



# Nellip

Network of European Language Labelled Initiatives and Projects

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## EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE IN PROJECTS THAT WERE AWARDED THE EUROPEAN LANGUAGE LABEL

### ICELAND



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.  
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## **Best Practice in Vocational Education and Training, Iceland**



### **YRKJA – GROWING**

Efling labour union received a grant from the project “European Year against Poverty” in 2010. It started then, in collaboration with Mímir lifelong learning centre, to develop a training course of 200 class hours for a target group of Polish women, members of Efling. The participants had been unemployed for more than six months and had little knowledge of the Icelandic language.

The main objective of the project was to increase the participants’ skills and potential on the labour market. The women participated in the course voluntarily, after having received an invitation from Efling. The aim of the training was to give them a chance to improve their language skills, self-image and to become stronger candidates when looking for jobs. These abilities would thus increase their participation and integration in the Icelandic society.

The subjects of the training were: Icelandic language, pronunciation of Icelandic, social studies, computer skills, English language, self-image support, visual arts, nutrition, competence portfolio, academic / job counseling, gymnastic exercise and a trip to Reykjanes. The evaluation of the course showed that the participants improved their self-image, they felt stronger when looking for jobs, were better at finding jobs, were more active in society and they felt better in general.

They were also satisfied with the atmosphere, the variety of courses and the field trips. The success of the course was mainly due to the fact that the group consisted only women of the Polish nationality. Many of teachers spoke also Polish, which was helpful in many training situations and increased the participants’ self-confidence. The variety of the subjects turned out to be good and the course was interesting. The course also emphasized the integration of language learning and active society: the participants learnt Icelandic in the museums, theatre, gym and in rescue teams, to mention some examples.

The participants got also the opportunity to talk about their experiences of the isolation they had faced.

The YRKJA-training course has been held three times after the project. All courses have received excellent results. The good experiences and results have also encouraged the labour union to run the same course for men as well in another language.

The reasons why the project was included among the Icelandic Best Practice:

- attention to the Polish immigrants which is the largest group of migrants in Iceland
- important work in language training for a big population of immigrants
- integration of language learning and active participation in society
- structured cooperation between the adult learning centre and the labour unit

YRKJA – project received the Language Label in 2010. It has been chosen to represent Iceland at the Label of the Label ceremony held in Cyprus on 26-28 September 2012.

### **Project coordinator**

Efling labour union and Mímir Lifelong Learning Centre

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### **Partnership**

Mímir Lifelong Learning Centre

### **Web site**

<http://www.efling.is/>



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