

A CHAIN5 CONFERENCE

**WORK-BASED LEARNING & LEVEL 5
Theory, Practice & Strategy**

Thursday 9 / Friday 10 November 2017

**Venue: University of Bedfordshire
Luton, UK**

THE CONFERENCE

In our newsletter 22, distributed in May, we gave you background information about this first thematic conference, organized by CHAIN5.

The choice of theme this time is Work-Based Learning – an important theme, in focus for a lot of stakeholders who are involved in issues related to ‘the European Level 5 Area’ and ‘Lifelong Learning strategies’.

Work-based learning is seen as an umbrella-concept for combining work and study, with the workplace as a starting point. But in most countries WBL’ is also used if it comes to formats that include practical learning outcomes within a programme including internships, work-placements and projects based on real-life issues. And that is immediately one of the things that matters to learners and companies, especially if it is about qualifications in the level 5 area.

In the next newsletter, planned for the end of August, we will inform our members, other interesting experts, staff members of institutions, associations and (inter)national networks and policy and decision makers, about the issues that will be discussed in Luton. Of course it will be about the modernisation of higher education, the new aims of the European Qualifications Framework, the role of teachers and trainers in WBL, the future of Higher Apprenticeships Degrees and bridging Vocational and Professional Education. Such developments will be on the agenda, but they are more and more important for having the ‘right’ flexibility in providing learning pathways that include level 5 qualifications.

CHAIN5 has the pleasure to take the initiative for further action after the conference. Here is the text we used in newsletter 22- your arguments for ‘not missing this event!’

Work-Based Learning (WBL) is one of the issues that has a lot of attention, whether it is about having more opportunities for flexible learning pathways, connecting Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Higher (Professional) Education or to involve the world of work in (formal) education. It is about a way of integrating work in a study programme and using education and training in combination with a workplace – or another ‘mix’ of work and study, depending of the stakeholders and possibilities to give shape to the study route.

This kind of practical learning is a global area of interest as universities, colleges and other providers attempt to improve students’ work-related knowledge and skills and provide ‘work ready’ graduates for complex and changing labour markets.

At the same time it can be seen in several European countries that (higher) apprenticeship and VET systems are modernized and actualised, some to create greater transferability for learners between the ‘sectors’ for professional (and academic) education and Higher VET.

Other countries have or are introducing EQF-5 qualifications as a bridge between these different sectors or as a demand-led route to the labour market – also using forms of work-based learning or study-based working.

This means that WBL can be seen as a concept that has many meanings – noticing of course that there are also several (country-based) types of WBL.

This conference will bring together experts and practitioners from across the world to discuss these and related developments, at the University of Bedfordshire’s campus in Luton – close to the Luton Airport. Of course there will be representatives of the world of work, to share their experiences, suggestions and innovative ideas with the participants.

THE ORGANISERS

The conference is a co-production of CHAIN5 (the international community of practice for level 5) and the TANDEM-project (see for more information at: www.tandemflexiblepathways.eu - having as partners: EVBB, eucen, Leido, EWF, Prysmian Group and Cámara de Comercio de Oviedo) - and it will be hosted by the University of Bedfordshire in the UK.

THE STRANDS DURING THE CONFERENCE

We will have during the conference three rounds of workshops and round-table sessions (see the preliminary programme), using three strands for the participants:

- Work-based learning in general: definitions and format, developments, role in flexibility and national strategies on lifelong learning
- Work-based learning and the level 5 area: the situation in Europe, permeability between VET and HE, bridging education and the world of work
- TANDEM-project: conclusions, outcomes and recommendations of the project – what are the possibilities for a follow-up?

AFTER THE CONFERENCE: THE CHAIN5 FOLLOW-UP...

As mentioned the conference is the first thematic event organized by CHAIN5, after staging four successful annual conferences (the next one: 8-9 March 2018 in Flanders, Belgium).

The general idea behind such an event, looking at the aim of CHAIN5 of being a community of practice for those who are involved in offering all kinds of level 5 qualifications, is to offer a follow-up for our members and others who are interested in the theme.

This means that the event in Luton is (also) meant to investigate out which aspects of work-based learning (and formats like apprenticeships) are interesting and important enough for CHAIN5, to take them forward to 2018, building a thematic network for WBL and level 5. This means that we can focus on the following actions in the period after the conference:

- Looking as CHAIN5 to WBL and ‘the world of stakeholders’ – deciding about what it adds to what is already happening
- Making a list of the most important and relevant issues (including the outcomes of Tandem and other projects)
- Building a thematic network under CHAIN5, with experts as members who will cover topical WBL issues
- Deciding about having in 2018 and 2019 seminars and workshop – based on the issues – in different regions of Europe, with the focus on helping national and regional level 5 platforms and networks for this kind of qualifications (involving the members of the thematic network)
- Supporting those national and regional platforms and networks in organizing their own seminars and workshops, within the strategy and possibilities where they have to deal with – with respect for the situation and the used systems
- Using all outcomes to inform policy and decision makers at the European level.

In the next newsletter there will be more information about the ‘challenges’ for CHAIN5 and its members, to use WBL in the best possible way for making the level 5 area a flexible system.

PROGRAMME

Here the preliminary programme for the conference.

Thursday 9 November 2017

Time	Activity	PG/CPD Centre
11.30 – 12.00	Registration with coffee	Reception
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch	Lounge
13.00 – 13.10	Opening session – Steering Group of CHAIN5	Harvard Lecture Theater
13.10 – 13.50	Keynote 1: <i>Bill Rammell</i> , Vice-Chancellor University of Bedfordshire – reflection on WBL and today’s education	
13.50 – 14.25	Keynote 2: <i>Professor Jonathan Garnett</i> - Academic WBL in the UK	
14.25 – 14.55	Keynote 3: <i>Hans Daale</i> , TANDEM Project – overview of the most interesting outcomes	
14.55 – 15.15	Break	Lounge
15.15 – 16.05	Workshops - round 1	Breakout rooms
16.05 – 16.10	Circulation time	
16.10 – 16.55	Keynote 4: Teachers and Trainers in WBL and Apprenticeships	Harvard Lecture Theatre
16.55 – 17.00	Closing of the first part of the conference	
18.30	Buses from hotels, to Putteridge Bury	Putteridge Bury
19.00 – 19.30	Reception	
19.30 – 22.00	Dinner	
22.00	Buses from Putteridge Bury to return to hotels	

Friday 10 November 2017

Time	Activity	Venue: PG/CPD Centre
08.15 – 09.00	Arrival and coffee	Lounge
09.00 – 09.40	Keynote 5: The European Strategy on WBL	Harvard Lecture Theatre
09.40 – 09.45	Circulation time	
09.45 – 10.30	Workshop - round 2	Breakout rooms
10.30 – 10.55	Break	Lounge
10.55 – 11.40	Round-table sessions	Breakout rooms

11.40 – 11.45	Circulation time	
11.45 – 12.45	Panel discussion – representatives of the world of work	Harvard Lecture Theatre
12.45 – 13.00	Feedback on the conference: What have we learned and what is important for CHAIN5? <i>Helen Hoffmann, European Commission Directorate General Employment, Social affairs and Inclusion</i>	
13.00 – 13.10	Wrap-up of the conference	
13.10 – 14.00	Lunch	Lounge

REGISTRATION

We can host a group of 80 participants for this event.

Knowing that 'WBL, Apprenticeships and Level 5' is a very hot and interesting topic at this moment, we will advise you not to wait too long with registering.

As always we will keep it simple. You can register yourself for the conference by sending an e-mail to info@leido.nl, mentioning:

- Name
- Organisation
- Position in organisation
- E-mail
- Telephone number
- Dinner: yes or no
- Other information, important for us as organisers.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Here is the most relevant practical information.

In the next newsletter you will find more details, also about the hotels and the dinner.

Venue

The conference will take place at the campus of the University of Bedfordshire in Luton. Information about the campus can be found on: <https://www.beds.ac.uk/about-us/campuses/luton>.

We will use the 'Postgraduate & CPD Centre'.

Fee for the conference

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: 175 Euro
- Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Russia, Lithuania, Greece, Slovakia, Portugal, Czech Republic, and other countries in the Eastern or Southern part of Europe, not mentioned below: 125 Euro
- Kosovo, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and all other countries not mentioned above: 90 Euro.

Dinner

The conference dinner will be on Thursday evening, at the Conference Centre of the University of Bedfordshire, just outside Luton (transport will be arranged from the hotels).

You may have a look at <https://www.beds.ac.uk/putteridgebury>.

The cost for the dinner are 45 euro. This includes:

- A welcome cocktail
- Three courses
- Drinks and coffee/tea
- Transport to Putteridge Bury and back to the hotels after the dinner.

Hotels

We have pre-booked a number of rooms in the center of Luton, for the period of the conference, meaning that you can book them for specific prices, for the following nights: 8, 9 and 10 November.

These hotels are:

- Icon Hotel, Stuart Street, Luton
- Premier Inn Luton Town Centre - Regent Street, Luton (not to be confused with other Premier Inns in the area)
- Hampton by Hilton (note: this may be a taxi ride for some people, although only a 10 minute walk)

In the next newsletter we will give you the prices per night and per room for those hotels. Then you can book one of them through our organization, to avoid misunderstanding about the bookings and rooms. But keep in mind that you will have to pay directly to the hotel at the end of your stay there.

Extra...

For those who will arriving on Wednesday, we will organize:

- A tour on the campus of the University of Bedfordshire, from 15.30 till 17:00
- A dinner in the centre of Luton, starting 19.00 (at own cost).



<https://www.beds.ac.uk/putteridgebury>.

QUESTIONS

If you have questions about this conference, please send an e-mail to info@leido.nl. We are trying to give the answers a.s.a.p. And of course suggestions are more than welcome.