european university continuing education network

2026 National network profile

Date *13.5.2026*

1. General Information

Acronym of the national network:	*UCEF*
Full Name of the National Network:	*University Continuing Education Network Finland*
Country:	*Finland*
Year of Establishment:	*1990*
Official Website:	*https://ucef.fi/*

2. Contact details

Representative of the National Network

Title (Prof./Dr./Mr./Ms.):	*Dr.*
First Name:	*Anne*
Last Name:	*Gustafsson-Pesonen*
Position:	*Chair*
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End date of the mandate	*12/2026*

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)

The University Continuing Education Network in Finland UCEF is a National Cooperation Network for Continuing Education and Adult Education Units is responsible for developing university adult education.

UCEF's goal is to influence key adult education policy issues. UCEF monitors and deals with common issues in adult education units and supports the common interests of the network and promotes the continuous development of adult education. The network works in co-operation with political decision-makers, authorities, ministries and key interest groups stakeholders, and with international networks such as Eucen European University Continuing Education Network and EPALE Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe.

UCEF was founded in 1990. Its membership includes 12 adult education units of the national universities and National Defense College. The UCEF mission statement comprises the core activities:

• We consider lifelong learning as one of the core tasks of universities
• We emphasize the role of adult education in the dissemination of university research and innovation
• We take action to increase the public awareness of adult education
• We represent and influence the interests of adult education policy
• We promote regional, national and global information society orientations
• We promote co-operation between universities
• We share experience and good practices in organizing and developing adult education both at national and international level
• We create models and methods for developing expertise, expertise and professional skills
• We support the formation and application of common principles

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

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5. Key Activities (Optional)

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

1. Working committee meetings on average 9 times a year.

2. Statements to the Ministry's continuous learning and continuing education development groups.

3. Statements to the tables of university rectors' meetings on the importance of continuing education.

4. Working groups focusing on different themes, e.g. teacher continuing education, small competence units.

5. Joint projects, e.g. product development of new web-based jointly produced continuing education products and a publicly funded project creating a model and framework for the small competence units concept.

6. Additional Information (Optional)

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

Annual autumn seminar in November:

- main theme for 2025: comprehensive security

- main theme for 2026: development and future of continuing education in cultural fields

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

Linkedin
https://www.linkedin.com/company/ucef-yliopistojen-aikuiskoulutusverkosto/