

Press Release
12.03.2019
Como

Kick off of Chain5 Conference on “Making the European level 5 area a reality”

The 6th Annual Chain 5 Conference, on “Making the European level 5 area a reality”, will kick off tomorrow and will last until the 15th March at the premises of Cometa Formazione, the Italian Centre of the UNESCO-UNEVOC network. This year’s edition is co-organized and hosted by IATH Academy. The conference will welcome more than 80 participants from all Europe including HVET providers, Universities of Applied Sciences, Regional Colleges for Level5 , National Associations, policy-makers.

12.03.2019 Como. The main 2 actors of the conference are Chain5 and IATH Academy.

Chain5 is a community of practice for those involved in the developments of the level 5 of the European Qualifications Framework: members include HVET providers, associations, universities and business academies, researchers, experts and consultancy agencies. IATH (International Academy of Tourism and Hospitality), founded in 2014, offers training programs finalized to develop junior professional figures operating in the tourism and hospitality sector. IATH promotes a reality-based learning approach: for this conference, a group of 25 students (enrolled in the International Hotel and Restaurant Management Course) have been working as project team to organize the event as part of their training in event management.

This Conference aims at starting a process: to bring HVET (not only EQF5) more into the center of international attention. Delegates will be asked for sharing their visions and promoting actions during plenary sessions, workshops and roundtables focused on the development at national and international level of the providers in the Level 5 Area. In the current context of big challenges and paradigm shift in education, the impact of EQF5 organizations is clearly crucial for employability.

Hans Daale, President of Chain5, is clearly content with the possibility of organizing the Annual Conference in Italy this year. *"There are dynamic developments within the national education systems, to see how the qualifications at level 5 of the European framework can be used for a further flexibilization of learning pathways. To look at the role of VET Colleges is of great importance, together with the opportunities that exist to cooperate with institutions for higher education. After the conference we hope to have identified a number of international themes, in order to work with experts from all over Europe."*

Alessandro Mele, Secretary-General of IATH Academy and Chairman of the Italian Association of Higher Technical Institutes (Rete Fondazioni ITS Italia), underlines the importance to host the conference in Italy: *“ten years after the first political initiative introducing the ITS system in Italy (Istituti Tecnici Superiori, Italian EQF5), today we have almost 100 Foundations that represent a significant and innovative model of VET at tertiary level. We are moving now toward their transformation in Technological Campuses leading to the growth of the Italian System. The key topics of the Conference are completely in line with the strategy of Rete Fondazioni Italia ITS: quality enhancement of training, technological Innovation as a development driver and the internationalization of courses and promotion of Joint Qualifications in Europe and Worldwide.”*

During the conference (plenary sessions, workshops and roundtables), keynote speakers will offer their points of view: beside **Hans Daale** (President of Chain5) and **Marije Markus** (Scientific Coordinator of the Conference and Vice-President of CHAIN5), **Alessandro Mele** (Chairman of Rete Fondazioni ITS Italia), **Kinga Szebeni** (DG Employment, European Commission), **Antonietta Zancan** (Italian Ministry of Education), **Joachim James Calleja** (President of the European forum for Vocational Education and Training), **Alex Keys** (QQI Ireland).

Live coverage of the conference will be on Twitter (#Chain5).