

# Glossary

## The vocabulary of regionalism



**T**he technical vocabulary of regionalism has yet to be standardized, and different authors use the same terms to mean different things. For consistency, this study has adopted the following definitions, especially in their commonly applied economic usage.

**Regional integration.** A process that leads to greater interdependence within a region. Regional integration may be market-driven or policy-led. Global integration refers to a similar process operating globally.

**Regional interdependence.** Regional economic interaction through trade, investment, finance, and other channels. The degree of regional interdependence affects the way a region's economies move together and how changes are transmitted among them.

**Regional cooperation.** Official activities that encourage regional integration and/or help to shape coordinated action and responses to developments that affect the region. These activities include intergovernmental dialogue, information exchanges, provision of regional public goods, and regional institution building.

**Regionalism.** A policy perspective that focuses on the importance of regional integration and promotes regional cooperation. Regionalism lies at an intermediate level between nationalism and globalism.

**Regionalization.** A process that promotes the formation of regions. Regionalization usually refers to market-led integration and is often used in contrast to globalization, to indicate a world with a stronger regional focus.