

ICELANDIC AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

SUDUR LIFELONG LEARNING CENTRE/MSS (ICELAND)



NORDIC LEARNING CENTER INNOVATION PARTNERS

WHICH THEME DOES THIS CASE RELATE TO?

Mark with an X

Theme 1 Strategic mediation	Theme 2 New ways of learning	Theme 3 Targeting new users	Theme 4 Mobilizing the community
		x	

INTRODUCTION TO THE CASE

1.1 CASE CONTENT AND ISSUE

The following case presents MSS' new course on upper secondary level called International Menntastoðir. The focus group is students with Icelandic as a second language. Changes in the demography of the area where MSS is located and with the globalization have made the need for education suitable for multicultural students. Now 20% of the population in the area have Icelandic as a second language and it is foreseen that in the future 50% of the population will be multicultural. The challenge will be to locate the target group and to introduce this opportunity of education and new possibilities for this group.

1.2 SOLUTIONS

MSS offers Preparation course called International Menntastoðir. The course is equivalent to the first year of upper secondary education. Graduating from the course gives access to a preparation course for Preliminary Studies for university education at Keilir and can be evaluated as part of academic courses in vocational studies. This program builds on the success of the Icelandic version of the Menntastoðir which MSS has been offering since 2009.

The format of the education is distance learning. It takes about ten months and can be evaluated as 55 units. The course is mostly taught online through distance learning but on-site sessions are scheduled once every six weeks or so. International Menntastoðir are scheduled periodically where one subject is taught at a time.

The final aim of Menntastoðir is to develop students' academic skills for further education, strengthen skills in English and Icelandic language, increase employability opportunities and to make sure students fulfill the aims of level two education.

1.3 RESULTS

The results have not been made clear yet as the course is now being marketed and presented both locally and internationally. There has already been some interest and listings from students. The course has been presented to other learning centers nationally and to different partners and stakeholders.

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED/WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

Meeting the needs of different target groups has always been a big part of MSS' role as a learning center. Seeing new ideas come to life and managing to be diverse and flexible is one of MSS' aim and with a course like this it has proven to be possible once more.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Særún Rósa Ástþórsdóttir, saerun@mss.is