

Newsletter 2

**The 1<sup>st</sup> European Level 5 Week**  
**1-5 November 2021 (new dates!!!)**  
*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**

**Looking at:**

**Researches & Projects**

**&**

**New ideas for more transparency of the tertiary sector**

**Zagreb (Croatia) – 1/2 November 2021**

**&**

**Maribor (Slovenia) – 3/4/5 November 2021**

**Attention!**

In the previous newsletters, this EL5W was mentioned as an event to be held during the week of November 8. However, it turned out that there is such an overlap of the programme with other activities in Slovenia that it was decided to make use of the previous week. This means that on Tuesday November 2 there will be a programme in Zagreb (with the trip to Zagreb on Monday, for those coming from outside Croatia) and the rest of this EL5W will be spent in Maribor.

In this newsletter you will find the programme for that week, with two interesting options for participating in the EL5W.

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## **1 How to show your interest in physical participation (the whole week – or the conference (you can do that now, without any obligations))**

In this newsletter you will find further information about the European Level 5 Week, to be held in November, in the expectation that free travel in Europe will be available by then.

For that week we have created two options for physical participation:

- The entire week, with arrival on Monday and departure on Friday afternoon or Saturday – to be seen as a 'study trip'.
- The conference, with arrival on Wednesday and departure on Friday afternoon or Saturday.

### *Inventory now*

Later in this issue we will discuss organizational matters in more detail. But we would like to know to what extent there is interest among our members in any of these options around participation. We have created a form for this, which you can complete without obligation (see the link below).

### *Agreements later for both packages*

Later on, we will make further agreements with those involved regarding additional matters of an arrangement for the entire week (the 'study trip') - thus regardless of the costs associated with participation in the social programme and the conference. This includes traveling, transfers, extra dinners and other additional matters. It will also be examined how any air travel and hotels can be included in a kind of 'package', if that is a good option and reservations can be made from CHAIN5.

For the other package that consists of participation in the conference in Maribor, you can also indicate whether you want to be there on site. It is also possible now without any obligations, after which we will arrange things further with these group of participants. It will be the case that we do not use a collective approach when it comes to travel and accommodation.

### *Link to the form*

If you want to make use of either option, you can use the link below to fill in the form for this.

[Registration EL5W](#)

If this link does not work, you can also use the link on our website:  
<https://www.chain5.net/activities/> and use the 'button' there.

## **2 How to register from September 20 on for online participation in the conference**

There will also be the opportunity to follow online a large number of the sessions of the conference in Maribor, both on Thursday and Friday. The main points of the program are therefore already known. The exact details of the sessions and workshops in which you can participate online will be given in September.

You can then register via our website from September 20.

There are no further costs associated with participation online.

## **3 The two options, as 'packages':**

- A Study trip (the whole week)**
- B Conference (three days)**

As indicated in the introduction, you have the choice of two options in terms of physical participation, namely participating the entire week or participating in the conference.

We provide you with the outlines for both options.

### **A Make it a study-trip...**

Make it a study trip for this week. This is possible if you plan to participate in all activities and would like to do this with a group of colleagues. This has a clear added value because it is also possible to exchange ideas 'between the planned activities' and discuss a lot of experiences from different angles.

## Programme

- It means that you will arrive in Zagreb on Monday, November 1, and check into one of the hotels we will be booking - just like that will be done for the rest of the week.
- A first meeting is planned for this group at the end of the afternoon.
- That evening a dinner is planned in Zagreb.
- Then you will participate in the programme on Tuesday (see below).
- On Wednesday we go from Zagreb to Maribor as a group with our own transport or with one or more mini-vans that are rented by us – a two hour drive.
- After check-in in the hotel(s), there will be lunch at Maribor Hospitality College.
- Then there is a tour of this institution (13.30 – 14.30)
- After this tour, between 15.00 and 17.00, there will be meetings of the group with representatives of a number of Slovenian organisations, to discuss the situation concerning level 5 in Slovenia and Europe, looking at strategic developments – to share experiences, ideas and possible joint actions. We will invite the next organisations:
  1. Ministry of Education
  2. Agency of Vocational Education (CPI)
  3. Association of Higher Vocational Colleges (members of the HVC)
  4. Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency (NAKVIS)
  5. Slovenian Adult Institute (ACS)
  6. Erasmus+ National Agency (CMEPIUS)
  7. Employers' Associations.
- On Wednesday evening we will have a dinner, which other participants in our two-day conference can also join, as start of their activities.
- You will of course participate in this conference, after which you will leave for home. We will consider what is the best option for that based on the personal situation.

The registration at this time via the digital form is therefore completely without obligation.

## Costs

Based on your data, we will come up with a proposal later this academic year, just before the summer holidays, with an updated travel schedule and the costs involved – next to what is mentioned below for participating during this week.

We can also indicate what other options are for the hotels, the trips during that week and whether it might be useful to turn it into a complete 'package deal', including flights, transfers, and other parts of the 'study-trip'.

The costs for this week, based on what we can already record now, for the four dinners, lunches, some of the transfers, further catering, the programme on the first three days and the two days of the conference, are 400 euro.

## **B Participation in the conference in Maribor... being there...**

You can also participate in the two-day conference in Maribor. This package that we offer includes both days as well as the dinners on Wednesday evening and Thursday evening.

The dinners are also optional for all other participants, as indicated below at the 'fees'.

For the record: It is of course also possible to attend just part of the conference, for example only Thursday or Friday. We will come back to this in September when we know that everything can take place in the normal way and the complete programme is known - so that you can make a choice.

## **4 Preliminary programme in Zagreb, November 2**

Here the set-up of this day in Zagreb, on Tuesday, November 8. We will announce the list of organizations in the next newsletter.

09:00	Gathering at the Craft college, Ilica 49 / I, Zagreb
09.15 - 12.30	Visits of educational institutions and other organizations
12.30 - 13.30	Lunch

- 13.30 - 15.30 Continuation of the visits  
 15.30 - 16.00 Coffee break  
 16.00 - 17.15 Two options:  
 - Guided tour in the center of Zagreb (with students)  
 - Plenary meeting with representatives of Croatian organizations, involved in the strategy and policy concerning level 5 and its position in the educational system  
 19.00 Diner (optional)

## 5 Preliminary set-up of the conference in Maribor (November 3, 4 and 5)

### Venue

Academia, Glavni trg 17b, 2000 Maribor

### Wednesday, November 3

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- 19.00 Dinner in the center of Maribor (optional)

### Thursday, November 4

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*The plenary sessions will be streamed. During the day there will be parallel sessions, to be held just physically or in a hybrid context, so also to be followed online (interactive, using digital means for that).*

- 09.30 – 09.40 Opening of the conference  
 09.40 – 10.20 Plenary presentation about ‘HVPE, level 5 and the European strategy) – followed by a plenary discussion, based on statements  
 10.20 – 10.30 To the sessions...  
 10.30 – 11.20 Sessions, round 1 – thematic teams – CHAIN5 team on Strategy and level 5  
 11.20 – 11.40 Coffee break  
 11.40 – 12.30 Sessions, round 2 – thematic teams – Level 5 in Slovenia and Europe  
 12.30 – 13.20 Lunch  
 13.20 – 14.00 Plenary presentation about the role of international VET associations (incl. contributions online by representatives of them)  
 14.00 – 14.10 To the sessions...  
 14.10 – 15.00 Sessions, round 3 – HPVE and VET Colleges – HPVE and internationalisation  
 15.00 – 15.20 Coffee break  
 15.20 – 16.10 Sessions, round 4 – Level 5 and micro-credentials – Level 5 being ‘digital’  
 16.10 – 16.20 Short break  
 16.20 – 17.00 Plenary session: HVPE and inclusive education at level 5 in general  
 19.00 Dinner in the center of Maribor (optional)

### Friday, November 5

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*The plenary sessions will be streamed. The parallel sessions will be held in a hybrid context, so also to be followed online (interactive, using digital means for that).*

- 09.00 – 09.20 Start-up session...  
 09.20 – 10.30 Plenary (online) presentations about recent research, projects, strategy... including Q&A  
 10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break  
 11.00 – 11.50 Sessions in groups: what have we learned from the presentations... and what can be used for CHAIN5... and for the national approach...  
 11.50 – 12.00 Short break  
 12.00 – 12.30 Plenary session: European Commission, the European strategy and how to deal with HVPE and the EHEA at the same levels...  
 12.30 – 13.15 Lunch  
 13.15 – 14.00 Closing session for participants, present in Maribor

Optional - for those who will stay in Maribor.

15:00 – 16:30 Visit to a College (make your choice)

- TSC Maribor
- Prometna sola Maribor

## **6 Fees for the conference in Maribor**

The fee for the conference is based on the country of the participant:

- Italy, United Kingdom, France, Denmark, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Norway, Malta, Sweden, Finland, The Netherlands and other countries in the Western and Northern part of Europe, not mentioned below: 150 Euro
- Estonia, Latvia, Greece, Poland, Russia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Portugal, Czech Republic, and other countries in the Eastern or Southern part of Europe, not mentioned below: 100 Euro
- Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and other countries not mentioned above: 80 Euro.

Optional:

- Dinner on Wednesday      40 euro
- Dinner on Tuesday         40 euro

## ANNEX

### General theme for the conference in Maribor (4-5 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 for the conference

We have at the moment a number of sub-themes in mind, as you can see in the preliminary set-up in this newsletter. In the coming period, we as CHAIN5, together with the partners in Maribor, will further examine which sub-themes will be addressed during the plenary sessions and the sessions - physically and/or online.

#### *From the Slovenian perspective*

- Internationalisation of level 5 and specific opportunities for Colleges
- Digital and Green: how to deal with these concepts when it comes to level 5 qualifications
- Inclusive education at level 5
- Financial Capacity building at level 5, for achieving excellence at level 5

#### *From the CHAIN5 perspective*

- Internationalization – also looking at the use and accreditation of international qualifications
- Work-based Learning – Co-creation between employers, employees and educational institutions: strategic opportunities
- 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.