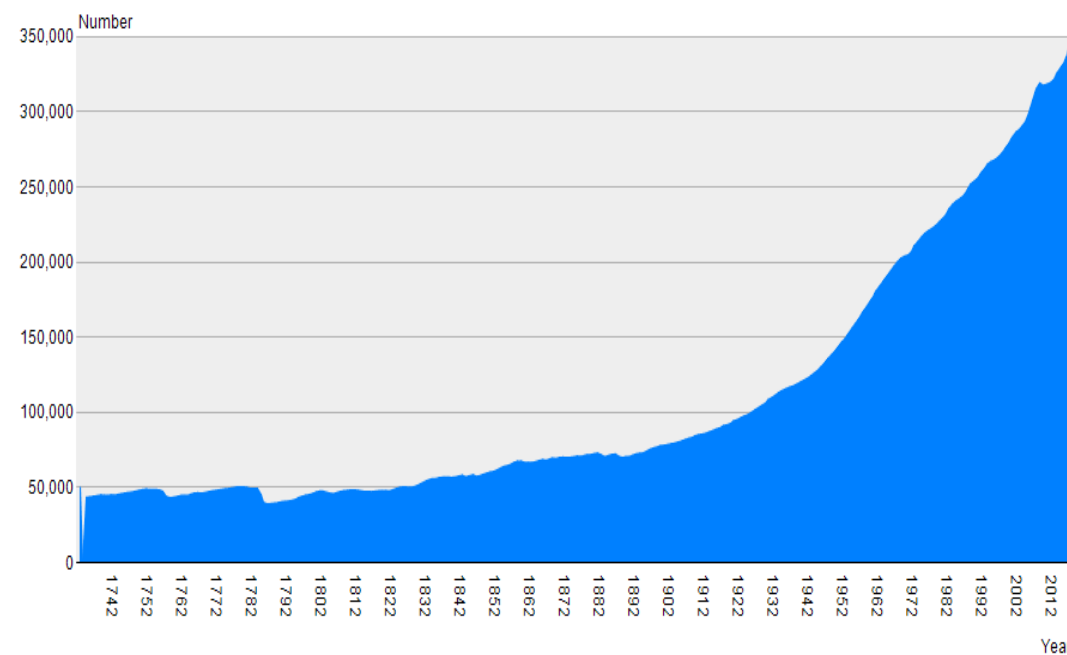


Iceland

# Fixed size

- Population: 348,000 (2018)
  - Estimated population in 2067: 365,000-513,000.

Population - key figures 1703-2018



# Fixed size

- Very low numbers of immigration to Iceland prior to the 1990s (primarily Danish immigrants)
- Approximately one in ten inhabitants are currently foreign-born
  - Estimated to increase to 15% by 2030
- A large share of Icelanders live abroad (ca 12% in 2016)

# Fixed size

- Land territory: 103,000 km<sup>2</sup>
- Territorial waters: 758,000 km<sup>2</sup>

# Sovereignty size

- Settlement of Iceland: 874-930
- Icelandic Commonwealth: 930-1262
  - Iceland as an “independent” “state”
- Iceland under Norwegian rule: 1262-1380
- Iceland under Danish rule: 1380-1918
  - Home rule: 1904
- Act of Union (1918): Iceland becomes an independent and sovereign state
  - Freely associated to Denmark in a personal union with the Danish king
- Founding of the Icelandic Republic: 1944
  - Termination of the personal union with the Danish king

# Sovereignty size

- Membership of the League of Nations considered and rejected
  - Too costly for Iceland to maintain a diplomatic mission
- Extensive Nordic cooperation from the early 20th century onwards
  - Nordic Council created in 1952 (Iceland was a founding member)
- UN accession: 1946
- NATO membership: 1949
  - Bilateral defense treaty with the United States: 1951
- Participation in the European project:
  - EFTA accession: 1970
  - EEA accession: 1994
  - Schengen accession: 2001
  - EU application in 2009, negotiations put on hold in 2013

# Political size

- Parliamentary democracy
- The Prime Minister (current: Katrín Jakobsdóttir) is head of government
- The President (current: Guðni Th. Jóhannesson) is head of state
  - Plays a role in the formation of governments
  - Can refuse to sign legislation, thus putting it up for a referendum

# Political size

- Traditionally a four-party system (same four parties won more than 90% of the vote)
  - Independence Party – liberal-conservative
  - Progressive Party – center-right agrarian
  - Social Democrats (currently, the Social Democratic Party)
  - Socialists (currently, the Left-Green movement)
- The party system gradually fragmented after the 2008 Financial Crisis
  - The “traditional” four parties only received ca 65% of the vote in the 2017 election.
- A fragmented left and a united right
  - The largest party in Icelandic politics has traditionally been the Independence Party



# Political size

- Homogenous society
- Unstable and adversarial politics
  - Both historically and after the 2008 Financial Crisis
  - More so than the other Nordic countries
- Frequent labor strikes and disputes
  - More so than the other Nordic countries

# Political size

- No military expenditures
  - NATO membership
- Divisive foreign policy issues:
  - NATO membership
  - EU membership

# Political size

- 26 diplomatic missions in 21 countries

# Political size



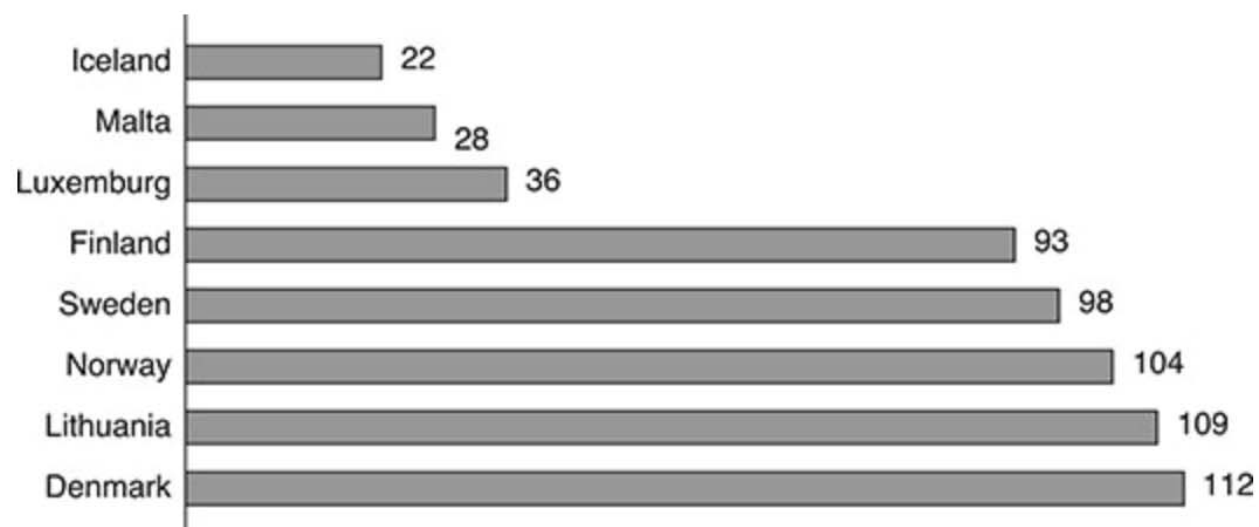
*Figure 4.2* Location of Icelandic embassies/missions abroad, 1952.

# Political size



*Figure 4.3* Location of Icelandic embassies/missions abroad, 2018.

# Political size



*Figure 4.5* Number of embassies/missions abroad of the Nordic states, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Malta, 2013.

# Political size

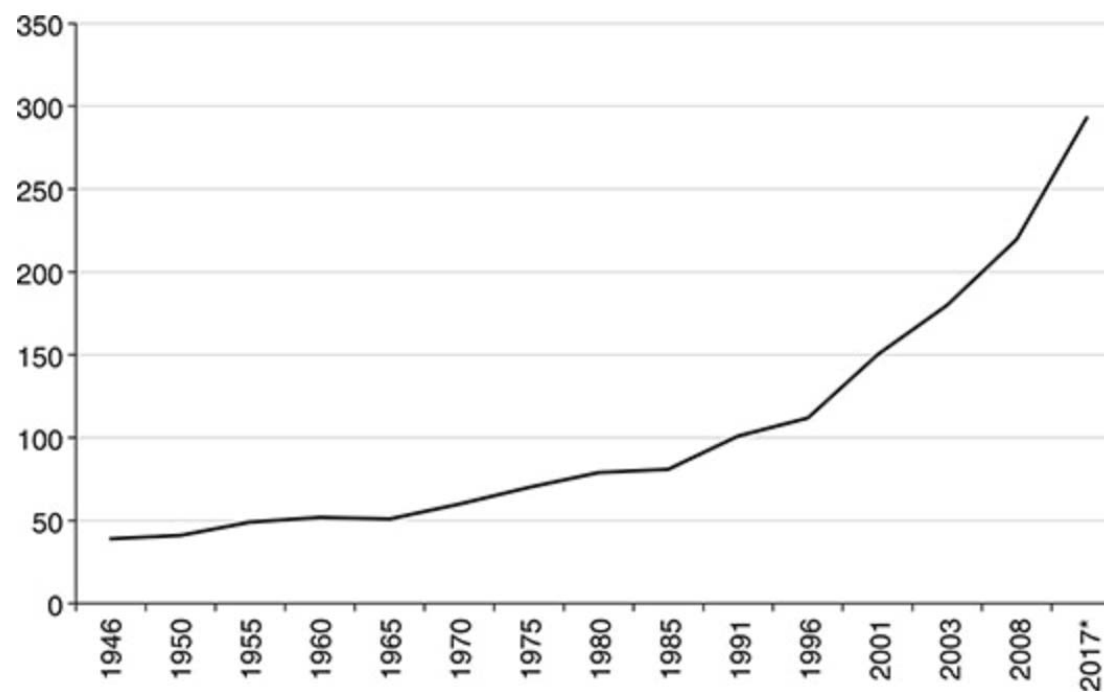


Figure 4.4 Number of Icelandic foreign service personnel, 1945–2017.

# Political size

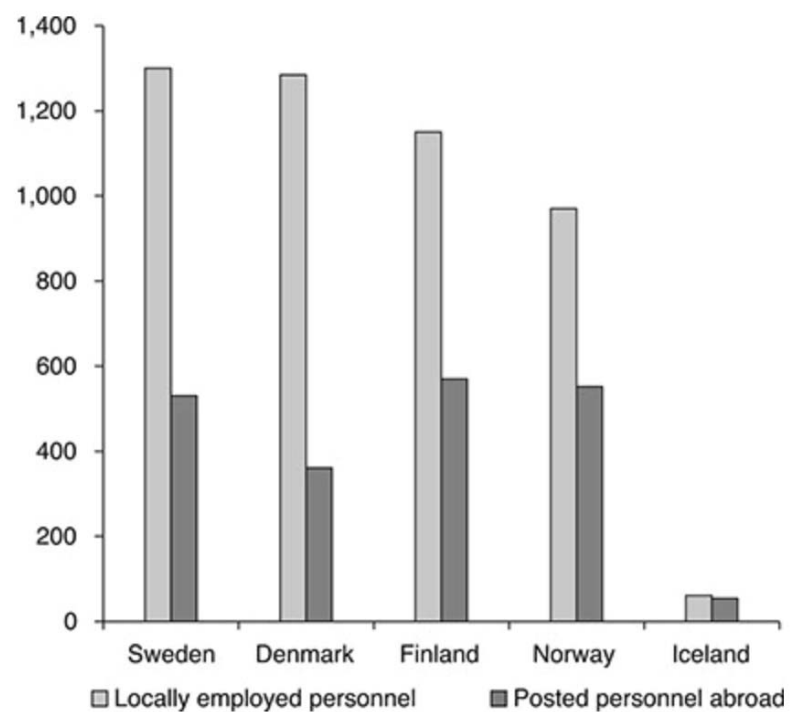


Figure 4.6 Number of personnel in the embassies/missions abroad of the Nordic states, 2013.



# Political size

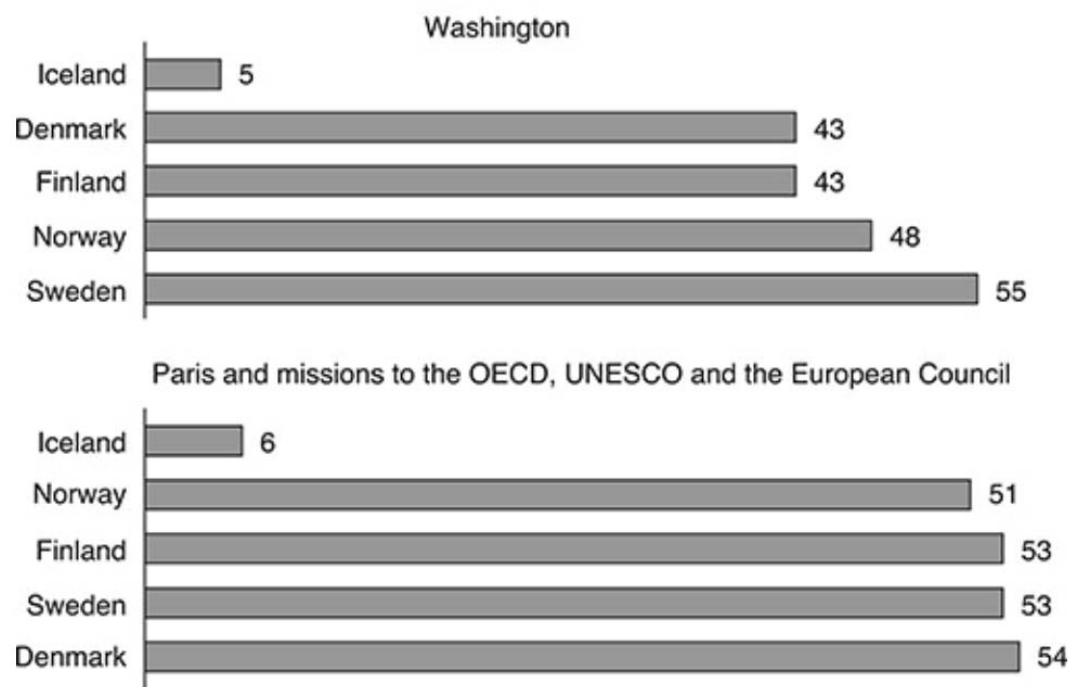


Figure 4.7 Number of personnel in the embassies/missions abroad of the Nordic states, 2015.

# Economic size

- One of Europe's poorest countries at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Currently, one of the world's wealthiest
- Volatile economy
  - Historically, the economy was tied to the fishing sector
  - Vulnerability to international economic fluctuations
  - Limited sectoral diversity
- Collapse of the entire banking system in 2008
  - Rapid recovery
- Economy is currently booming
  - Signs that the economy is cooling
  - Problem of limited sectoral diversity

# Economic size

- Currency: The Icelandic króna (ISK)
  - Iceland is the smallest country to have its own independent currency and monetary policy
  - Volatile
- Debate on EU membership focuses in part on the pros and cons of adopting the euro

# Perceptual size

- Dual perception of weakness and superiority:
  - Perception of being small and inconsequential
  - Perception that Iceland is unable to have an influence on international outcomes
  - Perception of bullying and betrayal by other states and organizations
  - ... but also
  - Perception that Iceland punches above its weight
  - Perception of superiority and ingenuity
    - “Viking” discourse

# Preference size

- Limited ambitions during the Cold War
  - Limited and passive involvement in international organizations
- Reliance on bilateral relations with the United States
- Greater ambitions and more activity at the international level after the end of the Cold War

# Preference size

- A tendency to focus on bilateral ties rather than multilateral frameworks
  - Perhaps a consequence of Iceland's reliance on bilateral ties with the U.S. during the Cold War
  - Perhaps a consequence of Iceland's success in the Cod Wars

# About the Institute of International Affairs

- The Institute was founded in 1990 at the University of Iceland
- Housed within the School of Social Sciences and with strong ties to the School of Humanities
- Aims to provide education, promote research, and carry out service projects in the International Relations field
- Projects include research, publishing books and papers, and hosting conferences and lectures related to international affairs
- Contains the Centre for Small State Studies, Centre for Arctic Policy Studies, and Höfði Reykjavik Peace Centre
- Cooperates with the Icelandic Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the city of Reykjavik, and the Prime Minister's Office, to name but a few

# About the Centre for Small State Studies

- Aims to encourage research and education on the subject of small states
- Created as part of the Institute for International Affairs in 2001
- In 2013, the Centre was awarded a prestigious Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence grant
- Has run a summer school on Small States and European Integration since 2003. The course is open to Icelandic and International students
- Publishes policy briefs and academic publications and hosts a number of seminars and conferences on small states



# Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership

- Focuses on small states studies as well as how small state studies can be combined with other disciplines
- Four TRT's (Teaching and Research Themes) - Foreign Policy and Economic Security, Addressing the Migration Crisis, International Law, Challenges of Good Governance
- Brings students together from various disciplines including political science, law, policy, economics, and history
- Learning outcomes include learning the challenges and opportunities of European small states and how these states take advantage of these opportunities, looking at case studies, and the ability to critically reflect on these challenges and how small states respond to them

# Small States in Europe: Towards a Cross-Disciplinary Approach

- Objectives: To create a pan-European consortium of experts in small state studies that will train teachers and researchers from many disciplines to apply insights from small state studies to their research
- Project Outputs: To develop four new curricula based on the TRT's
- Small States: Foreign Policy and Economic Security - Copenhagen and Vilnius
- Small States Addressing the Migration Crisis - Malta, Lund and Slovakia
- Small States in International Law - Queen Mary University of London and St. Andrews
- Small States and the Challenges of Good Governance - Tallinn and Lubljana

# Jean Monnet Networks - Navigating the Storm

- Objectives: To examine the 'coping strategies' of small states in the current political turmoil, to expand the current network of European HEI's focused on small state studies, to facilitate development of teaching small state studies, to raise awareness and influence policy on the challenges of small states in Europe
- The University of Iceland leads the project in collaboration with the University of Copenhagen, Vilnius University, Tallinn University of Technology, the University of St Andrews, the University of Malta, Lund University, the University of Zagreb, the University of the Aegean in Rhodes and the University of Ljubljana
- This project includes a book publication, 4 peer reviewed papers, an international conference, 4 workshops, roundtables, policy briefs, and an open seminar in Brussels to conclude

# Jean Monnet Networks - Navigating the Storm

## Research Clusters

- Small States and the Changing Security Environment in Europe: The Return of Great Power Politics- Iceland and Lithuania
- Small States and the Current Political Turmoil Related to Immigration: Migration, Security, and Populist Extremism – Malta, Denmark, and Greece
- Small States and Open Borders: The Effects of Limitations on Human Mobility on Small States within the EU - Sweden and Croatia
- Small States and Good Governance: The Role of Public Administration in Tackling Contemporary Policy Challenges – Estonia and Slovenia

# Jean Monnet Projects- Post Brexit Europe

- Jean Monnet Activity funded by the EU's Erasmus+ programme
- Led by the Institute for International Affairs at the University of Iceland and the Centre for Small State Studies, and in close collaboration with the University of Cambridge, the Liechtenstein Institute and the Arena Centre for European Studies in Oslo
- The project aims to make a timely contribution to this debate drawing on the relevant experience of Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway; and their relations with the EU through the European Economic Area
- A two year project that includes workshops in Oslo, Liechtenstein and Cambridge
- The project aims to publish an edited book based on the work carried out in the project

# SSANSE Project- Small States and the New Security Environment

- A preparedness initiative examining the defence and foreign policy choices and challenges of small states in NATO and its partner states
- Aims to help enhance awareness of security development through early warning, with a view to prevent crises in NATO and its partner states
- The four co-directors lead research groups on the foreign and defence policies of the small states of NATO, Eastern Europe, MENA, and Oceania.
- Outputs include scholarly papers, public and closed presentations, policy briefs, and theses – policy briefs easily accessible on our website
- Will make a contribution to understanding the place of small states in the current global environment and contributing to NATO preparedness to respond to new security challenges

# Where to find more information...

- <http://ams.hi.is/en/>
- <http://ams.hi.is/en/research-institutes/csss/>
- <http://ams.hi.is/en/utgafa/publications-by-the-centre-for-small-state-studies/>
- <http://ams.hi.is/en/research-institutes/caps/>
- <https://www.fridarsetur.is/en/>