



WHAT IS CHAIN5?

CHAIN5 was founded in 2013 as the ‘community of practice’ for level 5 qualifications’ in Europe. It is a practitioner and policy partnership for all education institutions - Colleges, Universities, Polytechnics and other providers of education – networks, associations and expert groups involved in the development and promotion of level 5 qualifications. .

The ‘gap’ between level 4 and level 6 is an item that is on the agenda of many stakeholders, and several transnational projects address this issue. And level five qualifications could be crucial in realizing the EU HE Modernization agenda of creating more employer and labour market-responsive tertiary education systems in member countries.

One of the most important challenges is to develop and strengthen relationships between Universities, Colleges, students and professional institutions and employers; combining academic study and higher vocational education.

CHAIN5 is where you can meet relevant stakeholders and learn about new and ongoing projects like TANDEM and BEEHiVES and networks like VET4EU2 and many more.

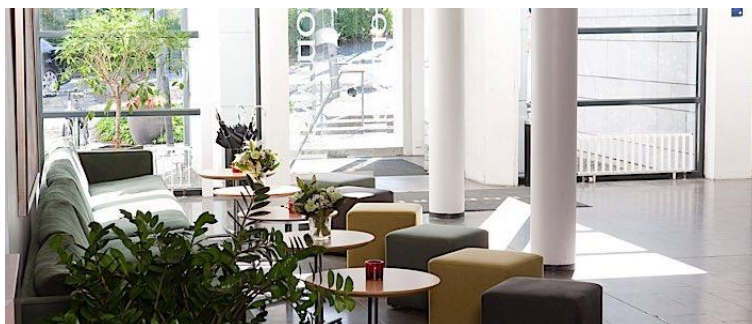
Come and join us for exciting workshops and sessions in a town with only two bridges and one tunnel!

WHY DO WE MEET?

The new economic realities and rapid shifts in the job market are fundamentally changing what we need from our tertiary education systems. Traditionally, tertiary education and training systems have had separate and distinct sub-systems (technical/professional, vocational and general/academic) and these sub-systems are usually unrelated to one another, have different statuses and funding streams and are difficult for students to navigate. The beginnings of a change in paradigm is taking place!



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



Thursday 25 February

- 12.00 – 13.00 Lunch buffet and registration for the conference
- 13.00 – 13.40 Opening session
- Lasse Frimand Jensen, Aalborg City Councillor
 - Poul S e Jeppesen, Director, Aalborg Handelsskole
 - Ole Faaborg, member Steering Group CHAIN5
- 13.40 – 14.15 Keynote speech: **Higher VET in EU – results of a study and follow-up**
Maria Todorova, Policy officer, European Commission, Directorate General Employment, Social affairs and Inclusion, Unit E3 - VET, Apprenticeships and Adult Learning
- 14.15 – 14.40 **CHAIN5 and its role in the level 5 strategy, national and international**
Hans Daale, Chair Steering Group, CHAIN5
- 14.30 – 15.15 Panel discussion, based on those speeches – questions and answers
- 15.15 – 15.45 Coffee break
- 15.45 – 16.35 Workshops – round 1 (numbers: 4-5-6)
- 16.35 – 16.40 Short break
- 16.40 – 17.30 Workshops – round 2 (numbers: 3-7-10)
- 19.30 Dinner (optional)

Friday 26 February

- 08.30 – 09.00 Registration / coffee
- 09.00 – 10.00 Keynote speeches: **'The world of work and level 5 qualifications' in Europe and in Denmark**
- 10.00 – 11.00 Workshops – round 3 (numbers 2-8-9-1)
- 11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30 - 12.30 Plenary session: **'What have we learned if we are talking about level 5, and what does it mean for CHAIN5 – having its mission and vision in kind?'**
- 12.30 – 13.00 Closing session
- 13.00 – 14.00 Lunch buffet and wrap-up

WORKSHOPS

There will be three rounds of workshops, with short presentations followed by discussion. The aim is to share information and experiences - and also to discover themes that can be relevant for CHAIN5. In the annex you will find short descriptions of the workshops.

During the registration all participants can make their choices – we have ample room and you do not need to choose your preferences before arrival.

GENERAL MEETING

On Thursday morning we will have the CHAIN5 General Meeting open to all members and other people interested in our community of practice. We will start at 10.00 and close at 11.30.



AGENDA (draft)

1. Opening
2. Minutes general meeting 2015
3. CHAIN5 Mission and Vision
4. Steering Group and activities
5. Representation
 - European Commission
 - VET4EU2
 - WFCP
 - Other networks
 - EURASHE and EUA
 - Students
6. Outcomes from Yerevan (SCHE) and their consequences
7. EQF and qualifications at level 5 (possible contact to the EQF Advisory Group)
8. Study on HVET – is a follow-up by CHAIN5 desirable?
9. Membership
10. National platforms
11. Regional seminars
12. Projects - CHAIN5 as partner
13. Participation in project TANDEM – call for members of a project group
14. Study trips (USA) – other initiatives
15. Next Annual Conference: venue and theme
16. Other Business

VISITS WEDNESDAY 24th



The participants who have signed up for this, will be picked up by the mini bus at 9.00am from the lobby of the Comwell Hotel.

Our guide for the day: Ole Faaborg

- Introduction to Aalborg
- Visit at the International House
- Visit at Aalborg Business College
- Visit at Aalborg Tech College
- Visit at UCN
- Aalborg University Introduction

Lunch will be available on the way
 We plan to return to Comwell Hotel around 16.30pm.

PRACTICALITIES

Here is some important practical information.



Venue

The Annual Conference will take place in the center of Aalborg, at Aalborg Business College, Saxogade 10, Aalborg.

Airport

The airport is not far away from Aalborg. For flights to Aalborg see: <http://www.aal.dk/en/direct-flights/>. There is a city bus running direct to the center. It is a 20 minute ride for circa. 3 euro.

Hotels

We have made an arrangement with the conference hotel: Comwell Hvide Hus Hotel, for rooms to be used by the participants: <http://www.comwellaalborg.dk/comwellaalborg/om-hotellet/>
 The hotel has a special price: DKK 885, including breakfast. Use the discount code 'chain5' when booking, sending an e-mail to hotel.aalborg@comwell.dk
 Another convenient hotel is the Chagall Hotel (<http://www.chagall.dk>). If you mention the code 'chain5' when booking, the room price is DKK 595 per night.

Help-desks Thursday (in the lobby of the hotels)

There will be 'helpdesk members' (students) in the lobby of the Hotels Chagall and Comwell on Thursday from 10 till 12 hours.

They will have route maps for Saxogade (the venue for the conference) and programmes for the participants staying in one of those hotels.

FEE / DINNER

The conference fee is 140 Euro, for participation, coffee breaks and lunches.

On Thursday evening there we will have a dinner in the conference hotel (Comwell Hvide Hus Hotel). Participation is optional. The extra cost for the dinner is 50 Euros. Dinner vouchers will be issued. Dress: informal, casual.

REGISTRATION

The registration for the Annual Conference is still open, by sending an e-mail to info@leido.nl with your name, organisation and position – mentioning also whether you will join the group for dinner. We will send the invoice to you (by e-mail).

ANNEX

During the conference there will be three rounds of workshops. You can make your choices during the registration session in Aalborg.

Workshop 1

THE TANDEM PROJECT: WORK-BASED LEARNING – FROM 4 TO 5

This Erasmus+ project (just started) aims to enhance the flexibility in vocational and professional education by taking into consideration the demands of business world and to contribute to the policy development for shaping more flexible learning pathways by connecting VET, HE and business world.

Globalisation dictates that EU 2020 will only be succeed if member states bring out the best in people and their potential, with no limits to aspirations for upward mobility. The challenge is a global skills race and to extend education opportunities for all people. Jobs that require routine manual or cognitive tasks are rapidly being taken over by computers or lower-paid workers in other countries, while jobs that require higher levels of education and more sophisticated problem-solving and communication skills are in increasingly high demand.

Additional the dynamic nature of the production of goods and provision of services constantly challenges the characteristics and shelf-life of skills and vocational knowledge. Work continues to form a major part of people's lives and, therefore, for their learning. The new economic realities and rapid shifts in the job market are fundamentally changing what we need from our education system. Traditionally, education and training systems have separate and distinct sub-systems (general, vocational and academic/higher education) and these sub-systems are usually related to one another in a strict hierarchy. Not only should access to higher education be widened to include a greater variety of student groups like adult learners, vocational learners and employed learners, but the teaching-learning environments and the guidance should be adapted to the diversified needs of lifelong learners. In order to reach a competitive and sustainable economy and create an inclusive society towards the ET-2020 goals more flexible learning pathways gains importance also by acting against 'dropping out of the system', opening new pathways for an inclusive future.

Workshop speaker and moderator: Hans Daale, CHAIN5 – partner in this project

Workshop 2

THE REGIONAL ASSOCIATE COLLEGES IN THE NETHERLANDS: COMMUNITY COLLEGES EUROPEAN STYLE?

Level 5 is growing in the Netherlands. Unfortunately it is a slow process. It took a while but now it seems to make a real take off. The successful launch of the Rotterdam Academy (offering Associate degree programmes, in its own building, part of the Rotterdam University of Applied Science) seems the right way to help Level 5 expand. What if we can 'copy' the Rotterdam Academy model to the rest of the Netherlands? What if we use this base and combine it with regional specific areas?

Seven Universities of Applied Sciences combined their strengths and come up with 'Ad7'. A group that has to make sure that in 2020 the number of Level 5 students is tripled and that 6 new regional educational institutes will provide Level 5 programmes. The Position Paper between the 7 universities is a start.

Workshop speaker and moderator: Roland van der Poel, Rotterdam Academy, the Netherlands

Workshop 3

THE BEEHIVES PROJECT – HIGHER VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Erasmus+ BEEHIVES Project is about: Boosting European Exchange on Higher VET and Employer Involvement in Education Structures.

A key part of the EU Modernisation Agenda for Higher Education (HE) is a reform of HE to meet the requirements of the labour market with an emphasis on relevant skills, qualifications and graduates employability. One problem in achieving this aim lies in the lack of a strong cooperation, understanding and interaction between the strategic triangle of employers, providers and students.

The project intends to address this issue by developing an easily usable toolkit of measures and tools that will improve employer engagement in the development of the HVET/PHE curriculum and programmes. This workshop will update participants with the overall aims of the project, work-packages, partner inputs and progress to-date.

Workshop speaker and moderator: Nick Davy, AoC, UK – partner in the project

Workshop 4

THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE – BRIDGING HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE

Community Colleges and High Schools in the US cooperate on levels 4 and 5. Students enrolled in high school may be dual enrolled at a local institution of higher learning, such as a community college or university. If students pass their college classes, they receive credits that may be applied toward their high school diploma and toward a college degree or certificate. Many state governments within the United States have recognized the benefit of dual enrollment and have consequently instructed their public universities to begin collaborating with local schools. Some private universities also participate.

Dual enrollment can be advantageous to students because it allows them to get a head start on their college careers. In some cases, the student may even be able to attain an Associate of Arts or equivalent degree shortly before or after their high school graduation.

In addition, dual enrollment may be a cost-efficient way for students to accumulate college credits because courses are often paid for and taken through the local high school.

All stakeholders will be interested in fast-track study paths where level 4 and level 5 institutions cooperate and share facilities, lecturers and students. Special talent may be attracted and cost-efficient systems developed.

Workshop speaker and moderator: Dan Ole Faaborg, Denmark

Workshop 5

HBO5: LEVEL 5 IN THE FLEMISH HIGHER EDUCATION AREA

EQF level 5 was introduced in Flanders in 2009. After more than 5 years the position of level 5 is still not clear, in legislation but also on the labour market.

A new decree is in preparation. The main topics that are discussed now are: integration in higher education (in university colleges?), the difference between the study programs of level 5 and the professional bachelor programs, transformation of existing programs that are now mostly offered by institutions for adult education, implementation of dual learning, the development of new job profiles and related learning outcomes.

The workshop gives a view on the present situation in Flanders. Participants are invited to share information on the present status and future development in other European countries.

Workshop speaker and moderator: Toon Martens, UCLL – Leuven, Chair HBO5-Platform in Flanders, Belgium

Workshop 6

THE QUALITY ASPECT IN TERTIARY VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN NORWAY

The National Council for Tertiary Vocational Education in Norway will present a (draft) paper on quality in level 5 VET. The paper makes the characteristics of tertiary vocational education more transparent to the public in general, but is in particular targeting the Government, the Parliament and the national/regional education authorities.

An additional aim of the paper is to serve as a guideline for Vocational Colleges in improving the quality of access procedures, learning processes and outcomes of the learning programmes.

The presentation will focus on Labour Market relevance, practical knowledge and sustainable management.

Workshop speaker and moderator: Tormod Skjerve, senior policy advisor, National Council for Tertiary Education, Norway

Workshop 7

DIPLOMA OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN FINLAND

On 25th January 2016 the very first Diplomas of Higher Education will be handed over to students of the JAMK University of Applied Sciences, during a national seminar in Jyväskylä, Finland. This event marks the end of pilot projects. After these projects there will be more information about what the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture will say on whether there should be a permanent place for this kind of Diplomas in Finland as well.

At this moment there is no framework in Finland and this model for this Diploma of HE is actually at level 6. Still the purposes and objects are the same as in many other level 5 educations.

During this workshop more about the projects and the current situation.

Workshop speakers and moderators: Elina Kirjalainen / Tytti Pintila, JAMK, Finland

Workshop 8

WORK-BASED LEARNING IN DENMARK – LEVEL 5 INCLUDED

The workshop is about the area of practice-based research and teaching. As an institute of practice-based research and teaching, Zealand Institute of Business and Technology (ZIBAT) / Erhvervsakademi Sjælland (EASJ) offers a number of international Ordinary Higher Education Programmes within Business and IT ranking from Academy Profession Programmes (Diploma Programmes) to undergraduate programmes (Professional Bachelor Programmes). ZIBAT/EASJ

has a strong and profound educational profile based on tradition and best practices. In all programmes internships and an applied learning approach are a mandatory integrated part of the education.

In Denmark, the sector of Business Academies (erhvervsakademier) and University Colleges (professionshøjskoler) is still fairly new, and while the two types of institutions serve respectively the private and public industries, they all share a joined focus on practice-based research and teaching.

Over the past couple of years, institutions in this sector have carried out various projects within the range of practice-based research and teaching. Questions to be covered are e.g. What value does it bring to companies, students and teachers when we base the teaching on real company cases? How can we as an institution facilitate value creation in student/company partnerships? Which challenges does it bring when integrating company cases in the teaching?

Workshop speakers and moderators: Stine Linde Christesen / Anders Ullerup Torpegaard / Jens Laurup Norgaard, ZIBAT/EASJ, research and development department, Denmark

Workshop 9

LEVEL 5 – A CHANGING UK PERSPECTIVE?

This workshop will explore existing and incoming UK frameworks around Level 5 Foundation degrees. It will focus on the use of level descriptors and benchmarking, as well as the new national Foundation degree characteristics statement. The workshop draws on work presented in recent events by the Quality Assurance Agency and SEEC, a national forum for recognising learning through credit.

Workshop speaker and moderator: Helen Corkill, Centre for Academic Partnerships, University of Bedfordshire, Luton, UK

Workshop 10

NEW TOWNS... AND THE NEED FOR LEVEL 5 QUALIFICATIONS

In 1976 the first people moved to Almere, the new town in the reclaimed land of Flevoland. Today, forty years later, almost 200 thousand people live, work and recreate in a spacious green city, only thirty kilometers from Amsterdam.

Hogeschool Windesheim Flevoland provides higher education for the people from Almere. Started 5 years ago, today, our 'hogeschool' has almost 2000 students. The aim is to grow to 5500 students in 2025.

What problems and challenges are there for a new 'hogeschool' in a new city as Almere? We are faced with a particular student population that demands another approach.

Level 5 education may be a solution to meet the goals and targets set for Windesheim Flevoland: contribute to increase the number of higher educated in the city and make the city future-proof.

Structure of the workshop: Presentation, reflection, discussion and need for advice.

Workshop speaker and moderator: Jaap ten Have, Coordinator Associate degree programmes, Windesheim-Flevoland, the Netherlands
