

Measuring Financial Inclusion for MENA Countries Using Sarma (2016) Approach

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of this paper is to measure the Financial Inclusion as one of the main components of sustainable development for a sample of MENA countries. The study consists of applying Sarma (2016) approach to build an index of Financial Inclusion. Based on 13 MENA countries divided into oil producing and oil non-producing economies, during the period between 2004 and 2022, we found that the level of financial inclusion differs from a country to another and from a period to another. Oil producing countries seem to have more stadial development of their level of financial inclusion. They are also characterized by a high level of resilience to economic, social, and financial shocks as they have maintained a progress of their indexes during last distress moments such as the financial crisis of 2008, the social and political crisis of the Arabic Spring and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keywords: Financial Inclusion, Sustainable development, Banks and Microfinance Institutions, Euclidian Distance

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