Exploring the Challenges of Permeability: EQF-5 and Higher Levels (Higher Education and Higher VET)

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

9 –10 December 2019, MCAST, MALTA

MCAST
Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology

Monday 9th December

09:00 – 09:45   Registration and coffee

09:45 – 10:35   Opening / Welcome addresses
CHAIN5, EfVET, MCAST, Ministry of Education and Employment

10:35 – 10:50   Introduction to the theme and the aims of the conference – based on recent developments
EfVET

10.50 – 11.15   A proposal for a model, including three sectors at the tertiary level – looking at the role of the EQF
CHAIN5

11.15 – 11.35   Coffee break

11.35 – 12:10   The role of the EQF in making the system at the tertiary level more transparent
Plenary discussion, based on statements

12:10 – 12:30   Short introductions – concerning the key-issues and the workshops

12:30 – 13:45   Lunch

Contributions to the workshops and sessions by:
- Suzanne Gatt, University of Malta
- Hans Daale, CHAIN5
- James Calleja, EfVET / MCAST
- Marjolein van der Moolen and colleagues, NHL-Stenden, the Netherlands
- Jo Baeyens, Flanders, Belgium
- Roland van der Poel, Associate degrees Academy, Roosendaal, the Netherlands

and others

13:45 – 14:40	Thematic Workshops – using the key-issues (round 1):
	- permeability between a VET College and a Higher Education Institute
	- using international common names, for having more transparency
	- EQF and the role of this framework for qualifications at level 5 and higher
	- role of businesses in lifelong learning, using all qualifications at level 5 for workforce development (institutes)
	- using non-formal qualifications (professional qualifications) as basis for formal programmes at level 5
	- the need for standards and guidelines for permeability between VET and HE
	- role of international associations for VET and HE in having a new 'process'
14:40 – 14:50	Short break
14:50 – 15.45	Roundtable sessions – using the key-issues (round 2)
15.45 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 16:15	Plenary: a student's vision of the theme of the conference
16:15 – 17:00	Plenary: reporting of the workshops and sessions – input for day 2
	Moderation: CHAIN5 and EfVET
17:30	Transport to the Institute for Tourism Studies
	- tour and dinner
22:00	Transport back to the hotels and other central places

Tuesday 10th December

08:30 – 09:00	Registration and coffee
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome
09:10 – 10:00	The challenges… seen from a Maltese perspective…
	Short presentations: VET, University, Employers, Ministry…
10:00 – 10:50	Roundtable sessions: The way forward… what's next…
	Using the outcomes and recommendations from day 1
10:50 – 11:05	Coffee break
11:05 – 11:45	Plenary: Reflections from an observer and feedback of the delegates
11:45 – 12:30	Plenary: Conclusions, recommendations…
12:30 – 12:40	Closing of the conference
12:40	Lunch
14:00 – 16:30	Option: Guided Visit to Valetta

KEY-ISSUES FOR THIS CONFERENCE

- How can qualifications be linked to each other for permeability between the two sectors, at the levels 5 and higher of the EQF (and the national frameworks):
  - Higher Education
  - Vocational Education (Vocational and Professional Education - also known as Higher VET)?
- How can we promote cooperation for learning pathways where institutions from those different sectors are involved, and how can they be filled in correctly?
- What is the role of the business community in promoting flexible learning pathways that are making use of both sectors?
- Is there a strong need for 'international common names' for qualifications in both sectors, to make the whole system for level 5 and higher levels more transparent for the stakeholders?
- Can common guidelines be drawn up for a strong approach to permeability procedures between the two sectors, to the benefit of students and adult learners?
- What can be the role in all this of the international associations and networks for both sectors, to initiate a process for this, and who can contribute to such an initiative?