

Euro-Arab Technology Cooperation: Partnering with Palestinians for a Digital Future

Matillas Calero, Sarai

Introduction

In the midst of a new surge of violence and humanitarian crisis in the Middle East, unlocking the potential of a digital economy in Palestine is more crucial than ever. In a land where roadblocks, checkpoints and walls are the norm, the digital world offers the opportunity to bypass physical barriers and overcome the constraints and deprivations posed by the occupation and persistent conflict.

The world is digitalising, and Palestine should not be the exception. What is more, Palestine is well prepared to successfully embark in this systemic transformation. A more digitalised Palestine is a more resilient society. Accelerating the digital transformation will result in new job opportunities, and a stronger and less dependent economy. Covid-19 proved not that long ago the relevance – and the necessity – of digital technology. Around the globe, millions of students then continued their studies remotely. But for Palestinians, this has become a new normal. Digital learning and remote working have become a new way to surpass restrictions and curfews imposed by Israel (PCBS, 2023). In some instances, it not only represented a way to continue with daily life, but also a means to protect one's life and physical integrity during periods of violence escalation (MEE, 2024).

This policy brief proposes mid-term initiatives fostering economic development through technology cooperation that have the potential to alleviate the adverse effects of the occupation on the Palestinian population, particularly the



Funded by
the European Union

implemented by
the College of Europe



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin

youth. These initiatives could be part of a broader Euro-Arab cooperation on technology and represent a strategic opportunity for the EU to reaffirm its long-standing commitment to regional stability and development, especially in Palestine, at a time when Europe's reputation has been tarnished (Lynch, 2024).

This policy paper is structured into three sections. The first section outlines the strategic importance for the European Union (EU) to forge a solid alliance with the Arab countries and regional organisations, demonstrating the EU's reliability as a partner in the sustainable development and stability of the region. The second section highlights the opportunities and advantages of investing in digital transformation in Palestine, providing new support avenues for Palestinians, particularly the youth. The third section outlines the requirements to foster a digital environment and proposes concrete actions the EU could support, ideally in cooperation with Arab partners.

The strategic importance of Euro-Arab cooperation on digital transformation

By investing in the digital transformation of Palestine, the EU has an opportunity to play a constructive role in creating bases for a much-needed peace and for Palestinians to be able to shape their own future. Those goals build on with the EU's long-standing commitment to the state-building of Palestine, and align with the directions set with the adoption of the European Joint Strategy in support of Palestine 2021 - 2024 and the Renewed Partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood Economic and Investment Plan. Moreover, stepping up the EU's support to Palestinians in a moment marked by destruction and humanitarian crisis, could send a political message to the Arab region that the EU is a partner for peace.

Digital transformation is a game-changer not only for individual economies, but also for the region as a whole (UfM, 2023). Promoting EU-Palestine cooperation in the field of digital transformation presents a strategic opportunity for the EU to leverage its influence and soft power in the region (ECFR, 2019), while forging a more strategic partnership with those Arab states that are willing to invest further on technology and digitalisation, as reflected in the latest Bahrain Declaration, in which 22 Arab countries highlighted their joint commitment to developing an Arab co-operation in the field of financial technology, innovation and digital transformation for the sustainable development of the region (The National News, 2024). Joint efforts to accelerate digitalisation in Palestine can counter restrictions imposed by Israel on digital infrastructure, which increase costs and hinder development. These efforts can also strengthen the Palestinian economy, promote political and legal reforms (Lovatt, 2023), while reaffirming its commitment as a reliable and valuable actor for sustainable peace in the region (Lovatt & Barnes-Dacey, 2022).

Fostering change requires specific conditions for success, but Palestinians have already proven their commitment to prioritise digital transformation (UNDP, 2021). This commitment is bolstered by the efforts of international organisations and agencies. Youth and women's empowerment are key priorities for many donors and organisations operating in Palestine, aiming to create economic opportunities through the digital economy. An example is the newest development program Masar Al'an (AECID, 2024). The World Bank and UNDP have also assessed and promoted digitalisation in Palestine. For instance, UNDP partnered with the government of Estonia to jointly support Palestinians in their mission to unlock the potential of digital transformation and find solutions to tackle persistent development challenges (UNDP, 2021).

Considering that the EU remains the largest provider of external assistance to Palestine (DG-Near, 2024), it is worth exploring investment alternatives that foster a sustainable digital economy in Palestine, as outlined in the European Joint Strategy¹. This approach would allow the EU to address persistent development challenges and constraints, aiming to reduce dependency and boost the Palestinian economy. Such efforts are crucial for empowering society at all levels, including through a gender-responsive approach, and enhancing social resilience.

¹ "Assisting our partners to become fit for the digital age. Embracing the digital transformation by investing in businesses, research and innovation and green and blue economy sectors, empowering people with the skills necessary for a new generation of technologies and designing rules to match. This includes a faster transition to circular business models based on digital solutions." (EJS 2021-2024, chapter 3, paragraph iii, EU).



Building a technology ecosystem in the West Bank.

Traditionally, the Palestinian economy has been primarily agrarian (DG-NEAR, 2021). However, it faces severe constraints due to the ongoing settlement expansion. The primary obstacle to the development of a sustainable economy for Palestinians has been the restrictions on land access and water resources (World Bank, 2023), and Israeli control over Palestinian tax revenues (World Bank Group, 2024).

Conflict and occupation have so far prevented Palestine's economy from benefiting from its advantageous geographic location at the crossroads of two major economic powerhouses: Europe and the Arab Gulf countries (World Bank, 2021). Palestine's proximity to both Europe and the Arab countries, as well as cultural and linguistic bonds, could facilitate communication and collaboration at a Euro-Arab scale in many areas, including technological partnerships.

Moreover, Palestinian society is young and boasts one of the highest literacy rates in the region (Al Ash-Shayk, 2018). Despite facing numerous challenges such as roadblocks, checkpoints, violence, high unemployment and uncertainty, Palestinian youth remain fiercely determined to forge a better future (Quran, 2018). Their aspirations and ambitions have the potential to positively shape the future of Palestine and the entire region.

The unemployment rate for Palestinian youth is very high, particularly among educated segments (World Bank, 2023). The unemployment rate for youth graduates reached 48.3%; with a major disparity in labour force participation rates between males and females (PCBS, 2022). Palestinian women, who despite high literacy rates, encounter multiple barriers to workforce participation, including the effects of the Israeli occupation (World Bank, 2021).

Those unable to secure decent and suitable employment in the occupied territories may migrate abroad, accept unskilled jobs with low wages, or find work in Israeli settlements (World Bank, 2023). As of 2022, 22.5% of Palestinians in the West Bank were employed in Israel and the settlements (World Bank, 2023), with many lacking work permits (PCBS, 2022). Workers in these settings frequently experience discrimination and abusive practices, further exacerbating their vulnerability (ILO, 2020). For instance, since October 7th, reports have indicated that Palestinian tech companies which had received outsourcing contracts from Israeli firms, faced contract suspensions or terminations without clear justification (Aljazeera, 2024).

The worsening situation in the occupied territories since October 7th will increase vulnerability among Palestinians and increase dependence on international aid and Israel. This will likely lead to elevated levels of frustration and additional restrictions. Embracing digital technologies addresses interconnected challenges such as reducing youth unemployment, decreasing dependency and empowering Palestinian youth. Moreover, digital tools offer avenues to circumvent physical barriers imposed by the occupation, facilitating access to alternative new markets (World Bank, 2021).

The inherent flexibility of the tech sector can enhance the resilience of Palestinian society in times of crisis, enabling companies to adapt, maintain service delivery, and attract investments (World Bank, 2021). The COVID-19 pandemic serves as a prime example where tech companies thrived while other sectors faced severe restrictions. This success was largely due to the ability of employees to work remotely and the online delivery and consumption of services (Ovide, 2021). Before the current cycle of violence, the tech ecosystem contributed around \$493 million annually to the Palestinian economy, approximately 3% of the gross domestic product and the ICT sector experienced an annual growth of 6 percent from 2010 to 2017 (World Bank, 2021). The potential of this sector is confirmed by the SWOT analysis based on data retrieved from the World Bank report on the Palestinian Digital Economy Assessment from 2021. The key takeaway is that strengths and opportunities outweigh risks and weaknesses.



Funded by
the European Union

implemented by
the College of Europe



Brugge

College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin

Table 1: A SWOT analysis for Palestine's digitalisation

Strengths	Weaknesses
- High-levels of literacy. - High % of youth population. - Geographical location. - Demand for digital skills has been rising across different sectors. - The ICT industry grew at 6 percent annually over 2010–17, creating strong demand for specialised digital skills. - The WB appears to be “emerging” in the Digital Infrastructure pillar. - The WB has made significant progress in developing digital infrastructure, despite the sociopolitical and economic challenges. - According to the World Bank, Palestinian startups are present in a variety of fields, including cutting-edge areas, such as artificial intelligence, big data, and analytics, as well as enterprise solutions and retail/e-commerce. - Digital startups are a source of job growth, with estimates of as many as 8,500 jobs linked to startups in WB&G. - Palestinian startups have a cost-based competitive advantage in hiring engineering talent at a lower cost than in many other countries in the region. - There are approximately 60 innovation hubs and support organisations in WB&G serving as research centres and social communities where expertise and technology can be exchanged. - The growing ICT industry has a high demand for employees with specialised programming, marketing, and management skills. - Those who are employed in the ICT industry earn relatively high wages, demonstrating the demand for their skills. - Digital business activity has been on the rise in WB&G. Startups and established firms are driving the growth of digital activities across WB&G.	- The WB has one of the lowest broadband penetration rates in MENA, as a result of Israeli imposed restrictions. - Deficiencies in the regulatory environment and capacity constraints. - Ensuring institutional coordination and resource mobilization. - Global connectedness to international partners is lacking, resulting in low funding, knowledge exchange, and scaling potential for operations. - Basic digital skills are lacking. - The number of graduates in ICT-related specializations has declined in recent years. - Access to computers and internet at educational institutions is inadequate for developing digital skills. - The tertiary education system is not producing the cadre of leaders (for example, in software engineering, management, education, and science) needed to drive the digital transformation of the Palestinian economy. - The quantity and quality of computer science graduates is not adequate to meet the demands of the growing ICT industry. - Global connectedness is lacking, resulting in low funding, knowledge exchange, and scaling potential for operations. - Scarce access to financial services and funding are proving to be a bottleneck for early-stage startups and established firms seeking to expand operations. - Weaknesses in the entrepreneurship ecosystem result in inadequate support for digital businesses.



**Funded by
the European Union**

**implemented by
the College of Europe**



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin

Opportunities	Threats
- Facilitating broader digital adoption by the PA and businesses. - Strengthening the entrepreneurship ecosystem. - Reducing transaction costs and increasing the quality and outreach of government services. - Enhancing the productivity of traditional industries. - Creation of new industries. - Global connectedness could be strengthened through support programs to increase international market reach. - Increase financial inclusion of vulnerable communities. - Strengthen competition in the market. - The low entry barriers associated with digital services and activities help promote economic inclusion for marginalised groups and women. - Development partners play a strong role in the development of digital skills. - Targeted efforts to reach out to women to address the long-lasting gender disparities in the Palestinian labor market. - Outsourcing platforms for IT services provides employment opportunities for Palestinian freelancers.	- Restrictions imposed by the Government of Israel, especially in infrastructure and connectivity. - Strengthening digital infrastructure requires a political resolution with the GOI to remove the current restrictions as well as internal policy reforms. - The lack of implementation of the cooperation framework on telecommunications by the government of Israeli.

Source: own elaboration with data retrieved from the World Bank (2021). *Palestinian Digital Economy Assessment*.



**Funded by
the European Union**

**implemented by
the College of Europe**



Brugge

College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin

Two streams of work: the academic sector and the creation of a business hub.

According to UNDP (2021) and the World Bank (2023), fostering a technological ecosystem requires upgrading digital skills, engaging society, enhancing digital capabilities, and supporting the growth of digital businesses. Inspired by the success of Gaza Sky Geeks — a collaborative initiative supported by Mercy Corps, Google, and various partners across private and public sectors aimed at building a competitive tech sector in Palestine — digitally-driven initiatives offer a promising path for Palestinians (UNDP, 2021).

Both the public and private sectors are essential for developing a digital business environment, including European and Palestinian stakeholders and ideally, partners from other Arab countries too. Key stakeholders such as tech entrepreneurs, innovation hubs and incubators, educational institutions, and the private sector, are crucial in fostering knowledge exchange and capacity-building. This can be achieved through workshops, training programs, and mentorship initiatives. International partnerships are vital to providing resources, funding, and support for grassroots initiatives.

Fostering a digital environment requires a two-pronged approach. On one hand, it entails upgrading society's digital skills and engaging with the community to bolster digital capabilities. Improving digital skills require integrating digital literacy across all educational stages, updating the curriculum and implementing programs for training teachers. On the other hand, it involves supporting the development of EU-Palestinian partnerships with digital startups and established digital firms. To achieve these goals, the EU could explore five actions and could monitor the achievements through the indicators listed in Table 2. The five complementary actions are the following:

1. Enhancing skills mobility partnerships between universities and colleges in Palestine and Europe to facilitate the exchange of expertise and knowledge, particularly in the field of Digital Sciences. These partnerships provide an opportunity for students, researchers, and professionals to address skill gaps in the digital ecosystem. This includes promoting and supporting European counterparts to travel to Palestine and viceversa.
2. Establishing — and supporting existing — institutions providing training to those that are not able to pursue formal education and yet are willing to update or upgrade their digital skills. In the same vein, conducting workshops, training programs, and mentorship initiatives in existing cultural and educational centres, such as libraries, could facilitate that people across all socio-economic sectors of society, age and gender have easier access to and can benefit from digital education. For instance, bootcamps offer an alternative to traditional computer science degrees, providing intensive, fast-tracking and hands-on training designed to equip individuals with the specific skills needed to access and succeed in tech careers (Coursera, 2023).
3. Funding digital and technological academic programs at the university level to enable universities to develop cutting-edge curriculum and recruit faculty with expertise in emerging technologies. Investing in these programs enables universities to ensure that students receive hands-on training and practical experience in areas such as data science, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, digital entrepreneurship, among others.
4. Facilitating the cooperation between European hi-tech and fintech sectors and Palestinian enterprises, including both startups and established digital businesses, to foster collaboration and partnerships. This could be achieved by encouraging partnership between European hi-tech and fintech companies with Palestinian businesses through mentorship or joint ventures, including participating in already existing platforms, such as the European Digital SME Alliance, the European Fintech Association, as well as Mediterranean Investors or Businessmed. Thus, mapping and identifying existing digital businesses is the first step to facilitate connections.
5. Supporting projects to facilitate access to finances, enabling Palestinian businesses to tap into European and international markets, thereby expanding their reach and growth potential. This includes accessing to grants and funding opportunities through existing programmes, such as Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)-Global Europe and Interreg NEXT Mediterranean Sea Basin programme, including Horizon Europe in the field of research and innovation.



**Funded by
the European Union**

**implemented by
the College of Europe**



Brugge

College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin

Table 2: A summary of possible initiatives for EU-Palestine cooperation on digitalisation and indicators

Objectives	Outputs	Actors	Recipients	Indicator
1. Upgrading the digital skills in the West Bank.	1. Strengthening and establishing new skills mobility partnerships, including traineeship agreements.	European private and public sector	Palestinian youth	# of Palestinian youth benefited from mobility schemes in higher levels of the education system # of agreements signed # of trainees % of trainees hired # scholarships granted Success stories
	1. Establishing and supporting technical centres. 2. Organising workshops, training programs, and mentorship initiatives. 3. Funding academical programmes at university level. 4. Support rapid skills training programmes, such as boot camps.	European private and public sector	Palestinian educational, cultural centres, innovation hubs, incubators, and accelerators.	# of Palestinian youth benefited from these activities. # of Technical centres established. # of partnership agreements. # of workshops and training programs # scholarships granted % female participants and employment rate Quality assurance indicators: - participant progress - interviews/ surveys - % employment post-training. - success stories



Objectives	Outputs	Actors	Recipients	Indicator
2. Fostering an EU-Pal high-tech and fintech hub.	Creating an environment conducive to innovation, investment, and cooperation, including innovation cluster.	Hi-tech and fintech sector.	Palestinian emerging start-ups.	# of collaborative adventures % of investment inflows # of Start-ups Supported # of people employed # attendees by sex Satisfaction surveys
	1.Improving and supporting access to the European and international markets. 2.Su pporting female technology entrepreneurs.	European private and public sector	Palestinian private and public sector	# of market access programs % of participation rate # of agreements and partnership % of market penetration # grants to support female technology entrepreneurs Success rate of market entry initiatives Successful female-led ventures.

Source: own elaboration



Funded by
the European Union

implemented by
the College of Europe



Brugge

College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin

Bibliography

- AECID (2024). La Cooperación Española renueva su compromiso con el mundo árabe. MAEC España. Available at: <https://www.aecid.es/en/w/la-cooperacion-espanola-renueva-su-compromiso-con-el-mundo-arabe-1>
- Aljazeera (2024). *Will the Palestinian tech sector decouple from Israel?*. Available at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2024/4/13/will-palestinian-tech-sector-decouple-from-israel>
- Al Ash-Shayka, M. (2018). Arab Countries Ranked by Literacy Rate. Arab America. Available at: <https://www.arabamerica.com/arab-countries-ranked-by-literacy-rate/>
- Coursera (2023). *Coding Bootcamps: Options, Benefits, Requirements, and More*. Available at: <https://www.coursera.org/articles/coding-bootcamps>
- DG-NEAR (2021). *European Joint Strategy in support of Palestine 2021-2024: Towards a democratic, accountable and sustainable Palestinian state*. European Union. Available at: https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/e41dd433-b299-4f26-bf39-4357a440acc4_en?filename=C_2022_8279_F1_ANNEX_EN_V1_P1_2333429.PDF
- DG-Near (2024). *Palestine**. European Union. Available at: https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/european-neighbourhood-policy/countries-region/palestine_en
- ecf (2019). *Mapping European leverage in the MENA region*. Available at: https://ecfr.eu/special/mapping_eu_leverage_mena/
- ILO (2020). *The situation of workers of the occupied Arab territories*. Available at: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_745966.pdf
- Mercy Corps (2023). *Unlocking Equality: exploring unpaid care work and its influence on women's economic and social development in Palestine's tech sector*. Available at: <https://gazaskygeeks.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/GSG-UPC-Research-Brief.pdf>
- Middle East Eye (2024). *Israeli violence and closures force Hebron students into remote learning*. Available at: <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/israel-violence-closures-force-hebron-schools-remote-learning>
- Lynch, J. (2024). *When soft power is spent: Gaza, Ukraine, and Europeans 'standing in the Arab world*. ECFR. Available at: <https://ecfr.eu/article/when-soft-power-is-spent-gaza-ukraine-and-europeans-standing-in-the-arab-world/>
- Lovatt, H & Barnes-Dacey, J. (2022). *Principled pragmatism: Europe's place in a multipolar Middle East*. ECFR. Available at: <https://ecfr.eu/publication/principled-pragmatism-europes-place-in-a-multipolar-middle-east/>
- Lovatt, H. (2023). *House in disorder: How Europeans can help Palestinians fix their political system*. ecf. Available at: <https://ecfr.eu/publication/house-in-disorder-how-europeans-can-help-palestinians-fix-their-political-system/>
- Ovide, Shira (2021). *How Big Tech Won the Pandemic*. The New York Times. Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/30/technology/big-tech-pandemic.html>
- PCBS (2022). *Presents the Main Findings of Labour Force Survey in 2022*. Available at: <https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/post.aspx?lang=en&ItemID=4421#:~:text=Unemployment%20rate%20was%20the%20highest%20among%20youth%20graduates&text=At%20the%20regional%20level%2C%20the,to%2073.9%25%20in%20Gaza%20Strip>



- PCBS (2023). *Press Release on the Impact of the Israeli Occupation Aggression on the Right to Education in Palestine during the 07/10/2023 - 11/11/2023*. PCBS. Available at: <https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/post.aspx?lang=en&ItemID=4630>
- Quran, F. (2018). *Upending the Palestinian Leadership: The Role of Youth*. Al-Shabaka. Available at: <https://al-shabaka.org/commentaries/upending-the-palestinian-leadership-the-role-of-youth/>
- The National News (2024). *Full text of the Arab League summit's Bahrain Declaration*. Available at: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/mena/2024/05/16/full-text-arab-league-summit-bahrain-declaration/>
- UfM (2023). *UfM Digital Transformation Conference of 18 December 2023*. Available at: <https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Outcome-Documents-UfM-Digital-Transformation-Conference-Tangier-18Dec2023.pdf>
- UNDP (2021). *Digital landscape assessment*. United Nations. Available at: [https://www.undp.org/arab-states/publications/digital-landscape-assessment#:~:text=Digital%20transformation%20has%20become%20an,Sustainable%20Development%20Goals%20\(SDGs\)](https://www.undp.org/arab-states/publications/digital-landscape-assessment#:~:text=Digital%20transformation%20has%20become%20an,Sustainable%20Development%20Goals%20(SDGs))
- World Bank (2021). *Palestinian Digital Economy Assessment*. Available at: <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/472671640152521943/pdf/Palestinian-Digital-Economy-Assessment.pdf>
- World Bank (2023). *World Bank Economic Monitoring Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee*. Available in: <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/099455304272328937/idu00e7074dc01c850437a0b9770f1fcae9a85c8>
- World Bank Group (2024). *Impacts of the conflict in the Middle East on the Palestinian Economy*. World Bank. Available at: <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/ce9fed0d3bb295f0363d690224d1cd39-0280012024/original/Palestinian-Econ-Upd-May2024-FINAL-ENGLISH-Only.pdf>



El Hiwar project

El Hiwar III is an EU-funded project implemented by the College of Europe (Bruges, Belgium). It designs, organises and facilitates a series of activities with the aim of building capacity, contributing to information exchange and interactions between the EU and the LAS. These activities take various formats, such as policy dialogues, summer schools, training programmes, policy briefs, etc.

The League of Arab States is a central partner in the stabilisation of the region and the main institutional interlocutor with the Arab world. At the first EU-LAS summit in Sharm El-Sheikh (Egypt) on 24-25 February 2019, the leaders agreed to deepen Arab-European ties to enhance the stability, prosperity, and well-being of the two regions. Both sides agreed to boost cooperation towards security, conflict resolution and socio-economic development throughout the region. Leaders also reaffirmed the need to strengthen economic cooperation between the two regions to spur investment and sustainable growth. The summit in Egypt marked the start of a new dialogue between the EU and the LAS. Leaders committed to hold EU-LAS summits regularly.

This project is designed to reinforce the dialogue and cooperation with the League of Arab States.

El Hiwar III aims to contribute to the implementation of the EU-LAS Joint Work Programme on information and training, complementing the formal EU-LAS activities taking place outside of El Hiwar (e.g. Ministerial and PSC meetings, other political exchanges with EU-LAS counterparts, EU-LAS Strategic Dialogue).

Whenever relevant, El Hiwar III can provide inputs for the preparation of formal EU-LAS relations meetings (e.g. preparation of policy briefs) or for the implementation of decisions made during Ministerial meetings, summits, etc. Likewise, El Hiwar III can provide inputs in the framework of relevant multilateral events.

El Hiwar III also aims to contribute to enhancing the partnership between the EU and Arab countries by sharing knowledge and expertise to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Arab countries.

More information: coleurope.eu/elhiwar
Contact: elhiwar@coleurope.eu

About the HiwarBrief

HiwarBrief: New Voices, New Ideas from the El Hiwar Summer School is a publication featuring policy briefs produced by participants of the Summer School on Euro-Arab Relations.

This initiative translates the knowledge gained during the Summer School into practical recommendations, contributing to ongoing Euro-Arab cooperation efforts.

Guided by Eduard Soler i Lecha, an El Hiwar expert, participants draft policy briefs on key issues explored during each edition of the programme. In 2023, these focused on crisis management, climate change, humanitarian aid, and resilience building, reflecting the pressing challenges discussed during that year's Summer School.

HiwarBrief fosters the exchange of ideas among emerging experts while strengthening the El-Hiwar network, offering participants a channel to reach policymakers and advocate for impactful change.



This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of its author and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union nor the League of Arab States



**Funded by
the European Union**

**implemented by
the College of Europe**



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin