



ANNUAL CONFERENCE
14-15 MARCH 2019
(SOCIAL PROGRAMME ON 13 MARCH)

COMO, ITALY

MAKING THE EUROPEAN LEVEL 5 AREA A REALITY

- **FLEXIBLE LEARNING PATHWAYS**
- **SCENARIOS FOR LIFELONG LEARNING**
- **MORE POSSIBILITIES FOR WORK-BASED LEARNING**
- **COOPERATION BETWEEN THE VET AND HE SECTORS**

A DYNAMIC PROCESS ON THE WAY

Introduction

We would like to inform you in this newsletter about the annual conference of CHAIN5, to be held on 14 and 15 March 2019 in Como. This conference is of great importance when it comes to the whole spectrum of qualifications at level 5 of the EQF, belonging to the 'European Level 5 Area (EL5A)'. Attention will be paid to the most recent developments. But we will also focus on setting out an approach as the CHAIN5 community for the coming years. This means that the parties involved, our members and other experts, can get to work in each country, to make the own National Level 5 Area even more flexible and to organize this area in the best way when it comes to the demands on learning pathways within lifelong learning.

We will look in Como at what is needed to develop handles, based on experiences that have already been gained as CHAIN5, and through the exchange of knowledge and expertise in which level 5 is being worked on in various countries.

Two important topics that will be included as anchors for the approach within the CHAIN5 community are the status of the Short Cycle HE as a recognized and 'stand-alone' degree within the higher education area (May, Paris) and further research into the positioning of Higher VET (e.g. by Cedefop).

Therefore, derivative issues will be examined in sessions to see what these and other current topics can influence the situation at level 5.

In short, if level 5 in the broadest sense is important to you and is guiding your work: come to Como, think, do, talk and consult!

Practical information

We list here the most important issues for the conference. In the next newsletters we will give more details, but on this basis you can decide on your participation and the preliminary registration.

1. The dates for the conference itself:
Thursday 14 March: lunch + 1.30pm till 5.30pm + dinner in the center of Como
Friday 15 March: 9am till 3pm incl. lunch
2. General Assembly of CHAIN5: Thursday 14 March: morning – 10:30am till 12am
3. Venue: Premises of Cometa, Como, Italy - website of Cometa: www.puntocometa.org
Google Maps:
<https://www.google.nl/maps/place/Associazione+Cometa/@45.7906606,9.0780098,14z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x47869c2211b0a0c3:0x75cdc891dbba46e9!8m2!3d45.7906602!4d9.0955193>



4. There are enough hotels and apartments in Como, near Cometa and in the centre. We will make arrangements with hotels. But of course participants can also book a room themselves by using booking.com or other websites.
5. Social programme:
 - Wednesday 13 March – 10am till 5pm
 - Visits tot Level 5 colleges and cultural activity + lunch
 - Meetings with management and staff members
6. Costs for you (excl. VAT):
 - Conference fee: 175 euro
 - Dinner incl. drinks: 45 euro
 - Social programme: 40 euro
7. Transport
 - The best way to come to Como is to fly to one of the airports of Milan
 - From there there is public transport to Como
 - In the next newsletter we will provide more information about this.
8. Registration
Interested? You can send an e-mail to info@leido.nl, without any obligations at the moment.

Theme for the conference

The introduction of this newsletter already indicated that it is important in Como to see what can be done on the basis of current developments and recent experiences within the European Level 5 Area (EL5A) and the national systems to be connected to it. The main goal is to initiate a process to clarify what the character of the EL5A is and what the crucial aspects are when it comes to shaping a national L5A.

The EL5A covers the entire spectrum of qualifications that can be positioned at level 5 via the EQF and associated NQFs (and other frameworks, also sectoral oriented and based on professional standards). In addition, there are various types of qualifications that stand out when it comes to recognizability among students, adult learners, employers, employees and all related organizations: Higher VET, Short Cycle HE and Business Diploma. It is also crucial for governments to have a clear understanding of how a strategy around level 5 has to be shaped and maintained.

As CHAIN5, we want to make clear that a L5A requires its own approach, at the intersection of secondary (professional) education and higher education. There are also many learning tracks that go from 4 through 5 to 6, and then it is crucial to fill in that link correctly. This can be done via an seamless study path, but it is much more common to see that periods of study and work are connected to each other.

Developing Level 5 instruments as a process

All this means that proposals will be made during the conference to set up own instruments – where relevant and effective - for the L5A, just as is the case for the VET sector and the European Higher Education Area. Over the past five years, it has been made clear that the pursuit of a mix of VET and HE (and other sectors) will only lead to a lot of discussions, loyalty around the use of (each other's) instruments and possibilities, and a series of studies that just lead to the conclusion that a solution must be sought.

The 'process' we want to start in Como is focused on looking for that solution. By implementing instruments for the EL5A in a neutral way, effective bridges can be created between all sectors. This will be done in a practical way so that in each country a 'translation' can be made to a national or regional L5A that is useful to the existing system and the requirements for building an even more flexible educational system.

Sub-themes

In order to start such a process, after five years as CHAIN5, it is necessary to zoom in on a number of developments and aspects that can also contribute to an adequate use of the level 5 qualifications at the national level. We mention a number of sub-themes:

- Clarity in the distinction between providers, qualifications and design (think of HVET and SCHE, and business diploma and qualifications for work-related training)
- System for linking learning outcomes, study units and credits at level 5
- Designing training based on various forms for Work-Based Learning
- Cooperation between institutions at levels 4, 5 and 6
- Cooperation with the (regional) world of work
- Role of the government when using level 5 for a LLL approach
- Management, leadership and quality assurance.

Workshops and input

Various sessions will be held during the conference to gain insight into the developments related to the sub-themes, in order to generate input for the general theme and the process.

In order to 'tighten up' certain matters, all sorts of sessions will have an input from countries that are emphatically working on setting up a national level 5 area like Italy, the Netherlands, Flanders, Norway and Malta. This can lead to discussions with a clear reference for all participants.

It will also involve experts within CHAIN5 in order to draw the right conclusions.

In the next newsletter we will make a call for certain sub-themes. In the meantime, we obviously appreciate your suggestions for the conference.

