



Education on the Edge

-Thoughts from a Rural Educator-



Pekkingarnet
Þingeyinga

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Who?
Where?
What's this about?

Iceland's „rural
infrastructure“?

What is our role?
(Is it of any use?)

Thought provoking

What do do next?
(and what not to)

I. *The Basics;*

II. *The Infrastructure;*

III. *The Role;*

IV. *Thought provoking;*

V. *Conclusions/suggestions?*

I. THE BASICS

The Presenter...



Óli Halldórsson

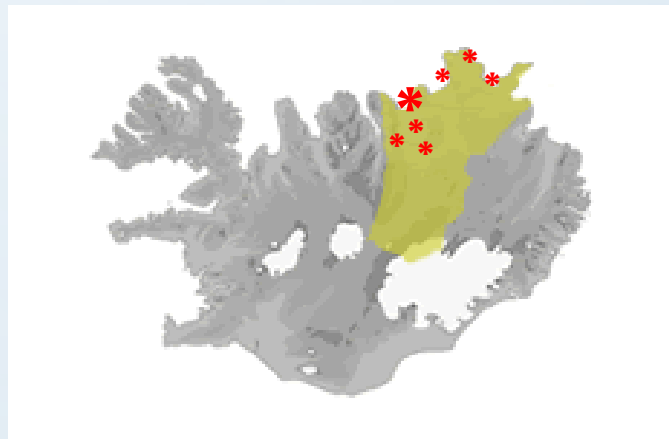
- Director of Husavik Academic Center (www.hac.is):
 - Academic/educational/research center
 - Located in North-East Iceland
 - “One-Stop-Shop” for educational services and regional researchwork
- Education and background:
 - M.A. Environmental Studies – Dipl. Pedagogy – B.A Philosophy
 - Work experience incl. Planning & Environmental administration
 - Research work; rural studies, environmental assessment etc.

I. THE BASICS

4

My „battlefield“:

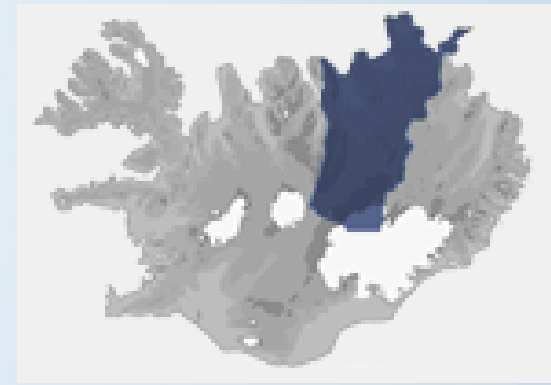
(The learning centers/bases in Rural-NE Iceland)



I. THE BASICS

My „battlefield“:

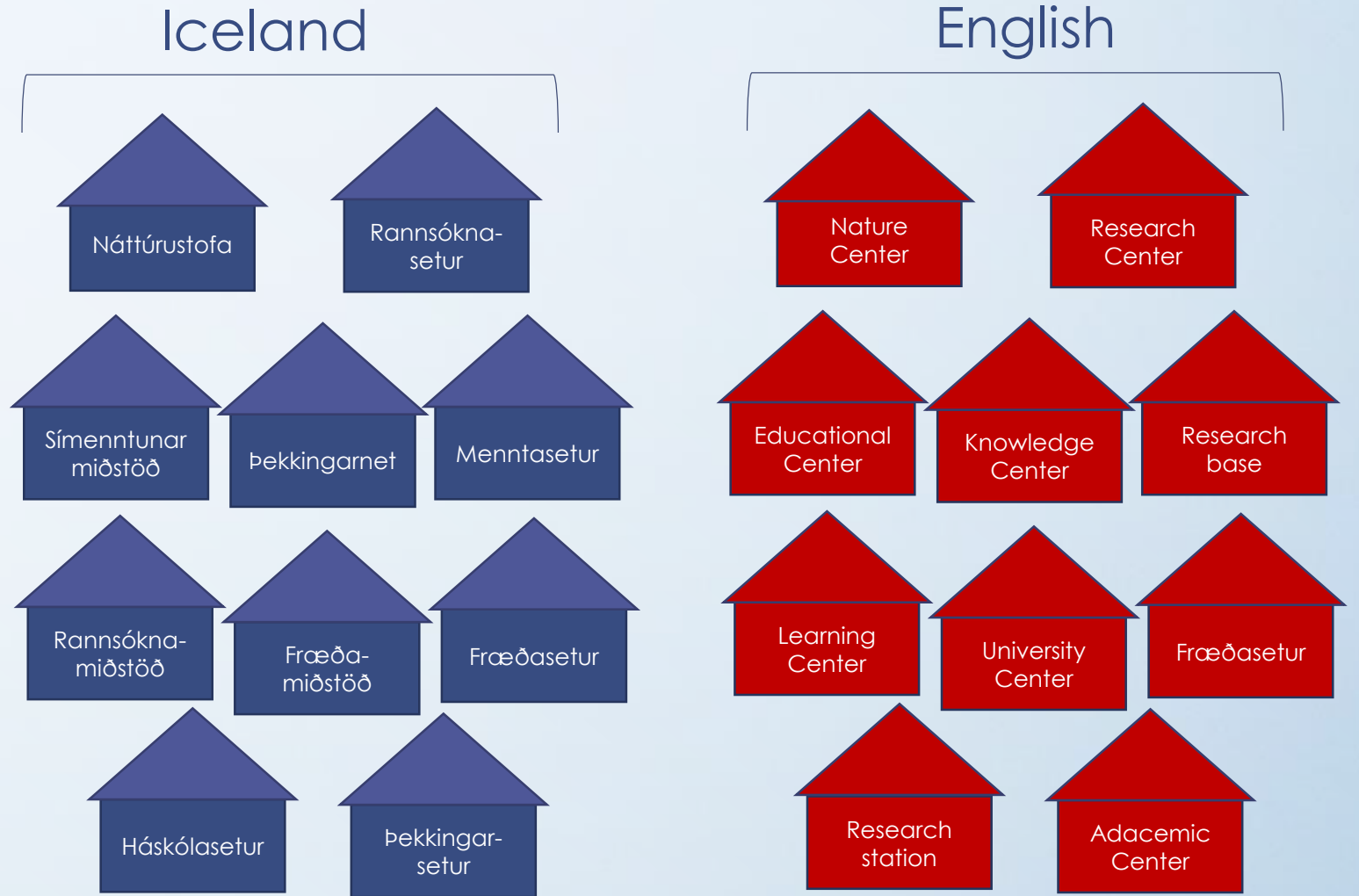
Husavik Academic Center - -A Rural Educational & Research Center in Numbers?



- 19% of Iceland 18.000 km²
- 5.000 people -1,5% of Iceland's population
- 350 km coastline to service
- 600-1000 adult education students p/year
- 250-400 - University exams p/year
- 30-70 short courses p/year
- 300-500 students council interviews p/year
- 2-3 international Projects
- 4-10 research projects/reports p/year
- 0,7-1 million Euro revenue p/year
- 30-50% funded by governmental contract

I. THE BASICS

„The Centers“:
Different names/
roles/types...:



Bottom line:

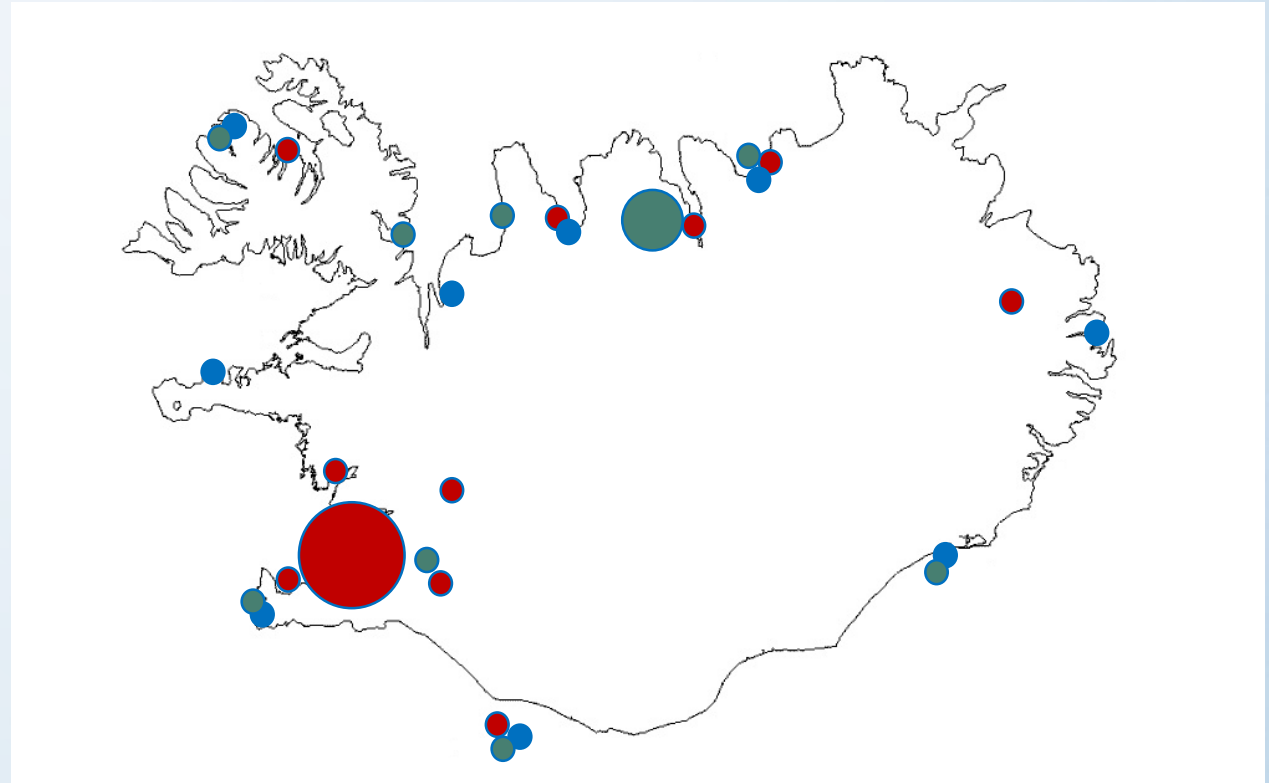
Many names - Different focus & funding ... but same elements:

= ***Educational or researchwork of some kind in rural areas***

II. THE INFRASTRUCTURE

Iceland's structure of ...

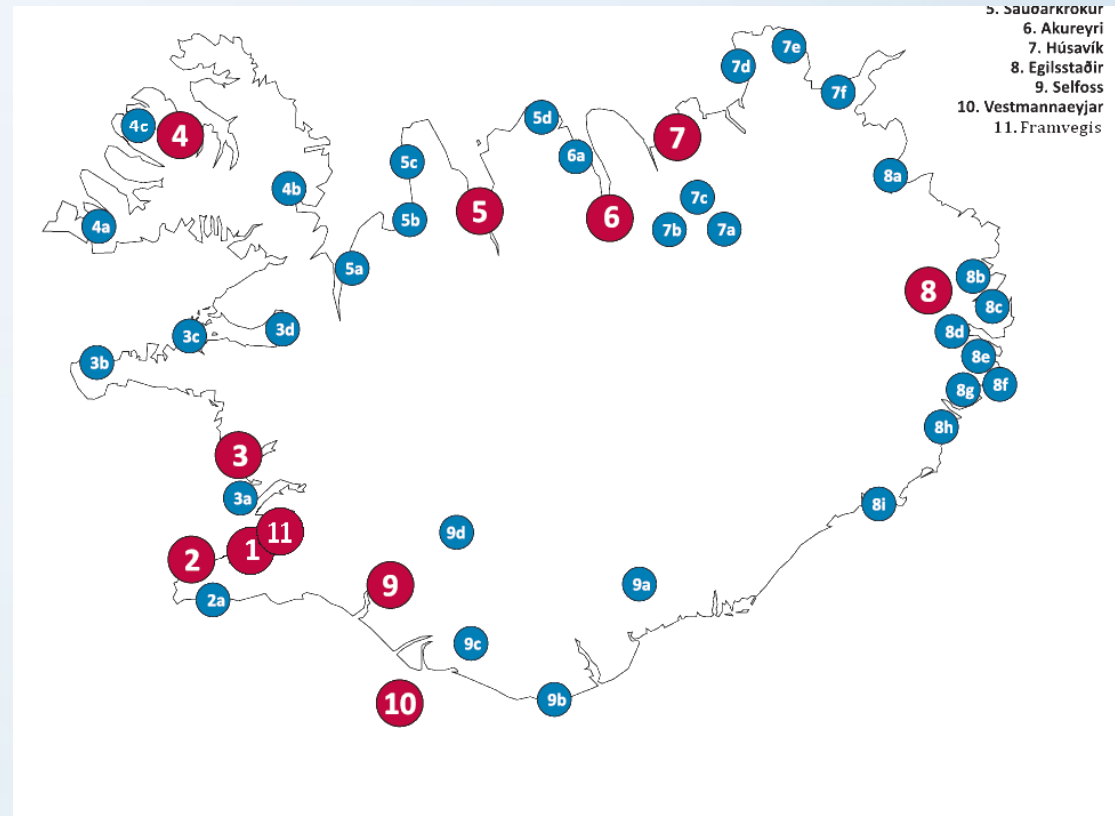
- ... **Adult Education Centers (main offices)**
- ... **Academic/ Research Centers**
- ... **Universities, University Centers/Bases**



II. THE INFRASTRUCTURE

Adult Education Centers

+ rural learning centers



- ❖ Network of 11 Main-Adult Education Centers
- ❖ + 30 rural learning centers (villages)
- ❖ Regional NGO's
- ❖ Governmental support + Local management
- ❖ Cover almost every village of Iceland

III. THE ROLE

-What is the use of the centers?

-Local Perspective?

- ❑ Basic Educational Services for Locals – at home!
 - Learning facilities
 - Practical Courses
 - Study Counseling
 - Skills assessment

- ❑ Advanced educational services – at home!
 - Distance learning
 - University or High-school exams

- ❑ Researches:
 - Information gathering & sharing
 - Innovation support
 - Regional analysis

- ❑ etc.

III. THE ROLE

-What is the use of the centers?

-Local perspective?

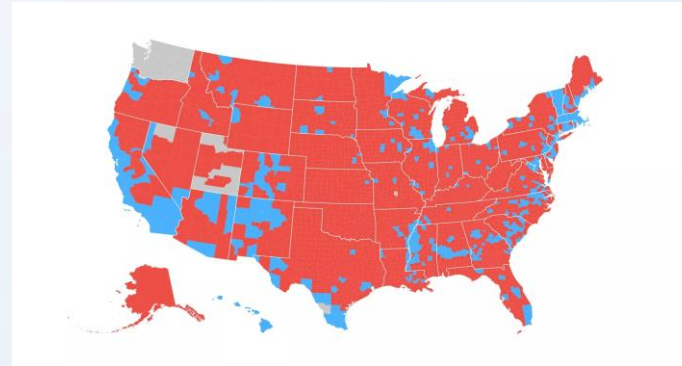
(examples)



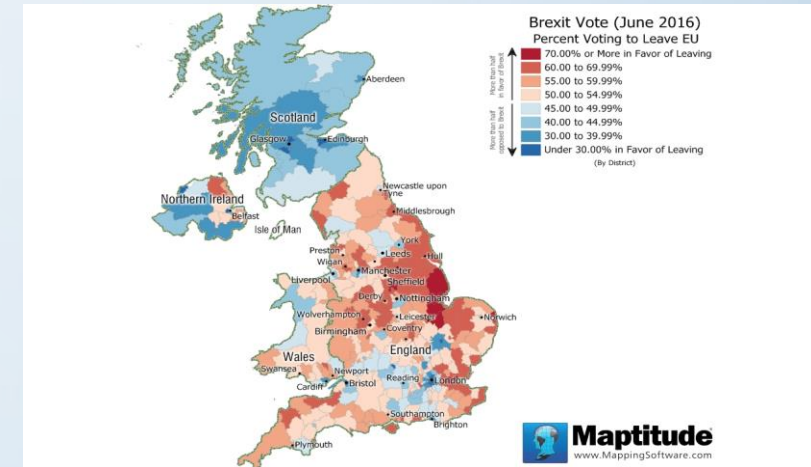
IV. THOUGHT PROVOKERS!

Do pictures as these tell any story?

-Global perspective?



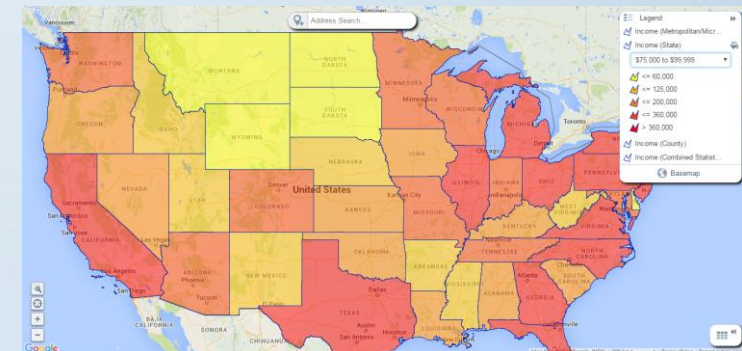
USA elections 2016.
(Trump voters red.)



BREXIT vote 2016. (Favor of leaving red – Staying blue)



USA gun ownership
(Higher % red)



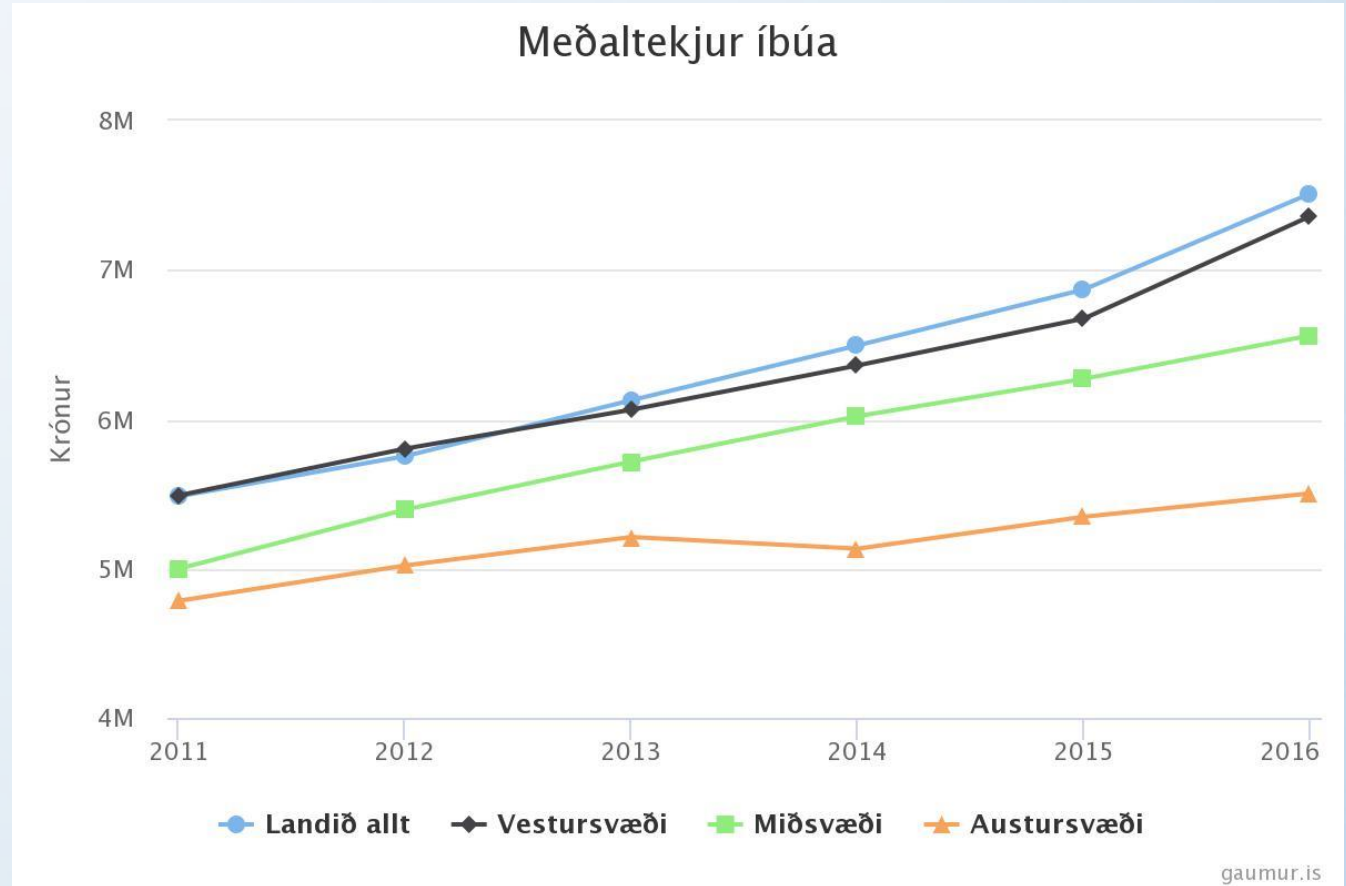
USA income in different states.
(Higher income red)

IV. THOUGHT PROVOKERS!

-Global perspective?

Thought Provokers:

Do pictures as these tell a story?



Average income in Iceland. (Lowest line showing rural NE-Iceland) [www.gaumur.is 2018]

V. CONCLUSIONS/ RECOMMENDATION

-Global perspective?

There is a „Social-Gap“

- Aside from particular political matters/conclusions:

= Many indicators – local and global – show that Rural areas differ from urban areas:

- *Economic situation*
- *Demography*
- *Income level*
- *Educational level*
- *Political views*

= This gap has to to be reduced!!

V. CONCLUSIONS/ RECOMMENDATION

-Key things?

For more viable rural communities we need:

- *Strong Educational Infrastructure*
- *Local/Regional Researches*
- *Commitment in time*
- *Funds – prioritised for rural conditions*

And the benefits will be ... :

- *More competitive workforce*
- *More capable businesses in important sectors – located or operating in rural areas (E.g. in Iceland: tourism, fisheries, industry)*

= Educational Centers need to be valued as an important „tool“ to close the Rural-Urban Gap!



Thank you!