



Háskóla
Vestfirðna
University Centre
of the Westfjords

Facts

- Founded in 2005, started in 2006
- Aims
 - Raise the educational level in the Westfjords
 - Brain gain in stead of brain drain
 - Change the negative image of a problem-region



- Full time positions: 5,5
- Part time and short term: ca. 2,25
- Outsourced in Ísafjörður : ca. 1,0
- Teachers on short term contracts: 4,1
- Total in 2008: 12,9



Research Institutions around

- Avalanche Research Institute/Meteorological Institut
- Matís Food Research (aquaculture)
- Hafró Marine Research Institute (fisheries technology)
- University of Iceland Westfjords Research Institute
- Multicultural Centre of Iceland
- Impra – Innovation Centre
- Reg. Development Agency
- Westfjords' Municipalities
- Directorate of Labour
- Starfsendurhæfing
- Adm. of occupational safety





Regional University/College?

- Is the University Centre of the Westfjords a university/college?
- Is the University Centre of the Westfjords a regional University/HEI ?





The Westfjords are great



The Westfjords are phenomenal



The Westfjords are vast
... and empty



- Population
- 5000 in the northerly Westfjords
 - 1300 in the southerly Westfjords
 - 1000 in Strandir Region



The main pre-condition ... is that the region is populated

- The Westfjords have lost ca. 30% of its population during the last 25 years
- The negative population dynamics has been one of the reasons for founding the university centre



How (densely) populated?

Akureyri

- ca. 25.000 people catchment area/hinterland
- 1% annually would start their univ.-studies = 250
- 50% were interested in 5 popular subjects = 5×25
- 80% would start their studies at Akureyri, if available = 5×20
- **ENOUGH**

Ísafjörður

- ca. 5.000 people catchment area/hinterland
- 1% annually would start their univ.-studies = 50
- 50% were interested in 5 popular subjects = 5×5
- 80% would start their studies at Ísafjörður, if available = 5×4
- **TOO FEW**





What to do for 5000+2300?

- Distance education (from Rvk/Aku to the Westfjords)
 - service centre for universities **150 students**
 - limited own activities
 - colonial status **50 students**
- Preparatory programme
 - not sufficient students in the long run
- Academic environment (lectures, short courses ...)
- **New Image?**



Can we attract people?

- Conferences
- Research students
- Internships
- Field Schools
- Summer Schools
 - = educational tourism
- **in 2009 more than 4.000 overnight stays**



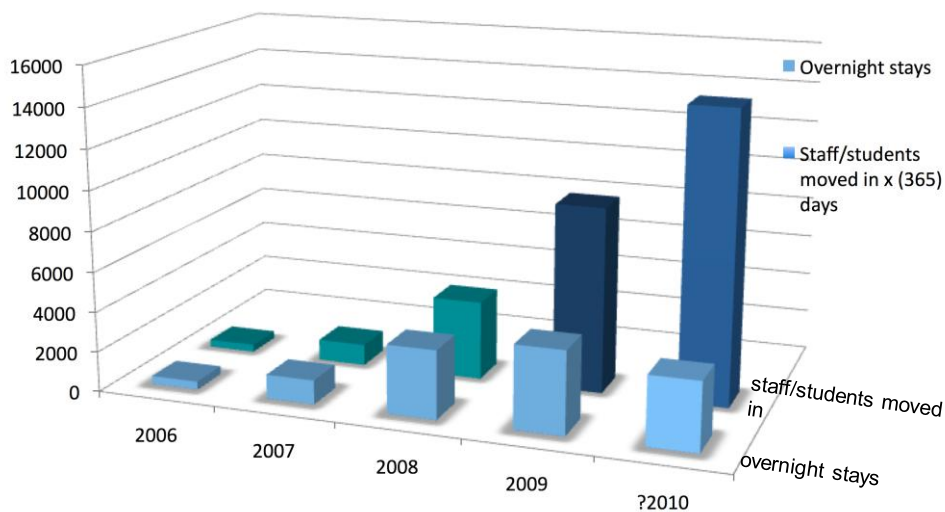


... attract people all year round?

- Study programme
 - Coastal and Marine Management
 - International, integrated master's programme
 - accredited by the University of Akureyri
 - Taught in three week modules
 - Three terms, all year round (trimester-



Overnight stays/Moved in





Changing the image

- 87.000 visits on www.hsvest.is during 2008
- 254.000 pageviews
- 53% visits from abroad
- 62,1% new visitors
- Advertising internationally changes also the image within Iceland



Pre-conditions

If regional universities and university colleges are to serve as regional drivers, what pre-conditions must be met?

- Infrastructure (otherwise it is very expensive)
- Vital society incoming students want to live in
- Attractive region for students and teachers
- Programme that sells/is accepted (tuition)
- Back-up by the government (money)
- Back-up by eventual sponsors (money)





Future

What is the future of regional universities and university colleges concerning function and organisation?

- Sustainable structures
- High quality in the respective field
- Do few things well
- Do some things better than others:
 - service, administration
 - personal guidance
 - price

