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Innovative VET devices in rural territories - InnoVET

Erasmus plus KA2 - Strategic partnership project - 2017-1-FR01-KA202-037438

Partner Meeting 3 - Study Visit Akureyri Iceland March 8th - 10th 2018.

Participants:

MFR - France

Brigitte Gehin, Xavier Michelin, Olivier Gineste

MFR Reunion - France

Francois Antier, Jimmy Mussard

IFOCAP - France

Xavier Lemonde, Cyrcee Millan

OFFA - Belgium

Cecile Emond, Michel Urbain

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Guillome Dherissard, René Caspar, Emma Jacques, Giang Truong Pham

Gal Napoca - Romania

Adina Pascoiu, Mihai Deac, Marius Dumitrescu, Ada Deac

BSC - Slovenia

Franja Gabrovsek Schmidt

Viva Sol - Lithuania

Arunas Degutis, Aruna Taunyte

VMA - Iceland

Hildur Friðriksdóttir, Jóhannes Árnason

Wednesday March 8th 2018

Icebreaking activities.

Olivier introduced the agenda

Beginning with signing attendance sheets.

Olivier reviewed the main goal which is questioning the territorial training system, the cooperation and the innovation related to the territory needs.

A tour around VMA. Partly guided by Veronique Legros teacher and department head for visual art in VMA.



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A few questions about the school and education.

Olivier reviewed the flower practice, behavior, capacity and action. This is the flower power

Lunch at Fjölsmiðjan.

Erlingur Kristjánsson director told a few things about the place. A place for young people that have not found their place in education or work.

Trip through Dalvík to Ólafsfjörður, a fishing village at the outer part of Eyjafjörður.

MTR Lára Stefánsdóttir headmaster
100 students on location 280 online students.
Combine both groups in their programmes.

Dropout rate in distance ed 6 – 8 % and this is very low.

Established 2008 working with the new curriculum.
Talks about the work market which is likely to change a lot in the next years.

Artificial intelligence and the knowledge base is going to be the next revolution.
In the next decades around half of the jobs we do are going to be not relevant.

Curriculum allows us to change. Then comes the tradition - the subjects.

We use the major ideas.
Be innovative. Learn all the time, education and training will be outdated.
When we don't know what people will work with after 10 years? How can we prepare the students for the future.
When she came here 20 years ago we had big fish factories. Now these jobs are gone.
People who want to live here must be innovative and they are innovative.

Many people need to be able to find new ways.
When establishing the school we looked at how the school benefits from society and how does the society benefit from school. Needed to be innovative.

Second is creativity, able to look outside the box.

Daring, to dare to do new things.

These three are incorporated into everything we do.
For this we need strong ICT skills.
Only hires teachers who are exceptionally good at using computers. We do not have time for the state of mind of resistance to ICT. Teachers here are skilled in ICT.



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We use computers a lot but very little paper.

Which lines of study.

Traditional lines social sciences and natural sciences.

Art, photography, music.

Special needs dept.

Fish industry needs more and more computer skills.

Sport, outdoor activities.

When preparing education is important to use the opportunities you have.

Lára showed us a youtube video of pictures from the activities of the outdoor group.

Skiing area is just in walking distance from the school.

Pictures from the sport dept, made by a student in art photography.

Online students.

Come from small communities. To be able to teach you have to have a group of students.

You only can offer a small number of types of courses.

Five students and the minimum number to be economic is 25, in a class we have 5 local students and 20 students online.

Most online students are in the Reykjavik area or abroad. Therefore we can offer a wide selection of studies, using the distance ed to be able to offer courses here on site.

They use the same methods for both groups.

Flipped teaching, we never give lectures.

Teachers make videos with short inputs and students use these to learn and do assignments in school. Students are active in class and learn more, lecturing is a bad method and only leaves a little in the minds of students.

Multiple intelligences means many types of skills that people have. Students can choose the ways to present to their teachers that they have learned someone who is strong in writing can write an essay and other students are stronger in using video or audio files or posters or some other means.

Do students learn?

Is an essay a good measurement of knowledge.

A story of a student in art history, she should paint a picture under the cubism influence. She did not start to paint until she understood what Cubism was.

To be able to teach this way we need very good teachers.

Use Moodle, assignments open on Monday morning and must be finished by end of week, no exceptions.

We think this week system teaches people to work all the time. No final exams.

Final exams are bad, old ways of assessment.

Final exhibition of all the work of students at the end of a semester.



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History, usual history, history of rock music reviews the society at the time of the origin of rock music.

History of heavy metal rock music next semester.

All students must take classes on innovation, and art. This was not very popular at first.

Foreign artists have residency in town and often the school works with them.

Their students were isolated in their small community.

Students need to travel and communicate with people in other places.

Erasmus funding for student mobility.

Communicating with artists in the residency. Cook something with a foreigner.

They get to know about the country and culture from communicating while cooking.

A list of Erasmus and other international projects.

A bit too many projects now.

The school is hosting a seminar on ICT in education. The school is unusual in using ICT in everything they do in every subject.

Question about class sizes, for the school to be run within the money limit the average class size must be about 25.

Ongoing teacher training in school, sharing at weekly meetings about methods.

Reasons for starting the school were partly a very low educational level of the people. The reason for the school to be as it is is mostly that we can have the school like we want.

Effects on the society has been studied by a professor at the University of Iceland. Looking at the influence. This was a declining society. The school was thought of as taking money from other schools.

A teacher mentions that they can still have sport teams because many students enough are staying. Students work within tourism.

Now the pizza restaurant is open all year. Students live here and the families feel the difference in costs and living because youngsters can have education here and many go on in distance education in university.

We want to educate them to stay and not to leave.

How does the rural enrich the global?

Taking part in projects, rural or global it does not matter. Rural citizen can have global brain.

René. Leader studies say that rural areas through access to technology would be global. A school like this can be a big influence to the development of the area.

In France they have a network of bosses but here it is only the minister of education.

Our curriculum is very flexible. Lára worked in the ministry making curricula and it was only a small group of people that decided all about the curriculum.



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The headmasters are trying to defend the freedom to make curricula. This school was started within this new curriculum but older schools are having much more problems because they look at the composition of their teaching staff and do not want to destroy the jobs of their teachers by changing too much.

VMA is only three to four years into the new curriculum but MTR is in the eighth year and they have already done improvements to their original curriculum.

Some students take a part of their studies in other schools and tailor their own line of study. Question about the students after finishing here.

They have studied how well the study methods worked and the fate of their students after matriculation. 50 – 60 % went to university, some went into vocational education. Finishing a year here did help some students to leave for school in other places.

In your point of view, what was the point of view what made the change of curriculum? Political issue. Connected to the change into a three year upper secondary school.

Drive to Siglufjörður to have dinner at Siglunes Restaurant

Drive back to Akureyri in snow showers.



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Friday March 9th 2018

Meeting in VMA, hearing some of the people involved with development in the area.
Baldvin Valdimarsson from the Eyjaförður Developmental Agency.
This area must have a lot of things. Good connections with the area.

EBDA owned by all municipalities. Access to funds from Governmental funds.
They control regional dev funds.
They work with the Invest Iceland and other players in development.
Labour market is diverse.
Example of welders being able to speak English to guests.
VMA and other schools are important in being able to respond to changes.

Eyjafjörður has national leaders in some sectors.
Biggest company in Fisheries is here. Working in many places in Iceland and in other countries. Cluster is being formed in fishing and services.
Automatisation is taking over in fish processing.
Food and beverages industry.
VMA prepared students well.
University is strong for the area and in distance education.
Students from this univ are more likely to stay in rural areas.

Becromal. Hight Tech Alu foil
Italian company started their plant here.
Need well skilled workforce, needs a lot of electricity.
VMA was a part of the decision made to move this company to Akureyri.

Report - Invest in North Iceland.
Information about the area in population, infrastructure etc. Will be alive website instead of a report.
Plastics plant producing fish containers for keeping fish cold with ice.
Sæplast, Sea Plastics.
We are dreaming of a cable car up to our Skinig mountain.

Question about why formalize the fishing cluster?
Does the agency try to find people with ideas, do you pair them up with each other and people from abroad?

Hjalti Jóhannesson from The University of Akureyri Research Center.
Challenging Area in geographical terms, mountainous.
Akureyri is an exception in urban areas in Iceland.

Transport is challenging, insular (insulated) labour market.

Economics. Export oriented.



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Tourism important.

Historically Industry collapsed 30 years ago

Compared North West to North East using numbers on demography.

Changes in the job market in Akureyri when industry collapsed.

Population has been constant in North Iceland for many years.

Dependency ratios are more difficult in North Iceland than in Reykjavik.

Numbers on migration.

Numbers on educational status of the population indifferent areas.

University of Akureyri.

Three colleges. Health sci. Humanities, Business.

Big influence on for example in the number of qualified teachers.

Fisheries studies, the only place in Akureyri.

76% of students is women.

Distance ed is important, students tend to stay in rural areas.

Staff is 200 at the univ.

Discussion in the area that we need more technical studies.

Not always well defined. May change the gender balance of students.

Research institute will study the needs of the region.

What is the biggest challenge.

To keep the population capacity and have young people move back with good education.

Infrastructure.

Pórgnýr Dýrfjörð, Akureyrarstofa, Office for culture and tourism in Akureyri

Reminds us that we do not have regional government structures. Only national government and then municipalities.

Akureyrarstofa.

Cultural and Marketing office.

Part of the Akureyri Municipality structure.

Using common strengths of the different affairs included.

Visit Akureyri website is run by Akureyrarstofa.

Very varied cultural activities, both professional and amateur.

Agreements

With the government about culture.

Cooperation with other municipalities.

North Iceland marketing office.

Agreement with Akureyri Cultural Society about running cultural institutions.

Innovation center Iceland.

FabLab agreement

Lunch at VMA catering dept. Wedding reception.



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Visit to SÍMEY.

Valgeir, Krisín and Anita.

A discussion, some points from us and then we get some feedback from the group.
SIMEY and linked organisations are all over Iceland, independent non profit with funding from the government.

The purpose is to heighten the educational status of people.
Problem in Iceland that so many people are low educ.

Fishing industry is cutting jobs and SIMEY is trying to reach the workforce that is losing their jobs.

Staff. 12 members of staff. Teachers career counselors, coaches, psychologists. Contract teachers to do courses, 120 people doing part time work.

Counseling, special effort to counsel people with little education.

Target groups.

People with disabilities, foreigners, young adults, labor market, administrators in companies.

Labor market is the source of people they reach.

Important now is that you have to do your own career development plan.

What they do:

Counseling

Validation of prior skills. Works well in Iceland.

Important that people get a boost in their self esteem.

Need analysis, what do companies need.

Many courses,

Ability analysis. Job profiles.

Working on job profiles of various jobs.

Coaching how to bring about career development in individuals.

Without cooperation and diversity in the educational system there is the danger of layering of society.

Springboard is targeting unemployed people and this is very successful.

A group of young people do not seem to get into contact with the job market. They try to direct them into their strong sectors.

Somebody mentioned that until here we have heard that everything is wonderful in Iceland but now we see the dark side.

They adjust their programs to the needs of the society.

Back in VMA. 16.00



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Franja presented her region and work.

Some inputs/feedback:

Dinner in VMA prepared by Ari the chef at the VMA catering dept.

Saturday March 11th 2018

Brigit asked:

How is it that Johannes says that VMA is not very well connected to the workplaces but we hear a lot about the connections. Jóhannes says it is too personal based and sporadic. Guillome thinks in France we need to institutionalize the contact because of the size of the society but here the few people make it possible for informal contact and perhaps the contact is good and the dialog is good even if it is not institutionalized.

René. Believes that training can be at the service of development only when there is a developmental plan. Then the training system can support the strategy but if not they need to sell their courses. Has the feeling that this link is a bit missing we need a more structured plan/strategy.

With a missing link of a strategy there is another way which is to activate/involve the skill of trainers in a specific sector. A great opportunity to support those that are for example working in tourism. You can develop tourism all over r have a product approach. It is a great opportunity for the training system to use this boom in tourism.

How does a training center be a service to the territory without giving everything free?

No system can avoid having to invent your solutions.

Innovation, creativity, daring, the key might lie in taking an entrepreneurial posture. We also have businesses developing but perhaps the regional development comes after or second to the business.

Giang. Thanks for the meeting. Two sets of glasses, developmental and rural glasses, thank you for breaking the glasses.

The level of freedom is good. The capacity to trust yourselves. Collective capacity as you moved from human capital to social territorial capital. You can work together. This tells a high level of developmental capacity.

Administrative structure seems to be good to develop a mindset but does not need to be the other way around.

Francois. Is impressed by the zen attitude. Everywhere people is relaxed. He is jealous. In Reunion we struggle with unemployment rate of 33% but not 3%. The atmosphere is perhaps relaxed because of this. Iceland is rich?

How does Iceland work?

Perhaps Iceland / Akureyri does not need to have a defined territory because of your identity.



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We are also a bit puzzled because we want to develop processes for developing strategies but perhaps you do not need such structure, you are practical.

Lunch at Múlaberg.

Trip to Myvatn.

Dinner at Hof Culture house restaurant 1862.

Notes prepared by Johannes Árnason jarn@vma.is