

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
AALBORG, DENMARK  
25-26 FEBRUARY 2016**

***THE IDENTITY OF LEVEL 5***



**FOREWORD**

This newsletter is about the Annual Conference in Aalborg, Denmark to be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of February 2016. We provide information about the programme and the practical issues relevant for you to take the decision to be there. In the next newsletters we will give you updates of the programme, based on the agreements with the organisations and experts who contribute to this event.

**ORGANISERS**

**Main organisers**

CHAIN5

<http://www.chain5.net/>

LEIDO

<http://www.leidoacademy.nl/>

ABC Aalborg Business College

[www.ah.dk](http://www.ah.dk)

**Local partners**

Aalborg University

[www.aau.dk](http://www.aau.dk)

UCN University College Aalborg

[www.ucn.dk](http://www.ucn.dk)

Tech college Aalborg

[www.tcaa.dk](http://www.tcaa.dk)

**ABOUT THE CONFERENCE THEME: THE IDENTITY OF LEVEL 5**

CHAIN5 is more and more considered as a good partner for other organisations, networks and associations involved in developments in which qualifications at level 5 can play an important role. The 'gap' between level 4 and level 6 (maybe to be seen as a gap between VET and HE...) is an item that is on many agendas. It is the subject of a lot of events, projects and surveys. Looking for possibilities to talk with as many stakeholders as possible it is still difficult to have them at the same time at the table, to 'harmonize' the strategies that are needed.

That is why we (as Steering Group of CHAIN5) have chosen the title 'The Identity of Level 5'. It is necessary to have clear what can be considered as 'level 5', as a continuum from very tailor-made courses at that level (with a focus on just one company), more general courses (as we can see in work-based learning), Higher VET (VET5) to Short Cycle HE (SCHE, as a cycle within the EHEA, the European Higher Education Area).

This has to do with – mostly – the orientation of the qualification, the demands of the labour market and other users of the 'set of learning outcomes'. But of course we can look at the providers and their status, having the national approach in mind concerning the role of the government, the accreditation bodies and the national (and regional) associations (having their own interest in the educational landscape).

So, the identity of level 5 and the position of certain types of qualifications are important. This will contribute to more transparency. To give an example: At the moment Higher VET is the subject of a range of projects, studies and conferences. That is quite logical, knowing that the European economy (and society) needs more highly skilled people, higher than VET qualifications at level 4 of the EQF. SCHE is one of the answers to that, but the fact that just this year this type of qualification has been accepted as a cycle within the EHEA, shows that there is a lot to do to have SCHE fully accepted in all member states.

In the meantime 'the world of work' would like to have a quick answer to the demand for more possibilities to educate and train people (youngsters and adults) and that is why the VET providers want to have more real and recognized opportunities to offer qualifications at level 5 and even higher. So, how to deal in the near future with HVET and SCHE, both at level 5? If we have a clear vision of the 'identity of level 5', this discussion is not about differences but similarities – to have that continuum as mentioned here above.

## **PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE** -----

Here a first outline of the Annual 2016 Conference.

### **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 and the strategy at the European level
- 14.15 – 14.45 Keynote speech: 'The outcomes of a study on the position of Higher VET in Europe – and what to do now...'
- 14.45 – 15.15 Panel discussion, based on those speeches – questions and answers
- 15.15 – 15.45 Coffee break
- 15.45 – 16.45 Workshops – round 1
- 16.45 – 17.45 Workshops – round 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 Workshops – round 3
- 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?'
- 12.30 – 13.00 Closing session
- 13.00 – 14.00 Lunch buffet and wrap-up

## WORKSHOPS -----

All workshops will be linked to the title of the conference, to underline the importance to identify what makes 'level 5' so important, in this era – with all kinds of problems but also challenges to people being busy in processes related to lifelong learning, looking for (new) opportunities.

To give already a few examples of subjects for the workshops we have in mind:

- BEEHIVES, a European project about HVT
- Apprenticeships and level 5: bridging the world of work and the world of education and training
- Level 5: a continuum for all target groups, but how do we realize that?
- 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.

### ***Your workshop?***

But... we leave some workshops 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](mailto: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 newsletters.

## PRE ACTIVITIES -----

Maybe you are planning a longer stay in Aalborg. If you are interested in a visit to institutions in or near Aalborg, please let us know ([info@leido.nl](mailto:info@leido.nl)). We have in mind to organize a number of site visits on Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup>, during the day – if we have enough people to join the group.

The site visits will include meetings with the management and staff members of institutions involved in level 5, and round tables about the Danish system (general system and the local approach).

## PRACTICALITIES -----

Here is some important practical information.

### ***Venue***

The Annual Conference will take place in the centre of Aalborg, so that makes it convenient for everybody to stay there. We will use 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](mailto: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 Tuesday 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. To keep the procedure as simple as possible: if you want to participate, please send an e-mail to [info@leido.nl](mailto: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. If we have to mention specific codes or other information (most of the institutions and organisations have very specific regulations for that...) on the invoice, please provide them to avoid a lot of discussions between your financial department and our office.

You can cancel the registration without any cost before the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> of February it will be 100%...



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