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Regions and Economic Development Policies:
A Comparative Perspective
The Role of Collaboration and Functional Governance

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Abstract: Regions are becoming increasingly important entities for facilitating economic growth and driving national and international prosperity. For governments, finding opportunities to improve the performance of regional economies is becoming a critical issue. However, forms of governance based on static territorial boundaries increasingly fail to address issues that can affect the economic performance of regions. Furthermore, even where established regional governance frameworks exist, they may not be integrated enough to foster the trust and collaboration among regional actors to implement sustained region-wide policies or programs. Regional economic development is increasingly viewed as a functional governance issue, where collaboration and partnerships with a variety of stakeholders across boundaries is critical to enhancing regional economic performance.

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