

Exploring the Challenges of Permeability: EQF-5 and Higher Levels

A PARTNER'S CONFERENCE

Paving the way for flexible learning pathways and the role of the labour market

9 –10 December 2019

MCAST, MALTA

Theme

Flexibility, permeability and relevance remain the core principles driving the developments of higher education in a dynamic and fluid labour market. This international conference aims at exploring good practices as well as concrete and realistic possibilities for flexible learning pathways, integrating qualifications within the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) with qualifications from the Vocational-Professional Education and Training (VPET) sector.

The EHEA promotes a 4-tier structure - short cycle, 1st cycle, 2nd cycle and 3rd cycle qualifications. On the other hand, the VPET sector, is more commonly reflected in formal programmes, offered at Levels 5 and higher of the European Qualifications Framework.

The conference intends to explore the centrality of the short cycle/EQF Level 5 for the promotion and possibility of more national education systems having support structures and provisions for permeability, progression routes, flexible bridging programmes. High quality work-based learning could contribute to the relevance of both the EHEA and the VPET qualifications. This is also a good opportunity for countries to share their experiences and good practices on clear strategies already in place.

Issues

It will be the first time that this important topic will be discussed at such a conference, with the input of our partners and other organizations that will be asked to contribute to the programme.

In view of the discussion that will be held about the possible learning pathways combining qualifications from both systems, the following correlated topics can be considered:

- Use of a structure with two parallel systems, aligned and linked to the EQF levels 5 and higher
- Role of the institutions, offering those qualifications
- Role of the labour market, professional bodies, (national) branches and (regional) employers' organisations
- Instruments that can be helpful for facilitating flexible learning pathways
- Permeability and transfer, using credits and recognition of prior learning
- Quality of flexible learning pathways
- Integration of work-based learning within qualifications offered by both sectors
- Possibilities for international cooperation, at all levels
- Use and application of National Qualification Frameworks referenced to the EQF and the EHEA.

Partners

The conference will be organised by:

- EfVET, as European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training, being an association for VET providers and other institutions involved in VET (see: www.efvet.org).
- CHAIN5, as European Community of Practice for level 5 of the EQF (see: www.chain5.net).

The conference will be hosted by the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (see: <https://www.mcast.edu.mt/>).

The organization of the conference is made possible by having the strong support of the Ministry of Education and Employment (MEDE) in Malta (see: <https://education.gov.mt/en>)

Target Groups for this conference

This conference will be interesting for:

- Representatives of Ministries, responsible for HE and/or VET (BFUG, DGVT)
- Members of EfVET, representing institutions providing level 5 qualifications
- Members of EURASHE
- Members of the EUA
- Members of CHAIN5
- Members of the associations, being a partner in VET4EU2
- Representatives of employers' organisations (national, international)
- Representatives of the European Commission and its entities
- Members of the EQF Advisory Group
- Representatives of National Accreditation Bodies
- All other experts involved in Lifelong Learning

Dates

The conference will be held on:

- Monday 9 December, from 9:30 till 17:30 (and dinner from 19:30 till 22:00)
- Tuesday 10 December, from 9.00 till 13:00

Venue

The conference is being held on the MCAST campus in Malta.

<https://www.google.nl/maps/place/MCAST/@35.8762892,14.5043349,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x130e5ac2d87c4891:0x48ee141582b02a2618m2!3d35.8762892!4d14.5065236>

More information

From June onwards, newsletters will be published on the websites of EfVET and CHAIN5. They will be sent to the members of both associations and other organisations.

In the upcoming newsletters more information will be available about the following:

- Programme
- Speakers
- How to contribute to the conference (presentation, workshop, session)
- Registration
- Participation fee
- Accommodation/Flights
- Transportation
- Social activities (Sunday 8 December).

If you have already questions about the conference and the theme, or if you want to make a contribution, you can send them to: info@chain5.net.