

STRATEGIC GEARS ACADEMY FOR LEADERS

Advancing Cross-Regional Partnerships between Southeast Europe and the GCC

8 days on-site

4 weeks duration

6 live-online sessions

70 hours of learning



A Leadership Program Designed for Cross-Border Impact

A partnership built for leaders shaping growth between the Gulf and Southeast Europe, where ambition meets the expertise and execution to deliver it.

01

Slovenian-Arab Business Council

A trusted Slovenian platform convening business leaders, institutions, and policymakers to advance commercial ties between Slovenia and the Arab world.

02

Strategic Gears

Saudi-born consulting expertise in strategy, digital transformation, and capability building.

03

Shared purpose

Equip SEE and KSA leaders to analyze global trends, build ventures, and lead through rapid change.

8 days

Riyadh or Madrid, plus Ljubljana

70 hours

Of executive curriculum

6 modules

Leadership, AI, brand, growth

4 weeks

Program duration

A Leadership Bridge Between the GCC and Southeast Europe

Turning two complementary regions into one operating ground for senior executives.

Why this bridge, why now

The GCC is moving at Vision 2030 speed, sovereign capital, giga-projects, AI, and a non-oil diversification agenda hunting for credible partners.

Southeast Europe offers what that capital needs next EU market access, engineering talent, and innovation at a competitive cost base.

The opportunity is mutual and belongs to leaders who can move fluently between both.



Built Around the Bridge

01

Riyadh or Madrid sessions paired with academic immersion in Ljubljana.

Strategic Gears at the Core

02

Saudi-born, internationally expanded advisory firm with on-the-ground Vision 2030 experience as program architect.

Two-way Market Access

03

A live gateway into Gulf capital and growth markets and, in return, into the EU through Southeast Europe.

Institutional Access

04

Direct engagement with Saudi Exports and a faculty rooted in both regions, reinforced by the Slovenian-Arab Business Council.

WHO IS THIS PROGRAM FOR?

Designed for Senior Leaders Working Across the Bridge

Senior executives, business owners, and government leaders shaping decisions across the GCC–Southeast Europe bridge.

01 Business Leaders

Owners and senior operators of established businesses expanding across the GCC and Southeast Europe.

02 Corporate Executives

Senior corporate leaders driving strategy, growth and transformation inside established companies.

03 Slovenian & SEE Network

Senior employees of Slovenian export companies, Slovenian–Arab Business Council members and SEE firms already working with GCC partners.

04 Government & International

Government officials working on internationalization. The program can also include Saudi and Qatari nationals for cultural immersion.

SEE leaders can't reach the GCC alone, and GCC leaders need SEE talent

Cross-border growth depends on the right relationships, frameworks and execution, yet most leadership programs prepare executives for only one of these.

The Challenge



- ✓ Senior leaders lack direct access to decision-makers across both regions.
- ✓ Cross-border execution requires expertise and networks that take years to build alone.
- ✓ Most executive programs are single-region and single-culture.

The Solution



- ✓ Direct access to decision-makers and institutional partners across both regions.
- ✓ A faculty drawn from both regions, teaching frameworks designed for cross-border execution.
- ✓ A practical methodology built around real cross-region opportunities and immersive industry visits.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

An immersive journey from Riyadh or Madrid to online foundations to Ljubljana

10-day immersive experience: 4 days in Riyadh or Madrid, 6 live-online learning hours across 2 weeks, and 4 days in Ljubljana.

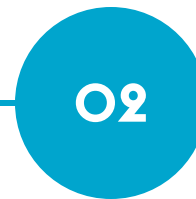


Riyadh or Madrid

4 days

Curriculum kickoff and foundational sessions across the program's core modules, set in the opening host city.

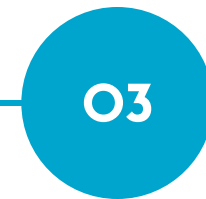
In Madrid, participants are invited to attend the program at Casa Árabe.



Live Online

2 virtual days, 6 class hours

Six core modules on leadership, brand, vision, AI, and growth, applied to GCC market realities.



Ljubljana

4 days

Master Classes on Learning Organizations and Business Development, executive site tours, networking with regional leaders, and the program diploma awards.

Six Modules Built for Global Leadership

Developed in collaboration with Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia – Export Accelerator, GREAT Leadership Solutions Ljubljana and business practitioner Mr. Gregor Kosi.

01

Leadership & Managing Expectations

Set direction, align stakeholders, and lead through ambiguity with strong communication and accountability frameworks.

02

Learning Organizations & Ownership

Build organizations that adapt, innovate, and turn individual learning into lasting institutional capability.

03

Brand Credibility & Reputation

Strengthen organizational credibility, executive presence and empathy in competitive, cross-cultural markets.

04

Visionary Organizations

Translate long-term vision into execution, designing strategy across 10-30 year horizons while staying agile.

05

AI in Modern Organizations

Apply AI to leadership, decisions, and organizational design through strategy, workforce shifts, and governance.

06

Business Development Through Disruption

Spot growth in volatile markets using scenario planning and geopolitical risk navigation through structural change.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Agenda

Phase 1

Riyadh or Madrid Opening
All six curriculum modules introduced

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
9:00 -11:30 am	Leadership & Managing Expectations	Brand Credibility & Reputation	AI in Modern Organizations	Guided company visits in KSA (full day)
1:30-5:00 pm	Learning Organizations & Ownership	Visionary Organizations	Business Development Through Disruption	

Phase 2

Live Virtual

6 synchronous learning hours across 2 days: Leadership Master Class and applied learning across modules

Phase 3-4

Southeast Europe Immersion

Southeast Europe Immersion — Module deep-dives, industry visits, and executive networking
Official Program Diploma Awards

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	4 Days in Ljubljana
9:00 -11:30 am	Module deep-dive: Leadership & AI in practice	Module deep-dive: Vision & Brand	Executive networking session	Industry visits across all six modules
1:30-5:00 pm	Master Class: Learning Organizations	Master Class: Business Development	Program Diploma Awards	Executive host tours & networking

World-Class Faculty



Pablo Delgado

Partner, Strategic Gears
Adjunct Prof., IE Business
School



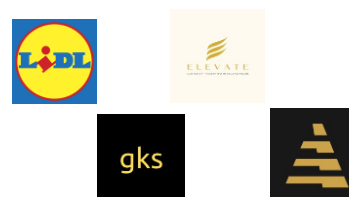
Javier Sobrino

Chief Innovation Officer
Sports Industry Expert



Gregor Kosi

Founder & CEO
GREAT Leadership Solutions



Anita Srac

Founder & CEO, ANANTUM
Strategy & Communication



Warren Knight

Futurist, digital innovator, and
award-winning keynote
speaker



Plus, additional guest speakers, regional executives, and institutional partners joining the cohort throughout the program.



Professor Pablo Delgado, MSc., MBA

Adjunct Professor, IE Business School

Expertise

- Innovation and product management
- Executive leadership
- Strategy and transformation
- Leadership development
- Business innovation
- Operational excellence

Credibility highlights

- Adjunct Professor at IE Business School
- IE Teaching Excellence Award winner in 2024 and 2025
- Associate Partner at Strategic Gears
- Leads global strategy and transformation projects
- Spearheads Strategic Gears Academy
- 10+ years of international experience across 30+ countries

Javier Sobrino, PhD, MBA

Sports Investment, Innovation & Strategy Expert



Expertise

- Sports investment and finance
- Strategy and innovation
- Venture and portfolio management
- Stadium and infrastructure development
- Sports consulting and advisory
- Executive teaching and research

Credibility highlights

- Former CSO & CRO at FC Barcelona
- Led full renovation of Barça Stadium, Arena and Campus
- Former Managing Partner, ASER Ventures
- Principal Director at Strategic Gears
- Founder of Sport & Strategy; advisor to FIFA and Liga F
- PhD UNED, MBA INSEAD, Harvard BEMS

Gregor Kosi

Founder & CEO, GREAT Leadership Solutions



Expertise

- Leadership consulting
- Business and HR consulting
- Executive coaching and mentoring
- Vision, values and culture alignment
- Team performance

Credibility highlights

- Founder & CEO of GREAT Leadership Solutions
- Former CEO of Lidl Slovenia for nearly 13 years
- Creator of #thegreatleadership framework
- Designed VisionLauncher™, LeadershipLauncher™, TeamLauncher™ and CompanyLauncher™
- Founder of Elevate, Center for Prevention and Regeneration



Anita Srac

CEO & Founder, ANANTUM

Expertise

- Europe–Gulf market entry strategy
- Partner development and opportunity identification
- Marketing and brand communication
- Sports sponsorships and media strategy
- Data-driven campaigns

Credibility highlights

- CEO & Founder of ANANTUM, strategic advisory firm bridging Europe and the Gulf
- Former Head of Marketing at Lidl Slovenia, leading a team of 25
- Former Strategy Director and Lead Strategist at Real Grupa
- Chairman-elect of the Slovenian–Qatari Business Council
- Expert Council Member at the Slovenian AI Institute (AI-D)

Warren Knight

Expert in Artificial Intelligence for Executives



Expertise

- Artificial Intelligence for Executives
- Digital transformation leadership
- Digital innovation and strategy
- Executive coaching and training
- Future-proofing organizations

Credibility highlights

- Founder & President of Think Digital First
- Founding Partner at Hivemind Group
- Trainer & Facilitator with PwC Academy Middle East
- Visiting lecturer at INSEEC University London and American University of Science and Technology
- Former Worldwide VP of Personal Development at YES Group; author on digital strategy and AI

DISTINGUISHED GUEST SPEAKERS

Featured Faculty and Guest Experts for this Cohort

A blended faculty of program leaders, regional executives, and global experts shaping the cohort experience.



Nasser Alqahtani

Managing Partner at Strategic Gears, former Ministry Advisor



Abdulaziz Alshathri

Associate Partner at Strategic Gears & Advisor to the Ministry of Investment of Saudi Arabia



Saudi Exports

Institutional Partner — Session Host



Paris de l'Etraz

Senior Advisor to Organizations and Ministries across the GCC



Warren Cass

Communication & Influence Advisor



Manuel Alonso Coto

Executive Coach in 30+ Countries, Expert in AI for C-Suite

DISTINGUISHED GUEST SPEAKERS

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Dušan Olaj

President of Slovenian-Arab Business Council at CCIS,
Founder of DUOL Engineering



Nataša Turk

Deputy Director at CCIS International Relations
Department



Ines Čigoja

Export Accelerator, Strategic Development Manager at
CCIS



Marjana Majerič

Executive Director Strategic Development and
Internationalization at the CCIS



Žiga Vavpotič

First Deputy Chairman, Slovenian-Arab Business
Council, Partner and CEO Bora Partners

What Participants Take Away from the Program

Participants leave with frameworks, networks, and insights they can apply immediately within their organizations and across regions.

Capabilities Gained

- Direct connections to decision-makers across the GCC and Southeast Europe
- Cross-regional partnerships built around real business opportunities
- A trusted network of peers, faculty, and institutional partners

Lasting Outputs

- A peer network spanning the GCC and Southeast Europe
- Direct relationships with regional faculty and institutional partners
- Personal leadership reflections and a development roadmap

Complete Program Investment

Cohort capped at **50 participants**, from Southeast Europe and from the GCC. The program runs across November (Riyadh or Madrid), an online phase, and January (Ljubljana).

€7,800 (VAT excl.)

Investment per participant
• **Max 50 seats**

The program fee covers academic components, program delivery, learning materials, and participant support across the full experience.

Included

- ✓ Middle East leadership application
- ✓ Southeast Europe academic immersion
- ✓ Innovation and industry visits
- ✓ Official program diploma
- ✓ Academic materials and participant support
- ✓ Four-week of immersive experience

Not included

- × Travel arrangements
- × Accommodation
- × Medical insurance
- × Visa fees where applicable

Ready to shape global leadership?

We are here to discuss how the **Advancing Cross-Regional Partnerships between Southeast Europe and the GCC Program** can support your leadership journey and organizational transformation.



For more information,
[click here](#) or scan the QR