

## **Challenges facing the official statistics in the GCC countries - Oman as a Model**

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As the case in many countries worldwide, Central Statistical Offices (CSOs) at the Gulf Cooperation Council countries (GCC) are facing several challenges that hamper their speedy development. The classical constraints of sufficient human resources, financial independence, coverage of sectoral statistics, national coordination are all examples of these challenges. The Political will to transfer the cooperation among GCC members into unification, without addressing these issues, will not facilitate the proper measurement of the benefits that member countries are expected to gain from the union. The paper, using Oman experience as a case model, will bring to light a SOWT analyses of official statistics in the GCC today to enable the (CSOs) be strong facilitators to the political contemplate. The proper function of the expected GCC statistical office (GCC-Stat) will be outlined in order to lead the joint future statistical activities in more coordinated and focused manor.

Key words: Unification, Political will, SWOT analysis, GCC-Stat