



WELKOM

“Welkom

**Recognition of Qualifications held by
Refugees”**

2017-1-BE02-KA202-034709

**Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the
European Union**



Erasmus+

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AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Project “WELKOM” has been developed in the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme as an answer to the growing needs for social, economic and educational integration of the refugees fleeing to the European countries during the last few years. The aim of “WELKOM” is to develop transparency, recognition and validation of skills and qualifications held by refugees and migrants based in Belgium, Iceland, Italy and Sweden. Consequently, this will make it easier for the target groups to study and work in the host countries, leading to further social inclusion and integration.

The aim of this brochure is to inform refugees about the available learning tools and initiatives in their host country, and to enhance their awareness in order to be able to participate and integrate. This brochure will help inform about and incorporate the learners in innovative learning systems, webinars, coaching and mentoring schemes taking place in their region.

PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

UC LIMBURG is a Higher Education Institution in Flanders, Belgium, renowned for the high quality of its teaching, research & regional development activities.

OECON GROUP is a European management consulting firm and a leading advisor in business strategy, social entrepreneurship, as well as an adult education centre and VET provider based in Thessaloniki, Greece.

EQUALITY CENTRE/JAFNRÉTTISHÚS is a private NGO based in Hafnarfjörður, Iceland. It is an international not for profit adult education provider and equality promoter organization.

MEDBORGARSKOLAN is a Nationwide Study association in Sweden which provides a rich offering of courses and educational programmes aimed at achieving skills for a new area of work.

FUTURO DIGITALE is an association with branches in 3 regions across Italy, composed of 19 members and 7 collaborators. Its aim of fd is to promote the empowerment of young people.

Contact details -Immigration authorities

The directorate of Immigration—Apply for residency, asylum or get citizenship

Dalvegur 18, 201 Kópavogur

Tel. (+354) 444 0900

Email: utl@utl.is

Red Cross—Legal assistance regarding to application of residency or asylum as well as help with basic needs

Efstaleiti 9, 103 Reykjavík

Tel. (+354) 570 4000

Social Service Hafnarfjörður—Support, counseling for families, housing and financial assistance in the district of Hafnarfjörður

Strangata 6, 220 Hafnarfjörður

Tel. (+354) 585 5500

Email: Hafnarfjordur@hafnarfjordur.is

Social Service Reykjavík—Support, counseling for families, housing and financial assistance in all the Reykjavík area

Árbæjar og Grafarholts

Hraunbær 115, 110 Reykjavík

Tel. (+354) 411 1200

Email: arbaer-grafarholt@reykjavik.is

Breiðholts

Álfabakki 12, 109 Reykjavík

Tel. (+354) 411 1300

Email: breidholt@reykjavik.is

Laugardals og Háaleitis

Efstaleiti 1, 103 Reykjavík

Tel. (+354) 411 1500

Email: laugardalur.haaleiti@reykjavik.is

Welfare for Reykjavík, Hafnarfjörður and Reykjanes—Service for assylum , family affairs, health service, housing, labor and equality issues

Borgartún 12-14

Tel. (+354) 411 1111

What should I do first after entering Iceland?

1. Visit the EURES office: www.eures.is There you get help and advice on finding a job and apartment, applying for an ID number (kennitala) and other necessary formalities.



2. When you have found a job:

- Sign a contract of employment (with help of EURES)
- After receiving a kennitala you can open a bank account.
- Apply for a tax card.
- Apply for a residence permit.
- Make sure that you know your rights. For instance are you being paid the correct wage?

3. When you find an apartment or place to live be sure and fill out a change of address form at the national Registry: www.thjodskra.is If at any time you need help or information contact the EURES office (www.eures.is)

Multicultural and Information centre : mcc.is

The Multicultural Centre has the fundamental role of facilitating communications between individuals of different backgrounds, and to enhance the services provided to foreign citizens residing in Iceland and to those interested in moving to Iceland.

Multicultural Centre offers assistance to those seeking information about daily life in Iceland, gives information about the administration and is service to foreign citizens moving to or from Iceland.

The Multicultural Centre offers you assistance and counsel through phone in Icelandic, English, Polish, Serbian/Croatian, Thai, Spanish, Lithuanian and Russian

Tel (+354)

Icelandic: 450 3090

Thai: 470 4702

English: 450 3090

Español: 470 4705

Polski: 470 4708

Lietuviu: 470 4706

Hrvatski: 470 4709

Русский: 470 4707



FJÖLMENNINGARSETUR

Assistance information

Red Cross Iceland

The Red Cross can assist in many ways. All you need to do is contact them and ask for it.

Here are some of the assistance they provide:

Social Support for Asylum seekers

In this support group you can reduce isolation and get the opportunity to be active with the focus on positive and useful experience. This experience is twofolded; visitation service and social activities. These activities include short trips, sports activities, walks in and around the capital area, museum visits and courses along with regular get togethers in the social house.

Open House – Assistant for immigrants and refugees

Open house is intended to provide support and opportunity to build network for you and increase your participation in the Icelandic society. In the open house they can with:

-Making a CV, job search, house search, household equipment and more. -

Refugee Guide

Individuals who have good knowledge in the Icelandic society and refugees are paired up where they conclude a one-year-partnership agreement. In this year the aim is to meet the goals defined by the refugee. They can be general, such as gaining better insight into the community, practicing Icelandic or they can be more specific like find a suitable education and employment. The goal is to make give the refugee the means and confidence to navigate the Icelandic system on their own.



Rauði krossinn

Work in Iceland

Applications for work permits must be submitted, including the necessary supporting documentation, to the Directorate of Immigration who then forwards the application to the Directorate of Labour if the conditions for the issuing of a residence permit for the relevant foreign national are met.

Workers in Iceland have the same rights regarding wages and other benefits negotiated by the parties to the labour market.

Employment contract

Citizens of EEA states who work for two months or longer for the same employer have the right of a written employment contract. An employment contract is to contain name, information of employer, information on where the work is done, wages, employment period, resignation clauses and membership in a pension fund and union. Further information can be found on the Icelandic Confederation of Labour's website (www.asi.is), the Directorate of Labour (www.vinnumalastofnun.is) and the websites of specific unions.

Everyone working in Iceland must pay taxes. The taxation system in Iceland is a PAYE system (Pay-As-You-Earn). Employers are required to calculate and deduct taxes from all salaries and wages paid out to employees

Find work

Jobs are advertised in newspapers, on the Internet and sometimes on the websites of individual companies. It is also possible to register at the public employment agency.

Set yourself goals in the search. Figure out what kind of work you would prefer or where you would prefer to work. Organize your day and week – how many jobs you're going to apply for and where you are going to give follow up on older applications.

Websites to find work:

[Www.alfred.is](http://www.alfred.is) www.storf.is www.job.is www.vinnumalastofnun.is

Job Agencies

EURES

EURES is a cooperation network between the European Commission and the Public Employment Services of the EEA Member States (The 28 EU countries plus Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland) and other partner organisations.

The purpose of EURES is to provide information, advice and recruitment/ placement (job-matching) services for the benefit of workers and employers as well as any citizen in need of information and advice.

EURES host weekly information sessions called New in Iceland every Wednesday from 14:00-15:00 at the head office in Kringlan 1, 103 Reykjavik.



The Directorate of Labour

The Directorate of Labour bears overall responsibility for public labour exchanges and handles day-to-day operations of the Unemployment Insurance Fund, the Maternity and Paternity Leave Fund, the Wage Guarantee Fund and many other projects connected with the labour market.

Kringlan 1, 103 Reykjavík Tel. (+354)515 4800 Email: postur@vmst.is



Education

A fundamental principle of Icelandic education is that everyone should have equal opportunities to acquire an education, regardless of sex, economic status, residential location, religion, possible handicaps, and cultural, social or ethnic background.

Icelandic language

Language Icelandic is one of the Nordic languages, it resembles the Norse language as it was spoken centuries ago. Icelandic is the official language and is used almost exclusively in all areas of daily life in Iceland. A large majority of Icelanders also speak English as a second language as well as Danish or another Scandinavian language. Usually a fair knowledge of these languages is a precondition for many unskilled and technical jobs in Iceland and knowledge in Icelandic is not necessarily required. **Learning the Icelandic language gives you though a great advantage and enhances your chances to find a more specialised and better paid job**



Educational Assessment

The educational assessment can improve people's status on the labor market, increase the possibility of employment and higher wages. Various ministries oversee education assessment and professional certifications from abroad. Further information and forms can be found on the Educational Gateway website (www.menntagatt.is)

Contact details -Language courses & other

Jafnréttishús—Language, computer, swimming, self confidence courses.

Adult education & support centre.

Strangata 25 , 220 Hafnarfjörður

Tel. (+354) 534 0107

Email: jafn@jafn.is



Mímir Símenntun—Continuing education centre

Ofanleiti 2 , 103 Reykjavík

Tel. (+354) 580 1800

Email: mimir@mimir.is



Univeristy of Iceland—Icelandic for foreign students

Nýja garði, 101 Reykjavík

Tel. (+354) 525 4400

Email: hug@hi.is



Múltí Kúltí—Language course

Barónsstígur 3 , 101 Reykjavík

Tel. (+354) 899 6570

Email: multiislenska@gmail.com



Iceschool ehf.—Adult Education

Ármúli 5, 108 Reykjavík

Tel. (+354) 557 1155

Email: ff@icetrans.is



The Tin Can Factory—Language course

Borgartún 1, 105 Reykjavík

Tel. (+354) 551 7700



Betri árangur—Language course

Suðurlandsbraut 6, 108 Reykjavík

Tel. (+354) 897 7995

Email: learningicelandic@gmail.com



Jafnréttishús / Equality Centre

Equality Centre provides counseling and guidance in any ways you need for instance if you need legal help or lobbying. Courses are also available and you can find more about them and sign up on their website:

www.jafn.is

Courses:

Icelandic course for better integration into society. Our curriculum provides social studies, culture studies and creates forum for conversation and dialog between different cultures.

Swimming lessons particularly aimed for foreign women which can give a boost in your self confidence and it's always useful when a situation comes up where you have to be able to swim.

Computer course Is thought in many languages, in today's society where most things are done by technology, knowing the basics of the computer can be useful when looking for a job,

Interpretation service

If you are struggling with understanding the language and have not been able to learn it yet, Equality Centre provides interpretation service which you can ask for by phone (+354 5340107) or by email (jafn@jafn.is).







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