

8 January 2018



Let the European Level 5 Area Drive Change and Connect Talent

How to make qualifications at level 5 future-proof and function well with the needs of the world of work and the challenges for all learners

8-9 March 2018, Brussels

There will be a social programme (visits to institutions in Ghent, Flanders) on the 7th of March 2018

In general

1. Thursday 8 March: lunch / 13:00 – 17:00 / dinner in Brussels (General Meeting CHAIN5 in the morning: 10:15 – 11.30)
2. Friday 9 March: 09:00 – 13:00 / lunch
3. Visits to institutions in Ghent: 7 March, 10:00 – 17:00 / possibility for having dinner in Ghent
4. Venue: Hogeschool Odisee (University College), Brussels
5. The conference is a good opportunity to harvest good practices for the use of the 'Level 5 Area', and the qualifications that are used at the international level, being important for the national settings of learning pathways. Short Cycle HE is one of them, to feed the discussion about the use of this qualification (see item 4 in this newsletter, about the Bologna Process), and also Higher VET as a challenge for VET providers to offer vocational qualifications parallel to the higher education area.
6. Themes for the conference (for sessions, presentations and workshops):
 1. The world of work as a partner in education (co-makship / curriculum development / quality assurance in cooperation with employers)
 2. Level 5 programmes in Flanders: From professional qualification to a programme with learning outcomes, and other developments at level 5, like building a curriculum and the use of work-based learning

3. Learners as the key figures in offering programmes at level 5, needed for flexible learning pathways in HE, looking also to specific situations (students with special needs, dropouts and (re)orientation, internationalization...)
4. Teaching staff at level 5 (training, counselling, cooperation with businesses...).
7. Brussels is easy to reach by plane and train, and the venue is within walking distance of the Central Station: <https://www.odisee.be/en/campus-brussels-en>.
8. We recommend that you find a hotel by yourself, knowing that it is difficult to make a general arrangement for the whole group.

General meeting CHAIN5

On Thursday morning from 10:15 till 11:30 we will have the general meeting for the members of CHAIN5. The meeting room will also be in the building of Hogeschool Odisee.

The agenda and documents for this meeting will be sent to the members the week before the conference.

Preliminary programme

At this moment we have this programme in mind for the conference. In the next newsletters we will give you more details, names and subjects of the presentations.

Thursday:

- 12:00 - 13:00 Lunch buffet and Registration
- 13.00 - 13.15 Opening session
- 13.15 - 13.50 Key-note: The role of employers' organisations (VDAB) in the Flemish level 5 Area
- 13.50 - 14.45 Plenary presentations:
 - Quality Assurance: work-based learning in the level 5 area
 - The European Level 5 Area: challenges for the near future
- 14.45 - 15.15 Coffee break
- 15.15 - 16.05 Workshops, round 1
- 16.05 - 16.10 Short break
- 16.10 - 17.00 Workshops, round 2
- 19.30 Cocktail
- 20.00 Dinner (Restaurant Scheltema, in the center of Brussels)

Friday:

- 09:00 - 09.45 Key-note: Short Cycle Higher Education & Higher VET, partners in flexible learning pathways
- 09.45 - 09.50 Kick-off for the sessions
- 09.50 - 10.20 Sessions, round 1, based on recent developments and outcomes of projects
- 10.20 - 10.25 Short break
- 10.25 - 10.55 Sessions, round 2, based on former workshops during annual conferences
- 10.55 - 11.20 Coffee break
- 11.20 - 12.00 Interactive plenary session, based on the outcomes of the sessions – having a panel with employers, students and policy makers for 'feedback'
- 12.00 - 12.30 A summary... by the Steering Group of CHAIN5
- 12.30 - 13.00 Closing session: interactive – for setting the scene for the future of the community
- 13.00 - 14.00 Lunch buffet

Social activity: visit to Ghent

On Wednesday, March 7, there is the opportunity to participate in the 'social activity'. It concerns visits in the morning and afternoon of educational institutes, related to level 5 in Flanders. Lunch is provided by one of the institutions.

In the second half of the afternoon Flemish students will act as a guide for a tour in the center of Ghent. Then there is the possibility to dine in Ghent (where we will recommend a few restaurants, and also reserve one of them for a group).

There will be collected around 9:30 at Brussels Central Station, to take the train to Ghent.

Transport is provided in Ghent. The return journey is by train again.

Call for general workshops and sessions for the annual conference

Of course, at this annual conference, we will make room for exchanging experiences and providing information about good examples. There are rounds where there is room for workshops, but in addition we provide time slots in which in brief sessions the core of a project or a specific approach are explained, followed by questions.

We have four themes that have been designated as the basis for the program. They all have to do with the general goal of making an inventory when it comes to the state of affairs for the EL5A. We want to raise good practices, with the possibility of analyzing them together with the participants, on the opportunities for using them more widely.

This means that we would like to make an appeal among members and our readers for workshops and sessions.

Workshop

A workshop is meant to work with the group, to be interactive as possible. After a brief explanation of the subject (because we will also send material beforehand to the participants in the conference) several aspects can be discussed. Experiences can also be exchanged.

At the end of the workshop there are a few statements on the table, concerning the usability of the topic within our community for the further sharing of experiences (a separate seminar, more documents, discussion groups, etc.). In other words, we can show that CHAIN5 is a network that 'works'.

Session

In addition to the workshops, we also want to hold sessions, with a limited time for each of them, and for small groups. See a call for this below.

Call for sessions – based in workshops in the last 5 years

If you have contributed to one of our annual conferences in the first 5 years of having CHAIN5 working as a community of practice, we think that it can be interesting to come to Brussels for a 'follow-up'.

CHAIN5 was founded in 2013. This means that we can celebrate in Brussels our 5th Anniversary (time flies...). It is a perfect moment to look back - and in the same time creating new ideas for the near future. That's why we have this specific call for the annual conference:

- In Amsterdam (2x), Aalborg and Bled we offered a range of workshops and round-table sessions, presented by our members and experts who has been asked by them to come over to the event.
- Those sessions brought us good practices, information about successful experiences and useful outcomes of local, national and international projects.
- What we want to do in Brussels is to give those presenters the opportunity to tell the participants what happened since then.
- The session can be about the situation now, the success factors, the problems that have been encountered, and the innovative solutions for new challenges.

The overall idea is to show that 'it is happening in the European Level 5 Area', in member states, in local situations and within networks.

If you think that Brussels is the place to be for your showcase, please let us know.

How to register for the annual conference

Go to:

<https://www.ucll.be/content/registration-annual-conference-chain-5>

and fill in the necessary details. You will receive automatically a confirmation by e-mail.

The invoice for the conference (and dinner and/or social programme) some weeks before, by e-mail.

Don't forget to mention the codes, if needed for the internal procedure in your organisation.