



4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Bled (Slovenia)  
9-10 March 2017

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



Attend the premier event in Europe for EQF Level 5 Qualification Practitioners and Policy Makers:

- Meet colleagues working in the same domain to exchange knowledge and practice
- Enhance your understanding of the European Commission and CEDEFOP's Level 5/HVET policy direction
- Opportunities to develop partnerships for project bid proposals
- Influence the work of the CHAIN5 Community, and
- Participate in a complementary social programme in one of Europe's most beautiful inland resorts

Bled-Letter 5 – 9 January 2017

First of all, we wish all our members, supporters and other readers interested in the activities of CHAIN5 a very Happy New Year for 2017 and a successful year for new initiatives concerning the European Level-5 Area.

Maybe you are already registered for this event on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of March in the beautiful Slovenian city of Bled, but if you are still considering whether it will be a meeting to learn more about what is happening in the 'European Level-5 Area', let us encourage you by this refresher with some of the topics for the workshops and round-table sessions.

Steering Group of CHAIN5:

Sylvie Bonichon / Hilde Bottu / Hans Daale / Nick Davy / Ole Faaborg / Jan Nienhuis / Roland van der Poel / Alicia Leonor Sauli Miklavčič

## **Workshops and round-table sessions**

During the conference there will be workshops (50 minutes) and round-table sessions (25 minutes). Here is an overview of workshops and sessions presently submitted. The next newsletter will contain more details and information...

- **Promoting workplace learning in diverse contexts – in Flanders**

This comparative research was initiated to compare workplace learning in different contexts. In workplace learning, we try to build sustainable bridges between higher education and the professional practice. In this comparative study we will describe a number of actions, good examples and suggestions on how to deal with the diverse tensions that exist in workplace learning.

- **How to increase organizational learning at SCHE institutions – Rotterdam Academy (Part of 'Hogeschool Rotterdam')**

First phase research, on the development of how the application of active learning power within the Rotterdam Academy meets the needs of its local community and regional stakeholders.

- **The Norwegian white paper proposing a major reform for Vocational Colleges on a tertiary level**

In Norway, there are policy ideas for reforming the tertiary education system, including higher education, with a significant potential impact on the role of Vocational Colleges, and the programmes they can offer at the higher levels. The experience of these proposed changes has lessons for all countries.

- **BeeHives Project (Boost European Exchange on HVET and Employer Involvement on Education structures)**

Update on the Erasmus + Beehives project (6 partner countries – Denmark, England, Germany, Czech Republic, Basque country, Flanders Belgium) seeking to develop a toolkit for employers to address cooperation and collaboration barriers in strategic partnerships between providers, employers and students.

- **The role of the government (ministry of education) in developing a formal level 5 qualification in the national higher education area - the Dutch practice**

After the introduction of the Bachelor-Master system in the Netherlands, as part of the international Bologna Process, a discussion started in 2001 about introducing two-year-programmes for institutions offering higher professional education. These programmes – associate degrees - have now been introduced. What can we learn from this experience?

- **EQF level 5 qualifications for access to and/or exemption from the initial years of Bachelors study, based on the Scottish/UK model – Scotland**

The permeability between VET and HE is one of the hot topics at a European and country level. Scotland has a long history of successful level 5 provision; what can we learn from this experience in particular its policies and practice relating to progression to level 6.

- **Co-makerships for level 5 qualifications – Almere, the Netherlands**

Almere is a new town, not far from Amsterdam, but it is a fast-growing city. There is a need for higher skills provision to meet the economic and social needs of the city. Level 5 qualifications are becoming more and more important in achieving this aim.

This research has looked at the role of level 5 qualifications and collaboration with companies and 'co-curriculum development' with employers.



**Other Sessions will include:**

- **The European Agenda for HVET – DG Employment – Brussels**
- **Level 5 in Slovenia: past, present and future**
- **Associate degree practice trainer in TVET: the missing link in teaching staff**
- **The level 5 area: a whole range of qualifications – the solution for bridges and doors – Steering Group CHAIN5**
- **National Associations for students in level 5 programmes – based on a proposal from the Norwegian Association**

You don't have to pre-register for the workshops and the round-table sessions. You can make your choice during the conference.



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

Social programme – optional – please indicate when you register if you attend.

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

The registration desk opens at 10.00.

- 10.30 – 12.00 General Assembly CHAIN5
- 12.00 – 13.00 Lunch buffet
- 13.00 – 13.20 Opening session
  - CHAIN5
  - Skupnost-vss
  - Representative regional labour market
- 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-table sessions – 1
- 15.25 – 15.40 Refreshments
- 15.40 – 16.35 Workshops – round-table sessions – 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 – 09.30 Plenary presentation: Developments in the European Higher Education Area (Bologna Process): the role of SCHE... and the modernization in HE
- 09.30 – 10.00 Discussion in small groups: what are the key-themes for level 5 in Europe for the next year – and what has to be done?
- 10.00 – 10.10 To the workshop rooms...
- 10.10 – 11.00 Workshops – round-table sessions – 3
- 11.00 – 11.15 Refreshments
- 11.15 – 12.00 Discussion in small groups about 'interesting examples of Level 5 qualifications in member states'
- 12.00 – 12.45 Plenary session: Development of CHAIN5 Thematic Groups ('Task Forces') and Regional seminars
- 12.45 – 13.00 Announcement of the 2018 Conference Venue and closing of this conference
- 13.00 – 14.00 Lunch buffet