



# AN EXPOSITION ON THE FOREIGN INFORMATION MANIPULATION AND INTERFERENCE



## WELCOME TO ATHENA: DEFENDING EUROPE AGAINST FOREIGN INFORMATION MANIPULATION AND INTERFERENCE

In today's interconnected world, the threat of foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) poses a significant challenge to the stability and integrity of democratic societies. In response to this growing threat, the European Union has launched the ATHENA project - a €3 million, three-year initiative aimed at comprehensively addressing FIMI.

Led by a consortium of 14 partners, ATHENA represents a strategic endeavor to analyse, understand and combat the tactics employed by perpetrators of FIMI. Through innovative research, collaboration, and stakeholder engagement, ATHENA aims to safeguard Europe's digital future and uphold the principles of democracy and transparency.

## ATHENA PROJECT OUTCOMES

Throughout its duration, ATHENA will deliver outcomes designed to bolster Europe's resilience against FIMI. These outcomes include:

- A comprehensive analysis of at least 30 instances of FIMI, shedding light on the tactics, techniques and procedures employed by perpetrators;
- The development of novel and robust countermeasures to mitigate the impact of FIMI and protect societal integrity;
- A comparative legal and regulatory analysis of how EU Member States address FIMI, identifying areas for policy improvement;
- The creation of a disinformation analysis toolbox, a knowledge graph, and a dynamic dashboard to monitor and combat FIMI activities;
- Enhanced public awareness and engagement through the development of accessible resources and training materials.

### ANALYSIS OF FIMI CAMPAIGNS AND TECHNIQUES

Exploration of various manifestations of FIMI to uncover underlying patterns and motivations.

Reverse engineering of FIMI tactics, techniques and procedures to inform countermeasure development.

Analysis of behavioral and societal aspects of FIMI to understand its impact on individuals and communities.

### COUNTERMEASURE TECHNIQUES – STATE OF THE ART AND BEYOND

Compilation of a taxonomy of FIMI countermeasure techniques through a critical survey of existing approaches.

Assessment of new and/or adapted countermeasures to effectively combat evolving FIMI tactics on individuals and communities.

### POLICYMAKING AND FORESIGHT

Improvement of legal and ethical frameworks to address FIMI, guided by insights from research and analysis.

Horizon scanning to anticipate the evolution of FIMI and inform proactive policy measures.

Development of a questionnaire to evaluate potential instances of FIMI and make recommendations within EU policy priorities.

Through these concerted efforts, ATHENA aims to fortify Europe's defences against FIMI and pave the way for a more secure and resilient digital future.

### SOURCING, STORING, ENGINEERING AND EXPLORING DATA

Sourcing and collecting FIMI data from diverse sources to inform research and analysis.

Development of the FIMI toolbox, ATHENA dashboard and other solutions to aid in data processing, storage and analysis.

Co-design and evaluation of tools and solutions to ensure usability and effectiveness in combating FIMI.

### SHARING KNOWLEDGE: DISSEMINATION, TRAINING, EXPLOITATION AND OUTREACH

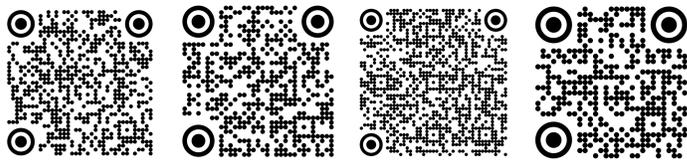
Dissemination of techniques and best practices to stakeholders and the wider public.

Enhancement of resilience and knowledge sharing of countermeasures through training initiatives.

Conducting public awareness campaigns to empower individuals and communities in recognising and combating FIMI.

Clustering with other projects to leverage our combined impact against FIMI.

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED



## HOW TO CONTACT US

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## OUR PARTNERS

- Trilateral Research (**TRI IE**) - Ireland
- The Foundation for Research and Technology (**FORTH**) - Greece
- University of Cyprus (**UCY**) - Cyprus
- Bavarian Police Academy (**HfoeD**) - Germany
- Research Institutes of Sweden (**RISE**) - Sweden
- Laurea University (**LAU**) - Finland
- Eurecat (**EUT**) - Spain
- Storyzy (**ST**) - France
- Trinity College Dublin (**TCD**) - Ireland
- European Organisation for Security (**EOS**) - Belgium
- Maldita (**MAL**) - Spain
- EU – DisinfoLab (**EU-D**) - Belgium
- University College Dublin (**UCD**) - Ireland
- ISSP (**ISSP**) - Ukraine
- Trilateral Research (**TRI**) - UK



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