



**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**14-15 MARCH 2019**  
**(SOCIAL PROGRAMME ON 13 MARCH)**  
**COMO, ITALY**

***MAKING THE EUROPEAN LEVEL 5 AREA A REALITY***

**YOUR GOOD PRACTICE, PERFECT EXAMPLE, CREATIVE IDEA... TO BE PRESENTED IN  
COMO? CHECK THIS NEWSLETTER**

### **Introduction**

In this newsletter we will further discuss the details of the Annual Conference of CHAIN5 in Como. It will be a very important event, together with the speakers, experts, participants and others who are working on the developments around the European Level 5 Area (EL5A). The growing attention for the qualifications that are part of this, with as most 'famous' qualifications: Short Cycle Higher Education (SCHE) and Higher Vocational Education and Training (HVET), is the reason to start working with specific and tailor-made instruments for the EL5A.

They can be used for creating bridges between 'everything' that is on levels 4 and 6. But also other flexible learning pathways are possible, to give individuals the best chance to make the right choices within 'lifelong learning'. Then we are talking about personal choices for further education, using programmes on level 5, in all shapes and sizes.

Why do you have to be there? Why do we want to have as many people as possible to participate in this conference? Of course, it is important that we, as CHAIN5, want to create a basis for those instruments. But it is also about starting a process in many countries where one is searching for an effective way of using a 'National Level 5 Area'.

It is often a matter of looking for a balance in the involvement of all stakeholders, and the way in which the flexible learning pathways are structurally developed and maintained for a longer period. This is also about paying respect for the position of all institutions, networks, associations and other forms of collaboration in which education, business, politics and other parties find each other.

It means that we will look - having workshops and roundtable sessions - at practical issues, relevant developments and useful examples, to be supportive for the more strategic issues. CHAIN5 is a community of practice for level 5 and that means that adjustments in the design of learning pathways in a national context can be the result of developments in terms of content – and practical approaches. This is also the case because the design of education is always a national issue and responsibility. However, CHAIN5 can offer ideas, guidelines, good examples, experiences in other countries and by a process of pooling of expertise that has been built up internationally.

### **Building on experiences in countries**

So in Como we want to start a process. We would like to try to bring the EL5A more into the center of international attention. Then we can ask all other partners, associations and organizations that deal with level 5, in whatever way, to think and work along with us. This allows more partnerships to arise from 2019 on. The results can also be used again in countries, for their own adjustments. It will also make clear which themes lend themselves to international developments and networks with experts from various countries. CHAIN5 wants to take the lead for this and to use the thematic groups to give the EL5A a transparent and relevant place in the European Education Area.

### **Themes**

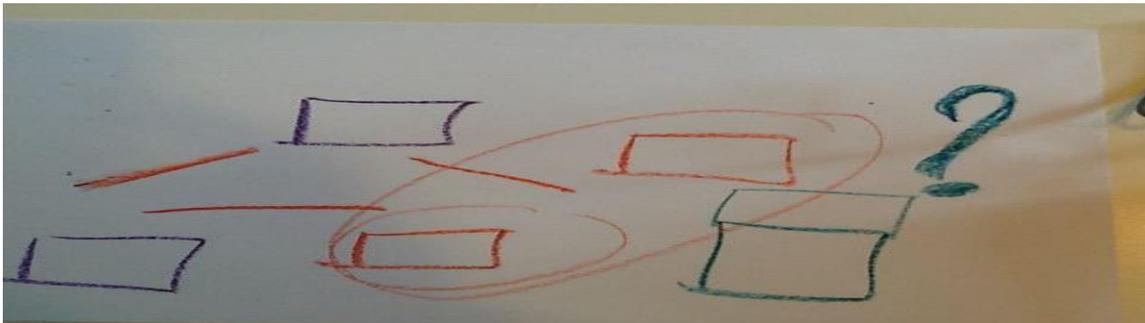
The approach outlined above implies that we will include a number of plenary and more general sessions in Como in the program, to discuss the process and the underlying possibilities for (the future) of level 5. We would like to have members of CHAIN5 and others to contribute to this, with the use of practical workshops and round-table discussions.

At the end of the conference we want to can decide what themes we will keep working on. But if we look back in time, the first five years of our community, we can at least think of the following ones:

- Level 5 and work-based learning
- Level 5 and the pressure up for having more education at a higher level
- Level 5 and permeability between VET and HE
- Level 5 and the role of (the management of) 'level 5 colleges'
- Level 5 and quality assurance by using qualifications for flexible learning pathways
- Level 5 and the role of employers in the provision of programmes
- Level 5 and 'lifelong learning'
- Level 5 and international qualifications
- Level 5 and 'Business Academies'.

And there is also a possibility to have a list of sub-themes:

- Clarity in the distinction between providers, qualifications and design (think of HVET and SCHE, and business diploma and qualifications for work-related training)
- System for linking learning outcomes, study units and credits at level 5
- Designing of training programmes based on various forms for Work-Based Learning
- Cooperation between institutions at levels 4, 5 and 6
- Cooperation with the (regional) world of work
- Role of the government when using level 5 for a LLL approach
- Management, leadership and quality assurance
- Role of the National Qualifications Framework (and non-formal qualifications).



### **Website and our Community**

We will also have a session for those who are interested in joining a CHAIN5 working group for this after the conference about:

*Starting an online community on level 5. Explore possibilities in involving the community via an online platform.*

### Call for workshops and round-table sessions

As has been mentioned above, it is important to learn more about what is going on in Europe and its member states around level 5 for those themes and the sub-themes to be linked to them – or perhaps a theme not mentioned yet. In that case, we are looking for good examples, experiences with level 5 courses and descriptions of developments or outcomes of recent projects. But it is also important to learn about important 'thresholds' for the further introduction of study programmes and qualifications in a National Level 5 Area.

We therefore call on everyone to come up with a proposal for a workshop (with a larger group) or a session in a small group with colleagues from other countries, who have indicated that they want to hear more about that subject.

#### Principles

We think that it is good, in view of the aims of this Annual Conference, if you can use one or more of the following principles for a workshop or session:

- Recent practical example when it comes to the use of qualifications at level 5 of the EQF.
- It is demonstrable that the experiences with the subject can also be used in other countries and other circumstances.
- Delivering a contribution to the relevance of qualifications at level 5 when it comes to using flexible learning pathways.
- Relevance for the approach to lifelong learning processes and the possibilities for achieving a structural level of commitment.
- Involvement of parties and organizations outside of education.

And more in general:

- Show us that the theme of the session can contribute to an improvement of the European Level 5 Area as a whole.

- **FLEXIBLE LEARNING PATHWAYS**
- **SCENARIOS FOR LIFELONG LEARNING**
- **MORE POSSIBILITIES FOR WORK-BASED LEARNING**
- **COOPERATION BETWEEN THE VET AND HE SECTORS**

**A DYNAMIC PROCESS ON THE WAY**

#### Practical information

1. The dates for the conference itself:  
Thursday 14 March: lunch + 1.30pm till 5.30pm + dinner in the center of Como  
Friday 15 March: 9am till 3pm incl. lunch  
*In the next newsletter (planned for the first half of November) we will give you more details of the programme.*
2. General Assembly of CHAIN5: Thursday 14 March: morning – 10:30am till 12am
3. Venue: Premises of Cometa, Como, Italy - website of Cometa: [www.puntocometa.org](http://www.puntocometa.org)  
Google Maps:  
<https://www.google.nl/maps/place/Associazione+Cometa/@45.7906606,9.0780098,14z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x47869c2211b0a0c3:0x75cdc891dbba46e9!8m2!3d45.7906602!4d9.0955193>



4. There are enough hotels and apartments in Como, near Cometa and in the centre. We will make arrangements with hotels. But of course participants can also book a room themselves by using [booking.com](http://booking.com) or other websites.
5. Social programme:
  - Wednesday 13 March – 10am till 5pm
  - Visits tot Level 5 colleges and cultural activity + lunch
  - Meetings with management and staff members
6. Costs for you (excl. VAT):
  - Conference fee: 175 euro
  - Dinner incl. drinks: 45 euro
  - Social programme: 40 euro
7. Transport
  - The best way to come to Como is to fly to one of the airports of Milan
  - From there there is public transport to Como
  - In the next newsletter we will provide more information about this.

### How to register...

#### Interested?

If you are interested in participating in the Annual Conference, you can now register for this event. Our advice is not to wait too long, and then also take action to arrange the trip and a hotel or apartment in Como.

#### Participation:

If you would like to have a say in the developments surrounding the EL5A and to give your opinion, experiences and proposals, please send an e-mail to [info@leido.nl](mailto:info@leido.nl) with the following information:

- Name
- Organisation
- Position
- E-mail address
- Participation in the social programme (13 March): yes / no
- Dinner: yes / no (if yes, indicate if you have special dietary requirements).

#### Proposing a workshop or session:

And if you would like to contribute to the conference through a presentation, a workshop or a session in a small group, you can supplement the e-mail for the registration with:

- Topic
- Format (presentation, workshop, round-table session)
- Relationship with developments around level 5
- Aspects that lend themselves to further discussions at an international level.

