



# THE EU-GCC ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION PROJECT



Launched in April 2018, this €3 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 Enhanced EU-GCC Political Dialogue, Cooperation and Outreach and the EU-GCC Clean Energy Technology Network.

The overall objective is to contribute to stronger EU-GCC relations by accessing EU experience and expertise to support the six GCC member countries diversify their economies from a dependence on the hydrocarbon sector. The project also promotes climate - friendly trade, investment and economic affairs related policy analysis, dialogue and cooperation between stakeholders from EU and GCC at both regional and country levels in the context of the GCC economic diversification process.



## The project's activities, developed and implemented in close co-operation with EU Delegations and relevant EU services, seek to strengthen

- 1 Cooperation and dialogue between the EU & GCC as partners in the ongoing diversification process in GCC member states
- 2 Flow of information and networks to enhance economic co-operation and business relationships between the EU & GCC
- 3 Visibility and projection of EU policies & programmes in the GCC countries
- 4 Visibility and projection of GCC policies & programmes in the EU countries

## STAKEHOLDERS

A number of state and non-state EU & GCC actors: public administrations and policy makers, business and industry stakeholders, including both with presence in the GCC and those EU stakeholders with potential interest in GCC member states

## SCOPE OF WORK



- Providing support to the annual EU and GCC Trade and Investment Dialogue, which brings both EU and GCC stakeholders together to discuss trade and investment related opportunities and barriers
- Supporting formal government-to-government dialogues while also engaging in a number of other activities such as policy analysis, dissemination of information, exchanges between a variety of public and private stakeholders and organisation of business fora
- Facilitating the EU's engagement both on a regional level, including with the GCC Secretariat, as well as on an individual level with each of the GCC member states

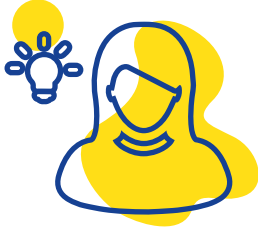


## FOCUS

Promotion of EU-GCC co-operation on:

- ① Economic Diversification Strategies
- ② Trade & Investment Opportunities
- ③ Research & Innovation
- ④ Business Development

## EXAMPLES OF PAST ACTIVITIES



### 'Women's Path to Ikigai – Technology, Entrepreneurship, Self-Development and Agility' Conference on 24 October 2021 at Expo 2020 Dubai

- ▶ Involving a range of EU and GCC stakeholders and end-users, the aim was to show the importance STE(A)M and ICT can play for empowering women as well as to enhance and extend women's participation and enterprise formation rates in the technology sector as part of the move to knowledge-based economies in the GCC
- ▶ Co-hosted by the Swedish and Spanish Pavilions at Expo 2020



### Workshop on Intellectual Property Protection and Enforcement in the United Arab Emirates on 18-19 November 2020

- ▶ With speakers from both the EU Commission and the Dubai Government, the workshop facilitated an open dialogue between EU and UAE stakeholders to improve mutual understanding of the policies and practices of Intellectual Property (IP) protection in the EU and their applicability to challenges faced in the UAE
- ▶ Provided a platform for EU and other international businesses operating in the UAE to share their experiences and concerns on the regulatory and enforcement weaknesses of IP protection in the UAE
- ▶ Identified improvements and enhancements to the IP protection regime in the UAE based on EU experience to address issues faced by both the domestic and European private sector



### Webinar - Oman Bilateral Investment Treaties with the EU on 6 October 2020

- ▶ With speakers from DG TRADE, the webinar addressed the topic of promotion and protection of investments (Investment Protection Agreements) and issues relating to Bilateral Investment Treaties
- ▶ Organised following a request from the Omani Government at an EU-Oman Senior Officials' Meeting in 2019



### Webinar 'Qatar's Economic and Digital Transformation in the Recovery Phase: Emerging investment opportunities and sectoral diversification in the Post-COVID Era' on 30 June 2020

- ▶ CEO of the Investment Promotion Agency of Qatar (IPAQ) talked about the measures taken by Qatar to minimize the economic effects of the pandemic and explore the emerging opportunities being identified by IPAQ expected to shape the future of investments and economic growth
- ▶ In parallel, EU Ambassador to Kuwait and Qatar highlighted the potential role of the EU and its Member States, and of EU companies and business institutions, in driving Qatar's ongoing economic diversification in a post-COVID era



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