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Comparative analysis of the experiences of European Union member states in adapting economic structures to the challenges of the emerging quaternary sector

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Summary

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Thesis summary

This paper explores the transition of European Union member states' economies toward the quaternary sector, an emerging domain based on knowledge, innovation, and advanced technology. The focus is on how European economies are adapting their traditional structures to leverage the potential offered by the quaternary sector, highlighting best practices and the challenges encountered during this process.

The research is justified by the increasing importance of the quaternary sector in the contemporary global economy, which redefines economic competitiveness through investments in education, research and development (R&D), and digitalization. EU member states face economic, social, and political challenges in trying to harness these opportunities, and this paper aims to thoroughly analyze these transitions.

The main objectives of the research include identifying the key characteristics that define the new knowledge-based economic model, developing a composite index to measure the level of tertiary sector advancement in European economies, and creating a set of indicators to assess the impact of the transition to the quaternary sector on economic and social prosperity. The study also provides a detailed comparative analysis of the economies of four EU member states—France, Germany, Romania, and Sweden—exploring successful strategies and barriers in adopting this new economic model.

The conclusions highlight the need for supportive policies in innovation, education, and digitalization to facilitate the transition to a knowledge-based economy, while also emphasizing the differences among member states in integrating the quaternary sector. The paper concludes with recommendations for optimizing national and regional strategies for sustainable economic transitions.