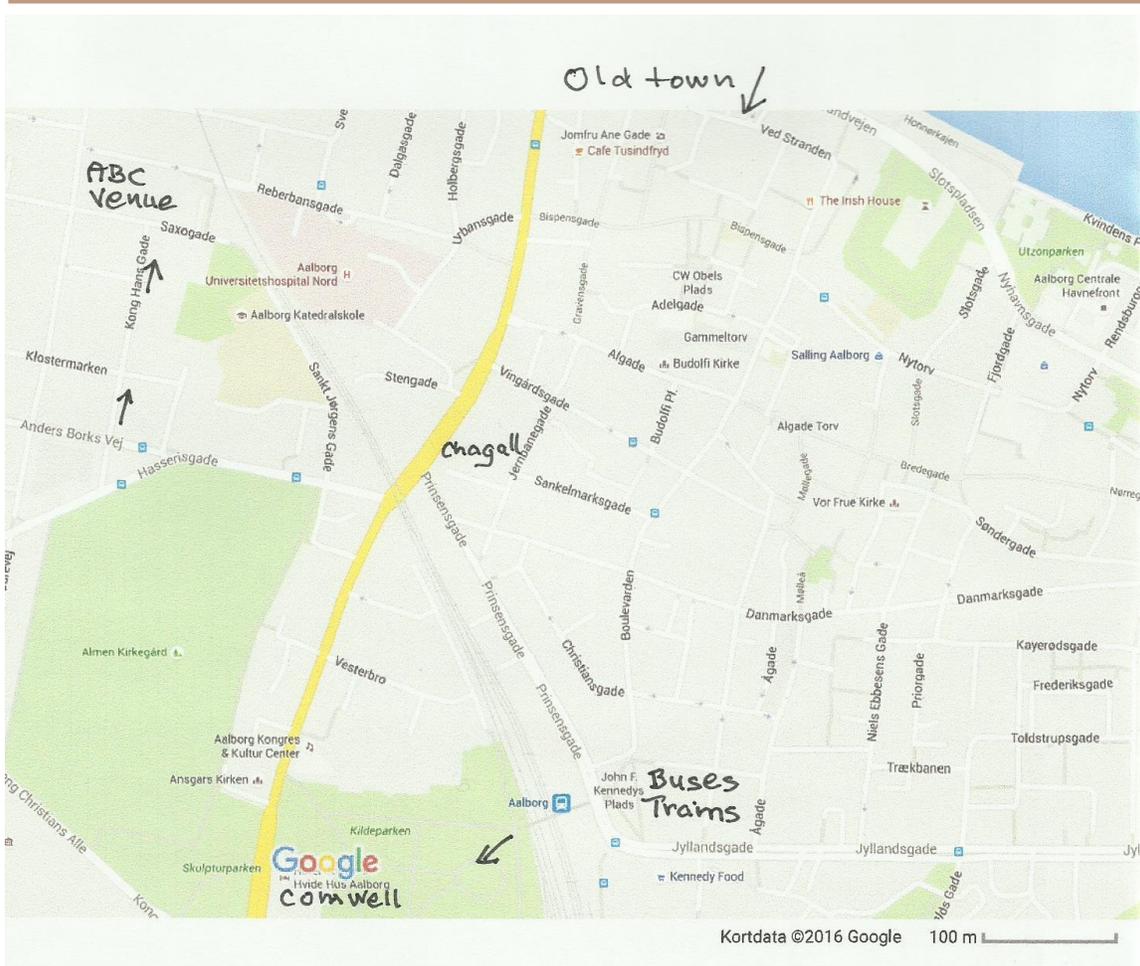


ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
**The identity of EQF level 5**  
BRIDGING THE GAP  
& General Meeting of CHAIN5  
Aalborg, February 25th and 26th 2016



**AALBORG – THE PLACE(S) TO BE...**

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

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### Thursday 25 February

- 12.00 – 13.00 Lunch buffet and registration for the conference
- 13.00 – 13.45 Opening session
- Lasse Frimand Jensen, Aalborg City Councillor
  - Poul Søe Jeppesen, Director, Aalborg Handelsskole
  - Ole Faaborg, member Steering Group CHAIN5
- 13.45 – 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 – 15.00 Plenary discussion, based on this study – questions and answers
- 15.00 – 15.30 Coffee break
- 15.30 – 15.35 Transfer to the workshop rooms
- 15.35 – 16.35 Workshops – round 1 (numbers: 3-4-5)
- 16.35 – 16.45 Short break
- 16.45 – 17.45 Workshops – round 2 (numbers: 2-6-9)
- 19.30 Dinner (optional)

The dinner will be in the conference hotel (Comwell Hvide Hus Hotel).

### Friday 26 February

- 08.30 – 09.00 Registration / coffee
- 09.00 – 09.40 Keynote speech: **CHAIN5 and its role in the level 5 strategy, national and International – and in projects**  
*Hans Daale, Chair Steering Group, CHAIN5*
- 09.40 – 09.50 Transfer to workshop rooms
- 09.50 – 10.50 Workshops – round 3 (numbers 1-7-8)
- 10.50 – 11.20 Coffee break
- 11.20 – 12.15 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?'**  
*Moderators: Nick Davy and Toon Martens, members of the Steering Group*
- 12.15 – 12.30 Closing session
- 13.00 – 14.00 Lunch buffet and wrap-up

## WORKSHOPS

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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

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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. The venue for this meeting is also the Aalborg Business College, Saxogade 10, Aalborg.



### AGENDA

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
17. Closing

### VISITS TOUR ON WEDNESDAY 24<sup>th</sup>

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The programme for the round trip on Wednesday 24 February:

09.00 Pickup from Comwell Hvide Hus (Hotel)  
09.20 International House, Aalborg Centre.  
10.20 Touring Aalborg and city information  
11.20 Visiting UCN Health Dept.  
12.00 Lunch at UCN with Rector and International Director  
13.00 Visit to Aalborg Technical College Ø.  
14.00 Aalborg University Information  
14.30 Transfer to Lindholm Viking site  
15.30 Old City and its institutions  
16.30 End of tour  
Contact person: Dan Ole Faaborg - 0045 93990764

## PRACTICALITIES

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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.

### **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.

## THE WORKSHOPS...

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

Workshop 1

### **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

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## Workshop 2

### **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

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## Workshop 3

### **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

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## Workshop 4

### **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

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## Workshop 5

### **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

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## Workshop 6

### **DIPLOMA OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN FINLAND**

In 2013–2016, JAMK University of Applied Sciences in Finland implemented a pilot project Diploma of Higher Education based on a proposal by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture. Diplomas of Higher Education are structured competence modules that consist of parts of degrees. The modules are open to all, regardless of educational background or previous work experience.

The project investigated the needs of working life for new modules narrower in scope than existing degrees and how they best meet the needs of students with various backgrounds. The task was to build a national model of Diploma of Higher Education, in Finnish "korkeakouludiplomi".

Since 2015, SCHE has been part of the Bologna Process, which increases its importance. Behind international develop lie the same phenomena as in Finland: the aim to increase the proportion of people participating in higher education; to lower the threshold to participation in higher education and to offer a smooth path to supplementing expertise both for people with a tertiary level degree and for people with a lower education.

A competence-based approach; multiform, working life-oriented implementation models and smooth study paths from one educational level to another are Finland's strengths. However, there is no NQF in Finland and this model for this Diploma of HE is actually at level 6/7. Still the purposes and objects are the same as in many other level 5 educations and Chain5.

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

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

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## Workshop 7

### **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

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Workshop 8

### **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

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Workshop 9

### **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. Presentation, reflection, discussion and need for advice.

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

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