

National campaign for literacy

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 ICELAND

Timeline

2018 Implementation 2019 Implementation 2020 Implementation

2021 Completed

ID number 28311

Background

Icelandic learners' results in reading literacy have been declining, defined in ways similar to OECD's PISA assessments, i.e. reading literacy which includes the ability to extract the relevant information from texts and also to understand, use and reflect on written texts.

Objectives

To turn this development around and improve reading literacy amongst Icelandic learners.

Description

Since 2018, the Directorate of Education has been leading a national campaign for literacy, where all schools at compulsory and upper secondary level are offered assistance. The main emphasis is on compulsory schools, managed by the municipalities, where many have already amended their policies. A movement to assist learners lacking competences is in progress. Many have to deal with dyslexia and get special assistance.

2018 Implementation

2019 Implementation

This project is planned to continue for at least the foreseeable future.

2020 Implementation

In 2020, an evaluation report was published. This project is also continuing, focusing on early interventions in preschools to improve reading and writing skills.

2021 Completed

The project was completed in 2021. Some components (i.e. early intervention in preschools, raising awareness about the importance of good literacy and literacy

teaching) are still being implemented. These projects are being overseen by the Directorate of Education and are currently reviewed by the Government (thus have not been formally extended).

Bodies responsible

- Directorate for Education

Target group

Learners

Learners with disabilities

Education professionals

Teachers

Other

Preschool and elementary school

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Acquiring key competences

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[About the campaign on the Directorate of Education's website](#)

[The evaluation report from 2020](#)

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). National campaign for literacy: Iceland. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28311>