

The ATHENA Research Book: Evolving from project deliverable to an integrative asset of the European university alliance

József Györkös (presenter),
Saša Grašič, Tatjana Welzer Družovec
University of Maribor

presentation at the
1st ATHENA Technology Forum, Sitia, Greece [[programme](#)]
29th September 2023

Content

- I. Introduction: ATHENA the project and the long-term alliance
- II. The structure: ATHENA project structure & challenges
- III. The ATHENA Research Book
 1. The project deliverable
 2. Advanced mission through content-related metamorphosis
 3. Towards an integrative asset of ATHENA
- IV. Lessons learned and conclusions

Background ...

European Commission –

European Universities initiative:

Transnational alliances of higher education institutions, paving the way towards the universities of the future. The initiative aims to

- improve the international competitiveness of higher education institutions in Europe
- promote European values and identity

Building blocks:

- Long-term joint strategies
- European inter-university campuses
- Knowledge-creating teams

Literature used (selection):

M. Markel, S. A. Selber, Technical Communication, Twelfth Edition, Bedford/St Martins, 2017.

R. A. Weeks, D. L. Kinser, Editing the refereed scientific journal : practical, political, and ethical issues, IEEE Press, 1994.

T. Phillips et al, Briefing Paper on Open Access Monitoring, Science Europe, 2021,

DOI: [10.5281/ZENODO.4905553](https://doi.org/10.5281/ZENODO.4905553)

I. Introduction: ATHENA the project and a long-term alliance

Project Name	Advanced Technology Higher Education Network Alliance – ATHENA
Project Number	101004096 ATHENA
Project Date	October 2020 – September 2023
Project partners	Hellenic Mediterranean University Niccolò Cusano University Polytechnic Institute of Porto University of Maribor University of Orléans University of Siegen Vilnius Gediminas Technical University



#EuropeanUniversities

Building the universities
for the future

Additional partners of the ATHENA Alliance
(joined during the project):
Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (full),
University of Vigo (full),
Carinthia University of Applied Sciences (assoc.)



II. The structure: ATHENA project structure & challenges

ATHENA Work packages:

GM

WP1 Project Management and Coordination

GM

WP2 Governance: Preparing the future of the Alliance

core

WP3 Education: Creating an innovative and inclusive educational offer

core

WP4 Research: Stimulating research within the Alliance

H

WP5 Branding: Creation of an ATHENA brand and identity

core

WP6 Industry: Fostering strong links with the corporate partners

core

WP7 Internationalisation:

Transforming our institutions, networking and outreach

H

WP8 Infrastructure: Online tools and software for the Alliance

H

WP9 Sustainability and Dissemination

*

* Ad hoc classification by the authors:

GM: governance/management, H: horizontal

II. The structure: ATHENA project structure & challenges the overarching position of the ATHENA Research book

WP4 Tasks

- T4.1 Cooperation model for R&D
- T4.2 Joint R&D projects
- T4.3 Activities for student R&D work and projects
- T4.4 Raising awareness of ATHENA R&D research activities
- T4.5 Link to industry



WP4 Deliverables

D4.1 ATHENA R&D model

D4.2 ATHENA R&D website page

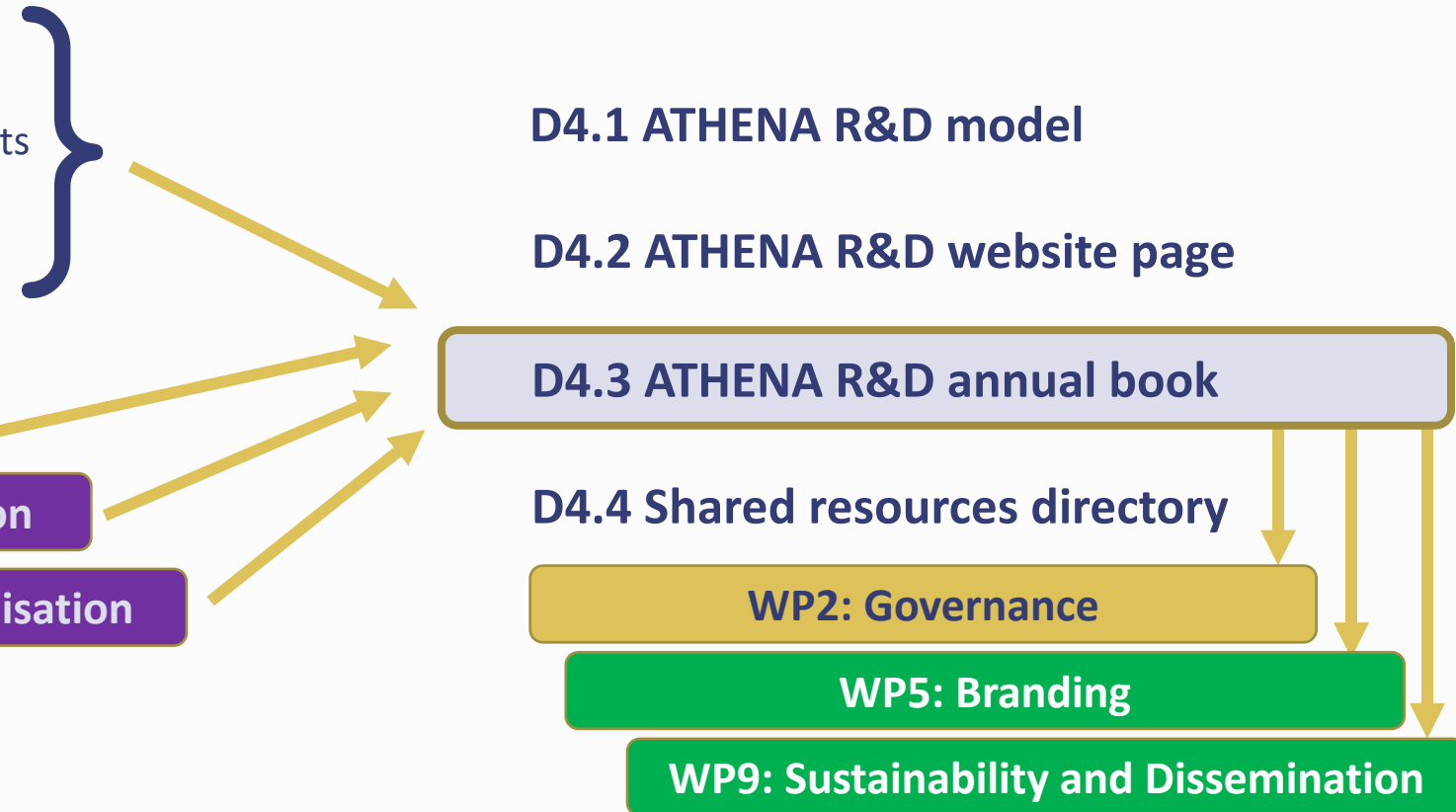
D4.3 ATHENA R&D annual book

D4.4 Shared resources directory

WP2: Governance

WP5: Branding

WP9: Sustainability and Dissemination



III. The ATHENA Research Book

Vol. 1 published in November 2022

Online version available at

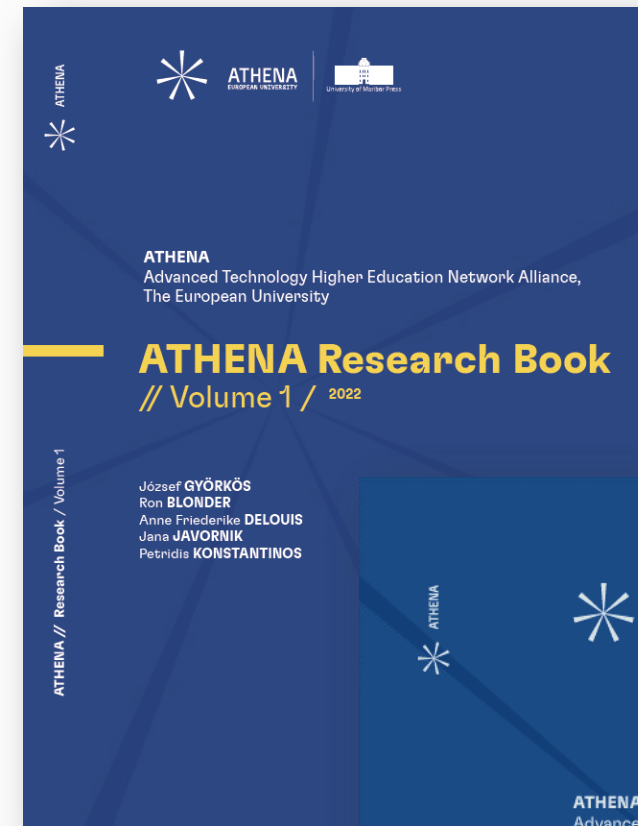
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18690/um.3.2022>

Vol. 2 published in September 2023

Online version available at

LINK: <https://press.um.si/index.php/ump/catalog/book/812>

DOI (pending): <https://doi.org/10.18690/um.4.2023>



III. The ATHENA Research Book

1. The project deliverable

ATHENA aims at fostering excellence in research and innovation by facilitating international cooperation.

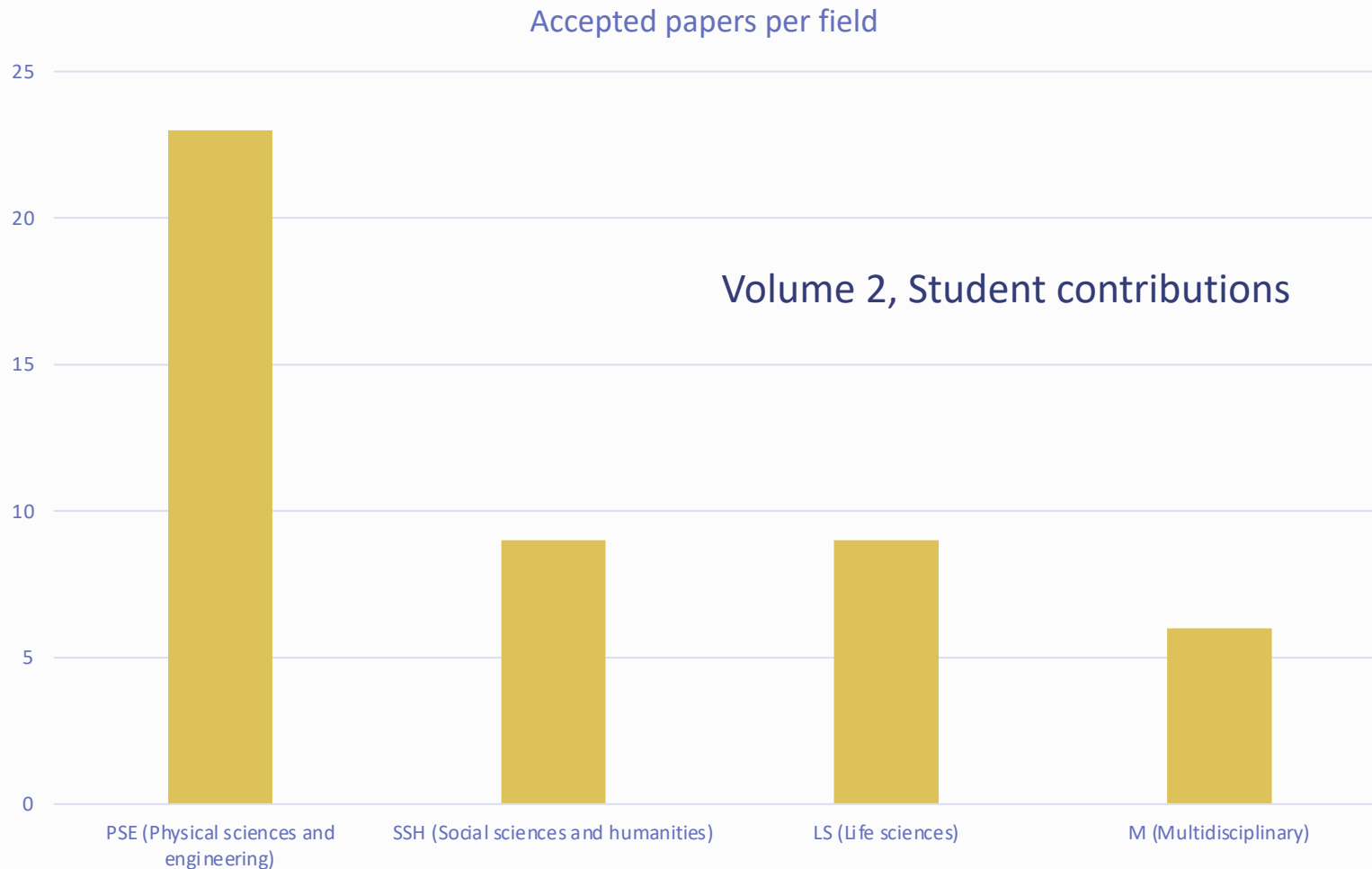
The ATHENA Research Book provides a platform that promotes joint and interdisciplinary research projects of both advanced and early-career researchers.

Furthermore, it fosters ATHENA's research and innovation capabilities and the strong cooperation potential of all contributing ATHENA partners.



III. The ATHENA Research Book

1. The project deliverable



Acceptance rate:

Volume 1,
Original scientific papers:
65%

Volume 2,
Student contributions:
82% (the „mentor filter“ applied)

III. The ATHENA Research Book

2. Advanced mission through content-related metamorphosis

“The ATHENA Research Book is an essential deliverable of the ATHENA European University project, displaying the selection of research activities of partners and communicating with potential new partners and the research community. “

“Different types of manuscripts were available for submission: review papers, original research papers, student contributions and short reports. Review Papers present and analyze previously published research activities based on existing relevant publications. Original Research Papers display scientific research achievements and detailed accounts of research activity.”

“... however, during the project, the concept of the Research Book will evolve, reflecting the newly discovered opportunities and capabilities of the ATHENA partners, and challenging the initially conceived concept of the publication. ”

[from editorial intro ARB Vol. 1]

III. The ATHENA Research Book

2. Advanced mission through content-related metamorphosis

Volume 1: TOC

Editorial introduction

Chapter 1: Original research papers

Chapter 2: Student contributions

Chapter 3: Short reports

367 pages

Volume 2: TOC

Editorial introduction

Chapter 1: Research activities of ATHENA partner institutions

Chapter 2: Annotated bibliography of partner institutions

Chapter 3: Student contribution

A1: ATHENA Colloquial Talks

A2: ATHENA 2020-2023 reports by WP leaders

697 pages

III. The ATHENA Research Book

3. Towards an integrative asset of ATHENA

“The ATHENA Research Book is an essential deliverable of the ATHENA European University project, displaying the selection of research activities of partners and communicating with potential new partners and the research community. “

“Different types of manuscripts were available for submission: review papers, original research papers, student contributions and short reports. Review Papers present and analyze previously published research activities based on existing relevant publications. Original Research Papers display scientific research achievements and detailed accounts of research activity.”

“... however, during the project, the concept of the Research Book will evolve, reflecting the newly discovered opportunities and capabilities of the ATHENA partners, and challenging the initially conceived concept of the publication. ”

[from editorial intro ARB Vol. 1]

III. The ATHENA Research Book

3. Towards an integrative asset of ATHENA

“Both volumes of the ATHENA Research Book were initiated within the first phase of the EACEA-funded ATHENA project (2020-2023) and formally they have a deliverable status. However, ATHENA European University is more than a project; it is a long-term vision of alliance members to cooperate and implement the EU European Universities initiative. Both volumes offer an insight into the strengths and sustainability of the alliance.

We, the editors, are already looking forward to the next volume, one that will showcase further achievements of our members as well as our joint research efforts, contributing to the globally competitive and attractive European Education Area and European Research Area beyond the project phase.”

[from editorial intro ARB Vol. 2]

III. The ATHENA Research Book

3. Towards an integrative asset(s) of ATHENA



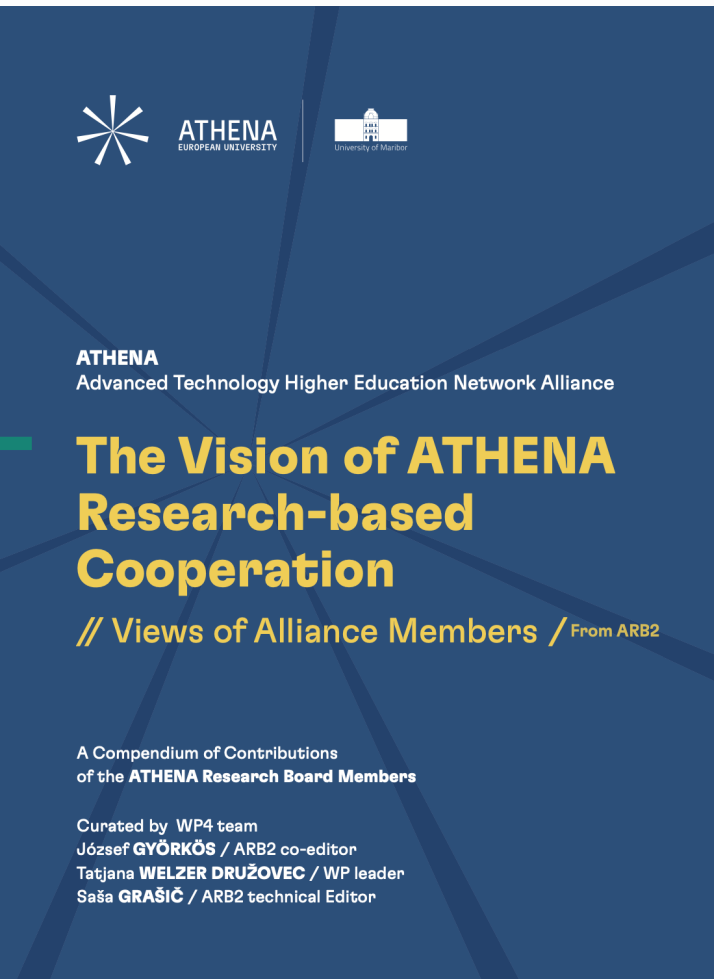
On-line Shared Resources Directory (SRD)



An open access account of research and research related activities printed and pdf

III. The ATHENA Research Book

3. Towards an integrative asset(s) of ATHENA



[\[Compendium: The Vision of ATHENA Research-based Cooperation\]](#)

The content of this compendium is made of excerpts from individual contributions of the research board members with the purpose of serving as a comprehensive discussion material on different occasions, not limited to:

- (a) ATHENA Research Board working material and informative material for other boards and decision-making bodies
- (b) Discussion material for use at the ATHENA Alliance 7th Management Meeting Siegen
- (c) Background material when applying for various funding schemes.

IV. Lessons learned and conclusions

Most of the projects are affected by challenges:

- *Content growth/learning challenging the vision and the mission*
- *Different consideration of member institutions leading to the less structured outcomes*
- *Challenges of project management, staff and attention of the leadership*

Thus,

an integrative platform is needed giving a common ground for all members, contributions and public appearance of the project outcomes.

We claim that

the enhanced and dynamic platform of ATHENA Research book can serve as *such a platform*, enabling a *unified-voice* presentation of ATHENA achievements and making the vision and mission

(a) confirmed/reviewed, (b) critically revisited and (c) upgraded to the actual needs.

IV. Lessons learned and conclusions

The overarching effect of the ATHENA research Book
(please recall the ATHENA WP structure from page 5)

Shared Resources Directory
the registry+

ATHENA Research Board
the priorities

ARICs – an inevitable operative structure
(Athena Research and Innovation coordinators)

Research and other active performative
initiatives, e. g. ATHENA Colloquial Talks

A media to voice education and innovation related accounts/reports

IV. Lessons learned and conclusions

ARB is, and it can be even more an edited and curated

- **profile** of all of us – the alliance members
- **podium**
to learn about each other
to inspire ourselves for joint projects
to show our performance and potentials to the world
- **comprehensive milestone**
of ATHENA's growth and the demonstration of the vision



ATHENA // Research Book / Volume 1

ATHENA // Research Book / Volume 2

ARB Volume 3 ?

Vol. 1 published in November 2022

Online version available at

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18690/um.3.2022>

Vol. 2 published in September 2023

Online version available at

LINK: <https://press.um.si/index.php/ump/catalog/book/812>

DOI (pending): <https://doi.org/10.18690/um.4.2023>

