The Icelandic Startup Checklist

7 Steps to Launch Your Business with Confidence

(From Nordic Entrepreneur)

# 👋 Introduction

Starting a business in Iceland is exciting — but it’s easy to feel overwhelmed by forms, rules, and local systems. That’s why we created this practical, no-fluff checklist to guide you step-by-step from idea to legal launch.  
  
Whether you’re an Icelandic citizen, resident, or newcomer, these 7 steps will help you start smart and avoid common mistakes.

## 1. Choose the Right Legal Structure

- Most new businesses choose einkahlutafélag (ehf) — a private limited company.  
- You can also register as self-employed if you're starting small.  
- Compare liability, taxation, and capital requirements.  
  
🛠 Company structure guide: skatturinn.is

## 2. Register Your Business

- Go to the Company Register (rsk.is) and submit your business info.  
- Choose a name, upload your documents, and get a kennitala (ID number) for your business.  
- Processing usually takes 2–5 business days.  
  
🗂 Tip: Prepare all documents before starting to avoid delays.

## 3. Set Up a Business Bank Account

- Once registered, you’ll receive documents to open an account.  
- Icelandic banks like Arion, Landsbankinn, and Íslandsbanki offer business services.  
  
💡 This is required before invoicing, paying taxes, or applying for grants.

## 4. Register for VAT (if needed)

- You must register for VSK (VAT) once your turnover exceeds 2,000,000 ISK in 12 months.  
- Apply through Skatturinn and understand how VAT collection works.  
  
💰 Keep VAT funds separate in your bank to avoid tax surprises later.

## 5. Build a Basic Brand + Website

- Choose a name, logo, and message.  
- Use Webador, WordPress, or similar tools to build a professional website.  
- Add your business address, services, and contact details clearly.  
  
🌍 Bonus: Add your business to Google Maps via Google Business Profile.

## 6. Learn the Basics of Accounting

- You can handle basics yourself or hire a bookkeeper.  
- Track all income, expenses, invoices, and receipts — even for small projects.  
- Consider using tools like Klippa, DK, or Excel.  
  
📊 Tip: Learn Icelandic accounting terms early — they’ll appear in official documents.

## 7. Start Selling — But Keep It Simple

- Don’t wait until it’s “perfect.” Sell your service or product to 1–3 people to test it.  
- Ask for feedback and improve.  
- Then: launch wider using social media, email, and partnerships.  
  
🧠 Bonus: Track your progress and revisit your goals monthly.

# 🎓 Want More Support?

The Nordic Entrepreneur Course is made for people just like you.  
We guide you through every step — with real examples, Icelandic context, and templates to save time.  
  
→ Learn more at www.nordicentrepreneur.net