ATHENA, the Advanced Technology Higher Education Network Alliance, is a European University that addresses one of the most pressing issues of today, i.e. the digital transformation towards a more performative economy and a more sustainable society, making the best and smartest use of scarce resources. ATHENA develops research and development projects, train students and lifelong learners to equip them with the skills needed for A Europe Fit for the Digital Age.

ATHENA is a consortium of dynamic mid-size universities in 7 different European countries, linked through long-standing cooperation and characterised by their strong relations with the local communities.

ATHENA universities have been at the forefront of pedagogical innovation, developing blended mobility projects for more than a decade, perfecting high-quality distance-learning platforms and making use of block chain technology to speed up administrative processes.

ATHENA research projects will be perfectly aligned with the smart specialisation priorities of the 7 European regions concerned, for example smart mobility solutions, smart city concepts, and information technology applied to cultural and natural heritage tourism.

ATHENA is at the service of its 120,000 students and aims to be an active driving force in the field of social inclusion: through innovative solutions, international mobility will become a reality for students of all abilities and all socioeconomic backgrounds. Through outreach to secondary schools, ATHENA will attract more female students to science, technology and engineering studies and thus foster gender equality. Open science events will spread the knowledge generated within ATHENA to a wider public and learners of all ages.

Moving seamlessly across the ATHENA campus, our students will grow into a new generation of European researchers and professionals who have learned to appreciate, and are prepared to take advantage of the diverse and rich education and work opportunities offered by the Union and its member states.
ATHENA member universities:

FRANCE     University of Orléans
GERMANY    University of Siegen
GREECE     Hellenic Mediterranean University, Crete
ITALY      Niccolò Cusano University, Rome
LITHUANIA  Vilnius Gediminas Technical University
PORTUGAL   Polytechnic Institute of Porto (coordinator)
SLOVENIA   University of Maribor
A Europe-wide Alliance, covering the continent in all its diversity:

- 10 industrial partners
- 5 chambers of commerce and industry
- 4 start-up incubators
As one of the pilot projects selected in 2020, ATHENA is funded by the European Commission as well as the French and German governments.

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