**Memorandum of Understanding of the Community of Practice – ONE**

**Background**

The Community of Practice ONE is the result of cooperation among three countries - Italy, Portugal, and Slovakia - within the framework of the *ONE- Opening Adult Education Networks to European Cooperation* project – nr. 621467-EPP-1-2020-1-IT-EPPKA3-IPI-SOC-IN.

The ONE project aimed to enhance national adult learning networks in Europe, making them more effective in implementing European policies to prevent and combat social exclusion, poverty and unemployment, as well as to promote active citizenship, personal and professional development (link website?).

This community of practice is established based on initiatives from the ONE national networks in the ALE sector, which is of common interest.

Networks are an ideal structure for grassroots-level European policy implementation due to the fragmentation of adult learning providers and the need for a more holistic approach to lifelong learning, involving key stakeholders such as public and private organisations working to develop adults both as citizens and professionals, second chance schools, adult education institutions, and associations and NGOs in the non-formal education sector.

**Mission**

* Enhancement of networking in Adult Learning and Education (ALE) at national and transnational level
* Further development of the Peer Review methodology as a Quality Assurance and Peer Learning methodology
* Development of capacity building actions aimed at strengthening competences of ALE organisations and practitioners
* Facilitating discussions on quality assurance in ALE at the EU level to promote social inclusion as highlighted in several documents from the Council of the European Union as the *Recommendation on vocational education and training (VET) for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience*[[1]](#footnote-2), the *European Pillar of Social Rights* *Action Plan[[2]](#footnote-3)*, the *European Skills Agenda*[[3]](#footnote-4), *The Council Recommendation on Upskilling Pathways: New Opportunities for Adults[[4]](#footnote-5)*
* Keeping track of EU trends in quality assurance and applying them in practice.

**Benefits of Community of Practice Membership**

* Mutual sharing of knowledge, expertise, and good practice examples
* Organisation of transnational events with expert exchanges
* Effective use of national/international peers for Peer Review activities at the national level
* Mutual promotion of activities
* More effective utilization of EU funds for cooperation projects and activities.

Parties to the Memorandum:

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| --- | --- |
| Coordinating Organisation:RIDAP | Coordinator’s Name and Contact Information: |
| Participation Organisation: | * Name and Contact Information of the Responsible Contact Person in the Participating Organisation:
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**Validity Period**

The expected mandate period for the community of practice is two years, starting on January 1, 2024. The Memorandum of Understanding will be in effect from the date of signature and will renew on a two-year basis. Activities of the community of practice are planned and approved by the coordinating body (board) on a yearly basis. The board consists of the national coordinators for each country (see the following paragraph).

**Roles, working Method and Tasks**

The ONE *national network coordinators* are responsible for country-specific network development in each participating country to disseminate the ONE community of practice's outputs and activate ALE development work at the national level.

Given that the ONE community of practice is an expert community that contributes to capacity building of ALE practitioners and policy development in the ALE sector, the community's thematic working areas and tasks (e.g. meetings, seminars, research, publications, etc.) are discussed and defined yearly by its members and decided upon by the board. The board is chaired by a community member, with rotation every two years.

Thematic working groups can be set according to the thematic areas defined by the board.

The community of practice organises regular meetings with agendas and minutes, coordinated by the coordinating board.

The community of practice operates a private LinkedIn group, where membership is approved by the board based on applications submitted via LinkedIn or the project website <https://www.adult-learning.eu/en/project-one/>. Synergies with EPALE Communities of Practices as well as with EAEA – European Association for the Adult Education, being it the voice of non- formal adult education in Europe with over 120 member organisations, are strongly supported and incentivised.

Members can be organisations or individuals. The group serves as the primary platform for exchanging information within the community of practice, and encourages linguistic diversity by accepting contributions in any language.

During the period from 2024 to 2025, the community of practice shall carry out activities described in the community's annual action plan, which is based on the longer-term community action plan in Annex I. The community of practice commits to organise at least one transnational event per year.

**Responsibilities of the Parties**

This agreement outlines the responsibilities of the ONE community of practice and the expected contributions of the partners.

Coordinators are responsible for recruiting members to the thematic working groups in place / to be set, ensuring that members' competences align with the network's goals. A balanced representation of all countries is expected within the network. Coordinators are also responsible for monitoring results and planning activities at national and transnational levels. The main criterion is that each country and thematic group in the community is represented by a key expert in that particular field.

Member organisations present the name of the expert to the community and assure their competence for community activities.

Financial Issues

The costs incurred by community members will be covered from their own resources. Participation is voluntary, and signing of the Memorandum does not create any financial obligations for the parties involved.

The parties to this memorandum have read all the information and agree to its contents.

Date:

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Signature of the Coordinator Signature of the Legal Representative
of the Participating Organisation

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1. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020H1202%2801%29 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1607&langId=en [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1223&langId=en [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ%3AJOC\_2016\_484\_R\_0001 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)