

***Proposal for a paper at the XIV Nordic Social- and Labour History Conference in Reykjavík,  
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In my paper I will discuss the history of the Icelandic Confederation of Labour, the Icelandic LO, ASÍ, which was founded in 1916. From 2008-2012 I wrote the history of the confederation, *Saga Alþýðusambands Íslands*, which was published in two volumes 2013.

In the paper I will briefly give an overview on the history of this most important labour organization in Iceland but first and foremost I will discuss the differences between the Icelandic labour movement, primarily the Icelandic LO, and the movement in the Scandinavian countries.

This regards matters as: 1) The construction of the confederation. The movement in Iceland was more de-centralized than in the neighbouring countries; 2) The political situation in Iceland; Social-democrats were proportionally weak in Iceland, compared with Scandinavia. After 1940 there were no formal ties between the Icelandic Confederation of Labour and the Social Democratic Party; on the other hand the communists and the right-wing Independent Party were proportionally strong in the labour movement. 3) The core of the labour movement in Iceland was unskilled labourers and fishermen until the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. 4) Women were mostly organized in their own unions until the 1990's and the women rights association influenced the women's unions. 5) Most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the economy was very unstable. It had great influence on the labour movement and her tactics. Strikes were thus much more common in Iceland than in the neighbouring countries: 6) Understanding and support for social solutions was less in Iceland than in the other Nordic countries.

In my paper I will discuss these matter and explain why the development was different in Iceland compared with most other Nordic countries.