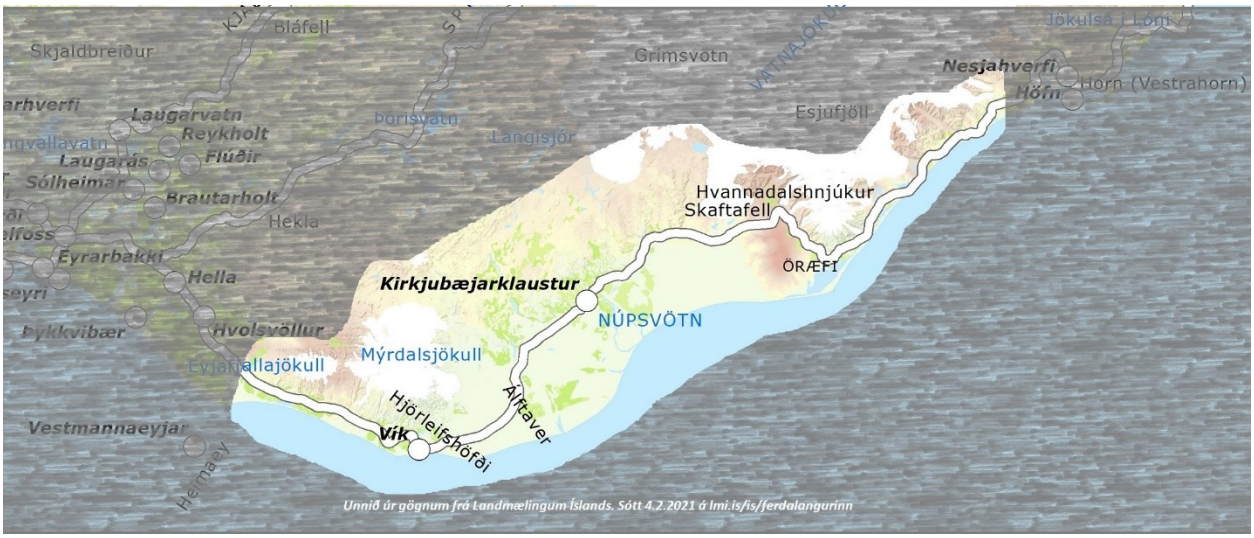
Action plan for strengthening demographic development

- A special project within South Iceland's strategic plan for 2019-2024-

Kötlusetur, in cooperation with Sass is working on a project regarding *strengthening demographic development in central south Iceland.* The project concerns four municipalities: Rangárþing eystra, Mýrdalshreppur, Skaftárhreppur and Sveitarfélagið Hornafjörður; with focus on the area between Markárfljót river in the west and Hólmsá river in the east:



Demographic development in this area is characterized by sparsely populated areas, high population turnover and a low share of population aged 0-14. Population increase is almost entirely confined to foreign immigrants aged 20-39 and the share of foreign residents in the population is higher in this area than in most other parts of Iceland.

The goal of the project is to examine residents' views on continued residence and forming a family in the area; and draw conclusions about:

- What encourages people to settle with families in the area
- What discourages people to settle for long term in the area
- Which residential factors are most important to families in the area
- How to service new residents better and help develop stronger place attachment
- How the municipalities can attract new residents with the intention of settling with families.

There is already a great deal of useful data about Icelandic residents regarding these matters which we will analyze and draw conclusions from. However, there is a lack of similar data from foreign residents in this particular area. Therefore, we will reach out to this group with a survey and interviews.

Gains

The results will be useful to municipalities in planning and decision making regarding services to residents. Along with a report, we will create a template for *new resident reception plans*. We will then offer assistance to the municipalities in forming such plans.

Contacts

We are asking each of the four municipalities to elect one contact in their area which will assist with the project, reach out to foreign residents in their area and share information about the project back to their municipality. The majority of the project is done in English so it is not necessary for the contact to speak fluent Icelandic. Preferably, the contact should be well linked to the community and even better if they speak Polish or another common language in the area. The contribution of each contact can be up to 40 hours and Kötlusetur will provide a payment to the contact according to the project's budget plan.

We aim to post the survey in early February and would appreciate a quick response if possible. If you would like more information, feel free to contact us on kotlusetur@vik.is or phone 852-1395.

We hope to hear from you soon,
Vala Hauksdóttir and Mateusz Borkowski