



# ENHANCED EU-GCC POLITICAL DIALOGUE PROJECT



Launched in December 2020, this €3.5 million project is funded by the European Union through its Partnership Instrument. This is one of the three projects supporting further cooperation between the EU and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) both regionally and at an individual country level. The other projects being the EU-GCC Dialogue on Economic Diversification and the EU-GCC Clean Energy Technology Network. As countries of the Arabian peninsula are putting in place ambitious economic diversification and social transformation programmes, there is a stronger need for the EU and

its partners from the Gulf to strengthen ties and increase mutual understanding. By supporting political dialogue through concrete activities as well as cooperation and outreach between the two sides, the Enhanced EU-GCC Political Dialogue Project contributes to a stronger relationship and helps strengthen the alliance between the EU and the GCC countries and the region, based on mutual interests.



**The project's activities, developed and implemented in close cooperation with EU Delegations and relevant EU services, follow these guiding principles:**

- 1 Enhancing the understanding of the EU in the region
- 2 Building long-standing relations and networks
- 3 Responding to GCC national priorities with an EU added value in areas of mutual strategic interest
- 4 Taking into account the particularities of the GCC countries and securing co-ownership
- 5 Creating synergies with EU and Member States ongoing projects
- 6 Gender and youth mainstreaming



## STAKEHOLDERS:

A number state and non-state EU and GCC actors: government officials, the business community, think tanks, academia, NGOs, media representatives and youth groups



## SCOPE:

- Deepening of the political dialogue through workshops, conferences, capacity building and awareness-raising activities, study tours, technical assistance, advisory services and networking
- Supporting the implementation of the Cooperation Arrangements between the European External Action Service and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the six GCC countries

## Focus on four areas

- 1** Recognition of the EU as a partner of choice in the national transformation processes of the GCC countries
- 2** Strengthening the implementation of Cooperation Arrangements
- 3** Enhancing the understanding and perception of the EU
- 4** Strengthening trust and mutual understanding between EU and GCC citizens

## Examples of past activities:



### Policy report on “Plastic pollution challenges and policy recommendations as per EU best practices” – Oman – October-December 2021

- Policy report assessed the issue of plastics in Oman, including its impact on the environment and human health, to advise actionable policy recommendations, as per EU policies and good practices
- Requested by the Omani State Council Legal Committee



### Series of Workshops on “Practices and procedures for legislative planning, policy making and legislative drafting in the Institutions of the European Union and its Member States” Kuwait – 22 & 29 November and 6 December 2021

- Virtual workshops, co-hosted by the EU Delegation to the State of Kuwait and the General-Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development
- Aimed at sharing EU and Member States’ good practices in the domain of law vetting practices and at contributing to enhance the institutional knowledge and capacity of participants in the approaches to policy making and law drafting processes in Kuwait



### High-Level “Women and Career Progression: How to Fully Harness Human Potential”, the first EU event hosted at the Women’s Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai on 22 October 2021

- Bringing together senior GCC and European officials, business executives, senior members of the GCC Royal Families, entrepreneurs, society activists, and storytellers
- Aimed at shining the spotlight on political, business and society leaders who are championing gender equality in the workplace and exchanging on best practices to accelerate women’s empowerment
- Co-hosted by the Embassies of Italy, Spain, Sweden, Slovenia and UN Women



### “Strengthening Women’s Political Participation in Qatar” 3-day training programme

- Aimed to enhance capabilities of women candidates running for the Shura Council elections
- EU and GCC experts, including former European parliamentarians coached 11 Qatari women leaders on political campaigning, public speaking, campaign narrative development, media and social media skills building and on the value of an informal women’s network
- Organised in partnership with the College of Social Sciences at Hamed Bin Khalifa University in Qatar



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