



Call for members of a new platform



A new platform

CHAIN5 aims to launch a new platform for representatives of VET- and HE-institutions that are involved in international cooperation at EQF-levels 5 and 6 and who are responsible for quality assurance and development for programmes at level 5.

An important objective of this platform is to facilitate the international flow of HVET-alumni either to a professional Bachelor programme or to the labor market, but then in another country. Therefore, CHAIN5 wants to support voluntary external assessment of HVET programs to demonstrate their comparability with Short Cycle Higher Education programmes (SCHE) in the international context. Increased transparency and recognition of achieved learning outcomes of HVET-programmes is in the interest of HVET-alumni with a cross-border ambition.

Collaborations

CHAIN5 is currently seeking collaboration with a quality assurance agency of international repute. At the same time, more intensive exchanges of experiences and insights into the European development of Level 5 remain a priority of CHAIN5.

Investigations

Several investigations into the existence of Level 5 in European countries have been conducted, notably by the Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG) and EQAVET. These investigations indicate growth of level 5 in Europe but also a lack of transparency.

CHAIN5 aims to contribute to increased transparency and cooperation by collaborating as much as possible with strong partners such as ENQA (for the European Higher Education Area, EHEA) and EQAVET (for the Vocational Educational Area). Both ENQA and EQAVET have been approached and are awaiting a substantiated initiative from CHAIN5.

Your participation and expertise are of great importance for a meaningful and widely supported initiative. Become a member!

Becoming a member of this new platform?

Joining our CHAIN5 community and this platform offers opportunities to learn from the experiences of colleagues from institutions in other countries, share best practices, and receive valuable feedback. A strong level 5 community strengthens the position of level 5 in the European Education Area (EEA).

When you and/or your institution is interested in further European cooperation regarding Level 5 programmes as mentioned above, we warmly welcome your participation and *invite you to join us*. Please visit our website: [High VPE / Level 5 Area – Chain5](#) and answer a few questions to become a member of this CHAIN5 platform. You will be informed soon about the next steps.

Level 5 and the near future

In a nutshell the relevance of level 5 in the further development and growth of the European Education Area.



A bridge for continuous learning

Continuous learning is a vital element in maximizing talents on a national and European level in a more and more competitive world. Level 5 can be seen as a bridge between vocational and higher education, and thus can play a pivotal role in fostering continuous learning and as a very strong connection between these sectors, public and private financed, and as facilitator of continued growth in a professional career.

Mobility

International study opportunities and labor mobility options, maybe combined, will probably improve in the future. Especially when workplaces at international companies can be used, it will be an incentive to cross-border activities of level 5 alumni. That would be an enrichment of the EEA. The platform is in this way important to see how mobility can be improved around the mentioned international pathways.

Reinforcing cooperation between (H)VET and HE

This is even more important because to date the development of (Higher) VET and Higher Education has largely remained separate across most countries and within Europe. There are unexplored chances in both domains for learning and helping each other across borders and on a European scale. Thus, fostering quality culture in vocational and higher education.

Increasing transparency of level 5 by, among other things, external quality assurance

We aim at increasing transparency in continuous learning in (higher) vocational and higher education. This can be achieved by a more unified development and quality assurance of level 5 within countries and on a European level.

Fulfilling needs of the labor market

Such topics as 'micro-credentials' and 'Artificial Intelligence' are high on the list of life-long learning ambitions in the European context. Level 5, which combines elements of vocational and higher education, is ideally suited to meet labor market needs in this area.

About CHAIN5

Since 2014, CHAIN5 has served as the community of practice for stakeholders involved in developing Level 5 qualifications within the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). Members include employees from national and international organizations, associations, and networks related to VET, HE, SCHE, HVET, and other qualifications at Level 5.

CHAIN5 has organized annual conferences in Amsterdam (2014 and 2015), Aalborg (2016), Bled (2017), Brussels (2018), Como (2019), Tallinn (2020), Oslo (2022), Leeuwarden (2023), and Zagreb (2024). The COVID-19 pandemic caused an interruption in this rhythm, having in 2021 just a one-day conference online, in collaboration with our colleagues in Zagreb.

CHAIN5 continuously seeks further cooperation among stakeholders in the European Educational Area (EEA), as Level 5 is increasingly important for bridging the worlds of VET and Higher Education. Through these meetings, CHAIN5 has built a substantial international network of colleagues engaged in the challenges and opportunities related to Level 5 in the EEA, but there is still room for further participation.