

On The Determinants of Growth in Middle East and North African Countries: How Relevant is Institutions?

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Abstract

Overall, the growth performance of countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region has been weak relative to other regions in the World. Most of the countries in the MENA region share a similar economic structure, such as high population growth rates, high rates of unemployment, less democracy and oil dependence. Rodrik et al. (2004) argue that good institutions are the main determinant of economic growth. This paper examines the extent to which slow economic growth of countries in the MENA region can be explained by institutional quality.