



2025

year
in review

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president's note



Professor Ioannis Emiris
PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD
DIRECTOR GENERAL

Year 2025 was one of consolidation for Athena, characterized by major achievements, strategic growth in terms of personnel and in terms of research activity, and a renewed commitment to scientific excellence in an era of rapid technological transformation.

This progress was driven by the dedication and excellence of our researchers. They continued to attract funding at one of the country’s highest rates, while the market uptake of research breakthroughs thrives within the Center’s ecosystem. Our researchers also engage in teaching, especially though the 4 MSc programs that we co-organize while maintaining an impressive publication record. Quite often funded projects, spinoffs, PhD supervision, and publications are joint with collaborating faculty. Synergy and openness thus maximize our impact and enhances the national ecosystem.

The expansion of our facilities and the upgrade of our infrastructure, supported by the Recovery & Resilience Fund, was in full swing during 2025. This constitutes a transformative step since Athena undertook one of the largest RRF-supported programs, including research projects Archimedes on AI, and Robotics Autonomous Systems in the Robotics Institute. Athena is proud to host the Teaming Center of Excellence Heron as well as to actively participate in Pharos through 3 of our institutes, supporting the mission of the AI Factory.

The year marked the end of my first term and the beginning of the second one at the helm of Athena. Looking back, I am proud at how much we have all together achieved, making Athena a bright star in the sky of digital technologies. Interim President of the BoD, Minos Garofalakis actively supported this vision. I extend my appreciation to the administrative personnel that manage to maintain the highest level of service quality.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on strengthening Athena’s core identity as a leading center of research and innovation, ensuring that scientific excellence has strong societal impact, attracting outstanding talent, while offering a seamless working environment. Together, we continue to shape the digital future of Greece!



profile



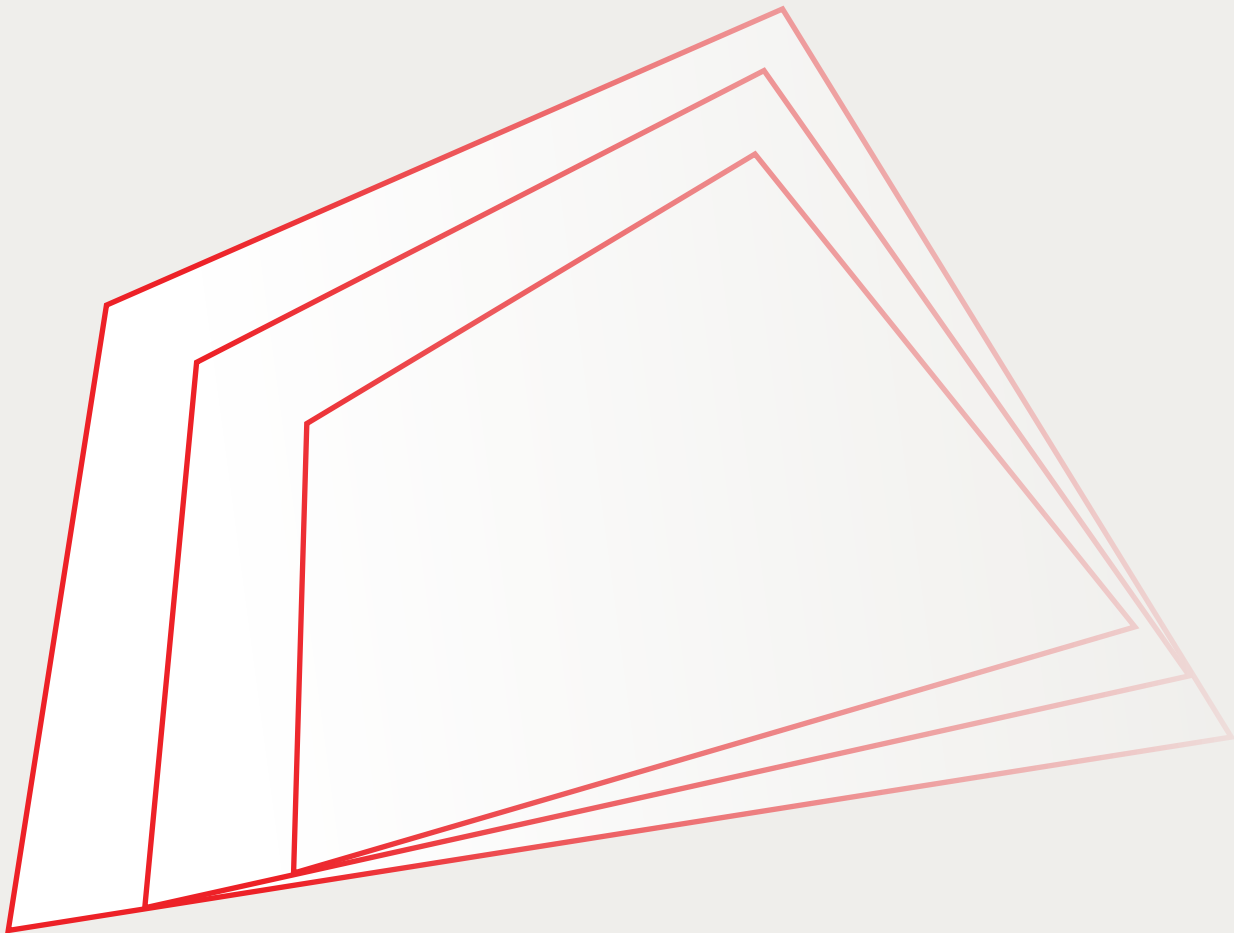
Athena is a leading organization shaping scientific and technological advances across the global digital landscape. Through a challenge-led approach, Athena addresses emerging societal and industrial needs and transforms research excellence into impactful solutions.

year in review 2025



mission

profile

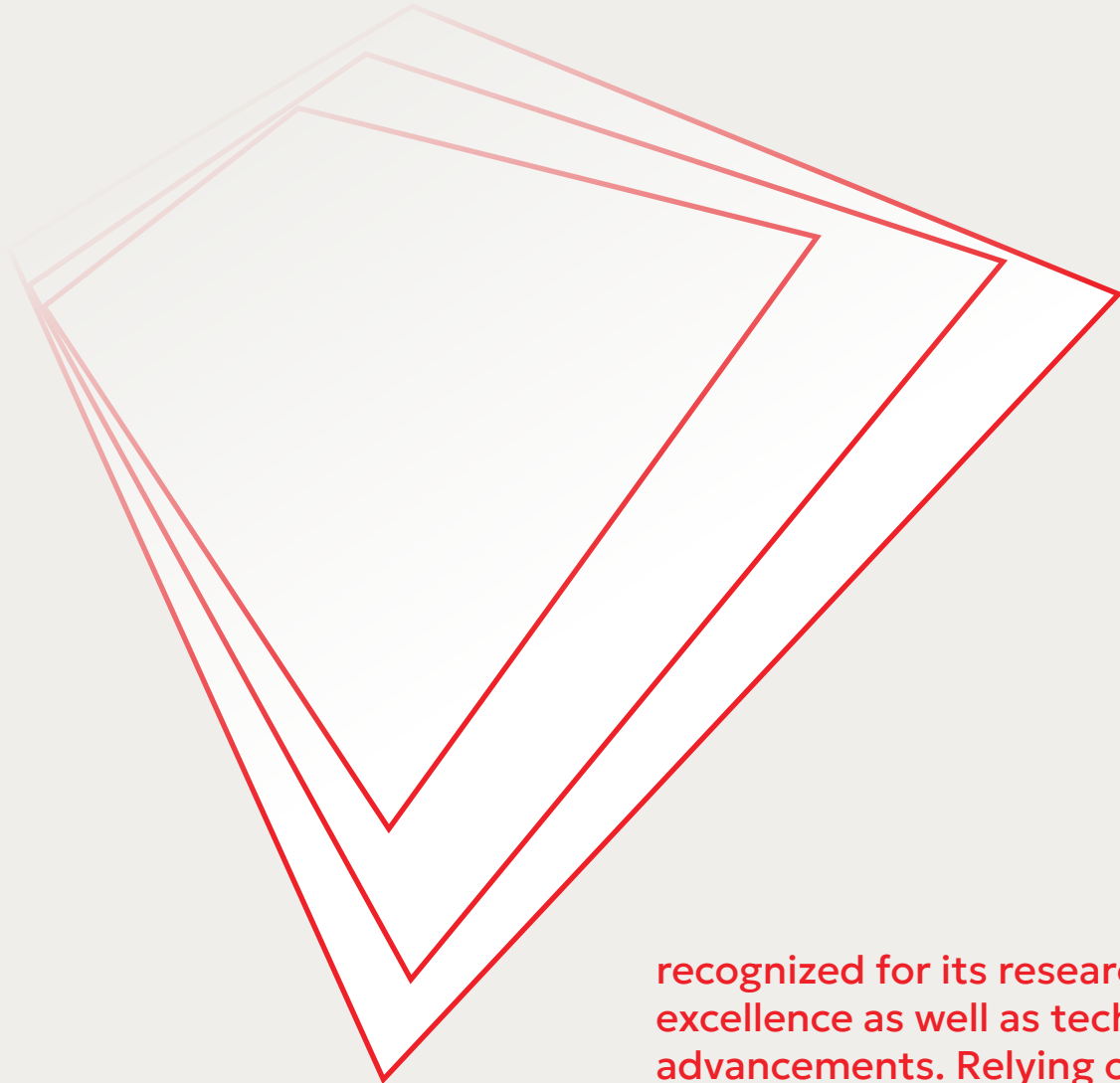


Athena's mission is to drive original research in digital science and innovation,

addressing global challenges and national problems. We shape the future of information, communication and knowledge technologies, with special emphasis on methods, tools and e-infrastructures that can be disruptive via industrial collaboration, products and services and the creation of spinoffs. Our results promote transparent and inclusive digital transformation and environmentally responsible technological progress. We nurture the next generation of digital inventors with special care for international outreach and brain gain.

vision

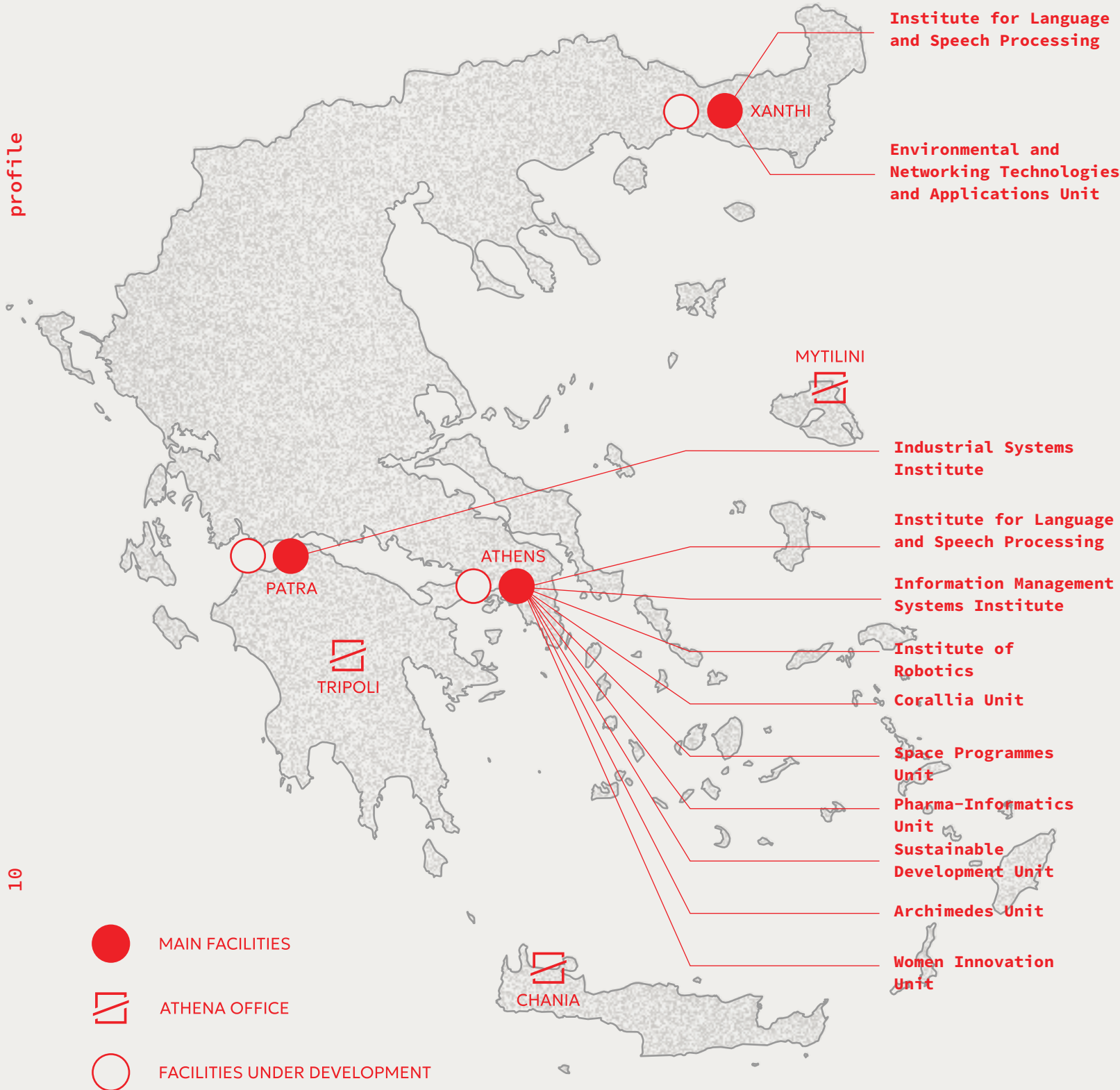
profile



Athena's vision is to become an established R&D leader for digital science in Europe and beyond,

recognized for its research excellence as well as technological advancements. Relying on an acclaimed mix of senior and junior researchers, an effective administrative support layer and advanced infrastructure, we cover the full spectrum of digital technologies by delivering solutions that drive economic growth, enhance societal well-being and promote a sustainable society. Athena endeavors to constitute a point of reference for institutions and teams in the entire country, through a dense nexus of collaborations and scientific leadership in all aspects of Information and Communication Technologies.

growing presence and activity

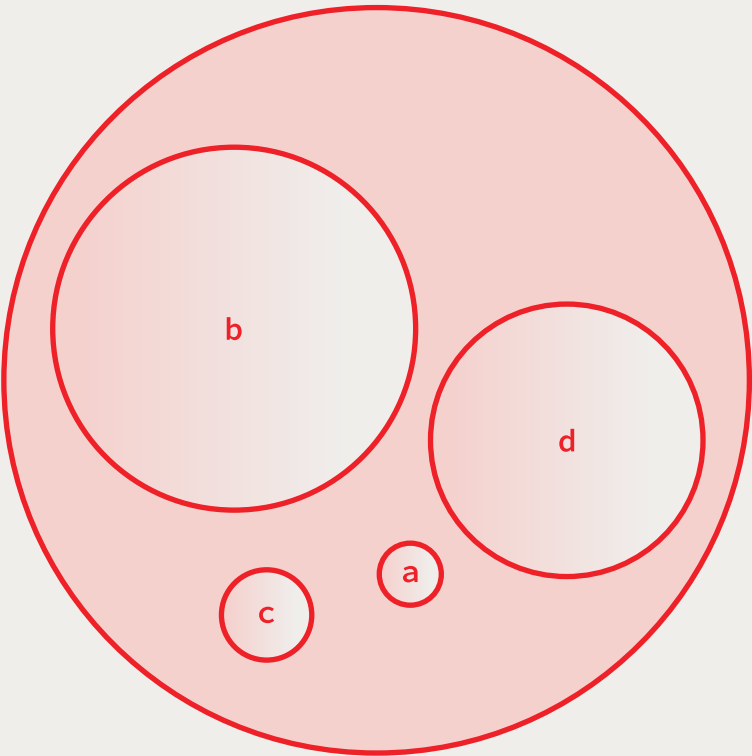


facts & figures

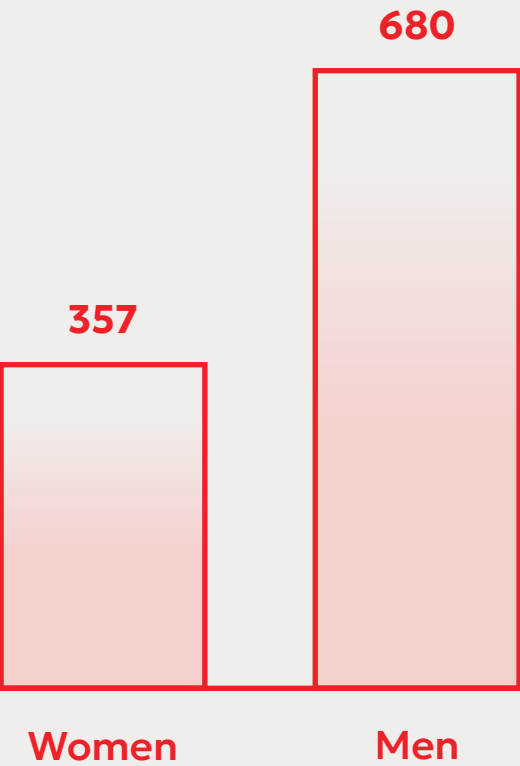
overall personnel

Total active: 1037

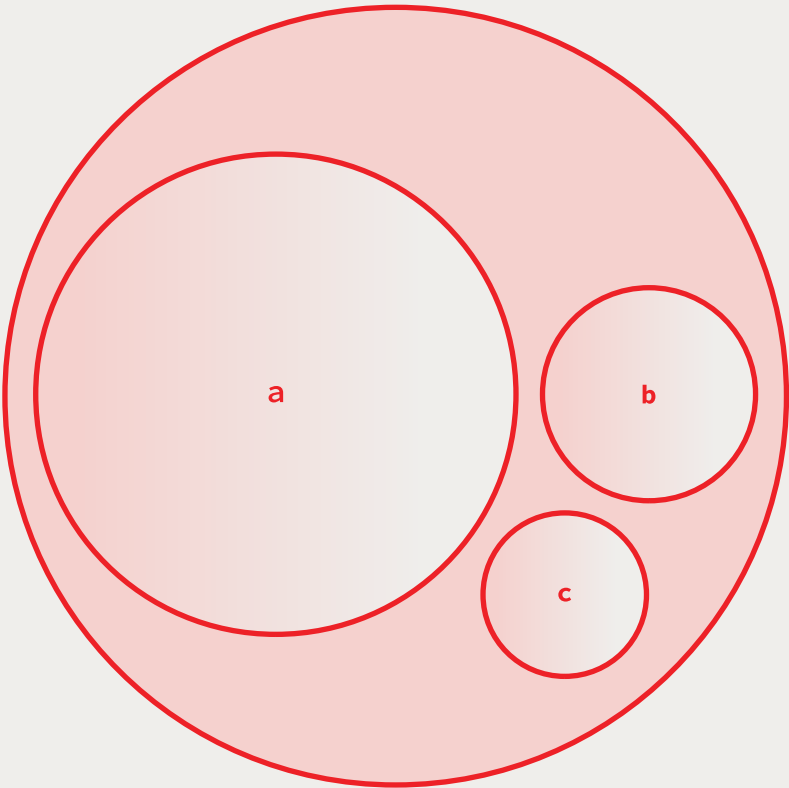
a. Permanent researchers: 48
b. Research associates: 786
c. Collaborating faculty: 91
d. Administrative & Technical Staff: 112



gender

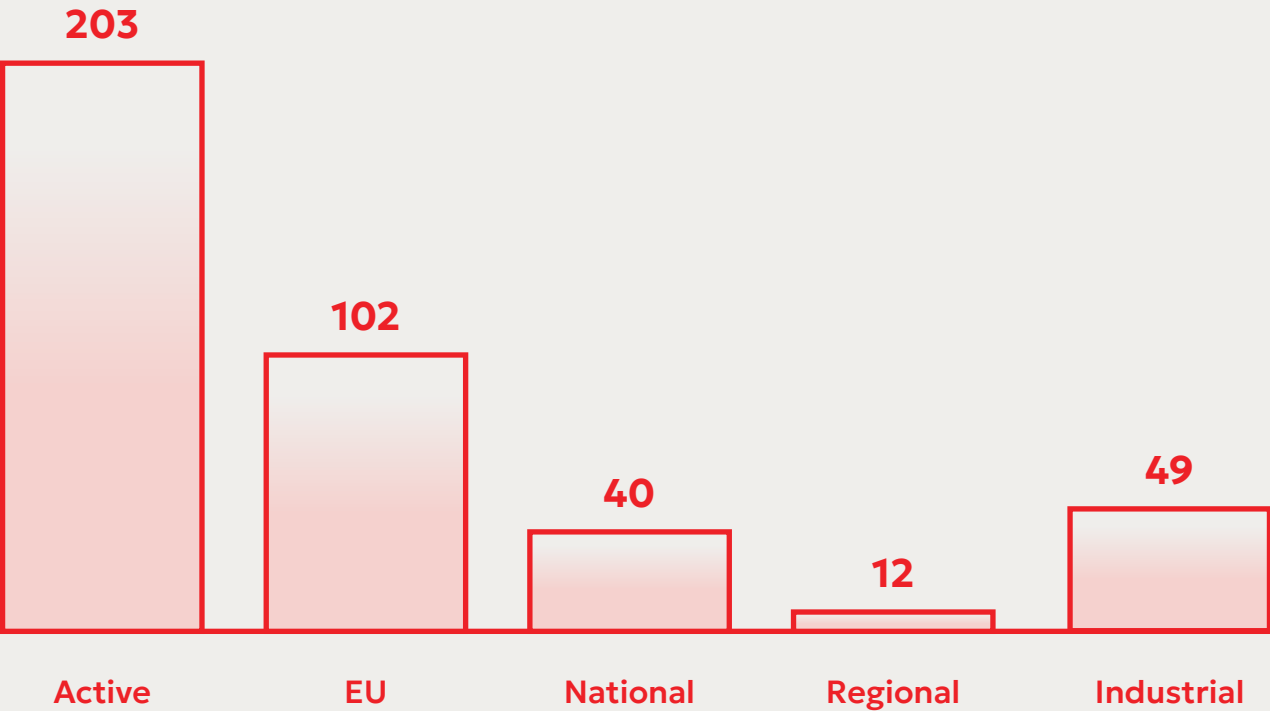


regional footprint

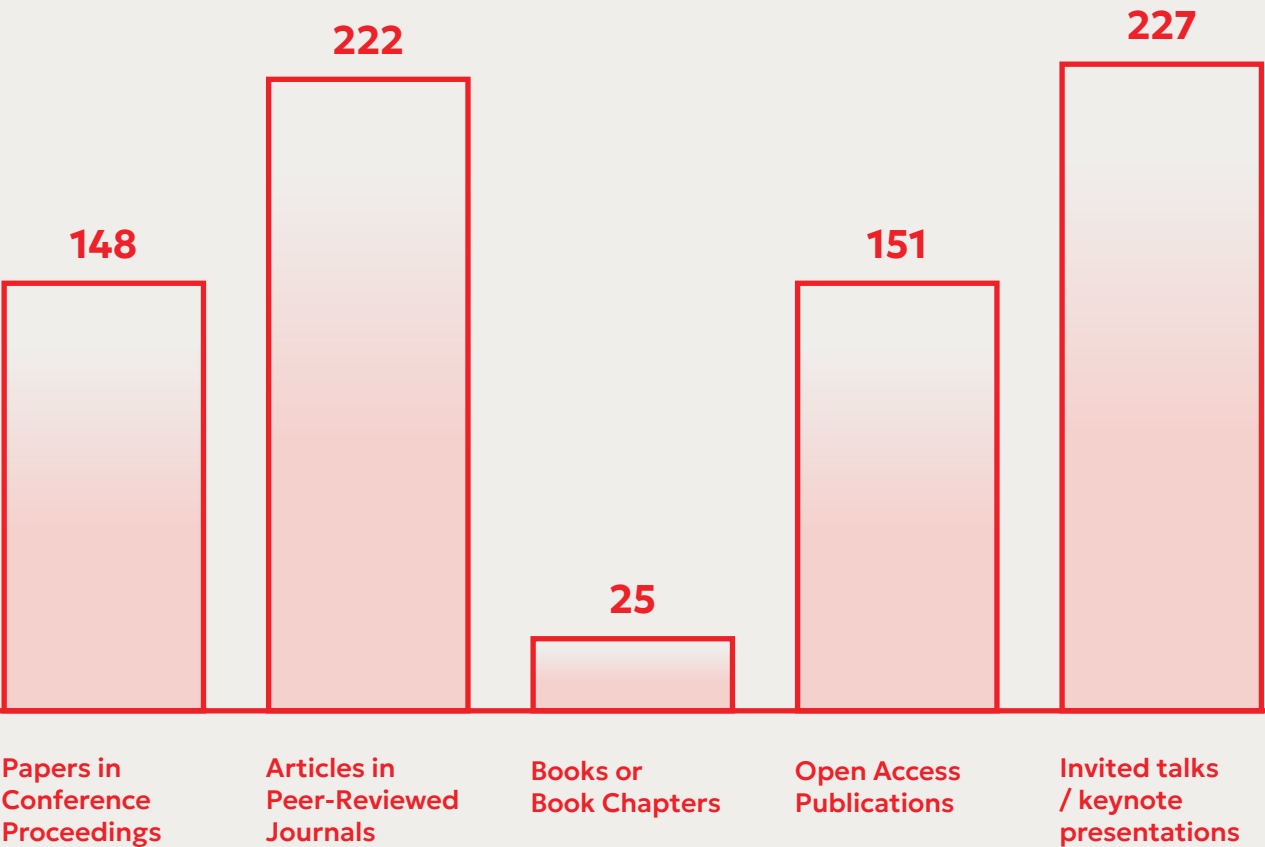


a. Athens: 782
b. Patras: 159
c. Xanthi: 96

projects

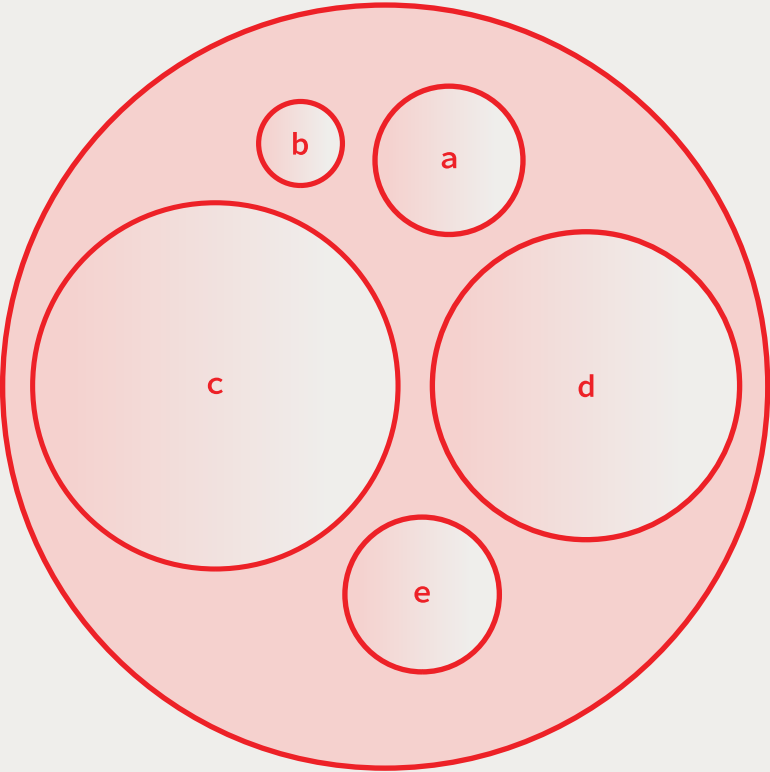


publications



finances

a. State Budget Funding: 2.7M
b. Public Investment Programs: 0.94M
c. European Commission (Horizon Europe etc.): 16.3M
d. Recovery and Resilience Facility: 11.5M
e. Services and Contract Research: 2.9M



highlights



The following highlights capture some of the most significant milestones of Athena Research Center in 2025. From major infrastructure investments and strategic national initiatives to scientific breakthroughs, educational initiatives and international distinctions, these achievements reflect Athena's continued commitment to research excellence, innovation and societal impact.

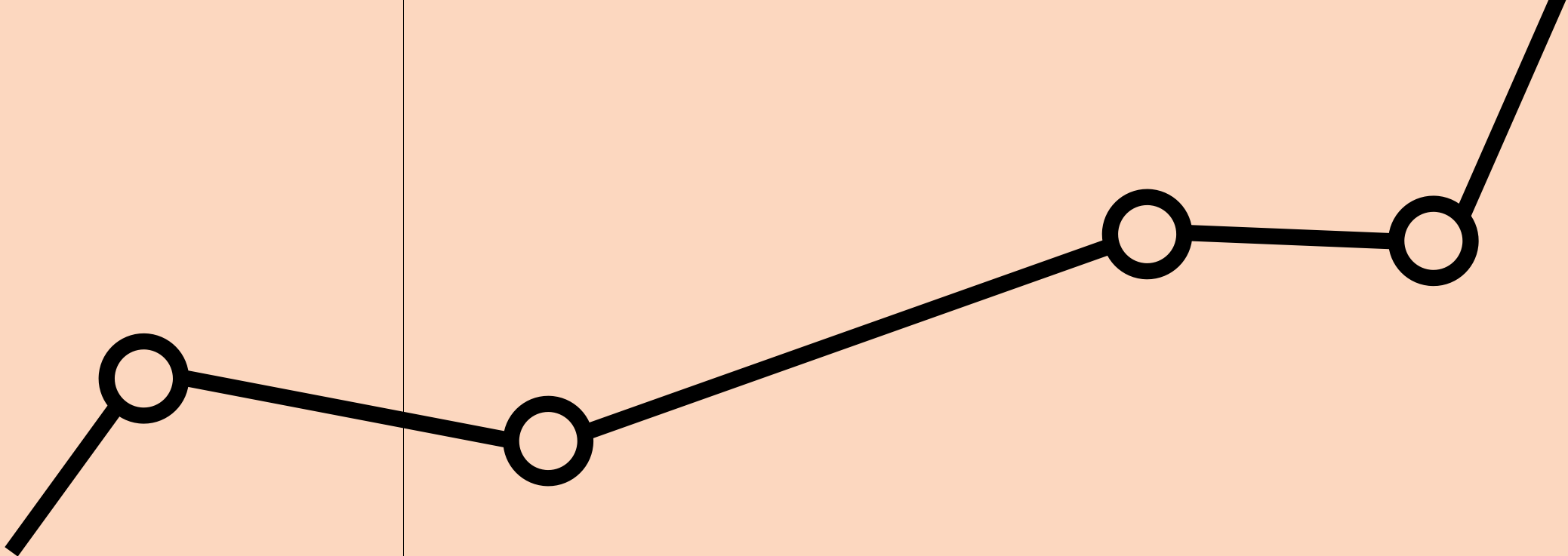
year in review 2025



a robust operational environment

administrative highlights

- More than 12% increase in personnel during the last year, reflecting Athena’s continued growth and the launch of new strategic initiatives.
- €6.7M in procurements, delivering GPU clusters, AI infrastructure, scientific equipment, software, networking systems and digital resources.
- 203 active national, regional, private and EU-funded projects, supported by the Athena Project Management Office.
- €3.4M invested in infrastructure modernization and facility renovations out of the €30M budget allocated for building infrastructure.



managerial activity

In 2025, Athena implemented a broad program of administrative, digital and organizational upgrades. Key actions included the development of a new onboarding framework, the update of the Funding Guide, the integration into the national cybersecurity framework under the Hellenic National Cybersecurity Authority, and the delivery of staff training in AI tools and professional development.

Administrative, technical and financial services also coordinated major renovation works in Athens, Patras and Xanthi, as well as the acquisition process for a major building, located in the Doukissis Plakentias area of Chalandri, including technical planning, procurement, contracting and infrastructure development.

computational facilities

The Center upgraded its GRNET node with new telecommunications and high-speed fiber-optic infrastructure and deployed new GPU computing resources. Athena operates a distributed computing infrastructure comprising 400+ CPU cores, 3 TB RAM and 80+ TB of storage, supported by Hyper-V and KVM virtualization, a 10 Gbit/s backbone network, dedicated fiber connectivity and resilient UPS-backed operation.

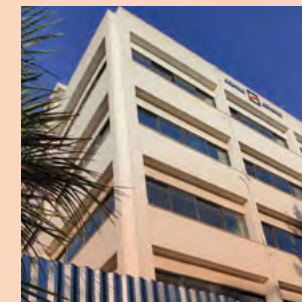
strategic milestones

During 2025, Athena advanced a number of initiatives that expanded its scientific capabilities, strengthened its infrastructure and reinforced its contribution to national and european research priorities.

Together, these developments illustrate the center's continued growth and its commitment to excellence, innovation and societal impact.

building the future of research

In 2025, Athena Research Center advanced a strategic infrastructure program designed to support its long-term growth and strengthen its research and innovation capacity in Athens and Xanthi.



The program includes

- The acquisition of a new building in Athens that will consolidate Athena's research, innovation and administrative activities under one roof
- The functional and energy upgrade of Athena's headquarters in Marousi
- The restoration of a historic listed building in Xanthi's Old Town
- The upgrade of the outdoor infrastructure and surrounding grounds at the Kimmeria research campus

Together, these interventions enhance Athena's facilities, creating modern environments for research, collaboration, education and technology transfer.

More than an infrastructure investment, this program reflects Athena's long-term commitment to research excellence and innovation. By developing the facilities needed to support emerging scientific fields, advanced laboratories and future flagship initiatives, Athena is laying the foundations for its next phase of growth as a leading research and innovation organization in Greece and Europe.



DUTHsat-2 Successfully Reaches Orbit

The successful launch of DUTHsat-2 in June 2025 marked a historic milestone for Greece’s space ecosystem. As the first Greek-owned nanosatellite to reach orbit, the mission advances national capabilities in Earth observation and environmental monitoring. Athena Research Center, through its Space Programs Unit, contributed to the development and preparation of the mission, reinforcing its role in the advancement of strategic space technologies and innovation.

PHAROS: Building Greece’s AI Future

2025 marked the official launch of PHAROS, Greece’s national AI Factory and one of the flagship initiatives of the EuroHPC AI Factories program. Designed to provide the infrastructure, expertise and innovation services needed for the next generation of AI applications, PHAROS brings together leading national stakeholders. As a core research partner, Athena contributes advanced expertise in AI and data technologies, helping strengthen Greece’s position within Europe’s rapidly evolving AI landscape.



Llama-Krikri: Advancing Greek Language AI

Building on the success of Meltemi, the first open Large Language Model (LLM) for Greek, Athena Research Center introduced Llama-Krikri, an open LLM specifically designed and trained for the Greek language. Developed by ILSP, the model leverages modern AI architectures and was trained on extensive, curated Greek language data, aiming for high linguistic accuracy and reliability. It supports Modern Greek and English, while it has the ability to process polytonic script and Ancient Greek.



Olympia Research Summit

In 2025, Athena Research Center launched the inaugural Olympia Research Summit, bringing together leading Greek researchers from Greece and abroad in Big Data, Systems and Artificial Intelligence. With more than 20 distinguished speakers and 80 researchers from leading universities and research institutions, the Summit fostered collaboration and strategic dialogue on emerging data-driven technologies. Organized by Athena and sponsored by Huawei, it reinforced Greece's international AI and data science ecosystem.



HERON Officially Launches Operations

In 2025, HERON – The Hellenic Robotics Center of Excellence, officially launched its activities, marking a major milestone for robotics and artificial intelligence in Greece. Coordinated by Athena Research Center in partnership with the Italian Institute of Technology (IIT) and the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), HERON is the first Center of Excellence in Greece dedicated to robotics in the AI era. Supported by more than €30 million in European and national funding, the initiative aims to advance world-class research, strengthen the Greek robotics ecosystem and position Greece as a regional leader in robotics and intelligent systems.

1st Greek Olympiad in Artificial Intelligence

The Archimedes Unit designed and co-organized the 1st Greek Olympiad in Artificial Intelligence for secondary school students across Greece. Following a dedicated training program delivered by Athena researchers and academic fellows, the national team represented Greece at the International Olympiad in AI in Beijing, winning two silver and one bronze medal.



in the limelight

Athena’s researchers continued to gain international recognition in 2025 through leadership appointments, prestigious awards, scientific distinctions and influential contributions to their respective fields. These achievements highlight both individual excellence and the growing visibility of Athena Research Center within the global research and innovation community.



Prof. Ioannis Emiris Re-elected President and Director General

Prof. Ioannis Emiris was unanimously re-elected President of the Board and Director General of Athena following an international evaluation process, securing a renewed mandate to sustain Athena’s impressive and multifaceted expansion and to lead the Center's next phase of growth, research excellence and international development.



Prof. Christos Tzamos Awarded ERC Consolidator Grant

Prof. Christos Tzamos, Collaborating Faculty Member at Athena Research Center, was awarded a prestigious ERC Consolidator Grant by the European Research Council for the project COMFORMAL: Computational Foundations of Reliable Machine Learning, supporting frontier research on the theoretical foundations of trustworthy AI.



Dr. Katerina Pastra Elected President of the EETN

Dr. Katerina Pastra, Principal Researcher at Athena Research Center, was elected President of the Hellenic Artificial Intelligence Society (EETN) for the 2025 - 2026 term, highlighting both her longstanding contribution to Artificial Intelligence research and Athena’s active role within the Greek AI ecosystem.



**Prof. Phoebe Koundouri
Appointed Co-Chair of
the 2027 UN GSDR**

Prof. Phoebe Koundouri, Head of Athena's Sustainable Development Unit, was appointed by the UN Secretary-General as Co-Chair of the Independent Group of Scientists preparing the 2027 Global Sustainable Development Report, recognizing her international leadership in sustainability science and policy.



**Renewal of Dr. Agiatis
Benardou’s Term as
Director of DARIAH-EU**

Dr. Agiatis Benardou, Scientific Associate at Athena Research Center, was unanimously reappointed Director of DARIAH-EU through the end of 2028, reflecting international recognition of her leadership and contribution to one of Europe’s leading research infrastructures for the Digital Humanities.



**Prof. Christos Papadimitriou
Inducted into the Academy
of Athens**

Prof. Christos Papadimitriou, Lead Scientist of Athena's Archimedes Unit and Donovan Family Professor at Columbia University, was formally inducted as a Full Member of the Academy of Athens. His election to the Chair of Computer Science recognizes his outstanding contributions to theoretical computer science, AI and algorithms.



**Double Distinction
at VLDB 2025**

Dr. Yannis Foufoulas, Dr. Theoni Palaialogou, and Dr. Alkis Simitsis [IMSI] received the Best EAB Paper Award at the 51st VLDB 2025, London, UK, for UDFBench, a benchmarking framework for evaluating user-defined function execution in data management systems. Dr. A. Simitsis, Research Director at Athena Research Center, also received the Distinguished Associate Editor Award.



**Innovation in Data
Curation Award**

A team from Athena Research Center comprising Scientific Associates Ms. Eleni Kasoura and Mr. Dimitrios Damianos, Assistant Researcher Dr. George Paraskevopoulos, and Dr. Vassilis Katsouros, Director of the Institute for Language and Speech Processing (ILSP), received the Innovation in Data Curation Award and achieved third place overall in the DCVLR Competition at NeurIPS 2025 for extending the Magpie framework with multimodal instruction generation capabilities.



**PETRA 2025
Best Paper Award**

Dr. Chrysa Pratikaki, Dr. Panagiotis Filntisis, Dr. Anastasios Roussos, Prof. Petros Maragos, Director and Scientific Coordinator of HERON, and Dr. Athanasios Katsamanis, Principal Researcher at Athena Research Center, received the PETRA 2025 Best Paper Award for their work on AI-driven Greek Sign Language production, advancing accessibility technologies through transformer models and skeletal motion representations.

institutes & units



Rooted in the digital sciences, Athena's Institutes and Units form a multidisciplinary ecosystem of research and innovation spanning artificial intelligence, language technologies, data science, robotics, digital health, sustainability and cybersecurity technologies. Together, they advance knowledge, drive technological innovation and contribute to the development of solutions with scientific, economic and societal impact.

year in review 2025



Institute for Language and Speech Processing



2025 was a year of significant achievements for the Institute for Language and Speech Processing (ILSP), highlighted by the development of the new open Greek LLM, Llama-Krikri and its leading role in PHAROS, the Greek AI Factory. The Institute strengthened its international presence through the European initiatives Language Data Space and ALT-EDIC, actively contributing to shaping the European ecosystem of language technologies and artificial intelligence. At the same time, it developed innovative applications in the fields of cultural heritage, education, health and public administration. With 57 active projects, 105 publications and important international distinctions, ILSP continued to produce high-impact research and contributed substantially to the digital transformation of society.

Industrial Systems Institute



2025 was a milestone year for the Industrial Systems Institute (ISI), marked by major achievements in next-generation communications, AI and digital technologies. The Institute assumed a leading role in four flagship Horizon Europe 6G projects (SUNRISE-6G, 6G-INTENSE, 6G-DALI and FLECON-6G) and contributed to the implementation of the Greek AI Factory PHAROS. It further strengthened its international presence by organizing major scientific events, including IEEE ISC2 2025, which attracted participants from 38 countries and SEEDA-CECNSM 2025, while also hosting the ERCIM Spring Meetings. Research advances in Explainable and Generative AI, Digital Twins, autonomous systems and cybersecurity, together with the continued growth of its research workforce, further reinforced the Institute's position as a leading contributor to Europe's digital transformation.

Information Management Systems Institute



2025 was a year of delivery and scientific recognition for IMSI. Four major projects reached completion: STELAR (agrifood data lakes, interoperability, data sharing), DataBri-X (data spaces, interoperability, data sharing), UNDERPIN (manufacturing data spaces, industrial data sharing) and PSLifeStyle (digitalization of lifestyle environmental impact monitoring). Notably, STELAR, DataBri-X and UNDERPIN addressed key challenges in data management, interoperability and data sharing, contributing to the development of the Common European Data Spaces and the broader European strategy for data-driven innovation. The quality of IMSI's research was recognized through international awards at ADBIS and VLDB, one of the leading conferences in data management. Researchers published extensively in top-tier venues, including SIGMOD, VLDB/PVLDB, EDBT, ICDE, AAAI and ECML-PKDD, covering topics in data management, analytics, AI and machine learning.

Institute of Robotics



In 2025, the Institute of Robotics focused on establishing the foundations for its long-term growth and scientific excellence. The Institute expanded its team by recruiting researchers, PhD candidates and postdoctoral fellows, while strengthening collaborations with faculty members from Greek universities. Research activities resulted in publications in leading journals and international conferences. At the same time, significant efforts were devoted to developing and equipping the Institute's facilities, including the preparation of key infrastructure procurements and the establishment of the physical environment required to support its research activities. A major milestone was the institute's contribution to the implementation of HERON, Greece's first Center of Excellence in Robotics and Artificial Intelligence, through the establishment of a Joint Lab and the support of key research and innovation activities.

Corallia



ATHENA CORALLIA UNIT

In 2025, Corallia further expanded its role as a catalyst for innovation, technology transfer and entrepreneurship in Greece. Through the operation of ESA BIC Greece and its support to startups, spinoffs and innovation ecosystems, it fostered the development of deep-tech ventures in sectors such as space, digital technologies and advanced engineering. By connecting research organizations, industry, investors and public stakeholders, Corallia continued to bridge the gap between research excellence and market impact, strengthening Greece’s innovation capacity and international competitiveness.

Space Programs Unit



ATHENA SPACE PROGRAMS UNIT

In 2025, the Space Programs Unit participated in the DUTHsat-2 mission, the first Greek-owned nanosatellite to successfully reach orbit. As a consortium partner, the Unit contributed to Mission Analysis, Mechanical Design and engineering simulations, orbital planning and launch preparation activities. The mission represents an important step for the development of Greece’s space ecosystem and the advancement of national capabilities in Earth observation and satellite technologies.

Environmental and Networking Technologies & Applications Unit



ATHENA ENVIRONMENT AND NETWORKS UNIT

Research activities focused on addressing key environmental and sustainability challenges, including atmospheric pollution, climate change, indoor environmental quality and energy use. A major milestone for ENTA was participation in the newly funded CHERISSE project, which investigates traffic-related air pollution around schools and children’s exposure during daily commuting. Through experimental measurements, environmental monitoring and computational analysis approaches, the Unit supported evidence-based environmental management and sustainable development strategies at both regional and international levels.

Pharma Informatics Unit



ATHENA UNIT FOR PHARMA-INFORMATICS

The Pharma Informatics Unit has been involved in two funded research projects, namely ERA4TB and ERAMET, both in the field of modelling and simulation in the development of anti-tuberculosis drugs. These projects support one PhD student and one postdoctoral researcher. Also, the Unit has been involved in EPTRI (European Paediatric Translational Research Infrastructure) of which it is a founding member. EPTRI is a non-profit research organization incorporated in Belgium in the form of AISBL acting as a distributed Research Infrastructure.

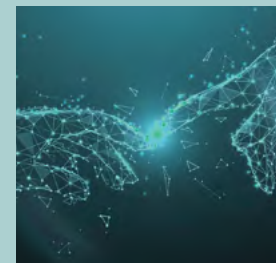
Sustainable Development Unit



ATHENA SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UNIT

In 2025, SDU substantially strengthened its international role in sustainable development, with 14 active EU-funded research projects and a total budget exceeding €4M. The SDSN Global Climate Hub produced integrated models, 4 reports and decision-support tools with international policy impact. The Unit had a strong presence in more than 150 conferences and fora (UNGA, Climate Weeks, COP30, FFD4, UN Ocean Conference, etc.), promoting science-based pathways for climate neutrality, resilience and just transition.

Archimedes



ATHENA ARCHIMEDES UNIT

2025 was a successful year for Archimedes, demonstrating substantial advancement throughout the year both in research output and scientific collaboration. The unit has been significantly strengthened, reaching 87 faculty members, 21 postdoctoral researchers and 54 PhD candidates participating in research and training activities. Research activity shows increasing momentum, with numerous publications and participations in international and national conferences by PhD candidates and researchers. At the same time, collaborations with external organizations are expanding through research programs involving interdisciplinary teams. This combined growth in human resources, collaborations and scientific output reflects a clear and steady upward trajectory of the unit over the year.

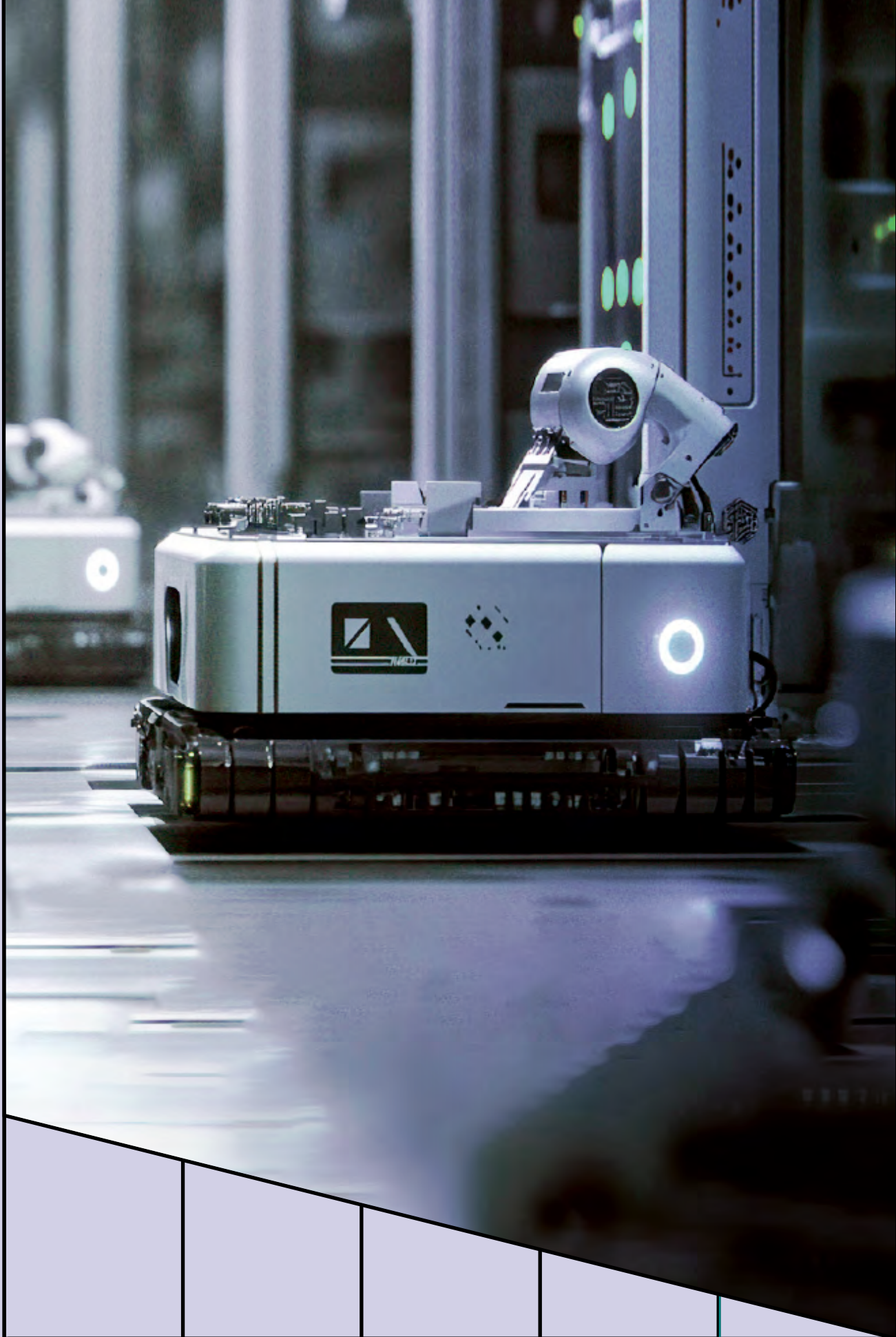
Innovation Unit for Women



ATHENA WOMEN INNOVATION UNIT

2025 was a highly productive year for the Innovation Unit for Women, with activities focused on digital education, computational thinking, sustainability and the empowerment of girls and women in technology. The Unit successfully completed the PSLifestyle project, promoting sustainable lifestyles and carbon footprint awareness, while the Bebras challenge reached 34.706 participants, fostering computational thinking skills among young learners. Through Code4Europe and more than 20 related activities, including school visits, webinars and coding sprints, the Unit further strengthened digital inclusion and access to digital skills.

research & development



As Greece's leading research center dedicated exclusively to digital technologies, Athena conducts research that advances scientific knowledge while addressing the evolving needs of society and the economy. This section presents the Center's scientific output and key achievements in 2025.

year in review 2025



The breadth of Athena's research as showcased through its projects and publications, reflects the Center's unique ability to combine expertise across the full spectrum of digital technologies. From foundational research to practical applications, its research areas bring together complementary expertise to address complex scientific and technological challenges.



research areas

AI and machine learning

Athena advances Artificial Intelligence through research in Machine Learning, generative and trustworthy AI, computer vision and autonomous decision-making. It develops explainable, human-centered and predictive AI systems that enhance efficiency and support decision-making across diverse domains.

projects



AIXPERT develops an agentic, GenAI-powered framework that makes AI systems explainable, accountable and transparent across diverse architectures and applications. By providing architecture-agnostic and context-aware governance mechanisms, the project strengthens trustworthiness and responsible AI adoption in complex environments. [ILSP]



ARMADA trains researchers to improve the reliability and transparency of conversational AI and LLMs through explainability, domain alignment and efficient computation, addressing bias and hallucination in sensitive applications. [IMSI]



NEWTON develops a next-generation cell-free 6G network integrating

wireless, optical and edge AI technologies to deliver ultra-low latency, massive connectivity and scalable, resilient multi-gigabit communications. [ISI]

STASY addresses the mismatch between passenger demand and metro operations. Using AI-driven demand forecasting and train scheduling optimization, it improves service planning, fleet utilization, disruption recovery, energy efficiency and passenger experience. [ARCHIMEDES]

D-AI-logue creates an AI-driven platform to help young adults critically analyze information through Socratic dialogue and prebunking techniques and to combat misinformation while developing stronger critical thinking skills. [ARCHIMEDES]

technologies



Effector is an open-source explainable AI library for tabular ML that generates global and regional feature effect explanations, enabling transparent, interpretable and trustworthy AI models. [IMSI]

TRUSTEE is a privacy-preserving federated learning framework with explainable AI for LiDAR perception and SLAM, enabling collaborative autonomous systems without sharing sensitive data. [ISI]

key publications

75 + publications

- **Auto-Compressing Networks**, NeurIPS 2025, San Diego, California, USA, Oral Poster. [ARCHIMEDES, ILSP]
- **Improved Bounds for Online Facility Location with Predictions**, AAAI 2025, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, 39(25) p. 26973, Oral Presentation. [ARCHIMEDES]
- **Instance-Level Composed Image Retrieval**, NeurIPS 2025, San Diego, California, USA. [IRO]

lecture



Archimedes Geometry Day 2025

15 May, Athena Research Center, Athens

The 2025 Archimedes Geometry Day brought together leading researchers to discuss advances in geometry and its applications to computing and AI, featuring a keynote lecture by Professor Leonidas Guibas (Stanford University), a leading expert in computational geometry. [Archimedes]

data and computing

Athena advances the foundations of data science through research in database systems, data management, query processing, data integration, data spaces and intelligent data infrastructures. Its activities address semantic technologies, large-scale analytics, FAIR data practices and interoperable platforms, transforming heterogeneous data into actionable knowledge.

projects



DATAGEMS creates a next-generation ecosystem for discovering and combining diverse datasets. Using advanced data management, NLP and machine learning, it simplifies access to complex data while promoting FAIR principles. [IMSI]



NOONIoT develops an intelligent IoT platform that integrates data into a secure, interoperable ecosystem. Combining AI, predictive analytics, federated cloud technologies and blockchain, it supports smarter decision-making across cities, healthcare, industry, energy and culture. [ISI]



6G-INCOGNICO federates the 6G testbed with the 6G-PATH ecosystem, enabling cross-infrastructure experimentation, application deployment, performance benchmarking and automated workflows for next-generation B5G/6G technologies. [ISI]

technologies



DataBri-X is a suite of 25+ open-source, interoperable tools for building EU data spaces addressing technical and governance challenges in secure data sharing validated in telecom, energy and legal sector pilots. [IMSI]



ARC Dataspace is a live dataspace platform built on Eclipse Dataspace Components, that allows

organizations to securely exchange and exploit data while retaining control over access and governance. [IMSI]

Amnesia is a data anonymization platform providing secure, on-premise privacy protection through pseudonymization, masking and k-anonymity techniques, enabling GDPR-compliant data sharing and analytics. [IMSI]

key publications

50 + publications

- [An in-depth analysis of pre-trained embeddings for entity resolution](#), VLDB Journal, 34(1), 5 [IMSI]
- [QueryER: A Framework for Fast Analysis-Aware Deduplication over Dirty Data](#), EDBT 2025, Barcelona, Spain, p. 119 [IMSI]
- [Comparative Analysis of Indexing Techniques for Table Search in Data Lakes](#), International Journal of Semantic Computing 19(2), p.173 [IMSI]

awards

- Mr. Antheas Kapenekakis and Prof. Minos Garofalakis [IMSI] received the Best Paper Award at [ADBIS 2025](#) for research enabling scalable, privacy-preserving synthetic data generation for secure large-scale data sharing and analysis.
- Mr. Vassilis Stamatopoulos, Dr. Stavros Maroulis, Dr. George Papastefanatos and Prof. Panos Vassiliadis [IMSI] received the Best Demonstration Award at [ADBIS 2025](#), Tampere, Finland, for TimeVizBench, a platform for evaluating techniques for efficient large time series visualization.

presentation



Odyssey of AI: Navigating the Data Seas
27-28 May, Athens, Greece
At Data Week 2025 Dr. Vassilis Katsouras, Dr. Stelios Piperidis and Dr. George Papastefanatos showcased Athena's contributions to AI infrastructures, European data spaces and extreme-scale data analytics. [ILSP, IMSI]

language and speech

Athena advances language technologies that enable machines to understand, generate and interact through natural language. Its research focuses on NLP, speech technologies, multilingual AI, LLMs and language data and services infrastructures, while developing language resources, infrastructures and AI-driven tools supporting multilingual communication.

projects



LLMs4EU strengthens Europe’s linguistic diversity through generative AI. It develops trustworthy LLMs for all EU languages, supported by a language-data marketplace, a transparent evaluation platform and compliant data-sharing infrastructure. [ILSP]



ALT-EDIC4EU strengthens Europe’s language technology ecosystem by establishing robust infrastructure, evaluation services and operational capabilities for ALT-EDIC. It advances European AI and LLM autonomy, maps the LT landscape, promotes training and supports multilingual innovation while preserving linguistic diversity. [ILSP]



PressMint develops multilingual, annotated, translated and interoperable corpora of European historical newspapers. Through CLARIN’s research infrastructure, it enables cross-lingual digital humanities research, corpus analysis and comparative studies across countries and languages. [ILSP]

Greek language varieties and dialects digitally preserved through fieldwork-based data collection, supported with the development of automatic speech recognition models, transcription normalisation, Universal Dependencies treebanks, and neural morphosyntactic analysis, all released as open-access resources. [ILSP, ARCHIMEDES]

technologies



Llama-Krikri is an open LLM developed for Greek and publicly available through [Hugging Face](#) and a dedicated chat interface. It addresses the shortage of high-quality AI language models for Greek, allowing text understanding and generation in Modern Greek, Ancient Greek and English. [ILSP]



IntelliGEND is an AI system that detects non-inclusive language and suggests inclusive rephrasing, addressing linguistic stereotypes across diverse morphological, syntactic and semantic language forms. [ILSP]



LDS connector is a secure EU-compliant software enabling organizations to safely publish, search, negotiate, and exchange language data products within a trusted European ecosystem. [ILSP]

key publications

55 + publications

- [GreekBarBench: A Challenging Benchmark for Free-Text Legal Reasoning and Citations](#), Findings of EMNLP, 2025, Suzhou, China, p. 25099 [ARCHIMEDES, ILSP]
- [Seeing in 2D, Thinking in 3D: 3D Hand Mesh-Guided Feature Learning for Continuous Fingerspelling](#), ICCVW, Honolulu, HI, USA, p. 6735 [IRO]
- [MEDUSA: A Multimodal Deep Fusion Multi-Stage Training Framework for Speech Emotion Recognition in Naturalistic Conditions](#), Interspeech, 2025, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, p. 2636 [ILSP, ARCHIMEDES]

presentation

award

■ Ms. Despoina Kosmopoulou, Mr. Vaggelis Dorovatas, Prof. Alexandros Potamianos [ARCHIMEDES] and Dr. Georgios Paraskevopoulos [ILSP] received the [BabyLM Challenge Award at EMNLP 2025](#), Suzhou, China for advances in data-efficient language modelling and NLP.



European Language Data Space (LDS) Workshop
9 December, Ministry of Digital Governance, Greece
Policymakers from the Hellenic Government, researchers and industry leaders explored the role of language data in advancing AI and LLMs for the Greek language. The workshop showcased the LDS’s data-sharing ecosystem and explored synergies with Pharos [ILSP]

robotics and autonomous systems

Athena advances robotics through research in robotic perception, autonomous navigation, motion planning, multi-robot coordination and intelligent control, developing autonomous systems that enhance productivity, safety and operational efficiency.

projects

KIRO is an AI-powered mobile robotic assistant designed for industrial assembly environments. Using LLMs, autonomous navigation, computer vision, ROS2 and FIWARE technologies, it identifies, retrieves and delivers tools through voice commands, reducing workflow interruptions, improving worker productivity and safety. [IRO]

ARIES addresses the risks and inefficiencies of manual inspections in high-voltage substations. It uses autonomous robotics, AR and immersive teleoperation to perform remote inspections, collect thermal and structural data, support condition-based maintenance and improve infrastructure safety and operational efficiency. [IRO]



technologies



Turn-by-Turn is an audio-guided indoor navigation system for robotic rollators, using online planning to help users with mobility or cognitive impairments navigate complex buildings. [IRO]



Vinymap is a robotic vineyard inspection and 3D reconstruction framework using multi-camera stereo vision to generate accurate vineyard models, enabling robust autonomous navigation, monitoring and precision agriculture. [IRO]

Haptic Teleoperation is a setup that evaluates remote tactile interaction over 5G and wired networks. It measures users' ability to perceive stiffness differences while assessing latency, jitter and packet loss, supporting telesurgery, teleoperation and remote robotics. [IRO]

Remote ID is a standards-compliant Remote ID system for secure real-time drone identification and location sharing, validated outdoors to support safe U-space integration and airspace management. [ISI]

key publications

40 + publications

- **A Virtual Gravity Controller for Efficient Underactuated Biped Robots**, ICRA 2025, Atlanta, Georgia, USA, p. 7668 [IRO]
- **Proactive Tactile Exploration for Object-Agnostic Shape Reconstruction from Minimal Visual Priors**, ICRA 2025, Atlanta, Georgia, USA, p. 12408 [IRO]
- **Towards Open-ended Robotic Exploration using Vision-Inspired Similarity and Foundation Models**, ICRA 2025, Atlanta, USA. [IRO]

workshop

Workshop on Robotics and AI Innovations

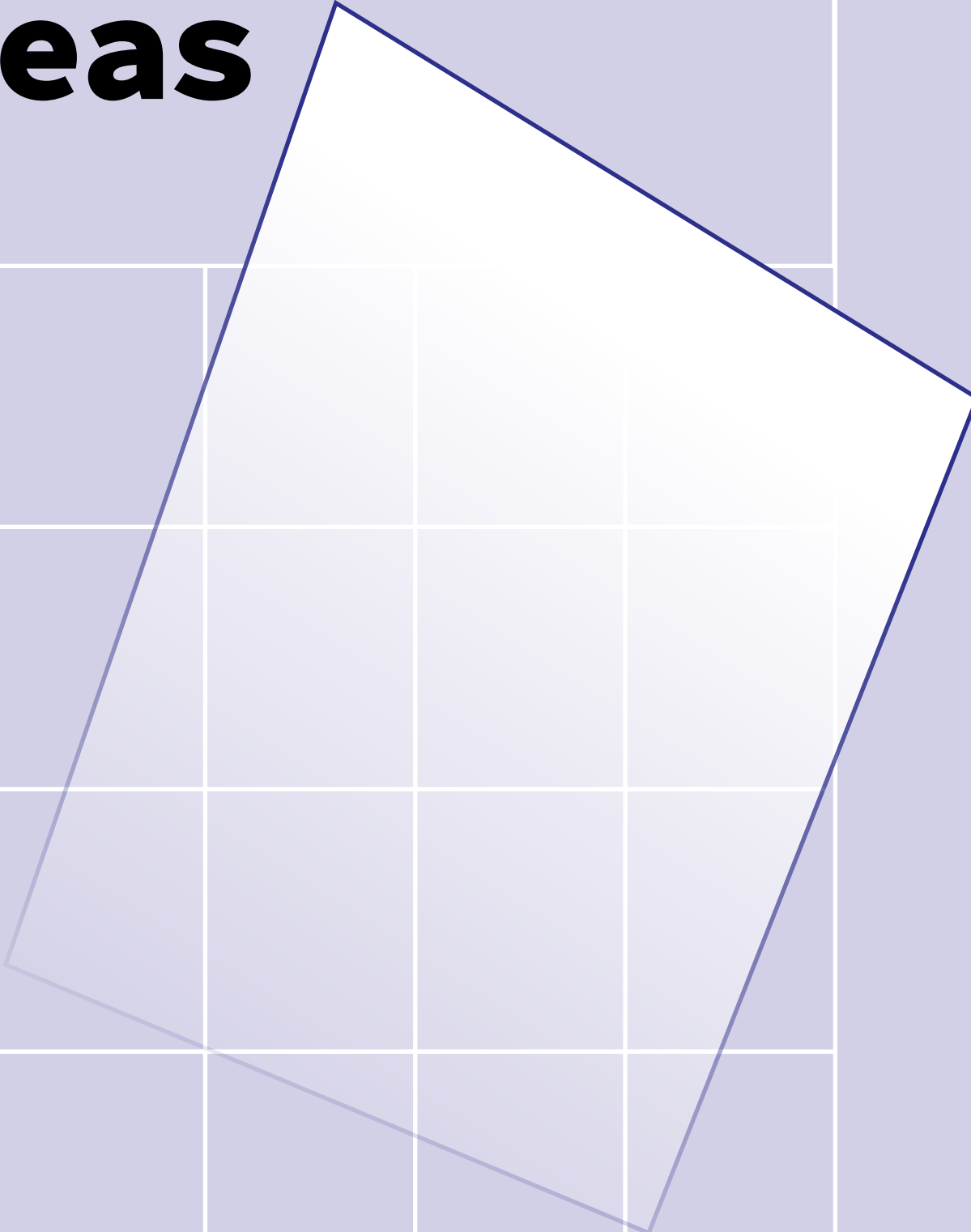
13 June, Athena Research Center, Greece

Researchers from Athena presented advances in robotics and AI, showcasing applications in social robotics, agriculture, healthcare and subsea technologies targeting scientific exchange and collaboration.



Athena translates cutting-edge research into technologies and solutions that address major societal and industrial challenges.

Across key application areas, its multidisciplinary teams advance scientific excellence through innovative research projects, technology development, high-impact publications and international engagement.



application areas

health and life sciences

Athena advances digital health, biomedical AI, precision medicine and pharmaceutical innovation through data-driven technologies, predictive analytics and advanced modelling, improving healthcare delivery, clinical decision-making and personalized care.

projects

UNCAN-Connect establishes a decentralised European network for cancer R&I, enabling secure data sharing, collaboration and advanced analytics across member states. Focusing on major cancer types, the project supports personalised medicine and strengthens the EU Cancer Mission’s objectives. [ISI]

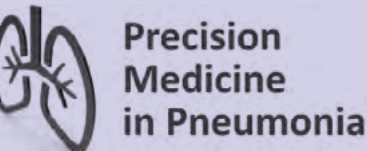
CHERISSE investigates children's exposure to traffic-related air pollutants around primary schools in Xanthi, Greece. The project combines field measurements, toxicity assessment and CFD simulations to evaluate pollutant dispersion and propose mitigation strategies for healthier school environments [ENTA]

PRO-sCAP develops secure APIs for the privacy-preserving processing and analysis of

biomedical data within the PRO-sCAP biobank. The project supports personalised biomarker discovery, predictive modelling and the investigation of immune injury mechanisms in severe pneumonia. [IMSI]

ERA4TB develops innovative oral drug regimens for tuberculosis with shorter treatment durations. By tackling drug-resistant TB, it aims to improve treatment outcomes and support global eradication efforts. [PHARMAINFO]

ARIDIM addresses the challenge of medicine shortages and limited visibility across pharmaceutical supply chains. Using AI-driven forecasting models, it enables early shortage detection, inventory planning, healthcare system resilience and decision-making [ARCHIMEDES]



technologies



Exoskeleton is a lightweight, wearable robotic knee exoskeleton that assists knee support without restricting natural joint movement. Using EMG, pressure sensors and intelligent actuation, it enhances mobility, gait support and autonomy. [IRO]

ThrombUS+ is a wearable vascular monitoring device combining compression ultrasound, electrical impedance

plethysmography and light reflection rheography. It supports AI-driven autonomous detection of deep vein thrombosis. [ILSP]

AMVRADIA is a drone-enabled wildlife monitoring system combining multispectral imaging, computer vision and a WebGIS decision-support platform to enable real-time surveillance and early detection of avian influenza outbreaks. [ISI]

key publications

45 + publications

- **Extrapolation of Lung Pharmacokinetics of Bedaquiline Across Species Using Physiologically-Based Pharmacokinetic Modelling**, British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology, 91(11), 3167 [PHARMAINFO]
- **Deep Learning and Genome-Wide Association Meta-Analyses of Bone Marrow Adiposity in the UK**, Biobank Nature Communications, 16, 99 [ARCHIMEDES]
- **An Improved Hybrid Approach for Proactive Healthcare Industry Risk Prediction: Integrating Graph Weighted Fusion, RF and RW-GCN** IEEE Journal of Biomedical and Health Informatics, p.1 [ISI]

awards

- Mr. Alexandros Barberis, Ms. Ioanna Chourdaki and Prof. Maria Papadopoulou [ARCHIMEDES] received the Best Paper Award at IEEE BIBE 2025, Athens, Greece, for advances in computational neuroscience and biomedical AI.
- Mr. Vasileios Moustakas, Dr. Vassilis Alimisis, Mr. Konstantinos Cheliotis, Ms. Anna Mylona, Prof. Paul Sotiriadis [ARCHIMEDES], received the Best Student Paper and Presentation Award at MOCAS 2025, Dresden, Germany, for their work on low-power AI hardware in medical diagnostics.

conference



**AI and Health
HYGEIA AI Forum 2025**
26 September,
"N. Louros" Conference Center,
MITERA, HYGEIA Group, HHG

Dr. Timos Sellis, Director of the Archimedes Research Unit, moderated a high-level scientific panel at the HYGEIA AI FORUM 2025, on discussions about AI-driven healthcare, clinical decision support, and the future of medical innovation.

culture, education and tourism

Athena combines digital heritage, AI, language technologies and semantic data infrastructures to preserve and interpret cultural knowledge. It digitises and semantically enriches cultural assets, making them interoperable and reusable across research, education and the cultural and creative sectors. AI, digital twins and XR technologies further enhance exploration, interpretation and public engagement.

projects



3D-4CH establishes an Online Competence Center in 3D for Cultural Heritage to elevate the role of 3D digitization and advanced technologies in cultural preservation. Combining 3D, AI and XR technologies, it strengthens digital conservation, research, education and access to Europe's and Ukraine's cultural heritage. [ILSP]



UNICHE develops a no-code platform for researchers and cultural organizations to design and share accessible, engaging, and scalable digital exhibitions. Using AI-assisted workflows and multimodal content tools, users transform exhibits into immersive onsite, hybrid or online experiences. [ILSP]



ARTEMIS advances cultural heritage conservation through digital twins, 3D documentation and AR/VR technologies. It enables simulation of environmental impacts and conservation interventions, supporting evidence-based preservation of monuments and cultural sites. [IMSI, ILSP]



StratiGraph modernizes archaeological and palaeontological documentation through knowledge graphs, AI, semantic technologies and 3D recording, enabling interoperable workflows, improved data quality and integration with the ECCCH cloud. [ILSP]

technologies



AmalthAI is a machine learning platform developed as part of the TEXTaiLES toolbox which offers end-to-end interaction with the whole machine learning project pipeline using an intuitive interface. AmalthAI offers an intuitive architecture for cultural heritage. [ILSP]



POPEYE is a digital learning platform introducing challenging demographic concepts into school

education through interactive content, visualizations, games and educational activities. [ILSP]

ATRIUM is a Voice Notetaking application which explores how conversational AI and speech technologies can transform archaeological field documentation by enabling archaeologists to record excavation data through natural voice interaction. [ILSP]

key publications

35 + publications

- [Immersed in the Mind of a Music Composer: A VR Memoryscape for Exploring Archival Material](#), ACM Journal on Computing and Cultural Heritage, 41,18(3), p. 1. [ILSP]
- [Agentic AI for Cultural Heritage: Embedding Risk Memory in Semantic Digital Twins](#), Computers 14(7), 266. [ILSP]
- [Towards Evolving Actor-Network Ontologies: Enabling Reflexive Digital Twins for Cultural Heritage](#), Information, 16(10), 892. [ILSP]

presentation



CAA2025
5 – 9 May, Athens, Greece
Athena contributed to the global dialogue on digital archaeology and cultural heritage at CAA2025, attended by over 700 participants from 45+ countries, showcasing AI, digital twins, remote sensing and immersive technologies.

security and resilience

Athena develops technologies that strengthen the security, privacy, resilience and trustworthiness of digital ecosystems. Its research spans cyber defense, post-quantum cryptography, privacy-enhancing technologies, digital forensics and trustworthy AI, protecting critical infrastructures and next-generation digital services.

projects



SONIC delivers advanced cybersecurity technologies for threat intelligence, continuous monitoring, incident response, vulnerability management, malware analysis and digital forensics. Through AI-driven tools, privacy-preserving analytics and an intelligent cybersecurity marketplace, the project strengthens cyber resilience across critical infrastructures. [ISI]



SecQDevOps develops a secure DevOps framework for quantum software and hardware, enabling continuous development, vulnerability detection, automated security assessment and resilient deployment through trusted development pipelines. [ISI]

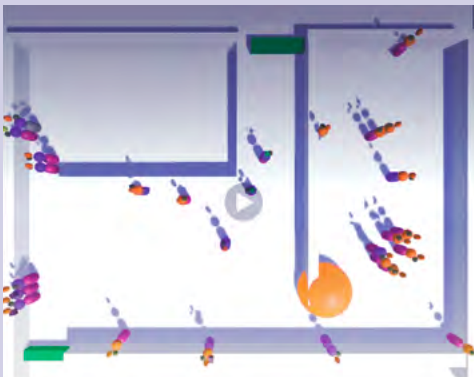


DETANGLE delivers integrated, cost-effective solutions to support implementation of EU cybersecurity legislation, including NIS2, CRA and CSA. The project provides compliance, incident management, certification and collaboration tools that strengthen cybersecurity resilience and simplify regulatory adoption. [ISI]



PQ-NEXT enables the transition to post-quantum cryptography, protecting digital identities, financial systems, telecommunications and critical infrastructures from future quantum threats. The project delivers secure cryptographic solutions, quantum programming capabilities and large-scale validation pilots. [ISI]

technologies



BRUTE: A REST API fuzzer combining EvoMaster's webapp testing core, external penetration testing payloads, and LLM/RAG-driven schema-aware mutation to detect and classify web application vulnerabilities. [ISI]

ArtCogs is an AI-powered crowd management platform combining computer vision, ML and reinforcement learning

to predict evacuations, optimize emergency response and improve safety in crowded environments. [ILSP, Archimedes]

REFINE is a FastAPI-based trust management service enabling real-time single and batch UAV-swarm trust assessment using few-shot transfer learning and scalable inference. [ISI]

key publications

30 + publications

- **OBLIVIATOR: OBLIVIous Parallel Joins and other OperATORs in Shared Memory Environments**, USENIX Security 2025, Seattle, USA, 437, p. 8521 [IMSI]
- **Enabling quantum-resistant EDHOC: Design and Performance Evaluation**, IEEE Access 13, 75861 [ISI]
- **Assessing the impact of packing on static machine learning-based malware detection and classification systems**, Computers & Security, 156:104495. [IMSI]

presentation

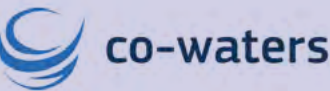


SafeHorizon at the United Nations
2 June, Vienna
Coordinated by Athena, SafeHorizon was presented at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, advancing research and international cooperation against Crime-as-a-Service.

sustainable development

Athena develops AI-driven solutions, digital twins, decision-support systems and data platforms to address climate resilience, environmental monitoring, sustainable resource management and the blue economy. These technologies support ecosystem restoration, climate adaptation, sustainable agriculture and evidence-based policymaking.

projects



CoWaters supports the EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030 by bringing together cities, regions, islands and ports to advance ecosystem restoration, pollution reduction and sustainable blue economy solutions. [SDU]



SOSVITI develops an AI-powered decision-support system for vineyard soil management, helping address climate change impacts while reducing soil erosion, pollution, nutrient depletion and biodiversity loss. [ISI]



AQUAMON develops an AI-driven platform for real-time water quality monitoring and management, integrating advanced sensors, autonomous robots, digital twins, XR interfaces and data analytics to support water authorities, utilities and citizens. [ILSP]

Circular MineTech is designed to transform the raw materials sector in Romania, Greece and Italy through advanced immersive learning courses. By incorporating digital twins with immersive VR, it improves resource efficiency, waste management and sustainability assessment. [ISI]



technologies



Enerman is an industrial energy management AI-platform combining edge computing, digital twins and predictive analytics to optimize factory energy consumption through automated energy-aware production control. [ISI]



SDSN Global Climate Hub is a climate-policy decision support platform integrating food-land, water, energy,

biofuels and shipping models for scenario analysis, policy evaluation and planning for climate neutrality in Greece and Europe. [SDU]

SmartC4G_2.0 is Greece's first educational campus digital twin, combining IoT sensing, real-time environmental monitoring and 3D virtual replicas for smart building management and decision-making. [ISI, ILSP]

key publications

35 + publications

- **Integrating Sustainable Development Goals in ESG Criteria and the Sustainability Transformation of the EU Business Sector**, Annual Review of Resource Economics Volume 17, p.381 [SDU]
- **Results From a Large-Scale IoT-based Intervention for Energy Saving and Sustainability Awareness via Behavior Change in 25 K-12 Schools in Europe**, IEEE IoT Journal, 12(12) p.19308 [ISI]
- **Enhancing the Interpretation of AI Models for Natural Hazard Susceptibility: The case of daily wildfire occurrence prediction**, IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Applied Earth Observations and Remote Sensing, p. 1 [IMSI]
- **The Impacts of Climate Change on Aircraft Noise near European Airports**, Aerospace 2025, 12, 9, 815 [ENTA]

award

■ Dr. Anastasios Niarchos, Dr. Akrivi Katifori, Dr. Dimitra Petousi, Dr. Marina Stergiou, Dr. G. Gourdoglou and Prof. Yannis Ioannidis [ILSP] received first place in the Best 3DUI Demo Category at IEEE VR 2025, Saint-Malo, France, for From Dystopia to Eutopia, an immersive VR tool for urban heat island awareness and collaborative decision-making.



conference

Sustainable Cities

29 April, AUEB, Greece

A high-level international conference explored hydrogen's role in Europe's climate transition, highlighting Athena's contributions to evidence-based policy and sustainable energy.

telecommunications and networks

Athena advances next-generation communication networks through research in 5G/6G, AI-native networking, integrated sensing and communications, network digital twins and resilient wireless infrastructures, enabling secure, adaptive and high-performance connectivity.

projects



6G-DALI establishes the pan-European 6G dataspace by using an end-to-end AI framework for 6G networks, integrating DataOps and MLOps for AI lifecycle management. It delivers open datasets, a secure 6G Dataspace and a Digital Twin testbed for AI development and validation. [ISI]



FLECON-6G develops AI-native 6G architectures that combine trustworthy AI, network digital twins and intelligent automation to create adaptive, resilient and efficient communication systems for future digital ecosystems. [ISI]



5G-MILNET delivers a portable 5G tactical communications bubble for military operations, using SDR-based 5G micro-cells, drone-supported back-haul and swarm intelligence to provide secure, resilient, high-speed battlefield connectivity without existing infrastructure. [ISI]



6G-INTENSE introduces an AI-native 6G architecture that integrates intent-driven management, network-compute abstraction, deep-edge intelligence and integrated sensing, enabling autonomous, scalable, efficient and resilient communication systems for future digital services. [ISI]

technologies



ISAC is an Integrated Sensing and Communication prototype enabling simultaneous 5G communications and drone detection, validated indoors for efficient U-space monitoring and future airspace management. [IMSI,ISI]

ETSI Software Development Group **OpenOP** (SDG OOP) delivers an Open-Source Operator platform enabling operator network and testbed federation, along with capability exposure APIs. [ISI]

key publications

45 + publications

- **On Combining XAI and LLMs for Trustworthy Zero-touch Network and Service Management in 6G**, IEEE Communications Magazine, 63, p. 154 [ISI]
- **A Self-driven Virtual Elastic Infrastructure For Cell-free Based 6G Networks**, IEEE Wireless Communications, 32(2), p. 188 [ISI]
- **Improving Wideband Massive MIMO Channel Estimation With UAV State-Space Information**, IEEE Transactions on Vehicular Technology, 74(10), p.15935 [ISI]

event

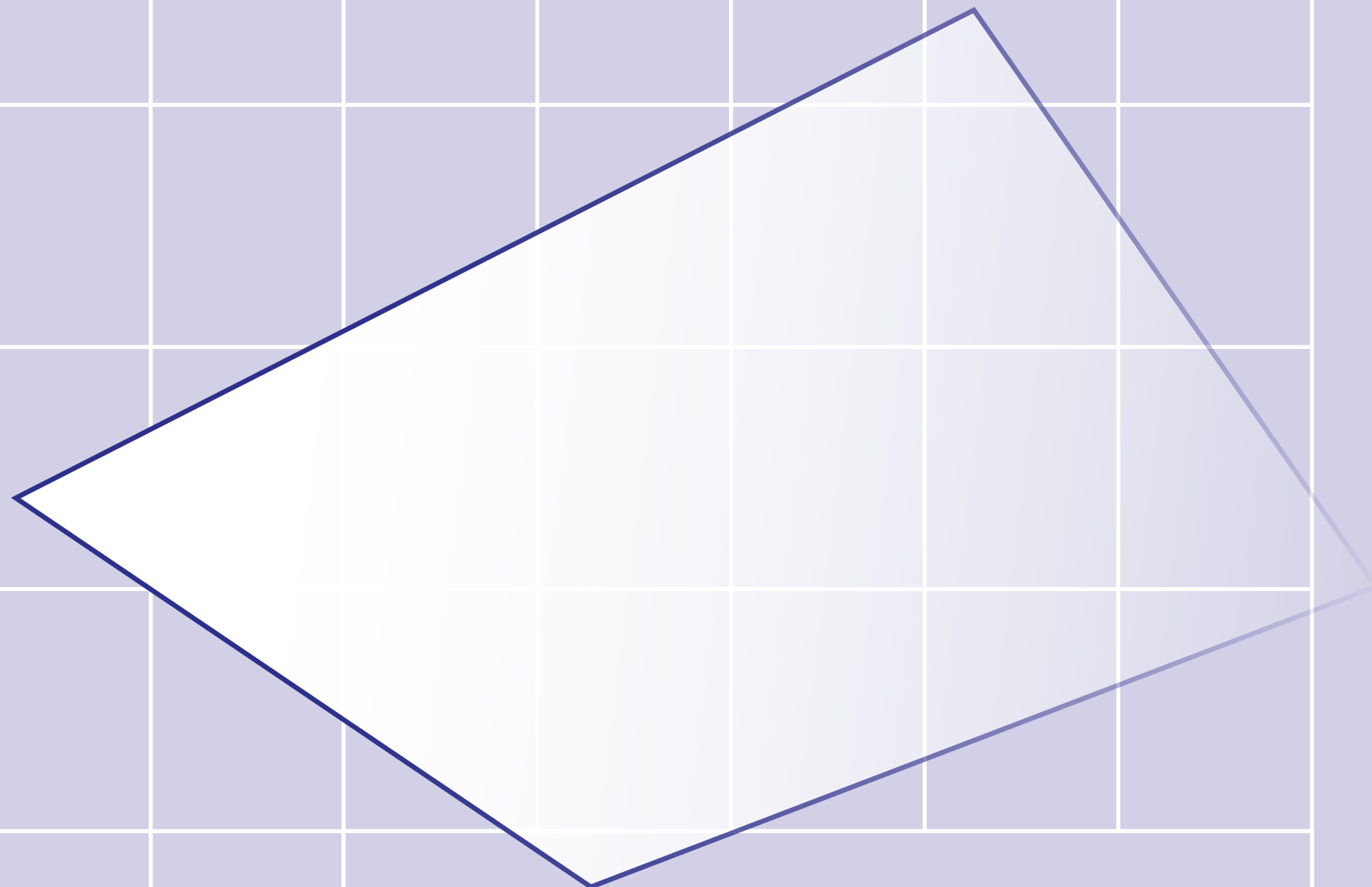


6G: From Theory to Practice

10 March, Museum of Science and Technology, Patras, Greece

The event provided attendees with valuable insights into AI, XAI solutions, and AI on the compute continuum. Hands-on demonstrations showcased the potential of VR and Generative AI over 5G and beyond.

research and digital infra- structures



Athena plays a leading role in European research and digital infrastructures, developing interoperable services and operating key national infrastructure nodes.

european leadership



Through its leadership role in **OpenAIRE**, Athena contributed to the expansion of the OpenAIRE Graph and supported the launch of ABACUS, Greece's first national research monitoring infrastructure. It also contributed to Open Science capacity-building through FAIR data stewardship training, ARGOS data management planning tools and OpenPlato educational programs. [OpenAIRE]



Athena played a leading role in the EU Digital Humanities ecosystem through its strategic contribution to **DARIAH-EU**, the renewal of Dr. A. Benardou's directorship, and its participation in major interoperability initiatives linking Europe's humanities and cultural heritage RIs. [IMSI]



During 2025, Athena continued its engagement with and contribution to **ALT-EDIC** through projects such as LLMs4EU and ALT-EDIC4EU, building the infrastructure, evaluation frameworks and language resources needed to support multilingual European AI and LLMs. [ILSP]



During 2025, Athena continued coordinating **StR-ESFRI**, supporting ESFRI across its activities, including the ESFRI Chair, the EC-based Secretariat, the ESFRI Executive Board and Forum. It led ESFRI communications and engagement with stakeholders, including the ESFRI-EOSC Task Force. Athena also drove the development of the ESFRI Monitoring System, the central online platform of the ESFRI Roadmap and the monitoring of ESFRI Projects and Landmarks. [IMSI]



ATRIUM bridges DARIAH (Arts and Humanities), ARIADNE (Archaeology), CLARIN (Language) and OPERAS (open scholarly communication) research infrastructures. Within ATRIUM, Athena developed a mobile fieldwork application that combines automatic speech recognition, NLP and entity linking enabling the recording of observations by voice and transforming them into structured data. [ILSP]



EBRAINS

Athena, the technical coordinator of **EBRAINS**, upgraded operations services and introduced new high-TRL services. The Open Metrics Framework, the main monitoring service of EBRAINS developed by Athena, provided valuable insights to the consortium, supporting informed decision-making for the RI. [IMSI]



Athena contributes to **ECCCH** through ECHOES supporting interoperable heritage infrastructures, AI-enabled services and Digital Twins, helping align TEXTaiLES tools with ECCCH requirements through the ECHOES Integration Task Force. [ILSP]

national nodes



CLARIN:EL is Greece's national infrastructure for Language Resources and Technologies. In 2025 CLARIN:EL participated in the Flagship Project PressMint, collaborated with European RIs through ATRIUM and contributed to the 15th Conference on Greek Language and Terminology. [ILSP]



ELIXIR-GR, the Greek node of ELIXIR, strengthened Greece's life-science data infrastructure in 2025 by providing interoperable bioinformatics tools, cloud and data services, researcher training, and FAIR data support. It advanced national and European collaboration, expanded access to computational resources and workflows, and contributed to major ELIXIR community activities, including hosting the ELIXIR All Hands meeting in Thessaloniki. [IMSI]



Athena provides the digital backbone of **IBISBA-GR** through expertise in data management, digital tools and innovation support services, while serving as an operator of the IBISBA-EU Computational Center, in collaboration with WUR. Throughout 2025, IBISBA-GR contributed to the establishment of the future IBISBA ERIC, advancing collaborations in industrial biotechnology for sustainable biomanufacturing. [IMSI]



Athena is the e-Hub and data management lead within **INSPIRED RI**, operating the service catalogue and maintaining EOSC-interoperable data pipelines. INSPIRED RI is the Greek national structural biology infrastructure and a node of Instruct-ERIC, the first ERIC to win the prestigious Gender Equality Champion award from EC in 2025. [IMSI]



GRECRIN advances Greece's national clinical research network, supporting multinational investigator-initiated trials and providing coordination, training and methodological support. As Greece's ECRIN node, GRECRIN reinforced the country's integration into European clinical research. The updated Regulatory and Ethical Database, an open resource for trial submissions launched by ECRIN, is now covering 16 European countries. [IMSI]

open science

Athena continues to lead Open Science innovation in Europe by combining horizontally integrated services developed in partnership with OpenAIRE. Through sustained collaboration across its institutes Athena plays a central role in shaping Open Science infrastructures, policies, and practices in Greece and across the EOSC ecosystem.

Athena . . .

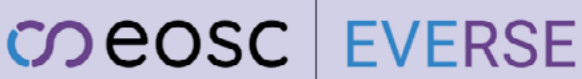
- Is serving as the Greek National Open Access Desk (NOAD) for OpenAIRE.
- Co-chairs the EOSC Task Force on FAIR Metrics and Digital Objects.
- Coordinates the Hellenic Open Science Initiative.
- Represents Greece in the EOSC Steering Board.
- Contributes core services to EOSC EU Node, including Virtual Machines, Cloud Container Platforms, and File Sync & Share, through leadership in the Open Science Agora Consortium.



service infrastructure contributions

Athena actively contributes to the Open Science ecosystem through flagship services like ARGOS, and Amnesia, and strategic EOSC projects, including TIER2, OSTRails, GraspOS, EOSC Beyond, EVERSE, DataGEMS, EOSC Gravity and PATHOS. These initiatives advance machine-actionable data management plans, data anonymization, FAIR-by-design workflows, research assessment,

research software quality, EOSC federation services, interoperable research infrastructures and OS impact assessment. Athena also supports a national infrastructure for federated computing and strengthens legal compliance. These efforts position Athena as a key actor in shaping responsible, high-quality, and interoperable Open Science practices across EOSC and beyond.



policy & monitoring leadership

Athena co-authored Greece’s updated National Open Science Plan, contributed data and insights to the EOSC Observatory, and helped develop monitoring frameworks for Open Science practices and research software assessment aligned with EU priorities. As an active member of CoARA it has piloted 3 new research assessment principles.



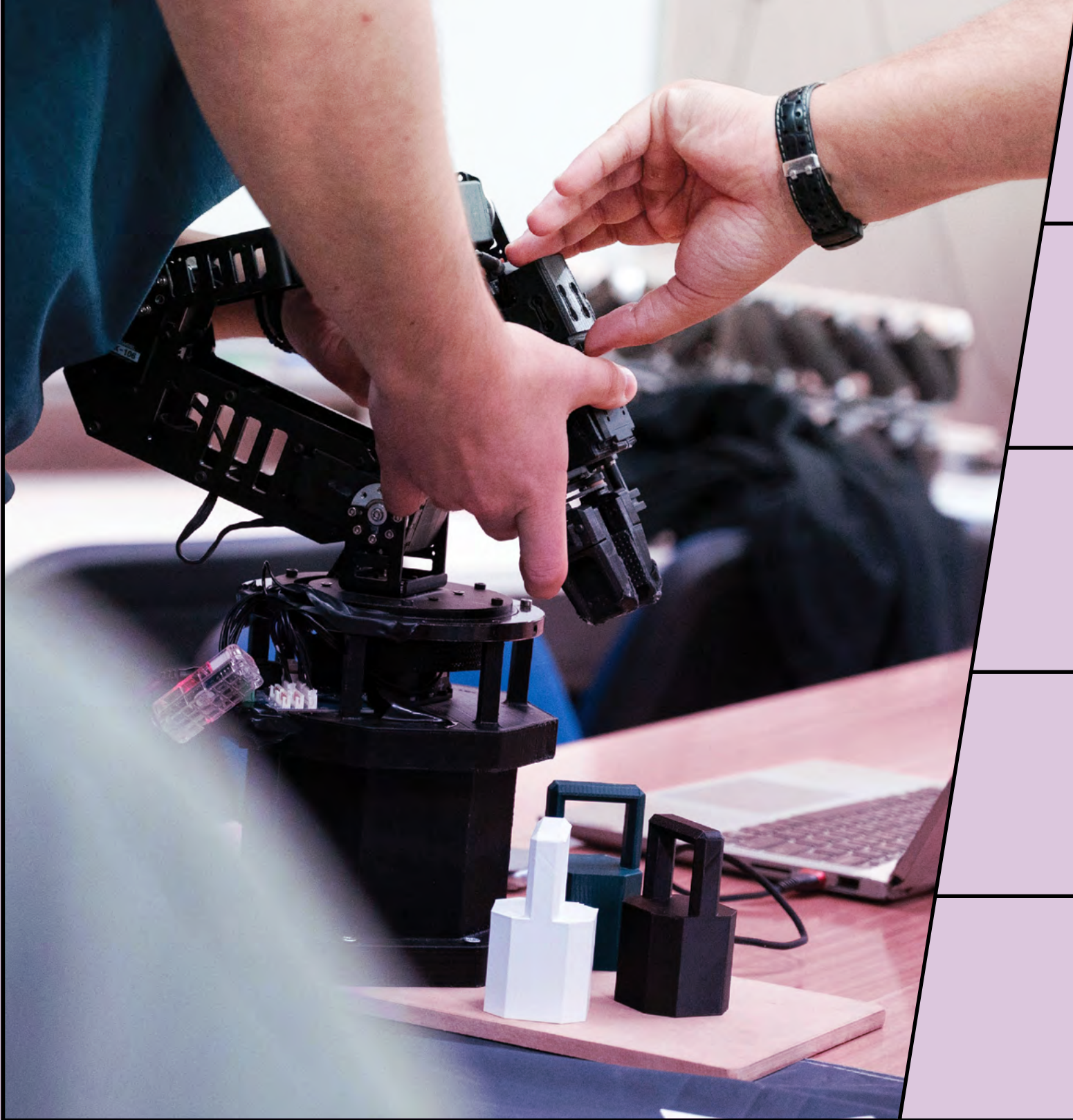
EOSC

Athena Research Center coordinates the Open Science Agora Consortium, leading the delivery of the EOSC EU Node Lot 1. Athena manages the deployment and operation of core federation services, including the web portal, resource registries, identity management and orchestration engines, ensuring a secure, production-ready environment for European scientific collaboration.

Open Science Fair (OSFair 2025)

15-17 September, Geneva, Switzerland
The OSFair 2025, co-organized by OpenAIRE and CERN, brought together the international Open Science community in Geneva under the theme “Fusing Forces – Accelerating Open Science through Collaboration.” Athena Research Center, a founding partner of OpenAIRE and host of the first OSFair in Athens in 2017, continues to support Open Science collaboration and infrastructure development at the European level.

innovation



Athena Research Center systematically pursues initiatives that generate tangible value from research and innovation outputs, as part of its mission to deliver meaningful societal and economic impact through science and technology.

year in review 2025



**discovering how innovation
can serve as a catalyst
for profound transformation
and sustainable growth.**

Athena's researchers receive active encouragement to leverage their technological breakthroughs and novel solutions. By forging strong alliances with industrial partners and engaging with business acceleration platforms, they successfully convert academic research results into real-world applications. To facilitate this, our Technology Transfer (TT) and Intellectual Property (IP) Offices collaborate directly with driven researchers on issues regarding IP management and commercial exploitation, marketability assessments, technology validation, corporate partnerships, the set-up of spinoff enterprises.

**entrepreneurial
mode
activated!**



■ Three new spinoff applications under discussion and preparations; Stay tuned to see them flourish in 2026!

■ One European Patent application about to be granted by the European Patent Office

■ Grant awarded for the next period of Science Agora, the well-established Technology Transfer Hub aspiring to offer a one-stop-shop for innovation, teaming up with NCSR, Demokritos, Athens University of Economics and Business and National Technical University of Athens. 4-year plan of development of TT operations is now fully underway

enabling pathways



2nd Annual Conference of National Technology Transfer Office Network Members

Thessaloniki, November 2025

Athena TTO joined national stakeholders to discuss PoC challenges, funding gaps and best practices in TT. It also participated in the Panel “Proof of Concept: Experience, Challenges, Future Perspectives and Best Practices”.



HERON Hosts 1st Sponsors & Networking Event

HERON hosted its first Sponsors & Networking Event in Athens, bringing together robotics and AI companies, researchers and government representatives to support industry partnerships and advance the Greek robotics ecosystem.



SynAI Network

October 2025
Athena, Demokritos, AUEB

The SynAI network, with a two-year duration, aims to establish a framework of mutual understanding to enhance innovation, technology transfer and the effective utilization of AI in Greek society and the economy.

Health AI

Archimedes established partnerships with three major medical centers: the Onassis Cardiac Surgery Center in Athens, the Papageorgiou General Hospital of Thessaloniki and the University Hospital of Ioannina to aid the adoption of AI in clinical practice.



Athena at EmTech Europe, MIT Technology Review and Kathimerini

March, 2025

Prof. I. Emiris, emphasized that Greece’s deep tech ecosystem requires a targeted strategy, extroversion and infrastructure reinforcement.



Grant Thornton’s Future Unfold event

Prof. M. Garofalakis explained how advanced AI models and national infrastructures like PHAROS and DAEDALUS can boost productivity and competitiveness in Greece.



Bio3 Forum 2025

Prof. I. Emiris presented Greece’s potential in AI-powered biotech and the bioeconomy, emphasizing the role of R&I and international collaboration towards a sustainable and competitive ecosystem.



15th AI Connected Business World 2025

Prof. C. Stylios highlighted opportunities for digital transformation, Industry 4.0 adoption, interoperability and innovation across industrial sectors.

accelerating innovation

Athena accelerates innovation by connecting research with entrepreneurship, funding and digital innovation services enabling organizations to transform ideas into sustainable impact.



In 2025, **ESA BIC** Greece incubator expanded its portfolio of space-technology startups and provided funding, technical expertise and business coaching. Its role at the Greek Space Tech Forum 2025 stimulated new partnerships. [Corallia]



Athens Climate Reality Hub is a grassroots initiative uniting trained Climate Reality Leaders, scientists and local activists for tackling the climate crisis and advancing the green transition. [SDU]



The **Hack2BRIDGE** 2025 innovation and entrepreneurship competition offered collaborative and acceleration opportunities. The event was under the auspices of the Greek Tourism Confederation and the New Metropolitan Attica, and supported by the Hellenic Film & Audiovisual Center. [Corallia]



Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH): Athena remains active in the EU Digital Innovation Hubs Network through SmartHEALTH, Smart Attica and GR digiGOV-innoHUB, deploying AI solutions for healthcare, energy, environment, supply chains, mobility, culture, tourism and digital public services. [ILSP, IMSI]



The **In Transit** project supported European SMEs in transitioning to greener, more digital and socially sustainable business models. Through a €3M Voucher Scheme, 100 SMEs accessed innovation services, 61 received travel vouchers and 43 projects secured funding for sustainable growth. [Corallia]



SMARTER develops climate adaptation solutions through ten European Climate Adaptation Labs. Athena leads resilience assessment and decision-support methodologies in the Greek Lab. [SDU]



CR.EU.IN. HERITAGE promotes SME-led collaborative projects in cultural heritage focused on digitalization and sustainability. Through cascade funding, capacity building and partnerships, it enables the development of innovative products and processes. [Corallia]

territorial cooperation

Athena supports regional development through European territorial cooperation initiatives that enable communities to address regional challenges.



DACC Athena, and the Chamber of Ilia, assesses the digital readiness of businesses around Ancient Olympia to advance the digital transformation of UNESCO World Heritage sites in Greece and Italy. [ISI]

BIOSTARS Develops circular bioeconomy innovation ecosystems to support sustainable rural entrepreneurship and bioeconomy start-up villages. [Corallia]



CLUSTERATLAS4MED Builds a trans-Mediterranean innovation meta-cluster accelerating the digital and green transition of rural tourism. [Corallia]

TechSocialcare Introduces standards, interoperability frameworks and policy insights in digital and assistive technologies for the elderly, in EU regions. [ISI]



BIOSTARS



HELIX-SMART Supports digital adoption by tourism and blue economy SMEs and ICT freelancers through Living Labs, and Digital Twin-testing across Greece and Southern Italy. [ISI]

spinoffs



SYMBIOLABS delivers cutting-edge digital solutions that unlock data value chains within Circular Economy initiatives. Capitalizing on a fiscal period marked by a significant increase in turnover, the company expanded its regional footprint in 2025 by consolidating and extending its solutions in Western Macedonia. In parallel, SYMBIOLABS deepened its strategic collaboration with TITAN S.A. and initiated promising partnerships with key industrial players in the waste collection equipment sector. Aiming to further strengthen its market integration, the company also became an official member of the SEV Hellenic Federation of Enterprises. These milestones underscore SYMBIOLABS’ ongoing evolution, commercial scalability and its commitment to driving sustainable innovation across the ecosystem.



OPIX P.C. provides state-of-the-art consulting services as well as in-house big data and AI solutions. A strong pipeline of new projects has been secured until 2029, through research and consulting proposals submitted in open competitive calls, while an increasing number of companies are approaching OPIX for collaboration. OPIX continued to develop its proprietary analytics platform, a large-scale intelligence infrastructure, combining advanced data engineering with ML, NLP and knowledge-graph-based entity resolution to enable analysis across technologies, organizations, sectors and innovation performance indicators. A major milestone during 2025 was the deployment of the platform’s first external client instance for the Hellenic Industrial Property Organization.



Agora Labs had an active 2025, consolidating its position as a rising player in the European health data innovation ecosystem. The company secured external investment and grew its team to over 15 people, with key hires in business development and sales reflecting a clear commercial scale-up. A landmark partnership with Health Innovation Northwest Coast positioned Agora Labs as a trusted technology partner for the NHS, enabling clinical data to be structured, governed and used for research and commercial collaboration while remaining under NHS control.

Spinoffs are a key pathway for translating Athena's research into market-ready solutions. By fostering entrepreneurship and technology transfer, the Center enables innovative ideas to create value for industry, society, and the economy.

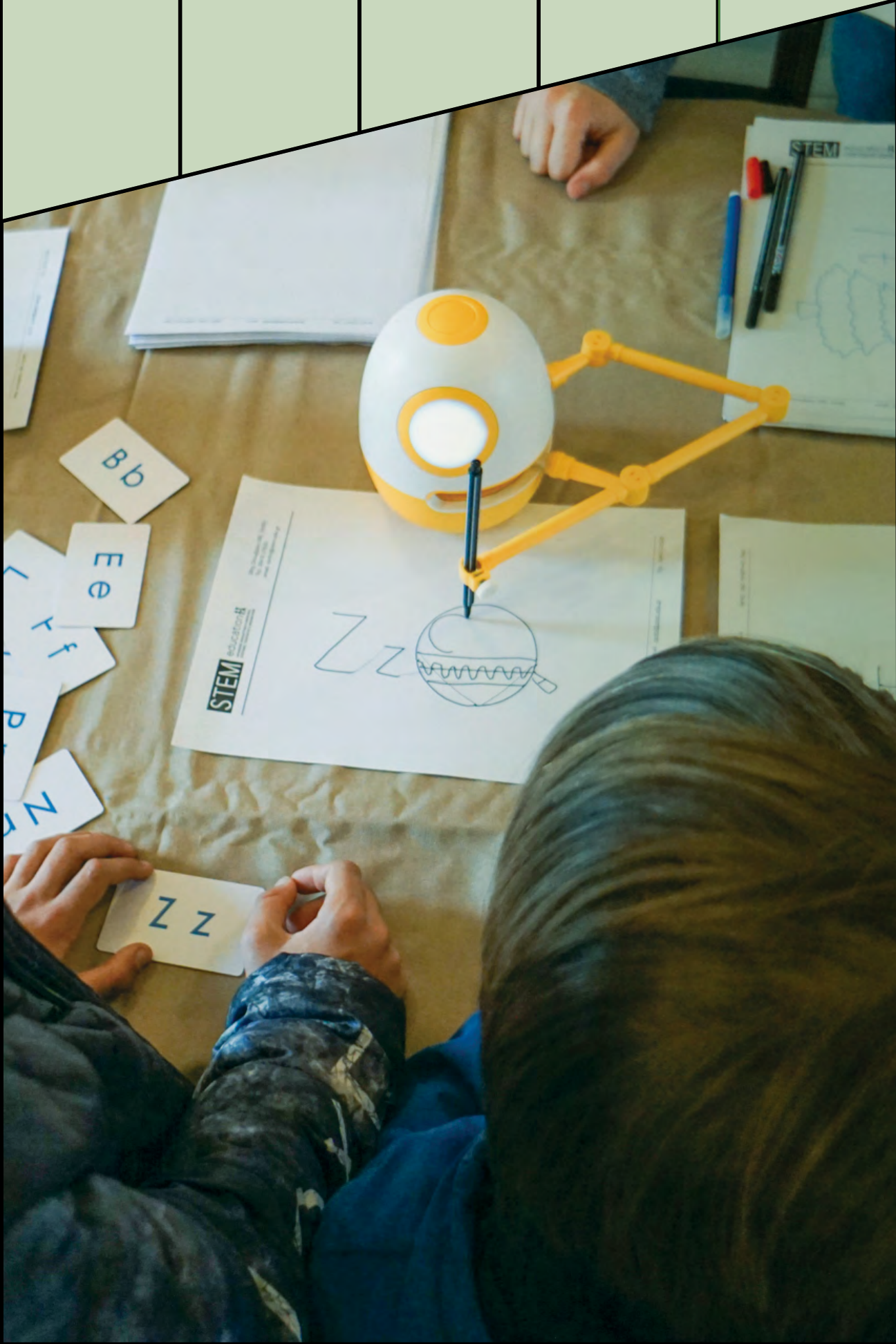


AviSense.ai is a Patras-based deep-tech spinoff originating from Athena Research Center and the University of Patras. It specializes in AI, sensor fusion, geospatial analytics and XR technologies for autonomous mobility, critical infrastructure and situational awareness. Employing around 10 highly specialised scientists, it has developed innovative solutions such as the Hyper-Sensing Suite, the XR Guidance System and advanced sensor data enhancement tools. It collaborates with leading Asian Tier-1 technology and automotive manufacturers while expanding into the defense and security sectors. AviSense.ai participates in European projects and innovation networks, including ESA BIC Greece, Horizon Europe, CoEvolution, AutoTRUST and 6G-XR. Key milestones include recognition in the Cassini Challenges and the expansion of its portfolio towards dual-use applications and advanced operational intelligence solutions.



KYKLOS is developing an AI-powered clinical execution layer that supports the implementation of medical guidelines at the point of care. Positioned as a “Google Maps for healthcare”, the platform guides clinicians and patients through evidence-based care pathways, translating complex guidelines into actionable, real-time recommendations embedded in everyday healthcare workflows. KYKLOS is designed for primary and specialty care, as well as chronic disease management, with the long-term ambition of supporting virtually every disease area. Its technology combines hybrid AI models with a structured medical knowledge base, providing transparent, explainable and auditable decision support instead of black-box AI systems. Recommendations remain clinically interpretable, evidence-based and adaptable to evolving medical standards. A cardiology pilot under the AIXPERT grant program is underway, with clinical validation planned in the next development phase.

education & training



Education and training remain integral to Athena's mission. Through graduate programs, international schools, competitions, internships, and professional development initiatives, Athena promotes research excellence, lifelong learning, and the development of highly skilled talent across emerging digital technologies.

year in review 2025



4 graduate programs

1. Data Science & Information Technologies

NKUA, BRFAA

2. Language Technology

NKUA

3. Biomedical Informatics

DUTH

4. Digital Humanities

NKUA, University of Cyprus



4 summer schools

1. 6th ACM Europe Summer School

30 June – 4 July, Ioannina, Greece

Athena co-organized the 6th ACM Europe Summer School on Data Science, bringing together 47 students and early-career researchers from Europe, America and Asia to advance skills in data science, AI and analytics.

2. AthNLP 2025 Summer School

4 – 10 September 2025, Athens, Greece

AthNLP 2025 brought together researchers, graduate students and professionals from around the world for advanced training in NLP and AI, combining lectures and hands-on workshops on machine learning, LLMs and multimodal systems.

3. 2025 Archimedes Summer School on Blockchain, Economics and AI

22 - 24 May, NTUA, Athens

Co-organized by Athena and NTUA, the Summer School on Blockchain, Economics and AI combined lectures, discussions, practical training and a hackathon focused on blockchain technologies, cryptography, economics and AI.

4. 3rd BioMed-AI Summer School

26 - 28 May, Lyon, France

Co-organized by Athena and IARC/WHO, the BioMed-AI Summer School provided an international forum for knowledge exchange on AI applications in biomedical research and healthcare.

training schools

EXACT-6G & EMPOWER-6G Training School

March

Provided advanced training for 23 doctoral researchers on 6G networks, AI-driven communications, network automation and energy-efficient infrastructures.

EXACT-6G Training School

September

Advanced training on AI, machine learning, symbolic AI and cloud-edge orchestration technologies for 6G networks.

hackathons and contests



Future of Database Programming Contest

7 March, George Lycabettus Hotel, Athens

The Future of Database Programming Contest, organized by Athena Research Center in collaboration with Huawei, brought together more than 100 participants from 60 teams to tackle challenges in database technologies. The competition highlighted emerging talent, encouraged innovation and strengthened links between academia, research and industry.

2nd Greek Olympiad in Artificial Intelligence

1 December, 2025 – 1 March, 2026

Following the successful completion of the first Greek Olympiad in Artificial Intelligence, Athena’s Archimedes Unit announced the 2nd edition of the competition in December 2025. The initiative engages secondary school students with contemporary AI technologies and identifies the students who will represent Greece at the International Olympiad in AI 2026.

Student Competition in Informatics and Computational Thinking

10 – 21 November

Athena, through its Innovation Unit for Women and Archimedes Unit, organized the Bebras Student Competition in Informatics and Computational Thinking for a second consecutive year. The initiative promotes digital skills and computational thinking among young students, building on a record participation of approximately 34.706 students from 899 schools across Greece.

Athens Legal AI Hackathon 2025

22 – 24 May, NTUA, Athens

The Archimedes Unit of Athena Research Center co-organized the Athens Legal AI Hackathon 2025, bringing together legal professionals, researchers and AI teams to develop innovative solutions addressing the EU AI Act, legal information services and AI-assisted legal analysis.

academic engagement & training



“TryEngineering on Campus” by the HERON Center of Excellence
20 – 21 December, NTUA

HERON organized its first Robotics and AI event for school students, promoting STEM education through hands-on activities.

Open Science at the core of Research
27 February

OpenAIRE organized a webinar on the latest European developments in Open Science, presenting new policies, EOSC initiatives and research assessment reforms, while supporting researchers in adopting open research practices.

Internship Program with Cambridge and Oxford Students at Athena

1 August - 1 September
Through AE4RIA, Athena hosted students from the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford for an internship program on climate, energy, sustainability, agri-food transitions and AI policy.

workshops

Professional Development & Scientific Training
Maritech Talent Seminar Series
10 April, Online event
Professional training on maritime sustainability, ESG, cybersecurity, alternative fuels and digital technologies for the maritime sector.

Quantum Algorithms and Optimization in Athens (QA0) workshop
15 – 17 December, NCSR-D, Athens
Workshop on quantum computing, optimization methods and quantum algorithms for scientific and industrial applications.

Chief Scientist of The Alan Turing Institute Delivered a Seminar at Archimedes
7 November, Archimedes, Athens
Professor Mark Girolami, Chief Scientist of the Alan Turing Institute, delivered a seminar on data-centric engineering and AI-enabled monitoring of critical infrastructures.

building innovation capacity

Through ARCOE, RenAIssance, BOOST and NEXT-HEI initiatives supported by Corallia, Athena strengthens researchers’ entrepreneurial, commercialization and AI skills. These facilitate academia-industry collaboration, startup creation, institutional innovation and mentoring.

	Seminars / Webinars: 41				
			Industrial training: 16		
Workshops: 35					
			Student training / skills development: 16		

partners & associations



Collaborations remain at the heart of Athena's mission. The Center continues to deepen its partnerships with universities, research institutions, public bodies, private enterprises, and civil society organizations—both in Greece and internationally. These collaborations cover competitive research projects, co-funded R&D initiatives, service contracts, talent mobility, and joint participation in policy-shaping fora. Strategic alliances expand Athena's reach and capabilities.

year in review 2025





networks & associations

ERCIM

Athena is an active ERCIM member, contributing to governance activities. It hosted the ERCIM Spring Meetings 2025 and leads the ERCIM-JST, Japan collaboration.

CHIPS Joint Undertaking & INSIDE Industry Association

Athena contributes to European initiatives on embedded systems, semiconductors, edge computing and cyber-physical technologies.

EDBT Association

Athena contributes to the governance of the international database research community through its participation in the Executive Board of the EDBT Association.

VLDB

Athena contributes to the strategic direction of the global data management community through representation on the VLDB Endowment Board of Trustees.

International Climate Councils Network

Athena contributes to international climate governance through its participation in ICCN and Greece’s climate advisory structures.

ACM Europe Working Group on Seasonal Schools

Athena advances computer science training and researcher development

through its leadership of the ACM Europe Working Group on Seasonal Schools.

EU Climate Pact

Athena is an official partner of the European Climate Pact, supporting climate action, resilience, sustainability and citizen engagement.

MediCoRe Network

As a founding member, Athena promotes collaboration on resilience, sustainability, disaster preparedness and innovation across the Mediterranean region.

internationalization

As part of its internationalization strategy, Athena serves as an anchor institution connecting Greece with leading universities, companies, research organizations and members of the scientific diaspora in digital sciences worldwide. In 2025, Athena’s research activities involved collaborations with more than 35 international entities across Europe, North America, Africa and Asia.



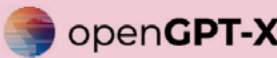
BEHAVE (USA)

AI-based technologies for emotion recognition and behavioral analysis using multimodal human signals [ILSP]



HSBC Global Services (UK)

Collaboration in advanced AI, quantum computing and financial modelling, developing quantum algorithms and AI solutions for financial analytics. [ARCHIMEDES]



OpenGPT-X (Germany)

Development of next-generation large language models “Made in Germany”, supporting European AI sovereignty and trustworthy language technologies. [ILSP]



OMVS Systemic Innovation Workshops (Africa)

Collaborative modelling, digital solutions and climate-resilience pathways for the Senegal River Basin through international workshops in Athens and Dakar. [SDU]

Strategic Partnership with SUSTech

December 2025

ILSP and the School of Design at Southern University of Science and Technology, China signed an MoU and held a joint seminar on cultural heritage technologies for future collaboration in AI, XR, and digital heritage.

Ambassador of the French Republic visit

July 2025

The French Ambassador's visit reinforced Athena's strategic partnership with France in AI, robotics, sustainability and Open Science.

Executive Vice-President of the EC Henna Virkkunen

October 2025

The visit showcased Athena's contributions to AI, cybersecurity, language technologies and PHAROS, highlighting Greece's role in Europe's AI and digital sovereignty agenda



outreach



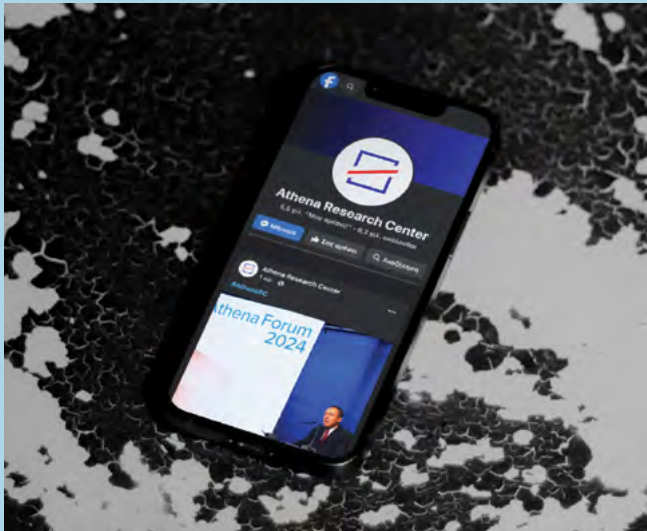
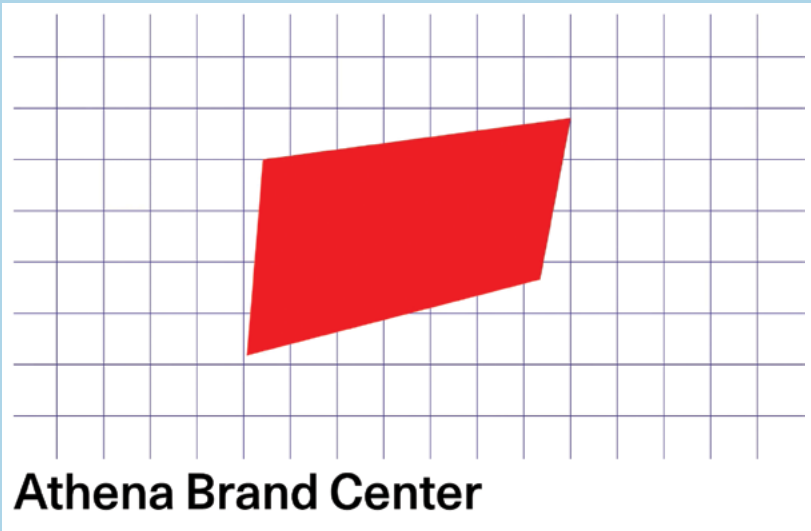
Connecting science with
society, inspiring
engagement and lasting
impact.

year in review 2025



communication

Throughout 2025, Athena strengthened its communication and outreach through a more integrated and audience-oriented approach to disseminate its research, innovation and societal impact at national and international level. Digital platforms, media relations, stakeholder engagement and public outreach activities further expanded the Center's visibility across diverse audiences.



A key milestone of the year was the gradual implementation of Athena’s updated brand application system, introducing a refreshed visual identity and a more unified communication approach across digital and physical touchpoints. New branded templates, visual assets and social media applications strengthened visual consistency, recognizability and the contemporary representation of Athena’s research and innovation profile.

social media

19,750 + followers on LinkedIn				7,000 + followers on Facebook		
				1,900 + followers on X (formerly Twitter)		
4,400 subscribers to its newsletter						
700,000 + impressions on LinkedIn				800 + posts published across social media platforms		
Launch of a New Instagram Channel						

events					
				03/04	
	04-06/04			25-27/04	
	19-20/07			02/08	
06-14/09				09/09	
		04-10/09			26/09
06-09/10			18-21/12		

Throughout 2025, Athena Research Center actively contributed to scientific dialogue, knowledge exchange, innovation and public engagement through a diverse portfolio of events. From international conferences and specialized schools to outreach initiatives and ecosystem-building activities, these gatherings strengthened collaboration across academia, industry, policymaking and society while showcasing the impact of research and innovation.



**HERON
Inaugural Event**

3 April,
Basil & Elise Goulandris Foundation,
Athens, Greece

HERON – The Hellenic Robotics Center of Excellence officially launched with a high-profile inaugural event bringing together representatives of the Greek Government, the European Commission, Athena, IIT, KIT, academia and industry. The event presented HERON's vision and strategic role in advancing Greece's robotics and AI ecosystem.



**Artificial Intelligence
& the Ocean:
Innovation in 48 Hours**

25 - 27 November,
French Institute, Athens, Greece

Athena Research Center and the French Institute of Greece co-organized a three-day hackathon on marine sustainability, where multidisciplinary teams of researchers, students and professionals developed AI-driven solutions addressing real-world environmental challenges in the Mediterranean Sea.



AI-Dialogues 2025 at Methoni

2 August,
Cultural Center of Methoni,
Messenia, Greece

20 September, Kapodistrian School,
Methoni, Messenia, Greece

The AI Dialogues initiative brought together researchers, experts and citizens in Methoni to explore the opportunities and challenges of AI. Through public lectures and discussions, the event promoted dialogue on AI applications, ethics, regulation and societal impact.



LLMs Made in Greece: From Research to Entrepreneurship

9 September,
Thessaloniki, Greece

More than 70 participants attended this open discussion on the future of Greek-language LLMs, bringing together researchers, entrepreneurs and technology professionals. The event explored the transition from AI research to practical applications, strengthening links between innovation, entrepreneurship and the Greek AI ecosystem.



Athens Science Festival 2025

18 – 21 December,
Athens Conservatoire, Greece

Athena Research Center once again participated in the Athens Science Festival, showcasing AI, robotics and digital technologies through interactive demonstrations, games and hands-on activities. The event engaged visitors of all ages and highlighted the role of research and innovation in everyday life.



11th IEEE International Smart Cities Conference in Patras

6 - 9 October,
University of Patras Conference
and Cultural Center, Greece

IEEE ISC2 focused on “Resilient & Sustainable Smart Communities”. Organized by ISI, it brought together researchers from 38 countries to discuss climate adaptation, urban transformation and the future of smart cities.



89th Thessaloniki International Fair

6 – 14 September,
Thessaloniki, Greece

Athena Research Center showcased research and innovation at the 89th Thessaloniki International Fair, featuring applications in AI, robotics, digital technologies and autonomous mobility. Interactive exhibits demonstrated the societal impact of these technologies.



Greeks in AI 2025

19 – 20 July,
Serafeio Cultural Center,
Athens, Greece

Bringing together leading researchers, students and industry professionals from Greece and abroad, Greeks in AI 2025 highlighted the growing dynamism of the Greek Artificial Intelligence ecosystem. Co-organized by Athena Research Center, the symposium promoted collaboration, knowledge exchange and stronger links between academia, innovation and industry.



AthNLP 2025

4 – 10 September,
NCSR “Demokritos”, Greece

The 3rd Athens Natural Language Processing Summer School brought together 90 students and early-career researchers from Greece and abroad for lectures, workshops and discussions on NLP and machine learning. Co-organized by Athena and leading academic partners, the event reinforced Greece's growing role in AI and NLP education and research.



MEDNIGHT 2025

26 September,
Xanthi, Greece

For the second consecutive year, Athena hosted MEDNIGHT in Xanthi, welcoming more than 500 visitors to celebrate science and innovation. Interactive exhibits, workshops, robotics and AI applications brought research closer to the public through hands-on experiences.



BEYOND 2025
– AI Reality Bites

4 – 6 April,
Metropolitan Expo, Athens, Greece

At BEYOND 2025, Athena showcased research and innovation in AI, 6G communications, intelligent transportation systems and cybersecurity. The exhibition reinforced collaboration with industry and public-sector stakeholders through presentations on PHAROS, AI-native networking and secure digital technologies.

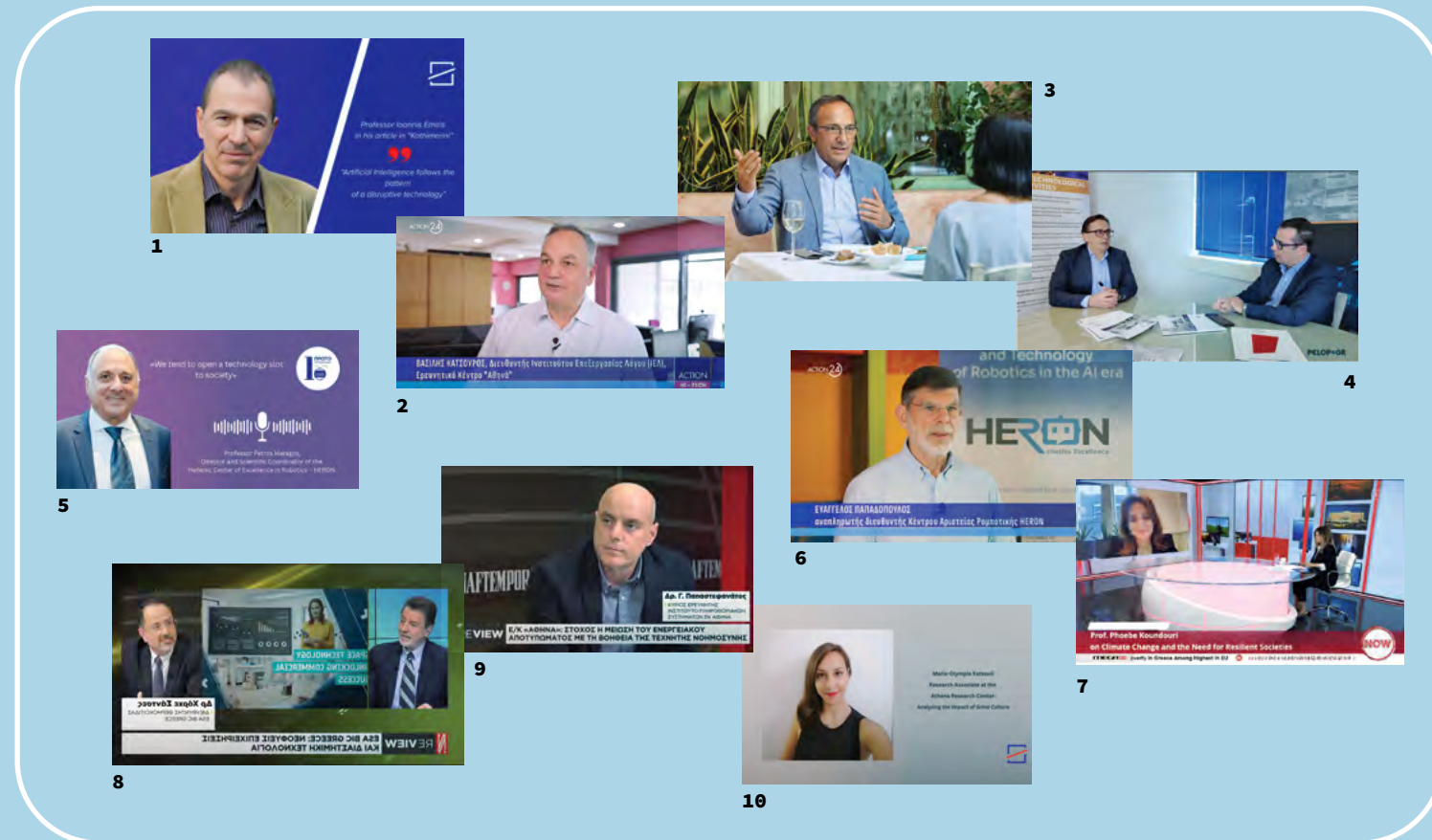


Puzzle
Festival 2025

4 – 6 April, Xanthi, Greece

Hosted in Xanthi, Puzzle Festival 2025 transformed the city into a hub of science, creativity and exploration. Co-organized by Athena Research Center and ENIGMA, the festival combined puzzles, hands-on experiments, workshops and public talks, inspiring participants of all ages through science and problem-solving.

media footprint



Throughout 2025, Athena Research Center maintained a strong media presence, contributing to public discussions on artificial intelligence, robotics, digital technologies, open science and innovation. Through interviews, feature articles, expert commentary and media coverage of major initiatives and research achievements, Athena continued to strengthen its visibility and position as a trusted voice in Greece’s research and innovation ecosystem.

Article by Prof. Ioannis Emiris on AI in “Kathimerini”

In an opinion article published in Kathimerini, Prof. Ioannis Emiris discussed the opportunities and challenges of AI, highlighting Athena’s contribution through PHAROS, HERON and Archimedes. (1)

Vassilis Katsouros on Action 24

In two consecutive episodes of ACTION HI-TECH on Action 24, Dr. Vassilis Katsouros, Director of ILSP, presented Athena’s work on the Greek LLMs, Meltemi and Kri-Kri, and the PHAROS AI Factory, highlighting their contribution to AI innovation in Greece. (2)

Prof. Yannis Ioannidis: “Miracles Happen Where Fields Intersect”

Speaking to Kathimerini, Prof. Yannis Ioannidis highlighted the importance of interdisciplinarity in addressing the challenges of AI and emerging technologies, emphasizing the value of connecting science, technology, culture and society. (3)

Prof. Chrysostomos Stylios on Research, Innovation and Regional Development

In an interview with Peloponnesus, Prof. Chrysostomos Stylios discussed the role of research and innovation in regional development, highlighting the Industrial Systems Institute’s contribution to digital transformation, industrial competitiveness, AI, cybersecurity and 6G technologies. (4)

Petros Maragos on ERT Radio

Speaking on ERT Radio, Prof. Petros Maragos, Director and Scientific Coordinator of HERON, presented the vision of Greece’s first Center of Excellence in Robotics and the role of robotics and AI in addressing societal challenges. (5)

Evangelos Papadopoulos on Action 24’s Hi-Tech

On Action 24’s Hi-Tech, Prof. Evangelos Papadopoulos, Deputy Director of HERON, discussed advances in field robotics, focusing on robots operating on land, at sea, underwater, in the air and in space. (6)

Prof. Phoebe Koundouri on Climate Change and the Need for Resilient Societies

Speaking on Mega TV News, Prof. Phoebe Koundouri discussed the growing impacts of climate change, highlighting the importance of climate resilience, sustainable urban planning and evidence-based policymaking. (7)

Dr. Jorge Sánchez on Greece’s Growing Space Innovation Ecosystem

In an interview with Naftemporiki, Dr. Jorge Sánchez, Director of ESA BIC Greece, discussed Greece’s growing space innovation ecosystem and the contribution of ESA BIC Greece and Athena Research Center to its development. (8)

Dr George Papastefanatos on Sustainable Data Centers

In an interview on Naftemporiki TV, Dr. George Papastefanatos, Principal Researcher at Athena Research Center, presented the ARCADIA project and discussed AI-driven resource management for more energy-efficient and sustainable data centers. (9)

Maria-Olympia Katsouli on Neuroscience and Wellbeing

In an interview with Aelia, Maria-Olympia Katsouli, Research Associate at Athena, discussed the impact of “grind culture” on brain function and wellbeing, emphasizing the importance of balance and healthy lifestyle habits. (10)

equality & inclusion



Athena continued to advance equality, diversity and inclusion through institutional initiatives, European collaborations and outreach activities promoting broader participation in science and technology, while implementing initiatives that encouraged girls and women to engage with STEM, digital skills and innovation.

year in review 2025





Girls in Digital Week 2025

24 - 28 March

As a member of the EU Code Week consortium, Athena participated in Girls in Digital Week, promoting female representation in STEM and digital technologies through awareness-raising and educational activities designed to inspire girls to explore opportunities in technology and innovation.

hands-on activities. The initiative encouraged early engagement with STEM disciplines while challenging gender stereotypes associated with technology-related studies and careers.

GEARnet – National Network of Equality and Anti-Discrimination Committees

5 December

As the presiding organization of GEARnet, Athena coordinated the Network’s 5th Hybrid Meeting, bringing together research organizations to exchange good practices and strengthen actions related to equality, inclusion, care and human rights in research environments.

Mothers and Daughters in the World of Robotics

21 December, Athens Science Festival

Within the framework of the Code4Europe Project, this interactive workshop introduced girls and their families to robotics and programming through



Humannera Conference 30 October

Athena’s Innovation Unit for Women participated in the Humannera Conference, contributing to discussions on sustainability, technology and generational perspectives, while organizing activities linked to Code4Europe, EU Code Week and Bebras that promoted girls’ participation in programming and STEM.

the Mediterranean region and promotes collaboration, scientific excellence and diversity in research.

NEXT-GENDER

ILSP, through its participation in the NEXT-GENDER Project, contributed to the development of training programs, workshops and practical tools supporting the integration of gender, diversity and intersectionality dimensions into research and innovation projects.

Mediterranean Science Team 2025, Gala Event

14 March, University Foundation, Brussels

Athena participated in the Gala Event celebrating the Mediterranean Science Team 2025, an initiative supported by Horizon Europe and EWORA that highlights distinguished scientists from across

strategic outlook



At Athena, we focus on six key areas of development to advance our growth trajectory while remaining aligned with our vision and mission. Guided by a coherent set of values and strong work ethics, we aim to achieve sustainable impact and excellence in digital science.

year in review 2025



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