

## WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM CHAIN5 THIS ACADEMIC YEAR...?

After the annual conference in Aalborg, Denmark, the study trip to the USA, and meetings of the Steering Group of CHAIN5, we are ready for this new academic year. In the coming weeks you will receive a number of newsletters about the activities that are being organised.

First an overview with a brief explanation for each of them. Do keep an eye on your e-mail box for interesting messages, events and trips!

### 1 Annual Conference – 9-10 March 2016 - Bled

Our next annual conference, number 4, will be held in Bled, Slovenia. It was already mentioned in earlier newsletters, but here are the most important data:

- Venue: Hotel Astoria, Bled
- Dates: 9 - 10 March 2017
- 9 March: 10am – 5pm
- 10 March: 9.30am – 2.30pm
- Possibility for tours of local colleges and Bled: 8 March 2017
- Dinner: 9 March – 7pm
- There will be a shuttle bus from Airport Ljubljana (Jože Pučnik Ljubljana / Airport Brnik) to the hotel and back
- The conference **theme** is: Level 5 - **building bridges and opening doors**
- Subthemes will be:
  - 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. The plenary session will about our position paper, HVET/SCHE and the European Strategy on level 5
- There will be a call for papers and workshops.

### 2 International seminar: Leadership and Institutions offering (also) level 5 qualifications 5 December 2016 – Rotterdam

As a result of the study trip to the USA, to give you an opportunity to learn more about Community Colleges and their role and position in the American education system, we will organize a seminar on the 5 December on leadership at such kind of institutions.

- Keynote speaker: Jim Jacobs, President of Macomb Community College, Warren (Detroit), Michigan about 'Leadership, Strategy and how to serve the community and talented students'
- Venue: Rotterdam Academy, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- 10.30am – 5pm
- There will be three workshops in the afternoon:

- Leadership and Strategy (Jim Jacobs)
- How to deal with talented students... cooperation between sectors in education (Dutch Working Group)
- The CHAIN5 Position Paper and HVET (Steering Group CHAIN5)

### **3 Position Paper**

Next week we will publish the draft position paper for CHAIN5, based on the outcomes of the annual conference in Aalborg, and on the most recent reports on level 5 (like HVET) and other documents that have been published about permeability between VET and HE, work-based learning and the EQF (including quality assurance, non-formal education and the use of common instruments).

In November there will be a number of workshops, organized by the members of the Steering Group, in their own region, to discuss this draft with small groups of experts.

### **4 Study Trip to China - 2017**

This year we organized in cooperation with the University of Toledo a study trip to the USA (Washington and the State of Michigan). It was a great success for those who participated in this activity, and participants came home with a big bundle of creative ideas – and with inspiration for their own work.

In 2017, we are planning yet another study trip, this time to China! We intend to learn more about the Chinese system, including the role of Colleges for Higher Professional Education (like Community Colleges and other institutions offering qualifications at level 5). We will visit a number of this kind of institutions.

In Zhangzhou we will have a conference on level 5 in Europe, China and the USA.

Here is the basic information:

- Start: Saturday 20 May 2017 – in Beijing
- End: Saturday 3 June 2017 – in Shanghai
- There will be also activities in Xiamen, Hangzhou and Wuxi
- We can bring 10 European participants to China.

### **5 European Workforce Development Institute (Work-Based Learning and Level 5)**

The American Association for Community Colleges (AACC) organizes every year two national conferences. There is a general conference for members of the AACC, every spring, and a second one called: Workforce Development Institute (WDI) about the cooperation with the 'world of work', every January. Representatives of companies, businesses and (regional and national) employers' organisations are participating in this event, to talk about recent developments, the economic situation, youth and employability, and new initiatives like the use of 'apprenticeships'.

A delegation of the SG of CHAIN5 will participate in the WDI (in Newport Beach in January 2017) on request of the AACC. They will take part in a panel discussion and in a workshop on CHAIN5 and European developments.

There will be a meeting with the organizing committee of the WDI about the idea of creating in 2018 a similar European WDI, with focus on work-based learning, level 5 and flexible learning pathways.

### **6 Vocational Skills Week**

From 5 till 9 December 2016 the first Vocational Skills Week will be held in Brussels, an initiative of DG Employment of the European Commission. CHAIN5 will participate in some of the activities, in cooperation with other associations in Europe. More information is available at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=88&eventsId=1125>

## 7 Meetings about the TANDEM project

CHAIN5 is involved in a project under Erasmus+ about 'Upskilling Employees from level 4 to level 5 using work-based learning: using non-formal or formal education?' Other partners in the project are EVBB and EUCEN. The title is TANDEM.

There will be in 2017 a few seminars about the outcomes of the project, in Oviedo (Spain) and Rotterdam (The Netherlands). Members of CHAIN5 will be invited to organize also seminars or workshops about this topic – and we can send experts to them to contribute.



Building bridges and opening doors