

## 13<sup>th</sup> ecoMEDIAeurope CONFERENCE & TEACHER TRAINING

*"Global Education in a Rural Environment"*

Iceland, Oct. 15 – 19, 2018

Participating organization	Menntaskólinn á Tröllaskaga – Tröllaskagi
PIC	941206618
Full legal name (National Language)	Menntaskólinn á Tröllaskaga
Full legal name (Latin characters)	Menntaskólinn á Tröllaskaga
Acronym	MTR
National ID	690310-0820
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Country	Iceland
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## Profile

Type of Organisation	<b>Educational Institution</b>
Is your organization a public body?	<b>Yes</b>
Is your organization a non-profit?	<b>Yes</b>
Number of employees/staff	<b>31</b>
Number of students	<b>380</b>

## Background and Experience

### Present of organization

The Tröllaskagi Upper-Secondary School, located in Ólafsfjörður, Iceland, began operating in the autumn of 2010. It functions under Iceland's newest legislation for education and provides more flexibility in study options. The school offers an ambitious program with diverse teaching methods that focus on student performance and independence.

The school's objective is to prepare students (typically ages 16-20) for university study. This is accomplished by having them complete their work through an efficient schedule that focuses on their needs in three major areas: learning under teacher supervision, self-study with access to learning materials, and distance learning. Self-management is the core virtue of this approach, as the power to learn is placed primarily in the students' hands.

The bulk of the learning materials exist in the online teaching program of the school, "Moodle." This includes all instructions and details of the assignments, along with instructions on how to access reading materials that are not in textbooks or in the online teaching program. It is divided into weekly modules, which open Monday mornings and close Sunday evening. The program allows students to turn in their work online, which means that unless there is an extreme circumstance, students can always be expected to deliver their assignments. Also, the program allows the instructors to be creative when incorporating resources from the internet with their curricula. Many new projects have been created as a result of this system.

The school does not only provide distance learning for students. Thanks to the technology available, the school is also capable of providing distance teaching for subjects that do not have a qualified local instructor. Virtual classrooms are increasingly more popular and effective as technology continues to improve. All students are required to have laptops, and a wide range of free programs are available for them to use for study and communication purposes. This does not, however, undermine the importance of face-to-face communication with peers and instructors. Thanks to the flexibility of the schedule, students have been afforded work time during school hours, which they can use to work on any assignment from any class, collaborate with peers, or take advantage of one-on-one time with instructors. Feedback from instructors is extremely important, and is continually made available to students. This is in addition to the four regularly scheduled progress reports issued by staff to all students each semester.

Our Motto: Innovation – Creativity – Courage

As this is a new school, "Innovation" is the hallmark concept of our motto. In order for a brand new school to create a niche in the world, it is important that staff and students are innovative in promoting the school and implementing new ideas. "Creativity" is a basic element that provides focus on arts and culture in schools, but is by no means a limiting factor. We encourage creativity in all areas of study, and use it as a beacon to guide our progress. And finally, "Courage" is having the strength to follow new paths.

**Activities and experience of organization relevant for this project.**

**Skills and/or expertise of key persons involved in this project.**

This is the first European conference that the school offers. Staff has been giving talks at domestic, Nordic and European conferences in Iceland, UK, Romania, Estonia and Slovenia on use of ICT in Education. Due to the fact on how those talks have been received the school now and it's staff feel it is relevant to continue the work and offer a conference in collaboration with EcoMediaEurope jointly offering training in Iceland at the schools location.

The school has been participating in European projects since 2013 (Comenius) and then every year since 2015 in Erasmus+ and Nordplus projects. See at <https://www.mtr.is/is/skolinn/verkefni>

The local staff involved is skilled in ICT in Education, practice and educational theories behind the issue, able to provide extended learning opportunities. The planning and organization of the event is handled by an expert in tourism- and hospitality management, including event planning. She has experience in managing international conferences in various sectors and many years of experience in the hospitality industry.

Furthermore we have used the opportunities to learn from EcoMediaEurope for the last three years at learning events in Croatia, Romania and Scotland. Further information at the conference page <https://www.mtr.is/ecomedia>

**Organization has been participating in European Union granted projects (ERASMUS +, Leonardo da Vinci, Comenius)**

Since 2013

**Authorized signatory**

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