

# Youth in rural Iceland

Landsbyggðin lifi

Guðrún Gísladóttir

Stockholm 24 Nov. 2016

# Landsbyggðin lifi - LBL

- LBL is a civil organization of people in Iceland who wants to stimulate and strengthen the population throughout the country.
- Volunteering work
- Emphasis is placed on linking people together and helping each other form a strong umbrella
- LBL is part of Hele Norden skal leve -HNSL and European Rural Community Alliance -ERCA

# The beginning of youth work in LBL

- Swedish Rural Parliament 2012
- The message was: Ask what we want!
- How is the situation in Iceland?
- What can LBL do?
- At the following annual meeting it was decided to start work on youth issues

# LBL youth project

- Promote young people's interest in social issues
- Employment, what education is needed
- What kind of living conditions do young people expect and want
- How will they ensure it?
- Young people need to have a voice and the skills to be listened to.

# Ways .....

- We had many ideas ..... but as we did not get any funding we had to come up with something affordable and easy.
- Opposing Force project
- E-mail survey for ERP 2015
- E-mail survey in cooperation with the Research Centre at the University of Akureyri

# Opposing Force project

- Based on a research by Lotta Svensson.
- Funded by the Erasmus+
- Cooperation of:
  - Sweden - Hälsingeutbildnings ekonomiska förening (HUTB) and Hela Sverige ska leva
  - Romania - Soros Educational Centre Foundation
  - Iceland - Landsbyggðin lífi and Nýheimar
  - Ireland - Teachers' Union of Ireland

# Opposing Force project

- **How to combat the on-going drain of young adults from rural areas?**
- The project objective was to develop and implement supportive networks to raise individual and personal competences of young adults to enable them to stay in rural areas.
- A Handbook of Tools and Techniques

# E-mail survey for ERP 2015

- LBL was the Icelandic partner in ERP-2015
- E-mail survey on living conditions in rural Iceland
- LBL took part in a youth workshop at ERP-2015
- The same problems all over Europe
- Young people are ready to live in the rural area if the conditions and basic service is right!



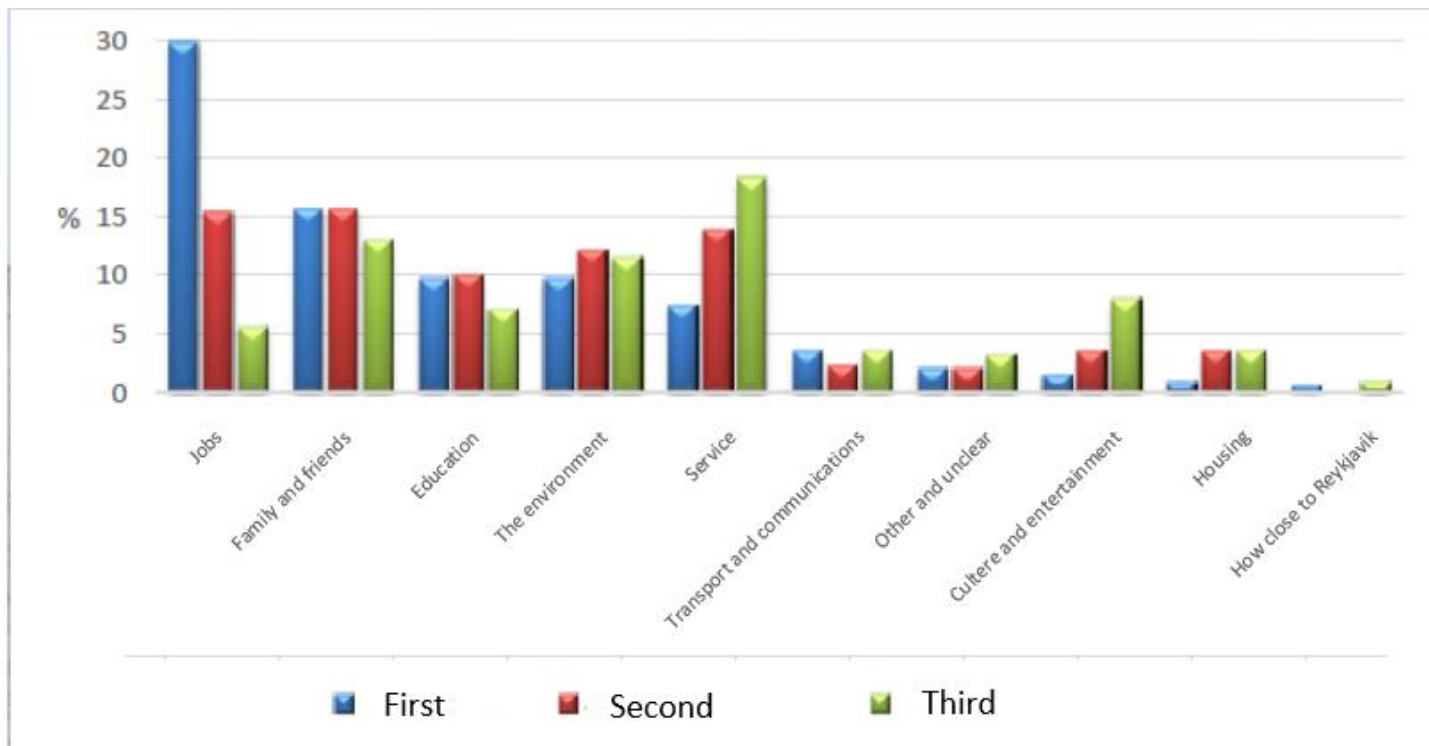
# LBL research with RHA

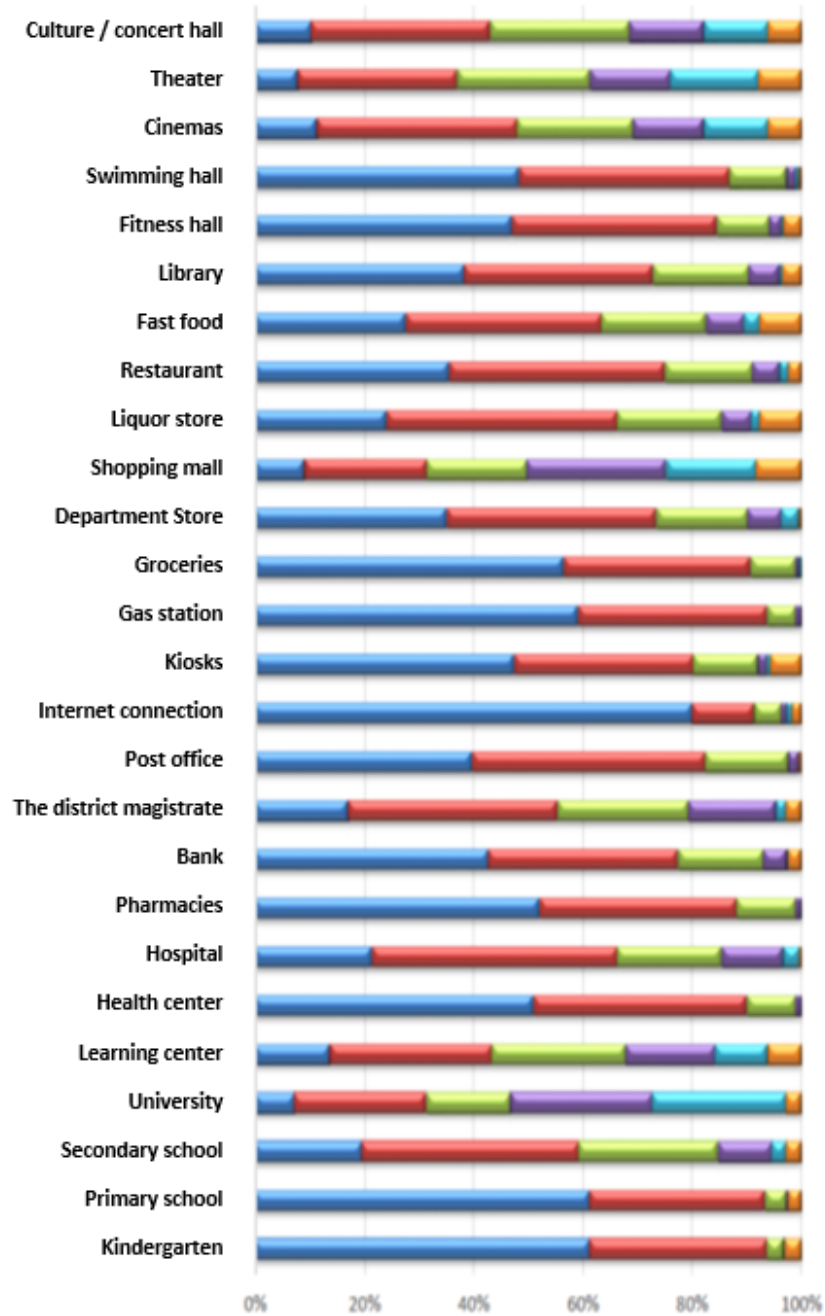
- E-mail survey in cooperation with Research Centre at the University of Akureyri in December 2015
- About youth expectations on living conditions in rural Iceland.
- Addressed to youth 18-35 years old that have lived in rural area at some time in their live.
- Respondents where 338;
  - 69% women,
  - 35% live in the capital today
  - and 40% have a university degree

# The main conclusions of the research with RHA

- Employment appears to be a decisive factor when young adults choose where to live.
- Family and friends also influence where people decide to live
- Considerable demand for good access to services and to have the service near their neighborhood.

# What three things matter most when young adults determine where they want to live?





# What service do you value the most

- 80% Good internet connection / fiber connection
- 63% Primary schools and kindergartens
- 59% Gas station
- 57% Grocery store
- 50% Health center and Pharmacies

# Will young adult move to the rural areas?

If there are jobs and the community has the basic services, young people will stay in the community.

If not they will move to a place that has the jobs and services they need and want!

# Some websites and links

LBL research with RHA

[http://www.rha.is/static/files/Rannsoknir/2015/landsbyggdin\\_lifi\\_buset\\_uskilyrði\\_rha\\_2015-loka.pdf](http://www.rha.is/static/files/Rannsoknir/2015/landsbyggdin_lifi_buset_uskilyrði_rha_2015-loka.pdf)

European Rural Parliament:

- <http://europeanruralparliament.com/>

Opposing Force:

<http://www.halsingeutbildning.se/projekt/opposingforce.4.29cee6fb14939362c92fd3.html>

Thank you