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Revision of the Act on Adult Education and the making of the first Inclusion policy in Iceland – ever!

Distance meeting with EU- Norden

Government of Iceland

Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour



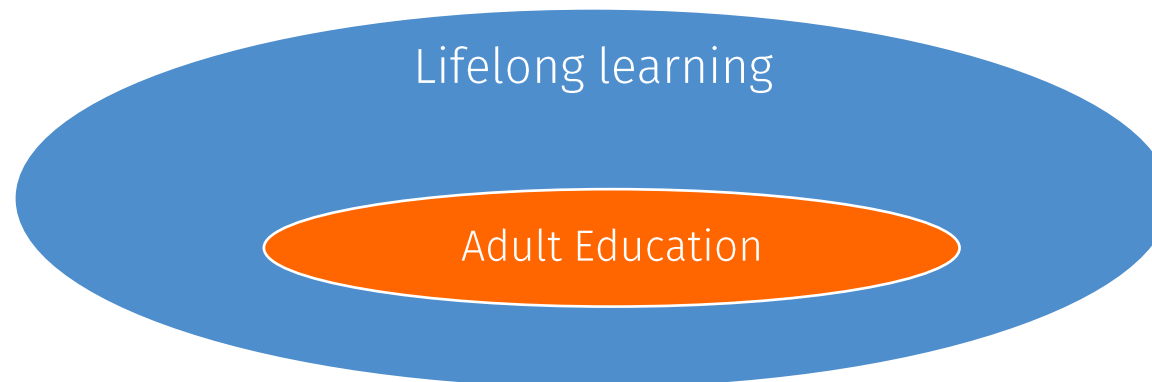
Adult Education / Lifelong learning

Adult Education

Any type of education, resources and counseling that is meant to meet the needs of people with short formal education and is not based on the Upper Secondary Education Act No 92/2008 or the Higher Education Act No 63/2006

Lifelong learning

Any type of education for adults within or outside of the school system e.g. formal education, courses, lectures or conferences





Adult Education moved from The Ministry of Education and Children to The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour

The Act on Adult Education (no. 27/2010) was moved in 2022 between ministries. That gives opportunities to:

- **Strengthen the ties between education, welfare and working life.** Meet challenges and green and digital developments in the work place. Also empower individuals with new approaches e.g. Inclusive education and combined programmes consisting of education, training and work.
- **Strengthen inclusion.** To better meet the needs of vulnerable adults e.g. disabled people, immigrants and, refugees.

2022-2023: Ongoing governmental measures, action plans, policies and projects in collaboration with stakeholders: 1) Revision on the Act on Adult Education, 2) Working group on equal opportunities for disabled adults, 3) Supporting studies, reports and conferences (e.g. Voices of People with Immigrant Background) - to underpin policies formulation, 4) Parliamentary Resolution on learning Icelandic. Action plan introduced tomorrow! and 5) Comprehensive Policy making on inclusion in Iceland.



Why are we revising The Act on Adult Education?

Agreement on the Platform for the Coalition Government:

„Continuing education and lifelong learning will be strengthened and legislation on further education will be reviewed in broad consultation, to ensure that the further education system is equipped to deal with societal developments, e.g. due to climate issues and technological change in the labour market.“

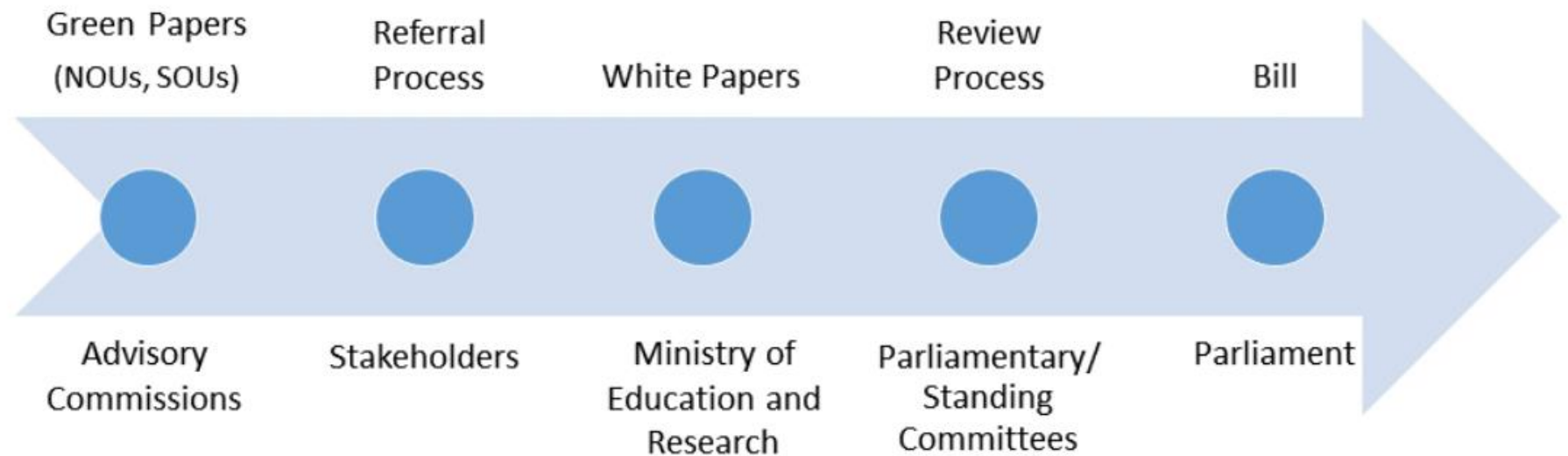
Previous reviews:

It is necessary to clarify the overall strategy. The system and financing is not transparent, it is seen as complex. The target **group is changing** (evolving all the time), more people could attend, **immigrants and disabled people are not addressed**, we need to define educational terms and new (endless) possibilities to **learn everywhere (AI)**, distance and blended learning, more cooperation and specialization in AE. The **importance of RPL, quality requirements and follow-up**, “relevant” curricula”, the relations between adult education and upper-secondary schools regarding **credits assessment**,

The progression of the target group are unknown, lack of innovation to meet challenges like green/digital.



Collaboration phases in policy making:





New studies to strengthen evidence base - and new policies coming up:

1) Inclusive societies. Integration in Iceland. Attitudes towards Icelandic courses (2018 and 2023). Lara Wilhelmine Hoffmann, Kjartan Ólafsson and Markus Hermann Meckl. <https://www.stjornarradid.is/library/02-Rit--skyrslur-og-skrar/Icelandic%20language%20report%202023.pdf?design=DesignPageItems>

2) Voices of People with Immigrant Background. Nordic conference in May 2023 in Reykjavik. <https://nvl.org/events/voices-of-people-with-immigrant-background-iceland2023/>

3) Assessment of the quality aspects of Icelandic teaching for adults with a different native language than Icelandic. Ólöf Júlíusdóttir. <https://www.stjornarradid.is/library/02-Rit--skyrslur-og-skrar/Uttekt-a-gaedamalum-islenskukennslu.pdf>

4) Immigrants in Adult Education. An analyses on policies and research findings. Nichole Leigh Mosty. https://menntavisindastofnun.hi.is/sites/menntavisindastofnun.hi.is/files/2023-11/Skyrsla_Fullordinsfraedsla_medal_innflytjenda_Nicole_0.pdf

5) Adult Education and Learning in Iceland. An analysis of policy and research. Hróbjartur Árnason. https://menntavisindastofnun.hi.is/sites/menntavisindastofnun.hi.is/files/2023-11/Skyrsla_fullordinsfraedsla_a_islandi_hrobjartur.pdf

6) Parliamentary resolution on learning Icelandic. Action plan about to be launched by five ministers. [https://samradsgatt.island.is/oll-mal/\\$Cases/Details/?id=3479](https://samradsgatt.island.is/oll-mal/$Cases/Details/?id=3479)



19 new actions to improve Icelandic as second language and our language systems and integration policies:

1. Job related Icelandic lessons for immigrants, at their workplace
2. Increased quality of Icelandic lessons for immigrants
3. Strengthen the use and implementation of The European Language Framework
4. Courses in Icelandic studies at BA level made available for distance learning
5. Icelandic as a second language made available for distance learning in cooperation between universities
6. Preliminary university studies for immigrants
7. Measuring attitudes towards Icelandic
8. The importance of art and culture
9. More dubbing and subtitling in Icelandic
10. New online information hub about the Icelandic language
11. Great school libraries
12. Online access to learning materials
13. Coordinated approach to integrate newcomers into schools and public services
14. Increasing Icelandic skills for staff in preschools, primary schools and after-school programmes
15. Workbased language training combining other mother tongues
16. Icelandic language technology for the future
17. Icelandic for everyone
18. Icelandic as the obvious choice
19. Career development and competence building for those who teach Icelandic as a second language



Policy making process on the issues of immigrants and refugees in Iceland

- The first Inclusion policy in Iceland ever
- In a close cooperation with OECD and in a broad conversation around Iceland
- **Timeframe:** jan 2023 – des 2024 (2 years)
- Icelandic presidency in the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2023
 - The Nordic Labour Market Committee financed a part of the FRÆ project
- A green paper on the issues of immigrants and refugees was published in the cooperation portal in november (in three languages)





Why is this project important for our policy making process?

A policy making on the issues of immigrants and refugees (Integration policy making)

Perfect timing and a good database on the website

Connection between integration policy and Adult Education

Nordic as well as OECD

Many elements and different methods

- Focus groups, seminar, company survey, Design Thinking

Three important aspects

- Society, work and education

Broad consultation gives credibility

- Immigrants, Universities, Institutions, private actors, NPOs, Municipalities, three ministries.

How does the results feed into the policy making?

Those are the key messages from the green paper published in november 2023, those **bolded** have direct connections with the results from the project.

- **Ensure good and efficient information services for immigrants and refugees about their rights and obligations in this country**
- **Promote teaching in Icelandic as a second language, ensure access to diverse learning for different ages and equal access throughout the country**
- The need for manpower in the Icelandic labor market will be defined and made predictable, thus attracting qualified people to Iceland both from inside and outside the EEA
- **Simplify and strengthen the evaluation of the previous education and work experience of those who have education from abroad with the aim that people will get suitable jobs and that the education and experience of those who move here are useful for the society**
- **Aim for an inclusive society where it is always assumed that immigrants are participants in all areas of society**





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- **Ensure the involvement of immigrants in decision-making about their own affairs**
- Reduce poverty among immigrants
- **Promote democratic participation**, protect human rights and equality for immigrants
- **Strengthen research** in the field of immigration and refugee issues and improve registration and collection so that it is possible, in the long term, to increase the quality of services based on a knowledge base and measurable goals.
- Ensure support for refugees so that they can establish themselves here and build their lives. Emphasis is placed on support for the most vulnerable groups.



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