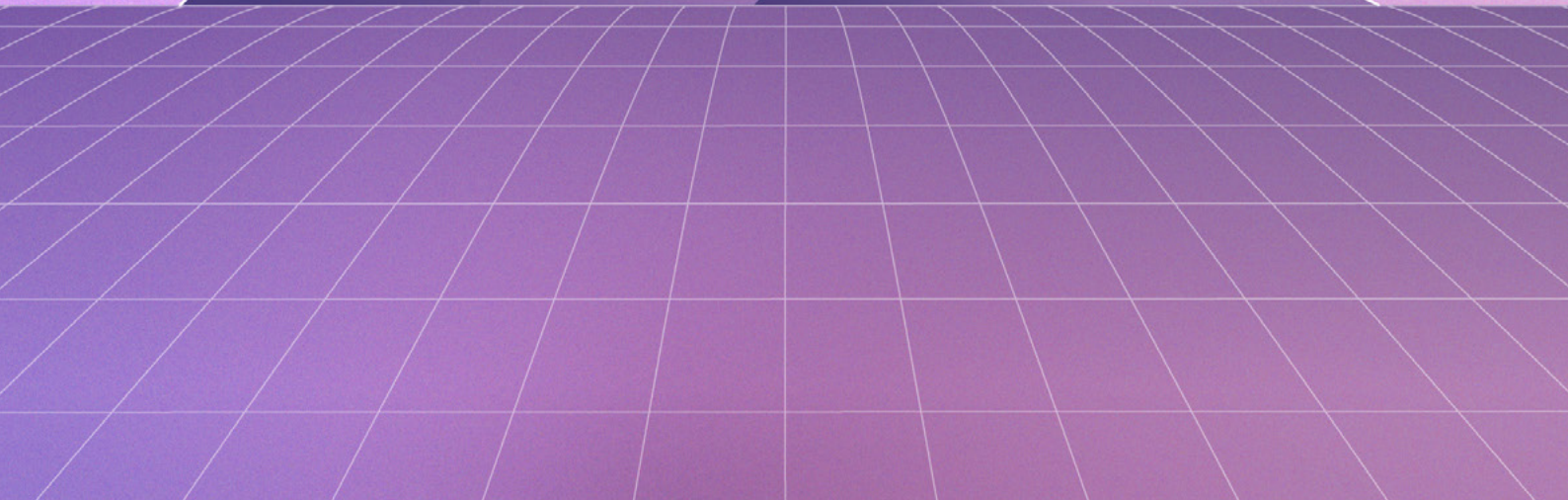
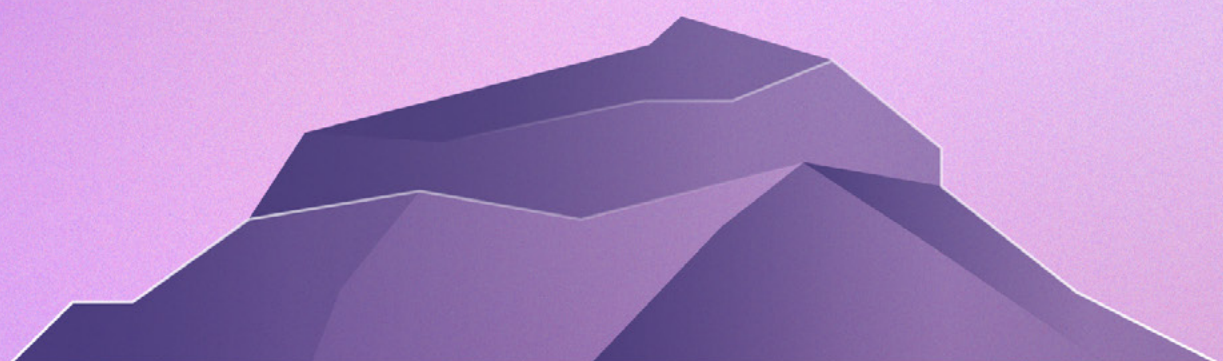


Agreement on the Platform for the Coalition Government
of the Independence Party, the Left Green Movement
and the Progressive Party



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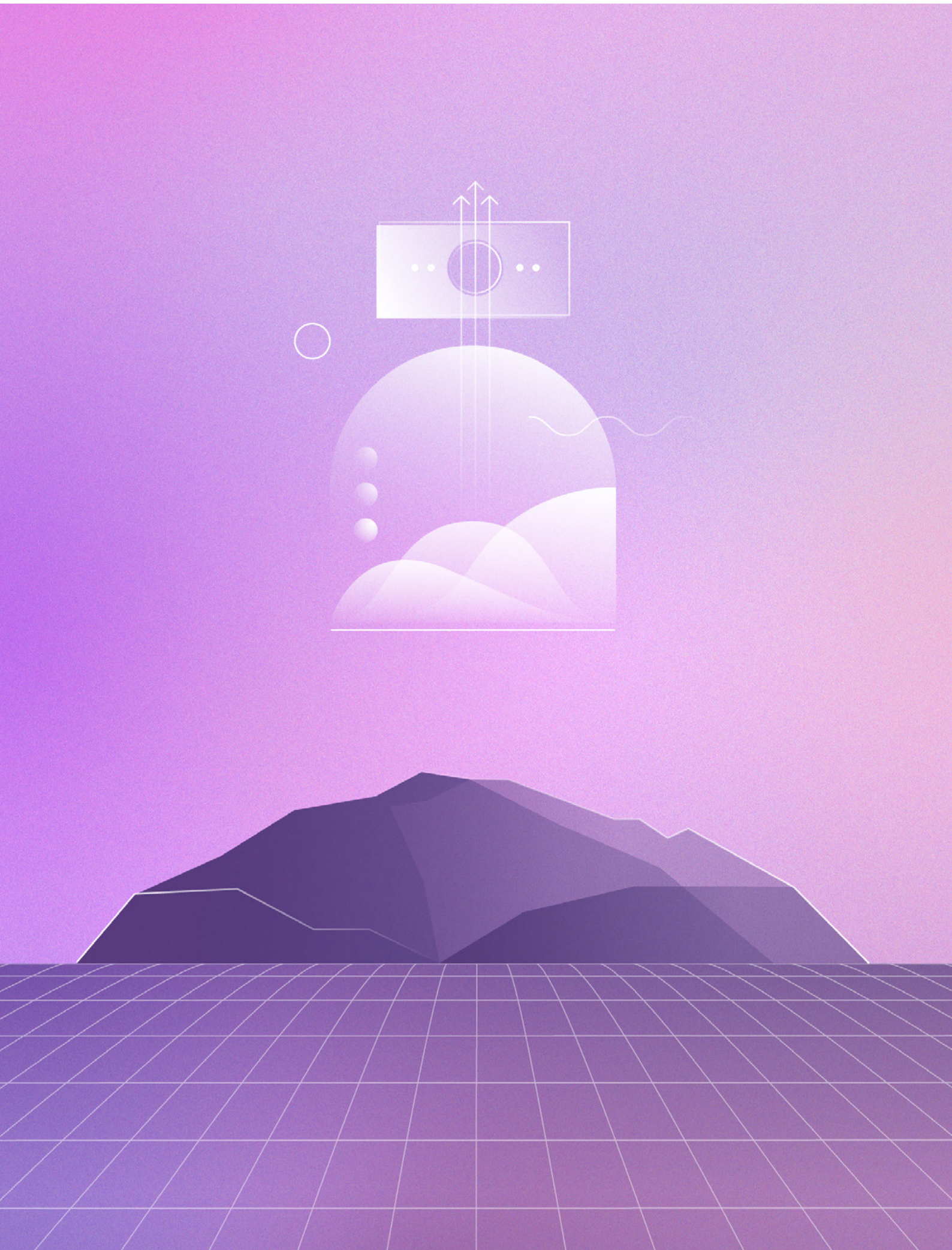
This platform of the Independence Party, the Left Green Movement and the Progressive Party addresses the common interests of the Icelandic nation. It sets out our roadmap for economic and social progress, environmental protection, dynamic value creation, gender equality and a balance between urban and rural settlement and between generations.

We will tackle all challenges with the public interest as our objective. We believe that wellbeing will be best ensured through a sound economy, equal opportunities and action for the benefit of innovation, the environment and the climate. The arrangement of ministries takes into account this common vision of the new government.

We want to create a consensus on the utilisation of resources. We emphasise combating climate change by reducing emissions, energy conversion and green investment. At the same time, it is our task to prepare Icelandic society for increased technological advances, while ensuring further improvement in living standards for all generations. Emphasis will be placed on balancing economic, social and environmental factors.

The aim of the last electoral term was to build trust in our society and strengthen its infrastructure, as well as to ensure political, social and economic stability. In tandem with these tasks, our society grappled with the pandemic and economic crisis, with positive results based on the nation's strengths and solidarity. The lesson we learned is not least how important it is to make good use of favourable economic times to ensure the necessary strong infrastructure and that we can solve complex tasks together. Icelandic society is now in an ideal position to look to the future and advance to increased wellbeing.

The collaboration of these three parties, which span the spectrum of Icelandic politics, creates a balance that is an important foundation for progress.



We are going to grow to greater wellbeing

Growth and wellbeing are the government's guiding lights in economic affairs. Fiscal strength will be rebuilt, on the basis of a strong economy with an emphasis on providing an optimal environment for value creation and new, diverse and valuable jobs. The successful interplay of monetary policy, fiscal strategy and the labour market will provide the premises for ensuring stable prices and interest rates.

During its term of office, this government will emphasise development, by supporting varied and vital industries and pressing for increased public investment in green projects and research, innovation and the creative sector. The Treasury will continue to reduce public ownership in the financial system and utilise the profit obtained to strengthen infrastructure.

The government will contribute to making the tax system finance public consumption and play a role in equalising incomes, ensuring the rules of the tax system are clear and fair, and that its implementation is efficient and transparent. Further improvements to public services and tax cuts will be considered as public finances permit. The aim is to improve the living conditions of the most disadvantaged and strengthen the competitive position of business. Work will continue on ensuring that changes to taxes and public levies support climate goals.

We will continue to place major emphasis on effective dialogue with the social partners, seek to ensure the positive interaction of economic policy and wage agreements, and thus work to improve living standards. In order to promote greater predictability and improve procedures, the office of the State Conciliation and Mediation Officer will be strengthened, for example by establishing a standing Court of Arbitration. Rules of the labour market will be clarified with a new statute on terms of employment and actions to prevent serial bankruptcies and combat the gender pay gap.



We are going to create fertile ground for opportunities

Education and human resources are the foundation for long-term economic growth and wellbeing for the future. We want to provide scope for the Icelandic education system to respond to the changes and challenges that lie ahead. By fostering creative thinking, knowledge and science, and ensuring everyone the opportunity to participate, we will increase our competitiveness in a changing world. Increased knowledge and creative solutions to urgent challenges will also unleash great opportunities for value creation, that will form the basis of the well-being economy of the future.

Technological change calls for new skills for work in a complex society, making the role of continuing education and lifelong learning ever more important. Efforts will continue on strengthening vocational education and training throughout Iceland, with an emphasis on increasing the number of people with technical and science education. Greater diversity in the school system will be encouraged, including in international studies. A culture of entrepreneurship needs to be encouraged in schools and to this end support needs to be provided for school administrators and teachers, increasing their independence in their work. Efforts need to be directed at boosting instruction in Icelandic for all student teachers, in view of changing circumstances in society.

It is important for the public sector to gain better oversight of the long-term staffing needs in healthcare and education, to meet their future needs better, in part in view of the situation in non-urban areas.

Specific actions will be taken to increase the competitiveness and flexibility of business and industry by reducing obstacles in the current regulatory framework and ensuring that new legislation is clear and efficient. Effective supervision of competition and corporate practices is an important factor in ensuring that the benefits of competition are passed on to consumers. The advisory role of regulators will be clarified to ensure better follow-up. Changes will be made to arrangements in competition affairs and the Competition Authority during the first part of the electoral term, reinforcing this by merging institutions, statutory amendments and boosting consumer organisations.

The government will maintain reimbursements for R&D and incentives for green investment and strengthen funding for basic research, innovation and the creative industries. We want to facilitate access by Icelandic companies to the necessary expertise and, to this end, make it easier for foreign experts to settle in Iceland and work for Icelandic companies.

Emphasis will continue on open and free international trade, Nordic co-operation and the sound implementation of the EEA Agreement, where Iceland's interests are safeguarded in all respects.

Steps will be taken to broaden pension funds' investment options and enable their participation in infrastructure investment and green investment. Investment in digital infrastructure will be increased to strengthen policy-making and decision-making, ensure security, improve services and increase competitiveness.



We are going to prioritise climate issues

Iceland should be at the forefront of international environmental action, but to do so it must overcome major challenges. The progress and development of Icelandic society has been based on creating a balanced co-existence of people and nature. We need to build on this for the future, and in so doing ensure the preconditions for the wellbeing of current and future generations.

We want Iceland to be a leader in combating climate change and to comply with the provisions of the Paris Agreement. Scientific expertise forms the basis for all government action on climate change, and ensuring sustainability and a just transition for all sections of society will be the guiding principle in the current transformation due to the climate threat and technological change.

We will set ourselves an independent national target of a 55% reduction in emissions for which Iceland is directly responsible by 2030, compared to 2005 levels. Emphasis will be placed on targeted and ambitious measures to reduce emissions from land use and accelerate energy conversion in all areas. The goal is to achieve carbon neutrality and full energy conversion no later than 2040, which will make Iceland the first state to be independent of fossil fuels. The government will not issue any licenses for oil exploration in Iceland's exclusive economic zone. The government, in consultation with municipalities and the business community, will set phased emission targets for each sector.

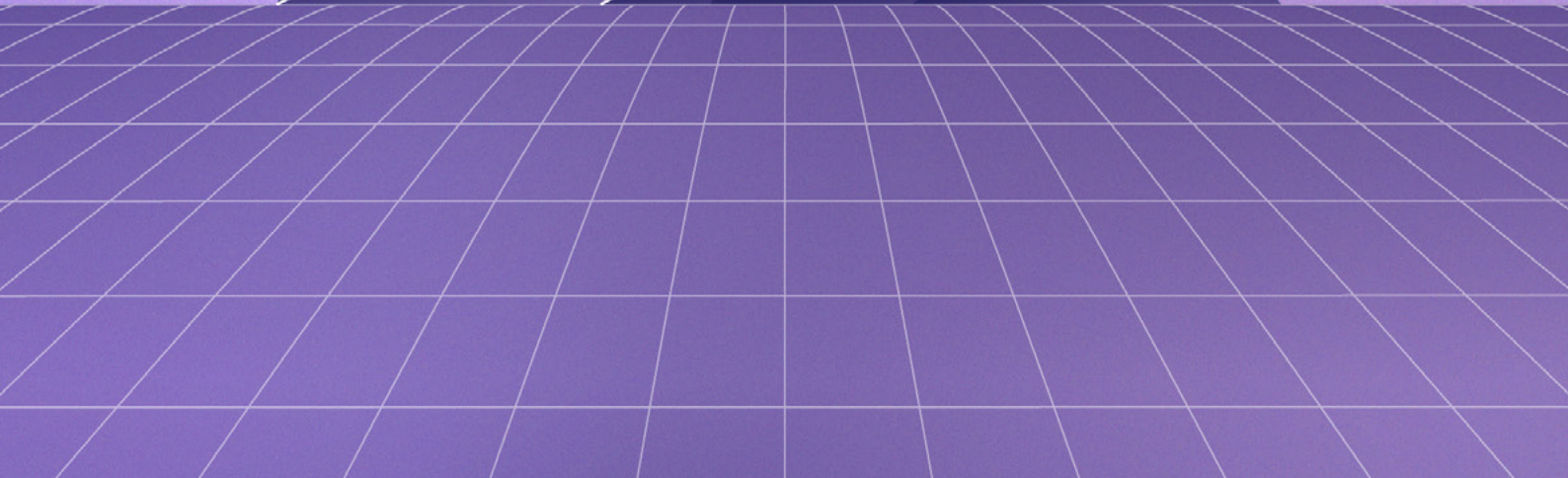
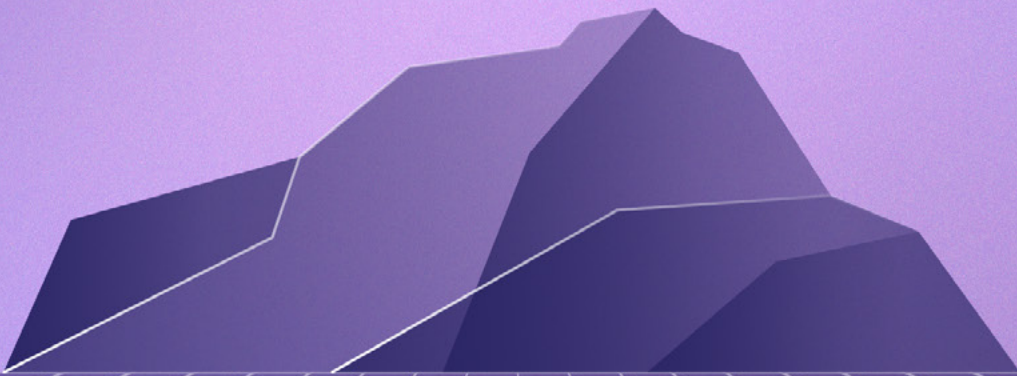
Energy conversion is a key aspect of Iceland's efforts to successfully combat climate change, while concurrently strengthening the country's economic position and becoming a leader in international energy conversion. This will be based on a recent energy policy safeguarding the interests of current and future generations and aimed at sustainable development by balancing economic, social and environmental factors.

New power generation plants must be based on widespread consensus, to achieve a green and carbon-neutral society. Here it is crucial to act with caution, given the country's fragile nature, and in line with growing energy demand in tandem with the phase-out of fossil fuels, population growth and the needs of green economic development. Energy efficiency also needs to be increased, losses in the energy system reduced and utilisation of existing power plants improved.

We will support and facilitate green industrial development, investments and projects that contribute to achieving the government's stated objectives. Positive incentives for investment and effective concessions will be applied, together with levies on greenhouse gas emissions. The regulatory framework will be reviewed and simple and clear processes established reflecting government objectives, to enable all industrial sectors to participate in the necessary climate projects. A plan will be drafted to boost and develop research and expertise in green solutions for the benefit of the business community and international projects in collaboration with international parties. We are going to increase access to funding for climate projects, while at the same time enabling innovation and technological development funds to provide greater support for green solutions.

A national park will be established in already protected land areas and glaciers in public lands in the highlands by amending the Act on Vatnajökull National Park. Emphasis will be placed on dialogue and co-operation with local residents and the number of regional councils increased. The third phase of the Master Plan for Utilisation of Renewable Energy Resources will be completed and the number of options in the pending category increased. The Act on the Protection and Energy Utilisation Plan will be completely revised to ensure responsible and rational utilisation and protection of energy options in Iceland. A specific act on the utilisation of wind energy will be adopted, with the aim of simplifying the construction of wind power plants, emphasising the development of wind power plants in demarcated areas close to substations and transmission lines, to ensure security of supply and minimise environmental impact. A policy will be formulated for offshore wind power plants.

We will tackle all challenges with the public interest as our objective. We believe that wellbeing will be best ensured through a sound economy, equal opportunities and action for the benefit of innovation,
” the environment and the climate.



We are going to utilise technological change and expertise to increase the quality of life

The nations of the world are facing opportunities but also new challenges accompanying technological development and digital transformation. Iceland is an innovative country with a strong technical infrastructure and during this electoral term emphasis will be placed on further strengthening that position. Through innovation and utilisation of ingenuity of every sort we will diversify the economy and increase the number of exciting and high-value jobs. We will improve Iceland's competitive position, increase wellbeing and strengthen society to meet rapid technological changes and climate challenges.

Technological change and the application of artificial intelligence must be in everyone's interest and be guided by the fundamental values of human rights, democracy and equality. It is important to increase expertise, ensure equal opportunities and counteract disadvantages in a changed environment. This can be done, for instance, by supporting transformations in the education system and ensuring everyone access to and opportunities for continuing education and lifelong learning. Efforts will continue to strengthen the position of the Icelandic language in the digital world by emphasising language technology.

Technological changes have created a new reality and new opportunities in most industries. The intellectual property industry is a new and powerful arena for value creation in Iceland. Opportunities lie, for example, in healthcare and life sciences, software development, green technology and the creative sector. We want to foster an environment where creativity can flourish and people can grow, prosper and develop in an open and free environment of international cooperation and competition.

Icelandic agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture are the core of domestic food production, which will be reinforced during this electoral term. The growing interest in clean food products, produced with renewable energy and a minimal carbon footprint in Iceland, gives rise to major opportunities in production of foodstuffs and various related products. We want to create a competitive environment for this activity to enable it to fulfil even better its multi-faceted role in Icelandic society, including job creation and community stability, as well as an important option for Icelandic consumers. The organisation of studies related to food production at the upper secondary and university level will be reviewed with the aim of reinforcing both education and research.

It is also important to augment Iceland's position and image as an Arctic state by expanding domestic knowledge and specialisation in Arctic issues and strengthening centres of education, science and debate in this field. To this end, a special research programme on the Arctic will be formulated.

It is important for the education system to promote innovative thinking, to provide robust support for basic research and technological development and have all the system infrastructure support the intellectual property sector. Traditional industries have plenty of opportunities for green investment, utilising technological advances to lower greenhouse gas emissions, reduce waste and increase carbon sequestration. Innovation will be supported by promoting public-private partnerships to develop new solutions and the investment environment strengthened by providing permanent authorisation to pension funds to hold over 20% in innovation and growth funds.

New technologies and digital solutions will be used increasingly in welfare and health services, thus contributing to improved services, higher quality and increased efficiency in operations. Telemedicine services will be expanded specifically.

Efforts will be made to increase public confidence in information technology by emphasising cyber security, personal data protection, information rights, freedom of expression and information security. At the same time, there is an urgent need to increase the digital skills of the public, including the ability to critically evaluate information.

Iceland's national security policy will continue to serve as its basic strategy, but further examination of the diverse threats societies face, due to rapid technological change and climate challenges, is called for. A clear framework will be set for investments in key infrastructure and a review of legislation on land ownership will be completed.

The police and other law enforcement authorities need to be capable of responding to the major societal challenges arising from organised crime, technological development, new software solutions, globalisation and telecommunications and internet communications.

We want to create a consensus on the utilisation of resources. We emphasise combating climate change by reducing emissions, energy conversion and green investment. At the same time, it is our task to prepare Icelandic society for increased technological advances, while ensuring further improvement in living standards for all generations.



We are going to invest in people

The real wealth of Icelandic society lies in the fact that we all matter, which makes it important that we all have the opportunity to participate. Individuals are the heart of the system, whether they are children, the disabled or handicapped, or persons who have moved here to participate in Icelandic society. A strong welfare system is the basis of equality and ensures that we can all prosper.

One of the greatest demographic changes in coming years will be the ageing of the population. It is important to promote good health and quality of life by emphasising public health and enabling people to make good use of their abilities and energy. We are going to make it easier for seniors to live in their homes as long as possible, with appropriate support and services. We need to continue to develop more diverse accommodation and service options, such as flexible day time care and therapy services, and exploit new technology and innovation in services for the elderly. Particular emphasis will be placed on health-promoting measures to combat social isolation and loneliness. We also want to look at increasing flexibility in retirement age in the public sector.

Improvements to the situation of pensioners will continue, with special regard to the least well-off. The social security system for senior citizens will be re-evaluated and the income level where reduction begins due to employment income will be doubled at the end of next year. We need to look at ways to reduce the marginal effects of income-testing and income taxes on social security and to make the system more transparent and fairer.

We are going to strengthen the underpinnings of the pension system and promote greater efficiency and a wider range of investment options. Ways will be developed to increase individuals' freedom to allocate their supplementary pension savings. A mandatory 15.5% pension fund premium will be enacted and its implementation determined through consultation with the social partners.

The situation of disability pensioners will be reviewed during the electoral term, with the objective of improving the living conditions and quality of life of persons with reduced working capacity. Particular attention will be paid to

improving their situation and opportunities for activity, education and employment on their own terms. Strong emphasis will be placed on giving individuals a choice to participate in the new system. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will be ratified and a new Human Rights Agency will be established.

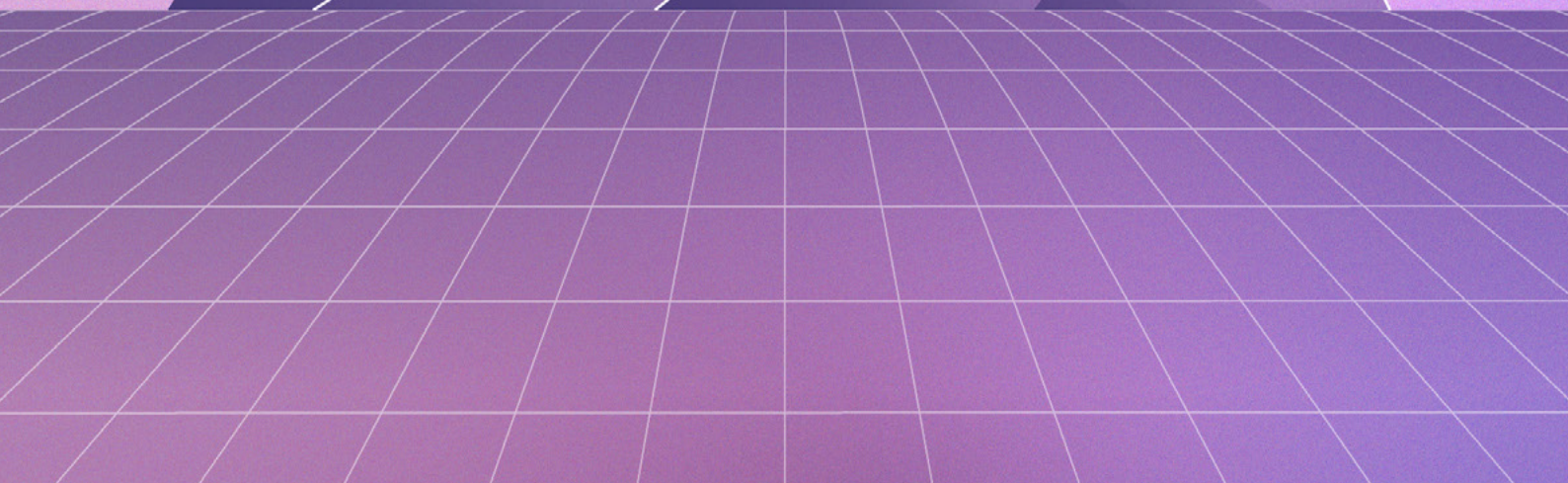
We will get a firm grip on housing issues, by ensuring greater integration of housing, planning and transport affairs. We will strive for a steady expansion of housing throughout Iceland, with simplification of regulations, social actions through the public rental housing system, improvement to tenants' legal status, co-operation with municipalities and emphasis on making necessary information on the housing market accessible at all times.

The participation of persons of foreign origin increases diversity, reinforces the Icelandic social fabric and culture and is among the prerequisites for an expanding economy. We need to ensure that immigrants who want to live and work here have the opportunity to adapt and be able to utilise their abilities, knowledge and experience. Children of foreign origin need to be given special support in the education system. As provided for in the UN Convention on the Status of Refugees, Iceland should readily receive applicants for international protection who are at risk and have the right to seek refuge. Trafficking in human beings, social dumping and the abuse of foreign workers should never occur in Iceland.

We want people to have a real choice as to where they live and work. We therefore focus on supporting a fertile environment throughout the country, so that established industries can prosper and innovative thinking can create new opportunities. Furthermore, we want to ensure equality in access to health-care, social services and educational opportunities, and to utilise remote services where appropriate. Emphasis will be placed on developing strong and sustainable municipalities, with the capacity to provide the services to which residents are entitled. Financial incentives will be used to promote consolidation. In addition to ensuring a competitive environment for business, we will encourage cluster collaboration between private parties and the public sector in key locations in rural areas. Targets will be set for the proportion of public jobs outside the capital area.

We will continue to expand and maintain the transportation system to increase road safety, shorten travel times and reduce emissions in line with climate goals. The state's revenue sources in the transport sector will be adapted to the goals of energy conversion. Work will continue on the development and financing of high-quality public transport and other transport infrastructure on the basis of the capital region transport agreement. Certain macroeconomically beneficial projects, which will improve quality of life and expand employment and service areas, will be accelerated based on more diverse funding and public-private collaboration.

The collaboration of these three parties, which span the spectrum of Icelandic politics, creates a balance that is an important
” foundation for progress.



We are going to promote a healthy society

We view the nation's health in a broad context. It is in the nation's common economic and social interest that more emphasis be placed on public health, prevention and mental health. Health is not just about strong healthcare services, but also about enabling people to take better care of their own health by utilising all the knowledge and resources available in society, the healthcare system, schools and sports organisations, to name a few examples.

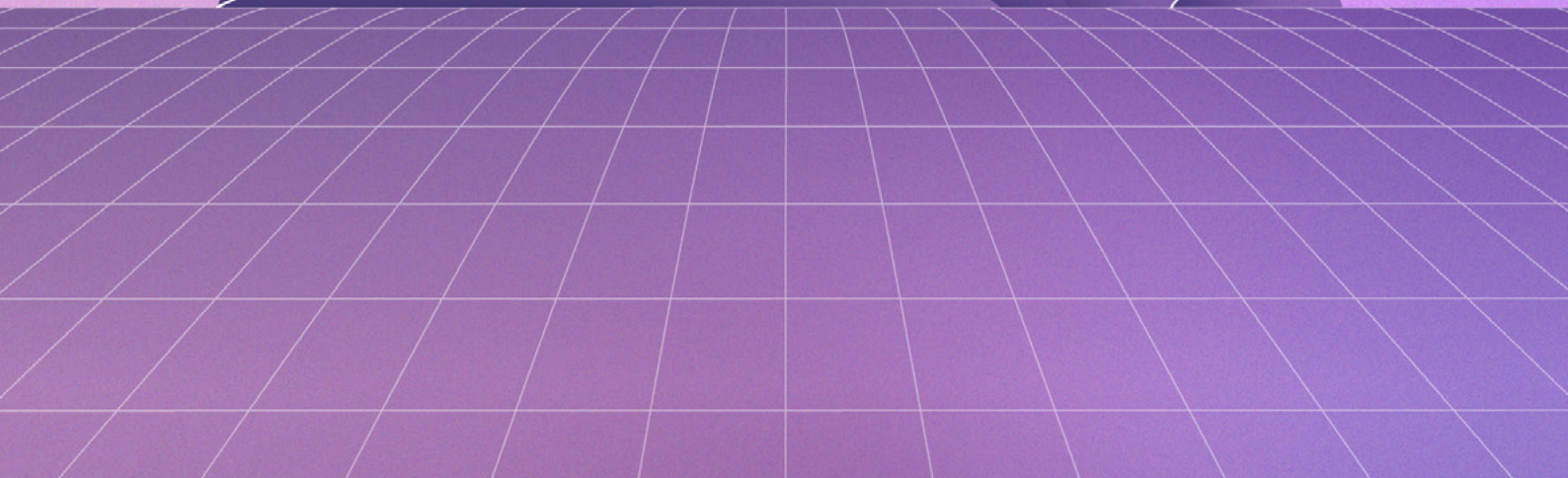
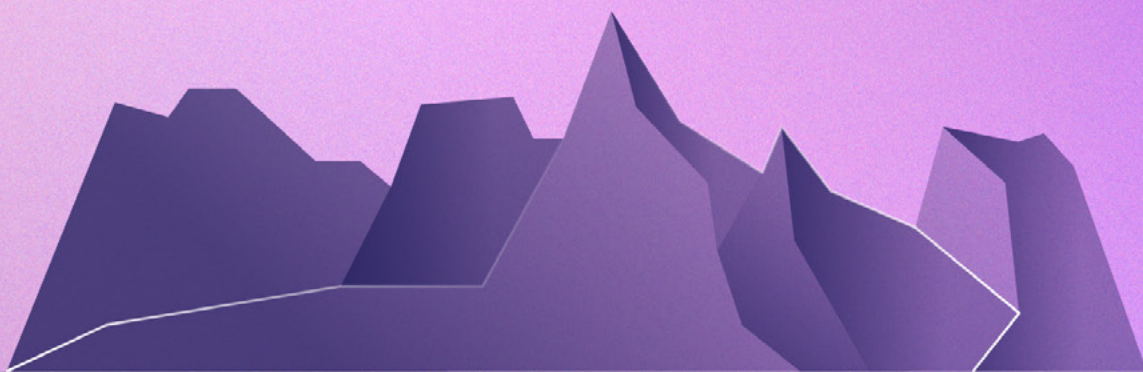
Universal access to healthcare is the hallmark of a just society. It is crucial that the healthcare system serve everyone and that centralised wait lists ensure that services are provided within a defined waiting period. The health care system needs to develop to keep pace with the nation's changing demography, human needs and lifestyle diseases. Individuals' contributions for healthcare services will continue to be reduced, to ensure equal access.

The position and role of the National University Hospital as the most important healthcare institution in the country will be strengthened and special emphasis placed on following-up on improvements to intensive care and the emergency ward. Healthcare institutions will be strengthened to ensure that the right services are provided in the right location and to equalise access throughout the country.

We are going to expand mental health services for all groups in society, not least children and youth. Mental health teams will be reinforced throughout Iceland, the influence of users on the service will be increased, preventive actions will be improved and emphasis placed on providing a variety of services tailored to different needs.

We are committed to making the facilities for and the rights of children in Iceland always a priority. Support for children and access to good services has a positive effect on their development and well-being and promotes equal opportunities in later life. Participation of children and youth in sports and leisure activities is an important part of their development and growth, and we emphasise enabling everyone to take part in such activities. Efforts will be directed at securing better the financial situation of families with children through taxes and benefit systems, with special attention paid to reinforcing the child benefit system.

Gender equality is important for a healthy society and will continue to be a priority, together with additional improvements to the legal situation of LGBTI persons. In addition to labour market action to reduce the gender pay gap, gender equality will always be at the forefront of decision-making. Efforts will continue to combat gender-based violence, the legal status of victims will be improved and prevention and education increased.



We are going to promote Icelandic culture and the travel industry

Culture and the arts are both a source and a manifestation of a diverse and vital society. We will continue to secure the foundations of Icelandic culture and art life and create new opportunities for Icelandic artists. The pandemic has brought major challenges for people working in culture and the travel industry, and these sectors will face similar challenges in the coming months.

The Icelandic language is a precious resource, which plays a major role in creating a strong society. Icelandic links us with our history and culture, which is why it is important to devote still more attention to teaching Icelandic. We are going to support the language by emphasising that Icelandic is a creative and fertile part of our environment. Special emphasis will be placed on ensuring children and youth use the language in play and learning by increasing the supply of new study material in Icelandic and by fostering children's culture.

Independent media are a prerequisite for open democratic debate and provide the necessary restraint to government, the business community and the main institutions of society. The government emphasises a diversity of media offerings with robust public service broadcasting and private media.

A vibrant artistic and cultural life is important for communities around the country. Iceland's thriving artistic and cultural life is a major factor in its attractiveness as a tourist destination, and it is vital that we encourage Icelandic originality and creativity, in part by expanding artists' salary and grants funds. Construction of the future premises of the Iceland Academy of the Arts (LHÍ) will commence. In tandem with this, it is important to have an analysis made of the future structure of LHÍ, both regarding its form of operation and tuition fees. A strategic and comprehensive review of music education at all school levels will also be undertaken. Finally, museum work will be nurtured with increased digital registration of museum facilities and inventory and emphasis on exhibitions and dissemination as broadly as possible in society.

Film making has become an increasingly important part of Icelandic business and culture in recent years. The extensive opportunities within the industry affect employment throughout the country. An internationally competitive support system for the production of film and television material will be strengthened. We are going to further support the industry with higher reimbursement for clearly defined aspects, to encourage more large projects carried out entirely in Iceland and to ensure increased predictability in the financing of the system.

Tourism will continue to be a major factor in the Icelandic economy and needs to be given the opportunity to develop after the pandemic's shocks. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring that the travel industry in Iceland is profitable and competitive, and in harmony with Icelandic nature, culture and language. We want Iceland to be a leader in sustainable development and innovation in the travel industry. Work will continue on building infrastructure in line with the increase in tourist numbers.

The Big Challenges



The Economy and State Finances

- » The Government's priority will be to continue to promote economic and social stability during its term of office.

 - » The Government will do its part to support low interest rates, moderate inflation and good consultation with the social partners, to promote the necessary interplay of these factors.

 - » Public services will be further strengthened and taxes reduced as fiscal developments permit, with the aim of improving the living standards of the most disadvantaged and the competitive position of businesses, with a special focus on small and medium-sized enterprises.

 - » Fiscal strength will be rebuilt on the basis of increased value creation and to promote long-term sustainability in state operations. The growth potential of the economy will be boosted with strong support for innovation, research and development in order to reinforce further this new driver of the economy.

 - » The Fiscal Council will be strengthened to increase the Council's ability to assess fiscal policy independently and objectively.

 - » An evaluation will be made of Central Bank operations, assessing how well the objectives of stable price levels, financial stability and financial supervision have been met, as well as the experience of merging the Central Bank and the Financial Supervisory Authority and the structure, division of responsibilities and mandate of the new institution.
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Climate Change

- » The ideology of sustainability, just transition and increased competitiveness will be the Government's guiding principles in the current transformation in the face of climate threats and technological change that is affecting all areas of society. These goals, together with the implementation and follow-up of the Climate Action Plan, will be pursued through a collaboration between the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources, to increase co-ordination, co-operation and impact within Government Offices. A co-ordinated policy for sustainable development will be adopted, in line with UN Sustainable Development Goals.

- » Scientific knowledge forms the basis of all government action on climate change. Statistical data, information provision, education and communication on climate issues will be strengthened.

- » Iceland will become a low-carbon economy and achieve carbon neutrality no later than 2040.

- » An independent national target will be set for a 55% reduction in emissions for which Iceland is directly responsible by 2030, compared to 2005 levels.

- » A parliamentary resolution on energy conversion and the phasing out of fossil fuels will be presented, setting out actions and laying the foundation for achieving a complete energy transition no later than 2040, making Iceland the first country to become fossil-fuel independent.

- » The Government, in consultation with municipalities and the business community, will set phased emission targets for each sector. Positive incentives for investment and effective concessions will be applied, together with levies on greenhouse gas emissions.



Climate Change

- » Ambitious targets will be set for a reduction in land-use emissions, emphasising the promotion of nature-based solutions, including incentives for increased forestry, land reclamation and wetland restoration. Research on carbon emissions and sequestration needs to be strengthened in view of the interaction between land use and climate change.

- » The Government will not issue licenses for oil exploration in Iceland's exclusive economic zone.

- » Iceland should become a cradle of new solutions based on resources, knowledge and location. Green jobs and investment will be promoted, and projects facilitated, e.g. in the field of carbon capture, storage and disposal; the development of a circular economy with multi-use of energy flows; and energy conversion.

- » A plan will be drafted to boost and develop research and expertise in green solutions for the benefit of the business community and international projects, in collaboration with international parties. Bearing these objectives in mind, the regulatory framework will be reviewed, to ensure that all sectors can participate in the necessary climate projects.

- » Funding for climate projects needs to be ensured, the New Business Venture Fund needs to be redefined and additional funding for green solutions provided to the Technology Development Fund.

- » The administration of climate actions will be strengthened and the role of the Icelandic Climate Council reviewed, placing increased emphasis on its advisory role and scientific work, as well as its role in supervising the Government and exercising restraint.

- » An action plan for societal adaptation to climate change will be prepared based on the existing adaptation policy.



Digital Transformation

- » Systematic efforts will be made to strengthen network and telecommunications security.

- » Emphasis will be placed on increasing public confidence in information technology, personal data protection and the importance of freedom of expression. Upgrading digital skills and the ability of the general public to critically evaluate information will also be a priority.

- » The Government is committed to making Iceland a leading nation in digital technology and services. The aim is to simplify administration, improve public services and increase transparency and access to information through digital solutions.

- » Work will continue on co-ordinating the processing, storage and presentation of public data, and on facilitating public access to data.

- » Efforts will be made to issue valid official electronic IDs.

A Strong Society



Healthcare

- » The new Policy for Iceland's Health Services until 2030 maps the development of the healthcare system in the coming years.

- » Service-linked funding will be increasingly introduced in the healthcare system, centralised wait lists will be established and it will be ensured that services are provided within an acceptable waiting period.

- » Primary health care will be further reinforced, as the first point of contact for users, with the establishment of cross-disciplinary teamwork aimed at continuous improvements. Primary health care will be a lead participant in health promotion and an action plan for public health and prevention. Services will be expanded and the number of primary healthcare centres increased to reduce the workload elsewhere, such as in A&E.

- » The position and role of the National University Hospital as the country's most important healthcare institution will be strengthened. A professional management board will be appointed for the hospital, based on Nordic models.

- » The access of all Icelanders to specialist services will be improved in consultation with healthcare institutions in all districts.

- » Out-of-pocket payment for healthcare services will continue to be reduced, with the emphasis on vulnerable groups.

- » Expansion of mental health services for all groups in society, not least children and youth, will continue. Special emphasis will be placed on preventive mental healthcare. Mental health teams will be reinforced throughout Iceland, the influence of users on the service increased and emphasis placed on providing a variety of services tailored to different needs.

- » The work of Icelandic Health Insurance in purchasing and cost-analysing health services on behalf of the state will be reinforced.

- » Efforts will be directed at introducing digital solutions in healthcare and new technology adopted to increase the quality and efficiency of services. Innovation will be promoted and public-private co-operation on technological solutions encouraged. Telemedicine services will be particularly strengthened.

- » Harmonised digital medical records will be introduced, which will be accessible to every user of the healthcare services and relevant healthcare professionals in accordance with the patient's wishes.



Sports and Youth Activities and Public Health

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- » Efforts will be directed, in collaboration with municipalities, at equalising opportunities for children to pursue leisure activities regardless of income, circumstances and residence.
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- » Support will be provided for sports organisations to place genders on equal footing in sports.
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- » Work will continue on the developing a national indoor sports stadium and national outdoor stadiums.
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- » We will continue to work with NGOs to strengthen arrangements for elite athletes including, among other things, considering boosting the Elite Athletes' Fund and the Travel Cost Equalisation Fund.
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- » A strategy will be adopted for vigorous e-sports in Iceland, organised e-sports activities supported and infrastructure created.
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Seniors

- » The Policy on Services for Seniors from 2021 will serve as the basis for drafting a five-year action plan in collaboration with municipalities, senior citizens' organisations and service providers, both public and private. A project management will be appointed in broad consultation to work towards these goals and follow up on the work that has been done, including drafting legislation and a parliamentary resolution. The individual should be the focus of the system, and have access to integrated services, home nursing and support services.
- » More diverse residence and service options will continue to be developed to make it easier for seniors to live at home for as long as possible, such as flexible daytime care and therapy services, and new technology and innovation in services for the elderly exploited. Particular emphasis will be placed on health-promoting measures to combat social isolation and loneliness.
- » Older people will be able to actively participate in the labour market, e.g. by increasing flexibility in retirement age in the public sector.
- » Improvements to the financial situation of pensioners will continue, with special regard to the least well-off. The social security system for senior citizens will be re-evaluated and the income level where reduction begins due to employment income will be doubled at the end of next year. We need to look at ways to reduce the marginal effects of income-testing and income taxes on social security and to make the system more transparent and fairer.
- » Particular attention must be paid to persons with high housing costs by providing increased support and increasing the supply of inexpensive rental housing for the elderly in collaboration with municipalities and seniors' organisations, including through the public rental housing system.



Disability

- » The financial situation of disability pensioners will be further improved with the aim of bettering especially the conditions of the most disadvantaged.

- » The disability pension system will be simplified, income-testing reduced and it will be made more efficient, transparent and fairer. The changes will be implemented in stages and persons with a full disability assessment when the new system is introduced will be able to choose whether to transfer to the new system.

- » Choosing to transfer to the new system does not entail risk for disability pensioners, as they may decide to return to the previous system.

- » The participation and return of individuals with reduced work capacity to the labour market will be facilitated so that individuals can benefit financially from employment and be offered opportunities in the labour market without jeopardising their financial security. Services and support for participation and rehabilitation will be ensured.

- » Individuals who lose their ability to work will increasingly be provided with services and assistance promptly with regard to the physical, psychological and social factors that affect their ability to work.

- » Efforts will be directed at increasing the number of flexible and part-time jobs in a collaboration of the state, municipalities and the business community. Educational opportunities will be provided for people with disabilities.

- » The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will be transposed into Icelandic law and a new Human Rights Agency will be established.

- » Non-discrimination in services for the disabled must be ensured, e.g. through consultation between the state and municipalities on a re-evaluation of expenditure for disabled issues and by providing for the permanent future structure of user-controlled personal assistance services.



Children

- » A plan of preventive actions to benefit children will be introduced.

- » Remedies for children and families with children will be restructured to comply with the Act on Integration of Services for the Benefit of Children. Provision of necessary services to children and families with children within an acceptable waiting period will be ensured. The situation of children and families with children who experience major setbacks will be strengthened.

- » The comprehensive revision of the Child Protection Act will be completed.

- » The situation of chronically ill and severely disabled children and their families will be improved with new arrangements for childcare allowance and childcare benefits. Parents who lose a child will be guaranteed compassionate leave.

- » Efforts will be made in collaboration with the municipalities to bridge the gap between maternity leave and pre-school. In tandem with this, the services of the state and municipalities for children and families with children during the first years of life will be analysed and reviewed, with the aim of increasing services to this group.

- » The child benefit system will be further strengthened and expanded with the aim of equalising the financial situation of families with children.



Housing

- » Housing and planning issues will be transferred to a new Ministry of Infrastructure to ensure better co-ordination with municipalities and increased housing market stability. Plans for transport and communications, housing and planning affairs will be integrated and presented concurrently, ensuring that transport and communications benefit settlements and the climate, fulfil transportation needs and create sustainable neighbourhoods and sustainable settlement.

- » A special campaign will be launched to increase rental housing for the disabled and the elderly within the structure of the public rental housing system.

- » Housing security and the legal status of tenants will be improved, among other things, with a sound legal framework, harmonised application portal for housing benefits and accessible information.

- » Continued development of the public rental housing system and extension of the equity loan system will be considered.

- » An adequate supply of building lots for the long term must be encouraged in co-operation with municipalities. The availability of comprehensive, real-time data on the housing market, housing supply and the situation in planning and construction throughout Iceland will be ensured.

- » Environmentally friendly construction in Iceland and a reduction in emissions from the construction industry will be promoted.

- » Efforts will be directed at reviewing regulations, further implementing e-government and simplifying the framework for the construction industry to reduce construction costs without compromising quality and universal design.



Equality

- » Implementation of the Action Plan for Handling of Sexual Offences, which extends until year-end 2022, will continue. Work will begin on drafting a new plan to replace it as early as the beginning of 2023.

- » An updated bill to reinforce the legal position of victims will be presented to the lathing.

- » Major emphasis will be placed on preventing sexual and gender-based violence and harassment among children with an action plan for 2021–2025, in accordance with a parliamentary resolution to that effect.

- » The Government will continue work begun during the previous electoral term to place Iceland at the forefront in the affairs of LGBTI people with a special action plan and legal rectification.



Immigration

- » A clear and comprehensive immigration policy will be formulated, aimed at ensuring that persons who settle in Iceland have the opportunity to integrate and actively participate in society and in the labour market.

- » Strong emphasis will be placed on supporting the integration of children of foreign origin and their families, e.g. through school and leisure activities and with increased access to Icelandic instruction and societal education. The possibility of mother tongue education and interpretation services will be considered, especially to ensure access to education, healthcare and social services.

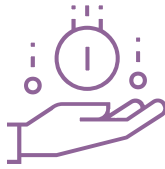
- » The Act on Foreign Nationals and the Act on Foreign Nationals' Employment Rights will be reviewed with the aim of expanding provisions on the issuance of residence permits based on employment and increasing efficiency by simplifying processes. Persons granted a residence permit in Iceland on humanitarian grounds or due to special ties with the country will be exempted from the requirement of a work permit. The social partners will be consulted in this work.

- » The application process for residence and work permits for individuals performing jobs that require specialist knowledge will be simplified.

- » Systems and institutions that assess individual circumstances and interests should be effective, the legal and regulatory framework clear and humane, and implementation satisfactory. The operation of the current system needs to be reviewed and the processing period shortened, to ensure prompt and efficient handling of cases as provided for in the UN Convention on Refugees and prevent lengthy periods of uncertainty for individuals and families.

- » Reception of quota refugees will be increased, with an emphasis on vulnerable individuals and families. Co-ordinated reception of immigrants through the co-operation of the state and municipalities, regardless of the premises under which people come to the country, will continue to be supported.

- » Trust and transparency in the decisions of the immigration authorities needs to be increased.



Pensions

- » The Government, in co-operation with the social partners, will work on reinforcing the foundations of the pension system and endeavour to increase consensus on the structure and role of its various parts.

 - » A Green Paper on the pension system will be prepared in co-operation with the social partners and pension funds during the first half of the term, in order to create a basis for discussion, policy formulation and decision-making on the pension system and its future development in a comprehensive manner. Among other things, this will focus on simplifying the system, with a discussion of basic assumptions regarding the role, structure, sustainability and scope of the pension funds in the economy; the acquiring of entitlement and the interplay between different pillars of the pension system; the necessary increase in retirement age and flexibility in retirement, given increasing life expectancy; actuarial assumptions; investment authorisations; operating environment; and supervision.

 - » Preparation will be made for a mandatory minimum 15.5% pension fund contribution and its implementation determined through consultation with the social partners. The equalising of pension funds' disability pension burden will be examined and equal treatment of entitlement by social security ensured.

 - » It is important to facilitate the pension funds' ability to invest their assets in a diverse, responsible and secure manner, taking into account their growing importance in the Icelandic economy in recent years.

 - » Ways need to be examined as to how the funds can increase their involvement in infrastructure investment to speed up necessary public projects, and in innovation and green solutions in response to the climate threat.

 - » The aim will be to find ways to increase choice in supplementary pension savings by increasing the number of investment options.

 - » In collaboration with Digital Iceland, possibilities will be examined of promoting digitalisation in the pension system by facilitating communication between institutions to ensure better and more co-ordinated services and users' access to information.
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Transport and Communications

- » The Treasury's future revenue generation system for road traffic and energy conversion will be established and implemented during the electoral term.

- » Work will continue on the development and financing of high-quality public transport and other transport infrastructure on the basis of the capital region transport agreement.

- » The state will co-operate with municipalities in work to increase public transport in non-urban areas.

- » Preparations for construction of the Sundabraut route will continue, with the aim of opening it to traffic no later than 2031.

- » Public transport with renewable energy sources between the capital area and Keflavík Airport will be encouraged in co-operation with the municipalities.

- » Continued support will be provided for energy conversion in transport throughout the country, including heavy goods vehicles, ferries and harbours, and the network of charging stations will be expanded to support energy conversion in non-urban areas and travel services.

- » Specific macroeconomically beneficial transport projects will be accelerated based on more diverse funding and public-private collaboration.

- » A plan will be formulated for the construction and financing of tunnels, taking into account the experience of neighbouring countries. A public company will be established for tunnel construction.

- » Systematic efforts will be directed at paving secondary roads to support employment and rural development and facilitate school transport in areas that currently have gravel roads.

- » Air connections will continue to be an important part of public transport.

- » The joint operation of international airports throughout the country will be ensured under a single system.

- » Steps will be taken towards commencing sustainable biofuel production to accelerate energy conversion of fishing vessels and efforts made to pave the way for projects in this field. Potential development projects for energy conversion in domestic air transport will be supported.



Rural Development

- » We will continue to promote innovation, e.g. with a regulatory framework and environment that supports the establishment and operation of businesses, not least in sparsely populated areas. In tandem with this, work will be done to strengthen Regional Advancement Programmes.

 - » To support rural development and freedom of choice in residence, government jobs will not have fixed locations unless specifically required by their nature.

 - » Targets will be set for the proportion of public jobs in non-urban areas.

 - » Work facilities and cluster co-operation between the public and private sectors in non-urban areas will be supported.

 - » Support will be provided for energy conversion nationwide, with an emphasis on energy-related projects and green energy production. The Regional Development Plan will support a green transition throughout the country.

 - » A policy will be formulated defining Akureyri's regional role as the largest urban centre outside the capital area and promoting development that can offer diversity in services, culture and employment opportunities.

 - » Economic incentives need to be applied in rural development, for example, through the Icelandic Student Loan Fund.

 - » Support will be provided for knowledge centres, research centres in non-urban areas, nature research centres and remote health services in smaller communities.

 - » Funding will continue for equalisation between rural and urban areas of household heating and electricity costs.

 - » The capacity of and funding for the continued development of high-speed networks will be ensured where private operators do not provide the service or security considerations require it.
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Municipalities

- » The Government emphasises promoting the development of strong and sustainable municipalities where there are social and economic incentives for consolidation.

- » Work will be carried out in accordance with the adopted parliamentary resolution on a strategic plan for municipal affairs until 2033, and the action plan for its implementation will be updated for the next five-year period.

- » The Government will also support the digital development of the local government level.

- » Co-operation between the state and municipalities in climate and environmental issues needs to be further strengthened where the latter play a key role, e.g. in implementation of the circular economy, wastewater treatment, pollution prevention, water protection, nature conservation and biodiversity protection. Better integration of municipalities' plans and regional planning policies is needed to utilise infrastructure and services better, contribute to achieving climate goals, gain better oversight of the supply of building lots and housing, and support planning administration.

- » An action plan will be formulated for the division of responsibilities between the state and municipalities, in part with the aim of reducing the number of "grey areas" in their co-operation to ensure more efficient and better services.

- » The legal status of regional associations of municipalities in the projects they carry out will be clarified and the regions will be strengthened, e.g. through Regional Advancement Programmes.

- » Research on, monitoring of, risk assessment of and response to natural hazards will be reinforced based on the needs analysis currently underway in co-operation between the state and municipalities.

- » Emphasis will be placed on utilising opportunities for joint operation of digital solutions through Island.is. Ways will be sought to ensure that municipalities receive increased revenue from tourist traffic.



Land Issues and Key Infrastructure

- » A comprehensive review of acts and regulations on ownership, disposal of and utilisation of real property needs to be completed, with an emphasis on land and land quality. Information on fundamentals and management instruments need to be available to ensure compliance with government policies, e.g. in agriculture, regional affairs, resource utilisation and nature conservation.

- » Land ownership needs to be transparent and emphasis is placed on the rapid development of the Property Register, in collaboration with municipalities and landowners. Further measures will be considered to protect prime agricultural land and speed up the classification of land with regard to cultivation potential.

- » A policy will be set for carbon sequestration and the restoration of ecosystems on common lands and publicly owned farm properties. Local people will be consulted in each instance. Properties or parts of them of significance for nature or culture conservation or restoration of ecosystems need to be defined.

- » Legislation providing for examination of specific investments by foreign parties with regard to national security and public order will be reviewed and reinforced.

- » The state's ownership policy on farm properties and the criteria proposed there for the purchase and sale of properties will be enforced.

- » Work will continue on reviewing the tasks of Registers Iceland and their synergy with projects of other institutions.



Education

- » Emphasis will be placed on providing a variety of study options at all school levels in line with the Education Policy to 2030, with innovation given priority, and diversity in international studies will be increased.

- » The number of professionals needs to be increased at all school levels with continued incentives for teacher education and opportunities for career development.

- » Long-term staffing needs in healthcare and education need to be evaluated, with a view to whether changes are needed in the working environment and arrangements for basic training to meet future needs better, in part in view of the situation in non-urban areas.

- » Instruction in Icelandic for all student teachers needs to be increased, in view of changing circumstances in society.

- » Support for children of foreign origin in the school system will be increased.

- » Special emphasis will be placed on examining the gender situation in the educational system to meet their different needs.

- » A campaign will be launched to promote diverse innovation efforts and to increase the supply of new study material, not least in Icelandic, for all school levels.

- » Work will continue on strengthening vocational and technical studies and on increasing the number of people with technical and science education.

- » New headquarters will be built for the Technical School in Hafnarfjörður and efforts devoted to strengthening trades education and practical study throughout the country.

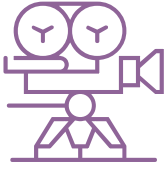
- » Funding for upper secondary schools will be secured, as well as funding for universities in accordance with the plans of the Science and Technology Policy Council.

- » Construction of the future premises of the Iceland Academy of the Arts (LHÍ) will commence in the former Customs House. In tandem with this, an analysis will be made of the future structure of LHÍ, both regarding its form of operation and tuition fees.



Education

- » The organisation of studies related to food production at the upper secondary and university level will be reviewed with the aim of reinforcing both education and research.
- » A strategic and comprehensive review of music education at all school levels will be undertaken.
- » A policy on Icelandic sign language will be formulated, with special emphasis on the language environment of sign-language-speaking children and study materials at pre-school and primary school level.
- » Continuing education and lifelong learning will be strengthened and legislation on further education will be reviewed in broad consultation, to ensure that the further education system is equipped to deal with societal developments, e.g. due to climate issues and technological change in the labour market.
- » Implementation of the Target Programme on Social Challenges in the areas of language technology, environmental issues and sustainability, technological changes in the labour market and the health sciences will be continued throughout the electoral term.
- » A major effort will be made to digitise education and access to digital university studies in Iceland, to improve access to education regardless of residence and circumstances. Research work throughout the country will be strengthened.
- » Equality and sex education and violence prevention work will be increased in primary and secondary schools.
- » Specific efforts will continue to integrate Icelandic into the digital world.



Cultural affairs

- » Efforts will continue on expanding salary and project funds for artists, with special emphasis on having salaries provide better for those who work in the arts/creative sector.

- » The environment of music in Iceland will be reviewed following a report by a working group on the situation.

- » Work will continue on a needs analysis for opera activities in Iceland, with the aim of establishing a National Opera.

- » The situation of privately operated media will be assessed before the current support system expires and specific measures will be taken to ensure diversity in the media and a strong public service broadcaster.

- » Efforts will be made to digitise the nation's cultural heritage to ensure its preservation and accessibility to the public.

- » A policy will be adopted on long-term electronic archiving of documents and the electronic infrastructure of public archiving renewed to meet its requirements.

- » A Cultural Offensive, an action plan until 2030, will be implemented.

- » The Children's Culture Fund will be made permanent.



Law Enforcement

- » It is important for Iceland to be an active participant in international co-operation on cross-border cybercrime, in addition to carrying out strong prevention and research work in this field.

- » Staffing of law enforcement needs to keep up with the needs of society. A temporary effort needs to be directed at increasing the number of police trainees at university level, to increase security and professionalism within the police. Increasing the number of well educated police officers will make it possible to improve services, shorten investigation times and improve the quality of police work.

- » Both independent internal and external supervision of police work should be reviewed. Actions taken in other Nordic countries and which have given the best results will be examined.

- » The organisation and number of police departments and divisions must be organised in such a way that law enforcement work can be carried out with optimal efficiency throughout the country.

- » Improvements will be made to the services and operations of District Commissioners in accordance with the published future vision for these offices, and efficiency increased in tandem with digitalisation.

- » A follow-up action plan for the handling of sexual offences in the justice system will be launched when the current plan expires in 2022. Among other things, aspects concerning mediation and shortening procedures will be considered.

- » Work will continue on shortening the waiting lists for offenders to serve their sentences and improvements to Litla-Hraun prison will continue. Prisoners' access to diverse education, activity and support after their release will be improved.

Business and Industry,
Value Creation and Competitiveness



Government Revenues, Regulations and Official Supervision

- » Rules on tax assessment will be reviewed and inappropriate and unsound incentives for the establishment of private limited companies eliminated. Furthermore, the regulatory framework for income transfers will be reviewed to ensure that persons with financial income alone report imputed income and thus pay municipal tax.
 - » Tax investigations will be strengthened and work will be carried out with the social partners on labour market improvements. Iceland supports OECD plans for an international minimum tax and international co-operation against tax evasion and tax havens, and will take an active role in this regard.
 - » The intention is to merge the Competition Authority and the Consumer Agency, and the possibilities of their merger with other institutions will be explored, as appropriate, which could increase synergies and efficiency in official supervision. The main objective is to strengthen domestic competition, reinforce the position of consumers in the new online commerce environment and improve the international competitiveness of Icelandic business and industry.
 - » The Government will continue to reduce state ownership in the financial system and utilise the capital tied up in such operations for the development of infrastructure.
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The Labour Market

- » Improved working procedures and increased efficiency in negotiating wage agreements will be promoted in consultation with the social partners.

- » The role of the State Conciliation and Mediation Officer needs to be strengthened to improve the preparation and procedures for collective bargaining agreements, reduce the number of dispute cases and ensure that negotiations do not drag on excessively, for instance, by establishing a standing Court of Arbitration for wage disputes to increase the predictability and legal certainty of parties in disputes.

- » To combat social dumping and unlawful labour market activities, the Act on Terms of Employment will be revised and measures to combat serial bankruptcies strengthened with appropriate legislative amendments.

- » Actions will be taken to reduce the gender pay gap in the public sector.

- » The effects of climate and technological change on the Icelandic labour market will be examined and proposals made for responses and measures to deal with them.

- » The Action Plan for the Fourth Industrial Revolution will serve as a basis for evaluation, prioritisation and emphases for reform in continuing education and lifelong learning to ensure people opportunities for education.

- » Labour market legislation and rules will be examined in view of developments in the labour market and changes in the contractual relationship between employees and employers.



Environmental Issues and Nature Conservation

- » The third phase of the Master Plan for Utilisation of Renewable Energy Resources will be completed and the number of options in the pending category increased. The Act on the Protection and Energy Utilisation Plan will be completely revised with the aim of ensuring sustainable and efficient utilisation of energy resources in Iceland.

 - » A specific act on the utilisation of wind energy will be adopted, with the aim of simplifying the construction of wind power plants to produce green energy, emphasising the development of wind power plants in demarcated areas close to substations and transmission lines, to ensure security of supply. It is important to achieve a broad consensus on the development of such wind farms and that consideration is given to visual effects, wildlife and the natural environment. A decision will be taken on levying a fee for such utilisation. A policy will be formulated for offshore wind power plants.

 - » A national park will be established in already protected land areas and glaciers in public lands in the highlands by amending the Act on Vatnajökull National Park. Emphasis will be placed on dialogue and co-operation with local residents and the number of regional councils increased. Business activities in the new national park will be governed by the Act on Vatnajökull National Park, which is in accordance with the principles of the new Act on Business Activities on State Lands.

 - » The review of biodiversity policy will be completed.

 - » Emphasis will be placed on work on the planning of ocean and coastal areas.

 - » The comprehensive revision of the Act on the Protection, Conservation and Hunting of Wildfowl and Wild Mammals will be completed.

 - » Legislative changes will be considered to ensure more efficient procedures for infrastructure projects, such as the electricity transmission system, based on existing work.

 - » The implementation of future solutions for the treatment of combustible waste instead of landfill will be completed.

 - » The Government will make a major effort in co-operation with municipalities in wastewater treatment, in order to satisfy the strictest requirements for nature conservation everywhere in Iceland no later than 2028. Innovation and the use of leading technological innovations in waste recycling and sorting will also be promoted. Support will be provided for recycling and the circular economy through positive incentives for individuals and businesses.
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Industry and Innovation

- » Reimbursements for R&D will be extended and their implementation and supervision reviewed. The temporary increase in the reimbursement rate for costs incurred in R&D will be made permanent.

- » Competitive funds in the field of basic research and technological development need to be expanded and the development of venture funds needs to continue.

- » Green investment incentives will be extended to support the Government's climate goals and encourage continued investment.

- » An internationally competitive support system for the production of film and television material will be strengthened. Further support for the industry will be provided with higher reimbursement for clearly defined aspects, to encourage more large projects carried out entirely in Iceland and to ensure increased predictability in the financing of the system.

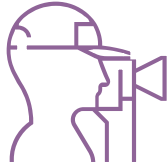
- » Flexibility and efficiency in hiring foreign specialists must be increased to facilitate Icelandic innovation and start-up companies in hiring people with expertise from countries outside the EEA.

- » The Government intends to make increasing use of innovation in public sector solutions. Conditions will be created for public bodies to work generally with innovative and start-up companies in designing and developing better and more cost-effective solutions for public sector tasks.

- » Temporary authorisations for pension funds to increase investment in innovation and growth funds will be made permanent.

- » Support for innovation in non-urban areas will continue with Lóa innovation grants.

- » Legislation on the tax treatment of stock options and shares in innovative companies will be reviewed to enable them to compete for employees, managers and consultants by offering a share of future benefits in a cost-effective manner.



Travel Industry

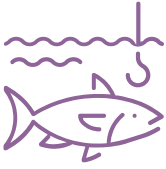
- » The Future Vision for Tourism 2030, which was formulated during the last electoral term, will be followed up on with an action plan for both its long-term goals and 12 priorities.

 - » Consideration will be given to extending “Forward Together”, the marketing campaign of the Government, the industry and Promote Iceland, to promote the necessary recovery of the travel industry in the wake of Covid-19.

 - » Targeted steps will be taken towards energy conversion in tourism, including support for the development of the vehicle charging network throughout the country, the electrification of rental cars and a green connection to Keflavík Airport.

 - » Efforts will be made where possible to spread tourists better throughout the country year-round, to strengthen job creation and the operational basis of travel companies. Research, innovation and education in travel services need to be strengthened.

 - » In parallel with the revival of the industry, taxation in the tourism sector will be examined. The focus will be on broadening the tax base and ensuring non-discrimination among market actors. Efforts will be directed at modifying arrangements for the accommodation tax, in cooperation with the sector and the municipalities, with the aim of enabling municipalities to benefit from the levy.
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Fisheries

- » A committee will be appointed to map the challenges and opportunities in fisheries and related sectors and to assess the macroeconomic benefits of the fisheries management system. The committee will be tasked with comparing the situation in Iceland and abroad and submitting proposals to maximise Icelanders' potential for further success and societal consensus on the framework of the sector. The committee will also discuss how transparency in fisheries companies' operations can be increased, especially among the country's largest companies. In addition, the committee will evaluate the success of employment and regional quotas and summer inshore handline fishing in supporting the rural economy.
- » Proposals of the working group for green steps in the fisheries sector will be followed up on, to accelerate as much as possible energy conversion in the fisheries sector.
- » A comprehensive policy will be formulated on the development, framework and taxation of aquaculture. This work will emphasise opportunities for job creation and the importance of building the industry on sustainability, scientific knowledge and the protection of wild salmon stocks.
- » Continued support will be provided for a strong grant system, collaboration with the university community and the R&D environment to promote innovation in the fisheries sector and related fields.



Agriculture

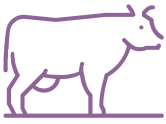
- » A draft agricultural policy for Iceland will be presented to the Althingi in the first half of the electoral term. This will be based on the work of the project management on agricultural policy, “We Grow Iceland!”, which is now available.

- » Ambitious targets will be set to increase the proportion of healthy and nutritious, domestically produced, food to strengthen food security. Strong domestic food production contributes to the wholesomeness of food and increased food security, for example, to maintain Iceland’s good position regarding antibiotic resistance. The continued implementation of the action plan on food safety and protection of livestock breeds must be ensured.

- » In reviewing the Government’s comprehensive agreements on agricultural production and subsidies, emphasis will be placed on ensuring food security in Iceland by strengthening domestic agriculture. Public support will be co-ordinated with the aim of strengthening and increasing the foundations of agriculture based on sustainable utilisation, to benefit climate actions, environmental and nature protection and agricultural diversity.

- » Increased vegetable production will be achieved with fixed electricity subsidy percentages for greenhouse horticulture and special support for outdoor cultivation through agricultural production agreements. A comprehensive, specifically timed action plan will be formulated to promote organic production and cereal growing.

- » Land reclamation, forestry and wetland restoration need to be increased to meet Iceland’s climate commitments. A framework will be developed for the production of certified carbon credits in agriculture and other related land use.



Agriculture

- » Revision of the trade agreement with the European Union on agricultural products will be completed.

- » The efficiency and productivity of customs control will be enhanced by the introduction of digital solutions in this field.

- » A comprehensive review of the food and health supervision systems in Iceland will be launched, aimed at ensuring co-ordinated, simple and effective supervision for the benefit of the business community and the public.

- » Special attention needs to be paid to the regulatory framework, so as not to hinder innovation and development, such as sales directly from farm to consumer markets.

- » It is important to have strong vocational training and university institutions in agriculture, to lead the way in agricultural and environmental research, for climate action, nature conservation, land quality and innovation in production. Farmers' initiatives and entrepreneurship need to be encouraged through education, advice, development and innovation.



Foreign and International Affairs and Development Co-operation

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- » Peaceful solutions, sustainable development, gender equality, democracy and human rights are the cornerstones of Icelandic foreign policy.
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- » Nordic co-operation will continue to be fundamental in Iceland's international development work.
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- » Efforts will be directed at reinforcing Iceland's position and image as an Arctic state and domestic expertise in Arctic issues expanded, for instance, by strengthening centres of education, science and debate and formulating a research policy in this field.
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- » Iceland's interests are best served outside the European Union. The Government will place increased emphasis on the implementation and development of the EEA Agreement in a manner that will secure Iceland's interests and sovereignty in co-operation and trade with other states.
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- » Emphasis will be placed on free and open international trade and ready access for the Icelandic economy to foreign markets. Dismantling of trade barriers will continue and consideration given to increasing the number of free trade agreements, both bilaterally and in co-operation with other EFTA States.
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- » All international co-operation will ensure that Iceland has full control over all its natural resources.
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Foreign and International Affairs and Development Co-operation

- » The Government will focus on strengthening and developing co-operation with the governments of well-being economies (WEGo), guided by the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The focus will be to have Iceland among the leading countries in developing and implementing measures of well-being that reinforce the country's position as a well-being economy.
- » Iceland's development cooperation will emphasise climate issues to a much greater extent. Special attention will be paid to projects in the field of sustainable energy, in consideration of Icelandic expertise in geothermal utilisation, sustainable energy and resource utilisation, natural solutions such as land reclamation and ecosystem restoration, and equality issues.
- » The Government emphasises that the nation's security issues are securely arranged in line with the goals of the National Security Policy for Iceland, which is approved by Althingi.
- » A review of the National Security Policy is envisaged in the first half of the electoral term, especially in the light of global and technological developments, climate change and related challenges. Emphasis will be placed on the protection and uninterrupted functioning of significant infrastructure and on effective and co-ordinated measures aimed at ensuring the nation's broad security interests.



Constitution and Electoral Law

- » The Government will set in motion work by experts on constitutional provisions concerning the Althing, elections and constituencies, the courts and, as the case may be, other provisions, such as human rights provisions. Co-operation with the academic community will be arranged in discussion and consideration of constitutional amendments. Further work on constitutional amendments will be assessed subsequently.
 - » Work will continue on revising electoral law in tandem with the introduction of changes and new arrangements for the National Electoral Commission.
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