Date *May 2026*

1. General Information

Acronym of the national network:	*COFOC*
Full Name of the National Network:	*Commission for Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning ("Commission de Formation Continue")*
Country:	*Federation Wallonia-Brussels*
Year of Establishment:	*2013*
Official Website:	

2. Contact details

Representative of the National Network

Title (Prof./Dr./Mr./Ms.):	*Mr*
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End date of the mandate	*31/12/26*

3. Background

Please provide a brief description of your network (maximum 200–300 words), including:

- Date of establishment
- Founding purpose
- Membership structure (e.g., number and type of member institutions)
- Key milestones or achievements
- Governance structure (if relevant)

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COFOC is one of the permanent commissions hosted by ARES, an organisation created by the "Paysage Decree" on 7 November 2013.
Its mission is to coordinate continuing education activities and structures, approve continuing education programs, and act as an observatory by collecting and disseminating data related to continuing education certificates within the Federation Wallonia Brussels. It also supports the selection, evaluation, and quality assurance of continuing education projects funded at the community level.
Membership structure: members come from higher education institutions federated within ARES, including universities, university colleges, adult education institutions, and arts colleges, reflecting the institutional composition commonly involved in ARES' permanent commissions.
Achievements include:
• Acting as an official observatory for continuing education data in the FWB, including the collection and dissemination of certificate statistics.
• Coordinating the evaluation and selection process for continuing education projects subsidised by the FWB.
• Featured contributions to sectoral knowledge-sharing.
Governance structure: COFOC functions as a permanent commission under ARES and participates in ARES' internal strategic coordination.

4. Focus

Please describe the main objectives and areas of activity of your National Network. Your response may include:

- Core mission and strategic goals
- Main areas of work (e.g., accreditation, policy advocacy, coordination, training, research, etc.)
- National and/or international collaborations
- Services provided to members
- Current priorities

The COFOC is a permanent body within ARES whose core mission is to coordinate continuing education structures, approve lifelong learning programs, and act as an observatory by gathering and disseminating data on continuing education certificates across the FWB.
Its main areas of work include accreditation, evaluation of publicly funded training projects, policy support for adult learners (e.g., access rules, digitalization, recognition of prior learning), and monitoring changes in legislation, technology, and professional practices that affect training needs.
COFOC collaborates nationally through ARES' collective governance structures and aligns internationally with European priorities, notably through its involvement in microcredentials' development.
Services to member institutions include program accreditation, data and analysis, guidance on continuing education policies, evaluation support, and assistance in developing innovative learning formats such as short, agile programmes.
Current priorities focus on strengthening microcredentials, promoting flexible lifelong learning pathways, and ensuring that training systems adapt to evolving societal and labour market needs.

5. Key Activities (Optional)

Please list up to 5 major ongoing or recent initiatives, projects, or programmes.

1. Development of Microcredentials (2022–2025): COFOC is actively involved in ARES' work on microcredentials, aligned with European Commission recommendations (2021). This includes creating short, agile, academically recognised training formats and establishing institutional procedures for their recognition.

2. "Donner du crédit à la formation tout au long de la vie" Project (2023–2025): a major multi institution initiative linked to COFOC's remit, aiming to create and test short, flexible programmes (<10 ECTS) in health, sciences, humanities, and technology; develop recognition frameworks; and support lifelong learning pathways for workers and students.

3. Evaluation & Selection of Publicly Funded Continuing Education Projects: COFOC oversees the coordination, evaluation, and selection of continuing education projects subsidised by the FWB, ensuring quality and strategic alignment.

4. Continuing Education Observatory Activities: COFOC acts as the official observatory for continuing education data, collecting and disseminating statistics on certificates issued in the FWB, an ongoing core activity informing policy and institutional practices.

5. Work on Adaptation to Legislative, Technological & Societal Changes: COFOC engages in identifying and responding to shifts affecting training needs, such as new professional regulations, emerging technologies, and evolving social practices, supporting agility and adaptation in lifelong learning pathways.

6. Additional Information (Optional)

Any other relevant information you wish to share (publications, annual events, statistics, strategic plans, etc.).

7. National Network's social media pages (Optional)