

# MIÐSTÖÐ SÍMENNTUNAR Á SUÐURNESJUM

ICELAND



## NORDIC LEARNING CENTER INNOVATION PARTNERS

## PRODUCT

- Icelandic language courses for immigrants, level 1-5
- Foreign languages for Icelandic speaking people, such as English, Norwegian and Spanish
- General computer skills
  - more detailed computer courses are also offered such as graphic design
- Occupational courses for
  - health-care
  - social services employees
  - employees in tourism
  - employees in schools or kindergartens
- Education for adults with disabilities, long seminars and short courses
- Job and education related rehabilitation
- Learning facilities for university students in the area
- Educational and carrier counselling for people in the area.
- Counselling for companies

## TARGET GROUP

The main target group in Iceland is people with little or no education. That group covers 40% of people in labour market. A big role for MSS is to find and use new methods to motivate this group of people to continue and finish their education. The goal is to increase the education level in the area. Another target group is the people who wish to study at a University but want to stay and live in the same area.

## ACTIVITIES

Providing courses that strengthen the individual's status on the job market, connecting education with business life, providing facilities for university students to study and take exams while doing online studies.

## PARTNERS

MSS has empowered the learning centers contact with the labour market through by creating a special department working with companies. MSS has regular contact with companies in Sudurnes peninsula and offers different job related courses by demand of the workforce. MSS offers free counselling both to the employed and unemployed individuals with no formal education. MSS cooperates with the local unemployment office as well as social services offering courses, counselling.

## ORGANIZATION

Miðstöð símenntunar á Suðurnesjum (MSS) is a self-owned educational institution operated in the southwest of Iceland. It was founded by local communities, labour unions, the Sudurnes Comprehensive College, key companies and the National Workers/Educational Association in Iceland.

## BUDGET

MSS works on the base of the law of adult education nr. 27/2010 and according to a contract with The Education and Training Service Centre of Iceland (ETSC) owned by the Icelandic Confederation of Labour (ASÍ), the Confederation of Icelandic Employers (SA), the Federation of State and Municipal, Employees (BSRB), the Ministry of Finance and the Association of Local Authorities in Iceland. The center also has a contract with the Ministry of education and culture. All curriculum based courses, long and short are financed by ETSC as MSS gets a yearly payment for scheduled courses. Admission fees for students are therefore subsidized by the ETSC and students can also apply for student grant from their union. Icelandic courses for immigrants are financed by the Ministry of education and culture. Courses for companies are usually paid for by the companies themselves but MSS offers assistance in applying for grants from the unions.

Yearly budget is about 300 million ISK when all is included, contracts named above are only a part of the budget. The total budget includes income from MSS' rehabilitation department and fees paid by individuals taking courses at the center as well as courses sold to private and public companies.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Guðjónína Sæmundsdóttir, [ina@mss.is](mailto:ina@mss.is)