



## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Bled (Slovenia)

### Conference theme: *Building bridges and Opening doors*

Newsletter 2



#### **CHAIN5 on the move**

Founded in 2013 in Amsterdam and having had annual conferences in that same city and last year in Aalborg, Denmark, we will have as CHAIN5 this conference in one of more exciting towns of Europe: Bled. We will discuss the most recent developments concerning the 'European Level 5 Area', with a lot of issues that will show how we are dealing with this very relevant topic.

The need for more high-skilled workers is challenging a lot of organisations and stakeholders and we shall look at processes that are necessary to reach the goals. That means looking for more permeability between VET and HE (and then with a focus on Professional Higher Education). But even more important we need more flexibility in the formal systems, using non-formal qualifications and forms of work-based learning. In higher education, we need to build the bridges between education sectors, providers and the world of work and – for instance – public financed and private institutions (and that means also 'Business Academies'). That will open the right doors for learners, of all ages and all kind of circumstances.

These issues are on the table in Bled. We invite you to take a seat and cater for your appetite during those two days. Go ahead and make your reservation, please!

#### **Steering Group Members wanted**

The Steering Group of CHAIN5 is like the rest of the community an international collection of people devoted to the role of level 5 in Europe. They are from the UK, France, Denmark and the Netherlands, but we need more experts for the SG, knowing that in Bled it will be decided to start thematic working groups and organization of regional seminars.

Members of the SG of CHAIN5 will take the lead for those activities using the possibilities they have and making good use of their backgrounds.

The SG meets four times a year to talk about strategy and the way our members can be 'served'. Besides that, the members represent CHAIN5 in meetings with partner organisations and in international conferences. They will also be involved in projects where possible.

If you are interested, send an e-mail to [info@leido.nl](mailto:info@leido.nl). We hope to present the new members of the SG during the General Assembly on Thursday morning (see the programme). Use this e-mail address also for questions about the membership and the conditions for having this position.

### Subthemes / Workshops

The main theme of the Annual Conference is 'Building Bridges and Opening Doors' by CHAIN5, using level 5 qualifications for more flexible learning pathways, crossing sectors and connecting stakeholders.

We have defined five conference subthemes, to be used for the workshops (a first list of them will be published in newsletter 3. They illustrate what has to be done in practice to reach the goals behind the main theme.

- A: Creating flexible professional development for level 5 programmes
- B: Supporting successful progression at all levels
- C: Successful employer engagement
- D: Cooperating with your suppliers of talent
- E: Opening doors to increase quality

### Contribution

If you want to contribute to the conference, you are invited to submit abstracts by the 20th of December via [info@leido.nl](mailto:info@leido.nl) using the following format:

- Title of your contribution
- Conference sub-theme of most relevance
- Name(s) and institutional affiliation(s) of presenters/authors
- Type of input (presentation, seminar, workshop or poster)
- Short description of the contribution

### Social Programme

Like it was done in Aalborg we offer participants in the conference the possibility to take part in a social programme, in 2017 on Wednesday 7 March (10:00 till 16:30). During that day there will be visits to colleges in the region of Bled, combined with a guided tour in the centre of Bled.

The visits to the colleges will give you a possibility to talk with managers about the role of two year programmes in Slovenia and the cooperation with the regional labour market.

### Fees

Conference:	Participation, coffee breaks, lunches: <b>120 euro</b> There will be a reduced rate for participants from the following countries: Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia, Slovak Republic, Rumania, Bulgaria, Greece of <b>60 euro</b>
Dinner (optional):	<b>40 euro</b> (we will have the conference dinner in the famous Bled Castle!)
Social programme (optional):	<b>25 euro</b>

### Hotel and Conference Venue

Special prices obtainable at the *Astoria Conference Hotel* for efficient networking  
<http://www.hotelastoria-bleed.com/>:

single = 41 euro / double = 67 euro, per night, including breakfast.

CHAIN5 can make the arrangements for you through our contact in Slovenia.

Transport to and from airport to hotel will be arranged. More information after that will be provided in the next newsletters.

### Registration

You can register for this conference by sending an e-mail to: [info@leido.nl](mailto:info@leido.nl), before 30 January 2017.

Please send details of:

- Name, institution/organisation, position
- Dinner: yes or no + requirements if any
- Hotel: single or double room + date of arrival & date of departure
- Participation in the social programme on Wednesday 8 March: yes or no

### Organisers

CHAIN5 <http://www.chain5.net>  
LEIDO <http://www.leidoacademy.nl>  
Skupnost VSS <http://www.skupnost-vss.si>

CHAIN 5 is a best-practice network featuring Professional Expert Communities (PECS). Individual CHAIN5 members organize in specific expert communities in order to experiment, adapt, and develop new approaches in HVET and VET. The results are disseminated to the international HVET and VET communities.

CHAIN5's conferences and meetings provide opportunities for you to meet new colleagues, develop bidding teams and share information and experiences to improve and advance vocational education and training, and build bridges between EQF levels 4, 5 and 6.



## Provisional PROGRAMME

### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Social programme – optional – please indicate when you register if you attend.  
Visits to colleges in the Bled region and also sightseeing in Bled.

### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March

The registration desk opens at 10.00.

10.30 – 12.00 General Assembly CHAIN5

The GA will talk about practical issues that are important for CHAIN5 as a community of practice. In the next years this network will be more involved in 'how to use level 5 qualifications' in 'making lifelong learning more flexible'.

We want to discuss in the GA how the network can be extended. This is possible by the deployment of new members to the steering committee, the formation of thematic groups and the establishment of a register of experts who are prepared - within this community - to participate in international and regional activities.

It also calls for a discussion on the formal establishment of CHAIN5, the membership and the opportunity to work with national networks around level 5.

In the position paper are plotted the first lines. We would like to use the meeting to discuss the organizational consequences with the attendees and to look at the desired structure.

- 12.00 – 13.00 Lunch buffet
- 13.00 – 13.20 Opening session  
- CHAIN5  
- Skupnost-vss
- 13.20 – 13.50 Keynote: What is happening in Brussels with level 5?  
*DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*
- 13.50 – 14.20 Setting the scene:  
Is level 5 delivering bricks for steady bridges and keys for the right doors?  
CHAIN5
- 14.20 – 14.30 To the workshop rooms...
- 14.30 – 15.25 Workshops – round 1
- 15.25 – 15.40 Refreshments
- 15.40 – 16.35 Workshops – round 2
- 16.35 – 17.00 Day 1 – plenary – key emerging themes
- 17.00 – 18.00 Possibility for a short sight-seeing tour in the center of Bled – having students as guides
- 19.30 Conference dinner – optional

### Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March

- 09.00 – 09.20 Plenary presentation about the Position Paper of CHAIN5
- 09.20 – 09.50 Discussion in small groups: what are the key-themes for level 5 in Europe for the next year – and what has to be done?
- 09.50 – 10.00 To the workshop rooms...
- 10.00 – 10.55 Workshops – round 3
- 10.55 – 11.15 Refreshments
- 11.15 – 12.00 Round table sessions about 'interesting examples of Level 5 qualifications in members states'
- 12.00 – 12.45 Plenary session: Development of CHAIN5 Thematic Groups and Regional seminars
- 12.45 – 13.00 Announcement of the 2018 Conference Venue and closing of this conference
- 13.00 – 14.00 Lunch buffet

