

CURRENT SITUATION

The world's political scene is changing quickly, and with it, the kinds of threats and challenges. One such challenge is the intentional spread of false information and manipulation by foreign actors, known as Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI). FIMI represent the ever-evolving strategic and coordinated efforts by foreign actors to twist the truth, sow fear, confusion, and division, ultimately aiming to achieve their own political and economic goals by undermining the credibility of democratic institutions.

THE CHALLENGE

Among these foreign actors, two key perpetrators are mentioned most often: Russia and China. Both countries use FIMI as a modern warfare tool to engage in the intentional manipulation of public conversations to promote their agenda, encouraging division and polarisation within European societies and beyond.

The new type of digital information "warfare", says the EU's chief diplomat, Josep Borrell, "does not involve bombs that kill you" but words and ideas that "colonise you" highlighting that the battle against FIMI is a matter of European security. With FIMI posing a major, complex and dynamic threat to liberal democracies that rely on the free and open flow of information, EU democratic institution and national policy makers face the challenge on how to effectively counter FIMI without sacrificing the very values of freedom of expression and media credibility that are under attack.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Project Coordinator: Ozyegin University from Türkiye
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OUR TEAM



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DE-CONSPIRATOR

DETECTING AND COUNTERING INFORMATION SUPPRESSION FROM A TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

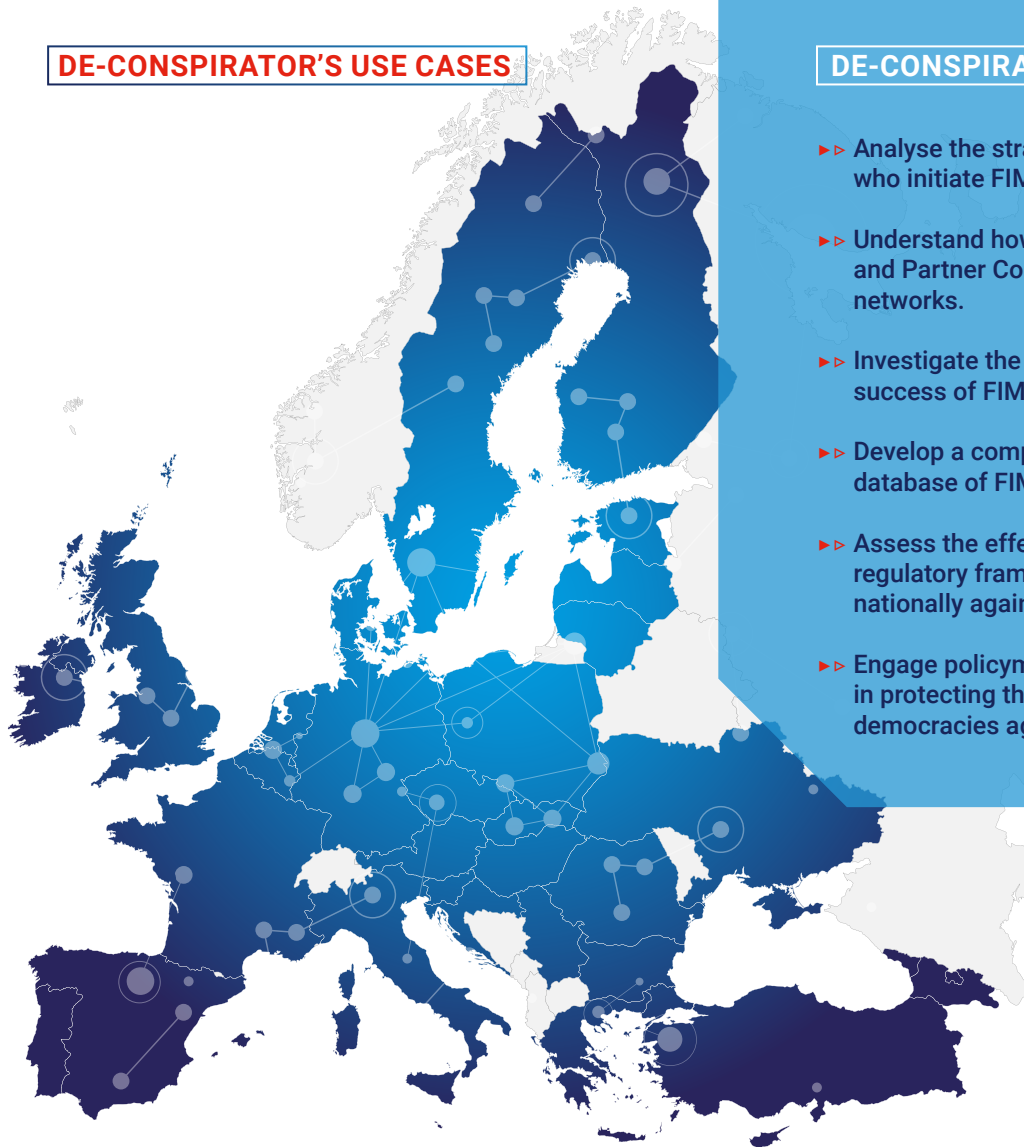
DE-CONSPIRATOR'S APPROACH

DE-CONSPIRATOR aims to explore how FIMI is currently deployed by Russia and China over Europe, by mapping, understanding, assessing and predicting different FIMI strategies and their effects on EU Members States and Partner Countries. DE-CONSPIRATOR uses state-of-the-art research methods and works closely with stakeholders to fully understand the success factors, manifestations, and impacts of Russian and Chinese FIMI and to provide data-driven policy solutions. By integrating various data sources and developing a comprehensive, multilingual database of FIMI incidents, the project intends to shield European democracies against internal and external FIMI threats, all while safeguarding freedom of expression and journalism integrity. Focusing on both the side of perpetrator (Russian and Chinese strategies, importance of internal actors) and target (national regulations of EU Member States, vulnerability of EU citizens against FIMI), the project tackles the ongoing challenge of approaching FIMI as a multi-dimensional and complex phenomenon. As DE-CONSPIRATOR follows an interdisciplinary approach by combining political communication, international relations, social psychology, security studies and computational social science, it helps EU decision makers design robust policy responses.

WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THE PROJECT

- Policymakers seeking data-driven policy solutions against FIMI.
- The academic and scientific community gaining fresh insight on factors and impacts of FIMI
- Social media platforms that need better protection against FIMI while preserving freedom of expression.
- Civil society organisations that work on media and journalism integrity.

DE-CONSPIRATOR'S USE CASES



DE-CONSPIRATOR'S MAIN RESULTS



Trans-European FIMI Actors Dataset



FIMI Event Database



'Disinfor-meter': A Psychometric tool



Multi-dimensional Policy & Regulatory Toolbox



FIMI Policy Briefs



DE-CONSPIRATOR

DE-CONSPIRATOR'S OBJECTIVES

- ▶▶ Analyse the strategies and tactics of those who initiate FIMI.
- ▶▶ Understand how FIMI spreads within the EU and Partner Countries (PC) through local networks.
- ▶▶ Investigate the factors that contribute to the success of FIMI campaigns.
- ▶▶ Develop a comprehensive, multilingual database of FIMI incidents.
- ▶▶ Assess the effectiveness of existing regulatory frameworks in the EU and nationally against FIMI.
- ▶▶ Engage policymakers and stakeholders in protecting the values of European democracies against FIMI.