

The first GELYDA conference is just around the corner! Visit Iceland June 11th to 13th. In Iceland, Nature, Education and Youth development will meet next month. A country where there is a long tradition of organized youth and leisure activities, with an emphasis on collaboration for the development and well-being of children and young people. The School of Education – University of Iceland invites us to delve into deep conversations amongst practitioners, academics and public policy actors to continue the creation of spaces for learning and wellbeing for children and youth.

We are getting ready to experience three days of inspiration, innovation, and international collaboration at the 2025 GELYDA Conference — a global gathering focused on extended education and youth development! From June 11–13, the vibrant *Veröld – House of Vigdís* in Reykjavík will come alive with researchers, practitioners, and policymakers committed to shaping the future of learning inside and outside the classroom.

The School of Education – University of Iceland, is hosting the first in person working [GELYDA](#) conference, conducts important research and education for key professionals in school, leisure and extended education activities. The main theme of the conference, *Extended Education, Youth Work, and the Well-being of Children and Young People*, aligns perfectly with recent Icelandic legislation on integrated services for children. This legislation mandates coordination and dialogue between community sectors, institutions, professions, and staff to address urgent challenges in the lives of children and youth. We have already started to see important changes in the way professionals and educators from different sectors purposefully align their efforts to create and support formal and non-formal learning environments for children and young people.

The highlights of the conference will include the keynote of Andreas Schleicher, Director for Education at [OECD](#), who will discuss how in today's world, education is no longer just about teaching students something, but about helping them develop a reliable compass and the tools to navigate with confidence through an increasingly complex, volatile and uncertain world. The program is diverse, and participants can choose between an array of seminars, symposium and workshops hosted by experts from around the global that center for example on research on the quality in extended education, policy and professional development, research methods in extended education and future competences.

You will be able to participate in interactive workshops on diverse themes, such as out-door education which is an exciting and growing space of learning here in Iceland. As well as workshops with leading experts on how to design engaging learning environments and support the evolving workforce in extended education.

Join us in the land of fire and ice, where nature and education meet in perfect harmony.

Registration is open on the conference [website](#) – further information reach out to us: gelyda2025@hi.is

Kolbrún Pálsdóttir

Chair of GELYDA conference committee.