37,8	39,5	81,5	18,2	66,4	43,3	29,0
Employment	33,1	38,0	43,3	38,3	33,4	40,1	36,7
GDP (mln. USD)	934084	577740	98396	200737	419150	166164	648253
GDP (USD p.c.)	1838,4	1259,6	662,1	1662,6	1233,9	736,4	2269,6
GNI (mln. USD)	891064	561737	94761	173503	392322	160629	624503
Trade (mln. USD)	562755	303298	50735	171910	267585	61006	421429
Trade (%of Africa)	45,8	24,7	4,1	14,0	21,8	5,0	34,3
Imports (% of GDP)	29,7	29,9	36,7	24,8	26,5	27,5	33,0
Exports (% of GDP)	30,5	22,6	14,9	60,8	37,3	9,2	32,0
Trade balance (mln. USD)	7609	-41868	-21473	72298	45414	-30318	-6370

Source: World DataBank, UNcomtrade and own calculations.

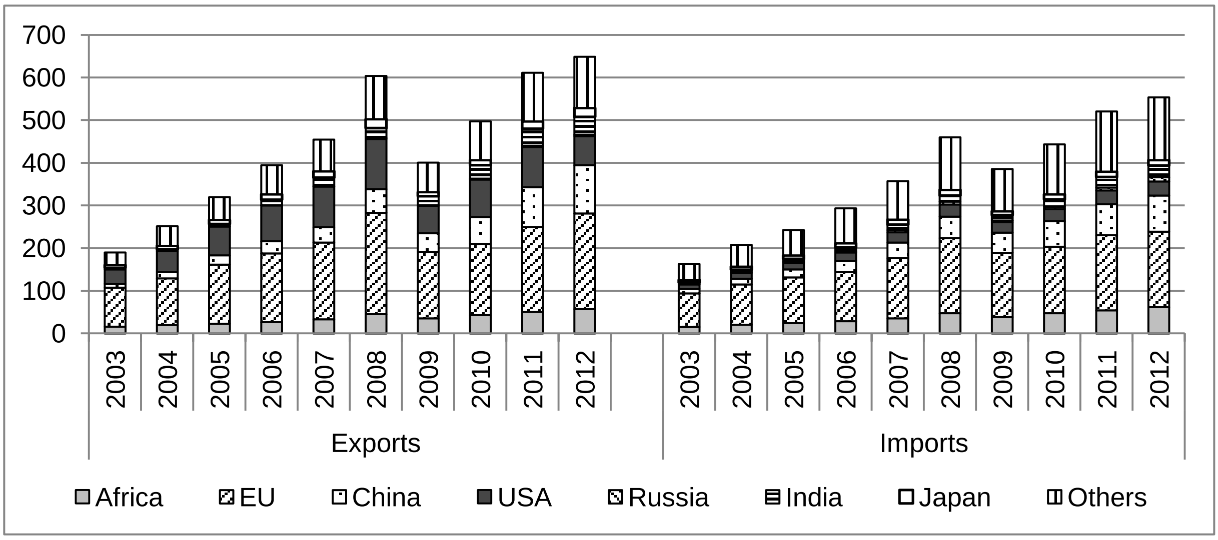
CEN-SAD is and integration and harmonisation framework aiming to become the leading REC in Africa. COMESA has the mandate to create a fully integrated and internationally competitive REC in which apply freedoms of movement of goods, people, services and capital. The stated goal of EAC is the development of a prospering, competitive, secure and politically united Eastern Africa. Concentrated in ECCAS are 4/5 of African forests, there are lots of minerals and fuels, but frequent conflicts hinder the unfolding of the community's potential. The main goal of ECOWAS, where the leading economy is Nigeria, is to encourage regional economic cooperation and to face the development challenges. IGAD's activities are aimed at sustainment of peace and security, as well as at development and integration issues. The goals of SADC, with leading economy Republic of South Africa (RSA), are not limited in the field of trade although it is the main engine of integration processes there.

3 Main trading partners

The majority of African counties' trade flows, consisting of over 80% of the total volume of trade for the period 2003-2012 are directed towards the EU (33% in 2012), PR China (16%), intra-continental trade (10%), the USA (8%), India (6%), Japan (3%) and Russia (1%).

Although the EU is the main trading partner of African economies its share in their trade flows declines from 48 to 33% for the period under consideration. The value of trade increases from 170 to 400 Billion USD but the average annual growth is by almost 5 percentage points lower than the average for the continent (respectively 9,9 and 14,6%). Imports for the EU increase with 1 p.p. slower than exports. The trade balance is positive for the whole period and increases from 35 to 47 Billion USD in 2012. For the same year the value of imports and exports are respectively 176 and 224 Billion USD. The only moment in which the share of both imports and exports remains the same is in the crisis years 2008 and 2009 (about 40%). In the following year (2010) however with the beginning of the EU sovereign debt crisis both values decrease with 5 p.p. and until the end of the analysed period they decline to respectively to 32 and 34%.

Figure 1. Africa main trade partners (Billion USD)



Source: IMF DOTS, accessed on 11.04.2014 and own calculations.

China has the highest growth in the value of trade for the period (10 times, 180 Billion) and by 2012 it reaches 198 Billion USD. Here imports increase more slowly than exports – by 5 percentage points annual average (respectively with 75 and 105 Billion USD), and the values for 2012 are respectively 85 and 113 Billion USD. The increase both of imports and exports is constant throughout the period – both as values and as a share of trade flows, which in 2012 rose to respectively 15 and 17%. During this period, the trade balance of African economies with China has certain interesting features – for 2003-2010 it is almost zero (positive and negative values up to 5 Billion USD), while in 2011 it rose sharply to reach a positive dimension of 28 Billion in 2012.

The share of intra-continental trade in Africa during the period remains almost unchanged (9-10%), reaching a value of 120 Billion USD in 2012. Imports and exports are fairly well balanced in terms of value – respectively 62 and 58 Billion USD, as well as of growth, although imports grew slightly faster than exports – respectively 28 and 32% average annual growth. These values are close to the average growth of both indicators for the continent. Until 2009 the balance is negative (1-4 Billion USD), and since 2010 it has a positive dimension of about 4 Billion USD each year.

Trade with the United States decreases by 4 percentage points reaching 8,4% in 2012. This is mostly due to the change in the share of exports – from 18% in 2003-2004, 21% in 2004-2006, to only 10% in 2012, which is generally greater than that of imports (about 6% for the whole period). While imports have increased from 10 to 33 Billion USD, growth in exports is from 34 to 69 Billion, with significantly higher values in 2006-2008 and 2009-2010 (84-97 Billion USD, reaching 112 Billion in 2008). The trade balance is positive throughout the period, with highest value in 2008 – 89 Billion

USD, but in 2012 it fell to 35 Billion. The average annual growth rate of trade is 9,6%, and imports increased by 5 percentage points faster than exports.

Trade with India grows significantly – from 7 to almost 70 Billion USD. Here exports increased by 7 percentage points annually faster than imports (with values of respectively 42 and 28 Billion USD). This is reflected in the trade balance which has minimal negative levels for 2003-2005, and reaches a positive value of 14 Billion in 2012. The share of trade with India increased from 2 to 6%. Until 2005 exports have twice lower share than imports, but in recent years exports even surpassed imports – in 2012 they were respectively 5,1 and 6,5% of the total import and export of the continent.

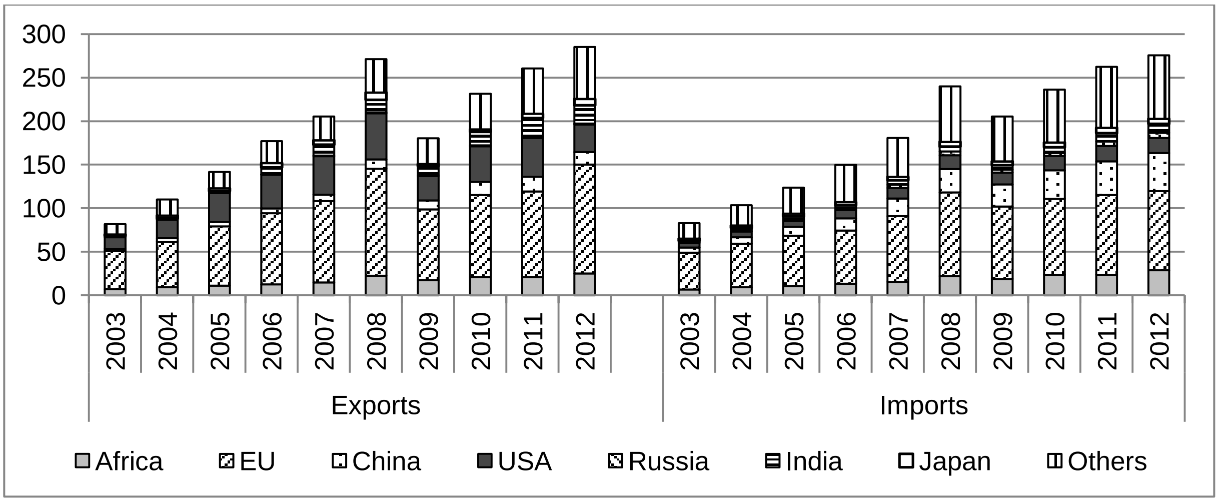
Trade with Japan and Russia has a relatively smaller share of total trade flows (respectively 3 and 1%) – import values are 13 and 10 Billion USD, and exports - 21 and 2,5 Billion. One must note that exports to Japan grew almost as fast as those to China – 33% annual average, and the balance increased to nearly 14 Billion USD, while with Russia it has a negative value of 7 Billion.

The total value of trade with the rest of the world is growing at a rate close to the average for the continent, and in 2012 it reaches respectively 146 and 120 Billion USD for imports and exports. For the entire period, the share of trade is about 20%. Imports have a 7-8 percentage points higher share than exports (respectively 23-26 and 16-19%), but in 2006-2008 the difference increased up to 11 p.p.

3.1 CEN-SAD

The main trading partner of the Community of Sahel-Saharan countries is the EU (38,5% in 2012), followed by other African countries (20,9%), China (10,4%), USA (8,7%) and India (5,6%). The share of CEN-SAD in the total trade of the continent with all major trading partners is 44-53% except Russia (where it is almost 2/3) and Japan (38%).

Figure 2. CEN-SAD main trade partners (Billion USD)



Source: IMF DOTS, accessed on 11.04.2014 and own calculations.

Trade with the EU increased by an average annual rate of 25% - from 86 to 216 Billion USD. The trade balance was positive throughout the period with the exception of 2009, reaching 34 Billion in 2012. Exports grew significantly faster than imports (by about 7 percentage points, or with total 32 Billion USD). Both indicators observed a peak in 2008, followed by a decline due to the crisis, to return to the 2008 levels in 2012 – respectively 125 and 90 Billion USD. Both imports and exports from the EU however decreased compared to the total of CEN-SAD – respectively from 51 to 33 and from 54 to 37,6%.

The share of trade with China has doubled – from 5 to over 10%, with exports and imports both increasing at a relatively equal pace. With a 24-25% annual growth rate, they reached levels of 15 and 44 Billion USD in 2012, with exports decreasing by about 2 Billion USD compared to 2011. Balance of trade is negative for the entire period – in 2012 it is nearly 30 Billion USD. Here the shares of exports and imports differ significantly – exports to China are only 5% of the total for the CEN-SAD in 2012, while imports are nearly 16%.

The situation in trade with the U.S. is the contrary – for the entire period exports exceed imports, in 2005-2007 they constitute 22% of the total for the CEN-SAD, in 2011 decreased to 17% and in 2012 – to only 11 % (a decline in value from 44 to 31 Billion USD). On the other hand imports grew at a steady pace of 14% annually and during 2011-2012 they reached 17 Billion USD (6,5% of the total). The trade balance of the CEN-SAD with the U.S. is positive for the whole period – 8 Billion USD in 2003, 37 Billion in 2008, 14 Billion in 2009, 26 Billion in 2011, again reaching 14 Billion USD in 2012.

A serious place in the trade of CEN-SAD takes India, which shows the largest increase over the period – more than 10 times in total. Exports increased by an average annual rate of nearly 40%, reaching from 1 Billion USD in 2003 to 21 Billion in 2012 (7% of total exports), while imports grew twice as slowly – from 2 Billion to 10 Billion USD (approximately 4% of the CEN-SAD total).

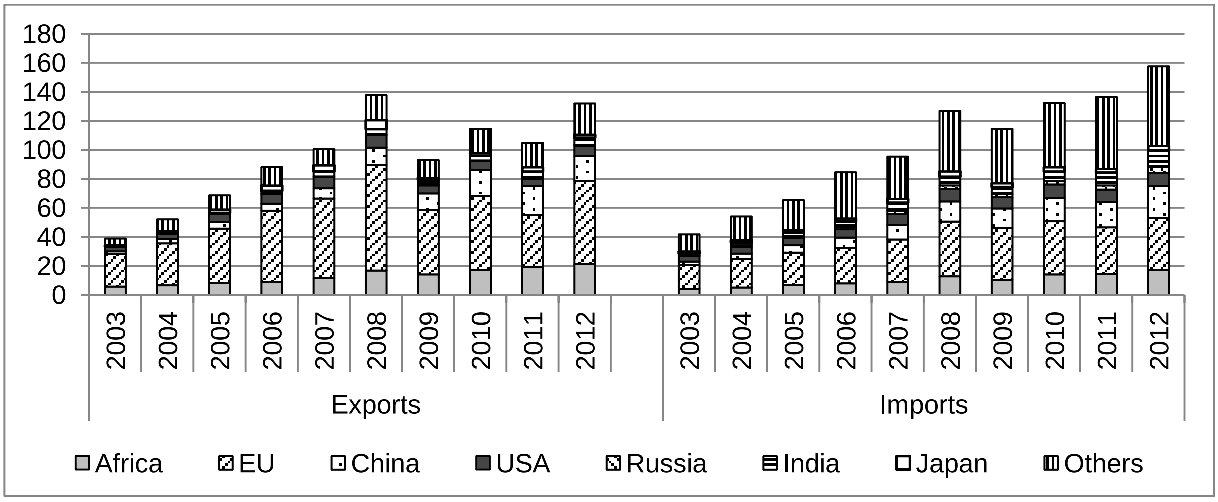
Trade with other African countries takes 9-10% of CEN-SAD trade flows and increases at a rate similar to the total for the continent (3,5 times). Imports are slightly more than exports – respectively 19 Billion and 17,6 Billion USD in 2012.

3.2 COMESA

The Common market of Central and South Africa trades mainly with the EU (32%), China (14%), other African countries (13%) and India (6%). Here, however, large differences exist between exports and imports – for imports, the share of trade with the rest of the world is quite high, mainly due to the presence of Middle East countries (UAE, Kuwait, Turkey and others.) as major trading partners (total about 15 % in 2012).

For the period 2003-2012 the volume of total trade with the EU increased by an average annual rate of 10,3%, in 2012 imports being 36 Billion and exports - 57 Billion USD. As a share exports are quite higher than imports (by about 20 percentage points) – in 2003 it is nearly 60% and in 2012 it decreased to 43%. A serious decline in trade with the EU was observed in 2009 and 2011 - respectively by 30 Billion and 20 Billion USD. Although there is an increase in 2012, both indicators still have not reached the levels (as a value and as a share) of 2008. Trade balance was positive throughout the period – in 2008 it reached 35 Billion and in 2012 its value is 21,5 Billion USD.

Figure 3. COMESA main trade partners (Billion USD)



Source: IMF DOTS, accessed on 11.04.2014 and own calculations.

A strong increase shows trade with China (27% average annual growth) – both exports and imports increased as a share of total trade of COMESA with about 10 percentage points and in 2012 reached respectively 14% (22 Billion USD) and 13% (17 Billion USD). However in the same year, exports fell by almost 3 Billion, which lead to a negative balance of nearly 5 Billion USD.

Relatively high compared to the average for the continent's average is the share of intra-African trade - 13.2% (38 Billion USD), with imports slightly above the average (10%), while exports are much higher – 19% for 2011 and 16 for 2012 (21 Billion USD).

The highest growth rate for the period (30% annually) marks trade with India – imports increased from 1 Billion to 11 Billion USD and exports - from 0,2 Billion to nearly 5 Billion USD, accounting for a share of respectively 7 and 4% of the total trade of COMESA.

3.3 EAC

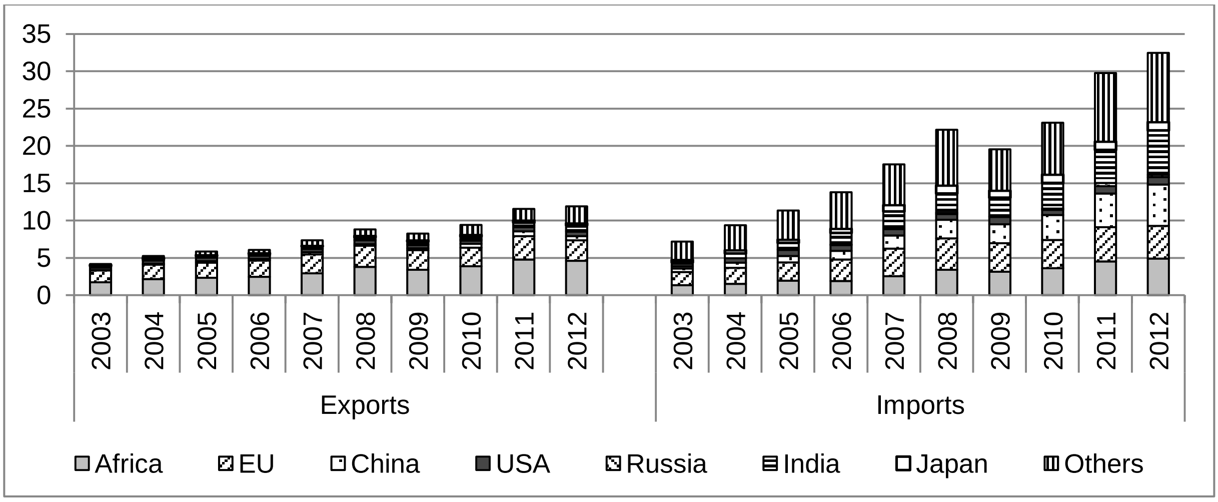
The East African Community is strongly dependent on imports. In 2012 imports exceeded exports by nearly 20 Billion USD, which is more than 50% of total trade. The community is the smallest of the RECs under study with a total share of African trade of only 3,7%.

The largest share of exports holds intra-African trade (39%, 4,6 Billion USD), followed by the EU (23%), India, the USA and China (around 5%). For the period 2003-2012, the share of trade with the EU decreased almost twice – from 38 to 23%. Imports increased in value by 6% annually, which is twice slower than the community average. The situation is similar for the exports to the U.S. which grew at a rate of 6,5% annually, reaching 0,6 Billion USD in 2012. Faster than average increased exports to India (19% average annual growth) and China (31 %) and in 2012 their values were respectively 0,65 and 0,59 Billion USD.

The largest share of imports holds India (18%), followed by China (17%), other African countries (15%) and the EU (13%). The high share of imports from the rest of the world is mainly due to imports from the UAE, which are nearly 12% of the EAC total.

The import share of the EU also decreased approximately twice, while that of China and India increased almost threefold over the period.

Figure 4. EAC main trade partners (Billion USD)



Source: IMF DOTS, accessed on 11.04.2014 and own calculations.

More attention to EAC will be paid when examining inter-community and intraregional trade as it is the community with the highest shares in them.

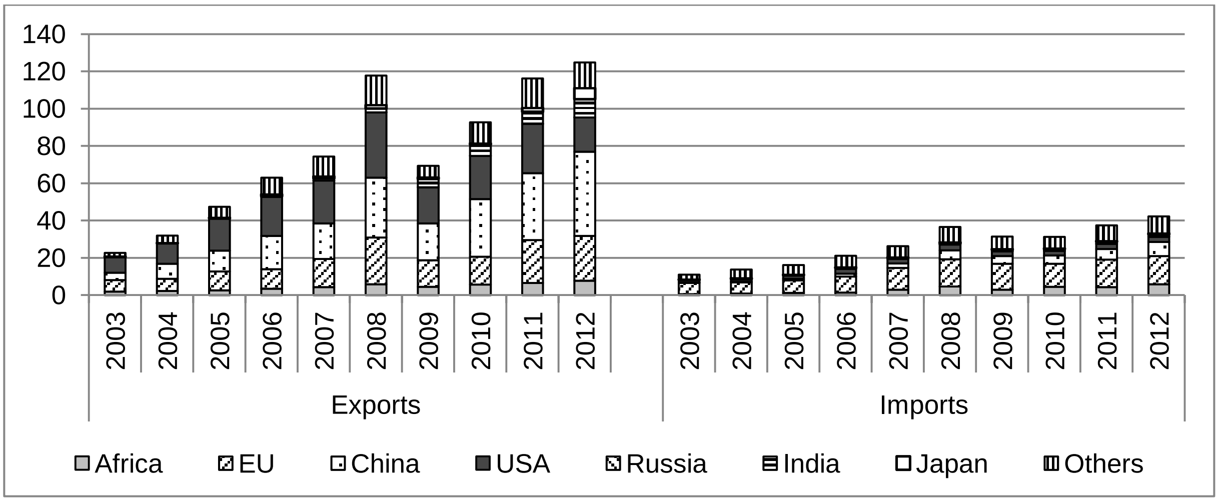
3.4 ECCAS

In the Economic Community of Central African States exports exceed imports nearly three times, in 2012 their values are respectively 125 Billion and 42 Billion USD. The main trading partners are China (32%), EU (23%) and the USA (13%).

The main export destination of ECCAS is China (36%, 45 Billion), followed by the EU (19%, 24 Billion), the U.S. (15%, 18 Billion), India (8%, 10 Billion) and Japan (5%, 6 Billion). Exports to other African countries are lower (6%) than the average for the other RECs. The same is the situation with exports to the rest of the world – only 11% of total exports. ECCAS has a substantial share of Africa's exports to China (40%), Japan, India and the USA (23-28%), while intra-continental imports are less than 10%. During the period there is a serious decrease in the share of the EU as an export destination – from 27 to 19%, and the U.S. - from 37 to 15% at the expense of China, India and Japan. Only for the last year the decline was 8 percentage points. The different compared to the other RECs geographical structure of trade of ECCAS is mostly due to the fact that it is mainly an oil-exporter (95% of exports) with long-term contracts with its major trading partners.

In 2009 there is a substantial decrease in total trade caused by the global crisis and the decline in world oil prices. This is observed with all major trading partners except India, the values of the decline reaching 12-13 Billion USD with the EU and China and 17 Billion (almost double) with the United States. For the period 2003-2012 most significant is the growth of trade with India (a total of 50 times, exports grew by over 200 times), Japan (15 times) and China (over 10 times). By 5 percentage points per year faster than the average for the continent increased the trade flows with other African countries.

Figure 5. ECCAS main trade partners (Billion USD)



Source: IMF DOTS, accessed on 11.04.2014 and own calculations.

The community has a growing surplus with all major trading partners, the total dimension for 2012 is over 82 Billion USD. The main source of imports is the EU, whose share gradually decreased from 55% in 2003 to 36% in 2012 (15 Billion USD). The proportion of imports from the U.S. also decreases – from 11 to 6%. This is compensated by the increased presence of China – from 3% in 2003 to 18% in 2012 (7,5 Billion USD), and intra-continental trade – from 4 to 14% (6 Billion USD).

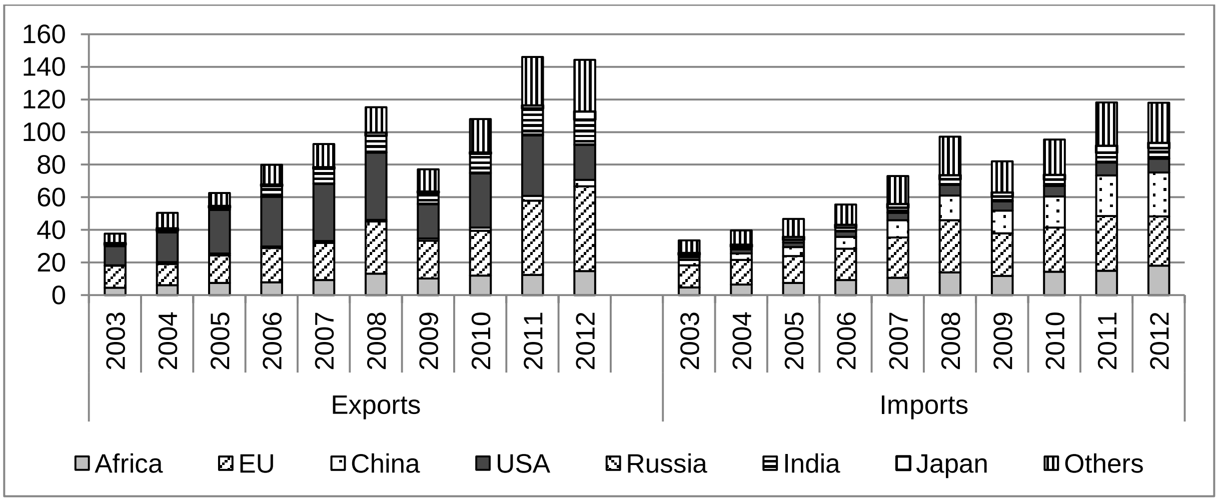
3.5 ECOWAS

Nearly one third of the trade of the Economic Community of West African States is with the EU (82 Billion USD). Other major partners of the community are the other African countries (12%, 32 Billion USD), China (11,.7%, 31 Billion), the U.S. (11,4%, 30 Billion) and India (10,5%, 21 Billion USD). The share of intra-continental trade is slightly higher than the average for Africa – 12,4%, while that with the rest of the world is close to the average – 21%. ECOWAS accounts for about 30% of total trade in Africa with China and India and about 25% with the EU and Japan. The community's imports increase faster than exports, mainly due to the increasing demand for processed products.

The share of exports to the EU varies from year to year from 25 to 30%, and was highest for the final two years of the period - 36%, and the total growth in value was 39 Billion USD. In imports there is a constant increase in value (by 27 Billion USD), but they decrease as a percentage – from 40 to 25%. The average annual increase in exports is 16,3% and in imports – 9,3%. The trade balance which was almost zero for the whole period 2003-2010 acquired a positive dimension of 12 Billion USD in 2011 and almost doubled it to 22 Billion USD in 2012.

Compared to other RECs the share of trade with China is relatively low, although its growth rate is high – 26% annually. Particularly low is the share of exports to China - only 2,7% (4 Billion USD) in 2012, which is the highest share for the entire period. In imports the situation is different – China is the second source of import products for ECOWAS, and for the period 2003-2012 the share doubled to 22% in 2012, and the value increased nearly 10 times (from 3 to 29 Billion USD). Due to the low levels of exports, the trade balance is negative for the whole period, reaching 23 Billion USD in 2012.

Figure 6. ECOWAS main trade partners (Billion USD)



Source: IMF DOTS, accessed on 11.04.2014 and own calculations.

Trade flows with the United States increased by about 16 Billion USD for the period, but their share fell nearly twice. This is mainly due to the decrease in exports – from 32 to only 15% (despite they increased by 10 Billion USD in value), while imports grew slowly – from 5 to 7% (7 Billion USD increase). The trade balance was positive throughout the period, ranging from 10 Billion USD in 2003, almost 50 Billion in 2007, to reach 30 Billion for 2012.

Imports from India also increased sharply – more than 25 times in value (from 0,.6 to 15 Billion USD), while exports grew by an average annual rate of 20% (from 1 to 6 Billion USD).

During the period, the share of trade with the rest of the world kept its share of about 19-21%, and the overall increase in its value is 25 Billion USD for exports and 17 Billion for imports.

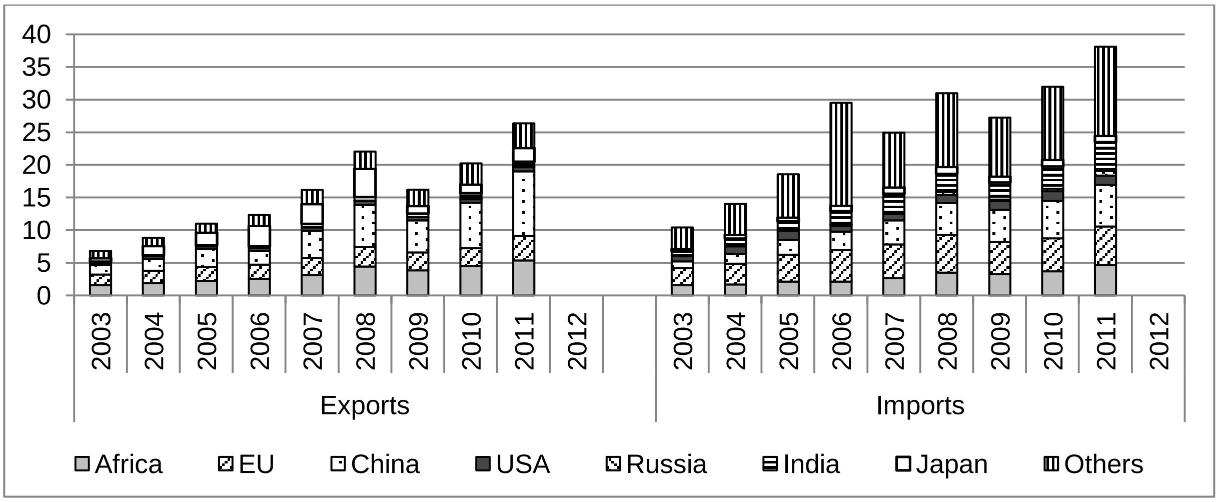
3.6 IGAD

In 2003-2012, the main trading partners of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development are China (25%, 16 Billion USD), the Middle East (20%, 12 Billion), the other African countries (15,5%, 10 Billion), the EU (15%, 9,7 Billion) and India (8%, 5,1 Billion USD).

The most important partners in the Middle East are UAE and Saudi Arabia. This is due to the fact that IGAD and the Council of the Gulf countries have concluded several agreements on trade in cattle, and nearly 60% of the cattle imported by the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia come from IGAD. About 6,5% of imports and 3,7% of exports for the period 2000-2010 are concentrated in the UAE and the shares of other countries of the Middle East are respectively 18 and 9%.

In 2003-2012, largest increase show the imports from China – 26% annual average, reaching in 2012 a value of 10 Billion USD. China is the main export destination of the community with 38% of all exports. This indicator increases by 1 percentage point per year on average faster than imports, and in 2012 its value was 8 Billion USD. The trade balance has a minimum positive value over the entire period, while in 2012 it is negative -6,5 Billion USD.

Figure 7. IGAD main trade partners (Billion USD)



Source: IMF DOTS, accessed on 11.04.2014 and own calculations.

The share of the EU in IGAD trade dropped by 10 percentage points to 15% in 2012, this being true both for imports (5,9 Billion USD in 2012) and exports (3,7 Billion). Value in both indicators increased by an average annual rate of about 11%, 7 percentage points slower than the community average. For the whole period the balance with the EU is negative, while maintaining a relatively constant value of slightly over 2 Billion USD.

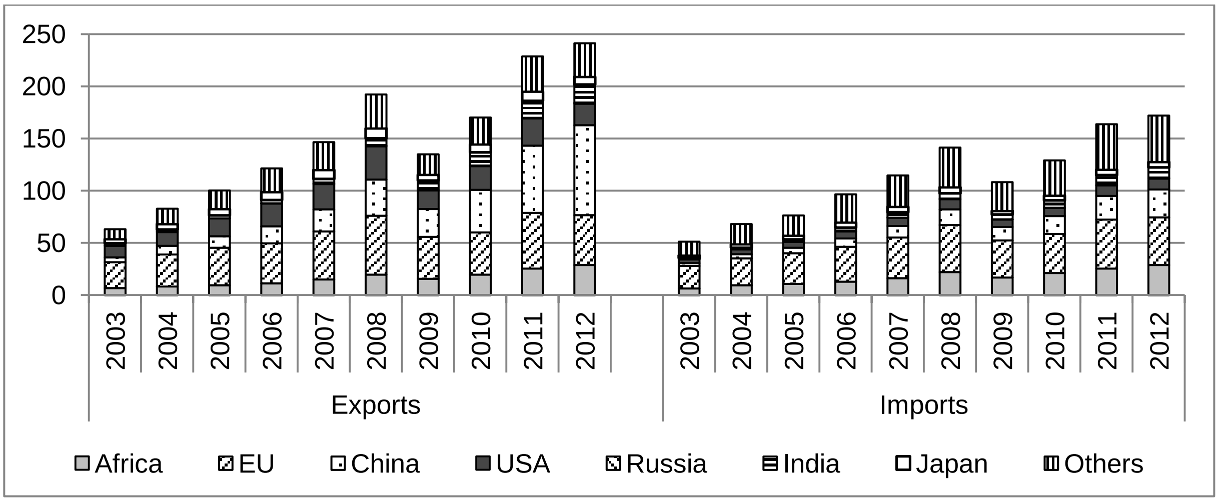
Serious growth (over 6 times) is observed in the trade with India. It is particularly high in imports (29% average, a total of 4 Billion USD), and for 2012 the share of IGAD is nearly one fifth of total imports of Africa from India.

3.7 SADC

Trade flows of SADC are concentrated in China (27%), the EU (23%), other African countries (15%), the USA and India (7%).

The EU is a leader in SADC trade throughout the period except for the last 2012, when the share of trade flows with the EU fell by 3 percentage points, while that with China increased by 5. The EU remains the main source of imports, although they also decreased – from 41 to 27%. The increase in value is more than double – from 21 to 46 Billion USD, and although in 2009 it decreased, in 2011 and 2012 it reached the 2008 levels. As a share exports fell twice (from 39 to 20%) and as value they increased by 8% annually (8 percentage points slower than the community average) to 48 Billion in 2012. Here also there was a serious decline in 2009, but unlike the import, exports have not yet reached the level of 2008 - 56 Billion USD.

Figure 8. SADC main trade partners (Billion USD)



Source: IMF DOTS, accessed on 11.04.2014 and own calculations.

SADC trade with China is 56% of the total trade flows of Africa with that country. The share of China's exports rose from 7% in 2003 (4 Billion USD) to 36% (86 Billion) in 2012, and since 2009 the growth is with more than 22 Billion USD per year. SADC exports 76% of Africa’s total exports to China. Imports from China grew by 28% annually, reaching a value of 27 Billion USD in 2012 (16%). As a result of the faster growth of exports the positive dimension of the trade balance also increases, reaching nearly 60 Billion USD in 2012

The U.S. share of SADC trade flows also decreased (from 13 to 7,5%), with the decline in exports being much higher (from 18 to 8%) than that in imports, which keep almost at the same level. The value of exports increased by 6,6% annually (11 to 20 Billion USD), and that of imports – by 9,4% annually (from 3 to 10 Billion). In 2009, exports decreased significantly (from 31 Billion to 17 Billion USD), but unlike the situation with the EU there is a decline also in 2012 (with 6 Billion), and the current level is similar to that of 2006. The positive dimension of the trade balance decreases by the same number and in 2012 it is 10 Billion USD.

The share of trade with India increases (from 3 to 7%), with imports and exports growing almost equally (by 26-27% annually), in 2012 reaching values of respectively 10 Billion and 17 Billion USD. In the trade with India the decrease in 2009 typical of other trading partners is not observed.

For the period 2003-2012 the share of intra-African trade of SADC also increases from 11,5 to 14%, the values of exports and imports increased respectively by 21 Billion to 23 Billion USD. This is mainly due to the increase in imports from other African countries, which in 2012 were 16,8% of the total for the SADC.

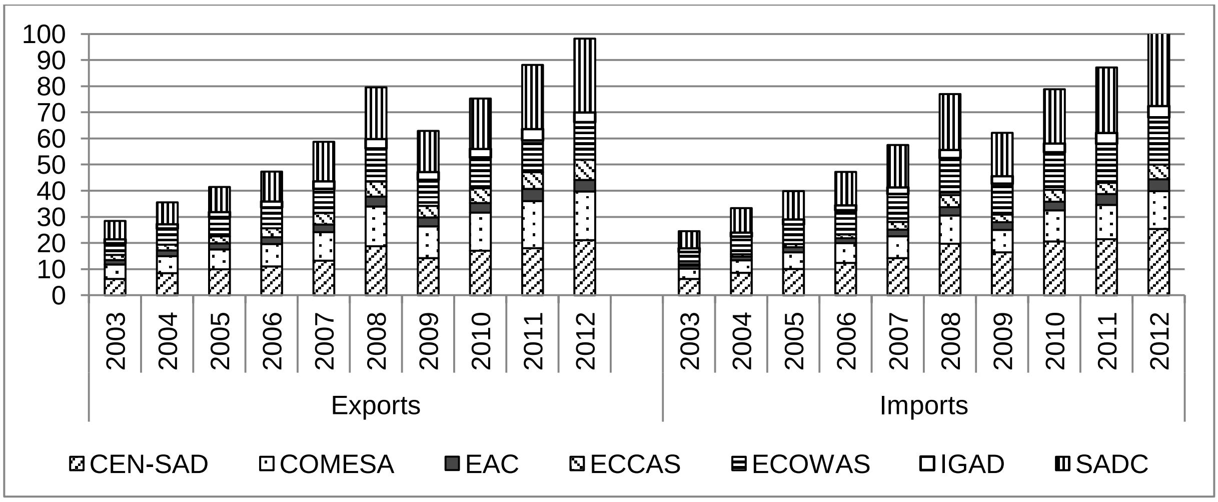
4 Inter-community trade

The volumes of intra-continental trade and in particular this between RECs are highly indicative to access REC’s progress and potential in terms of the establishment of the African Economic Community through the merger of recognized existing RECs. The main objective of this process is the elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade and the promotion of mutually beneficial trade relations between countries and RECs through schemes for trade liberalisation. Promotion of inter-community trade should help to improve the specialisation of African countries and thus increase the added value and competitiveness of manufacturing on a global level (ECA, 2013c, p 7).

For the period 2003-2012, the intra-continental trade flows remained relatively constant as a share of Africa's total trade – 9-10%. Their value increased almost threefold - from 31 Billion to 119 Billion USD and its average annual growth is 1,5 percentage points higher than the continent's average. Throughout the period, imports are by about 2 percentage points less than exports, and their increase is also slower, for 2012 – respectively 58 Billion and 62 Billion USD. Decline is obverted only in 2009, but it is lower than that of the value of total trade flows of the continent.

The share of intra-African trade in the total trade varies between RECs. It is lowest in ECCAS (8,2%) and CEN-SAD (9,6%), slightly higher in ECOWAS (12,5%), COMESA (13,2%), SADC (14%) and IGAD (15,9%), and in EAC it is over one fifth of the trade flows of the community (21,4%). The share of intra-continental exports is greater than that of imports in CEN-SAD (2 percentage points), ECCAS (7 p.p.), ECOWAS and SADC (5 p. p.). In COMESA, IGAD and EAC it is the opposite – imports exceed exports by 24 percentage points. In 2003-2012 in some of the communities that share increases (CEN-SAD, COMESA, ECCAS, SADC), while in the other it decreases. The most drastic is the difference in EAC – a 6 percentage points decrease.

Figure 9. RECs intraregional trade (Billion USD)



Source: IMF DOTS, accessed on 11.04.2014 and own calculations.

Greatest value of intra-continental trade has SADC (56 Billion USD), followed by CEN-SAD (46 Billion), COMESA (33 Billion) and ECOWAS (32 Billion), while it is significantly lower in ECCAS (13 Billion), EAC (9 Billion) and IGAD (8 Billion USD). Most significant is the increase in volume within ECCAS (21% average annual growth) and SADC (17,3%), and least – in the EAC and IGAD (12%).

Intra-continental imports increased slower in EAC and IGAD (11% average annual growth), reaching values of respectively 4,3 and 3,8 Billion USD. In ECOWAS, COMESA and CEN-SAD the average annual growth rate is 14% (respectively 14 Billion, 18 Billion and 21 Billion USD in 2012), and the only REC in which growth is above the average for the continent is SADC (16,5%), where the value of imports in 2012 was 28 Billion USD.

Exports increased by 13-18% annually in all communities except ECCAS, where the growth is over 10 times to 5,6 Billion USD (2 times in IGAD – 8 Billion in 2012, 2,5 times in EAC – 4,3 Billion, COMESA – 14,5 Billion and ECOWAS - 12,5 Billion, and over 3 times in CEN-SAD – 25 Billion and SADC – 28 Billion USD).

An interesting observation made by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) of the United Nations (ECA, 2013c, p.4-6) is that the intra-continental trade is much more focused on processed products than expected. Statistics applied in the study of ECA show that the share of intra-continental trade of manufactured goods is greater than trade with the rest of the world. According to ECA, the share of processed products and of products of the primary sector in the intra-continental trade for the period 2000-2010 varies around 40% for each of the two categories, while agricultural commodities make up only about 15% - a paradox from the perspective of the potential of the sector in Africa as an engine of growth, trade, employment and poverty reduction. The high share of intra-continental trade in raw materials implies trade opportunities for value-added creating trade within the continent. Despite these data, however, African countries and RECs cannot meet each other's import needs due to their similar production structures and thus remain dependent on trade with the rest of the world.

When it comes to inter-community trade, intraregional trade has the highest share in almost all communities (around half to two thirds of intra-African trade). Exceptions are IGAD and EAC, which trade more with COMESA – this is due to the fact that almost all their member states are also members of COMESA and apply its liberalizing trade regimes. An exception to this trend is also ECCAS, which has the lowest share of intra-African trade and the share of intraregional trade is extremely small (less than 1%). Intraregional trade of the communities will be discussed in detail in the next section.

A relatively large share of the trade of CEN-SAD is occupied by ECOWAS (4,1%, 23 Billion USD), which can partly be explained by the overlapping membership of some countries in both communities, and COMESA (2%, 11 Billion). Most rapidly increases the volume of trade with SADC and COMESA (about 4 times), and slowest - with ECCAS and ECOWAS (2,3 times).

The main trading partner of COMESA among RECs is SADC (6,8%, 20 Billion USD), the trade with it being almost equal to the intraregional. Extremely fast is increasing trade with ECCAS (nearly 12 times), while with all other RECs growth is below the average for the community, reaching to below 2 times for IGAD and EAC.

EAC actively trades with COMESA and IGAD (14.4 and 8,4%, 6 Billion and 4 Billion USD). This can also be explained by the overlapping membership of different countries, some of them (Kenya, Uganda) participating in all three communities.

Again, the fastest increase of trade flows is observed with ECCAS (3,4 times), while all other RECs have a close growth rate (12-13% annually).

Table 2. RECs intraregional trade

	CEN-SAD	COMESA	EAC	ECCAS	ECOWAS	IGAD	SADC
Share of REC total trade, 2012, %							
Africa	9,6	13,2	21,4	8,2	12,5	15,9	14,0
CEN-SAD	6,6	3,9	2,8	2,0	8,9	4,6	2,1
COMESA	2,0	7,0	14,4	2,0	0,2	10,8	5,4
EAC	0,2	2,2	11,1	0,5	0,0	6,3	1,0
ECCAS	0,5	1,2	1,9	0,7	0,7	0,9	2,1
ECOWAS	4,1	0,2	0,3	1,5	8,3	0,2	1,7
IGAD	0,5	2,3	8,4	0,3	0,0	7,2	0,7
SADC	1,4	6,8	9,3	5,2	2,6	4,8	10,9
Average annual growth (2003-2012, %)							
CEN-SAD	15,5	19,0	17,4	14,2	14,2	19,0	18,6
COMESA	19,1	19,1	13,5	31,7	13,0	12,5	17,0
EAC	15,5	12,6	12,8	15,3	12,4	11,7	13,4
ECCAS	14,2	32,6	17,8	13,1	12,6	17,8	27,4
ECOWAS	14,3	13,3	13,7	13,3	13,9	13,1	19,4
IGAD	18,0	11,6	11,4	14,6	12,7	9,8	14,6
SADC	19,4	16,2	13,2	28,1	20,5	14,2	17,5

Source: IMF DOTS, accessed on 11.04.2014 and own calculations.

The main partner of ECCAS among RECs is SADC (5,2%, 9 Billion) and trade between them is nearly 2/3 of all intra-African trade of ECCAS. For the period 2003-2012 a sharp increase is observed in the trade with COMESA and SADC (respectively 11 and 9 times).

Largest share in the trade of ECOWAS has CEN-SAD (8,9%) because of the reasons outlined when discussing the inter-community trade of the latter. The most significant growth was observed in trade with SADC (4,5 times), while with all other REC it increased about 2 times for the period 2003-2012.

In IGAD too overlapping membership can be considered as a factor for the high proportion of trade with COMESA (10,8%), EAC (6,3%) and SADC (4,8%, 3 Billion USD). Here also most rapidly increases trade with ECCAS (3,4 times), while slowest growth is observed in intraregional trade (only 30% for the whole period).

The main trading partner of the SADC among African RECs is COMESA (5,4%). The largest growth has trade with ECCAS (8 times), fast are increasing also the trade flows with ECOWAS and CEN-SAD (almost 4 times).

5 Intraregional trade

The goal of economic integration is the creation of a larger market in which factors of production are more efficiently used and where member states derive more benefits from mutual trade. The most obvious indicators of the success of an integration scheme are the volume and the increase in intraregional trade flows. They show how effective are the regimes for trade liberalisation within the community and the extent to which integration itself contributes to the development of the member states, as well as how much and what are the benefits realized from trade creation and trade diversion effects. Therefore this section analyses the intraregional trade of the regional economic communities in Africa that are recognized as building blocks of AEC– in terms of the contribution of the member states of the respective RECs as well as of trends for the period 2003-2012.

For the complete data on intraregional trade of individual RECs, see the Annex.

5.1 Community of Sahel-Saharan States

For the period 2003-2012 the share of intraregional trade of CEN-SAD remains generally the same – about 6%, and for 2012 it is 6,6%. There is no significant change both in imports and exports – 6,2 and 6,9% for 2012, both indicators increasing by 15,5% on average to reach the 2012 levels of respectively 18 and 19 Billion USD.

The largest contribution to intraregional trade of CEN-SAD have Nigeria (19%), Côte d'Ivoire (15%), Mali, Ghana, Egypt and Tunisia (about 10%) – together these six countries carry out about 3/4 of the total intraregional trade. Leaders in imports are Nigeria, Egypt and Côte d'Ivoire (60%) and in exports – Ghana, Libya and Côte d'Ivoire (47%). Interestingly, the share of imports in Nigeria is over 30% and this in exports – only 9%, thus the trade balance of the country's trade with the rest of the CEN-SAD is about minus 4 Billion USD. Fastest-growing volume of trade is observed in Egypt (29.4% average), Somalia (22%), Libya (20%), Morocco and Djibouti (17%), while slowest – in Burkina Faso and Gambia (under 4%).

Although it has the largest contribution to intraregional trade (7.2 Billion USD in 2012) Nigeria’s share of intraregional trade in the total trade of the country is quite low – only 4,6%. In 9 member states this share is above the average for the continent being highest in Niger (35%), Burkina Faso (34%), Mali, Ivory Coast and Guinea-Bissau (28-29%) – all of these countries are also members of ECOWAS, and of one of the monetary areas in it (the West African Economic and Monetary Union – UEMOA).

CEN-SAD fails to realize the potential benefits of integration in terms of intraregional trade. Although it is more than two thirds of all trade with Africa, trade between member states remains relatively weak and there is no tendency for it to increase. This suggests that the trade liberalisation policies of the community are not applied or are ineffective. Most of the countries that have a large share of trade with other members of the CEN-SAD are also members of other RECs (ECOWAS, COMESA), where integration processes are deeper, thus they trade mainly with partners in them.

5.2 Common market for Eastern and Southern Africa

Here the volume of intraregional trade for the period increased five times, and its share – by 2 percentage points, reaching 7%. The same increase of share and values is observed both in imports and exports, both indicators increasing by about 19% annually and by respectively 7,5 Billion and 8,5 Billion USD. In this community, intraregional trade is more than half of all intra-African trade (53%).

Around two thirds of intraregional trade in 2012 is carried out by Zambia (17%), Egypt (16%), the DR Congo (15%) and Kenya (13%). Egypt, Kenya and Zambia are the most active in imports (62% total) while Zambia, Congo and Libya – in exports (47% total).

The fastest increase on intraregional imports is observed in DR Congo (55%), where the volume of trade rose from 170 Million in 2003 to nearly 3 Billion USD in 2012, the Seychelles (69%), Zambia, Egypt and Burundi (by about 30% annually). Several countries experienced a decline, the largest in Djibouti (about 5 times), which is the only country in the community where the volume of trade decreased – from 205 Million USD in 2003 to 136 Million in 2012. In exports the most significant increase was observed in Zimbabwe (42%), Libya (32%), DR Congo (31%), Zambia (24%) and Kenya (19% average annual growth).

Most benefits of the integration process (as a share of intraregional of total national trade) obtained Rwanda (38%), Uganda and Burundi (by 26%), Zambia and DR Congo (25%).

The share of intra-continental trade in COMESA is still low, but it shows a steady upward trend, which is faster than the average growth of trade flows for the community. The impact of the deepening of the integration process is obvious – more than half of the increase in the volume of intraregional trade takes place after 2009, when the community begins to act as a customs union.

5.3 East African Community

Although it is the smallest REC in terms of volume of trade flows, the community is leader in Africa in terms of share of intraregional trade – 11,1% in 2012. For the period however there is a decrease of 3,6 percentage points. Particularly high is the proportion of intraregional imports – nearly 1/5, while exports accounts for only 8%, and their decrease compared to 2003 is by 3 percentage points greater. Unlike other RECs however, here the value of intraregional trade is increasing more slowly than that of total trade (respectively 2 and 3 times), and in turn, imports grew more slowly than exports – 11,6 and 14,1% annually.

Kenya has the largest share of intraregional trade (39%), followed by Uganda (28%) and Tanzania (19%). Uganda and Rwanda traded most actively with other member states. Compared to their share in the EAC total trade, Uganda carries out 16% of total and 28% intra-EAC trade while Rwanda – respectively 4 and 11%. Kenya has a share two thirds of imports into the community and the biggest exporters are Uganda (36,6%), Tanzania (24,6) and Rwanda (19,2%). The highest growth in imports is observed in Rwanda (42% annual average), while in exports – in Kenya (31%).

Leaders in the share of intraregional to total trade are Rwanda (33.6%), Burundi (25%) and Uganda (23.1%), while in the larger and more open economies of Tanzania and Kenya it is only about 8%.

EAC is the community in which the integration process is the most thorough – created as a customs union, it is the only REC where there is an operational common market. This is evident from the higher levels of intraregional trade compared to other RECs.

The decrease of the share of intraregional trade could be associated with the fact that with the creation of a tripartite free trade area all members of the community have access to an even larger market as member states of either COMESA or SADC. Thus the share of intra-continental and especially inter-community trade with these RECs increases, being the highest in Africa – more than one fifth of the total EAC trade.

5.4 Economic Community of Central African States

ECCAS is an exception to other RECs in terms of intraregional trade. Its member states' trade with each other is extremely small – only 0,7% of their total trade. Imports and exports are close in value (respectively 690 and 526 Million USD for 2012), but the share of the latter is slightly higher (respectively 0,4 and 1,5%). The growth rate of intraregional trade flows is almost twice slower than that of the total trade of ECCAS.

The largest share of intraregional trade has Cameroon (29%), which is also leader in imports (64%) and Gabon (27%), which in turn is the leader in exports (37%) with the highest growth in this indicator (more than 3 times). Strong growth in exports has Chad (35% average) and in imports – Burundi (45%) and Congo (18%).

The only countries in the community, where the share of intra-African trade is above 5% are Sao Tome and Principe (6,8%) and the Central African Republic (15,7%) while in 4 of the other countries this share is below 1%.

Frequent conflicts (internal and external), political instability and mistrust between ECCAS member states can be considered as the main reasons for the extremely inefficient and unsuccessful policy of trade integration in the community. Although a partial free trade area and customs union exists in the region, the exceptions are so many, that ECCAS is apparently not considered by member countries as a potential framework for the realisation of the benefits of integration.

5.5 Economic Community of Western African States

In ECOWAS the share of intraregional trade is relatively high – 8,3% for 2012. Here alike the EAC it decreases (from 10,6% in 2004), with a marked decline in 2011 – 8,8% in 2010 to 6,8% in 2011. A decrease was observed both in imports and exports – in imports the share is 9,2% in 2004, only 5,9% in 2011 and 7,2% in 2012, while in exports – 12,3, 7,9 and 9.6% for the respective years. The value of intraregional trade is growing, albeit with 3 percentage points annually slower than the average for the community, and here too exports outpace imports by half a percentage point.

Largest contribution to intraregional trade have Nigeria (31%), Côte d'Ivoire (25%) and Ghana (15%). More than half of the regional import is carried out by Nigeria, followed by Côte d'Ivoire (27%). The most significant export share has Ghana (26%) followed by the large economies of Côte d'Ivoire (24%) and Nigeria (13%). The fastest are growing imports of Sierra Leone (26% average annual growth), Mali (19%) and Nigeria (19%) and exports – of Côte d'Ivoire (19%) and Nigeria (17%).

Most active in intraregional as a share of total national trade are the member states of the UEMOA – Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger and Senegal (18-33%), except for Benin and Togo (9 and 7%). In the member countries of the West

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African Monetary Zone, the share of regional trade is much lower (1-7%) being highest in Gambia and Ghana (12%).

The volume of intra-ECOWAS trade is gradually increasing, while as share it slightly decreases. Particularly effective in carrying out the commercial benefits of integration are the member states of the older and more developed Monetary Union of the Francophone countries within the community - UEMOA. It is obvious that the measures undertaken toward trade liberalisation associated with the creation of a common market and the free movement of factors of production yield results. The planned merger of the two monetary unions in the community would contribute even more to the development of the integration process.

5.6 Intergovernmental Authority for Development

Despite all stated intentions to integrate trade of countries in the region, for the period 2003-2012 the share of intraregional trade in IGAD declined slightly – from 8 to 7,2%. This is true both for exports (from 8,4 to 5.2%) and imports (from 14 to 11,9%), the latter having a higher share throughout the period. For 2003-2011 it is about 50% greater than that of exports, and in 2012 it exceeded more than double. Exports grew slightly faster than imports (by 1,5 percentage points per year on average) and in 2012 reached a level of around 2,3 Billion USD.

The most significant contribution to intraregional trade has Kenya (32%), which accounts for more than half of imports (55%), followed by Uganda (23%) and Somalia (14%) who in turn are the biggest exporters in community (total 71%). Although still with relatively small share (9% in 2012), Kenya has the highest growth (25% annually) in exports, while imports grew fastest in Sudan (38% annual average).

The largest share of intraregional compared to total national trade show Somalia (31%), Uganda (18%) and Djibouti (13%), while in the major contributor for intraregional trade in terms of value Kenya this share is only 6%.

IGAD fails to realize the potential benefits of integration in terms of intraregional trade. Although more than half of all trade is with Africa, the share of trade between member states remains relatively small and is has no tendency to increase, which is a sign of failure or ineffectiveness of the trade liberalisation policies of the community. Most of the countries that have a high share of trade with the other members of IGAD are also members of other regional integration communities (EAC, COMESA, SADC) who have reached a higher degree of integration and trade mainly with partners in them.

5.7 South African Development Community

The value of intra-community trade here is the highest of all RECs in Africa – nearly 45 Billion USD in 2012, its share is also high – 10,9% - almost as much as in the leader in this indicator EAC. The share of intraregional exports is the highest in Africa – 13,5%, while that of imports is 9%. Both indicators are increasing faster than the average for the community – by 19 and 16% annually. Here also a decline in imports and exports by about 25% compared to 2008 is observed, which, however, is compensated as early as in 2010 for both indicators to reach values of respectively 22 Billion and 23 Billion USD in 2012.

The most significant share in intraregional trade has the largest economy - South Africa (38%), which is the leader both in exports (25%), but particularly in imports (53%). Second in share of trade is Zambia (16%), which is second in exports (20%) and third in imports surpassed by 165 Million USD by Angola (respectively 12,1 and 12,8% share). With a relatively high share of intraregional trade (8-10%) are also Zimbabwe (third in exports with 15% share), Angola, Mozambique and Congo. The largest annual growth in exports recorded DR Congo and South Africa (29% on average) and Zimbabwe (26%) and in imports – Angola (120%), DR Congo (59%) and the Seychelles (47% average annual growth).

Leader among the economies in the community in share of intraregional compared to national trade with over two-thirds is Zimbabwe's (66%), followed by Zambia (53%) and Malawi, Mozambique and Congo (respectively 38, 36 and 32%). None of these countries is a member in the scheme of increased integration in the community – the South African Customs Union. De facto a common market operates within the SADC (formally it is postponed to 2015) and an economic and monetary union – on the territory of SACU.

SADC, in which the largest economy on the continent – South Africa, is a member, is the leader in intraregional trade in the continent as a value and very close to the first REC – EAC, as a share. During the period the volume of trade increased dramatically. Members in the community are the countries with the highest levels of intraregional compared to national trade. SADC is the only community that was not only able to quickly overcome the crisis of 2009, typical of all the RECs, but also to increase both the value and the share of regional trade by more than 50% in the next period to 2012. The clear political commitments dictated by the central place of South Africa and the clearly specified allocation schemes for the benefits of integration contribute to the more rapid deepening of the integration process and the effective use of the mechanisms of trade liberalisation as well as for the implementation of the benefits of integration, especially in their aspect of trade creation.

6 Conclusion

African countries' and RECs' main trade flows are highly dependent on their historical ties with the rest of the world and especially with Europe. Over 80% of all African exports are directed towards markets outside the continent. Similar is the share of imports coming from external sources. The main trends observed in all RECs are the shift of trade flows from the EU and the U.S. to China and India, although in almost all communities the EU maintains its leading position as trade partner. In some communities this affects more the exports (ECCAS, SADC), in others – the imports (CEN-SAD, EAC, ECOWAS), and in third – both (COMESA, IGAD). There is a decline in trade during the crisis years (2009-2010) which, however, is subsequently compensated. The overall growth in the value of trade in all RECs with all major trading partners in 2012 is higher than the world average.

During the period 2003-2012, the share of intra-continental trade in Africa remains low (9-10 %) – for comparison in 2012 in Europe it is 72%, in Asia – 52%, in North America

– 48%, and in Central and South America – 26% (WTO, 2013). The main reasons for the low share of intra-continental trade could be summarised as follows: first, the production and export structure of most African economies are based on raw materials, demand for which is oriented mainly outside the continent; second, there are structural deficiencies, which are expressed in the economies' dependence on external imports, thus the key driver of growth are external rather than national markets; third, the rather poor performance is further reduced by improper or lack of infrastructure.

Although the inter-community trade is growing at a faster pace than the total volume of trade flows of the regional economic communities in Africa for the period 2003-2012, the results achieved so far are fairly limited – both the share and the volume of trade between RECs remain relatively low. Most often higher volumes of trade between RECs are due to overlapping membership of certain countries that benefit from trade liberalisation between RECs, but that does not lead to a significant increase in trade between the communities themselves. Although there are still no visible results, the establishment of the tripartite FTA between COMESA, EAC and SADC could be seen as a good signal towards overcoming the deficit in inter-community trade, and as a necessary step for the creation of a common continental market and subsequently of the African economic community.

African countries trade less with each other, but they have the potential to increase trade in terms of geographical proximity, cultural heritage and size of the economies. Data obtained from the application of a gravity model show that the countries of West and Central Africa realise only 43% of the potential trade between themselves and those in Eastern and Southern Africa – 75%. (ECA 2013c, p. 5).

Overall, the levels of intraregional trade of African RECs are relatively low (1-11 % of total trade) which indicates for a not so good implementation of member states' obligations to eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers. The main reason are their concerns about the distribution of the integration benefits. Most actively involved in intraregional trade are the major economies across RECs. The analysis clearly shows that the more advanced and deep the integration process is (i.e. the larger institutionalized political commitments made by member states), the higher are the levels of intraregional trade, and hence – the more effective are utilised the benefits of integration.

Increasing the intra- and inter-community trade can be achieved through structural diversification of production that is already successfully implemented by some countries, reorienting to production of processed products (the strongest example is RSA). This can be seen as the beginning of a much-needed restructuring of production, based on which to expand mutually advantageous trade between African countries and RECs (ECA 2013c, p. 5).

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Annex. African RECs intraregional trade

Table 1. CEN-SAD intraregional trade (Million USD)

	Exports				Imports				Total trade	
	2003	2012	Share	Growth[1]	2003	2012	Share	Growth [1]	2012	Share [2]
Total	**5215**	**19283**	**6,9[3]**	**15,6**	**4994**	**18112**	**6,2[3]**	**15,4**	**37395**	**6,6[3]**
Benin	193	585	3,0	13,1	49	145	0,8	12,8	730	9,9
Burkina Faso	348	821	4,3	10,0	278	122	0,7	-8,8	942	33,7
Central African Republic	7	22	0,1	13,7	2	6	0,0	16,1	28	5,3
Chad	18	80	0,4	18,3	9	14	0,1	5,1	94	2,2
Cote d'Ivoire	601	2863	14,9	18,9	961	2720	15,0	12,3	5583	27,8
Djibouti	6	155	0,8	42,9	125	426	2,4	14,6	581	14,3
Egypt	113	624	3,2	20,9	370	2899	16,0	25,7	3523	3,4
Gambia, The	74	137	0,7	7,1	1	4	0,0	17,7	141	13,3
Ghana	856	3140	16,3	15,5	144	462	2,6	13,8	3602	13,5
Guinea-Bissau	60	71	0,4	1,8	13	67	0,4	20,2	137	27,7
Liberia	37	122	0,6	14,3	10	45	0,2	18,2	167	1,1
Libya	564	3013	15,7	20,5	421	1070	5,9	10,9	4083	5,4
Mali	299	835	4,3	12,1	12	29	0,2	10,0	864	29,4
Morocco	306	941	4,9	13,3	249	1058	5,8	17,4	1999	3,2
Niger	171	442	2,3	11,1	82	212	1,2	11,1	654	34,6
Nigeria	355	1717	8,9	19,2	1100	5516	30,5	19,6	7233	4,6
Senegal	441	1063	5,5	10,3	364	759	4,2	8,5	1822	18,0
Sierra Leone	53	115	0,6	8,9	2	9	0,1	19,9	124	5,2
Somalia	0	21	0,1	64,0	6	21	0,1	14,9	42	2,0
Sudan	126	692	3,6	20,9	69	193	1,1	12,1	885	6,2
Togo	83	312	1,6	15,9	236	441	2,4	7,2	753	7,7
Tunisia	491	1466	7,6	12,9	489	1885	10,4	16,2	3352	8,3

[1]Average annual growth 2003-2012, %; [2] of country's total trade; [3] of REC.

Note: No data for Eritrea (share of total REC trade 0,3%)

Source: IMF DOTS, accessed on 11.04.2014 and own calculations.

Table 2. COMESA intraregional trade (Million USD)

	Exports				Imports				Total trade	
	2003	2012	Share	Growth[1]	2003	2012	Share	Growth [1]	2012	Share [2]
Total	**2203**	**10890**	**6,9[3]**	**19,4**	**2004**	**9403**	**7,1[3]**	**18,7**	**20292**	**7,0[3]**
Burundi	42	139	1,3	14,1	3	31	0,3	28,6	170	25,9
Comoros	13	27	0,2	8,8	1	1	0,0	2,8	28	9,3
Congo, DR	145	1661	15,3	31,1	25	1285	13,7	54,7	2946	24,5
Djibouti	141	123	1,1	-1,5	64	13	0,1	-16,1	136	3,3
Egypt	225	835	7,7	15,7	237	2480	26,4	29,8	3315	3,2
Ethiopia	116	325	3,0	12,1	130	100	1,1	-2,9	425	4,3
Kenya	155	714	6,6	18,5	810	1823	19,4	9,4	2537	10,8
Libya	126	1576	14,5	32,4	35	153	1,6	18,0	1729	2,3
Madagascar	69	202	1,9	12,7	52	38	0,4	-3,3	240	5,6
Malawi	74	299	2,7	16,8	59	190	2,0	13,8	490	17,8
Mauritius	93	155	1,4	5,9	149	216	2,3	4,2	371	5,1
Rwanda	123	476	4,4	16,2	3	121	1,3	52,0	598	38,4
Seychelles	14	43	0,4	13,4	0	39	0,4	68,8	82	5,8
Sudan	202	782	7,2	16,2	96	381	4,0	16,5	1163	8,1
Uganda	379	973	8,9	11,1	142	587	6,2	17,1	1560	26,5
Zambia	257	1873	17,2	24,7	88	1503	16,0	37,0	3376	24,7
Zimbabwe	29	687	6,3	42,1	109	441	4,7	16,8	1127	16,7

[1]Average annual growth 2003-2012, %; [2] of country's total trade; [3] of REC.

Note: No data for Eritrea and Swaziland (share of total REC trade resp. 0,5 and 1,3%).

Source: IMF DOTS, accessed on 11.04.2014 and own calculations.

Table 3. EAC intraregional trade (Million USD)

	Exports				Imports				Total trade	
	2003	2012	Share	Growth[1]	2003	2012	Share	Growth [1]	2012	Share [2]
Total	**787**	**2582**	**8,0[3]**	**14,1**	**879**	**2355**	**19,8[3]**	**11,6**	**4937**	**11,1[3]**
Burundi	51	147	5,7	12,5	3	16	0,7	20,7	163	25,0
Kenya	32	359	13,9	30,9	711	1567	66,5	9,2	1926	8,2
Rwanda	118	495	19,2	17,3	1	29	1,2	41,6	524	33,6
Tanzania	218	636	24,6	12,6	48	325	13,8	23,7	961	7,5
Uganda	369	944	36,6	11,0	115	418	17,7	15,4	1362	23,1

[1]Average annual growth 2003-2012, %; [2] of country's total trade; [3] of REC.

Source: IMF DOTS, accessed on 11.04.2014 and own calculations.

Table 4. ECCAS intraregional trade (Million USD)

	Exports				Imports				Total trade	
	2003	2012	Share	Growth[1]	2003	2012	Share	Growth [1]	2012	Share [2]
Total	**234**	**690**	**1,5[3]**	**12,7**	**164**	**526**	**0,4[3]**	**13,8**	**1216**	**0,7[3]**
Angola	10	56	8,1	20,7	2	6	1,1	13,1	62	0,1
Burundi	1	5	0,7	15,6	0	10	1,9	45,4	15	2,3
Cameroon	19	15	2,2	-2,1	111	336	63,8	13,1	351	3,0
Central African Republic	21	69	10,0	14,1	4	14	2,7	14,4	83	15,7
Chad	50	171	24,8	14,6	0	0	0,1	16,4	171	4,1
Congo, DR	16	64	9,2	16,6	6	11	2,1	5,9	74	0,6
Congo, Republic of	38	39	5,7	0,4	19	81	15,4	17,7	120	0,8
Equatorial Guinea	2	8	1,2	16,6	0	1	0,1	3,6	8	0,0
Gabon	75	256	37,1	14,6	21	68	12,9	14,0	324	2,4
Sao Tome and Principe	2	7	1,0	14,5	0	0	0,0	14,6	7	6,8

[1]Average annual growth 2003-2012, %; [2] of country's total trade; [3] of REC.

Source: IMF DOTS, accessed on 11.04.2014 and own calculations.

Table 5. ECOWAS intraregional trade (Million USD)

	Exports				Imports				Total trade	
	2003	2012	Share	Growth[1]	2003	2012	Share	Growth [1]	2012	Share [2]
Total	**3474**	**11384**	**9,6[3]**	**14,1**	**3298**	**10415**	**7,2[3]**	**13,6**	**21799**	**8,3[3]**
Benin	187	541	4,7	12,5	45	142	1,4	13,7	682	9,2
Burkina Faso	342	767	6,7	9,4	278	117	1,1	-9,2	884	31,6
Cape Verde	10	6	0,1	-5,4	0	0	0,0	17,1	6	0,8
Cote d'Ivoire	570	2719	23,9	19,0	957	2772	26,6	12,5	5491	27,4
Gambia, The	65	117	1,0	6,6	1	4	0,0	18,4	121	11,4
Ghana	822	2923	25,7	15,1	139	446	4,3	13,8	3369	12,6
Guinea	61	229	2,0	15,8	57	14	0,1	-14,6	242	5,1
Guinea-Bissau	59	64	0,6	0,8	14	68	0,6	18,9	131	26,6
Liberia	30	116	1,0	16,3	10	23	0,2	9,4	139	0,9
Mali	280	780	6,9	12,1	4	28	0,3	23,0	808	27,5
Niger	157	402	3,5	11,0	82	211	2,0	11,1	613	32,5
Nigeria	362	1427	12,5	16,5	1092	5311	51,0	19,2	6738	4,3
Senegal	398	939	8,3	10,0	388	843	8,1	9,0	1783	17,6
Sierra Leone	53	114	1,0	8,9	1	8	0,1	26,2	122	5,1
Togo	77	240	2,1	13,4	230	429	4,1	7,1	668	6,9

[1]Average annual growth 2003-2012, %; [2] of country's total trade; [3] of REC.

Source: IMF DOTS, accessed on 11.04.2014 and own calculations.

Table 6. IGAD intraregional trade (Million USD)

	Exports				Imports				Total trade	
	2003	2011	Share	Growth[1]	2003	2011	Share	Growth [1]	2011	Share [2]
Total	**870**	**2296**	**5,2**[3]	**12,9**	**970**	**2288**	**11,9**[3]	**11,3**	**4585**	**7,2**[3]
Djibouti	138	81	3,9	-6,5	182	433	20,0	11,5	514	12,6
Ethiopia	93	368	11,6	18,7	128	65	3,6	-8,1	433	4,4
Kenya	21	124	8,8	24,5	543	1343	54,9	12,0	1467	6,2
Somalia	187	636	31,4	16,5	1	3	0,1	16,9	639	31,1
Sudan	73	151	4,9	9,6	23	305	11,8	38,4	456	3,2
Uganda	357	937	39,5	12,8	94	138	9,6	5,0	1075	18,2

[1]Average annual growth 2003-2012, %; [2] of country's total trade; [3] of REC.

Note: No data for Eritrea (share of total REC trade 2,3%)

Source: IMF DOTS, accessed on 11.04.2014 and own calculations.

Table 9. SADC intraregional trade (Million USD)

	Exports				Imports				Total trade	
	2003	2012	Share	Growth[1]	2003	2012	Share	Growth [1]	2012	Share [2]
Total	**4880**	**23211**	**13,5**[3]	**18,9**	**5663**	**21633**	**9,0**[3]	**16,1**	**44844**	**10,9**[3]
Angola	496	1543	6,6	13,4	2	2774	12,8	120,1	4317	4,7
Congo, DR	253	2556	11,0	29,3	19	1218	5,6	58,9	3774	31,4
Madagascar	148	389	1,7	11,3	66	96	0,4	4,4	485	11,4
Malawi	368	800	3,4	9,0	86	243	1,1	12,2	1043	38,0
Mozambique	698	2717	11,7	16,3	256	1444	6,7	21,2	4161	36,0
Mauritius	369	450	1,9	2,2	165	424	2,0	11,0	874	12,1
Seychelles	54	86	0,4	5,2	1	29	0,1	46,8	115	8,2
South Africa	598	5801	25,0	28,7	3613	11357	52,5	13,6	17158	7,3
Tanzania	447	891	3,8	8,0	94	358	1,7	16,1	1249	9,8
Zambia	1018	4602	19,8	18,2	423	2609	12,1	22,4	7212	52,8
Zimbabwe	431	3377	14,5	25,7	939	1080	5,0	1,6	4457	65,9

[1]Average annual growth 2003-2011, %; [2] of country's total trade; [3] of REC.

Note: No data for Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (share of total REC trade resp. 3,3; 0,9; 2,6 and 0,9%).

Source: IMF DOTS, accessed on 11.04.2014 and own calculations.