

Gulf Research Center
K n o w l e d g e f o r A l l

Gulf Research Center **Profile**

Table of Contents

- WHO WE ARE
 - About GRC
 - Chairman’s Message
 - GRC Ranking
 - Vision - Mission – Values
 - What We Do
 - Concept
 - Competencies & Key Facts
 - About Gulf Research Foundation (GRCF)
 - About Gulf Research Center Cambridge
 - Global Cooperation
- WHAT WE DO
 - Research & Analysis
 - Training-Executive Learning
 - Consultancy
- OUR WORK
 - Events
 - Projects
 - Publications
- GET IN TOUCH
 - Locations – Riyadh, Jeddah, Dubai, Geneva, Brussels, Cambridge

WHO WE ARE – About GRC

GRC was founded in July 2000 by Saudi businessman, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager. Dr. Sager's vision was to fill an important void and to conduct scholarly, high-quality research on all aspects of the wider strategic Gulf region including the GCC countries as well as Iran, Iraq, and Yemen.

GRC operates on an independent, non-profit basis.

The **GRC**'s belief is that everyone has the right to access knowledge. As a result, it has made all its research available to the general public through publications, workshops, seminars, and conferences. As a non-profit organization, **GRC** injects all income back into new programs and activities.

Chairman's Message



At a time when the Gulf region continues to gain in strategic relevance and importance, it is more urgent than ever to expand knowledge about this critical part of the world and to become more familiar with the issues that are defining its overall development. In order to do so, it is essential to promote scholarly and balanced research about the six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), their neighbors that constitute the wider Gulf region, and their relations with one another as well as with the international community of nations. **The Gulf Research Center (GRC)** was created to foster greater understanding of the GCC countries and the challenges the Gulf region faces, as well as to strengthen links between Gulf scholars from different regions.

The driving force behind GRC is the achievement of excellence in three core areas of activity: research and analysis, consultancy and education. The Gulf Research Center offers 'knowledge for all' relating to the Gulf region by providing a comprehensive, independent and credible platform for advanced research and analysis focusing on Gulf foreign relations, economics and energy, politics and society, as well as labour markets and migration. In each of these areas, it is the objective of GRC and its extensive community of researchers and contributors to shed light on unexplored issues, produce relevant policy input, and generate creative solutions to many of the region's pressing challenges.

With offices in Jeddah and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia as well as Dubai, United Arab Emirates (**GRC**), Geneva, Switzerland (**GRC Foundation**), and Cambridge, UK (**GRC Cambridge**), the Gulf Research Center is well-positioned to interact directly not only with the Gulf region but also with Europe and the rest of the world, thus bringing together researchers interested in the Gulf region.

Competencies & Key Facts

The success of GRC is based on a wide range of strengths...

- A unique and unparalleled perspective from the Gulf region
- Proven track record with extensive experience
- Global recognition
- Successful project completion
- Worldwide network
- Solid government consulting
- In-depth GCC knowledge and resources
- Results-driven and results-oriented
- Strong institutional think tank culture

Vision - Mission - Values

To realize its vision, the **GRC** focuses on the following objectives:

- Promote communication and cooperation among GCC citizens to facilitate reforms in the region and secure a better future.
- Publish and distribute relevant and useful information and data on the GCC states within and outside the region so as to enhance knowledge and understanding.
- Provide education and training solutions through implementing a 'Knowledge Program' which targets higher management circles.
- Prepare studies and offer expert consultations to governmental and non-governmental organizations in fields linked with the Center's primary areas of focus.

Vision

To be the leading think tank on Gulf affairs worldwide.

Mission

To provide an Arab Gulf perspective on regional and global developments in order to promote regional peace and stability and positively influence the policy processes of local, regional and external actors.

Values

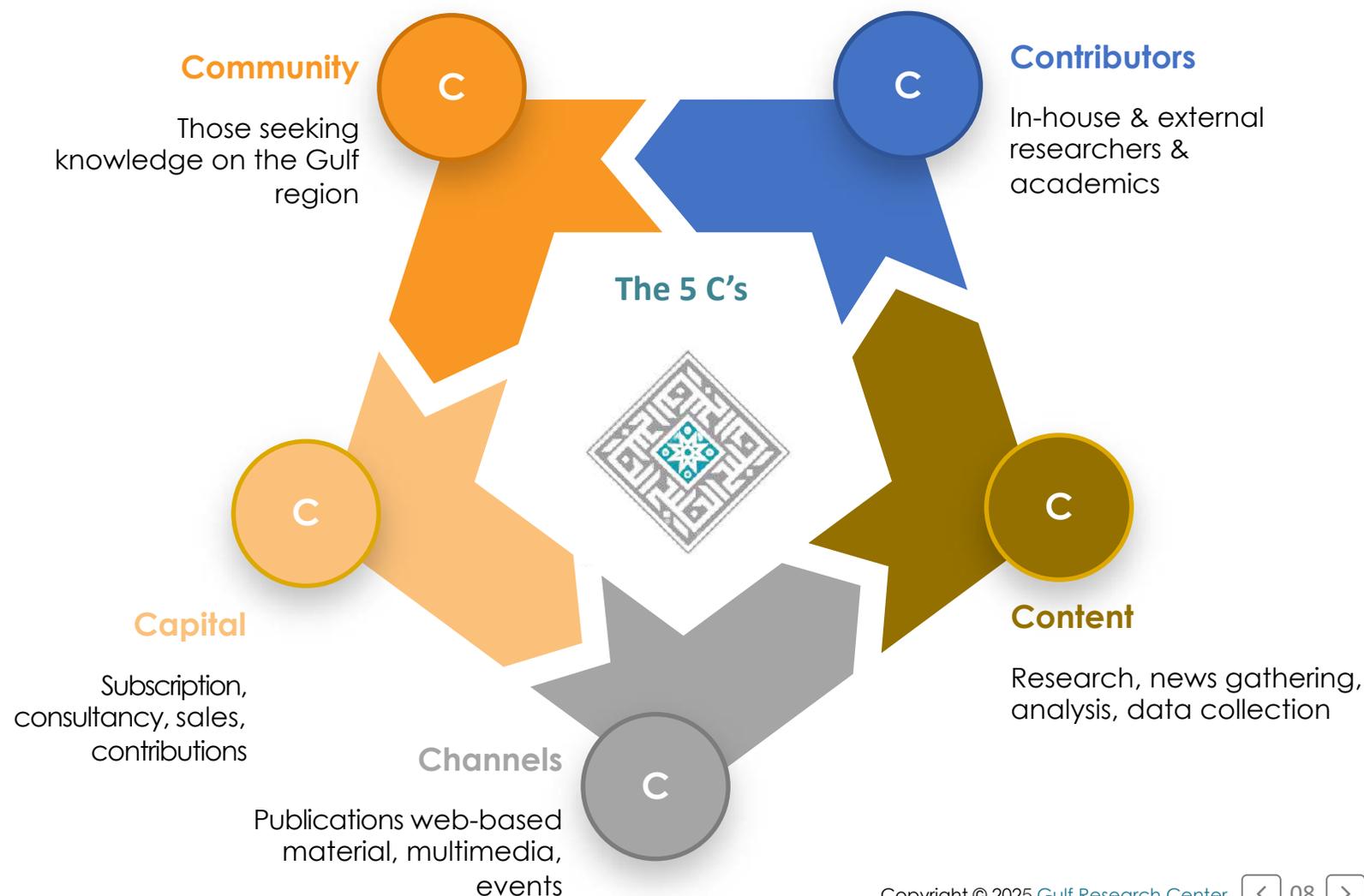
GRC believes that the peace, security, prosperity, and sustainability of the Gulf region is the right of its people, together with the right of everyone to have access to knowledge.

What We Do



Concept

Contributors from within the **GRC** and its network of experts create the content, which is then disseminated through a variety of channels, and made available to those interested in the study and development of the region. In many cases, members of the community contribute to **GRC's** research activities, thus completing this creative cycle.



GRC Ranking



On January 28, 2021, the 2020 Global Go-to Think Tank Index Report listed the Gulf Research Center, for the 12th year in a row, as one of the leading think tanks in the Middle East and worldwide. In particular, the GRC was singled out as one of the 150 leading think tanks worldwide as well as one of the top think tanks specializing in foreign policy and international affairs. In both categories, the GRC represents the top-ranked think tank from the Gulf region and is one of the top three in the Middle East.

The annual Global Go-to-Think Tank Index Report, prepared by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program of the University of Pennsylvania, is considered the most comprehensive ranking of think tanks globally.

- **Top Think Tanks Worldwide (U.S. and non-U.S.): 140**
- **Top Think Tanks in Middle East and North Africa (MENA): 49**
- **Top Foreign Policy and International Affairs Think Tanks: 77**
- **Think Tanks with the Best External Relations/Public Engagement Program: 57**

The Gulf Research Foundation Geneva (GRCF)

The Gulf Research Center Foundation (**GRC Foundation** or **GRCF**) was established in 2007 in Geneva, Switzerland, under the Swiss Civil Code relating to foundations, and is administered by a prestigious international council, which plays a key advisory role in guiding the Foundation's activities. It is, by definition, a non-profit institution and an umbrella organization under which research, training, and educational programs about the Gulf region are developed and implemented. The Foundation qualifies to receive funding and participate in programs supported by international organizations, the European Union, the United States, and various independent international foundations. Under the laws of Switzerland and the Canton of Geneva, donors based in Switzerland are eligible to receive tax benefits for supporting the work of the GRC Foundation.

The objectives of the GRC Foundation are:

- Actively promote the creation and preservation of peace, security, stability, and sustainable development in the Gulf region and all over the world.
- Conduct intensive scholarly research on the political, economic, environmental, social, and security issues that define the Gulf strategic environment.
- Facilitate communication and dialogue among the people of the Gulf region and throughout the world on Gulf issues.
- Organize Gulf-related conferences and workshops.
- Promote the establishment of special academic programs in association with leading universities.

GRC - Foundation - Council Members

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager
Chairman and
Founder



Dr. Mustafa Alani
Senior Advisor,
Director
Security and Defense
Research Program



Dr. Ahmed Sager
Vice President of the
Gulf Research Center



Eng. Javaid Iqbal
MD, Knowledge
Corporation



Prof. Giacomo Luciani
Senior Consultant
GRC Foundation



The Gulf Research Centre Cambridge (GRCC)



The Gulf Research Centre Cambridge (**GRCC**) was established in August 2009 as a cooperative effort between the Gulf Research Center Foundation in Geneva and the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre of Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge.

The primary goal of the **GRCC** is to advance education and research on political, economic, social, environmental, security, and energy issues relating to the Gulf region. A significant part of its work involves organizing the annual Gulf Research Meeting, through which the GRCC identifies subjects of importance to the Gulf region, stimulates research in these subject areas, and provides a forum for broad dissemination of the research results, with the goal of helping generate solutions to many of the challenges facing the Gulf region.

The Gulf Research Meeting provides an academic platform to foster Gulf studies and promote exchange among scholars focusing on the Gulf region. Young scholars, in particular, are encouraged to engage in the debate and take part in research collaboration.

The Gulf Research Centre Cambridge is a non-profit, registered charity organization under the Charity Commission for England and Wales and can therefore receive tax-deductible donations.

GRC Cambridge - Board of Trustees

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager
Chairman and
Founder



Amb. Stuart Laing
Former Master - Corpus
Christi College
University of Cambridge



Dr. Abdullah Baabood
Chair of the State of Qatar
for Islamic Area Studies
and Visiting Professor,
School of International
Liberal Studies, Waseda
University



Prof. Giacomo Luciani
Senior Consultant
GRC Foundation



Dr. John Sfakianakis
Program Director,
Economic Research,
Chief Economist



Dr. Christian Koch
Director of Research
Gulf Research Center



Dr. Ahmed Sager
Vice President of the Gulf
Research Center



Prof. Yasir Suleiman
Professor
Modern Arabic Studies
University of Cambridge



Global Cooperation

Collaboration with think tanks and research organizations is a vital part of the Gulf Research Center's mandate. The cooperation agreements that the Center has signed with a network of more than **100** institutions and cooperation partners worldwide span a broad spectrum of expertise. The aim is to support each other in the areas of research, policy facilitation, and implementation of long-term conditions for peace, security, and sustainable development. The **GRC** works with institutions of many different levels including multinational government and civil society.

One of the aims of the global network is the use of international experience to produce local solutions that address regional issues and environments.

In partnering institutions of interest, we hope to work in pursuit of creating greater national, regional and international awareness on issues pertaining to security and stability in the Gulf region and beyond. The **GRC** has a track record of successful projects with major government and private sector partners in the region.

The areas of cooperation encompass joint research; dissemination of findings; convening conferences; facilitating exchange of scholars; translation, re-publication and distribution of selected publications; as well as sharing of relevant databases.



[For more details please click here](#)

What We Do - Research & Analysis

Research and Analysis Overview

The Gulf Research Center's mission is to further information and knowledge relating to the Gulf by providing a comprehensive, independent and credible platform for advanced research on GCC politics, economics, defense, security and social issues, and their implications and relevance. The scope of the research programs is defined in coordination with the **GRC** Academic Board and is continuously updated to ensure that the research is in accordance with current issues of concern.

The **GRC** undertakes research on all elements impacting policy-making in the Gulf, including political systems and development, foreign relations of the Gulf, defense and security issues, the economy, as well as environmental issues, and the role of energy in its regional and worldwide dimensions. In each of its research programs, it is the objective of the **GRC** and its extensive community of researchers and contributors to shed light on unexplored issues and relationships that are and will be of increased importance both for the Gulf region and the rest of the world.

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- 1 Foreign Relations
 - 2 Economics & Energy
 - 3 Labor Markets & Migration
 - 4 Environmental Security & Sustainability
 - 5 Politics & Society
 - 6 Security & Defense

What We Do - Research & Analysis - cont'd

- **Gulf Foreign Relations Research Program**

A main focus of the Gulf Foreign Relations Research Program of the **GRC** is the interaction of the Gulf states with the rest of the world-- both regionally in the wider Middle East and globally. Within this research area, GCC foreign relations with a number of countries and regions are analyzed in order to be able to adequately and comprehensively understand the dynamics that are driving the foreign policies of the Gulf states, the issues and developments that are determining the direction of those relations, and how the individual and bilateral ties are impacting the broader regional environment. This research area comprises a number of sub-programs which include Gulf Relations with the European Union, Gulf Relations with Asia, Gulf Relations with Africa, and Gulf-US relations.

- **Gulf Economics and Energy Research Program**

The Gulf Economics and Energy research program focuses on the economies of the GCC member countries and the three neighboring countries, Iraq, Iran, and Yemen. Special attention is given to the still paramount oil and gas sector and the extension of its value chain into petrochemicals, refining, and energy-intensive industries such as aluminum. Other diversification attempts in trade, services, and tourism are also analyzed, with a special emphasis on renewable and nuclear energy. Other areas of interest are regulatory and business environments, capital markets, and trade relations (e.g., WTO, FTAs).

- **Labor Markets & Migration**

The GLMM programme, established in March 2013, is an international independent, nonpartisan, non-profit joint programme of the Gulf Research Center and the Migration Policy Centre (MPC) located in Florence, Italy. The GLMM programme provides data, analyses, and recommendations contributing to the improvement of understanding and management of Gulf labor markets and migration, engaging with and respecting the viewpoints of all stakeholders. The GLMM has released a number of analytical papers and books on Gulf migration and labor market issues. In addition, the program has its own website which features an ever-expanding set of data and documents relating to the GCC's labor markets: <https://gulfmigration.grc.net/>.

Being a joint programme between a university and a think tank, GLMM activities are geared towards both researchers and students in addition to policymakers, civil society, and media.

What We Do - Research & Analysis - cont'd

■ Environmental Security & Sustainability

The **GRC** Environmental Security & Sustainability research program looks at environmental issues in the Gulf region, and seeks to document relevant information about specific concerns related to the Gulf, in order to deepen the awareness and understanding of the following key environmental issues:

- Trends in the state of the environment and natural resources in the Gulf and their natural, social, and economic drivers
- Major environment and sustainability initiatives
- Environmental threats such as water insecurity and desertification, as well as climate change and construction and demolition debris

■ Politics & Society

The Gulf Politics and Society research program focuses on the following topics:

- **Political systems:** constitutions, legislatures, judiciaries, executive systems, political and social movements, and civil society and human rights
- **Social issues:** education, gender studies, youth, media, history, civil society, academia and research, environmental issues from a social perspective
- **Culture and demographics**

■ Security & Defense

The Gulf Security and Defense research program focuses on the latest security developments in the Gulf states, including the six GCC member states, Iran, Iraq, and Yemen, in addition to the neighboring region of South Asia, especially Pakistan and Afghanistan. It deals with hard and soft security issues with a special focus on counter-terrorism, nuclear development, weapons of mass destruction in the Gulf, regime stability, maritime security, narcotics, and human trafficking.

What We Do - Training - Executive Learning

A central aim of the activities of the Gulf Research Center is the conduct of a variety of executive learning programs. These programs are designed to provide leadership development opportunities in all aspects of public policy. It is the view of **GRC** that programs in governmental processes and critical policy issues are vital to understanding today's environment and preparing emerging and established leaders to more effectively engage with individuals and institutions throughout the rest of the world.



GRC programs are directly tied to the Center's commitment to research and its involvement with public policy. Participants have the opportunity to learn from and exchange ideas with leading scholars and senior public policy officials in their respective fields. In that context, **GRC** Executive Learning Programs create a learning environment that is unparalleled in both its scope and value as far as Gulf issues are concerned.

What We Do - Consultancy

The **GRC** provides expertise on the wider Gulf region (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Iran, Iraq, and Yemen) and Gulf relations with countries worldwide, with expertise in the following topics:

- Foreign Relations
- Economics & Energy
- Labor Markets & Migration
- Environmental Security & Sustainability
- Politics & Society
- Security & Defense
- GCC Integration & Unity

Our clients include the public and private sectors, and educational institutions.

GRC provide services such as:

- 1 Country reports/profiles
- 2 Market research/corporate reports
- 3 Security assessments
- 4 Executive briefings and other education programs (either in-person or virtual)
- 5 Gulf business etiquette & cultural competency trainings & workshops (either in-person or virtual)
- 6 Conference organization
- 7 English/Arabic translation of publications on relevant topics

Our Work- Consultancy

Events are a key aspect of the work that **GRC** carries out because they stimulate collaboration and link GRC into a worldwide network of leading individuals and research initiatives. Events also play a key role for **GRC** in the Gulf region because they promote widespread research efforts among different institutions from within the Gulf and neighboring regions to heighten awareness of important Gulf-specific issues.

GRC has organized more than **480** events, with more than **10,000** participants to date.

These include a wide range of events related to its research work and of importance to the Gulf Region including:



- Annual Gulf Research Meeting at the University of Cambridge
- Annual conferences and forums
- Seminars
- Workshops
- Lectures
- Research project meetings

What We Do - Projects

- As a non-profit organization, the **GRC** engages in externally-funded research projects focusing on the Gulf region. Such project work allows collaboration with other institutions and creates a broader base for scholarships and research activities. Our projects can be found here:
 - <https://www.grc.net/projects>
- In parallel with its research programs, **GRC** organizes and participates in a diverse range of research projects which address a broad spectrum of issues, including:
 - **Tafahum: A Roadmap Towards a Security Arrangement in West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula**
 - **INCONET-GCC2: Science, Technology, and Innovation International Cooperation Network between the European Union and the Arab Gulf Countries**
 - **Gulf Migration: Data, Analyses, and Recommendations for Innovative Policies – A Pilot Project**
 - **Promoting Deeper EU-GCC Relations**
 - **GRCF is part of the INFOCORE Project: the Role of Media in Violent Conflicts**
 - **EU-GCC Clean Energy Network**
 - **GCC-India Joint Study Group**
 - **Violent Non-State Actors in Contemporary World Politics**
 - **EU-GCC Al-Jisr Project on Public Diplomacy and Outreach Devoted to the European Union and EU-GCC Relations**
 - **Cluster-Based Industrial and Economic Growth for Sustainable Development**
 - **Gulf-Asia Relations**
 - **The Political Role of Tribes: An Analysis of Tribalism, Islamism, and Gender in Iraq, Yemen, and Jordan: A Case Study**
 - **SECURE - Security of Energy Considering its Uncertainty, Risk and Economic Implications**
 - **Russian and CIS Relations with the Gulf Region: Current Trends in Political and Economic Dynamics**
 - **Maritime Security in the Gulf: A Gulf Research Centre Project Proposal**
 - **Global Trade Alert**

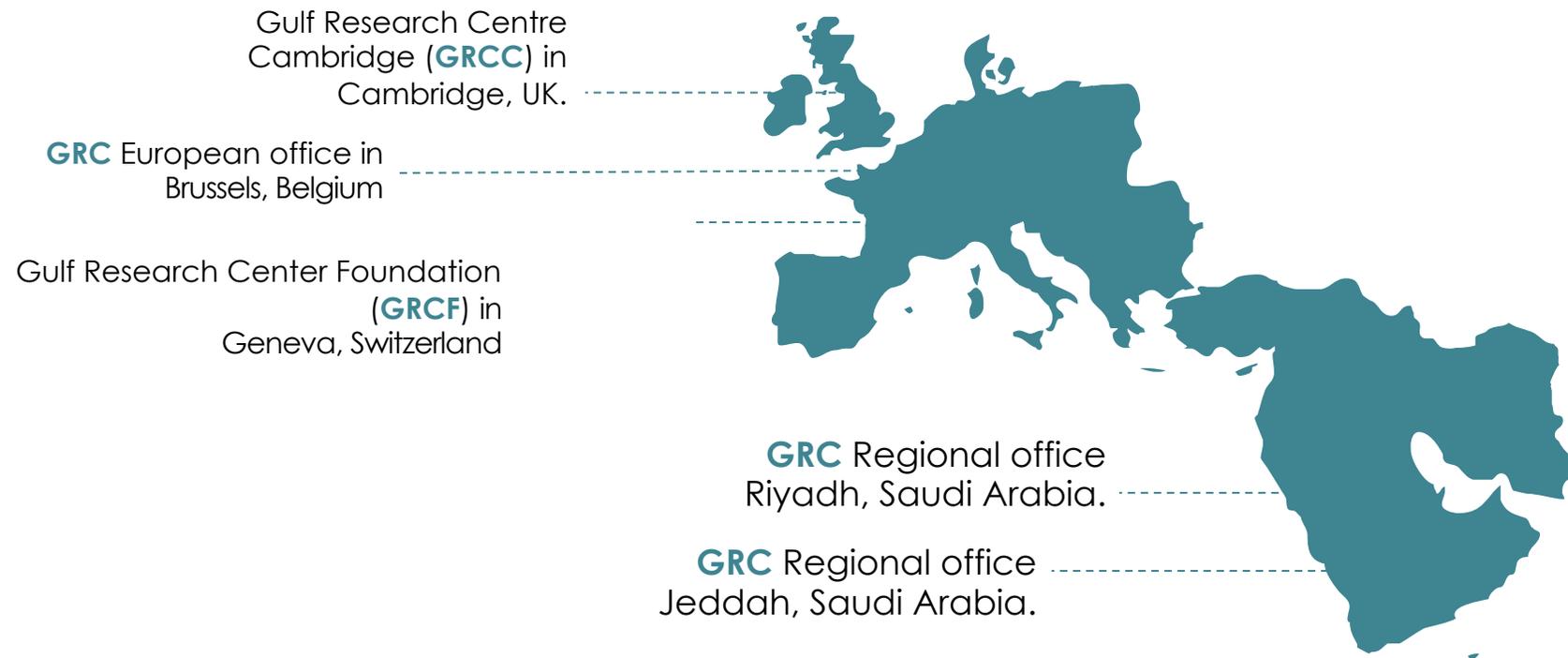
What We Do - Publications

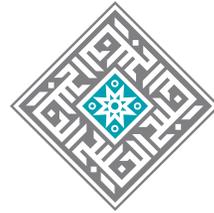
Publications play an important role in fulfilling the mission of the **Gulf Research Center**, which is to provide an Arab Gulf perspective on regional and global developments in order to promote regional peace and stability and positively influence policy processes. **GRC** produces a variety of publications in both Arabic and English that stem primarily from the research and analysis work **GRC** carries out or that is carried out by external partners in preparation for **GRC** events. Some important external works are also translated by **GRC** and published in Arabic. A few representative publications are shown here:



Get in Touch

GRC has grown from its original Dubai, UAE location to become a global organization with a well-established worldwide network of offices and partners in both the Gulf region and Europe.





Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All

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