

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
AND THE GENERAL MEETING OF CHAIN5

AALBORG, DENMARK
25-26 FEBRUARY 2016

THE IDENTITY OF LEVEL 5

FOREWORD -----

Here our second newsletter about the Annual Conference in Aalborg, Denmark to be held on the 25th and 26th of February 2016. We give you some updates about the programme and the sessions – and the most recent draft of the mission and vision for CHAIN5.

Spread the news(letter) about the event in Aalborg among your colleagues, partners in projects and other members of the organisations you are active in. Level 5 is a ‘hot’ issue at the moment, having in mostly every country discussions about the need for more higher skilled people, to be more and more competitive in this ‘more than 100% dynamic’ economic situation.

IDENTITY OF CHAIN 5 ITSELF -----

The conference is about ‘the identity of level 5’ in Europe and other countries that are also involved in the European Higher Education Area, thinking of SCHE as a formal level in higher education since May this year (based on a commitment by all participating countries). This means that as CHAIN5 we have to look at its own identity, as a sort of ‘mirror image’ of that for level 5. Therefor we will discuss the mission and vision for CHAIN5 in Aalborg, during the General Meeting on Thursday morning, but they will also be used for the plenary session at the end of the conference. That session will give the participants the opportunity to formulate suggestions for future activities by CHAIN5, in the extension of the mission and vision.

Here the most recent drafts, written by the Steering Group of CHAIN5. But your opinion as ‘user’ of them is important. So, being in Aalborg you can help us with that. But if you are not able to come, feel free to send us your comments.

Mission

The mission of CHAIN5 is to increase the quantity, quality and visibility of EQF level 5 qualifications for education and training across all European Union countries and to build bridges across all institution types.

Vision

Chain5’s vision is to:

- Promote EQF level 5 visibility and uniform structures at the national and EU levels
- Provide a platform for employers’ representative groups and providers of level 5 qualifications
- Be viewed across Europe as the expert community for the delivery of level 5 qualifications with a repository of accessible knowledge and expertise
- Act as an accessible resource for employers and providers with an up-to-date knowledge of level 5 developments and trends
- Promote EQF level 5 as an exit level in its own right

- Subject expertise will include:
 - Professional and technical education pedagogy
 - Professional and technical education curriculum
 - Assessment methods
 - Work-based learning
 - Employer engagement
 - Validation and awards
 - Recognition of prior learning related to HVET and SCHE
 - National HVET and associated systems
 - Bridge-building between institutional types and levels.

PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE -----

Here the outline for the programme, also based on the feedback by members of CHAIN5.

Thursday 25 February

- 12.00 – 13.00 Lunch buffet and registration for the conference
- 13.00 – 13.45 Opening session
- 13.45 – 14.15 Keynote speech: 'Level 5: The strategy at the European level and what can be relevant for its member states'
(Speaker from DG EMPL, Unit for VET, apprenticeships and Adult learning – European Commission)
- 14.15 – 14.45 Keynote speech: 'Outcomes of a recent study on the position of Higher VET in Europe – and what to do with them'
(Speaker, involved in this study, done on behalf of the European Commission)
- 14.45 – 15.15 Panel discussion, based on those speeches – questions and answers
- 15.15 – 15.45 Coffee break
- 15.45 – 16.35 Round tables – 1
- 16.35 – 16.40 Short break
- 16.40 – 17.30 Round tables – 2
- 19.30 Dinner (optional)

Friday 26 February

- 08.30 – 09.00 Registration / coffee
- 09.00 – 10.00 Keynote speeches: 'The world of work and level 5 qualifications' in Europe and in Denmark
- 10.00 – 11.00 Round tables – 3
(there will be two sessions, taking each half an hour)
- 11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30 - 12.30 Plenary session: 'What have we learned if we are talking about level 5, and what does it mean for CHAIN5 – having its mission and vision in kind?'
- 12.30 – 13.00 Closing session
- 13.00 – 14.00 Lunch buffet and wrap-up

ROUND TABLE SESSIONS -----

There will be three rounds of table sessions, with short presentations followed by discussion. The aim is to share information and experiences - and also to discover themes that can be relevant for CHAIN5. Here a list of subjects for the sessions:

- Quality Assurance in Vocational Colleges, outcomes of a national survey (Norway)
- BEEHIVES, a European project about HVET
- Apprenticeships: bridging the world of work and the world of education and training
- Level 5 in Finland: the State of Play
- Tandem, a European project on work-based learning at levels 4 and 5
- Community Colleges European Style: The Dutch case (Regional Associate Colleges)

- The American Experience – bridging High school and College
- HBO5: the Flemish case
- Work-based learning in Denmark and the Netherlands (also for level 5...)

Your session?

But... we still leave some sessions open, to give you the opportunity to tell about good practices, success stories and interesting national or regional developments. If you as participant (or as a group) want to contribute in this way, please send your idea and proposal to info@leido.nl. We will come back to you as soon as possible to give more information about the format.

GENERAL MEETING -----

On Thursday morning we will have the General Meeting ('Assembly') as CHAIN5, open to all members and other people interested in our community of practice. We will start at 10.00 and end at 11.30. The agenda will be published in the next newsletter.

PRACTICALITIES -----

Here is some important practical information.

Venue

The Annual Conference will take place in the center of Aalborg, in the premises of Aalborg Business College, Saxogade 10, Aalborg.

Airport

The airport is not far away from Aalborg. For flights to Aalborg see: <http://www.aal.dk/en/direct-flights/>

There is a city bus running direct to the center. It is a 20 minute ride, for ca. 3 euro.

Hotels

We have made an arrangement with the conference hotel: Comwell Hvide Hus Hotel, for rooms to be used by the participants: <http://www.comwellaalborg.dk/comwellaalborg/om-hotellet/> The hotel has a special price: DKK 885, including breakfast. Use the discount code 'chain5' when booking, sending an e-mail to hotel.aalborg@comwell.dk Another convenient hotel is the Chagall Hotel (<http://www.chagall.dk>). If you mention the code 'chain5' when booking, the room price is DKK 595 per night. Make sure to book your hotel room in time! Aalborg is a popular conference city. Of course you can book other hotels or these hotels, using booking.com or other websites.

FEE / DINNER -----

The conference fee is 140 Euros, for participation, coffee breaks and lunches. On Thursday evening there we will have a dinner in the conference hotel (Comwell Hvide Hus Hotel). Participation is optional. The extra cost for the dinner is 50 Euros. Dinner vouchers will be issued.

REGISTRATION -----

The registration for the Annual Conference is open, by sending an e-mail to info@leido.nl with your name, organisation and position – mentioning also whether you will join the group for dinner.

We will send the invoice to you (by e-mail) mid-January.

You can cancel the registration without any cost before the 3rd of February. After that date cancellation will not be for free, knowing that we have already made most of the arrangements at that time – and then you have to pay 50% of the fee. After the 18th of February it will be 100%...