

Conference 2017 Special Newsletter

7 December 2016

*4th Chain5 Annual Conference in Bled (Slovenia)
8 + 9/10 March 2017*

**Conference theme:
*Building Bridges and Opening Doors***



Attend the premier event in Europe for EQF Level 5 Qualification Practitioners and Policy Makers:

- Meet colleagues working in the same domain to exchange knowledge and practice
- Enhance your understanding of the European Commission and CEDEFOP's Level 5/HVET policy direction
- Opportunities to develop partnerships for project bid proposal
- Influence the work of the Chain5 Community
- And a complementary social programme in one of Europe's most beautiful inland resorts

[See later in this newsletter for full details and registration]

What you will find in this newsletter

1. A contextual note and the work of the Chain5 Community, including the community's draft Position Paper
2. A list of workshops to-date, based on input from the Steering Group and community members participating in the conference
3. Sub-themes for the conference and *advice on workshop or presentation submission*
4. The social programme on Wednesday 8 March including visits to Colleges and a guided tour of Bled
5. Information about the Hotel
6. Practical Information and
7. The detailed programme.

Our main theme: an ambitious challenge

The annual conference in Bled has a very ambitious theme: to discuss the development and role of level 5 qualifications in different countries and their relationship with other parts of tertiary education systems such as academic HE, professional HE, apprenticeships and the unregulated and informal sectors.

This is a challenge for all providers and policy makers, and arguably there is a need to build bridges between these sectors through formal agreements and improved mutual understanding to meet the tertiary education needs of all learners.

For example, using qualification frameworks, credit transfer schemes, recognition of prior learning and bridging courses to allow learners to climb and scaffold around the tertiary education system without undue barriers and restrictions.

It is only by creating this type of system, aligned with other investment and reform measures, that youth unemployment can be tackled and a fairer and more tolerant Europe re-formed.

The EU 'modernisation of higher education' agenda rightly asks providers programme formation to take more account of labour markets, the world of work, work-based learning and developing better employability skills for graduates; and for barriers between the traditional sectors to become transparent and permeable.

And it will be providers and practitioners who will have the role of implementing these changes.

In Bled we will discuss these and associated issues with participants in plenary sessions and several of the workshops.

In the meantime: read below recent comments from James Calleja, Cedefop Director at the *40th anniversary conference of the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence on 28 October*.

Higher VET parallel to HE?

"Higher vocational education and training (VET) and university degrees are parallel universes that can be enriched by greater cooperation and convergence."

Addressing a roundtable session on higher education and European integration, he added that *'it is perhaps the right time to advocate for a European University College that creates synergy between the Bologna and the Copenhagen processes.'*

According to Mr Calleja, statistical data from international and global reports illustrate that we live in times where mismatching, surplus of skills, lack of behavioural skills and automation are changing the ways in which higher education institutions are expected to prepare young and adult learners for the world of work: *"The labour market is increasingly becoming challenging, demanding, unpredictable and skill-intensive"*.

And see Chain5's draft Position Paper to be discussed and confirmed at the conference.



Workshops

Draft list of workshops to-date:

- The role of the Government in developing a formal level 5 qualification in the national higher education area: the Dutch practice
- Co-makingships for level 5 qualifications
- Associate degree practice trainer in TVET: the missing link in teaching staff
- The level 5 area: a whole range of qualifications – the solution for bridges and doors
- How to increase organizational learning at SCHE institutions
- The European Agenda for HVET
- Work-based learning from level 4 to level 5: the first results of a European project
- The Norwegian white paper proposing a major reform for Vocational Colleges on a tertiary level
- The BeeHives Project – Enhancing employer involvement in accreditation, validation and curriculum development.

It is not necessary to pre-register for the workshops; you may make your choice during the conference.

Subthemes and other workshops

The main theme of the Annual Conference is 'Building Bridges and Opening Doors', using level 5 qualifications for more flexible learning pathways, crossing sectors and connecting stakeholders.

We have defined five conference subthemes, to be used for the workshops. They illustrate what has to be done in practice to reach the goals behind the main theme.

- A: Creating flexible professional development for level 5 programmes
- B: Supporting successful progression at all levels
- C: Successful employer engagement
- D: Cooperating with your suppliers of talent
- E: Opening doors to increase quality.

If you want to contribute to the conference by proposing a workshop or presentation please submit abstracts by the 19 January via info@leido.nl using the following format:

- Title of your contribution
- Conference sub-theme of most relevance
- Name(s) and institutional affiliation(s) of presenters/authors
- Type of input (presentation or workshop)
- Short description of the contribution.

Social Programme

As at the Aalborg Conference on 2016 we offer participants to the conference the possibility to take part in a social programme on Wednesday 7 March (10:00 till 16:30).

During that day there will be visits to colleges in the region of Bled, combined with a guided tour of the centre of Bled. The visits to the colleges will give you a possibility to talk with leaders about the role of two-year programmes in Slovenia and its cooperation with the regional labour market.

Practical Information

Fees

Conference:	Participation, coffee breaks, lunches: 120 Euro There will be a reduced rate of 60 Euro for participants from the following countries: Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia, Slovak Republic, Rumania, Bulgaria, Greece.
Dinner (optional):	40 Euro (we will have the conference dinner in the famous Bled Castle!)
Social programme (optional):	25 Euro

Hotel and Conference Venue

Special prices obtainable at the *Astoria Conference Hotel* for efficient networking
<http://www.hotelastoria-bled.com/>

Single = 41 euro / double = 67 euro, per night, including breakfast. CHAIN5 will make the arrangements for you through our contact in Slovenia.

Transportation

Transport to and from airport to hotel will be arranged. Please mention it in your registration form if you need transportation.

Organisers

CHAIN5

<http://www.chain5.net>

LEIDO

<http://www.leidoacademy.nl>

Skupnost VSŠ

<http://www.skupnost-vss.si>



Provisional PROGRAMME

Wednesday 8th March

- Social programme – optional – please indicate when you register if you attend.
- Visits to colleges in the Bled region and sightseeing in Bled.

Thursday 9th March

The registration desk opens at 10.00.

10.30 – 12.00 General Assembly CHAIN5

The GA will talk about practical issues that are important for CHAIN5 as a community of practice. In the next years this network will be more involved in 'how to use level 5 qualifications' in 'making lifelong learning more flexible'.

We want to discuss in the GA how the network can be extended. This is possible by the deployment of new members to the steering committee, the formation of thematic groups and the establishment of a register of experts who are prepared - within this community - to participate in international and regional activities.

It also calls for a discussion on the formal establishment of CHAIN5, the membership and the opportunity to work with national networks around level 5.

In the position paper are plotted the first lines. We would like to use the meeting to discuss the organizational consequences with the attendees and to look at the desired structure.

12.00 – 13.00 Lunch buffet

- 13.00 – 13.20 Opening session
 - CHAIN5
 - Skupnost-vss
- 13.20 – 13.50 Keynote: What is happening in Brussels with level 5?
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
- 13.50 – 14.20 Setting the scene:
 Is level 5 delivering bricks for steady bridges and keys for the right doors?
 CHAIN5
- 14.20 – 14.30 To the workshop rooms...
- 14.30 – 15.25 Workshops – round 1
- 15.25 – 15.40 Refreshments
- 15.40 – 16.35 Workshops – round 2
- 16.35 – 17.00 Day 1 – plenary – key emerging themes
- 17.00 – 18.00 Possibility for a short sight-seeing tour in the center of Bled – having students as guides
- 19.30 Conference dinner – optional



Friday 10th March

- 09.00 – 09.20 Plenary presentation about the Position Paper of CHAIN5
- 09.20 – 09.50 Discussion in small groups: what are the key-themes for level 5 in Europe for the next year – and what has to be done?
- 09.50 – 10.00 To the workshop rooms...
- 10.00 – 10.55 Workshops – round 3
- 10.55 – 11.15 Refreshments
- 11.15 – 12.00 Round table sessions about 'interesting examples of Level 5 qualifications in member states'
- 12.00 – 12.45 Plenary session: Development of CHAIN5 Thematic Groups and Regional seminars
- 12.45 – 13.00 Announcement of the 2018 Conference Venue and closing of this conference
- 13.00 – 14.00 Lunch buffet and goodbyes