

# Iceland introduction

Iceland centres its priorities in adult education around a range of social changes and societal issues the country is facing at the moment.

Because of this, learning providers try to offer opportunities that would allow learners to adapt to current trends, such as digitalisation and new working requirements.

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## Recent developments in Iceland

During this last year, Iceland has seen small changes in the adult education sector. More emphasis is now placed on education and training for the tourist industry and instruction on intercultural awareness. For the future, state and non-governmental institutions have suggested that the sector should focus on such challenges as the issue of the fourth industrial revolution, workplaces for adult education, intercultural dialogue, promotion of the importance of active citizenship, all of which are, in part, linked to the environment, sustainability, and global heating. In addition to this, the topics of global media, public relations, and political awareness have presented new challenges for Iceland.

On an organisational level, EAEA member, Association for Adult Learning in Iceland (LEIKN), has witnessed a recent increase in their capacity. This has occurred as a result of more focused work and the increased duties of the board team. As a result, there has

been more cooperation with EPALE, Erasmus+ and the Ministries of Welfare and Education.

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## Links to EU and international policy in Iceland

Iceland is fully committed to implementing the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development Goals, both nationally and internationally. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been integrated into state policies on social, economic and environmental affairs, with a particular emphasis on building a peaceful and fair society, free from aggression and violence. The main goals in order to implement SDG 4 are:

- The promotion of literacy and preservation of the Icelandic language
- To increase the number of teachers
- To enhance the number of students in technical and vocational studies
- Actions to reduce drop-out rates in upper secondary schools
- The education of pupils with a foreign mother tongue

EAEA member, the Association for Adult Learning in Iceland (LEIKN) plans to give trainers and teachers the opportunity to participate in study events abroad in the field of adult education. In addition, the organisation has plans to promote adult education and to introduce the Manifesto on Adult Learning to the public sector.

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# Challenges and recommendations in Iceland

LEIKN recommends higher investment of capital in adult education in order to strengthen its voice. Funding for LEIKN could also improve outreach and awareness from the public on adult education, how to access learning opportunities and their benefits.

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