

Iceland's participation in Nordplus

2014-2020



Published by RANNÍS - The Icelandic Centre for Research
Reykjavík January 2022
Layout: Hnotskógur
ISBN xxx-xxxx-xxx-xx-x

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Introduction

This report presents Iceland's participation in Nordplus, between the years 2014 and 2020. Nordplus is the Nordic Council of Ministers' most important program in the field of lifelong learning. The Nordplus Program offers financial support between partners in the field of lifelong learning from the eight participating countries and three autonomous regions in the Baltic and Nordic area.

It has previously been concluded that Iceland actively participates in similar European initiatives and grant programs like Erasmus+ (Rannís, 2021).

Nordplus divides its funding opportunities into sub-programs based on the type or focus of the funding. Nordplus has five sub-programs both characterized by the target group Junior, Higher Education, Adult, Horizontal and Nordplus Nordic languages. This report will provide an overview of the program as well as more detailed descriptions of Iceland's participation in each of the sub-programs.

Of course, participation statistics can only tell a part of the story about the results of Iceland's participation in this Nordic initiative. Iceland seems to be very active despite its relatively small population and great distance from mainland Scandinavia. But what are the concrete consequences of this involvement? Interviews were conducted with participants in Nordplus projects. Each interview represents a case, a finished or ongoing Nordic cooperation project, and delves deeper into the participation process and its possible long-term effects. These cases will be both presented individually and together with the qualitative part of this study.

Nordplus

Nordplus offers financial support between partners in the field of lifelong learning in the Nordic region. The main objectives of the program are, in short, innovative development of the Nordic-Baltic educational region through exchange of experiences and best practices, strengthening of the comprehension of and the interest in the Nordic languages and promoting Nordic-Baltic linguistic and cultural understanding. Nordplus is aimed at organizations and institutions involved in learning and education across all educational sectors in the Nordic-Baltic region, and is divided into five sub-programs, all focusing on a different target group or subject.

On average, Nordplus applications have had 323 Icelandic partners each year in the studied period. Out of these, the average number of approximately 258 partners participate in projects which receive an annual grant. The success rates of Icelandic partners have generally been slightly above the general success rates of partners in Nordplus applications (see Table 1).

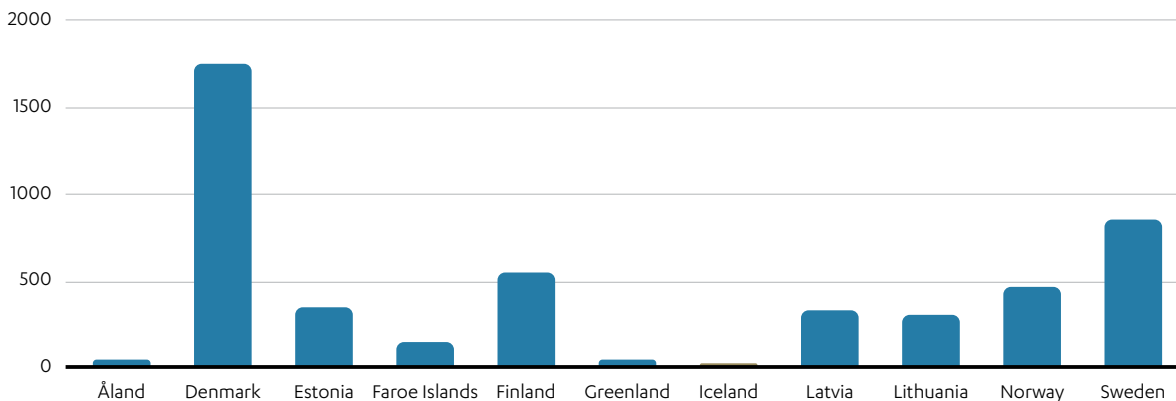
Table 1. Total numbers of Icelandic partners

Year	Applied	Approved	Success rate of Icelandic partners, %	General success rate, %
2014	348	264	75,9	75,6
2015	361	292	80,9	77
2016	337	249	73,9	74,3
2017	336	279	83	81,7
2018	341	278	81,5	80
2019	258	230	89,1	85,6
2020	280	213	76,1	80,6

Icelandic partners in Nordplus applications and their success rates.

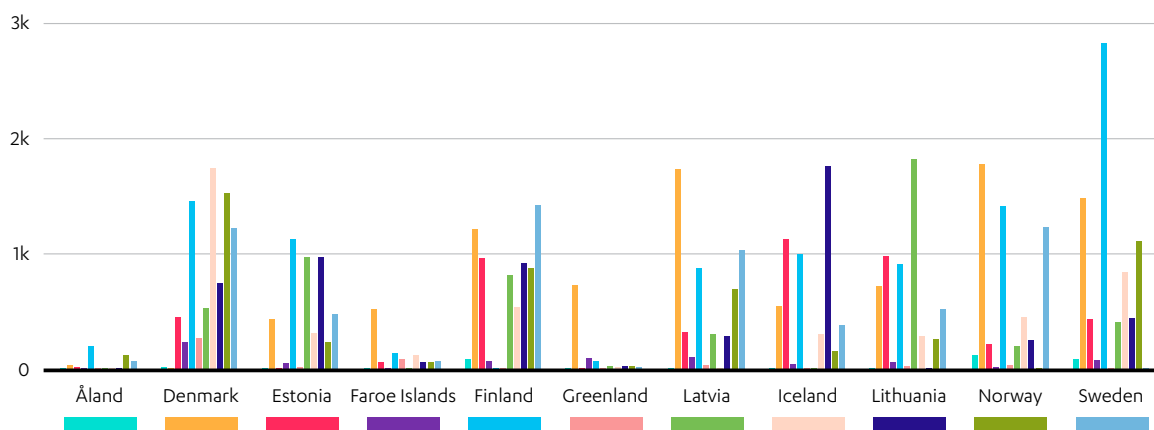
One of Nordplus' main objectives is to support cross-border mobility between the program countries, and it is interesting to see how Iceland has participated in this aspect of the program.

As Figure 1 illustrates, by far the most mobility from Iceland is directed towards Denmark. The second most popular country regarding mobility is Sweden, followed by Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The Faroe Islands, Greenland and the Åland Islands comprise the bottom three, with especially the latter two having little to no mobility from Iceland.

Figure 1. Cross country mobility from Iceland

Cross country mobility from Iceland to other Nordplus countries. Source: Espresso

As can be seen in Figure 2, Iceland is also represented in other countries' mobility statistics. The mobility between Iceland and Denmark is among the most frequent ones, other popular mobilities being between Latvia and Lithuania, from Denmark to Norway and especially from Finland to Sweden.

Figure 2 Cross country mobility

Cross country mobility from all countries between 2014 and 2020. Source: Espresso

Some mobility from Iceland is directed towards Sweden, Finland and Norway, while the Baltic countries appear less popular. The Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland are represented, but with a remarkably smaller number of participants. This is easily explained by population size, and the per capita calculations of this mobility would potentially differ less dramatically.

All applications

The sheer numbers of Icelandic grant applications are not overwhelmingly large when compared to grant applications from other countries (see Table 2) – Iceland's total number of applications in the period from 2014 to 2020 is sixth largest of all 11 countries in the program. However, when these numbers are observed in relation to population, the dynamic changes.

Table 2. Number of project applications by reporting country and year

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Denmark	126	122	139	133	149	108	107	884
Faroe Islands	11	8	9	5	5	3	6	47
Greenland	4	6	4	4	5	3	3	29
Finland	139	135	125	121	116	98	106	840
Åland	8	6	2	5	4	1	3	29
Iceland	43	53	32	37	39	25	32	261
Norway	78	75	67	64	56	37	39	416
Sweden	96	90	68	88	80	67	54	543
Estonia	33	68	55	43	47	37	32	315
Latvia	102	101	87	83	71	57	94	595
Lithuania	86	73	63	76	70	64	64	496
Total	726	737	651	659	642	500	540	4455

All Nordplus project applications by reporting country and year. Source: Espresso

In Table 3, we see that Iceland’s average number of project applications per 10 000 inhabitants per year is 1,1, placing the country just below the Faroe Islands and Åland, two other small nations reporting great application activity. Not far behind is Greenland with an average number of 0,7. The largest nations in the program each report an average activity of 0,1-0,2 applications per 10 000 inhabitants, whereas the total average number calculated from each country and each year is 0,6.

Table 3. Number of project applications per 10 000 inhabitants by reporting country and year

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average	Total
Denmark	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,3	0,2	0,2	0,2	1,5
Faroe Islands	2,3	1,6	1,8	1	1	0,6	1,2	1,4	9
Greenland	0,7	1,1	0,7	0,7	0,9	0,5	0,5	0,7	5,2
Finland	0,3	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	1,5
Åland	2,8	2,1	0,7	1,7	1,4	0,3	1	1,4	9,7
Iceland	1,3	1,6	1	1,1	1,1	0,7	0,9	1,1	7,2
Norway	0,2	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,8
Sweden	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,5
Estonia	0,3	0,5	0,4	0,3	0,4	0,3	0,2	0,3	2,4
Latvia	0,5	0,5	0,4	0,4	0,4	0,3	0,5	0,4	3,1
Lithuania	0,3	0,2	0,2	0,3	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	1,8
Total	0,8	0,7	0,5	0,6	0,6	0,3	0,5	0,6	3,9

Nordplus project applications per 10 000 inhabitants by reporting country and year.

*Calculated from 2020 population. Sources: Nordic Statistics, Eurostat, Espresso

It can be concluded that, in terms of applications, Iceland is among the most active nations applying for Nordplus grants. Another key factor is, of course, the amount of money these applications request. As seen in Table 4, the sums applied for from Iceland appear moderate in comparison to other countries.

The average grant size for Icelandic Nordplus applications submitted between 2014 and 2020 is approximately EUR 49 500 per application. The individual sums naturally vary per project and sub-program, which will be assessed later in this report.

Table 4.

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Denmark	6.928.173	5.091.781	8.192.233	4.588.330	5.905.125	5.085.249	4.910.295	40.701.186
Faroe Islands	473.100	561.913	591.107	310.777	201.620	176.020	269.410	2.583.947
Greenland	184.565	389.003	327.300	332.240	387.445	261.805	127.760	2.010.118
Finland	4.663.989	4.795.403	5.188.349	5.179.136	4.095.267	4.156.804	4.080.640	32.159.588
Åland	123.495	93.000	22.375	167.675	70.240	7.020	99.275	583.080
Iceland	1.685.532	2.133.802	2.034.823	1.784.883	2.110.484	1.527.114	1.646.292	12.922.930
Norway	4.317.176	3.512.372	3.905.032	2.614.261	205.5051	1.427.728	2.073.790	19.905.410
Sweden	2.956.428	2.483.424	1.909.691	3.863.491	309.5071	2.953.277	1.842.743	1.910.4125
Estonia	1.129.519	2.452.008	1.999.508	1.450.378	2.088.677	1.818.399	1.544.031	12.482.520
Latvia	2.203.308	1.863.156	2.664.277	2.338.125	1.912.962	1.591.486	2.850.405	15.423.719
Lithuania	2.992.969	2.495.572	2.407.675	2.298.117	2.309.180	2.179.023	2.179.331	16.861.867
Total	27.658.254	25.871.434	29.242.370	24.927.413	24.231.122	21.183.925	21.623.972	1,75E+08

Applied grants in EUR per country per year. Source: Espresso

When the applied grant sums are presented in relation to population, the result is not much different from that of the application number calculations (see Table 5): the average per capita sum of Icelandic applications is 5,4, which is the second highest of all the countries. This is more than double the per capita amount applied for from countries such as Sweden and Norway which apply for much smaller sums.

Table 5. Applied grants EUR per capita

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average	Total
Denmark	1,2	0,9	1,4	0,8	1	0,9	0,8	1	7
Faroe Islands	9,8	11,6	12	6,2	4	3,4	5,2	7,5	49,6
Greenland	3,3	6,9	5,9	5,9	6,9	4,7	2,3	5,1	35,8
Finland	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,7	0,8	0,7	0,8	5,8
Åland	4,3	3,2	0,8	5,7	2,4	0,2	3,3	2,8	19,5
Iceland	5,2	6,5	6,1	5,3	6,1	4,3	4,5	5,4	35,5
Norway	0,8	0,7	0,7	0,5	0,4	0,3	0,4	0,5	3,7
Sweden	0,3	0,3	0,2	0,4	0,3	0,3	0,2	0,3	1,8
Estonia	0,9	1,9	1,5	1,1	1,6	1,4	1,2	1,4	9,4
Latvia	1,1	0,9	1,4	1,2	1	0,8	1,5	1,1	8,1
Lithuania	1	0,9	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	6
Total	2,6	3,2	2,9	2,6	2,3	1,6	1,9	2,4	16,6

Table 5: Applied Nordplus grants EUR per capita.

*Calculated from 2020 population. Sources: Nordic Statistics, Eurostat, Espresso

Approved applications

The data on all applications is a good indicator of Iceland’s activity and will to participate, but in order to observe the effects of this activity and the participation in form of projects that were carried out, it is necessary to study what gets approved. As can be expected from the numbers of submitted applications, the number of approved Icelandic applications is not very high (see Table 6), but the number per 10 000 inhabitants makes the top three also in this category (see Table 7).

Table 6. Number of projects approved by reporting country and year

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Denmark	126	122	139	133	149	108	107	884
Faroe Islands	11	8	9	5	5	3	6	47
Greenland	4	6	4	4	5	3	3	29
Finland	139	135	125	121	116	98	106	840
Åland	8	6	2	5	4	1	3	29
Iceland	43	53	32	37	39	25	32	261
Norway	78	75	67	64	56	37	39	416
Sweden	96	90	68	88	80	67	54	543
Estonia	33	68	55	43	47	37	32	315
Latvia	102	101	87	83	71	57	94	595
Lithuania	86	73	63	76	70	64	64	496
Total	726	737	651	659	642	500	540	4455

Nordplus project applications approved by reporting country and year. Source: Espresso

However, the average number of Icelandic applications approved per 10 000 inhabitants is not as far from the total average (see Table 7) as it is in the case of all applications. Also, the difference between Iceland and the least active countries seems to be smaller, although still considerable.

Table 7. Number of approved project applications per 10 000 inhabitants by reporting country and year

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average	Total*
Denmark	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,2	0,2	0,1	0,1	0,1	1
Faroe Islands	1,5	1	0,8	1	1	0,6	1	1	6,5
Greenland	0,5	0,5	0,4	0,7	0,5	0,5	0,2	0,5	3,4
Finland	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,1	0,2	0,2	1,2
Åland	1	2,1	0,7	1,7	1	0	1	1,1	7,4
Iceland	0,7	1,1	0,7	0,7	0,7	0,7	0,6	0,7	4,9
Norway	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,05	0,1	0,1	0,5
Sweden	0,1	0,1	0,04	0,07	0,1	0,1	0,04	0,1	0,4
Estonia	0,2	0,3	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	1,5
Latvia	0,2	0,3	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,3	0,2	1,6
Lithuania	0,2	0,2	0,1	0,2	0,1	0,2	0,2	0,2	1,1
Yearly average	0,4	0,5	0,3	0,5	0,4	0,3	0,4	0,4	2,7

Nordplus project applications per 10 000 inhabitants by reporting country and year.

**Calculated from 2020 population. Sources: Nordic Statistics, Eurostat, Espresso*

Regarding the total sum of Nordplus grants in EUR, Iceland is significantly nearer the bottom of the list than the top. The average Icelandic project approved by Nordplus between 2014 and 2020 received approximately EUR 33 350 (see Table 8).

Table 8.

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Denmark	1.760.897	1.954.966	2.362.362	1.846.808	1.981.814	2.494.706	2.270.641	14.672.194
Faroe Islands	265.730	131.805	162.970	71.250	54.340	58.500	84.060	828.655
Greenland	112.500	103.510	72.760	143.710	65.800	121.635	49.200	66.9115
Finland	2.138.715	1.674.936	2.165.485	2320.981	1.617.614	2.198.697	2.214.320	14.330.748
Åland	20.010	81.660	18.180	10.880	65.660	0	94.270	386.660
Iceland	839.019	1.066.605	944.534	826.148	846.493	798.766	681.556	6.003.121
Norway	1.773.732	1.172.018	1.194.704	814.677	850.022	657.200	10.00.292	7.462.645
Sweden	1.237.285	1.034.939	627.388	1.434.238	1.262.875	1.062.846	906.931	7.566.502
Estonia	587.610	1.031.336	833.797	785.096	1.056.755	909.120	947.260	6.150.974
Latvia	617.980	772.353	852.602	796.792	592.861	649.422	1.149.827	5.431.837
Lithuania	1.197.218	1.284.294	866.078	1.307.749	1.125.783	1.152.361	1.178.885	8.112.368
Total	10.550.696	10.308.422	10.100.860	10.454.329	9.520.017	10.103.253	10.577.242	71.614.819

Approved grants in EUR per country per year. Source: Espresso

However, when made proportional to population, it is revealed that Iceland receives the most Nordplus money per capita, even more than the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland, which are all ahead of Iceland in the other charts. While the difference between Iceland and the autonomous areas is not marked – in average per capita numbers, they range from Greenland’s 1,7 to Iceland’s 2,5 - the difference between Iceland and the other states is quite remarkable, as none of them reach a per capita average higher than 0,7 (see Table 9).

Table 9. Approved grants EUR per capita

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average	Total
Denmark	0,3	0,3	0,4	0,3	0,3	0,4	0,4	0,3	2,5
Faroe Islands	5,5	2,7	3,3	1,4	1,1	1,1	1,6	2,4	15,9
Greenland	2	1,8	1,3	2,6	1,2	2,2	0,9	1,7	11,9
Finland	0,4	0,3	0,4	0,4	0,3	0,4	0,4	0,4	2,6
Åland	0,7	2,8	0,6	3,7	2,2	0	3,2	1,9	12,9
Iceland	2,6	3,2	2,8	2,4	2,4	2,2	1,9	2,5	16,5
Norway	0,3	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,1	0,2	0,2	1,4
Sweden	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,7
Estonia	0,4	0,8	0,6	0,6	0,8	0,7	0,7	0,7	4,6
Latvia	0,3	0,4	0,4	0,4	0,3	0,3	0,6	0,4	2,8
Lithuania	0,4	0,4	0,3	0,5	0,4	0,4	0,4	0,4	2,9
Average	1,2	1,2	0,9	1,1	0,8	0,7	0,9	1	6,8

Approved Nordplus grants in EUR per capita per year. Source: Espresso

Success rates and percentages of Icelandic grants

Regarding Nordplus application partners, Iceland's success rates were most often above the overall rates. The dynamic is similar when observing the grant sums applied for and allocated, although the differences in this case are greater. The only year when Iceland's success rate is lower than the general one is 2020. While between 70 to 90 per cent of Icelandic partners participate in an approved project, they usually receive 40 to 50 per cent of the sum they applied for (see Table 10).

Table 10.

All programs - all grants (€) and success rates			
Year	Applied	Approved	General success rate, %
2014	27.658.254	10.550.696	38,1
2015	25.871.434	10.308.422	39,8
2016	29.242.370	10.100.860	34,5
2017	24.927.413	10.454.329	41,9
2018	24.231.122	9.520.017	39,3
2019	21.183.925	10.103.253	47,7
2020	21.623.972	10.577.242	48,9

Icelandic sums applied for and approved + success rates			
Year	Icelandic grants applied	Icelandic grants approved	Success rate %
2014	1.685.532	839.019	49,8
2015	2.133.802	1.066.605	50
2016	2.034.823	944.534	46,4
2017	1.784.883	826.148	46,3
2018	2.110.484	846.493	40,1
2019	1.527.114	798.766	52,3
2020	1.646.292	681.556	41,4

General grant success rates and the success rates of Icelandic grants in EUR. Source: Espresso

Grants applied for from Iceland make up approximately 6-8 per cent of all Nordplus grants applied in the studied period (see Table 11). The share generally increases when observing the approved grants, the only exception being the year 2020, when 7,6 per cent of grants applied for and only 6,4 per cent of all allocated grants were Icelandic. All other years, Iceland's share of all allocated applications has been approximately 8 to 10 per cent.

Table 11.

Grants - applied (€)			
Year	All grants applied	Icelandic grants applied	Icelandic grants %
2014	27.658.254	1.685.532	6,1
2015	25.871.434	2.133.802	8,2
2016	29.242.370	2.034.823	7
2017	24.927.413	1.784.883	7,2
2018	24.231.122	2.110.484	8,7
2019	21.183.925	1.527.114	7,2
2020	21.623.972	1.646.292	7,6

Grants - approved (€)			
Year	Allocated grants	Icelandic grants	Icelandic grants %
2014	10.550.696	839.019	8
2015	10.308.422	1.066.605	10,3
2016	10.100.860	944.534	9,4
2017	10.454.329	826.148	7,9
2018	9.520.017	846.493	8,9
2019	10.103.253	798.766	7,9
2020	10.577.242	681.556	6,4

Percentages of Icelandic grants, both applied for and allocated in EUR. Source: Espresso

Iceland's relative success rates in the individual programs will be presented later in their designated sections, but an overview of them is provided in Table 12. It can be observed that Nordplus Higher Education is the program where Iceland has the highest success rates, which corresponds to the general findings presented in Nordplus' annual reports. Iceland's lowest success rates are in Nordplus Adult, whereas Nordplus Nordic Languages presents the most yearly variation with success rates ranging between 55 and 100 per cent.

Table 12.

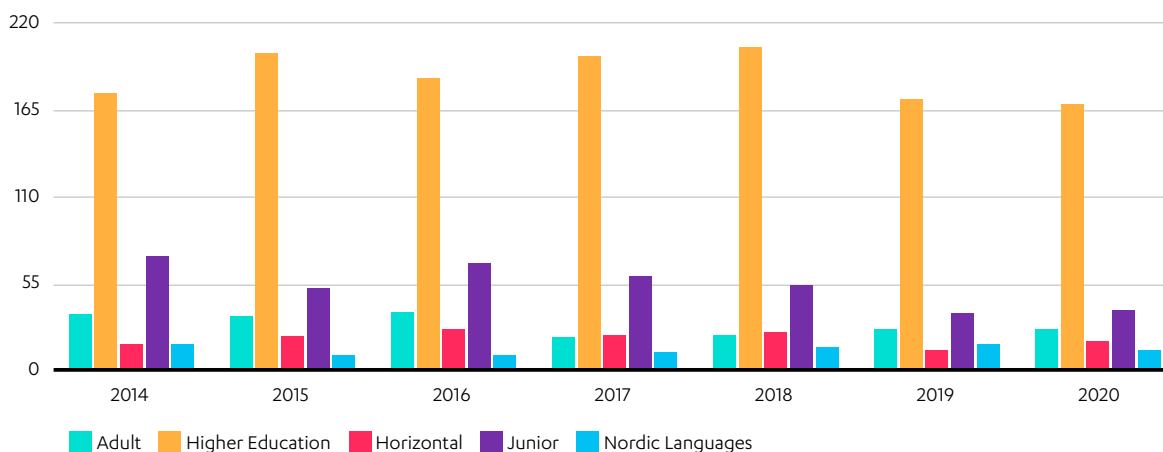
Icelandic partners' success rates %						
Year	Adult	Higher Education	Horizontal	Junior	Nordic Languages	Total
2014	52,9	92	81,3	50	56,3	75,8
2015	47,1	96,5	72,7	77,4	55,6	85,3
2016	50	89,2	46,2	41,2	100	71,7
2017	61,9	96	68,2	55,9	90,9	84
2018	40,9	95,6	65,4	55,6	86,7	82,2
2019	76	95,3	64,3	80,6	62,5	87,7
2020	30,8	91,1	31,6	71,1	85,7	77,8

Icelandic sums applied for and approved + success rates			
Year	Icelandic grants applied	Icelandic grants approved	Success rate %
2014	1.685.532	839.019	49,8
2015	2.133.802	1.066.605	50
2016	2.034.823	944.534	46,4
2017	1.784.883	826.148	46,3
2018	2.110.484	846.493	40,1
2019	1.527.114	798.766	52,3
2020	1.646.292	681.556	41,4
Average	1.846.133	857.589	46,5

Icelandic partners' success rates per program calculated from institutions applying for grants and the success rates of grant sums applied for from Iceland. Source: Espresso

Figures 3 and 4 below illustrate Icelandic organisations' application activity and the number of approved institutions in the studied time period. In addition to providing the most success, Nordplus Higher Education is also by far the most popular program. A closer observation of Nordplus' database Espresso reveals that a great part of the applications is for funding student mobility via the Nordlys network. Nordplus Junior is the second most popular program, followed by Nordplus Adult, Nordplus Horizontal and Nordplus Nordic Languages.

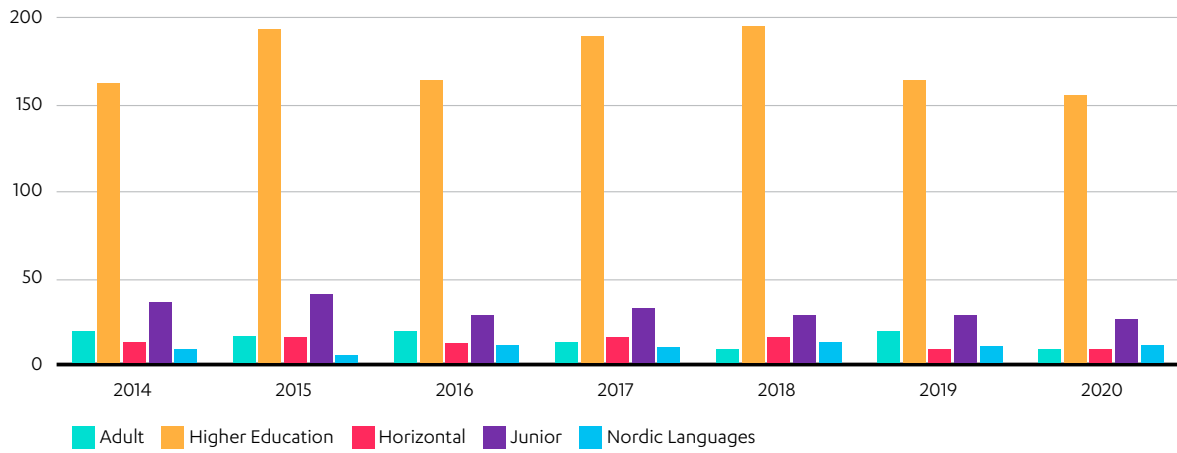
Figure 3. Icelandic partners applied, all programs



Yearly variation of Icelandic applications per program. Source: Espresso

However, the dynamic of the approved institutions is slightly different, mainly in Nordplus Horizontal and Adult sometimes having fewer institutions with a successful application than Nordic Languages, which is generally observed to be a program with few applications and a relatively high success rate.

Figure 4. Icelandic partners approved, all programs



Yearly variation of approved Icelandic applications per program. Source: Espresso

Conclusion

Although it might not appear so based on the sheer numbers of applications and grant sums, Iceland is among the most active participants in the Nordplus program when compared to the population size. Iceland’s success rates are generally slightly above the general rates, although they vary greatly between sub-programs, which will be the focus of the following chapters. The only exceptions to this trend happen in 2020, which could potentially be explained with the COVID-19 pandemic starting that year. Most mobility from Iceland is to Denmark, and Iceland is also the most popular country regarding mobility from Denmark.

Nordplus Higher Education

Nordplus Higher Education is by far the most popular Nordplus program in Iceland by number of partners. The same applies when the numbers of applications are observed.

Higher Education receives overall the most applications from all program countries, the majority of them from Finland and Denmark. Iceland's share of the overall number of applications received between 2014 and 2020 is approximately 5% (see Table 13).

Table 13.

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2000	Total
Denmark	47	43	50	47	54	40	39	320
Faroe Islands	2	4	3	5	4	3	3	24
Greenland	3	2	2	2	3	2	1	15
Finland	64	63	70	65	60	54	59	435
Åland	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	7
Iceland	11	12	13	10	11	10	11	78
Norway	32	34	34	36	29	19	21	205
Sweden	28	30	26	29	33	33	27	206
Estonia	11	18	18	16	13	12	12	100
Latvia	13	7	19	15	13	21	18	106
Lithuania	15	15	16	16	13	15	16	106
Total	228	229	252	242	234	209	208	1602

Numbers of applications submitted to Nordplus Higher Education from each country each year. Source: Espresso.

Project applications per 10 000 inhabitants

In relation to population size, Iceland is the fourth most active in submitting applications, with only the three autonomous areas being more active (see Table 14). The difference between Iceland and the countries coming after it is quite remarkable, with Iceland's average number of project applications per 10 000 inhabitants being 0,33 and the fifth-place holder Finland's equivalent being 0,12. Iceland's number is clearly above the total average but not as remarkably as the Faroe Islands' equivalent.

Table 14. Number of project applications per 10 000 inhabitants by reporting country and year

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average	Total*
Denmark	0,08	0,08	0,09	0,08	0,09	0,07	0,07	0,08	0,55
Faroe Islands	0,42	0,82	0,61	1	0,79	0,59	0,58	0,69	4,61
Greenland	0,53	0,36	0,36	0,36	0,54	0,36	0,18	0,38	2,67
Finland	0,12	0,12	0,13	0,12	0,11	0,1	0,11	0,12	0,79
Åland	0,7	0,35	0,35	0,34	0,34	0	0,33	0,34	2,34
Iceland	0,34	0,36	0,39	0,3	0,32	0,28	0,3	0,33	2,14
Norway	0,06	0,07	0,07	0,07	0,05	0,04	0,04	0,06	0,38
Sweden	0,03	0,03	0,03	0,03	0,03	0,03	0,03	0,03	0,2
Estonia	0,08	0,14	0,14	0,12	0,1	0,09	0,09	0,11	0,75
Latvia	0,06	0,04	0,1	0,08	0,07	0,11	0,09	0,08	0,56
Lithuania	0,05	0,05	0,06	0,06	0,05	0,05	0,06	0,05	0,38
Yearly average	0,22	0,22	0,21	0,23	0,23	0,16	0,17	0,21	1,4

Numbers of Nordplus Higher Education project applications per 10 000 inhabitants by reporting country and year. Sources: Espresso, Eurostat, Nordic Statistics. *Calculated from the 2020 population count

This makes Iceland a relatively active participant in this sub-program, and in terms of approved applications, which reflect a country's influence or factual participation, Iceland's placement in the chart is similar (see Table 15). The program has a generally high success rate, so the numbers of approved applications do not differ that greatly from the numbers of submitted applications, nor is the order of countries from most to least represented.

Table 15. Number of project applications approved per 10 000 inhabitants by reporting country and year

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average	Total*
Denmark	0,06	0,06	0,08	0,07	0,08	0,06	0,05	0,07	0,46
Faroe Islands	0,42	0,82	0,61	1	0,79	0,59	0,58	0,69	4,61
Greenland	0,53	0,36	0,36	0,36	0,54	0,36	0,18	0,38	2,67
Finland	0,1	0,1	0,11	0,11	0,1	0,09	0,1	0,1	0,71
Åland	0,35	0,35	0,35	0,34	0,34	0	0,33	0,29	2,01
Iceland	0,25	0,33	0,3	0,3	0,29	0,28	0,25	0,29	1,87
Norway	0,05	0,05	0,06	0,05	0,04	0,03	0,03	0,04	0,31
Sweden	0,03	0,03	0,02	0,03	0,03	0,03	0,02	0,03	0,18
Estonia	0,06	0,1	0,1	0,09	0,07	0,07	0,07	0,08	0,55
Latvia	0,03	0,02	0,06	0,06	0,05	0,07	0,07	0,05	0,37
Lithuania	0,03	0,04	0,03	0,04	0,04	0,05	0,04	0,04	0,27
Yearly average	0,17	0,21	0,19	0,22	0,22	0,15	0,16	0,19	1,3

Number of Nordplus Higher Education project applications approved per 10 000 inhabitants by reporting country and year. Sources: Espresso, Eurostat, Nordic Statistics. *Calculated from the 2020 population count

Grant sums

Regarding grants applied for per capita, Iceland scores above Åland, applying for the third largest sum of money per capita (see Table 16).

Table 16. Applied grants EUR per capita

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average	Total*
Denmark	0,7	0,53	0,49	0,42	0,44	0,33	0,32	0,46	3,18
Faroe Islands	2,43	9,76	5,44	6,24	3,7	3,43	3,81	4,97	33,21
Greenland	3,21	3,68	4,61	4,5	4,89	4,31	1,49	3,81	26,64
Finland	0,57	0,53	0,58	0,63	0,51	0,43	0,47	0,53	3,69
Åland	1,41	0,45	0,35	0,29	0,34	0	1,06	0,56	3,8
Iceland	1,96	2,77	3,45	2,08	1,97	1,86	1,64	2,25	14,69
Norway	0,46	0,43	0,44	0,27	0,24	0,15	0,16	0,31	2,08
Sweden	0,11	0,11	0,08	0,14	0,14	0,19	0,11	0,13	0,86
Estonia	0,41	1,05	0,84	0,69	0,68	0,58	0,75	0,71	4,96
Latvia	0,14	0,09	0,24	0,28	0,2	0,3	0,38	0,23	1,66
Lithuania	0,29	0,24	0,22	0,22	0,2	0,26	0,17	0,23	1,63
Yearly average	1,06	1,79	1,52	1,43	1,21	1,08	0,94	1,29	8,76

Applied Nordplus Higher Education grants in EUR per capita. Sources: Espresso, Eurostat, Nordic Statistics. *Calculated from the 2020 population count

While the success rate of this program is high in terms of applications and approved projects, it is common for Nordplus projects in general to receive less than half of the sum applied for. In Higher Education, the Faroe Islands received, on average, only about a quarter of what they applied for, whereas Icelandic applications had a more moderate ratio of EUR applied for and received (see Table 17). The total sum of grants allocated to Iceland 2014-2020 is well above the average amount.

Table 17. Allocated grants EUR per capita

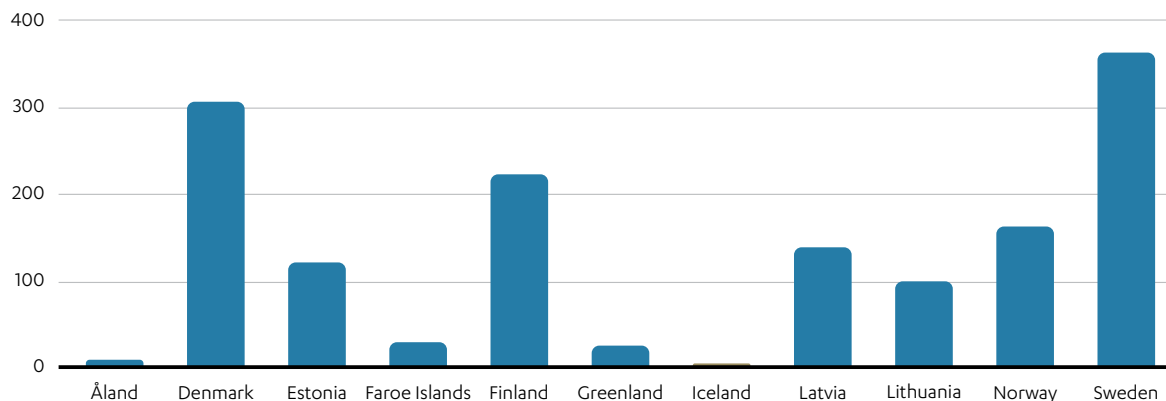
Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average	Total
Denmark	0,17	0,16	0,14	0,15	0,15	0,14	0,14	0,15	1,02
Faroe Islands	1,34	2,07	1,69	1,43	0,78	1,14	0,73	1,31	8,73
Greenland	2	0,96	1,3	1,13	1,18	1,81	0,88	1,32	9,24
Finland	0,21	0,18	0,2	0,26	0,2	0,2	0,25	0,21	1,49
Åland	0,34	0,21	0,21	0,21	0,2	0	0,89	0,29	2,02
Iceland	0,96	1,38	1,46	1,09	0,74	0,82	0,69	1,02	6,66
Norway	0,15	0,14	0,14	0,08	0,09	0,06	0,08	0,11	0,73
Sweden	0,05	0,05	0,03	0,06	0,05	0,06	0,04	0,05	0,34
Estonia	0,25	0,47	0,34	0,36	0,3	0,33	0,48	0,36	2,51
Latvia	0,02	0,02	0,1	0,1	0,06	0,12	0,13	0,08	0,57
Lithuania	0,12	0,13	0,08	0,1	0,11	0,15	0,08	0,11	0,78
Yearly average	0,51	0,52	0,52	0,45	0,35	1,08	0,4	0,46	3,1

Allocated Nordplus Higher Education grants in EUR per capita. Source: Espresso

Mobility and participating institutions

Regarding actual mobility from Iceland illustrated in Figure 5, most of it is directed towards Sweden. The overall most popular country for mobility from Iceland, i.e. Denmark, is also well represented. Finland is more common than Norway in this sub-program, and Latvia is the main target country of Icelandic-Baltic mobility. The Faroe Islands and Greenland enjoy equal representation, and some mobility is directed towards Åland.

Figure 5. Cross country mobility



Cross country mobility from Iceland in number of partners in Nordplus Higher Education. Source: Espresso

As can be seen in Table 18, 6 different Icelandic institutions have applied for Nordplus Higher Education grants as the main partner between 2014 and 2020. Here, University of Iceland and University of Iceland – School of Education have been distinguished as two institutions regardless of one being an institution under the other, as this is the case also in the Nordplus database Espresso. Of these six institutions, four are in Reykjavík, one in Akureyri and one in Ísafjörður. The University of Iceland is by far the most represented institution with 40 projects and a total grant sum of EUR 1 116 920, but the largest individual grant allocated in the studied period, worth EUR 171 160, has been given to Reykjavík University in 2014 to support the NOREK network. Generally, University of Iceland has received smaller individual grants than Reykjavík University or the Iceland University of the Arts, which in turn have received fewer individual grants. The University of Akureyri and the University Center of the Westfjords (Ísafjörður) have received small individual grants, which in Akureyri's case have most often been Nordlys student exchange grants; whereas the University Center of the Westfjords has received a single individual grant to provide exchange students with Icelandic classes prior to their university semester. An interview with Peter Weiss from the University Center reveals that similar grants have been applied for both earlier and later, but issues related to grant decision timing have hindered them from applying in more recent years.

Table 18. Main partner

Main partner	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2000	Total
Iceland Academy of the Arts			2 projects / EUR 162.040	2 projects / EUR 210.750	2 projects / EUR 141.920	1 project / EUR 126.050	1 project / EUR 84.170	8 projects / EUR 724.930
Reykjavik University	2 projects / EUR 184.160	2 projects / EUR 160.500	2 projects / EUR 108.000	1 project / EUR 8.000	1 project / EUR 8.000	1 project / EUR 7.000	1 project / EUR 9.000	10 projects/ EUR 484.660
University Center of the Westfjords		1 project / EUR 8.600						1 project / EUR 8.600
University of Akureyri	1 project / EUR 6.000	2 projects / EUR 23.600	1 project / EUR 6.000	1 project / EUR 6.000	1 project / EUR 5.500	1 project / EUR 7.000	1 project / EUR 7.000	8 projects / EUR 61.100
University of Iceland	5 projects / EUR 123.300	6 projects / EUR 262.620	5 projects / EUR 209.600	6 projects / EUR 14.4880	6 projects / EUR 103.400	6 projects / EUR 12.2500	6 projects / EUR 150.620	40 projects / EUR 1.116.920
University of Iceland - School of Education						1 project / EUR 27.589		1 project / EUR 27.589

Icelandic main partners in accepted Nordplus Higher Education project applications. Source: Espresso

Case: Icelandic for exchange students, the University Center of the Westfjords

“There was a need for Icelandic classes for foreign exchange students, and we at the University Center of the Westfjords were happy to take on the task of arranging some summer courses in 2007. We collaborated with Hotel Núpur, a former boarding school converted into a hotel, which made it possible for us to offer the students food and lodging for a very good price. In 2013, we had a total of 150 students attending, and part of this is due to the Nordplus and Erasmus support we received for our courses. Our goal has been to teach exchange students the language skills necessary to navigate simple everyday situations, which isn’t usually the case when studying Icelandic at a different university. We want to encourage them to try to communicate instead of speaking the language perfectly. In addition to allowing more students to participate in the courses and thus being introduced to Icelandic, the Nordplus grants helped increase the number of stays at Hotel Núpur from 1000 to 3000 overnight stays a year. That, as well as the extra people buying goods and using local services, makes a great difference here in the Westfjords.

Working with Nordplus has gone well both in this case and in other projects we have participated in. The Espresso platform is straightforward and I have received very good guidance from Rannís in Nordplus matters. Unfortunately, it has not been possible for us to apply lately, because the grant approvals are announced so late that we cannot market the offer for our potential students – it would be great if we could apply a year in advance to inform everyone on time.”

Peter Weiss, Director, University Center of the Westfjords

Nordplus Junior

Nordplus Junior is a Nordplus sub-program aimed at preschools, primary and secondary schools, both theoretical and vocational programs, as well as vocational schools/apprenticeships in the Nordic-Baltic region. By number of partners, Nordplus Junior is far behind Nordplus HE in popularity.

However, the difference is much smaller in terms of applications – the total number of Higher Education applications is 78, which is only 2 applications more than what was submitted to Nordplus Junior (see Table 19). Again, Iceland accounts for approximately 5% of all applications. By far the most applications in Nordplus Junior come from Denmark (338), followed by Latvia, Finland and Sweden with over 200 applications each.

Table 19.

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2000	Total
Denmark	48	49	57	55	58	39	32	338
Faroe Islands	9	4	5	0	1	0	3	22
Greenland	1	1	2	1	2	0	0	7
Finland	45	39	34	32	28	22	19	219
Åland	6	5	1	2	2	1	1	18
Iceland	18	14	8	15	9	6	6	76
Norway	32	21	18	16	11	6	2	106
Sweden	42	38	27	39	24	22	16	208
Estonia	12	21	18	16	15	13	10	105
Latvia	38	41	35	34	33	17	39	237
Lithuania	34	26	25	31	31	19	21	187
Total	285	259	230	241	214	145	149	1.523

Numbers of applications submitted to Nordplus Junior from each country each year. Source: Espresso

Project applications per 10 000 inhabitants

Similar to Nordplus Higher Education, the order of activity changes drastically when a per capita factor is applied in Junior. As is seen in Table 20, Denmark's number of project applications per 10 000 inhabitants is relatively low, whereas Iceland ranks third most active, though still placed far behind Åland and the Faroe Islands. The difference between Iceland's average and the general average is similar to that in Higher Education.

Table 20. Number of project applications per 10.000 inhabitants by reporting country and year

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average	Total*
Denmark	0,09	0,087	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,07	0,05	0,09	0,58
Faroe Islands	1,87	0,82	1,02	0	0,2	0	0,58	0,64	4,22
Greenland	0,18	0,18	0,36	0,18	0,36	0	0	0,18	1,25
Finland	0,08	0,07	0,06	0,06	0,05	0,04	0,03	0,06	0,4
Åland	2,09	1,73	0,35	0,68	0,68	0,34	0,33	0,89	6,02
Iceland	0,55	0,43	0,24	0,44	0,26	0,17	0,16	0,32	2,09
Norway	0,06	0,04	0,03	0,03	0,02	0,01	0,004	0,03	0,2
Sweden	0,04	0,04	0,03	0,04	0,02	0,022	0,015	0,03	0,2
Estonia	0,09	0,16	0,14	0,12	0,11	0,1	0,08	0,11	0,79
Latvia	0,19	0,21	0,18	0,17	0,17	0,09	0,2	0,17	1,24
Lithuania	0,12	0,09	0,09	0,11	0,11	0,07	0,08	0,1	0,67
Yearly average	0,49	0,35	0,24	0,18	0,19	0,08	0,14	0,24	1,6

Numbers of Nordplus Junior project applications per 10 000 inhabitants by reporting country and year. Sources: Espresso, Eurostat, Nordic Statistics. *Calculated from the 2020 population count

When observing the numbers of approved applications, Iceland’s and the Faroe Islands’ numbers are approximately halved, while Åland’s average remains remarkably high. This shows that Junior does not have an equally high success rate, although it is of similar popularity.

Table 21. Number of approved project applications per 10.000 inhabitants by reporting country and year

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average	Total*
Denmark	0,02	0,04	0,04	0,05	0,06	0,05	0,04	0,04	0,31
Faroe Islands	1,04	0,21	0,2	0	0,2	0	0,38	0,29	1,92
Greenland	0	0	0	0,18	0	0	0	0,03	0,18
Finland	0,06	0,04	0,04	0,04	0,03	0,03	0,02	0,04	0,25
Åland	0,7	1,73	0,35	0,68	0,68	0	0,33	0,64	4,35
Iceland	0,21	0,3	0,09	0,15	0,14	0,14	0,14	0,17	1,1
Norway	0,04	0,017	0,017	0,02	0,01	0,01	0,004	0,02	0,11
Sweden	0,02	0,023	0,009	0,027	0,015	0,018	0,015	0,018	0,12
Estonia	0,07	0,12	0,06	0,11	0,09	0,08	0,06	0,08	0,58
Latvia	0,12	0,17	0,09	0,12	0,11	0,06	0,16	0,12	0,85
Lithuania	0,07	0,08	0,06	0,08	0,07	0,04	0,06	0,07	0,47
Yearly average	0,21	0,25	0,09	0,13	0,13	0,04	0,11	0,14	0,9

Numbers of approved Nordplus Junior project applications per 10 000 inhabitants by reporting country and year. Sources: Espresso, Eurostat, Nordic Statistics. *Calculated from the 2020 population count

Grant sums

Iceland is slightly above Greenland considering the average sum of grants applied for in the program (see Table 22). The Faroe Islands top the chart again with EUR 2,25 applied per capita on average, and Åland is somewhat above Iceland with the average of EUR 1,39. Iceland is clearly above the total yearly average, which differs quite considerably from the two “groups” that can be imagined when observing the list: the countries with a number above average (4 countries) and those with a number below average (7 countries).

Table 22. Applied grants EUR per capita

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average	Total*
Denmark	0,27	0,16	0,68	0,21	0,34	0,23	0,2	0,3	2,06
Faroe Islands	7,4	1,8	4,92	0	0,29	0	1,36	2,25	14,79
Greenland	0,07	0,95	1,25	1,36	2,05	0	0	0,81	5,66
Finland	0,13	0,09	0,16	0,12	0,11	0,14	0,09	0,12	0,84
Åland	2,9	2,77	0,42	0,94	2,02	0,24	0,43	1,39	9,45
Iceland	1,24	0,75	0,88	1,58	0,95	0,52	1,27	1,03	6,74
Norway	0,18	0,07	0,13	0,1	0,05	0,05	0,01	0,08	0,57
Sweden	0,09	0,06	0,05	0,09	0,06	0,04	0,03	0,06	0,41
Estonia	0,24	0,28	0,35	0,29	0,36	0,31	0,12	0,28	1,94
Latvia	0,37	0,33	0,41	0,29	0,32	0,16	0,42	0,33	2,36
Lithuania	0,26	0,18	0,2	0,2	0,28	0,17	0,2	0,21	1,53
Yearly average	1,2	0,68	0,86	0,47	0,62	0,17	0,38	0,63	4,21

*Applied Nordplus Higher Education grants in EUR per capita. Sources: Espresso, Eurostat, Nordic Statistics. *Calculated from the 2020 population count*

Also in this category, the difference between the Faroe Islands and Åland gets smaller when observing the approved applications (see Table 23), while Iceland’s average per capita sum is less than half of what was applied for. This sum is, however, well above average and much larger than that of the countries placed lower on the list.

Table 23. Approved grants EUR per capita

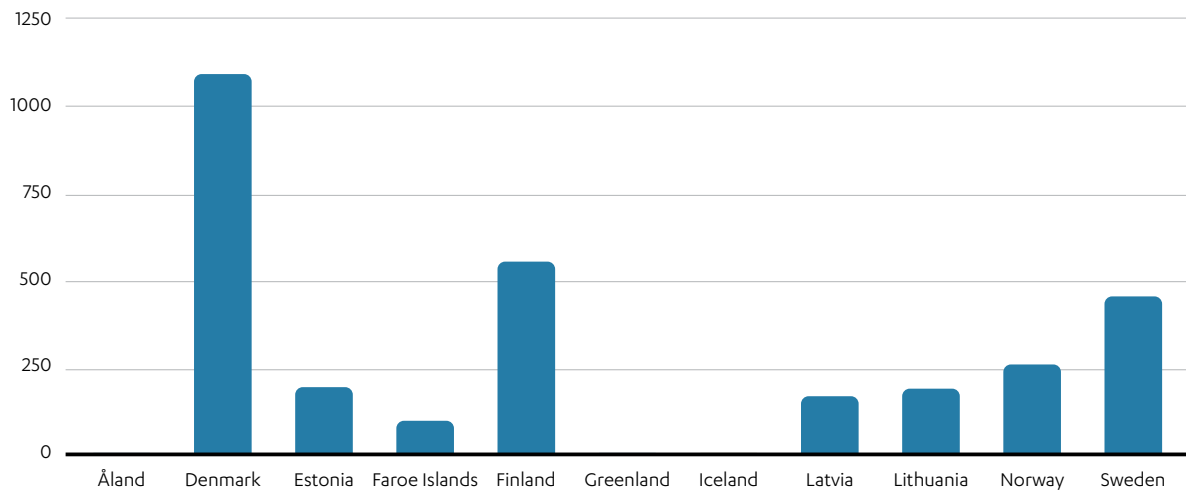
Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average	Total*
Denmark	0,07	0,08	0,14	0,08	0,09	0,17	0,14	0,11	0,77
Faroe Islands	4,18	0,64	1,63	0	0,29	0	0,5	1,03	6,78
Greenland	0	0	0	1,36	0	0	0	0,19	1,35
Finland	0,09	0,05	0,09	0,07	0,05	0,12	0,08	0,08	0,55
Åland	0,36	2,62	0,42	0,75	2,02	0	0,43	0,94	6,44
Iceland	0,45	0,54	0,26	0,47	0,58	0,39	0,59	0,47	3,1
Norway	0,11	0,03	0,05	0,04	0,02	0,03	0,01	0,04	0,28
Sweden	0,03	0,03	0,02	0,05	0,03	0,03	0,03	0,03	0,21
Estonia	0,16	0,19	0,13	0,18	0,24	0,17	0,11	0,17	1,18
Latvia	0,14	0,23	0,15	0,15	0,18	0,1	0,31	0,18	1,29
Lithuania	0,12	0,16	0,13	0,15	0,15	0,07	0,16	0,13	0,97
Yearly average	0,52	0,42	0,27	0,3	0,33	0,1	0,21	0,31	2,08

Approved Nordplus Higher Education grants in EUR per capita. Sources: Espresso, Eurostat, Nordic Statistics. *Calculated from the 2020 population count

Mobility and participating institutions

Mobility statistics from Nordplus Junior illustrated in Figure 6, show that Denmark is by far Iceland’s most popular partner country in this sub-program. Sweden holds second place, while Finland and Norway as well as the Baltic countries experience a similar amount of Icelandic mobility. There is some mobility directed towards the Faroe Islands, whereas the other autonomous areas experience little to no Icelandic mobility.

Figure 6. Cross country mobility



Cross country mobility from Iceland to other countries in Nordplus Junior. Source: Espresso

Table 24 presents the individual participants who have acted as main partners in Icelandic Nordplus Junior applications. A remarkable difference from the participant list presented in Nordplus Higher Education is that although similarly popular in numbers of applications and grant sizes, the programs differ widely in numbers of partners. Overall, Higher Education clearly has a larger number of partners, if main partners and secondary partners are all included, however the number of main partners is larger in Junior. This can be stated to mainly be due to the fact that there are fewer eligible higher education institutions in Iceland than institutions eligible to apply for a Nordplus Junior grant. In Table 24, the institutions are placed in three categories: preschool (2 institutions or projects), primary school (15 institutions) and secondary school (8 institutions).

Table 24. Main partner

Main partner	Type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2000	Total
Árskóli	Primary school						1 project / EUR 28680		1 project / EUR 28680
Brúarásskóli	Primary school		1 project / EUR 14620						1 project / EUR 14620
Fífusalir preschool	Preschool					1 project / EUR 14590			1 project / EUR 14590
Fjölbrautaskólinn í Garðabæ	Secondary school	1 project / EUR 2020	1 project / EUR 36620						2 projects / EUR 38640
Giljaskóli	Primary school	1 project / EUR 1880	1 project / EUR 26525						2 projects / EUR 28405
Grunnskóli Bolungarvíkur	Primary school				1 project / EUR 25720				1 project / EUR 25720
Grunnskóli Borgarfjarðar - Varmaland	Primary school			1 project / EUR 19620					1 project / EUR 19620
Grunnskólinn í Stykkishólmi	Primary school						1 project / EUR 18970		1 project / EUR 18970
Hamrahlíð College	Secondary school		1 project / EUR 2020		1 project / EUR 30220				2 projects / EUR 32240
Hvaleyrarskóli	Primary school	1 project / EUR 3220	1 project / EUR 5420	1 project / EUR 25420					3 projects / EUR 34060
Hveragerði	Preschool						1 project / EUR 63924		1 project / EUR 63924
Icelandic College of Fisheries	Secondary school					1 project / EUR 51492			1 project / EUR 51492
Keilir - Atlantic Center of Excellence	Secondary school		1 project / EUR 2320	1 project / EUR 41285					2 projects / EUR 43605
Lagafellsskóli	Primary school						1 project / EUR 27330	1 project / EUR 27520	2 projects / EUR 54850
Laugalækjar-skóli	Primary school, upper level		1 project / EUR 5040						1 project / EUR 5040
Menntaskólinn í Reykjavík	Secondary school						1 project / EUR 33680		1 project / EUR 33680
Primary School of Breiðagerði	Primary school	1 project / EUR 79243							1 project / EUR 79243

Main partner	Type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Suðurlíða-skóli	Primary school	1 project / EUR 6760							1 project / EUR 6760
Technical College Reykjavik	Secondary school		1 project / EUR 25620						1 project / EUR 25620
The Commercial College of Iceland	Secondary school	2 projects / EUR 53050	1 project / EUR 29320		1 project / EUR 31830	1 project / EUR 30220	1 project / EUR 28420	1 project / EUR 28420	7 projects / EUR 201260
The Elementary School in Eskifjörður	Primary school						1 project / EUR 37415		1 project / EUR 37415
The Grammar School in Þingeyri	Primary school						1 project / EUR 4040	1 project / EUR 61380	2 projects / EUR 65420
Þórshöfn Primary School	Primary school				1 project / EUR 35680	1 project / EUR 78400			2 projects / EUR 114080
Tröllaskagi Secondary School	Secondary school				1 project / EUR 35730				1 project / EUR 35730
Waldorf school in Lækjarbotnum	Primary school		1 project / EUR 30180						1 project / EUR 30180

Icelandic main partners in accepted Nordplus Junior project applications. Source: Espresso

Most institutions have received a grant for 1 or 2 projects in total in the studied period, and most of these grants have been around or below EUR 30 000. While most institutions only apply for Junior grants sporadically and almost always only receive one grant at a time, the Commercial College of Iceland has been the most active institution with the total of 7 grants in 7 years, 2016 being the only year without a Nordplus Junior grant. The institution received two grants in 2014, and the total sum of grants allocated to the institution amounts to EUR 201 260. The individual grants allocated to the institution are not exceptionally large compared to the largest individual grant allocated in the whole program between 2014 and 2020. This grant was worth EUR 79 243 and it was allocated to the Primary School of Breiðagerði for the project Rethinking Nordic Education in Math – NEM.

Case: Geoheritage, culture and sustainable communities in rural areas in Finland, Iceland and Norway

“We are pretty isolated here in the town of Höfn, which lies in the southeastern corner of Iceland. That’s why our school has always aspired to offer students opportunities to see the world and become more connected. We are also close to the Vatnajökull National Park, which was optimal for a project that aims to bring together GeoParks and schools from rural Iceland, Finland and Norway. The effects of climate change on the vegetation, glaciers and land can easily be observed in the parks.

Even though our plans to travel were changed because of COVID, Nordplus showed flexibility and allowed us to use the funds to purchase streaming equipment instead. That way, we could still show the students in Finland and Norway our nature and how it is affected by climate change.

We received Nordplus mobility support to prepare our grant application together, and it was a total game changer to meet up and do it instead of trying to coordinate the work digitally with all the different time zones. Modern technology has made it very easy to stay in touch digitally, but it is still much easier to plan collaborative projects in person. The experience of working on Nordplus projects depends somewhat on the partners and their interests, but during this project it has been good. The application portal Espresso is easy to use compared to some other application platforms.

I can recommend Nordplus for anyone who has the motivation to do a project. Our school is one of the smallest secondary schools in Iceland, and many local kids would rather go somewhere else. Projects like this are very motivational for them, as participation often includes travel abroad. Many of our students have told us that the stay abroad during a Nordplus or Erasmus project was the highlight of their time in secondary school.”

Hjördís Skírnisdóttir, Teacher, FAS – The Secondary School of Austur-Skaftafellssýsla

Nordplus Adult

Aimed at institutions within the field of adult learning, Nordplus Adult is the third most popular Nordplus program in Iceland and in general when looking at the numbers of participants and applications submitted (see Table 25).

Icelandic applications make up for approximately 6% of the total number of applications, and most applications in this category come from Latvia. Other especially active applicant states in terms of sheer numbers of applications are Lithuania, Denmark and Finland.

Table 25.

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2000	Total
Denmark	12	19	24	18	19	10	22	124
Faroe Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenland	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	4
Finland	11	19	8	11	16	11	13	89
Åland	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	4
Iceland	8	13	6	5	9	4	7	52
Norway	6	6	6	3	4	4	5	34
Sweden	16	10	7	8	13	7	6	67
Estonia	8	20	13	6	11	3	6	67
Latvia	45	51	22	26	21	15	30	210
Lithuania	28	26	18	19	19	24	21	155
Total	134	166	104	98	113	78	113	806

Numbers of applications submitted to Nordplus Junior from each country each year. Source: Espresso

Project applications per 10.000 inhabitants

As usual, Iceland's placement in the charts changes drastically when the application data is analysed relative to population size. In terms of all applications, Iceland is the most active country in this sub-program, followed by Åland and Latvia (see Table 26). Iceland's number is well above the yearly general average.

Table 26. Number of project applications per 10.000 inhabitants by reporting country and year

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average	Total*
Denmark	0,02	0,03	0,04	0,03	0,03	0,02	0,04	0,03	0,21
Faroe Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenland	0	0,36	0	0	0	0	0,36	0,1	0,71
Finland	0,02	0,03	0,01	0,02	0,03	0,02	0,02	0,02	0,16
Åland	0	0	0	0,68	0,34	0	0,33	0,19	1,34
Iceland	0,25	0,4	0,18	0,15	0,26	0,11	0,19	0,22	1,43
Norway	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,06
Sweden	0,02	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,06
Estonia	0,06	0,15	0,1	0,05	0,08	0,02	0,05	0,07	0,5
Latvia	0,22	0,26	0,11	0,13	0,11	0,08	0,16	0,15	1,1
Lithuania	0,1	0,09	0,06	0,07	0,07	0,09	0,08	0,08	0,55
Yearly average	0,06	0,12	0,05	0,1	0,09	0,03	0,11	0,08	0,56

Numbers of Nordplus Adult project applications per 10.000 inhabitants by reporting country and year. Sources: Espresso, Eurostat, Nordic Statistics. *Calculated from the 2020 population count

As can be seen in Table 27, Iceland also has the second largest number of approved applications per 10.000 inhabitants. Also in this category, Iceland's achievement is well above the general average. The difference between the two numbers suggests that the success rates in this sub-program are lower than in Higher Education, but slightly higher than in Junior, which could depend on the generally lower number of applications.

Table 27. Number of approved project applications per 10.000 inhabitants by reporting country and year

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average	Total*
Denmark	0,01	0,01	0,02	0,02	0,02	0,01	0,02	0,02	0,12
Faroe Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenland	0	0,18	0	0	0	0	0	0,03	0,18
Finland	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,02	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,09
Åland	0	0	0	0,68	0	0	0,33	0,14	1
Iceland	0,15	0,21	0,18	0,09	0,09	0,11	0,11	0,13	0,88
Norway	0,01	0,01	0,002	0,004	0,01	0,002	0,004	0,01	0,03
Sweden	0,01	0,01	0,003	0,01	0,01	0,005	0,003	0,01	0,04
Estonia	0,02	0,05	0,05	0,02	0,05	0	0,02	0,03	0,22
Latvia	0,06	0,07	0,03	0,05	0,02	0,03	0,05	0,04	0,31
Lithuania	0,04	0,03	0,02	0,04	0,02	0,05	0,04	0,03	0,25
Yearly average	0,03	0,05	0,03	0,08	0,02	0,02	0,05	0,04	0,3

Numbers of approved Nordplus Adult project applications per 10.000 inhabitants by reporting country and year. Sources: Espresso, Eurostat, Nordic Statistics. *Calculated from the 2020 population count

Grant sums

Iceland has also been the most active in applying for funds when the amounts applied for are divided by population (see Table 28). The average amount applied for from Iceland is approximately EUR 0,7 higher than the general average, which is a rather large figure considering that the other countries' averages ranged from EUR 0,03 to EUR 0,91 per capita.

Table 28. Applied grants EUR per capita

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average	Total*
Denmark	0,05	0,1	0,19	0,1	0,12	0,08	0,13	0,11	0,75
Faroe Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenland	0	1,56	0	0	0	0	0,78	0,33	2,34
Finland	0,04	0,15	0,09	0,06	0,06	0,08	0,08	0,08	0,55
Åland	0	0	0	4,51	0,02	0	1,83	0,91	6,26
Iceland	1,39	1,5	1,11	0,52	1,04	0,91	0,69	1,02	6,67
Norway	0,06	0,02	0,08	0,01	0,02	0,02	0,06	0,04	0,26
Sweden	0,06	0,03	0,01	0,02	0,05	0,02	0,02	0,03	0,2
Estonia	0,14	0,27	0,16	0,01	0,16	0,1	0,09	0,13	0,93
Latvia	0,5	0,49	0,44	0,36	0,41	0,26	0,48	0,42	3,01
Lithuania	0,28	0,27	0,3	0,24	0,24	0,27	0,26	0,27	1,9
Yearly average	0,23	0,4	0,22	0,53	0,19	0,16	0,4	0,3	2,08

Applied Nordplus Adult grants in EUR per capita. Sources: Espresso, Eurostat, Nordic Statistics. *Calculated from the 2020 population count

Table 29 shows that Iceland has received a little less than one third of the amount of money that was applied for in Nordplus Adult applications. This amount is still the second highest in the sub-program after Åland's per capita average of EUR 0,65 and clearly higher than the general average. Most countries in the program received below EUR 0,1 per capita.

Table 29. Approved grants EUR per capita

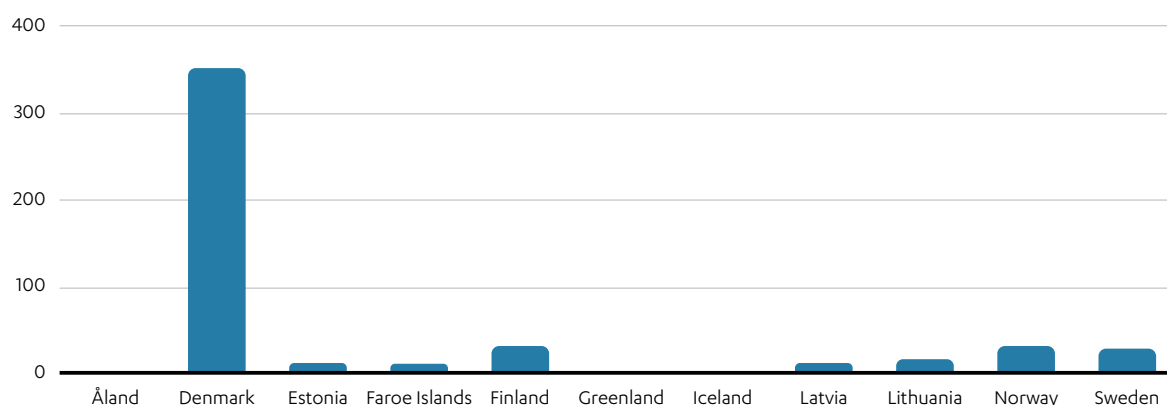
Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average	Total*
Denmark	0,03	0,03	0,07	0,06	0,05	0,05	0,04	0,05	0,32
Faroe Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenland	0	0,89	0	0	0	0	0	0,13	0,89
Finland	0,03	0,03	0,03	0,02	0,02	0,03	0,04	0,03	0,19
Åland	0	0	0	2,71	0	0	1,83	0,65	4,47
Iceland	0,65	0,32	0,54	0,14	0,18	0,29	0,13	0,32	2,07
Norway	0,01	0,004	0,01	0,01	0,003	0,001	0,01	0,01	0,04
Sweden	0,02	0,01	0,005	0,01	0,02	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,09
Estonia	0,005	0,04	0,05	0,01	0,08	0	0,01	0,03	0,18
Latvia	0,09	0,12	0,08	0,11	0,06	0,07	0,09	0,09	0,64
Lithuania	0,08	0,1	0,06	0,11	0,09	0,12	0,13	0,1	0,71
Yearly average	0,08	0,14	0,08	0,29	0,05	0,08	0,21	0,13	0,87

Applied Nordplus Adult grants in EUR per capita. Sources: Espresso, Eurostat, Nordic Statistics. *Calculated from the 2020 population count

Mobility and participating institutions

As can be seen in Figure 7, Nordplus Adult has a fairly distinctive division of Icelandic mobility. Although it is not unusual that most Icelandic mobility is directed towards Denmark, the difference is unusually clear in this sub-program. Compared to Denmark, the other Nordic countries receive a very small amount of Icelandic mobility, if any.

Figure 7. Cross country mobility



Cross country mobility from Iceland in Nordplus Adult. Source: Espresso

When it comes to Icelandic participants, there have been 19 main partners in the studied period (see Table 31). In this report, they have been classified as either adult education center (6 partners), community center (2 partners), independent association (2 partners), professional association (1 partner), secondary school (1 partner), municipality (1 partner), private company (1 partner), university (2 partners), research institutions (1 partner), or special interest group (2 partners). This distinction suggests that although fewer applications are being submitted in this subprogram, the applicant pool is more diverse in terms of institution type and, to some degree, societal sector.

Table 30. Main partner

Main partner	Type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Austurbrú	Adult education center	1 project / EUR 2320							1 project / EUR 2320
Education and Training Service Centre (IS-ETSC)	Adult education center	1 project / EUR 50000							1 project / EUR 50 000
Equality Center	Adult education center			1 project / EUR 10860					1 project / EUR 10 860
Geysir Clubhouse	Community center		1 project / EUR 5880						1 project / EUR 5 880
Hitt Húsið, Youth Cultural and Information Center	Community center		1 project / EUR 11165						1 project / EUR 11 165
Icelandic Association for Search and Rescue	Independent association					1 project / EUR 16400			1 project / EUR 16 400

Main partner	Type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Icelandic Handcraft Association	Independent association		1 project / EUR 16440						1 project / EUR 16 440
Ísbrú Association of Second Language Teachers	Professional association				1 project / EUR 24360		1 project / EUR 16240		2 projects / EUR 40 600
Keilir - Atlantic Center of Excellence	Secondary school		1 project / EUR 1880						1 project / EUR 1 880
Kópavogur Municipality	Municipality							1 project / EUR 4040	1 project / EUR 4 040
LLL Center Mimir-simenntun	Adult education center			1 project / EUR 33580					1 project / EUR 33 580
LungA School for Art and Creativity	Adult education center	1 project / EUR 40000							1 project / EUR 40 000
Step by Step Consulting	Private company			1 project / EUR 51790					1 project / EUR 51 790
The Agricultural University of Iceland	University			1 project / EUR 52520			1 project / EUR 41750		2 projects / EUR 94 270
The Icelandic Textile Center	Research institution		1 project / EUR 5480						1 project / EUR 5 480
The Icelandic Youth Association	Special interest group		1 project / EUR 18600	1 project / EUR 18600	1 project / EUR 18600	1 project / EUR 18600	1 project / EUR 18600	1 project / EUR 18600	6 projects / EUR 111 600
The Nordic Association Iceland	Special interest group	1 project / EUR 45220	1 project / EUR 45220	1 project / EUR 10640			1 project / EUR 26600	2 projects / EUR 23640	6 projects / EUR 151 320
The Tin Can Factory - Language school	Adult education center				1 project / EUR 3760				1 project / EUR 3 760
University of Iceland	University	1 project / EUR 75000							1 project / EUR 75 000

Icelandic main partners in accepted Nordplus Adult project applications. Source: Espresso

The most grants in this sub-program have been awarded to The Nordic Association in Iceland, which has 6 approved projects in the studied period and has received the total of EUR 151 320 in Nordplus Adult grants. The largest grant, however, has been awarded to the University of Iceland for the project “Communicating in a New Culture: Survival Language through Mobile Devices”, which is a collaborative project between the Faroe Islands, Finland, and Iceland. The project is a one-time initiative and was allocated EUR 75 000 in 2014. Most main partners have received grants for 1-2 projects during the studied period: in addition to the Nordic Association, the Icelandic Youth Association has also had 6 projects approved between 2014 and 2020.

Case: PaaD Nordic – Presence At A Distance

“What happens after a Nordplus project comes to an end? This is the question that originally inspired the PaaD Nordic project, which studies the long-term effects of educational projects. We wanted to focus especially on distance learning projects in sparsely populated areas, so we traveled to the far ends of Norden in Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Faroe Islands, Denmark and Finland to ask people whether distance learning has contributed to their communities and if so, how that affects the community. We wanted to know if educational projects have an actual effect. As a result, we are formulating guidelines for project partners to help them make sure their work lives on even after the project period is over.

Nordplus has made it possible for us to focus on creating and communicating knowledge. Whenever we meet up, we always try to hold a mini conference in the area we’re visiting. We invite locals who work with similar things, international guests and local specialists to have a conversation about the subject we’re currently addressing. This creates knowledge which is then communicated to the public. We have had between 30 and 100 participants in these conferences, here in Iceland between 80 and 100. These people will get to know what’s new in adult education this way, so it is important prioritize it – and that would not be possible without Nordplus.

Aside from minor drawbacks related to text editing, organisational changes and the availability of project outcomes, working with Nordplus has been easy and comfortable. The people working for Nordplus have been friendly and helpful, and the organisation has shown flexibility and understanding when things have not gone exactly as planned, which is common in the project world. We have also interviewed people who have experience with Nordplus, and they are generally very happy. I would absolutely recommend Nordplus.”

Hróbjartur Árnason, Assistant Professor at the University of Iceland

Nordplus Horizontal

According to the Nordplus homepage, the Horizontal sub-program is a cross-sectoral program open to all institutions and organizations willing to develop education within a lifelong learning perspective.

There is a remarkable difference in popularity compared to the previously presented programs, but Iceland's share in the total number of applications remains similar, or at approximately 5 per cent (see Table 31). In this program, most applications come from Finland, and only one application has been submitted from the autonomous areas (Faroe Islands, 2016).

Table 31.

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2000	Total
Denmark	7	2	3	3	6	7	4	32
Faroe Islands	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Greenland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Finland	13	7	10	7	6	5	8	56
Åland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iceland	1	6	1	3	2	1	3	17
Norway	5	9	6	7	10	5	7	49
Sweden	10	7	6	11	7	1	1	43
Estonia	2	9	6	4	8	7	4	40
Latvia	5	1	9	6	3	3	6	33
Lithuania	9	6	4	8	4	4	5	40
Total	52	47	46	49	46	33	38	311

Numbers of applications submitted to Nordplus Horizontal from each country each year. Source: Espresso

Project applications per 10 000 inhabitants

The absence of applications from the autonomous areas has seemingly given Iceland first place in the Nordplus Horizontal charts (see Table 32). The number of applications is significantly lower than in the other sub-programs in general as well as in Iceland, and the differences between countries are not as marked. Behind Iceland is Estonia, while Latvia and the Faroe Islands are placed third.

Table 32. Number of project applications per 10.000 inhabitants by reporting country and year

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average	Total*
Denmark	0,01	0,004	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,05
Faroe Islands	0	0	0,2	0	0	0	0	0,03	0,19
Greenland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Finland	0,02	0,01	0,02	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,1
Åland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iceland	0,03	0,18	0,03	0,09	0,06	0,03	0,08	0,07	0,47
Norway	0,01	0,02	0,01	0,01	0,02	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,09
Sweden	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,001	0,001	0,01	0,04
Estonia	0,02	0,07	0,05	0,03	0,06	0,05	0,03	0,04	0,3
Latvia	0,02	0,01	0,05	0,03	0,02	0,02	0,03	0,03	0,17
Lithuania	0,03	0,02	0,01	0,03	0,01	0,01	0,02	0,02	0,14
Yearly average	0,01	0,03	0,04	0,02	0,02	0,01	0,02	0,02	0,1

Numbers of Nordplus Horizontal project applications per 10.000 inhabitants by reporting country and year. Sources: Espresso, Eurostat, Nordic Statistics. *Calculated from the 2020 population count

Judging by the numbers of approved projects presented in Table 33, most approved projects per capita in this sub-program come from Iceland. Somewhat surprisingly, both Denmark and the Faroe Islands have zero approved projects in this sub-program in the studied period. Generally, approximately half of the project applications get accepted in this sub-program, but for Iceland this rate is almost 70 per cent.

Table 33. Number of approved project applications per 10 000 inhabitants by reporting country and year

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average	Total*
Denmark	0	0	0	0	0	0,01	0	0	0,02
Faroe Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Finland	0,02	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,07
Åland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iceland	0,03	0,12	0,03	0,06	0,03	0,03	0,03	0,05	0,3
Norway	0,01	0,004	0,004	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,04
Sweden	0,01	0,002	0	0,002	0,002	0,001	0	0,002	0,01
Estonia	0,01	0,04	0,03	0,02	0,03	0,02	0,02	0,02	0,17
Latvia	0,01	0	0,01	0,01	0	0,01	0,02	0,01	0,06
Lithuania	0,02	0,01	0,01	0,02	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,09
Yearly average	0,01	0,02	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,1

Numbers of approved Nordplus Horizontal project applications per 10.000 inhabitants by reporting country and year. Sources: Espresso, Eurostat, Nordic Statistics. *Calculated from the 2020 population count

Grant sums

Iceland has also applied for the largest amount of money per capita in Nordplus Horizontal (see Table 34). Iceland’s average sum applied for per capita (EUR 0,4) is almost four times larger than the average sum of EUR 0,12 and nearly double as large as the per capita sums applied for from the Faroe Islands and Estonia, which are the second and third most active in terms of applied grant sums.

Table 34. Applied grants EUR per capita

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average	Total*
Denmark	0,12	0,04	0,03	0,02	0,05	0,11	0,09	0,07	0,46
Faroe Islands	0	0	1,67	0	0	0	0	0,24	1,57
Greenland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Finland	0,09	0,06	0,09	0,07	0,06	0,05	0,07	0,07	0,49
Åland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iceland	0,18	0,66	0,21	0,64	0,42	0,25	0,41	0,4	2,6
Norway	0,08	0,12	0,08	0,12	0,08	0,05	0,09	0,09	0,61
Sweden	0,04	0,03	0,04	0,14	0,04	0,01	0	0,04	0,29
Estonia	0,07	0,27	0,18	0,1	0,38	0,3	0,19	0,21	1,47
Latvia	0,06	0,01	0,22	0,21	0,06	0,1	0,19	0,12	0,85
Lithuania	0,18	0,17	0,11	0,15	0,07	0,06	0,13	0,12	0,9
Yearly average	0,07	0,12	0,24	0,13	0,11	0,08	0,11	0,12	0,84

Applied Nordplus Horizontal grants in EUR per capita. Sources: Espresso, Eurostat, Nordic Statistics.

*Calculated from the 2020 population count

Iceland has also clearly received the most money in this sub-program in the studied period (see Table 35) or more than half of what was applied for. This is a better result than generally presented in the Nordplus yearly reports, which suggests that less than half of the sums get approved. The tables presented in the introductory section of Nordplus suggest that Iceland’s success rates tend to be above average, and observing the per capita grant sums further confirms this.

Table 35. Approved grants EUR per capita

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average	Total*
Denmark	0,02	0,03	0,02	0	0,01	0,03	0,01	0,02	0,12
Faroe Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Finland	0,04	0,02	0,05	0,04	0,03	0,03	0,02	0,03	0,25
Åland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iceland	0,18	0,55	0,21	0,3	0,16	0,25	0,14	0,26	1,67
Norway	0,04	0,03	0,03	0,02	0,04	0,03	0,05	0,03	0,25
Sweden	0,03	0,01	0	0,01	0,01	0,01	0	0,01	0,07
Estonia	0,03	0,08	0,12	0,05	0,18	0,13	0,11	0,1	0,7
Latvia	0,03	0	0,07	0,05	0	0,05	0,06	0,04	0,26
Lithuania	0,08	0,05	0,03	0,09	0,04	0,05	0,06	0,06	0,41
Yearly average	0,04	0,07	0,05	0,05	0,04	0,05	0,04	0,05	0,34

Approved Nordplus Horizontal grants in EUR per capita. Sources: Espresso, Eurostat, Nordic Statistics.

*Calculated from the 2020 population count

Mobility and participating institutions

Information on mobility from Iceland in the Horizontal program is not so easily on Espresso similarly to other programs and thus, a cross-country mobility figure cannot be created. This is due to the nature the Horizontal sub-program's which funding is based on projects but not regular mobilities.

However, as this does not hinder the presentation of individual main partners, Table 35 has been created for this purpose. There are 8 Icelandic main partners listed in the studied period, out of which one is classified as a professional association, one as a municipality, two as private companies, one as a primary school, one as a public institution and two as universities.

Table 36.

Main partner	Type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2000	Total
Icelandic Orff Schulwerk Association	Professional association		1 project / EUR 67902						1 project / EUR 67902
Kópavogur Municipality	Municipality							1 project / EUR 50000	1 project / EUR 50000
Locatify ehf	Private company		1 project / EUR 40000						1 project / EUR 40000
MusikMusik - educational and gaming company (Later: Mussila ehf.)	Private company		1 project / EUR 58789						1 project / EUR 58789
Oddeyrarskóli	Primary school		1 project / EUR 58789						1 project / EUR 58789
Prison and Probation Administration	Public institution					1 project / EUR 55940			1 project / EUR 55940
University of Iceland	University		2 projects / EUR 74293		1 project / EUR 64000		1 project / EUR 89932		4 projects / EUR 228225
University of Iceland - School of Education	University				1 project / EUR 37425				1 project / EUR 37425

Icelandic main partners in accepted Nordplus Horizontal project applications. Source: Espresso

The most grants in this sub-program have been awarded to the University of Iceland, which is the only partner with more than one approved project in the studied period. The four UI projects have received a total of EUR 228.225, and the largest grant of the period is amongst them. This grant amounts to EUR 89.932 and has been awarded to the project "SPARE – Strengthening Parenting Among Refugees in Europe: Using PMTO as the evidence based intervention to prevent and reduce adjustment problems", which will also be featured below as a case example of Iceland's participation.

Case: SPARE – Strengthening Parenting Among Refugees in Europe: Using PMTO as the evidence based intervention to prevent and reduce adjustment problems

“The overall goal of the SPARE project is to adapt the PMTO model to address refugees in a European context. Supporting parents and caregivers to “parent” and educate their children within this new cultural context can reduce the likelihood that families will suffer throughout their journey to resettlement. This is done by a training sequence: educated SPARE trainers train parents and the parents train their children. In addition, special link workers form a connecting link between professional trainers and parents. In the project period we have trained a total of 14 trainers, 6 link workers, and about 50 parents in Iceland, Norway and Denmark.

Our plan was always to finance the pilot stage of this project with Nordplus. We would accommodate the program to the current situation of refugees in the countries, test it in our countries and make it ready to use elsewhere in Europe. This stage is now about to be completed, and we have received an Erasmus grant to continue our work, which also was the plan all along: Nordplus was the stepping stone for getting a larger Erasmus grant, which will potentially be a stepping stone for an even more influential platform. The SPARE project is now being adapted for other countries, and it has potential to have a remarkable effect on the situation of refugees in Europe. It also affects the academia, as having societal influence is often the goal with academic initiatives.

I think Nordplus is more user-friendly than other programs in many ways. It’s especially important for us to be able to pay people for their work: for translations into Arabic, back translations, artwork and pictures that are very important when working with refugees coming from diverse backgrounds. Working with Nordplus is overall very comfortable and Espresso is straightforward and easy to use for submitting applications and reports. Nordplus evaluates applications in a professional manner and you know they have faith in the projects they choose to fund, so I absolutely do recommend anyone with a well-thought project idea to apply for a grant.”

Margrét Sigmarsdóttir, clinical psychologist and Assistant Professor at the University of Iceland

Nordplus Nordic Languages

The sub-program of Nordic Languages is aimed at institutions, organizations and other actors interested in working with or promoting the Nordic languages, privately as well as publicly.

The sub-program is the smallest of all Nordplus programs, both in terms of applications, grant sums and partners, and as Table 36 suggests, many of the countries earlier observed as active have submitted few to no applications. No applications have been received from the Faroe Islands or Åland. Greenland and Estonia only have 3 applications each. For Iceland, Nordic Languages is more popular than Horizontal.

Table 37.

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2000	Total
Denmark	12	9	5	10	12	12	10	70
Faroe Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenland	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	3
Finland	6	7	3	6	6	6	7	41
Åland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iceland	5	8	4	4	8	4	5	38
Norway	3	5	3	2	2	3	4	22
Sweden	0	5	2	1	3	4	4	19
Estonia	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3
Latvia	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	10
Lithuania	0	0	0	2	3	2	1	8
Total	26	35	17	25	31	32	30	196

Numbers of applications submitted to Nordplus Horizontal from each country each year. Source: Espresso

Iceland is the third most active in terms of applications with 38 applications, which is only 3 applications fewer than Finland. The charts are dominated by Denmark, from which 70 applications have been submitted.

Project applications per 10 000 inhabitants

Considering Iceland's high placement in terms of sheer numbers of applications, it is not surprising that the country takes the lead in project applications in relation to population (see Table 37). The number of projects applied for from Iceland per capita is eight times larger than that of Denmark and more than five times larger than the general average.

Table 38. Number of project applications per 10.000 inhabitants by reporting country and year

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average	Total*
Denmark	0,02	0,016	0,01	0,02	0,02	0,02	0,02	0,02	0,12
Faroe Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenland	0	0,18	0	0,18	0	0,18	0	0,08	0,53
Finland	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,07
Åland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iceland	0,15	0,24	0,12	0,12	0,23	0,11	0,14	0,16	1,04
Norway	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,004	0,004	0,01	0,007	0,01	0,04
Sweden	0	0,01	0,002	0,001	0,003	0,004	0,004	0,003	0,02
Estonia	0	0	0	0,01	0	0,02	0	0,004	0,02
Latvia	0	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,05
Lithuania	0	0	0	0,01	0,01	0,01	0	0,004	0,03
Yearly average	0,02	0,04	0,01	0,03	0,03	0,03	0,02	0,03	0,2

Numbers of Nordplus Nordic Languages project applications per 10 000 inhabitants by reporting country and year. Sources: Espresso, Eurostat, Nordic Statistics. *Calculated from the 2020 population count

In Table 38, it can be observed that Icelandic applications have been rather successful, with the average of 75 per cent of the projects receiving approval. For example, Denmark, which has the most applications in this sub-program, has a success rate of 50 per cent. Iceland also has the most approved project applications per capita in the program.

Table 39. Number of approved project applications per 10.000 inhabitants by reporting country and year

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average	Total*
Denmark	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,02	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,09
Faroe Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenland	0	0	0	0,18	0	0,18	0	0,05	0,36
Finland	0,01	0,01	0	0,01	0,01	0	0,01	0,01	0,04
Åland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iceland	0,09	0,15	0,12	0,12	0,14	0,11	0,11	0,12	0,8
Norway	0,01	0,006	0,002	0,004	0,002	0,002	0,007	0,005	0,03
Sweden	0	0,001	0,002	0,001	0,003	0,001	0,003	0,002	0,01
Estonia	0	0	0	0,01	0	0,02	0	0,004	0,02
Latvia	0	0,01	0,01	0	0,01	0	0,01	0,01	0,03
Lithuania	0	0	0	0,01	0,01	0,01	0	0,004	0,02
Yearly average	0,01	0,02	0,01	0,03	0,02	0,03	0,01	0,02	0,1

Numbers of approved Nordplus Nordic Languages project applications per 10 000 inhabitants by reporting country and year. Sources: Espresso, Eurostat, Nordic Statistics. *Calculated from the 2020 population count

Grant sums

Iceland has also applied for the most money in the Nordic Languages program per capita (see Table 39). The difference compared to the other countries is remarkable, as, for example, Greenland and Denmark have applied for the per capita sums of EUR 0,17 and EUR 0,08 respectively and all other countries' grant applications are below those sums.

Table 40. Applied grants EUR per capita

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average	Total*
Denmark	0,09	0,07	0,05	0,04	0,07	0,13	0,1	0,08	0,54
Faroe Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenland	0	0,76	0	0,09	0	0,36	0	0,17	1,2
Finland	0,03	0,05	0,03	0,05	0,01	0,06	0,03	0,04	0,25
Åland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iceland	0,4	0,8	0,47	0,45	1,69	0,74	0,52	0,72	4,79
Norway	0,06	0,05	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,06	0,03	0,19
Sweden	0	0,01	0,01	0,004	0,02	0,04	0,01	0,01	0,09
Estonia	0	0	0	0,01	0	0,09	0	0,01	0,1
Latvia	0,03	0,02	0,04	0,06	0	0,01	0,04	0,03	0,21
Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0,03	0,02	0,02	0,01	0,07
Yearly average	0,06	0,16	0,06	0,06	0,17	0,13	0,07	0,1	0,7

*Numbers of approved Nordplus Nordic Languages project applications per 10 000 inhabitants by reporting country and year. Sources: Espresso, Eurostat, Nordic Statistics. *Calculated from the 2020 population count*

In total, Icelandic projects received more than half of the money that was applied for, as can be seen in Table 40. Due to the Nordplus Nordic Languages grants generally being few and relatively small, the general average yearly amount allocated to one country is significantly lower than the amount allocated to Icelandic projects. In total, Icelandic projects have received almost EUR 3 per capita during the studied period, while none of the other countries have received more than EUR 0,45.

Table 41. Approved grants EUR per capita

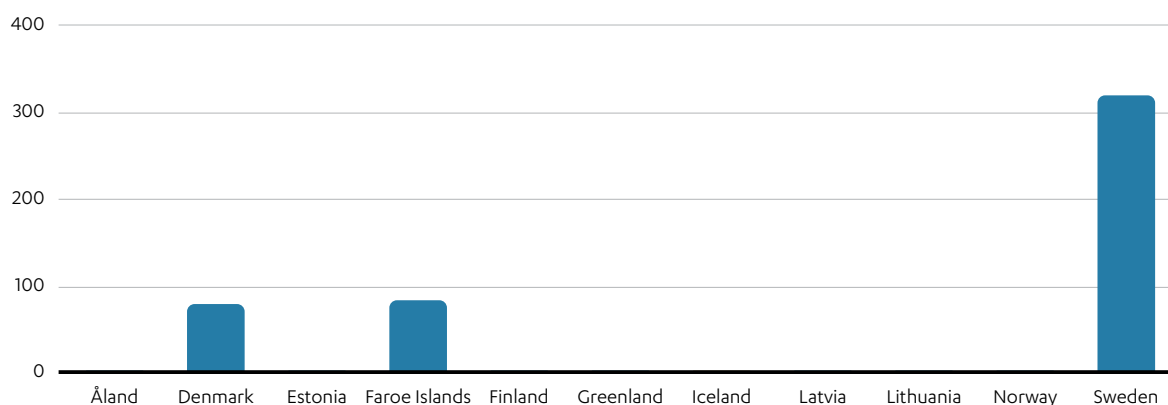
Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average	Total*
Denmark	0,03	0,04	0,04	0,03	0,04	0,05	0,06	0,04	0,29
Faroe Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenland	0	0	0	0,09	0	0,36	0	0,06	0,45
Finland	0,02	0,02	0,01	0,04	0,001	0,01	0,02	0,02	0,12
Åland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iceland	0,33	0,45	0,38	0,44	0,77	0,48	0,33	0,45	2,99
Norway	0,03	0,02	0,005	0,005	0,004	0,001	0,02	0,01	0,09
Sweden	0	0,002	0,01	0,004	0,01	0,002	0,003	0,004	0,03
Estonia	0	0	0	0,01	0	0,05	0	0,01	0,06
Latvia	0,02	0,02	0,04	0	0	0	0,01	0,01	0,08
Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0,02	0,01	0	0	0,03
Yearly average	0,04	0,05	0,04	0,06	0,08	0,09	0,04	0,06	0,4

Approved Nordplus Nordic Languages grants in EUR per capita. Sources: Espresso, Eurostat, Nordic Statistics. *Calculated from the 2020 population count

Mobility and participating institutions

The mobility statistics are as distinctive as Iceland’s general activity and success in this sub-program. Denmark and the Faroe Islands experience a similar amount of activity, whereas a much more popular country in that regard is Sweden. It is also to be noted that the scale in this particular sub-program is widely different from the others, where mobility is measured by the hundreds. The data seems to conflict somewhat with the previously presented information, which can be due to missing Espresso reporting.

Figure 8. Cross country mobility



Cross country mobility from Iceland in Nordplus Nordic Languages. Source: Espresso

There were 9 reported main partners in the sub-program. They were defined as professional associations (1 partner), special interest groups (1 partner), secondary schools (2 partners), research institutions (2 partners) and universities (2 partners).

Table 42.

Main partner	Type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2000	Total
Association of Foreign Language Teachers in Iceland	Professional association							1 project / EUR 13162	1 project / EUR 13162
The Nordic Association Iceland	Special interest group				1 project / EUR 3030				1 project / EUR 3030
Hamrahlíð College	Secondary school		1 project / EUR 12800				1 project / EUR 25000		2 projects / EUR 37800
The Árni Magnusson Institute for Icelandic Studies	Research institution	2 projects / EUR 28150	1 project / EUR 5600	1 project / EUR 14000	1 project / EUR 60000		3 projects / EUR 55620	2 projects / EUR 83830	10 projects / EUR 247200
The Comprehensive College of Iceland	Secondary school					1 project / EUR 23781			1 project / EUR 23781
The Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute of Foreign Languages	Research institution	1 project / EUR 79907	1 project / EUR 43000	1 project / EUR 12343		1 project / EUR 85500		1 project / EUR 22760	5 projects / EUR 243510
The University of Iceland	University		2 projects / EUR 85340	2 projects / EUR 98394	2 projects / EUR 86163	2 projects / EUR 152000	1 project / EUR 75000		9 projects / EUR 496897
University of Iceland - Dialekt	University					1 project / EUR 7820			1 project / EUR 7820

Icelandic main partners in accepted Nordplus Horizontal project applications. Source: Espresso

The partner with the most projects is the Árni Magnusson Institute for Icelandic Studies, which has been the main partner in 10 projects. However, the most money, EUR 496 897 in total, has been allocated to the University of Iceland, which has been the main partner of 9 projects in total. The largest individual grant has been allocated to the Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute of Foreign Languages for the project "Det færøske, islandske og norske sprogs møde med dansk (The Faroese, Icelandic and Norwegian languages meet Danish)" and it amounts to EUR 85 500. The Institute has otherwise been the main partner of 5 projects, while other partners have had one or two projects in the studied period.

Case: Version 2 of the ISLEX online dictionary – implementing Finnish as the 6th target language

“Nordplus helps us stay connected. It’s our main platform to apply for financial support for meetings and other communication needed to keep the dictionary alive. This was extra important in the beginning when we made all the important decisions. We had to sit down together, talk a lot, and fight a bit, too, to make it work. The ISLEX dictionary is the result of teamwork that was done during these meetings, most of them Nordplus-funded. After adding Finnish to the dictionary, the traffic on the website increased by something like 10-12 per cent. This is a lot, given the fact that Finns and Icelanders aren’t that well connected, so it was a big surprise.

For us, the fact that we were allowed to apply for Nordplus funds to pay people’s salaries was a game changer. This is a quite recent change – earlier, one could only apply for funds to cover meeting or mobility costs. This helped us pay the translators to complete the Finnish and Danish parts of the dictionary.

Working with Nordplus has always gone smoothly, and with the newly improved technology, it’s even better now. I’m very happy with all the guidance I’ve received – although I haven’t really needed to ask for it, because the Nordplus Handbook is so good. You just have to learn and remember to apply for the right sub-program. I wish there were more funds to apply for in the Language program, as languages live on, and the dictionary needs constant updates. We’ve recently added about 5000 words in Danish, Faroese and Swedish, and are about to apply for more funds to take the Finnish and Norwegian dictionaries to the same level. I also think that you should be able to receive the grant swiftly, so you can start working immediately after you’ve come up with a good idea for a project. That being said, I wholeheartedly recommend everyone working with Nordic projects to apply for a Nordplus grant.”

Halldóra Jónsdóttir, Project Leader, The ISLEX Online Dictionary

Conclusion

It can be concluded, after observing the quantitative data presented in this report, that Iceland is a very active participant in all Nordplus sub-programs. This is both observable in the relative numbers of applications as well as the per capita grant sums.

Although the number of Icelandic applications is usually not significantly large, the country's distinctive activity in all sub-programs is revealed when the numbers are observed in relation to population. Iceland's per capita activity is always at the top of the charts, often surpassed by one or several of the autonomous areas. Here it is to be observed that the autonomous areas also have a significantly smaller population. Generally, small states tend to be more active and receive more Nordplus grants per capita than larger states.

Of course, the quality of Iceland's Nordplus activity also plays a significant role in the country's participation. The interviews conducted with the representatives of Icelandic partners revealed a general contentment with the Nordplus application process and the support and guidance received from the organization. Some informants expressed a need for more focus and larger grants in the sub-program or project type they represented, while others felt that grant approvals and rejections were communicated too late for their purposes. The Espresso platform received some criticism on its text editing tools and the lack of availability of project outcomes for public viewing, but otherwise the interviewees found it straightforward and relatively easy to use compared to other grant application portals.

Flexibility was one of the characteristics mentioned in several interviews as something the project partners value greatly in Nordplus. This is partly but not completely due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which hindered mobility plans for several, if not all, participants and called for increased flexibility both in terms of project timelines and project formats. However, one interviewee criticised the inflexibility of project periods, stating it to be the main reason hindering them from applying for more grants.



Photos from participation in Nordplus 2014-2020



RANNÍS - The Icelandic Centre for Research

Borgartún 30, IS-105 Reykjavík, Iceland, tel.+354 515 5800, www.rannis.is

Iceland's participation in Nordplus 2014-2020