



To: Bologna Follow-up Group Secretariat/Secrétariat du processus de Bologne
Ministère de l'éducation nationale, de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche
Direction générale de l'enseignement supérieur et de l'insertion professionnelle
1 rue Descartes
75231 Paris cedex 5
FRANCE

Subject: CHAIN5: Common international name for Short Cycle Higher Education: Associate
Leusden, 2 July 2018

Dear Mrs. Profit,

First of all, it was important to have the decision taken during the Ministerial Conference in Paris about the Short Cycle Higher Education (SCHE), to have it from now on as a full recognised cycle within the European Higher Education Area. Also the message to all partner-countries in the EHEA to respect other qualifications at the same level, offered by other institutions and in different sectors, and to use them for progression to the first cycle, can be seen as a big step forward in having more flexibility in the whole education area.

As CHAIN5, the international community of practice for qualifications at level 5 of the EQF (see: www.chain5.net), we consider this as a very relevant innovation for the EHEA. The SCHE is already offered in a lot of countries, but now a new process can start, using the Paris Communiqué as such.

But as CHAIN5 we would like to propose to take an additional step, to make SCHE more visible, and the whole system more transparent. The proposal is to give the SCHE an international common name: Associate. There are two important reasons for this:

1. For the other cycles we have international common names: Bachelor, Master and Doctorate. This makes those cycles more visible for all users, in a national and international setting. International cooperation is easier, to understand each other at those levels.
2. In a lot of discussions about qualifications at level 5 of the EQF (as we call it: the European Level 5 Area) there is a misunderstanding. If the concept of level 5 is mentioned, in most cases people think immediately of the SCHE within the EHEA. This makes the situation not transparent, for instance if it is about qualifications as Higher VET and Business Diplomas. Using the name 'Associate' will refer directly to the SCHE, offered by Higher Education Institutions.

We know that it is not the responsibility of the BFUG to take such a decision. But we hope that you can address the organisations that can do so. Of course we are willing to support the process that is needed, and to give more information about our idea.

Best regards,

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