

European Qualifications Framework (EQF) level 5

Strategic choices for the AP university



History (1)

- 1994 creation of universities of applied science
- 1999 : Bologna proces
 - higher education Bachelor-master structure
 - EQF levels 6 and 7
- 2004 implementation of BaMa structure in Flanders
 - Secondary school (*level 3 & 4*)
 - *professional* bachelor (level 6)
 - *academic* bachelor (level 6)
 - Master (level 7)
 - Doctor (level 8)

History? (2)

- ...1970's, 80', ... Institutions of vocational training (post secondary)
 - Evening & weekend courses
 - Often part of higher education institutes
 - For (older) students (+25 years of age)
 - who want to study to find a better job, to make a move in their career, ...
 - who want to combine work, family and studies
 - who want to do a 3 to 4 years study
 - Sometimes these courses were comparable with courses of the higher educational institutes (during the day)
 - Often seen in the context of 'social promotion'.
- This type of training/education was **not** implemented in the Bologna proces
- Had no specific indication of the qualification level nor a quality assurance system

Creation of level 5

- 2009/2010 Flemish government wanted to (re)integrate the institutes for vocational training into the Higher education system.
- 2013 – 2016
 - Government installs a structural collaboration between the institutes for vocational training and the universities of applied science.
 - Intense collaboration
 - Diploma's
 - curriculumdevelopment
 - Quality system
 - Infrastructure & facilities
 - Student support
 - Communication
- 2019 integration of level 5 institutes in universities of applied science

Strategic importance of level 5 in Flanders

- 25 000 student in level 5
 - (bio) technics, healthcare/nursing, business management, social sciences, ...
- substantial shortage of level 5 skills in the Belgian labour market (so called 'bottleneck jobs')
- Substantial problem in the Antwerp international harbor (one of the largest harbors in Europe)
 - Industries are having difficulties recruiting educated employers(now and in the near future).
- In the mean time:
 - Unemployment in Flanders
 - 7,8% unemployed
 - Between the age of 15 – 24 year: 16,1% unemployed
 - Young people with migration background: 26,4% unemployed

Other figures

- The need for highly educated youngsters is growing steadily
 - Up to 60% of the jobs will need in 2020 skills of level 5 or higher
- 13% of students leave secondary education unqualified
- 80% of the students that leave higher education in their first year will never get a degree.
- 40% of the starters in higher education will never get a degree.

That's why ...

- AP choose to make the integration of level 5 a main strategic target.
 - Social responsibility
 - 25% of the market of level 5
 - Existing courses are very complementary to the bachelors
 - Learning on the workplace is one of the trump cards of our bachelor courses
 - Strong networking ability with the industry, social & health care organisation
- In 2013 we started a intensive collaboration with 5 institutes of vocational training.
- In 2019 we will ...
 - integrate 25 courses of level 5
 - Service 4000 extra students
 - We welcome more than 300 extra personnel

Objectives & challenges!

- We will be the biggest institute to offer level 5 courses in Flanders
- Objectives: concentrating on:
 - Level 5 courses for younger students (18-22y)
 - Flexibel courses for students of all ages
 - Offering courses in blended learning (combination with distance learning)
 - Working together with the harbour & the city of Antwerp, the industry and health & social care workers.
 - Expand our networks to organise realistic learning on the workplace
 - Creation of new, innovative level 5 courses

- Challenges
 - Government financing will hardly be enough to cover the extra costs
 - Capacity of buildings and facilities
 - Quality assurance system is new for level 5
 - Extra training of personnel
 - Extra costs
 - Merger of 5 different institutes
 - Possible difficulties with 'change', new and different company culture, ...
 - Internal competition and former rivals working together
 - In a very short period of time
 - Lack of extra money to invest in change management
 - Creation of new, innovative courses in a very short period of time

Actions

- Extra resources & extra personnel
 - To innovate level 5 courses
 - To support change
 - To provide extra training
- Extra building:
 - AP will built extra facilities
 - Extra capacity for 2500 students

MP

