**Key facts:**

**About gross military expenditure…**

**Middle East** military expenditure accounts for **7.39% of the worldwide** spending. According to data from 2013, the region represents only 3.05% of World population.

It increased their military expenditure **10%** in the last 10 years. (no data available for UAE in the last year).

**50.4%** of the military expenditure in the Middle East comes from **Saudi Arabia**. This country **increased 36%** its spending in the last 10 years. However, there was an important drop from 2015. Reason? Oil Prices? (Interview Question)

It may be followed by UAE, the second most important country in the last years, but there is no updated data. The next one would be **Israel**, that spends **14.6%** of the overall. It rose this spending **14% in the last decade.**

**About import / export…**

Did Middle East increase the amount of weapons imported? How much?

Which are the main arms exporters to the Middle East? Which percentage each one? Which countries do they supply?

Are there some countries clearly supporting some Middle East nations? Which one and to what extent? Just business or political interests?

The Saudi-UAE alliance is now on the spotlight because of the war in Yemen. Which countries are selling them the largest amount of arms?

**Interview questions**

Ask Sipri more about methodology.

Is arms exports to the Middle East from international powers just business or there is a political interest?

Increasing influence of Russia in the Middle East?

Is China going to become more involved in the Middle East political tangle in the future? Via exporting arms, funding countries or investing on infrastructures?

Does oil prices evolution influence the military expenditure in the Middle East?