



VMA - Verkmenntaskólinn á Akureyri

Akureyri Comprehensive College

InnoVET - Kick Off Meeting, Brussels, Oct. 9 to 11 2017



<http://www.vma.is>



- ❑ **VMA - A vocational secondary school.**
- ❑ **The school was established 1984**
- ❑ **Number of staff 140**
- ❑ **Number of students 1100**
- ❑ **Distance learning students 400**



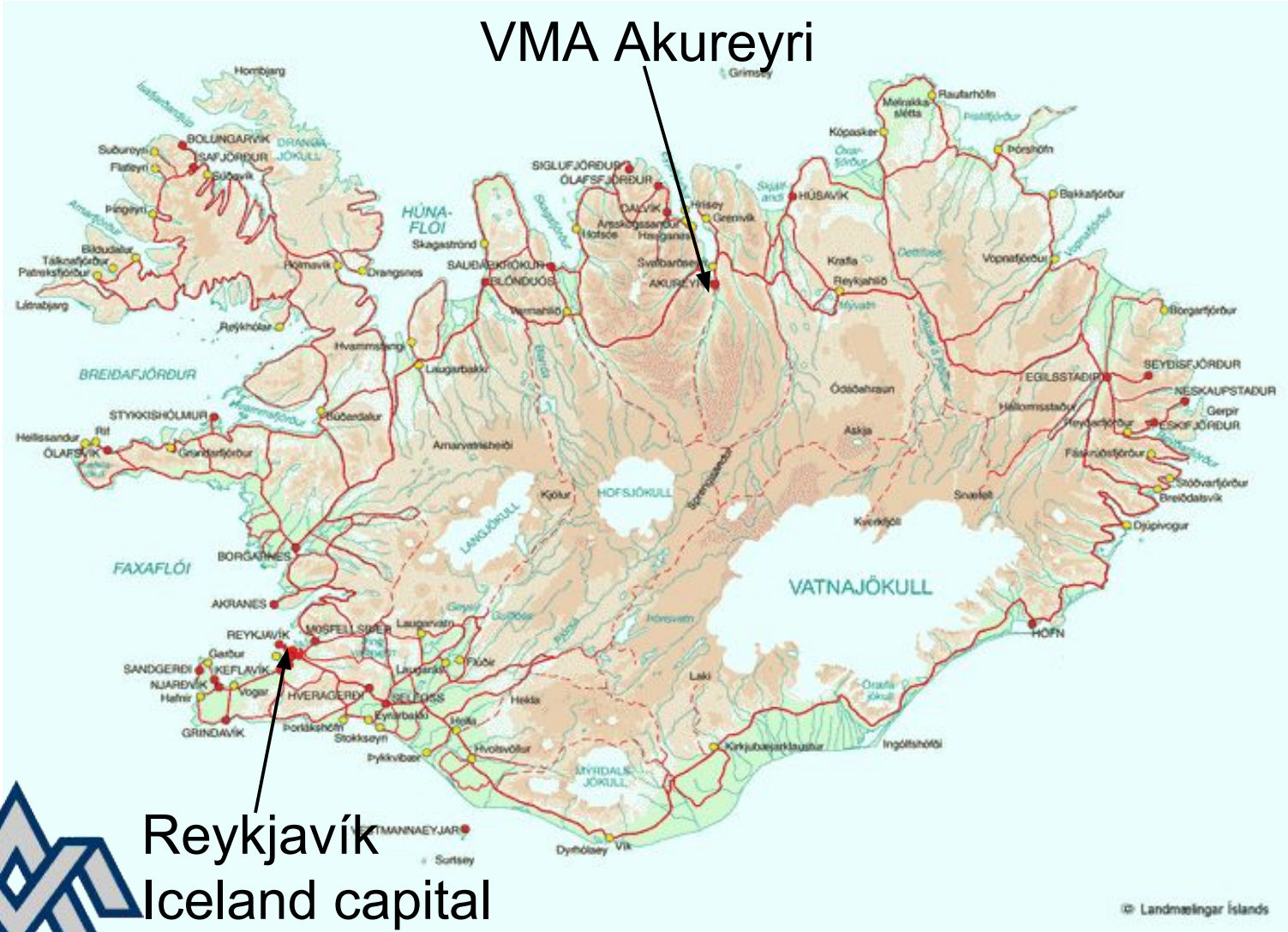
The VMA building is 14.500 m² (145.000 sq feet)
Built 1981 - 2007.



Iceland - mid way between N- America and Europe. (Destinations of Icelandic airlines.)



Iceland



Education in Iceland.

- ❑ Kindergarten, private or municipality run, age 1-5.
- ❑ Grade 1-10 elementary, middle, junior high school usually run by municipality, neighborhood school.
- ❑ Upper secondary: age 16-20 changing to 16-19.
- ❑ University at age 20 (19), bachelor degree is three years, master's and doctoral degrees.
- ❑ VMA is an upper secondary vocational school, taking in 16 year olds or older for either vocational or academic lines of study.



VMA - Good school for all students

Our Principles:

Professionalism - Variety - Respect

- ❑ Opportunities for top students to finish education in shorter time and to study in more than one department.
- ❑ Support for students in need of extra supervision.
- ❑ Cooperation with students' homes.



Studying in VMA

- ❑ Vocational studies 1-5 years
- ❑ Studies for matriculation to university 3 - 4 years, different lines of study.
- ❑ Art department 4 years.
- ❑ Preparation studies 1-2 years
- ❑ Special education for students with special needs.



VMA - academic departments

Matriculation to Univ. Has been a 4 year study but the new system is 3 years.

- ❑ Business and economics
- ❑ Social studies
- ❑ Natural science
- ❑ Art, fine arts and textiles.
- ❑ Matriculation with vocational studies



VMA - Technical departments

Technical studies:

- ❑ Building (painters, plumbers, masonry carpenters, cabinetmakers.)
- ❑ Metalwork
- ❑ Electricians
- ❑ Electronics
- ❑ Auto mechanics
- ❑ Ship machine engineering for international certification.



Engines, cooling systems, electr.



Metalwork, welding



Electronics and carpentry



Left: our electrician student at World Skills 2013

VMA - Vocational departments

- ❑ Culinary, catering
- ❑ Hairdressing
- ❑ Nurse assistants
- ❑ Introduction to sport's science.



Culinary department, cooking and waiter



Good school for all students

- ❑ **Students with special needs**
 - ❑ Possible to take more, finish earlier.
 - ❑ Support and supervision.
 - ❑ Introduction to vocational studies.
 - ❑ Introduction to working environment and supervision and support at workplace.
 - ❑ Workplacements to aim for jobs.



Students with special needs

- 4 years study preparing students for work and daily life.



Service for students in VMA

- Students counselling (academic and personal tutoring)
- School nurse
- Project manager for kids at risk; drug- and drinking abuse prevention
- Psychologist
- Dormitory in cooperation with Menntaskólinn á Akureyri (Akureyri Junior College, an academic secondary school).



Students social life

- Project manager for students social life
Highlights of the year!
 - Students' annual celebration, (Prom)
 - Students' song contest
 - "open days" different schedule.
 - Thursdays night events (boccia, coffie house, girls only party, boys only party, music night, etc.)
 - Various competitions e.g. sport, quiz show, speech competition and competitions in students study (vocational studies for World Skills).



First day at school!



Graduation celebration



Graduation - ceremony



Changes in Icelandic school system

- New law in 2008.
 - New National Curriculum in 2011
 - Six fundamental pillars have been developed within this frame and they form the essence of the educational policy. They include the working methods, content and the learning environment at every school level and form important continuity in the Icelandic educational system. These pillars are **literacy, sustainability, health, and welfare, democracy and human rights, equality and creativity.**
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The role of upper secondary school

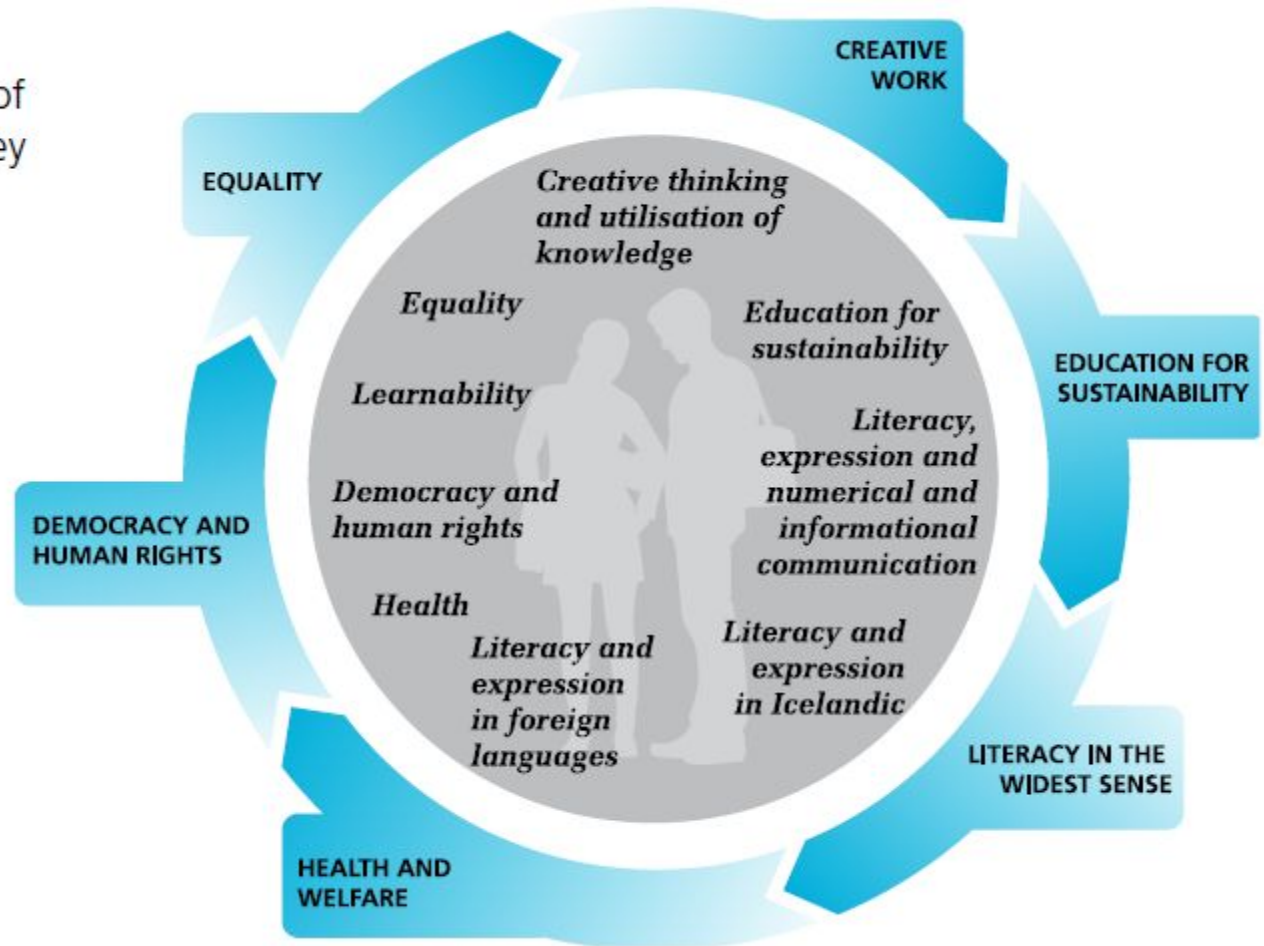
- The role of the upper secondary school is extensive. It is to encourage the **overall development of pupils** and their active participation in **democratic society** by offering each of them an education to suit their **individual requirements**. Furthermore, it is to prepare pupils for **participation** on the labour market and for further studies.



Fundamental pillars and key competence

The figure to the left is an attempt to show the relation of the fundamental pillars and key competence

The fundamental pillars are to be mirrored in all school activities, but the key competence links the fundamental pillars with the demand for the students' competence.



National Qualification framework. NQF

European Qualification Framework EQF.

Qualification level 1

- Study programmes are generally organised as 30 to 120 secondary school credits and usually take 1 to 4 terms. They can, however, be up to 240 secondary school credits and be organised as 8 terms for students with mental disabilities.
- Final learning outcomes are, for example, upper secondary school leaving examination or other final examinations.
- The studies involve general education where the emphasis is on the overall development of students and their active participation in democratic society.
- A study programme defined with the learning outcomes at level 1 works towards the knowledge, skill and competence objectives shown here. These objectives are to be used when defining courses at level one.

One credit is approx three days work for student.

Qualification level 2

- Study programmes are generally organised as 90 to 120 secondary school credits and usually take 3 to 4 terms
 - Final learning outcomes are, for example, examinations for professional rights, upper secondary school leaving examination or other final examinations
 - The studies involve preparation for further specialised and regulated professions and specialised propaedeutic studies
 - A study programme defined with the learning outcomes at level 2 works towards the knowledge, skill and competence objectives shown here. These objectives are to be used when defining courses at level two.
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Qualification level 3. For example matriculation to university or trades exams.

Qualification level 3

- Study programmes are generally organised as 150 to 240 secondary school credits and usually take 5 to 8 terms
- Final learning outcomes are, for example, matriculation, examinations for professional rights and other final examinations
- The studies involve specialised preparation for university education, regulated professions and specialised vocational and artistic studies
- A study programme defined with the learning outcomes at level 3 works towards the knowledge, skill and competence standards shown here. These objectives are to be used when defining courses at level three.

Building bridges between school and labour market

- The school system needs to work with the companies and the labor market to improve understanding of needs and develop the level of training and education.
 - There is great demand for people with vocational and technical education in Iceland.
 - VMA is the largest vocational school outside Reykjavík area.
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Building bridges between school and labour market

- Sustainability – VMA and the micro-society
 - car mechanics, marine engineer, nurse assistant, carpenter, electrician, electronics engineer, metalworker...etc.
 - Important for the University of Akureyri



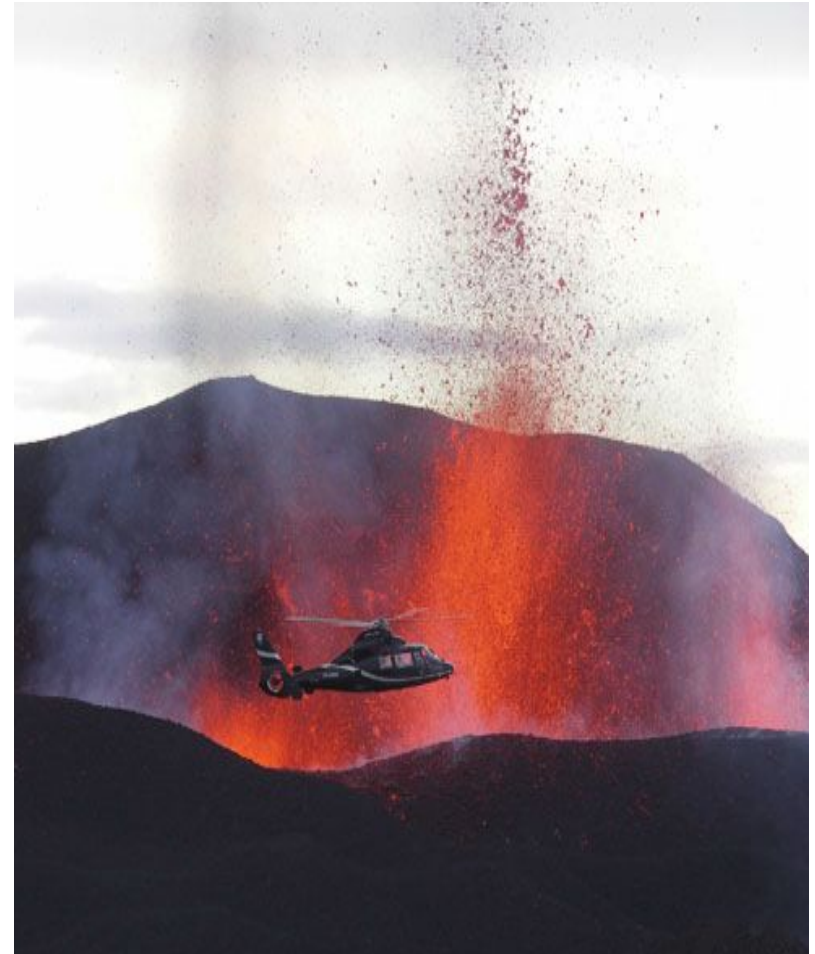
Iceland - Population

- Population: 344 000
- Language: Icelandic
- Ancestors: Scandinavian, Celts
- Settlement: in year 874.....
- Two thirds of the population live in the Reykjavík area (capital).
- The rest lives in towns and villages scattered along the coast line.



Iceland - a few...

- ❑ Mountains, glaciers, valleys, fjords ...
- ❑ Immense variety of scenery, 200 volcanoes
 - ❑ 30 active since settlement
 - ❑ Eruption every fifth year
 - ❑ Frequent earthquakes but rarely harmful



Geology, cool weather.

- ❑ Glaciers: 11.5%
- ❑ Vegetation: 25.0%
- ❑ Rocks, mountains, lava: 63.5%

Temp Reykjavík -0.4°C to 11.2°C 30 to 53°F

Temp Akureyri -1.5°C to 10.9°C 28 to 52°F



Akureyri

- Location: Eyjafjörður on the north coast
- Population: 18,000
- Trade: Fishing, farming, industry, service and education.



Down-town Akureyri during summer





Northern lights over Akureyri



Thank you.

(Eruption August 2014 - February 2015)

- [Pictures from Holuhraun \(Bárðarbunga\) 2014](#)

