

- **Describe briefly the historical circumstances of the creation of this community in your country**

Most Thais who came to Iceland search for gaining better economic and quality life. Many of them decided to reside permanently here because of employment, family, relationship and marriage ties. In the year 2006, Iceland prioritized employing people coming from European Union resulting in difficulties for the Asian group to bring their family, relatives, and friends to live with them. Some Thais who came alone, working in Iceland have to wait to acquire Icelandic citizenship in order to bring their spouse and children left at their home country to settle with them.

- **Describe the current status of the community in your country**

In 2019, the recorded Thai population in Iceland is 1,375, on which 1,018 of the group are females. Many of them live in the capital area or in the southern region, while others live all over the country. Thai people commonly work at fish factories, industries, kitchens, restaurants and cleaning services. Others like to work in shops or as healthcare providers involving them to speak Icelandic. Some Thai women who have a degree in their home country prefer to work as factory workers due to a better salary compared to their homeland. Thais in Iceland connect to their countrymen in small or big groups and follow Thai news and social media. Most Thai women with family are satisfied living in Iceland. They feel a low level of stress, and they consider Iceland a safe and good place to live.

- **Define cultural specifics of dealing with community members (in general)**

Thais are known for their smiles, hospitality, industriousness and food. Family is an important factor for Thai people. An extended family living under one roof is common for Thai communities. They are friendly, polite, and they like to laugh and joke around. Some of them can be loud in a happy way, while others are not shy to express their anger. Thais practice Buddhism and Thai monks sometimes travel to Iceland to hold ceremonies for the group. Thai communities in Iceland maintain two important celebrations; the birthday of their King and Thailand's National Children's Day.

- **Define cultural specifics in the provision of health care to community members (with an emphasis on women)**

A study in 2010\* suggested that there is a necessity to promote health literacy for Asian women. In order for them to be familiar with the health system, to know their rights and their children, in addition to the need to improve interpreting services in the country. Most Thai (especially the older ones) are shy in discussing their health issues to health professionals and are timid to perform tests that involve bodily

exposures. The language barrier can sometimes add the pressure in meeting a doctor, to the extent that they try to use over the counter remedies, herbal medicines or worse, to prolong or neglect their health problems.

\*Reference: Chompoopetch, W. (2010). Íslenska sem annað mál fyrir Taílandinga Könnun á stöðu þeirra og viðhorfum til íslensku. Háskóli Íslands: Hugvísindasvið.

- **Determine the migrant language's specificities compared to the host country language**

Thai language is sometimes referred to as Siamese. The spoken language originated in the area of the border of Vietnam and China. Thai writing was based on Pali, Sanskrit, and Indian concepts, and some Mon Khmer words. There are four major dialects within Thailand corresponding to southern, northern, north-eastern and central regions of the country. Central Thai or Bangkok Thais is taught in schools and is widely used. Thai language is tonal (like Chinese but unlike English) which have five tones called mid, low, high, rising and falling. Each word has a certain pitch characteristic that should be spoken clearly to be properly understood. The grammar of Thai language is much simpler than ones in Western languages. Most words are not modified or conjugated for tenses, plurals, genders, or subject-verb agreement. A language very distinct to the Icelandic language.

