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Contribution of the AHP Method to the Reference Framework Process

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Abstract

Benchmarking, which consists of positioning an entity, project or organisation in relation to a framework of best practices or established standards, is an essential approach in various professional fields. However, this approach often encounters a major methodological problem: aggregating multiple criteria, which are often disparate and subjective, proves difficult to achieve with the rigour necessary to guarantee reliable results [1]-[2]-[3]. The Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) method offers a solution to this limitation [4]. We detail its methodological foundations: hierarchical structuring of the reference framework, pairwise comparisons according to Saaty's scale [4]-[5], determination of priorities by calculating the principal eigenvector, evaluation of the consistency of judgements (consistency index and ratio) and hierarchical synthesis of priorities. Thanks to AHP, qualitative assessments are converted into quantified data, allowing the referencing process to be streamlined. It thus offers a transparent and reproducible decision.

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