Date *2026.04.07*

1. General Information

Acronym of the national network:	*RUIAP*
Full Name of the National Network:	*Rete Universitaria Italiana per l'Apprendimento Permanente*
Country:	*Italy*
Year of Establishment:	*2011*
Official Website:	*www.ruiap.it*

2. Contact details

Representative of the National Network

Title (Prof./Dr./Mr./Ms.):	*Prof.*
First Name:	*Fausta*
Last Name:	*Scardigno*
Position:	*President*
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End date of the mandate	*2027.11.24*

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)

Date of establishment: 16 November 2011.

Founding purpose: Contribute to the development of an integrated system for lifelong learning in line with EU guidelines and with the aim of overcoming the fragmentation and backwardness of the Italian system in the filed of lifelong learning.

Membership structure: 32 associated universities, 5 affiliated organisations and individuals working in the field of lifelong learning (up to 23 May 2025).

Key milestones and achievements:
- RUIAP 2012 Guidelines on the Recognition and Validation of Prior Learning
- strategic agreement signed in November 2023 with the National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research (ANVUR) and with the Italian Evaluation Association led to recommending for the second evaluation exercise of the Third Mission launched in 2p23, a more appropriate reformulation of the section on lifelong learning and a clearer expansion of the criteria for selecting the case studies to be presented.
- signing of the founding protocols for various RETAPs: Bologna, Sardinia, Monza and Brianza, and participation in RETAP Campania.
- training between 2014 and 2020 on Identification of prior learning for the validation and certification of skills (around 4500 participants).

Governance Structure: President, VicePresident, Executive Board, Treasurer, Auditor, Secretariat.

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

Core mission and strategic goals:
- promote the development of a culture of lifelong learning in the country by encouraging institutions to adopt appropriate regulations;
- include open access and lifelong learning in universities' institutional strategies;
- promote the development of a learner-centred educational provision, suited to a diverse student population, capable of attracting adult students and working students as well;
- promote guidance and advisory services for all types of students; develop services and build expertise to facilitate the recognition, validation and certification of prior learning;
- promote research on lifelong learning, disseminating the results within the scientific community and society;
- contribute to the implementaion of active labour market policies founded on skills and upskilling, inclusing through the establishment of Regional Networks for Lifelong Learning (RETAP) involving various stakeholders.

Main areas of work:

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We seek to strengthen the support we provide to our members through initiatives and actions designed to offer practical resources to the academic sector and the tertiary education system as a whole. A number of activities involve close collaboration with institutions, networks, organisations and associations that, in various capacities, are engaged in lifelong leanring and in adult education and training at national level. Our areas of activity are: policy advocacy, coordination, research, dissemination, training.

National and international collaborations:
- For the impact assessment of lifelong learning initiatives within the Third Mission of universities (field F of the first national evaluation exercise), a strategic partnership was established in 2022 with the National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research (ANVUR), which led to an agreement signed in November 2023 with ANVUR and the Italian Evalution Association.
- Memoranda of understanding and partnerships have been established at local, regional and national level.

Services provided to members:
- Since 2023, a series of travelling workshops has been taking place across various campuses, with the aim of jointly developing criteria, guidelines and operational instructions. The working groups include: Assessment of the Third Mission (community engagement), Recognition of Prior Learning for the Academic Integration of International Students, Microcredentials for Lifelong Learning, Regional Networks for Lifelong Learning, and Flexibility of the Curriculum.
- The EPALE Journal for Lifelong and Continuing Education, published twice a year, produced by RUIAP in collaboration with Indire, is an important vehilcle for disseminating research and best practice.
- With a view to promoting research into lifelong learning, an award has been established since 2024 for the best doctoral theses and master's theses on lifelong learning and related topics.

Current priorities:
- Enhance communication and dissemination
- Expand and strenghthen collaboration with other national networks, Digital HUBs and scientific associations
- Foster dialogue with international networks
- Offer trainin gprogrammes developed in collaboration with other stakeholders
- Launch new service workshops, experimenting with participtory approaches that foster the deveopment of multiprofessional communities both within and outside the university
- Award Open Badges for service workshops and future training courses.

5. Key Activities (Optional)

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

- 23-24 May 2025, Conference: Flexibility and the recognition of skills in lifelong learning. Prospects and strategies for quality. University of Turin

- 12 December 2025, Conference: Flexibility and the recogition of skills in lifelong learning. From perspectives to quality guidelines. Alma Mater University of Bologna

- Participating in the activities of the National Group for Lifelong Learning (GNAP) through the working groups of the PARTNER UP project: Towards the General Assembly on Lifelong Learning

- Producing a toolkit for the development of micro-credentials in Ruiap Universities; Promoting the Massive Open Online Course on The Interoperability of Microcredentials, together with tha national digital HUB ALMA

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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)

- https://www.linkedin.com/in/ruiap-rete-universitaria-italiana-per-l-ap-487101132/

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