

**AFTER THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN COMO...  
and now  
FURTHER ON OUR WAY AS COMMUNITY...**



**TALLINN - ESTONIA  
Tallinn School of Economics  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020  
11-12-13 MARCH**

**Introduction**

The Annual Conference of 2019 in Como, 14-15 March, has been a big success. Almost 90 people from 14 countries of our CHAIN5 community joined us in Italy and enjoyed the warm hospitality of Cometa and IATH.

On Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup>, 55 of them participated in the social programme, learning more about the role of the Higher Vocational Institutes in Italy, and getting an inside view of ComoNext, an innovation centre, being very important for the region.

On Thursday and Friday the programme has been very interactive, having a lot of workshops and sessions, combined with inspiring key-notes about specific issues. Based on this we are able to go on with a number of interesting themes for our community of practice...

In this newsletter you will find more information about the outcomes of the conference.

**Next Annual Conference**

With the general agreement of those present in Como, it was decided to accept the offer from the Tallinn School of Economics to organize the next annual conference in its hometown in Estonia. The conference itself takes place on Thursday 12 and Friday 13 March 2020 on the campus of the Tallinn School of Economics (TMK - [http://www.tmk.edu.ee/?id\\_lang=2](http://www.tmk.edu.ee/?id_lang=2)).

As you are used to from us as CHAIN5, the conference is preceded by a 'social program'. For this, TMK will examine which activities provide insight into the role that the School plays in the region, together with other partners and organisations.

After the summer holidays we will provide further information about the Annual Conference. It also will indicate how the working groups set up in Como provide workshops in Tallinn for a number of themes. But then there will be also messages about how a contribution can be made in other ways, in line with our working method as a community of practice.

So at least keep the dates in your diary. And make sure that this week is included in your planning in such a way that you and all other colleagues can continue to work on practical issues related to 'the level 5 area'.

### **Photos, presentations Como**

If you couldn't be there in Como, then of course there are still the images of the different days and activities. You can see in which impressive room of the Teatro Sociale the dinner prepared by the students of the IATH could be enjoyed. And there were also students involved in the 'guided challenge tour' on Friday afternoon, to get to know Como better. But also the social program on Wednesday turned out to have all kinds of surprises in store for the participants, to notice how the regional business community is explicitly involved in the design of education, within an Istituto Technico Superiore, based on a dual system and also offered at level 5.

- Photos are stored at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/6cf5gPXcN3DiEegUA>

There were several plenary presentations during the conference, about: the target groups of CHAIN5 including a proposal for a general international framework for all qualifications at levels 5 and higher, how about guaranteeing the quality of apprenticeships in Ireland, the European level policy for VET and the current cooperation on VET level 5 in Italy.

But there were also 12 workshops on all kinds of themes that will be elaborated for CHAIN5 in the coming years by thematic working groups (see below). It is certainly interesting to take note of what was discussed in the workshops.

- The presentations, plenary and in the workshops, can be found at [www.chain5.net/activities](http://www.chain5.net/activities)

### **LinkedIn CHAIN5**

We started in Como with having our own group as CHAIN5 on LinkedIn. It thus gives the opportunity to share experiences, provide information on all kinds of national and international developments and to see with which experts in other countries you can exchange ideas.

- The LinkedIn group CHAIN5 <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8254550/>

Please follow the link and send a request to be part of this group. And of course your colleagues can also be part of the community... And if they to want to be a member of CHAIN5 (no membership fee...), they can send an e-mail to [info@chain5.net](mailto:info@chain5.net) with: name, organization, position.

### **Thematic Working Groups**

In Como we have been able to start already with six working groups, as result of the workshops and the sessions. Each group is going to work on a specific theme and will present the outcomes, ideas and plans during the next year's conference in Tallinn.

Below you will find an overview of these groups, with the relevant theme and the names of those who have indicated to act as the chair. The e-mail address of him or her is given, so that questions, comments and suggestions can be passed on through him or her.

If you want to join one of the working groups, please feel free to contact the chair of the group. He or she can you tell also more about the theme, and the first agreements that have been made about the next activities and the way of communicating with each other (but in the next newsletter we will provide also more information about those themes).

1. **Internationalization for level 5**  
Nina Spithost - [nina.spithost@stenden.com](mailto:nina.spithost@stenden.com)

2. **Non-formal and formal education - and Learning Pathways**  
Herman den Heeten - [processcoach@live.com](mailto:processcoach@live.com)
3. **The role of the workplace in level 5 qualifications (work-based and dual education)**  
Eric Aldewereld (co-chair: Mariette Muris) - [eric@ericaldewereld.nl](mailto:eric@ericaldewereld.nl)
4. **Re-structuring and re-defining level 5  
(based on Estonia, and then looking at other national situations)**  
Triin Laasi - [Triin.laasi@tmk.edu.ee](mailto:Triin.laasi@tmk.edu.ee)
5. **Exchange of students – exploring the needs for a joint design of curricula, using learning outcomes**  
Tom Vervuren - [a.c.p.vervuren@hr.nl](mailto:a.c.p.vervuren@hr.nl) (co-chair: Peter Callens)
6. **National Platforms for level 5 - and international cooperation on specific issues**  
Hans Daale - [daale@chain5.net](mailto:daale@chain5.net)

Perhaps if you were not able to be in Como and read this list, you may have a proposal for another theme that can be raised in an international context within CHAIN5. This is possible with a new working group, but perhaps it is also possible to pay specific attention to this at the next annual conference. You can then provide a workshop on the theme.

### Other events CHAIN5

1

#### **Conference in Malta**

There will be a conference in Malta on 9-10 December 2019 (starting on the 8<sup>th</sup> in the evening) on the connection between the overall system for more vocational and professional oriented education at the higher levels of the EQF – like Higher VET - and the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). This can be relevant for national systems, to discuss progression routes and permeability between these sectors.

The conference will be organized by EfVET ([www.efvet.org](http://www.efvet.org)) and CHAIN5, and hosted by MCAST in Malta. The Ministry for Education and Employability will also be involved.

2

#### **Annual Conference WFCP**

Just a long time to go, but in October 2020 the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics (WFCP) will have its two-annual conference. It will take place in San Sebastian, Basque Country. CHAIN5 has been asked to be a co-organiser.

This event will give us the opportunity to share our themes and thoughts about level 5 in Europe with organisations in other parts of the world (see: [www.wfcp.org](http://www.wfcp.org)).

In the next general newsletters we will inform you about these and also other events (we have big plans) and how to participate in them – and in what way you can make a contribution.

### Other events of partners

1

#### **EfVET**

The next annual conference of EfVET will be held in Portugal from 22 to 25 October 2019. More information about this on the website of EfVET itself: [www.efvet.org](http://www.efvet.org). But some information can also be found in the article at the end of this newsletter (report of our conference, as published on that website).

2

#### **EAN – European Access Network**

During the annual conference of the EAN one of the topics that will be discussed, is the role of level 5 for having better opportunities for students (youngsters, adult learners, workers), getting a formal diploma in higher education. Aspects of this topic that can be highlighted are: permeability between the levels 4, 5 and 6, national policy concerning level 5, role of HEIs, dual learning, and the need for more attention for offering level 5 qualifications for specific target groups.

*EAN 2019 annual conference: Drivers for change: policy and practice*  
28-30 October 2019 - Ghent – Belgium

The EAN 2019 Annual Conference encourages better policy making and improves best practices through the sharing of ideas and knowledge and by connecting policy makers, researchers, experts and practitioners. The general theme of this year, Drivers for change: policy and practices, consists of three tracks:

1. Foundations for policy  
In this track, EAN 2019 collects examples of policies and building blocks for policy makers. Things that come to mind are institutional or national framework, policy supportive materials and research on shaping and moulding your organizational structure and culture.
2. Inspiring practices for the future  
EAN 2019 offers a floor to good examples from the field. Based on the topic, the conference will group presentations.
3. Policy in practice  
Together with other professionals, look at the interaction between practice and policy. What came first in your institution? How was policy shaped or what good practice was based on policy?  
Presenters are invited to discuss both during their presentation, preferably with attention on how they interact.

More information: <https://sites.arteveldehogeschool.be/ean2019/theme-and-programme>

### **More issues and topics – and seminars, workshops... - in general**

We are more than interested in issues or topics you'd be interested in. Do you have any suggestions for keynotes, workshops and so on for a specific seminar? Such an event can be organized by CHAIN5 in consultation with your organization or institution.

But you may have plans to hold a seminar in your institution, region or country on what is going on around the level 5 area and that it is interesting to make a contribution from CHAIN5. We can then consider how to implement this.

This can also emphasize the character of CHAIN5 as a community of practice, by using the networks that exist within CHAIN5.

If you would like to discuss this further with the CHAIN5 Board, send an e-mail with information about this to [info@chain5.net](mailto:info@chain5.net). Give also a brief explanation, possibly with suggestions for how to take action (and perhaps your own role in this...). And then we will come back to you a.s.a.p.

### **From the website of EfVET: A report about the CHAIN5 conference... and plans for joining forces**

Here the article that was published on the website of EfVET about our conference in Como:  
<https://www.efvet.org/2019/03/18/chain5-and-efvet-are-joining-forces-to-strengthen-european-vet/>

“EfVET President attended the 6th Annual Conference of Chain 5 on “Making the European level 5 area a reality”, which was held at the premises of Cometa Formazione in Como Italy. EfVET President Joachim James Calleja closed the conference by stressing the importance of join forces to support European VET and ensure that the sector receives adequate resourcing at European and national levels.

Chaired by **Hans Daale**, President of **Chain5**, the conference focused on *Making the European 5 Area a Reality*. A number of workshop sessions fed into two plenary sessions in which over ninety participants could exchange views on the future of the Level 5 qualification. Hans Daale opened the conference with a presentation on the future of the European Level 5 Area and the role of CHAIN5.

Alex Keys from QQI Ireland spoke about quality assurance of qualifications in relation to the world of work while the President of the Istituti Tecnici Superiori (ITS) of Italy and General Manager of

COMETA, EfVET Member, Alessandro Mele delivered an overview of the support ITS give to VET students across the Italian territory and in particular the importance of work-based learning in industry.



Kinga Szebeni from DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission spoke about the Level 5 qualification from a European perspective and in particular from studies and initiatives were undertaken by the European Commission over the past years.

In his closing speech, the **President of EfVET** spoke about the need to synergize the capacity that both CHAIN5 and EfVET members have with regards to their hands-on experience in vocational education and training. Practitioners and training providers are in pole position to influence VET policy not only at regional and national levels but also at the European level.

“Talking about VET and doing VET is not the same”, **Professor Calleja** reiterated. The first is much easier to express than the second.

*“An excellent example of factual VET is the Association COMETA where principles of work-based learning are put into practice on a day-to-day basis...where empathy and support are embedded in all learning relationships... the time is ripe to empower practitioners and training providers to join forces and speak loudly about the need to raise the political and institutional profile of VET across Europe... time is moving fast and lost generations will never be recovered again unless we empower young generations with collective values and the skills and competences needed to live independently” the President of EfVET said.*



Vocational qualifications today are in greater demand than in the past. These range from the lower levels of qualifications frameworks to higher education and the momentum to increase higher VET is clear evidence that the labour market in many countries is valuing VET qualifications much more than before.

For this purpose, EfVET President invited CHAIN5 participants to take part in a conference which will be held in Malta on 9-10 December 2019 jointly organised by CHAIN5, EfVET, the Maltese Ministry of Education and Employment and MCAST on Level 5 qualifications as agents of change in VET and the Labour Market.

Similarly, he invited CHAIN5 participants to join EfVET members at the Annual EfVET Conference in Portugal on 22-25 October to discuss *Robots, Human Capital and Digital Learning – Managing Transition and inclusion*. The two events will bring together a very blend of practitioners and training providers to forge “a more realistic roadmap that European VET should take to ensure that learners acquire qualifications which are relevant to today’s and tomorrow’s labour market... VET reform systems should pick up speed and respond to technological changes in a more forceful and focused manner than today” Professor Calleja concluded.”