

FEIGG 2023: Analysis of foreign economic influences in three countries of the West African Sub-Region

The FEIGG project focuses on three West African countries – Ghana, Togo and Benin - a sub-region of growing strategic importance due to its abundant resources and relative ease of access, which has drawn the attention of various foreign powers. France, historically the dominant external actor through its longstanding ties with its former colonies' governments, now faces increasing competition from emerging economic stakeholders such as China, India, Brazil, and Turkey. Since the early 2000s, these actors have progressively expanded their presence across all sectors within the region.

The diversification of foreign economic players is particularly visible in the FEIGG zone, where Ghana, Togo and Benin offer considerable advantages for external investors: significant reserves of natural resources (such as gold, phosphate, cotton, cocoa, etc.) and a strategically located coastal position. Most of the region's commercial exchange is routed through the autonomous ports of Tema, Cotonou and Lomé. Their traffic drains the sub-region and has grown steadily in recent years.

The FEIGG project explores the question of foreign influence through the lens of industrial dynamics: **How does the Ghana-Togo-Benin region function as an increasingly attractive space for a diverse range of global economic actors?**

