

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**14-15 MARCH 2019**  
(PRE-CONFERENCE ON 13 MARCH)  
COMO, ITALY

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

**Programme & Practical Issues & Workshops**

**Introduction**

Just 4 weeks to go, having our Annual Conference in Como, Italy. At the moment 80 people from 14 countries have registered for the event, to talk about the future of level 5 of the EQF, and all those types of qualifications that are linked to the corresponding level a national framework. Being offered by all kind of institutions, academies and other legal entities involved in formal and non-formal education.

In this newsletter the update of the programme, the practicalities and the first list of the 12 workshops for the Thursday afternoon (knowing that the sessions on Friday morning will be based on the outcomes of those workshops, emphasising the interactive character of the conference).

Please read the information carefully. Having questions, send them to [daale@chain5.net](mailto:daale@chain5.net).

See you in Como.

The Board of CHAIN5

**Programme**

***Pre-conference programme 13 March***

- Wednesday 13 March – from 10:00 till 16:30
- Visiting Level 5 College in the Como region
- Cultural activity in the afternoon
- Including coffee breaks and lunch
- By bus from the premises of Cometa, and then there will be pick-up places in Como:  
*See also at 'practicalities'!*

***Thursday morning 14 March***

10:00 – 11:30 Meeting of the Executive Committee of CHAIN5 (and members to be invited)

***Thursday afternoon 14 March***

- 12:00 – 13:00 Lunch buffet + registration (already possible from 11.00)
- 13:00 – 13:25 Opening session – welcome
- 13:25 – 13:55 Keynote – The Future of the European Level 5 Area & the role of CHAIN5  
*Hans Daale, CHAIN5*
- 13:55 – 14:10 Introduction of the set-up of the conference, the workshops and the sessions  
*Marije Markus, CHAIN5*
- 14:10 – 14:25 Short pitches about national challenges, looking at the National Level 5 Area
- 14:25 – 14:45 Coffee break

14:45 – 17:00 Sessions  
17:00 – 17:15 Cometa and its role in the community  
*Students of Cometa*  
17:30 Bus to Como  
19:30 – 22:30 Dinner in Como, Teatro Sociale

### **Friday 15 March**

08:15 – 09:00 Registration  
09:00 – 09:10 Introduction of day 2  
09:10 – 09:45 Keynote – Level 5 and the world of work  
*Alex Keys, QQI, Ireland*  
09:45 – 09:50 Information the sessions – the aims...  
09:50 – 10:40 Sessions  
10:40 – 11:10 Coffee break  
11:10 – 12:00 Sessions  
12:00 – 12:30 Keynote: Level 5 in Europe, seen from the European perspective  
*Kinga Szebeni, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (European Commission)*  
12:30 – 13:20 Lunch buffet  
13.20 – 14:00 Plenary session – identifying the most relevant themes for the EL5A – and for CHAIN5  
14:00 – 14:30 Closing of the conference – announcement of the next events (Annual Conference in 2020 and a thematic seminar in December 2019)

'After session':  
14:45 – 15:30 Session with participants interested in taking part in the thematic teams – presentation of a work-programme – and a follow-up for the team-leaders...  
16:00 Bus to Airport Milan Malpensa

## **Practicalities**

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### **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>

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### **Dinner**

The dinner on Thursday evening will in Teatro Sociale, in the centre of Como.

<https://www.google.nl/maps/place/Teatro+Sociale/@45.8116736,9.0825408,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x47869db57b95311b:0xc3af9417830e66b3!8m2!3d45.8116736!4d9.0847295>

- ✓ The dinner starts at 19:30, but be there on time for the 'cultural part' of this creative activity.
- ✓ For those who are not staying in the centre of Como, and not having a car... please let us know that before the conference, and we can see how to help you (we have some cars available).

In the first newsletters it was said that we would have it in the Palace Hotel, but it will be better to use this 'teatro'.

For those who are staying in the Palace Hotel: it is just a 5 minutes walk to Teatro Sociale:

<https://www.google.nl/maps/dir/Teatro+Sociale,+Via+Vincenzo+Bellini,+Como,+Itali%C3%AB/Palace+Hotel,+Lungo+Lario+Trieste,+16,+22100+Como+CO,+Itali%C3%AB/@45.8127344,9.0812625,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m14!4m13!1m5!1m1!1s0x47869db57b95311b:0xc3af9417830e66b3!2m2!1d9.0847295!2d45.8116736!1m5!1m1!1s0x47869db432bc1aed:0x66a67c413cf6e70e!2m2!1d9.0826849!2d45.8138081!3e2>

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### **Programme in Wednesday**

The bus is leaving from Cometa at 9:45.

There will be two pick-up places in Como:

- 10:00: (to be confirmed)
- 10:15: Piazza Cavour (bus-stop)

At the end of the programme the bus will bring the participants back to Como, having the same stops as in the morning.

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### **Transport during the conference**

During the conference we take care of transport on a number of occasions, with a bus between the premises of Cometa and the center of Como (near the lake)

- Thursday, at the end of the afternoon, from Cometa to the centre:
  - 17:30 departure from Cometa
  - Two stops in Como: (to be confirmed) and Piazza Cavour
- Friday, in the morning from the centre to Cometa
  - 08:00 departure from Piazza Cavour (bus stop there)
  - 08:10 pick-up at (to be confirmed - estimated time)
  - 08:30 arrival at Cometa (estimated time)

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### **Bus from Cometa to Milan Malpensa**

There will be bus for Airport Milan Malpensa, leaving at 16:00 (sharp) from Cometa. It will take about 50 till 60 minutes to get there.

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### **How to travel from Como centre to the premises of Cometa, using public transport**

Address of [conference venue](#):

Cometa Formazione,  
Via Madruzzo, 36  
22100 Como

How to get from Como city centre to the conference venue:

Walk to [Piazza Cavour](#)

[Take bus n.6 or n.11](#): busses leave every 15 minutes

The journey takes about 15 minutes.

Get off at the bus stop "[Madruzzo 36](#)" just in front of Cometa.

Ticket prices:

€ 1,30 in a "[tabaccaio](#)"

€ 2,50 directly on the bus

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### **Parking at Cometa**

If you are using a car during the conference, please let us know. There are a few parking spaces available at Cometa, so we can make a reservation for you.

## **Workshops**

### **In general**

On the Thursday afternoon, two rounds are planned, with 6 workshops each. In view of the number of people attending the conference, we assume a maximum of 16 participants per workshop.

At the reception desk in Cometa you will find lists for the workshops on which you can fill in your name. The request is, if you are with a group, to divide as well as possible about the groups the workshops so that the learning effect is as great as possible.

## **Aim**

In addition to giving information and providing insight into the experiences that have been gained, it is important to discover with each other which themes are important for CHAIN5 as a community of practice for level 5 qualifications. They can be themes that can be specifically addressed by those who are involved in the daily practice of designing and offering such qualifications within institutions and organizations. This involves the involvement of teachers, trainers, students, coordinators and other experts involved in level 5.

But there are also themes that explicitly play a role at the level of the institutions as a whole, for example when it comes to the positioning of the level 5 providers - both nationally and internationally. Sharing experiences across national borders can improve the role of an institution within the national system, or lead to other forms of offering level 5 programmes.

Finally, we can also see which themes can be named when it comes to cooperation between national (and regional) networks for level 5 providers and their stakeholders. This can focus on changes at the international level, usable in a country, and subsequently also by institutions. It can concern matters that play a part in the ability to do projects, the exchange of students, teachers and trainers and the coordination of the national systems with each other in order to have a clear understanding of what cooperation is possible.

During the workshops on Thursday, we will discuss themes from the perspective of various countries. That can make it clear which issues for CHAIN5 are possible to deal with, having after the conference a number of thematic working groups.

It is therefore up to the participants to consider whether these issues also play a role in their own institution, in their national network or in an international context.

On Friday, the outcomes of the workshops will be analyzed in this way. The participants can come up with proposals for themes and to follow developments around level 5.

Thematic groups will then be set up for this, and those interested in joining such a group can exchange ideas with the CHAIN5 Board after the formal closing session on Friday.

The above therefore gives the main features of the interactive nature of the conference. Your input is of great importance in order to gain insight into the themes for CHAIN5.

Below we give the current status of the workshop, with information about the subject that will be discussed. In the newsletter from the beginning of March there will be another update to facilitate the choice of your side as well as possible.

## **Round 1**

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### ***Workshop 1.1***

Herman den Heeten  
ProcessCoach  
The Netherlands

#### *Pathways, a road to student success?*

The Pathways Model\* is an integrated, institution-wide approach to student success based on intentionally designed, clear, coherent and structured educational experiences, informed by available evidence, that guide each student effectively and efficiently from her/his point of entry through to attainment of high-quality postsecondary credentials and careers with value in the labor market. Central to the pathways model are clear, educationally coherent program maps - which include specific course sequences, progress milestones, and program learning outcomes - that are aligned to what will be expected of students upon program completion in the workforce and in education at the next level in a given field.

In this workshop we will discuss about the diversity in the European field and the capacities which are essential for motivating and supporting higher education institutions and systems to undertake the broadscale institutional reforms involved in implementing guided pathways effectively and at

scale. We also look into four dimensions of the Pathways Model, together with essential practices under each.

\*American Association Community College Pathway Project

### **Workshop 1.2**

Knut Erik Beyer-Arnesen  
Norway  
Abelia

*The Norwegian Compency reform (in the making) and the role of Higher Vocational Colleges*

- Higher Vocational Education has publicly been given a major role by the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Education
- Progress
- But pilots are already taking place

### **Workshop 1.3**

Carine Aalbers / Altine Bolte  
The Netherlands  
Hogeschool Windesheim  
Senior Lecturer / Project manager

*Work-placed learning in the practice of social work & health care, facing the challenges of how to improve collaboration to improve quality of both field of practice and education*

An overview of the diverse types of education in the level 5 area at Windesheim and how we collaborate with the field of practice, in learning, assessments and developments. the following challenges will be discussed

- integrative assessments
- learning on the job
- coaching of supervisors of our students in the organization
- creating the best learning context
- etc.

### **Workshop 1.4**

Lina Vaitkute  
Lithuania  
Head of Qualifications Formation Unit  
Qualifications and VET Development Centre

*Non-formal qualifications*

The workshop will address the issues of including non-formal qualifications offered by employers' organizations, branch organizations, professional associations and business training centres / academies into the national qualifications. These non-formal qualifications are aimed at flexible and fast education of employees. The topics discussed in the workshop: demands, benefits and possible ways of linking non-formal qualifications and national qualifications frameworks, cooperation and governance, quality assurance requirements and etc.

### **Workshop 1.5**

Nina Spithorst  
The Netherlands  
Program Manager Associate degrees  
NHL Stenden

*Internationalization at level 5*

We define and redefine what internationalization is or could be.

Many of us believe that internationalization should be integrated in all parts of the curriculum and feel that our students should experience and be aware of how people in other parts of the world

live, work and do business. To actually connect and interact with people from other cultures or countries can have big impact on students. Level 5 providers more and more seem to feel they can play an important role in fostering an environment in which students learn to adopt a more international outlook and develop a sense of awareness. And there already are great initiatives like adding international components to existing courses or even offering some of our students the opportunity to do all or parts of their programs abroad. For NHL Stenden students in Level 5 (Associate degree students) these initiatives are not always as available or accessible for level 5 students as we would like them to be. NHL Stenden has started a design process to develop opportunities for Associate degree (level 5) students specifically focused on their context, needs and possible benefits.

In this workshop a possible outline is presented for internationalization opportunities in level 5 programs, and we can start to explore how co-operation between level 5 providers might support the process of opening up internationalization for level 5 students.

### **Workshop 1.6**

Marije Markus  
The Netherlands  
Samara Consultancy  
Vice-President CHAIN5

#### *Level 5: translation to Dutch context of HE*

In this workshop we will discuss the description of level 5 customized for the Dutch educational system.

## **Round 2**

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### **Workshop 2.1**

Erik Swars  
Switzerland  
Head of International Affairs  
SFIVET - Swiss Federal institute for VET

#### *VPET 2030 - Shaping vocational education and training in Switzerland*

Addresses the vision of VPET 2030 in Switzerland: The main challenges, success factors and activities around level 5.

### **Workshop 2.2**

Eric Aldewereld  
The Netherlands  
Independent Consultant

#### *Development of programmes in co-creation with employers*

The workshop emphasizes on ways to co-create educational programmes with employers. The workshop enlightens all phases of programme development and the possibilities to involve employers on different ways.

### **Workshop 2.3**

Annelise Kionig – Director at the Kristiana Professional College  
Knut Erik Beyer-Arnesen - Abelia  
Norway

#### *Update of the reform of Higher Vocational Education in Norway*

- New law for Higher Vocational Education as of June 2018
- Option for 3 year programs under certain conditions
- Revision of NQF - Will certain 2-year programs and 3-year programs be defined as level 6?
- Internationalization
- Measures to enhance quality - NOKUT and Diku

### **Workshop 2.4**

Jaap ten Have  
The Netherlands  
Hogeschool Windesheim-Flevoland  
Chairman Dutch National Platform level 5

#### *Cooperation between institutions of higher education in promoting level 5 education*

In the Netherlands 25 institutions of higher education have founded a platform to enable cooperation in level 5 education. During this workshop I will address major topics in cooperation and what challenges we encounter.

### **Workshop 2.5**

Alan Hogan  
Ireland  
Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board  
Quality Assurance Officer

#### *Work Place Assessments for Apprenticeships*

Background Presentation to Apprenticeships in Ireland – Development of National Apprenticeships in Ireland (Expansion of apprenticeship system, key features, partners and stakeholders, development and validation process, progress to date)

Round Table discussion, to include topics such as:

- Design of work place assessments – currently new apprenticeships have assessments designed nationally by National Examinations Board which includes teachers and industry representatives. What are the EU practices?
- Assessing – does the workplace mentor assess as well as mentor? Both approaches are currently in practice with the new apprenticeships in Ireland. What are the EU practices?
- Pass/Fail vs grading of work place assessment – what are examples of good practice within the EU?
- Should we encourage apprentices to develop their own assessment tasks, which are then approved by tutors?
- What support and guidance is given to employers for their involvement in assessment?
- Identifying an appropriate balance between methods of assessment – finalizing the most appropriate assessment strategy for WBL
- Should we increase the involvement of employers in the assessment process, including formative assessment and the setting and development of assignments?

### **Workshop 2.6**

Jolanda v.d. Kastele  
Esther Gielen  
Heleen Hoens  
Ad college Roosendaal (Regional Associate College)  
The Netherlands

*The role of a College for Level 5 in a region, for VET students and the labour market, and the vision on the position of the Dutch Associate degree in the Dutch education system.*