

Is Free Market Access Enough for Development? – Lessons of the Lomé Conventions

BEÁTA UDVARI (*University of Szeged, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, udvari.beata@eco.u-szeged.hu*)

Nowadays, international organizations emphasize the free market access to promote development in the least-developed countries. Similar initiatives took place in the past – perhaps the greatest one was the Lomé Conventions between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP-) countries. The Lomé Conventions granted the most privileges among the European initiatives: the contracting developing countries could enjoy free and non-reciprocal market access to the European markets along with industrial development. I would test this attempt by cluster analysis to identify the relatively homogeneous (successful and unsuccessful) countries within the ACP-countries and to compare their achievements with control countries getting less favourable preferences. Therefore this analysis would reflect whether free market access could be enough for achieving development.

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