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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the individual measure in favour of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and its member states for 2023

Action Document for EU outreach facility for the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and its members states

ANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and action plans/measures in the sense of Article 23 of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	EU outreach facility for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and its members states OPSYS number: ACT-61598; JAD.1103662 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (<u>NDICI-Global Europe</u>)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in the countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC): Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.
4. Programming document	Regional Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027 Asia and the Pacific
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	<u>Priority area 2.3: Pursuing EU Interests with Key Partners Gulf Countries</u> SO 1- Stronger partnership in furtherance of the EU’s external priorities. ER 1: EU priorities are effectively promoted, realising economies of scale and facilitating exchanges. SO 2 - Stronger regional integration through dialogue and cooperation, as well as with neighbouring regions. ER 2.1: Regional cooperation and integration and confidence building efforts are strengthened. SO 4- More open and inclusive societies in the Gulf region. ER 4.1: Policies and national strategies promote more open, and inclusive societies, human rights (including labour rights), governance of media and digital transformation.

	ER 4.2: Understanding and visibility of the Union and of its role by means of public diplomacy, people-to-people contacts, cooperation in educational and academic matters are promoted.			
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION				
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Priority area 2- Pursuing EU interests with key partners; Gulf			
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: 17 – Partnerships to achieve the goal Other significant SDGs: 5 – Gender equality; 11 – Sustainable cities and communities			
8 a) DAC code(s)	99810 - Sectors not specified			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	61000 - Private Sector in provider country			
9. Involvement of multilateral partners	No			
10. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
11. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @ digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

	digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity @ transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

BUDGET INFORMATION

13. Amounts concerned	Budget line: 14 02 01 30 (Middle East and Central Asia) Total estimated cost: EUR 3 500 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 3 500 000
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MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

14. Type of financing¹	Direct management through: Procurement
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1.2 Summary of the Action

The EU has a strategic interest in enhancing its cooperation with the Gulf region. The end to the rift within the GCC in 2021 has facilitated the resumption and expansion of EU-GCC cooperation. The promising societal and economic changes underway in the GCC countries, based on ambitious transformative domestic/national development agendas ('Visions'), and their further development, offer a wide range of opportunities for cooperation and investment. Cooperation agreements² have now been signed by the EU with each of the six GCC countries.

Given the wealth of developments since the 1989 EU-GCC Cooperation agreement, and the need for much stronger and more comprehensive cooperation, the EU is determined to partner with the Gulf region and revitalise cooperation through a robust strategic partnership and solid bilateral institutional frameworks, such as announced with the adoption of the EU Joint Communication on a 'Strategic Partnership with the Gulf'³ in May 2022.

In this political context, the present action aims to contribute to a strategic partnership between the European Union and the GCC by enhancing political dialogue, cooperation and outreach, both regionally as well as with individual countries in the region.

The action will thus help position the European Union as a partner of choice in the ongoing national transformation processes⁴ of the GCC countries, facilitate effective implementation of the Cooperation Arrangements with GCC countries and of the Joint Communication, enhance the understanding and visibility of the EU in the region and

¹ Art. 27 NDICI

² Kuwait (July 2016), the United Arab Emirates (January 2018), Qatar (March 2018), Oman (September 2018), Bahrain (February 2021) Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (October 2021).

³ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/joint-communication-%E2%80%9Cstrategic-partnership-gulf%E2%80%9D_en

⁴ Saudi Vision 2030, Bahrain 2030, New Kuwait 2035, Oman Vision 2040, Qatar National Vision 2030, UAE Vision 2030

help deepen the people to people links between the two regions.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The EU-GCC partnership is anchored in the 1989 Cooperation Agreement, which covers a variety of sectors of cooperation. Recognising each other's economic, political and geostrategic importance, the relations between the EU and the GCC have been steadily gaining significance. In recent years, not only has the EU strengthened its relations with the GCC at the regional level, it has also significantly boosted its bilateral relationship with each of the six GCC countries.

Cooperation Arrangements, concluded between the EEAS and Ministries of Foreign Affairs of each of the six GCC countries, now complement the regional level Cooperation Agreement. The EU already has four Delegations in the region – Abu Dhabi, Riyadh (covering Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Bahrain), Kuwait and Doha, and with the planned opening of a new Delegation in Muscat in 2024, this presence will soon be boosted further.

From the EU perspective, the Gulf is an important, geostrategic, and dynamic neighbouring region and a considerable global gateway between Europe, Asia and Africa. A significant part of the EU trade currently transits through the Gulf region, mutual investments are sizeable and energy cooperation is increasingly fundamental to the prosperity of the EU economies and for a green transition, in particular in the context of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

From the Gulf's perspective the EU represents the world's largest trader of manufactured goods and services and the world's main provider and top global destination of foreign investments. The EU has also the largest public research and innovation programme (Horizon Europe with a budget of EUR 95 billion) and is the largest donor of development and humanitarian assistance in the world.

Furthermore, the GCC and the EU share many objectives such as the upholding of a rules-based international order; the recognition of the value of political and economic collaboration; and the promotion of peace and stability in the Middle East and beyond. More recently the fight against climate change as well as the post pandemic recovery have become areas of convergence between European and Gulf interests. The Gulf countries and the EU have a strategic interest in cooperating, notably because of strong economic relations, a high volume of trade exchanges as well as a common interest in promoting stability in the region.

Following the AI-Ula agreement, the EU-GCC partnership has gained new momentum as also shown by the high-level visits and meetings over the last months (European Council President Michel, President of the European Commission von der Leyen, HRVP Borrell, etc.). Institutional engagement has been revamped with the organisation of the EU-GCC Joint Cooperation Committee (03/02/2022) and the EU-GCC Joint Council (21/02/2022) and the endorsement of a five-year Joint Action Programme⁵ encompassing a wide range of areas for sectoral cooperation across the board of the political dialogue. The EU is committed to further engage with the region, so as to increase cooperation and strengthen ties on a number of areas, such as climate, green transition, and trade but also foreign and development policy, in the region and beyond..

Building on this process, on 18 May 2022, a Joint Communication (JC) on a "Strategic Partnership with the Gulf" was adopted followed by Council Conclusions in June 2022 with the aim to broaden and deepen the EU cooperation with the Gulf Cooperation Council and its member countries. The JC addresses a series of key policy areas, presenting concrete proposals for strengthened EU-GCC cooperation on energy, green transition and climate change, trade and economic diversification, regional stability and global security, humanitarian and development cooperation challenges, and closer people-to-people contacts. This opens opportunities for potential partnerships and triangular cooperation with Gulf donors and their financial institutions in regions (e.g. Africa, Central Asia, Middle East, and South East Asia) and subjects (e.g. climate change, green transition, etc.) of mutual interest. The JC also addresses the way to increase cooperation to enhance mutual security and the stability of the wider European neighbourhood and the Gulf.

⁵ The EU-GCC Cooperation Programme for 2022-2027 is the result of the EU-GCC Joint Cooperation Committee held on 3 February 2022.

The EU Delegation to Qatar was inaugurated in the presence of European Council President Michel on 7 September 2022. Furthermore, the planned opening of an EU Delegation to Oman is another token to boost the EU presence in the GCC region.

These developments contribute to a new momentum in the EU-GCC relations, both at bilateral and regional level and de facto more instrument of cooperation to be deployed in the region.

At a more operational level, in September 2020, the EU launched a project to support the implementation of political dialogue and cooperation with the GCC as well as EU outreach. The project's main objectives are to strengthen the alliance between the EU and the GCC both at bilateral and regional level, in areas of mutual interest and facilitate the exchange of experiences in these fields. This project has been providing continuous support to the EU Delegations in the GCC and EU services, with opportunities of exchange of EU expertise with GCC counterparts, visibility activities, policy-oriented analysis, capacity-building and training as well as networking.

The project is cooperating with selected national and regional stakeholders, including public stakeholders, civil society organisations, universities, think tanks, media, youth and gender organisations, business and cultural stakeholders.

Considering the strong political signal sent out by the adoption of the Joint Communication, financial support to EU presence, visibility and cooperation need to be reinforced.

2.2 Problem Analysis

At a time of insecurity and significant challenges to the rules-based international order, severely aggravated by Russia's war on Ukraine, the European Union and Gulf countries gain from a stronger and more strategic partnership. The EU and the GCC need to work more closely together to promote the reduction of tensions, building confidence as prerequisites towards lasting stability in the Gulf and the Middle East, on global security threats, energy security, climate change and the green transition, digitalisation, trade and investment.

A strengthened partnership is beneficial both for the EU and for the Gulf partners, with the EU being the world's largest single market, a leader in research and innovation, an important security actor in the Gulf region and the leading actor on global challenges such as climate change and digitalisation. Cooperating in Research and Innovation presents an untapped potential for bringing innovative solutions that create new markets and jobs, contribute to the economic diversification in the region and the economic recovery, and address societal challenges like the green and digital transitions or global health.

The GCC countries are dynamic economies and an important gateway between Europe, Asia and Africa. They are reliable Liquefied Natural Gas providers and have some of the best solar and wind resources in the world, whose development can be key in implementing mutual strategies to meet climate commitments as well as economic goals.

As a strong defender of multilateralism and social transformation including human rights and gender equality, the EU will continue to foster political dialogue on such matters with the Gulf countries.

All six GCC member states have outlined for themselves ambitious national development agendas for economic diversification and social transformation embodied in the countries' respective "Vision" programmes. Although – or exactly because – human rights and democratisation challenges remain, such developments represent an important opportunity for the EU to encourage and accompany the countries through these transformations process. Besides political dialogue and economic cooperation, there is clear added value in the EU further enhancing its engagement with the GCC countries also on issues such as youth and women empowerment, culture and education – areas where the EU enjoys a strong trajectory and which form a part of the respective transformation processes.

This action will focus on bilateral cooperation with each of the GCC countries and eventually merge into a regional logic as relevant, given that regional integration strengthens the foundations for future cooperation in the GCC and contributes to regional peace and stability. It aims at building and implementing a well-structured partnership to accompany each country in the implementation of its respective national vision/ national transformation process and to enhance EU-GCC cooperation in addressing mutual challenges in the region.

Increased cooperation and exchanges between the EU and GCC countries will ultimately be beneficial also for the people of both regions. Closer inter-cultural cooperation, mobility for youth and students, higher education

cooperation and exchanges will improve mutual understanding and trust.

Building on the five-year EU-GCC Joint Action Programme, the **Joint Communication** addresses a series of key policy areas, presenting concrete proposals for strengthened EU-GCC cooperation on energy, green transition and climate change, trade and economic diversification, regional stability and global security, humanitarian and development cooperation challenges, and closer people-to-people contacts.

Joining forces to address climate change and harness the opportunities provided by the green transition is paramount and mutually beneficial. The Gulf region is particularly impacted by climate change and the EU, a pioneer in initiatives for a climate transition, can be a partner in developing the know-how and expertise to address this challenge. The [EU external energy engagement in a changing world](#)⁶ hence also mentions the Gulf region as major partner in that regard and proposes to “hold annual ministerial meetings on the green transition complemented by related private sector initiatives”.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:

The action will be implemented in the six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and in the European Union. It will focus on bilateral cooperation with each of the GCC countries as well as regional activities in cooperation with the GCC Secretariat and relevant services.

Main stakeholders of the action will be public and private stakeholders in each of the six GCC countries, GCC as a regional organisation and the EU. EU Member states will be closely involved through their representatives in the region with the aim of maximising synergies with their ongoing initiatives.

The main target groups of the action are:

- GCC public stakeholders – such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education and Youth, Ministry of Culture and other public bodies in each of the six GCC countries; the GCC Secretariat and its services and committees
- EU public stakeholders - EEAS and European Commission services (both in the Delegation and in headquarters), EU Member States representatives in the region
- Other Stakeholders in EU and in GCC – Academia, think tanks, private sector, civil society, media (both traditional and social media stakeholders) etc.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

As an instrument of partnership between the EU and the GCC countries, the project overall objective (impact) is **to contribute to a stronger dialogue and to help strengthen sectoral cooperation between the EU and the GCC both at bilateral and regional level, based on mutual interests.**

The Specific Objectives (Outcomes) of this action are to:

1. Enhance political dialogue, cooperation and outreach between EU and the GCC (both regionally as well as with individual countries in the region), and
2. Contribute to the improved perception in the GCC of the EU as a global actor

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (outcomes) are:

⁶ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/joint-communication-eu-external-energy-engagement-join202223_en

- 1.1 contributing to outcome 1: Paving the way for the recognition of the EU as a partner of choice in the ongoing national transformation processes of the GCC countries in areas of mutual interest;
- 1.2 contributing to outcome 1: Strengthening of the implementation and monitoring of the Cooperation Arrangements;
- 2.1 contributing to outcome 2: Enhancing the understanding of the EU by both state and non-state stakeholders in the region;
- 2.2 contributing to outcome 2: Strengthening trust and mutual understanding between EU and GCC citizens.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities below are related to outcomes 1 and 2:

- Organisation of workshops, seminars, study tours, high-level conferences etc. to facilitate exchange of knowledge and best practices.
- Provision of specialised technical assistance and policy analysis and advice including drafting of policy briefs, situation analysis, reports, studies and recommendations for operationalising policy priorities in the region.
- Support to high level EU-GCC regional and bilateral dialogues and meetings. This may take the form of technical input and/or organisational support.
- Awareness raising activities including people to people outreach, development and running of communication campaigns, production of promotional/outreach material etc.
- Support the organisation of kick off activities on triangular cooperation between the EU, the GCC and regions of mutual interest (i.e.: Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia and South-East Asia) to identify suitable opportunities for cooperation on Global Gateway initiatives and on topics of mutual concern (e.g. climate change, green transition, etc.) and promote Gulf partners' collaboration with EU Institutions, Member States, financial institutions and the private sector, reflecting the Team Europe approach.

The activities may encompass all policy areas and sectors of EU interests. All project activities might be implemented either at bilateral or at regional levels.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Gender equality and women empowerment will be mainstreamed throughout the implementation of the action by aiming to (inter alia) ensure gender balanced speaker panels, round tables and working groups, including at high-level representation. Gender equality will be addressed by inclusion of gender-relevant issues in the exchanges and dialogues. Specific initiatives may include analysis of gender related issues in the policy areas and sectors covered by the project, analysis of gender equality in administrations and businesses, mapping women's involvement and contribution to climate change related technologies and policies, identification and sharing of good practices related to women's participation, awareness raising or peer to peer mentoring and exchanges.

Participation and empowerment of youth will also be cut across the various activities, enabling their voice to be heard and to act as agents of conflict prevention, peace-building and intercultural dialogue.

Apart from being the recipient of specific activities, civil society will be a full partner in all sectors and is recognized as an important actor for development and governance. Particular attention will be paid to protecting the space for civil society to operate, taking into account local circumstances.

Environmental Protection & Climate Change will be addressed as a priority topic of this project with the various stakeholders and beneficiaries of this project. Measures will be taken to reduce the environmental impact of the project's activities, such as limiting, whenever relevant, travels of project experts to the Gulf region, taking the opportunity of activities to raise awareness of the audience about environment mitigation measures taken when

organising a certain activity, avoiding distribution of non-recyclable objects during project activities.

Human Rights, Disability, Democracy, are amongst the topics that will be directly addressed by some of the activities of the action (such as activities on human rights with civil society organisations in the region, support the implementation of some aspects of the Bahrainis Human rights national action plan, awareness raising on these topics of GCC participants to various study visits in the EU organised by the project, etc.)

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience, may be addressed by some of its activities (activities with think tanks in Bahrain, awareness raising of GCC diplomats, ongoing identification of activities with Oman and the UAE).

Lastly, the action will strive towards providing more accessible resources, e.g., more accessible event venues, accessible project website etc (digitalisation of content developed by the project is ensured throughout the project for broad distribution; accessibility of event venues is controlled ahead of any booking by the project).

Disaster Risk Reduction: N.A

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
Political	Differing views on international issues make implementation difficult	M	H	Continuous assessment of the political and social situation in the region to identify potential obstacles to the action. Ensure sufficient flexibility in project design to adapt activities to evolving political and social context.
Political	Unexpected crisis or ad-hoc irritants hinder the EU-GCC technical or political relations negatively impacting the project activities	L	H	Continuous analysis of the relations to identify such risks in a timely manner and to propose measures to address technical level irritants/risks that lie within the action's reach.
Political	Diminished interest on part of the GCC stakeholders to engage in project activities	M	H	Continuous communication with relevant stakeholders in the GCC (at country as well as regional levels) to inform of and consult on the activities of the action in cooperation with the EUDELs in the region. Activities will be tailored made to meet the specific context and needs of the GCC countries.
Sanitary	Strong increase of COVID-19 contamination impacting project activities	M	M	The project has been already operating within the context of COVID-19 high contamination, including when organising activities at Dubai world EXPO. Planning of activities will be adjusted, distancing work will be reinforced, as well as work with the intermediary of local experts in case experts based in Europe cannot travel to the region.

<p>Lessons Learnt</p> <p>The action will build upon the best practices and lessons learnt drawn from past and ongoing actions in the GCC. Some of these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Continuous dialogue with and systematic involvement of the GCC stakeholders (both country and regional level) to ensure ownership of the activities.- Close involvement of and policy steer from the Commission Services (in areas relevant to the project) and the EEAS.- Strong political as well as operational steer from the EU Delegations in the region.- Importance of continually informing and coordinating with Member States.- Flexibility to adjust the working methods and tools to the actual needs during the implementation period.- Need to boost the visibility and understanding of the EU in the region as shown by the EU perception audit undertaken in 2021.				

3.5 The Intervention Logic

Building on the current positive momentum in the EU's relations with the region, the action will work to reinforce EU and GCC dialogue and cooperation at state as well as non-state levels and promote EU visibility and interests.

The action will work directly with the GCC countries to share the EU's expertise and policies and will support in developing approaches best suited to the region. In parallel, the project will facilitate cooperation between the EU and GCC non-state stakeholders (businesses, think tank, academia, civil society and citizens) to increase awareness and mutual understanding of both EU and GCC perspectives and practices. The project will facilitate the creation of networks of stakeholders to strengthen dialogue and engagement between the two regions at various levels.

In line with the EU's foreign policy towards the Gulf, the action will engage both at a regional (GCC) level, as well as at the level of individual GCC countries, and in doing so, it will contribute to stronger political and technical relations between the EU and GCC at all levels.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention. On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action. The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

Results Chain		Indicators	Baselines (incl. ref. year)	Targets (including reference year)	Source of verification	Assumptions
Overall Objective - Impact	Contribute to a stronger relationship between the European Union and the GCC countries.	IMP1: Number of EU bilateral, regional, inter-regional and multi-lateral cooperation partnership strategies which have been enhanced	0 (Dec 2020)	IMP1: 1 Potentially the target will be if after the project's work GCC side expresses interest in the signature with the EU of a broader/more in-depth framework than Cooperation Arrangements To be further agreed with FPI, EUDELs and in coordination with the project's steering committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EUDs and Project reporting ▪ Reports of the stakeholders/ EU partners involved ▪ Monitoring and evaluation reports ▪ Media monitoring and analysis ▪ Desk research and interviews ▪ Independent opinion polls and other research 	Not to be filled in
Specific Objective(s) - Outcomes	<p>Contribute to enhance the political dialogue, cooperation and outreach between EU and the GCC (both regionally as well as with individual countries in the region)</p> <p>Contribute to the recognition of the EU as a partner of choice in the ongoing national</p>	<p><u>Component 1. Political dialogue and cooperation</u></p> <p>OC1: Number of processes related to state-level and sub-state level (bilateral, regional, multi-lateral) partnership strategies and policy dialogues which have been influenced</p> <p>OC2: Number of processes related to non-state level partnership/agreements which have been influenced</p> <p>Component 2 Public Diplomacy and outreach</p>	<p>0 (Dec 2020)</p> <p>0 (Dec 2020)</p>	<p><i>New targets are being developed and will be validated prior to signature of contract extension (Q1 2023)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project reporting: interim and final reports ▪ Desk research of relevant information including official EU press sources. ▪ Reports of key stakeholders on project activities ▪ Baseline surveys and studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The main assumption is that the overall political, social and economic situation in the EU and the GCC remains conducive to enhancing dialogue and cooperation at

Results Chain		Indicators	Baselines (incl. ref. year)	Targets (including reference year)	Source of verification	Assumptions
transformation processes of the GCC in areas of mutual interest at regional level, individual GCC level and non-state level Contribute to the improved perception in the GCC of the EU as a global actor	<p>OC12: Percentage of participants targeted by outreach and advocacy events who acknowledge a positive change in their perception of the EU and/or international policies and standards</p> <p>OC13-: Percentage of participants targeted by outreach and advocacy events who acknowledge having engaged further with the EU on the topic on their own initiative as a result of their exposure to an event</p> <p>OC14: Number of articles published in print and/or digital media about an event</p>	<p>0 (Dec 2020)</p> <p>0 (Dec 2020)</p> <p>0 (Dec 2020)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Activities' surveys and polls ▪ Interviews and feedback of stakeholders and participants ▪ Media analysis and review of articles published 	<p>the bilateral and regional level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is also assumed that all stakeholders involved, including non-governmental actors, are committed to the objectives throughout the duration of the project and are willing to cooperate. 	
<u>Component 1. Political Dialogue and Cooperation</u>						
Result 1. Paving the way for the recognition of the EU as a partner of choice in the ongoing national transformation processes of the GCC countries in areas of mutual interest (e.g. social issues, social transformation, gender)	<p>A1: Number of events organised or supported</p> <p>OP1: Number of participants in the events organised/supported</p> <p>OP2: Percentage of participants who report having benefitted from an event.</p> <p>OP6: Number of knowledge-based products developed, funded by FPI (reports, surveys, analysis, implementation plans, etc.)</p> <p>OP7: Number of communication products developed</p> <p>A3: Number of public/media/communication campaigns designed and implemented</p>	<p>0 (Dec 2020)</p> <p>0 (Dec 2020)</p> <p>0 (Dec 2020)</p> <p>0 (Dec 2020)</p> <p>0 (Dec 2020)</p> <p>0 (Dec 2020)</p>	<p><i>New targets are being developed and will be validated prior to signature of contract extension (Q1 2023)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participant's lists and relevant demographic information (for OP1 disaggregation) ▪ Activities' surveys and polls ▪ Interviews and feedback of stakeholders and participants ▪ Project reporting (activity 		

Results Chain		Indicators	Baselines (incl. ref. year)	Targets (including reference year)	Source of verification	Assumptions
	Result 2. Strengthening of the implementation and monitoring of the cooperation arrangements	<p>A1: Number of events/activities organised or supported</p> <p>OP1: Number of participants in the events organised/supported</p> <p>OP2: Percentage of participants who report having benefitted from an event.</p> <p>OP5: Number of outcome statements emanating from an event</p> <p>OP6: Number of knowledge-based products developed, funded by FPI (reports, surveys, analysis, implementation plans, etc.)</p> <p>OP7: Number of communication products developed</p>	<p>0 (Dec 2020)</p> <p>0 (Dec 2020)</p> <p>0 (Dec 2020)</p> <p>0 (Dec 2020)</p> <p>0 (Dec 2020)</p> <p>0 (Dec 2020)</p>	<p><i>New targets are being developed and will be validated prior to signature of contract extension (Q1 2023)</i></p>	<p>and interim reports)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Media monitoring, including social media ▪ Official press sources and reports of the EUD and other EU institutions ▪ Communication, knowledge-based products and other activity-specific products developed ▪ Activities planning ▪ Project reporting (event, interim and final reports) ▪ Activities' communication materials: agenda, information packages, backdrops and posters, video and audio recordings etc. ▪ Event invitations sent 	
	<u>Component 2. Public Diplomacy and Outreach</u>					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪

Results Chain		Indicators	Baselines (incl. ref. year)	Targets (including reference year)	Source of verification	Assumptions
	Result 3. Understanding of the EU by both state and non-state stakeholders in the region is enhanced	OP6: Number of knowledge-based products developed, funded by FPI (reports, surveys, analysis, implementation plans, etc.)	0 (Dec 2020)	<i>New targets are being developed and will be validated prior to signature of contract extension (Q1 2023)</i>		
	Result 4. Trust and mutual understanding between EU and GCC citizens is strengthened	A1: Number of events organised or supported OP1 Number of participants in the events organised/supported OP2 Percentage of participants who report having benefitted from an event OP7: Number of communication products developed A3: Number of public/media/communication campaigns designed and implemented	0 (Dec 2020) 0 (Dec 2020) 0 (Dec 2020) 0 (Dec 2020) 0 (Dec 2020)	<i>New targets are being developed and will be validated prior to signature of contract extension (Q1 2023)</i>		

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

To implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the GCC countries.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 48 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures⁷.

4.3.1 Direct Management (Procurement)

The procurement will contribute to achieving the specific objectives in section 3.1.

4.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3	
Procurement – total envelope under section 4.3.1	3 500 000
Totals	3 500 000

⁷ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The action shall be implemented under direct management. FPI will be in charge of overall project management and consultation and coordination with relevant EU Services.

The EEAS, relevant Commission Services in Headquarters, and EU Delegations in the region will ensure appropriate technical and political inputs to the action.

A project steering committee (PSC) will be set up to provide overall political and policy steer to the project. It will be composed of representatives of relevant EU services in Headquarters and Delegations.

EU Member States representatives in the region (Heads of Mission/ Sectoral Counsellors as relevant) will be regularly informed and consulted in order to maximise synergies with their own activities.

Lastly, relevant stakeholders from the GCC (both at country and regional levels) will be informed and consulted on an ongoing basis. Active involvement and participation of relevant GCC counterparts will be sought in the different activities implemented under the project.

4.7 Pre-conditions [Only for project modality]

Not Applicable

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, a final evaluation may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants.

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision).

The Commission shall inform the implementing partners/contractors at least 3 months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partners/contractors shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

In line with the 2022 “[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)”, it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union’s support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU Member States.

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

Primary Interventions are those contracts or groups of contracts bearing reportable results and respecting the following business rule: 'a given contract can only contribute to one primary intervention and not more than one'. An individual contract that does not produce direct reportable results and cannot be logically grouped with other result reportable contracts is considered a 'support entities'. The addition of all primary interventions and support entities is equivalent to the full development portfolio of the Institution.

The present Action identifies as

Action level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action