

Ársskýrsla 2024

GeoCamp Iceland - Annual Report 2024



GeoCamp Iceland is an educational institution and tour operator, established in 2006, with the objective to increase knowledge and understanding in Earth sciences through practical and active learning.

We develop educational content, student and teacher guides, organize and receive international study groups of high-school, secondary school and college students, as well as teacher groups focusing on STEM education, geology, geography, natural science, climate change and renewable energy. We are a founding partner of Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark and an authorized tour operator and travel agency holding license pursuant to the Icelandic Tourism Administration Act.

General overview of the year 2024

For close to twenty years, GeoCamp Iceland has offered customized study tours for educational institutions, where the participants benefit from our personal network, background in education, contacts with Icelandic educational and research institutions within the field, and experience in receiving international study groups.

The location of GeoCamp Iceland on the Reykjanes peninsula offers easy access to geological sites of interest, geothermal pools, vast lava fields and unspoiled cave formations. The area is also close to

accessible glacial valleys, rivers and spectacular waterfalls, as well as vast uninhabited nature, all within a couple of hours drive from the airport.

In 2024 close to three-hundred high-school, college and university students, as well as one-hundred teachers, educators and professors, attended GeoCamp Iceland study tours in Iceland. This included participants from eight colleges and universities, as well as from four high-schools and a handful of national and international organizations. As with previous years the main travel periods were from May to August, along with a single group arriving in October, with a combined 142 days of activities. Compared to 2023, there was a 50% increase in activities, including number of participating educational institutions, number of participants and days of activities.



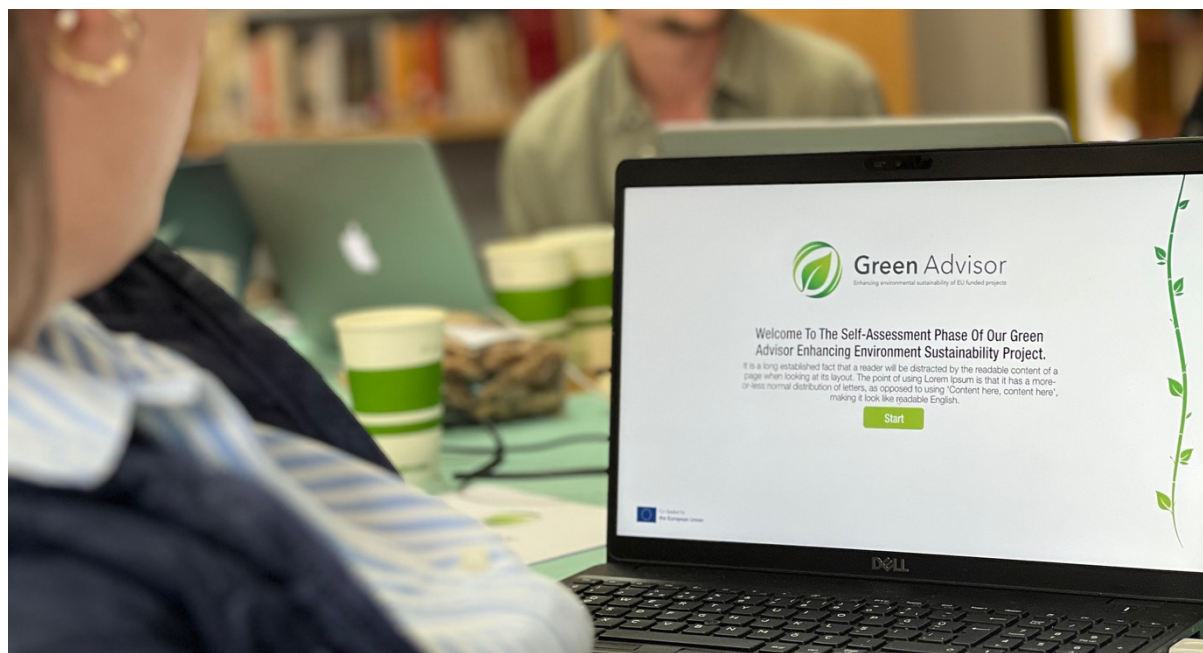
A key part in our development is to actively participate in educational projects dedicated to increasing knowledge and understanding in natural sciences with practical and active learning. Along with receiving international study groups of secondary school, college and university students, as well as teacher groups - we develop educational content, student and teacher guides and curricula, focusing on STEM education, promotion of natural sciences, awareness of climate change and use of renewable energy.

Through these activities GeoCamp Iceland participates in regional, national and international educational projects, research development and training opportunities, with primary focus on developing teacher and student curricula as well as producing training material for outdoor science

education and STEM related training activities. In 2024 we participated in the following development projects.

- *Erasmus+ AURORA*
- *Erasmus+ Geoschools (www.geoschools.eu)*
- *Erasmus+ Green Advisor*
- *Erasmus+ UpCycling*
- *Erasmus+ HEDA Project*
- *Erasmus+ Project: Bridges - European Recovery Strategies for Education after Covid-19*
- *EU ACADIMIA - Teacher Training Academy*
- *EEA Project: GEOCAMP - supporting geology teaching towards active citizenship (CZ)*
- *EEA Project: Geothermal activity in Lipik (HR)*
- *EEA Project: EOG - Technologies of the future in today's school (PL)*
- *EEA Project: STEM in Croatian schools (HR)*

Six international projects were completed in 2024, as well as our EEA funded project on implementing STEM education in Croatian primary schools. GeoCamp was a project partner in several applications in the year, with two new projects starting in the year under the Erasmus+ programme - AURORA and Geoschools - both small-scale projects to be completed in 2025.



GeoCamp Iceland is a founding member of Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark and sits on the board of the organization. We are a member of Visit Reykjanes and the Icelandic Tourism Cluster.

GeoCamp Iceland Employees 2024

The staff of GeoCamp Iceland includes two full-time and one half-time employees, as well as a part-time contractor. In addition, the company had close to twenty short term contractors both in connection with international project work and tour operations in Iceland.

- **Arnbjörn Ólafsson** (Managing Director)

Arnbjorn has extensive experience in managing and cooperating in transnational projects. He has a background in international cooperation with institutions, networks and projects, especially within North America, the EU and Nordic countries. Arnbjorn is a board member of Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark and has been involved in various international committees and groups, e.g. the Nordic Council of Ministers, European Union educational activities, representative for Iceland at CEDEFOP – European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training 2003 - 2007.

- **Sigrún Svafa Ólafsdóttir** (Project Coordinator and Project Manager of Educational Outreach)

Sigrún Svafa is project manager for STEM projects and educational outreach. She has a teaching background at Keilir Academy in Iceland, both on adult and primary school secondary school level. During her time at Keilir she also served as a mentor for new teachers, which included guidance and consultancy in educational methodologies and didactics. She has been involved with flipped learning for over a decade, being one of the frontrunners in introducing flipped learning in Iceland.

- **Magdalena Maria Poslednik** (Project Manager)

Magdalena is a contracted staff member of GeoCamp Iceland with focus on logistics and marketing, as well as project management of the Green Advisor Project. Magdalena focuses on educational development and tourism. She has previously been responsible for international cooperation and developing educational services within Icelandic education, with an emphasis on less privileged groups of people, including immigrants.

- **Ólafur Jón Arnbjörnsson** (Director)

Ólafur specializes in education, teaching methods and curriculum design. Besides teaching on all levels of education for twenty years, he has been study counselor and assistant principal at Saudarkrókur Comprehensive College, principal at Egilstaðir College and principal at Sudunes Comprehensive College from 1994-2010. Founder and chairman of the board of the first center for lifelong learning in Iceland (MSS), founder and principal of the Icelandic College of Fisheries. Founder of the Nordic Network of Fisheries Colleges, board member and chairman of the Association of Secondary School Principals and Association of Vocational Schools.

Ársskýrsla GeoCamp Iceland 2024 - Samantekt á íslensku

Árið 2024 var viðburðaríkt hjá GeoCamp Iceland þar sem áhersla var lögð á fræðslu, samstarf og nýsköpun í raunvísindum og útikennslu. Með meira en tuttugu ára reynslu í sérsniðnum námsferðum fyrir erlenda skóla, auk þátttöku í bæði innlendum og alþjóðlegum samstarfsverkefnum, tókst GeoCamp Iceland að víkka út starfsemi sína enn frekar og ýta undir aukið samstarf kennara og hagaðila í fræðslutengdri ferðaþjónustu, eflingu STEM greina og þróun útikennslu á Reykjanesinu.

Á árinu tók GeoCamp Iceland á móti um fjögur hundruð nemendum og kennurum frá framhaldsskólum, háskólum og öðrum fræðslustofnunum víðs vegar að úr heiminum. Með þátttöku í fjölbreyttum verkefnum, þar á meðal Erasmus+ og EES styrktum verkefnum, var áhersla lögð á að efla STEM-menntun, útikennslu og sjálfbærni. Stærstu verkefni á ári voru meðal annars utanumhald og þátttaka í samstarfsverkefnum á vegum Erasmus+ Menntaáætlunar Evrópusambandsins, ásamt innleiðingu UNESCO skólaverkefnisins á Reykjanesi í samstarfi við Samband sveitarfélaga á Suðurnesjum.

Í byrjun ársins var undirritaður þjónustu- og samstarfssamningur milli Sambands sveitarfélaga á Suðurnesjum, Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark og GeoCamp Iceland, með það að markmiði að efla fræðslu- og kynningarstarf í jarðvanginum. Samkvæmt samningnum mun GeoCamp Iceland á næstu tveimur árum sinna sértækum verkefnum tengdum fræðslu, umsóknum í þróunarsjóði og kynningarstarfi, sérstaklega innan skóla og menntastofnana á Reykjanesi. Þá mun GeoCamp Iceland kortleggja fræðslu- og menntatengd verkefni, námsframboð og skólastarf á svæðinu, með áherslu á þá starfsemi sem nýtir nærumhverfið og auðlindir svæðisins til kennslu í náttúrufræði og STEM-greinum.

Af stórum erlendum samstarfsverkefnum lauk þátttöku GeoCamp Iceland þátttöku í verkefni sem miðar að innleiðingu STEM-greina í króatískum grunnskólum, styrkt af Uppbyggingarsjóði EEA/EFTA. Sem hluti af þessu verkefni fóru á annan tug kennara og sérfræðinga frá Íslandi í ferðir til Króatíu, þar á meðal frá sex grunnskólum á Suðurnesjum, auk þess sem tekið ar á móti sambærilegum fjölda króatískra kennara í heimsóknum til Íslands.

Með aukinni þátttöku í verkefnum og tengslanetum bæði á landsvísu og alþjóðlegum vettvangi leggur GeoCamp Iceland grunn að sjálfbærri þróun menntunar og fræðslu. Aukin samfélagsleg áhrif og þróun nýrra kennsluaðferða, ásamt nýjum samstarfstækifærum og öflugu tengslaneti við kennara, gera árið 2024 að mikilvægu skrefi í áframhaldandi þróun GeoCamp Iceland.

Cooperation agreement with Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark

GeoCamp Iceland signed a two-year cooperation agreement in February 2024 with Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark and the Association of Municipalities in Sudurnes (SSS) which includes the four municipalities in the region, to organise and develop educational projects within the geopark. According to the agreement, GeoCamp Iceland will service educational and training activities, set up and manage regional and international development projects as well as serve as educational liaison between educational institutions and the geopark. Additionally GeoCamp Iceland will look at the potential use of resources and geosites in the region to enhance and develop STEAM education.

Sigrún Svafa Ólafsdóttir, Project Manager at GeoCamp Iceland, will in this period serve as project manager for educational outreach in the geopark, looking into enhancing cooperation between educational institutions and increased opportunity for both outdoor training activities and STEAM education within Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark, as well as other development and educational projects.



Educational groups in Iceland

For close to twenty years, GeoCamp Iceland has offered customized study tours for educational institutions, where the participants benefit from our personal network, background in education, contacts with Icelandic educational and research institutions within the field, and experience in receiving international study groups.

The location of GeoCamp Iceland on the Reykjanes peninsula offers easy access to geological sites of interest, geothermal pools, vast lava fields and unspoiled cave formations. The area is also close to accessible glacial valleys, rivers and spectacular waterfalls, as well as vast uninhabited nature, all within a couple of hours drive from the airport.

GeoCamp Iceland study tours in 2024

In 2024 close to three-hundred high-school, college and university students, as well as one-hundred teachers, educators and professors, attended GeoCamp Iceland study tours in Iceland. This included participants from eight colleges and universities, as well as from four high-schools and a handful of national and international organizations. As with previous years the main travel periods were from May to August, along with a single group arriving in October, with a combined 142 days of activities. Compared to 2023, there was a 50% increase in activities, including number of participating educational institutions, number of participants and days of activities. The study groups in 2024 were from the following partners:

- *Northern Virginia Community College (US)*
- *University of Southern Maine (US)*
- *Washington and Lee University (US)*
- *NCGE - National Council for Geography Education (US)*
- *Chaparral High School (US)*
- *Northwood School (US)*
- *University of Wisconsin-Madison (US)*
- *Central College - Iowa (US)*
- *University of North Alabama (US)*
- *Xenia (International Group)*
- *Gefion Highschool (DK)*
- *University of Wisconsin-Whitewater (US)*
- *Northwestern Michigan College (US)*
- *Thisted High School (DK)*
- *SIT - Study Abroad, two groups in four sessions (US)*

Domestic Initiatives & Key Activities in 2024

GeoCamp Iceland focuses on domestic initiatives that enhance education and sustainability issues, especially within the Reykjanes region. Through various initiatives and activities, we try to work closely with teachers and educators to integrate sustainability, outdoor activities and global goals into education. Additionally, teacher training programs and active networking provide practical resources and guidance for local educators and communities.

EGN 2024 in Reykjanes, Iceland

In October 2024, the European Geopark Network (EGN) Conference, EGN2024, was held in the Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark, attracting geoscientists, educators, and policymakers from across Europe. This prestigious gathering highlighted the importance of geoparks in promoting sustainability, education, and international collaboration. GeoCamp Iceland played an integral role in the success of the conference through its active involvement in planning, execution, and engagement with participants. As a board member of Reykjanes Geopark and member of the EGN2024 scientific committee, GeoCamp Iceland contributed to shaping the conference's academic and thematic agenda, ensuring a focus on the geoscience of Reykjanes, innovative educational practices, and discussions on sustainable development within geoparks.



UNESCO Schools in Reykjanes

GeoCamp Iceland participates in the regional initiative to expand the UNESCO Schools network across all educational institutions in Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark. At a meeting held on September 4th in Reykjanesbær, representatives from schools in the region gathered to discuss the integration of UNESCO principles, with the aim of having all schools on all school levels begin the application process within the next two years.

Sigrún Svafa Ólafsdóttir, Project Manager for Educational Programmes at GeoCamp Iceland and Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark, is leading the project. As part of the effort, she has been working closely with schools and teachers in the region, fostering cooperation and creating opportunities for educational development through international initiatives.

Sustainability Strategy

As a key outcome of the CE4RT project in 2024, GeoCamp Iceland has developed and embraced a comprehensive Sustainability Strategy. At GeoCamp Iceland, sustainability is not just a goal but a fundamental principle that drives our operations and vision. Our approach focuses on empowering visitors, safeguarding Iceland's unique natural and cultural heritage, and setting a benchmark for sustainable tourism practices. This strategy highlights our commitment to reducing environmental impact, supporting local communities, and fostering education paving way for a greener future.

Development projects with Icelandic teachers

In 2024, GeoCamp Iceland worked closely with teachers across Reykjanes through a range of impactful initiatives. The organisation played a central role in implementing the UNESCO Schools Project, which saw nearly 20 schools from the region signing declarations to integrate the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals into their daily practices. GeoCamp also facilitated teacher training trips to Denmark, where educators visited geoparks and participated in conferences focusing on STEM education, innovation, and outdoor learning. These efforts laid the groundwork for a formal STEM teacher network in Reykjanes, with plans to expand collaboration in the coming years. Furthermore, GeoCamp provided resources and workshops to help teachers incorporate sustainability into their teaching, strengthening the link between education and community engagement.



International Projects & Collaboration

A key part in our development is to actively participate in educational projects dedicated to increasing knowledge and understanding in natural sciences with practical and active learning. Along with receiving international study groups of secondary school, college and university students, as well as teacher groups - we develop educational content, student and teacher guides and curricula, focusing on STEM education, promotion of natural sciences, awareness of climate change and use of renewable energy.



Through these activities GeoCamp Iceland participates in regional, national and international educational projects, research development and training opportunities, with primary focus on developing teacher and student curricula as well as producing training material for outdoor science education and STEM related training activities.

GeoCamp Iceland is lead partner in one international projects (*Green Advisor*) as well as participants in a number of additional transnational projects. In 2024 we participated in the following development projects.

- *Erasmus+ AURORA*
- *Erasmus+ Geoschools*
- *Erasmus+ Green Advisor*

- *EU ACADIMIA - Teacher Training Academy*

The following project were concluded in 2024:

- *Erasmus+ Project: Bridges - European Recovery Strategies for Education after Covid-19*
- *Erasmus+ HEDA Project*
- *Erasmus+ UpCycling*
- *EEA Project: GEOCAMP - supporting geology teaching towards active citizenship (CZ)*
- *EEA Project: Geothermal activity in Lipik (HR)*
- *EEA Project: EOG - Technologies of the future in today's school (PL)*
- *EEA Project: STEM in Croatian schools (HR)*

Six international projects were completed in 2024, as well as our EEA funded project on implementing STEM education in Croatian primary schools. GeoCamp was a project partner in several applications in the year, with two new projects starting in the year under the Erasmus+ programme - AURORA and Geoschools - both small-scale projects to be completed in 2025.

AURORA Project

The AURORA project is a collaborative initiative focused on promoting outdoor learning and environmental awareness through the innovative use of augmented reality (AR). It combines experiential learning in natural environments, such as Iceland's Reykjanes Peninsula and Turkey's Cappadocia, with the development of the AURORA Platform, an immersive AR tool showcasing these landscapes. The project aims to foster social inclusion, well-being, and sustainability while encouraging responsible technology use and environmental stewardship among youth.

Geoschools Project (www.geoschools.eu)

The GeoSchools project, supported by Erasmus+, aims to integrate geosciences into school curricula to enhance climate change education. By fostering environmental awareness, it equips students with the skills needed to address climate challenges. The project is a collaboration among partners from Poland, Iceland, Turkey, and Romania.

Green Advisor Project (www.greenadvisorproject.com)

The Green Advisor project is an Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership in Adult Education involving six partners from Iceland, Spain, Italy, Turkey, and Finland. Its primary goal is to enhance the environmental sustainability of EU-funded projects by reducing their carbon footprints. To achieve this, the project develops self-assessment tools, training resources, and a tailored carbon footprint

calculator for project managers and participants. These resources aim to embed green practices throughout project management and implementation, fostering competencies in green transition and promoting environmentally responsible actions in transnational cooperation. Additionally, the project introduces a Green Open Badge system to establish an Environmental Quality Assurance framework for EU projects, providing measurable indicators of a project's environmental sustainability.



ACADIMIA Project (www.european-acadimia.eu)

The ACAδIMIA project, known as the European Teacher Academy for Creative and Inclusive Learning, is an Erasmus+ initiative that brings together partners from eight countries to establish a European Teacher Academy. This academy serves as a hub dedicated to expanding the use of creative teaching methods across Europe. By integrating innovative methodologies such as educational drama, game-based learning, and digital storytelling, underpinned by Montessori principles, ACAδIMIA aims to equip educators with the tools and knowledge needed to effectively incorporate creative and inclusive methods into mainstream education. The project seeks to transform traditional teaching approaches, making classrooms more engaging and accessible for all students. Partners include institutions like Action Synergy, University of Girona, University of Florence, and GeoCamp Iceland.

HEDA Project (www.heda-project.eu)

The HEDA project aims to enhance citizenship education in Europe by integrating art, particularly theater, into secondary school curricula. This approach seeks to improve students' social and civic competencies, deepen their understanding of fundamental rights, and foster critical thinking. By engaging students through creative methods, HEDA endeavors to make citizenship education more interactive and impactful. The project also focuses on training teachers to effectively implement these artistic methodologies in their classrooms. Partners involved in HEDA include the Centre of Higher Education in Theatre Studies (Greece), GeoCamp Iceland, and Młodzież w Pleszewie (Poland)

Upcycling Project (www.upcyclingeducation.eu)

The Upcycling Education project, funded by Erasmus+, promotes environmental awareness and sustainability by integrating upcycling practices into education. It equips educators with tools to implement creative, cross-curricular learning approaches that reduce waste and foster innovation. Through a blended course, practical resources, and webinars, the project supports students and educators in addressing environmental challenges while encouraging creativity, entrepreneurship, and STEAM-based learning, ultimately contributing to a greener, circular economy.



STEM Projects in Croatia concluded in 2024

A big part of GeoSchool's activities is concentrated on incorporating digital skills and readiness in STEM related learning activities on all educational levels - from primary school to adult and continuing education. GeoSchool centers around STEM development in Iceland with primary focus on developing educational material as well as participation in international development projects.

Since early 2023 we've been fortunate to participate in an EEA funded project on implementing STEM education in Croatian schools. The project concluded in January 2024 with events, conferences and open days in all our partner schools, which brought the staff of GeoCamp Iceland for a final visit (for now) to Croatia.

During the project lifetime GeoCamp Iceland organized and arranged monthly online meetings and workshops with our partner schools in Croatia, aimed to enhance understanding of STEM in education as well as work with pedagogy and educational methods. We arranged four study visits for a total of close to 50 Croatian teachers to Iceland, and took part in similar workshops and meetings, bringing over twenty teachers and experts from Iceland to Croatia in four visits.

We thank our Croatian partners from OŠ *Vladimir Nazor Budinščina*, *Osnovna škola Sibirskih žrtava*, OŠ *Josipa Kozarca Lipovljani* and OŠ "*Vladimir Nazor*" *Đakovo* for their dedication and commitment in the project, and for their warm welcome and generosity. We congratulate them on their achievements and the results in increasing interest and actively introduce STEM topics in Croatian education.



KA1 Mobilities for Icelandic Teachers in Denmark

This year GeoCamp Iceland organised and took part in a series of workshops in Denmark for science teachers focusing on STEM subjects and outdoor education in Geoparks. The project, which was managed by GeoCamp Iceland on behalf of the *Association of Municipalities of Suðurnes* (SSS) and funded by the Erasmus+ Education Programme of the European Union, enabled teachers to travel to Denmark on a week-long trip, where they gained ideas on how to use outdoor learning within the *Reykjanes Geopark* to make science education more engaging and integrate additional STEM projects into their teaching.

A total of 18 teachers from 11 primary schools in the region took part in two trips to Denmark, focusing on STEM education and outdoor learning, as well as building a network of science teachers and strengthening connections between schools across municipalities.

Development Projects

In addition to the larger domestic and international projects, GeoCamp Iceland also participates in a number of smaller development projects.

Tourbit

GeoCamp Iceland was one of 62 tourism SMEs in several European countries that received European project grant to support digital transformation process within their companies through the TOURBIT project. In February 2023, TOURBIT project launched a call for proposals for tourism SMEs aiming to finance innovative digitisation projects for tourism SMEs located in Belgium, Catalonia (Spain), France, Iceland, Lapland (Finland), Portugal and Slovenia. The call raised a lot of interest from the tourism sector as it received more than 230 applications.

Arnbjörn Ólafsson, Managing Director of GeoCamp Iceland, was invited to speak on behalf of beneficiary SME's at TOURBIT's final conference in Barcelona on 1 March 2024. Specifically he talked about the importance of having a strong digital presence and the journey that each business has been on as part of the Project, focusing on digital trends and opportunities.

CE4RT

GeoCamp Iceland participated in the European project CE4RT (Circular Economy for Regenerative Tourism), led by the Iceland Tourism Cluster. This initiative brought together 18 Icelandic companies with the shared goal of advancing sustainability in tourism and moving towards regenerative practices.

The CE4RT project has been instrumental in helping our company to develop and strengthen our sustainability practices, including the creation of a comprehensive sustainability plan that includes working toward the Travelife Partner certification, a significant milestone for embedding sustainable tourism principles into our operations.

The Earth comes alive in Reykjanes (Jörðin lifnar við)

The project, supported by Landsbanki Íslands Social Development Fund, focuses on establishing STEM-based science camps for upper elementary school students in the Reykjanes region. Utilising the area's unique geological features, such as geothermal activity, volcanic landscapes, and coastal biodiversity, the project provides hands-on learning opportunities to enhance students' scientific literacy and interest in Earth sciences. The camps aim to connect theoretical learning with real-world environmental contexts while promoting sustainability and the responsible use of natural resources. Through collaboration with local schools, researchers, and businesses, the initiative also supports outdoor education and community engagement.

Marketing & Dissemination

The year 2024 was transformative for GeoCamp Iceland as we significantly expanded our dissemination and marketing activities, strengthening our presence both locally and internationally. These efforts aimed to enhance our visibility, forge new collaborations, and promote the unique educational opportunities we offer.



We're passionate about education

At GeoCamp Iceland, we believe that the most profound learning happens beyond the walls of a classroom. Iceland's unparalleled natural environment, where geological activity is constantly reshaping the landscape, offers a unique opportunity for students and educators to engage with real-world phenomena in one of the most stunning settings on Earth. Our programs are designed to bring education to life, making complex subjects like geology, climate change, and biodiversity tangible and memorable.

We're passionate about hands-on learning because we know it helps students develop critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and a deep appreciation for the natural world. Whether you're studying the shifting tectonic plates, the impact of retreating glaciers, or the intersection of culture and geography, Iceland is the ultimate living laboratory.



Where Geology Meets Culture

Explore Iceland and uncover the connections between its rich cultural heritage and its awe-inspiring geological landscapes.

During the year we began work on a regular electronic newsletter which will be introduced early in 2025, a revamped information pamphlet with updated content and visuals, and the launch of our LinkedIn profile, enhancing our professional reach. Additionally we wrote articles and managed our social media content and website, ensuring effective communication and visibility.

GeoCamp Iceland representatives actively participated in a number of events such as Mannamót 2024, the NCGE Conference in Phoenix, and the AGU Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. These gatherings provided platforms to connect with educators, researchers, and industry professionals,

amplifying our educational and sustainability mission. We also took part in numerous transnational meetings, forging partnerships with institutions in Croatia, Poland, Denmark, and the USA.

Through these activities, GeoCamp Iceland showcased its commitment to education, sustainability, and innovation, reinforcing its reputation as a leader in experiential learning and international collaboration. The dissemination and marketing initiatives of 2024 laid a strong foundation for continued growth and engagement in the coming years.

- Website: www.geocamp.is
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/geocampiceland
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/geocampiceland
- LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/geocamp-iceland

Conferences, Meetings, Events & Outreach

We took part in a number of conferences and meetings during the year, as well as attending marketing and public events.

28 January: [HEDA workshop for Icelandic teachers](#) (Iceland)

GeoCamp Iceland hosted a training seminar as part of the HEDA project at the Sudurnes Science and Learning Centre, with 12 teachers participating – 8 attending in person from local regional schools and additional four joining the session online. The event introduced educators to the innovative HEDA methodology, which integrates arts-based approaches like theatre, literature, and visual arts to engage students with social and civic issues, aiming to enhance democratic values and critical thinking in classrooms.

1 March: [TOURBIT Conference](#) (Barcelona)

Arnbjörn Ólafsson, Managing Director of GeoCamp Iceland, was invited to speak on behalf of beneficiary SME's at TOURBIT's final conference in Barcelona on 1 March 2024. Specifically he talked about the importance of having a strong digital presence and the journey that each business has been on as part of the Project, focusing on digital trends and opportunities.



21 - 22 March: Pact for Skills (Brussels)

We were invited to attend the two-day forum "Pact for Skills - Unlocking skills potential across Europe" in Brussels, looking at skills development and future skills needs.

10 - 12 April: Green Practices in EU Projects (Slovakia)

Arnbjorn Olafsson, Managing Director of GeoCamp Iceland, was invited to attend in the highly successful contact seminar "Green practices in Erasmus+ projects" which took place in Bratislava, Slovakia on 10 - 12 April 2024. The seminar brought together participants from both school and vocational sectors, interested in sustainability and greening of EU projects.

24 - 25 April: Excellent Education for All (Czech Republic)

We were invited to attend the final event "Excellent Education for All" of the Czech Education Programme funded by EEA Grants. The international event serves as a forum for the cooperation among Czech, Norwegian, Icelandic and Liechtenstein schools, universities and other education organisations, showcasing the results of the programme.

13 - 14 June: Empowering tomorrow's workforce through AI (Warsaw)

We were invited to attend the EEA conference on the use of AI in VET. GeoCamp Iceland has partnered with Polish educational institutions in two previous EEA supported projects, which brought us to the final event of the current EEA development programme between the Icelandic, Norwegian & Liechtenstein funding opportunities with Poland.

18 - 20 October: NCGE (Phoenix, USA)

We attended the annual conference of NCGE - National Council for Geography Education taking place in Phoenix, Arizona.

9 November: Helkin Annual Meeting (Kraków)

We attended the annual conference of the Italian Travel Operator Helkin Vacanze Studio known for immersive, educational travel experiences, empowers young learners to connect with cultures worldwide, with strong values in sustainability and inclusivity. In this collaboration, students from Italy will experience Iceland's unique landscapes, geology, and sustainability practices firsthand at GeoCamp Iceland.

12 - 13 November: EEA final Croatian conference (Croatia)

We attended the Energy and Climate Change closing conference supported by [EEA and Norway Grants](#) in beautiful Rovinj, Croatia. GeoCamp participated in the programme focusing on utilisation of low-heat geothermal fields in the municipality of Lipik in Croatia.

19 - 20 November: [CE4RT](#) (Ireland)

The International Regenerative Tourism Conference in Dingle, Ireland, marked the culmination of the CE4RT project. The two-day event, held on 19–20 November 2024, brought together tourism professionals, researchers, policymakers, and SMEs to reflect on the achievements of the project and explore the future of regenerative tourism. The conference highlights key themes such as climate action, community engagement, and circular economy principles.

9 - 12 December: AGU 2024 (Washington DC, USA)

We participated with an information booth at AGU - American Geophysical Union Annual Conference in San Francisco, attended by close to thirty-thousand guests.

Other transnational meetings

In addition GeoCamp Iceland representatives had meetings with universities and educational institutions in the United States, and met with Croatian, Polish, Czech, Spanish, Danish and Italian project partners.

GeoCamp Iceland in the news

- **23 January 2024: STEM project in Đakovo**
<https://www.radio-djakovo.hr/2024/01/zavrsna-konferencija-projekta-stemovci-u-borbi-za-spas-planeta-zemlje/>
- **25 January 2024: Stem project in Budinscina**
<https://www.budinscina.hr/2024/01/25/zavrsna-konferencija-projekta-smart-bizz-smart-budinscina-za-zadrugu-i-zajednicu/>
- **8 February 2024: Geothermal Project in Lipik**
<https://compas.com.hr/clanak/9/12595/grad-lipik-korak-blize-iskoristavanju-geotermalne-energije.html>
- **1 April 2024: Icelandic teachers in mobilities in Denmark**
<https://www.vf.is/frettir/samstarf-um-fraedslu--og-kynningarmal-i-reykjanes-jardvangi>
- **12 April 2024: Geothermal Project in Lipik**
<https://www.compas.com.hr/clanak/9/12797/lipik-i-island-zajedno-u-istrazivanju-geotermalnih-potencijala.html>
- **19 June 2024: Geothermal Project in Lipik**
<https://izvori-lipika.hr/en/2024/06/results-better-than-expected/>
- **18 September 2024: UNESCO Schools in Reykjanes**
<https://un.is/2024/09/16-skolar-a-reykjanesi-skrifudu-undir-viljayfirlysingu-um-inngongu-i-unesco-skola-verkefnid-a-islandi/>
- **29 September 2024: UNESCO Schools in Reykjanes**
<https://www.vf.is/frettir/skolar-a-reykjanesi-syna-mikinn-vilja-til-ad-baetast-i-hop-unesco-skola-a-islandi>

International Project Meetings

22 - 23 January (Croatia) - [STEM Projects in Croatia](#)

Sigrún Svafa and Arnbjörn participated in four closing events with our Croatian STEM partners at OŠ Vladimir Nazor Budinščina, Osnovna škola Sibirskih žrtava, OŠ Josipa Kozarca Lipovljani and OŠ "Vladimir Nazor" Đakovo. During the project lifetime GeoCamp Iceland organized and arranged monthly online meetings and workshops with our partner schools in Croatia, aimed to enhance understanding of STEM in education as well as work with pedagogy and educational methods. We arranged four study visits for a total of close to 50 Croatian teachers to Iceland, and took part in similar workshops and meetings, bringing over twenty teachers and experts from Iceland to Croatia in four visits.

18 - 19 April (Cori) - [Green Advisor TPM in Italy](#)

Magdalena and Arnbjörn Iceland participated in the second transnational meeting of the Erasmus+ supported project “Green Advisor” in beautiful and mesmerising Cori, Italy on 18 - 19 April 2024. The meeting was organised and hosted by our Italian partner at Polygonal, and included participants from Spain, Turkey and Finland.



30 April - 1 May (Dublin) - [AURORA TPM in Ireland](#)

Sigrún Svafa and Arnbjörn participated in the first Transnational Partner Meeting (TPM) of the Erasmus+ AURORA project, hosted in Ireland from 30 April to 1 May 2024. This two-day meeting marked an exciting beginning for the project, bringing together partners from across Europe to collaborate on key deliverables that will drive the initiative forward.

29 - 30 May (Leuven) - [Acadimia TPM in Belgium](#)

The second Acadimia Project partners' meeting took place on 29 - 30 May 2024 at the welcoming UCLL campus in Leuven, Belgium. The Acadimia project team, including representatives from GeoCamp Iceland, came together to evaluate the progress of our initiatives aimed at fostering creativity and inclusivity in education. The energy in the room was palpable as partners exchanged ideas and shared best practices, all with the goal of enhancing teacher training across Europe. Sigrún Svafa and Arnbjörn participated in the meeting on behalf of GeoCamp Iceland.

11 - 12 July (Iceland) - [Upcycling TPM in Iceland](#)

Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark and GeoCamp Iceland had the pleasure of hosting the fourth Transnational Partner Meeting for the Erasmus+ Upcycling Project, held in the breathtaking setting of the Reykjanes Peninsula from 11-12 July 2024. Partners from across Europe gathered to discuss progress, share insights, and plan the next phases of our shared mission to promote creative education through upcycling.

24 - 28 June (Iceland) - [First TPM in the Geoschools project](#)

The first transnational meeting and teacher training activity in the GeoSchools project took place in Iceland on 24 - 28 June 2024. The project is an Erasmus+ funded initiative focused on bringing innovative teaching of climate change to schools by integrating geosciences into the curriculum. This collaborative effort involves educational and scientific institutions from Poland, Iceland, Turkey, and Romania, working together to develop and implement new teaching methods and materials. The project aligns with the European Union's policies on education and climate action, aiming to build a sustainable future through education.

22 - 28 September (Iceland) - [AURORA LTTA in Iceland](#)

GeoCamp Iceland hosted the first Learning, Teaching, and Training Activity (LTTA) for the AURORA Erasmus+ project. Participants from across Europe gathered in Iceland's stunning Reykjanes Peninsula to engage in outdoor learning workshops, cultural exchanges, and immersive experiences with the natural environment.



9 - 13 September (Poland) - [Geoschools TPM in Poland](#)

Sigrún Svafa and Arnbjörn participated in the second Geoschool Erasmus+ project meeting, hosted by Szkoła Podstawowa in Barciany, Poland. The meeting brought together students, teachers, and project partners from across Europe to explore how geosciences and climate education can be integrated into school curriculums, while fostering intercultural collaboration.

12 April (Croatia) - [Final event in the EEA supported geothermal project with Municipality of Lipik](#)

The collaboration between GeoCamp Iceland and the municipality of Lipik, Croatia, reached its successful conclusion in 2024, celebrated at a final event in Lipik in April. This two-year partnership, supported by the EEA Financial Mechanism under the “Energy and Climate Change” program, focused on exploring geothermal energy potential and advancing sustainable practices in the region. The project has been hailed as a significant step forward in using geothermal resources for energy and beyond.



9 - 11 October (Iceland) - [Green Advisor TPM in Iceland](#)

GeoCamp Iceland hosted the third transnational meeting (TPM) of the Erasmus+ Green Advisor project, a critical gathering for the project’s partners to advance sustainable practices in project management. The event took place in Iceland, drawing representatives from DomSpain, APS Polygonal, Gazi University, SmartUp, and Olemisen, who joined local representatives to exchange expertise, test tools, and refine methodologies developed over the past year.

21 - 25 October (Florence) - Teacher Training Academy in Italy

GeoCamp Iceland took part in a training event in Florence in October as part of the Acaðimia Project (<https://european-acadimia.eu/>), which included fifty teachers and teacher trainers from eight countries with the objective to explore and practice Creative and Inclusive Learning Methods. Among the large group of teachers and trainers, were three participants from GeoCamp Iceland's as well as teachers from Akurskóli and Gerðaskóli Primary Schools in Reykjanes on behalf of our organisation.

29 October (Reus) - Upcycling final event and meeting in Spain

Arnbjörn participated in the final Transnational Partner Meeting (TPM) for the Upcycling Education project took place in Reus, Spain. Hosted by Open Europe at Espai Boule, the gathering marked a celebratory conclusion to this impactful Erasmus+ initiative, which brought together partners from across Europe, including GeoCamp Iceland. The project aimed to promote sustainable education and practical learning, developing tools that foster eco-awareness and creativity for educators, students, and families.

11 - 15 November (Romania) - Geoschools TPM in Romania

Sigrún Svafa participated in the third Geoschool Erasmus+ project meeting, hosted by the Târgu Jiu Primary School in Romania 11 - 15 October 2024. The meeting brought together students, teachers, and project partners from across Europe to explore innovative ways to integrate geoscience and climate education into school curricula while fostering intercultural collaboration.

GeoCamp Iceland, December 2024

www.geocamp.is

