

# CHAIN5 Annual conference, Zagreb, Croatia

11-12 March 2021

In cooperation with Craft College, Institute for Adult Education, Zagreb



## Update of the programme of our online conference

As you all may know, due to travel restrictions because of COVID-19, the conference is hosted online. In this way we can ensure that as many as possible interested colleagues and members can join the conference, also if preferred, **for some specific parts of the event only!**

We want to inform you that the session about 'Developments at level 5 in Europe' (session 3), 'Work Based Learning' (session 4) and 'Credit system and quality assurance' (session 5) are slightly adjusted. We have asked some more experts to share their ideas and knowledge with you. The programme can be found below, together with information and description about the topics.

## Registration

To register (**free of charge**, for the whole event or for just a few sessions) visit the website [www.chain5.net/activities/](http://www.chain5.net/activities/).

We look forward to seeing and hearing from you during our (online) conference. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us on our email address [info@chain5.net](mailto:info@chain5.net).

Stay safe, stay healthy and see you at the conference starting on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March!

*Danijel Đekić, Head of International Relations, Craft College Zagreb*

*Eric Aldewereld, member of the board of CHAIN5*

*Suzanne Koster, member of the executive committee CHAIN5*

## Programme and topic description

### Programme day 1 | Thursday, 11 March 2021

<b>Session 1 Opening Annual Conference 2021 09.30 - 11.30</b>			
<b>Timetable</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Subjects</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
09.15	Walk in online		
09.30	Kick-off Chain5	Welcome (new) members CHAIN5, aim, expectations	Eric Aldewereld
09.40	Kick-off Croatia	Welcome	Danijel Đekić
09.50	Keynote speech	CHAIN5 as European platform for level 5	Hans Daale
10.10	Keynote speech	The status of EQF level 5 in Croatia – what is being offered, what are the problems and possible solutions?	Mr. Mislav Balković, dean of the Algebra University College Croatia
10.30	Break		
10.45	Keynote speech	Basic skills needed for EQF level 5	Mr. Tihomir Žiljak, associate professor University of Zagreb (Croatia) and University of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
11.05	Q&A /Summary		Danijel Đekić Eric Aldewereld
11.30	End of this session		

#### *Mr. Balković: The status of EQF level 5 in Croatia – what is being offered, what are the problems and possible solutions?*

The lecture will present the current results of preparation and implementation of programs for level 5 qualifications in Croatia accompanied with a qualitative analysis of areas in which such programs are developed and a discussion on the current legal position of level 5 qualifications in light of the current CROQF Act and the new Adult Education Act. Emphasis will be placed on the level of learning outcomes that should constitute full level 5 qualifications and on the conditions for their acquisition and evaluation in order to formulate recommendations of the professional public in light of changes in the CROQF Act and the new Adult Education Act.

#### *Mr. Žiljak: Basic skills needed for EQF level 5*

The lecture will answer the question why strengthening basic skills is an important educational goal in the EU and Member States. Is it possible to enter a new development cycle with people who have a problem with reading comprehension, daily use of basic mathematical operations or basic use of digital devices? Without developed basic skills, it is difficult to focus only on professional skills. There are different ways of acquiring basic skills, different educational models are used but with a common goal. Recovery and resilience policies and the new EU development cycle are a particular challenge. Have we learned anything during the COVID epidemic (what skills do we need)? The example of Croatia will show how they are prepared and how the strengthening of basic skills in Croatia should be carried out.

<b>Session 2 Thematic Group Internationalisation 12.30 - 14.30</b>			
<b>Timetable</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Subjects</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
12.15	Walk in online		
12.30	Introduction		Nina Spithost (NL)
12.40	Keynote speech	Internationalization in level 5	Robert Coelen (NL)
13.00 incl. a short break	Break-out rooms: Learning from and through each other within level 5 education	Knowledge sharing Sharing best practices	The break-out rooms are supervised by moderators
14.00	Plenary: Summary and output + option for survey		Nina Spithost (NL)
14.30	End of this session		

In this session, we will discuss how internationalisation takes place in Level 5 in Europe. What is already happening, and which opportunities are there for internationalization in the often still young Level 5 programmes. Not always the first topic that gets attention, but perhaps of growing relevance to our students and teachers.

We briefly discuss internationalisation that goes beyond mobility and/or internationality. Especially international awareness, the development of intercultural competences and the attention for the value of diversity seems to grow in interest.

A survey amongst educations on level 5 in the Netherlands and Flanders on this topic has been conducted. Some results from the survey will be shared.

Finally, it is discussed how Chain5 countries can participate in the survey, how this can be rolled out and how we can continue in sharing knowledge, experience around this theme for Level 5 programmes in Europe.

<b>Session 3 Developments at level 5 in Europe, incl. HVET - 15.30 - 17.30</b>			
<b>Timetable</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Subjects</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
15.15	Walk in online		
15.30	Introduction	European level – Themes and Teams – Activities and Networking	Hans Daale, CHAIN5
15.50 incl. a break	Three rounds with presentations and collecting questions; sharing ideas; plenary discussion	European Policy and national issues National networks and collaboration	Hans Daale, CHAIN5 Katarzyna Trawińska-Konador, Poland Knut Erik Beyer-Arnesen, Norway
17.10	Summary / output / follow-up		All
17.30	End of this session		

The session is intended to explore the possibilities for CHAIN5 to play a role in shaping the strategy and policy around level 5 of the EQF at the international (European) level and in the design of a national education system. Plans developed and implemented in Europe may be used in a country to adapt its system regarding the role of level 5 qualifications, formal and non-formal. Conversely, countries can work together to further update their system, to use each other's experience and, where appropriate, indicate to European policymakers that an international strategy can be helpful in this regard.

We will discuss a general consideration from CHAIN5 with an outline of the state of affairs and upcoming developments. Further an introduction to the plans in Poland to further expand level 5 as proposed by providers in a more formal structure and a presentation on the current state of affairs in Norway with a focus on the developments in the past year, this after level 5 was given a firm place in tertiary education a few years ago. You will also be presented with the political advocacy work that has laid the foundation for the positive development and political commitment to higher vocational education in Norway.

The intention is to consider at the end of the session whether two thematic groups can be set up for both themes (European, national). In connection with this, a proposal for two international meetings for these groups later this year (and for other interested members and colleagues) will be discussed.

## Programme day 2 | Friday, 12 March 2021

<b>Session 4 Thematic Group Work-Based Learning 09.30 - 11.30</b>			
<b>Timetable</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Subjects</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
09.15	Walk in online		
09.30	Introduction		Eric Aldewereld
09.40	Keynote speech	<p>From curiosity to an inquisitive attitude on level 5 and WBL</p> <p>The key organisational cultural challenges associated with WBL</p> <p>The present situation and future changes regarding the exams, the master craftsman school and how WBL is and will be implemented</p>	<p>Natascha Padmos, Teacher / manager 'Manager in health Care', Rotterdam Academy</p> <p>Oran Doherty, Manager for the National Apprenticeship in Retail Supervision Programme in Ireland</p> <p>Nevena Kurteš, Advisor for Vocational Education at the Croatian Chamber for Trades and Crafts</p>
10.10 incl. a short break	Break-out rooms - interactive / learning from and through each other within level 5 education	<p>Knowledge sharing</p> <p>Sharing best practices</p> <p>On the basis of questions to discuss from the topics of the keynote speakers.</p>	The use of break-out rooms with a max of 10 members will make it possible to exchange knowledge and experiences.
11.20	Short summary and output		
11.30	End of this session		

### *Natascha Padmos: From curiosity to an inquisitive attitude on level 5*

During their studies, level 5 students learn how to use their curiosity in a methodical way to achieve goals at the work place. When the student has reached the status of level 5 professional, he will be able to show an inquisitive attitude, which means:

1. Identify opportunities and problems at the work place
2. Become an expert
3. Form and communicate your own perspective
4. Come up with solutions in co-creation
5. Take action
6. Measure the effects.

### *Oran Doherty: The key organisational cultural challenges associated with WBL*

Orans' workshop is going to review the key organisational cultural challenges associated with WBL partnerships between higher education providers and industry. The workshop will also present a preferred organisational culture that a higher education institute could employ when designing and delivering WBL programmes.

The interactive workshop will allow attendees to share ideas and identify practical recommendations to enhance work-based learning collaborations between higher education institutes and external employer organisations.

### *Nevena Kurteš: master craftsman, exams and work-based learning*

This presentation describes master craftsman exams in Croatia, the importance of WBL for master craftsman exams and plans for future development of the master craftsman profession in Croatia.

<b>Session 5 Credit system and quality assurance 12.30 - 14.30</b>			
<b>Timetable</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Speakers</b>
12.15	Walk in online		
12.30	Introduction		Danijel Đekić, Croatia Hans Daale, The Netherlands
12.45 Incl. a short break	Three rounds with presentations and collecting questions; sharing ideas; plenary discussion	Knowledge sharing. Sharing best practices. Common issues. What needs attention in the near future for the role of level 5?	Danijel Đekić, Croatia Erik Swars, Switzerland Mikaela Almerud, Norway/Sweden
14.10	Summary and output		All
14.30	End of this session		

During the session, the presentations will be used to determine whether models can be developed for the qualifications that can be linked in a certain way to level 5 or higher. Of course, the EQF plays a role in this, but then it is up to each country to consider how Higher Education, Higher VET, Business Diplomas and other forms of non-formal education (and also increasingly of 'micro-credentials') can be incorporated into the system. None of the models will be exactly alike, but there may be some similarities.

This is important to look at tools for the study load, with the use of 'credits', and the systems used to guarantee the quality (and the level), having standards and guidelines. With this, flexible learning paths can be designed, and progression routes will be made more visible to all target groups.

Norway has started a process in order to revise their National Qualification Framework (NQF). As a part of this process Technopolis has conducted a feasibility study for the Norwegian government with suggestions on how Norway can further develop their NQF within Higher Vocational Education.

The report includes case studies from Austria, The Netherlands, Wales, Sweden and Germany. It also points out the different approaches to the learning outcomes from the Bologna process as opposed to the European Qualification Framework (EQF). Based on the empirical data the study suggest four alternative ways to reform the Norwegian NQF in order to further development and improvement. Mikaela Almerud was in charge of the report and will present its findings.

At the end of the session, we will consider what role CHAIN5 can play in those themes, with the input of the new thematic groups. It will also be examined whether and how an international conference can be organized on this in the autumn of this year.

<b>Session 6 Conclusions, ideas and agreements 15.30 - 16.30</b>			
<b>Timetable</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Subject(s)</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
15.15	Walk in online		
15.30	Introduction		Eric Aldewereld
15.35	Conclusions, ideas and agreements for 2021		Eric Aldewereld en Hans Daale
15.45	What has this conference brought for Croatia?		Danijel Đekić
16.00	Annual Conference 2022	Information about the next Annual Conference in 2022...	
16.20	Acknowledgements		Eric Aldewereld
16.30	Closing of the conference		