Date

1. General Information

Acronym of the national network:	*AUPEC*
Full Name of the National Network:	*Associação das Universidades portuguesas para a Educação Continua*
Country:	*Portugal*
Year of Establishment:	*1999*
Official Website:	*https://aupec.up.pt*

2. Contact details

Representative of the National Network

Title (Prof./Dr./Mr./Ms.):	*Prof*
First Name:	*Alfedo*
Last Name:	*Soeiro*
Position:	*Ex-president and Researcher*
Email Address:	*soeiro.alfredo@gmail.com*
Telephone:	*+351225081938*
Postal Address:	*DEC, FEUP, R Dr Roberto Frias SN, 4200-465 Porto, Portuga*
End date of the mandate	*NA*

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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Date of establishment - 1999

Founding purpose - This association resulted from an agreement signed in December 1999 by five Portuguese universities (Universidade Aberta, Universidade do Algarve, Universidade de Aveiro, Universidade do Minho and Universidade do Porto), with the association formally approving its statutes in a public ceremony by the respective Rectors on March 20, 2001. At the first general assembly, six more universities joined AUPEC (Universidade da Beira Interior, Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Universidade de Coimbra, Universidade da Madeira, Universidade Técnica de Lisboa, Universidade de Trás os Montes e Alto Douro).

The AUPEC (Association of Continuing Education Professionals) aims to promote and develop Continuing Education in Portuguese Universities. Its responsibilities include promoting and developing Continuing Education in all areas of university education, providing a platform for discussion on Continuing Education, fostering the exchange of experiences, promoting cooperation between Continuing Education centers, promoting research on Continuing Education, representing the common interests of Continuing Education Centers in Universities before others, and defending the joint interests of its members in matters related to AUPEC.

The creation of this association stems primarily from the need for universities to face the challenge created by the desire to establish Continuing Education as a university activity. This convergence of efforts by universities mirrors similar phenomena in other European countries such as Finland, France, Great Britain, and Ireland, where similar associations exist. Some are recent and others older, reflecting cultural differences surrounding this issue, with some universities dedicated to this activity since the mid-19th century, such as Oxford University. This trend led to the formation of several European initiatives, the most significant being the EUCEN network (European University Continuing Education), created in 1992 and of which the University of Porto was a founding member. This network currently brings together more than one hundred and eighty universities and is chaired by Professor Manuel Assunção of the University of Aveiro.

Membership structure (e.g., number and type of member institutions): 14 public universities and 1 private university

Key milestones or achievements: Publications, lobbying with social partners, representing LLL in international organizations, supporting members in implementing ULLL, public interventions and media dissemination of ULLL.

Governance structure (if relevant)

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: See 3.

Main areas of work (e.g., accreditation, policy advocacy, coordination, training, research, etc.): See 3.

National and/or international collaborations: See 3.

Services provided to members: See 3.

Current priorities: Promote ULLL within RRP

5. Key Activities (Optional)

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

To be defined after the participation in the EUCEN conference in Cagliari.

6. Additional Information (Optional)

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

NA

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

NA

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