PRESS RELEASE

November 2025

SPRINGER PUBLISHES BOOK ON FIMI BASED ON ATHENA CASE STUDIES

ATHENA's new book exposes threats from foreign information manipulation and interference

Brussels, 17 November 2025 -

A new book, *Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference: Case Studies From the ATHENA Project*, published by Springer, offers an unprecedented examination of how state and non-state actors weaponise information to undermine democracies worldwide. Drawing from the EU-funded **ATHENA Project** (2023–2026), the volume provides a comprehensive exploration of **32 case studies** of **foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI)** across Europe, America, Africa, and Asia.

Please click to access the book

Countries such as **Russia, China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, North Korea, and India** are identified as active agents of FIMI, deploying sophisticated campaigns to influence democratic processes, distort public debate, and erode trust in institutions. **Ukraine** has borne the brunt of sustained information warfare, serving as a vivid example of how disinformation can be deployed in parallel with kinetic military operations, but other countries in Europe have also suffered FIMI attacks.

The book meticulously documents:

- **Who** perpetrated FIMI attacks and **who** they targeted
- **Which channels** carried disinformation (including social media, traditional outlets, and covert digital networks)
- **How effective** these campaigns were
- **What countermeasures** have been implemented to resist and neutralise them

In addition to the case studies, the book features a synthesis of **20 expert interviews** with leading researchers and practitioners in the field of disinformation. The final chapters offer a robust set of **findings and policy recommendations**, addressing the urgent need for coordinated, multi-stakeholder responses to safeguard democratic resilience.

Key Features

- The **first book** dedicated exclusively to foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI)
- Presents **32 global case studies** detailing attacks, perpetrators, and countermeasures
- Proposes a **structured methodology** for analysing FIMI operations
- Provides a **comprehensive typology of TTPs**, including deepfake-enabled deception
- Offers **practical recommendations** for researchers, policymakers, legislators, civil society organisations, and fact-checkers

Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference: Case Studies From the ATHENA Project will serve as a vital resource for **researchers, policymakers, and practitioners** engaged in combating disinformation, hybrid threats, and cognitive warfare. Its findings underscore the importance of international cooperation, digital literacy, and adaptive counter-FIMI strategies.

The **About the editor**

Dr. David Wright is a Director and Chief Research Officer at **Trilateral Research** (www.trilateralresearch.com), a company he co-founded to develop responsible AI solutions for societal challenges. He coordinates the **EU-funded ATHENA Project** (November 2023 – October 2026), which investigates and counters foreign information manipulation and interference through multidisciplinary research and innovation.

Co-authors: The case studies were developed by 33 experts from the 15 partners in the ATHENA consortium.

About ATHENA

The **ATHENA Project** is a Horizon Europe-funded initiative dedicated to enhancing Europe's capacity to detect, analyse, and counter foreign information manipulation and interference. Through a combination of social science, technology, and policy innovation, ATHENA supports democratic resilience and informed decision-making across the EU and its partners. www.project-athena.eu

Consortium

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Funded by the European Union (grant number 101132686). UK participants in Horizon Europe Project ATHENA are supported by UKRI grant number 10107667 (Trilateral Research). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Research Executive Agency (REA) or UKRI. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority nor UKRI can be held responsible for them. HORIZON-CL2-2023-DEMOCRACY-01.