

## Invitation

### The 1<sup>st</sup> European Level 5 Week

8-12 November 2021

*Powered by CHAIN5*

#### A NEW STRATEGY FOR THE EUROPEAN LEVEL 5 AREA

Including:

Higher Vocational-Professional Education (HVPE)

&

the European Education Area (EEA)

Opportunities and Challenges for Level 5 Education

Zagreb (Croatia) – 9 November 2021

&

Maribor (Slovenia) – 11/12 November 2021



### **What can you expect?**

We hope that after the summer holidays it will be possible to have physical meetings again, but also in a form that people can participate online. That concept will continue to exist in order to reach as many target groups as possible. For a community of practice such as CHAIN5, this is certainly a concept that has perfect added value.

It is our idea, just like in 2019 as we had a conference in Malta, in the autumn to look at all kinds of strategic developments related to the 'European Level 5 Area', a sector that is growing rapidly. Because we think there should be enough time to exchange ideas, it has been decided to allocate a whole week for this, with having the first 'European Level 5 Week'.

Further on here you will find further information about the general theme and the underlying sub-themes. We will focus on developments regarding the provision of qualifications at level 5, with a specific point of attention the further development of 'Higher Vocational-Professional Education (HVPE)', as a 'collective name' for programmes that fall under Higher VET, Higher Vocational Education and the like. It will also look at its embedding within the European Education Area, with the use of the most relevant instruments.

The program is divided into two activities, in two cities. It is one day in Zagreb (with some specific physical activities) and two days in Maribor (with presentations, workshops, sessions and of course discussions - physical, online and via streaming). It is also the case that the results of the day in Zagreb are used for the conference, through presentations and sessions.

It is of course possible to follow just a part of this week. But it can certainly be interesting to spend five days with a group, to learn from each other and exchange experiences between those formal activities.

### **Partners in this EL5W and the organization**

The week will be organized in collaboration with two institutes that are members of our community of practice:

- Craft College, Zagreb, Croatia - <https://www.obrtnicko-uciliste.hr/home>
- Academia, Maribor, Slovenia - <https://www.academia.si/en>

### **Situation now and then...**

Obviously, it is now difficult to say what 'the world' will look like in November when it comes to the consequences of the pandemic. We hope that there will be opportunities to travel again and thus participate in physical meetings.

It is of course up to everyone to make a decision about this - something that may not be possible until after the summer holidays. That is why we will organize everything as flexibly as possible, knowing that many of the parts can also be followed online, especially when it comes to the conference on Thursday and Friday in Maribor.

### **Social programme in Zagreb (9 November)**

In March, we held our Annual Conference online, originally scheduled to be held in Zagreb, Croatia. A permanent part of this is having a 'social programme', with activities such as visiting institutions, organizations and, if possible, a company where students work, if they are studying or have completed a level 5 qualification.

We will be offering such a programme on Tuesday, November 9, with a dinner in the evening.

### **General theme for the conference in Maribor (11-12 November)**

We have chosen a general theme around the provision of qualifications (training, programmes) at level 5, given some of the strategy that is related to recent developments in the various education sectors (higher education, VET at higher levels, business education and training, and other types of qualifications within this spectrum).

But the growth in the sector is striking, which has to do with levels 5 to 8, referred to by us under the collective name 'Higher Vocational-Professional Education' (thinking of terms that are now used such as Higher VET, Higher Vocational Education and Short-Higher Vocational Education).

It is therefore obvious to use that situation as a starting point for the theme for the conference, but also to discuss the use of such an HVPE sector within the entire system for tertiary education.

The general theme can be described as follows:

*The emergence of qualifications at levels 5 and higher, under the (proposed) collective name: Higher Vocational-Professional Education (HVPE)' will lead to the investigation of the possibility of starting an own international strategic process for this, partly linked to the development of the European Education Area (a recent initiative of the European Commission)'.*

This means that these qualifications will receive their own status, but that it will also be investigated how the HVPE area, in addition to the European Higher Education Area, and the range of qualifications that fall under 'non-formal Education and Training', micro-credentials and so on, within the overarching tertiary sector.

This concerns matters such as switching from one qualification to another, creating flexible learning pathways and jointly ensuring a transparent system. The use of equivalent instruments is also appropriate here. And of course the connection to level 5 from level 4 is a topic.

In general it is also about the international approach, like other processes, just giving each country the opportunity to have its own education system, programmes, qualifications, regulations, frameworks and so on. We want to have the international situation more transparent...

### **Sub-themes**

As far as it is possible to name all parts now, sessions, workshops and presentations will also be programmed that deal with:

- Internationalization – also looking at the use and accreditation of international qualifications
- Work-based Learning – Co-creation between employers, employees and educational institutions: strategic opportunities
- European Strategy concerning VET and excellence (Centers of Vocational Excellence)
- Projects and Erasmus+ - involvement of members of CHAIN5
- International networks, events, conferences and study trips
- Three sub-sectors: HE / HVPE / BET: common instruments and the role of accreditation bodies
- Role of the EQF and the NQFs in national education systems.

### **The first practical details...**

We provide here the first practical data from this conference in November (just as we had a similar meeting in Malta on the strategy related to the European Level 5 Area at the end of 2019). Based on this, you can see for yourself what is possible to participate in one or more parts of this EL5W. In the next newsletter we will discuss all kinds of practical matters such as hotels, travel, dinners and other logistical aspects.

In the meantime, you can also let us know if you are interested in this week. It is also possible to indicate for which parts and also whether you think you can contribute physically or online. Below we will already give you a few things about this.

### **Dates and schedule for this week**

We provide the preliminary schedule for this week here. We are giving the physical form, so for those who come to Zagreb and/or Maribor to attend activities within the framework of the EL5W. The dinners are optional. More about them in the next newsletter.

November 8	Travel to Zagreb - welcome and reception
November 9	9:00 am - 5:00 pm Social program in Zagreb Visits to educational institutions, educational organizations, governmental agencies and a company – incl. lunch Dinner
November 10	Travel from Zagreb to Maribor Dinner
November 11	9:30 am - 5:00 pm Day 1 of the L5-conference – incl. lunch Dinner
November 12	9.30 am – 2:00 pm Day 2 of the L5-conference – incl. lunch Closing of the EL5W

### **How to travel**

There are several options when it comes to traveling to both cities. Here we give a brief overview of the most obvious options, if you have to take the plane.

*Zagreb:* Simple... fly to Zagreb

*Maribor:* Fly to Zagreb and by car or by public transport to Maribor / Fly to Graz and by car or by public transport to Maribor

*Zagreb to Maribor and vice-versa:* It is approximately two hours by car. It will be examined whether communal transport can be arranged, depending on the interest and the possible planning.

### **Fees**

In the next newsletter about the EL5W we will indicate the exact fees for the various activities and dinners.

The fees will be in line with what has been requested for the previous physical conferences. These include 45 euro for the programme on 9 November and 165 euro for the two-day conference, with a 40% discount for participants from Croatia, Slovenia and the surrounding countries. The fees include the lunch, not the dinners.

### **Interested?**

If, based on this information, you think that physical participation will be possible, just let us know which 'arrangement' you have in mind.

When it comes to online participation, you can just wait until after the summer holidays, but that also applies to the physical participation if it is about the registration.

If you have suggestions for specific themes and possible contributions, please let us know.

The address that can be used for this all is [EL5W@chain5.net](mailto:EL5W@chain5.net).