

## Preliminary Report – Mapping and evaluating the tree planting projects of the Icelandic Youth Associations that started at the beginning of the 20th century – Sigríður Hrefna Pálsdóttir

**Background:** Tree planting projects of the Icelandic Youth Associations which started at the beginning of the 20th century were a big part of the start of planned forestry in Iceland. This part of the history of forestry in Iceland is important and it is the aim of my thesis to collect information about the wood parties that still exist, evaluate them and categorize. The categorization will be valuable to the Youth Association of Iceland today, as it will help in making decisions about each of these parties; e.g. whether or not to promote them in connection to the Youth Associations' ongoing hiking-map project and making them more accessible for the public.

**Preparations:** In 1992 a great job was done to find these planting projects. The result was a list of 112 plots all over Iceland. This list was the base for my project, but accurate description of location is still lacking for many of the plots. To prepare my work I localized as many plots as I can with the help of areal photos on Google map and other Icelandic web services and marked the places on a digital map which guided me when I was on the road.

**Field work 2016:** The NordGen grant was essential to cover parts of the travel costs in relation to the field inventory of the existing Youth Associations' forest plots. Last summer (2016) I mainly travelled in the south regions of Iceland where most of the plots are located (see Figs. 1 and 2). All the plots I found were registered with GPS and inventoried according to certain criteria. This summer (2017) I will visit the remaining plots and finish gathering data. The final report (BSc thesis) with the final data and GIS analysis will be published in May 2018.



Figure 1. About 1 ha plot in Árnassýsla county at Stóri-Núpur. Planted 1952-1977.



Figure 2. A plot in Kjósársýsla county at the community center Félagsgarður. First trees planted 1948.