

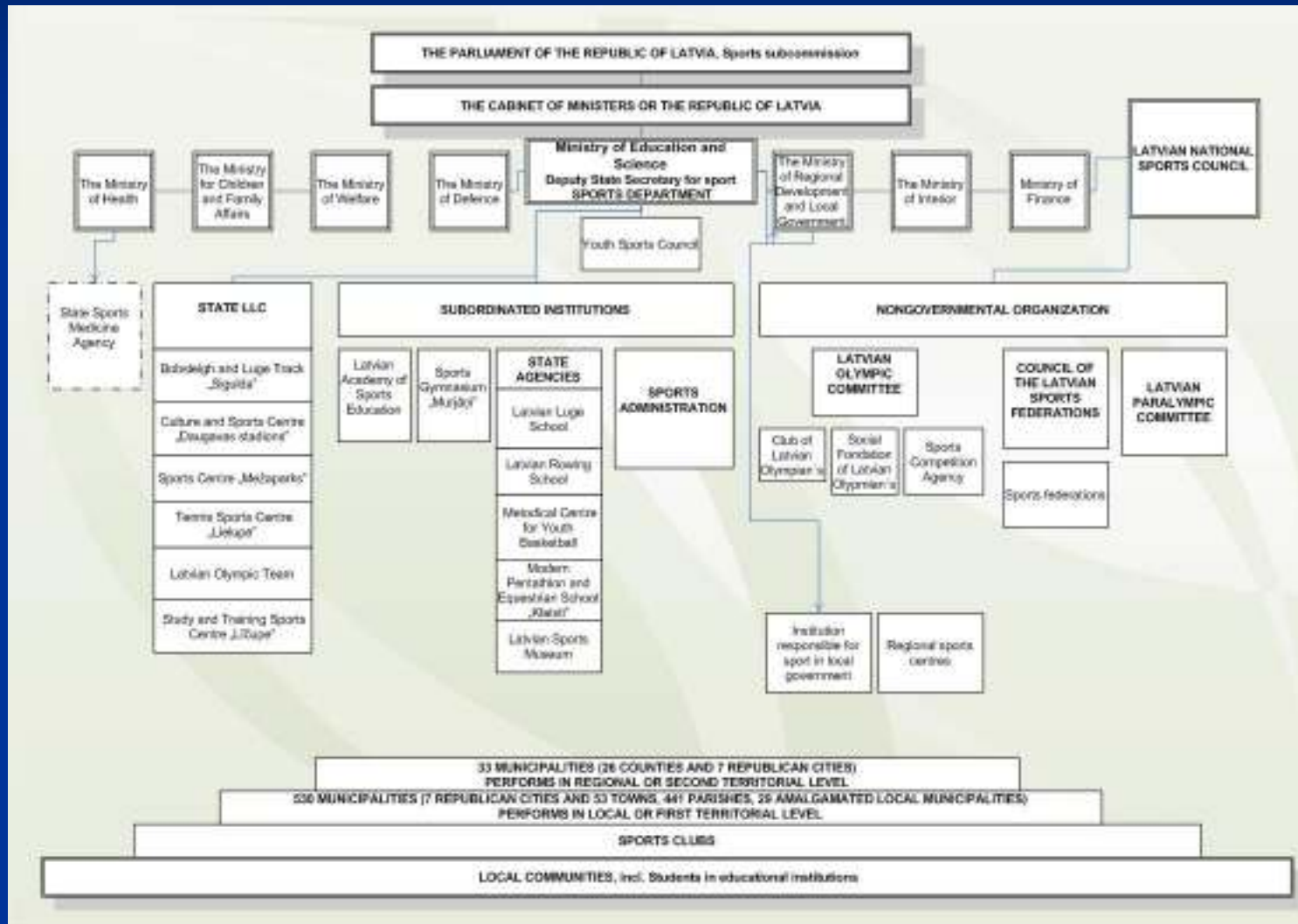
LATVIJAS  
REPUBLIKA



IZGLĪTĪBAS  
UN  
ZINĀTNES  
MINISTRIJA

# Youth Sports Policy in Latvia

# Structure of Sports Institutions and Organizations in Latvia



- Sports subcommission of the Parliament (Saeima) of the Republic of Latvia
- The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia
- Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia
- Latvian National Sports Council

# Documents of Sports Policy in Latvia



- Sports Law (28.11.2002) – the purpose of this Law is to determine the basis of sports organization and development
- Sport Policy Guidelines for 2004-2009 determine sports policy for five years
- National Sport Development Program (NSDP) for 2006-2012 determines the course of sports development for the further six years. Goals and expected outcomes of NSDP complies with priorities set by European Sports Charter.
- The priority determined by NSDP – children and youth sport
- NSDP – continuation of coming ideas and beginning of many new projects

# Latvia within the European Union

- Since May 1, 2004 Latvia is a full-fledged member of the European Union, taking part in the process of preparation and adoption of EU legal acts.
- Latvia has actively participated in the elaboration of the White Paper in Sport, endorsed by The European Commission on July 11, 2007
- Among the Baltic States Latvia was the first to join the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)
- As active EU member-country, Latvia organized a Summit of North European sports ministers, in which the decision was made to organize North European Children and Youth Sports Festival, which took place in Vilnius, Lithuania, this year
- This year the General Assembly of European Olympic Committees took place in Latvia
- To stimulate the development of youth sports, Latvia stood as a candidate for hosting European Youth Olympic Games

# Formal Education

## School Subject “Sport”



- New standard of school subject “Sport”;
- Pillars of the school subject “Sport”:
  - knowledge and comprehension about sports;
  - basic skills in sports drills;
  - development of physical skills as a prerequisite for strengthening and improving health;
  - Basic skills necessary for wholesome social and private life.

# Sports Inventory Acquisition Aid Program



- The objective of the tender was to support municipality projects contributing to the harmonious development of both physical and intellectual personality, thus ensuring full implementation of the content of the school subject “Sport”
- Within the framework of this program 151 projects received endorsements exceeding 700.000 EUR

# Availability of Gym-halls at Educational Institutions

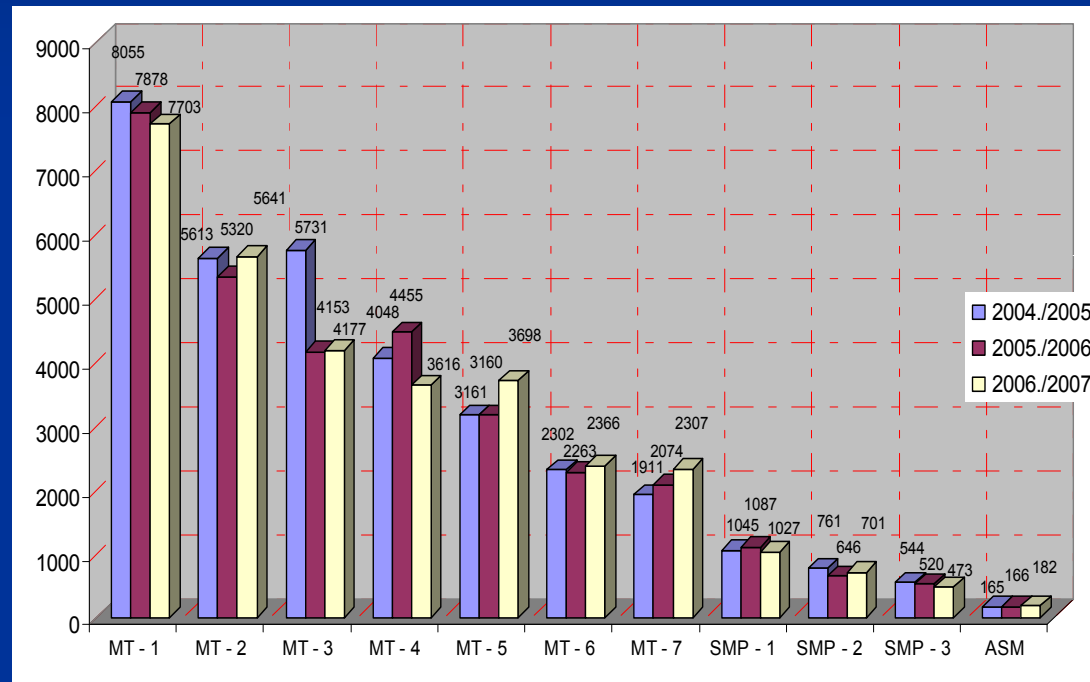
- State Investment Program – construction of school gym-halls
- Period of 2000. – 2007. 76 new sports gym-halls, 71 fully renovated gym-halls
- July 2007 – international seminar “Sports bases in Latvia – planning, construction quality and security requirements”





# Professionally Orientated Sports Education Program

Number of trainees in educational training groups



Total – 35687 children

# Informal Education

## Education of interests

- Develops abilities and talents of children and youth
- Practically not included in the system of competition;

Total- 35453 children

## Volunteer Program

- Volunteer seminars have taken place in 12 regions and cities of Latvia;
- More than 350 schoolchildren between ages 14-16 have participated in seminars
- Almost all Latvia's 33 regions and large cities have held Regional Olympic Days, involving young volunteers as organizers and aides;
- Latvian Youth Olympiad in Ventspils (10–13 My, 2007) attracted 60 young volunteer aides from all regions and cities of Latviakā.





## Dreams and Teams

- A Project of informal education *Dreams and Teams* is being conducted in association with the British Council. Its objective is to develop leadership skills in schoolchildren.
- Young Leaders organize and conduct sports festivals for hundreds of local youth. By running these events, Young Leaders are challenged to:
  - demonstrate leadership
  - be active citizens in their community
  - value and promote cross-cultural understanding



# Enhancing Healthy Lifestyle

- Some of the projects implemented by Ministry of Education and Science in association with Non-governmental Organisations:
  - Latvian Youth Olympiad
  - ZZ Championship
  - Be Active
  - The Sportiest Class
  - Availability of Sports Bases to the group of population subject to the risk of social repudiation
  - Posture Teaching
  - Project “Footprints”
  - Annual Sports Prize
  - Etc.



## Latvian Youth Olympiad

- The largest integrated youth sports event
- Winter and Summer Youth Olympiade
- 2007 Summer Olympiad – 2209 participants
- 90 best to participate in YOF in Belgrade







# Sports in schools

## ZZ Championship

- Objective – to ensure the participation of the whole class.
- no backstanders
- synergy of physical and intellectual abilities





## The Sportiest Class



- Evaluation of overall class participation in sports activities – participating, organising and showing support;
- Within the framework of the project classes were conducted by popular athletes in Latvia;
- Students received information about sports clubs and institutions.







## Be Active

- Makes sports classes more attractive
- Maintains student's interest about individual growth during the year
- Urges to follow sports activities;
- Involves parents;
- Builds responsibility triangle students-teachers-parents;
- Result – possible proposals for changes in the content of the school subject Sport.





# Posture Teaching

Last school year the Club of Latvian Olympians initiated a special – educational program for teachers in posture teaching “Practical use of posture teaching during classes in the first three grades”, which engaged teachers from 22 schools of Latvia.

For the practical use of posture teaching during classes under the guidance of class teacher the following demands were put forth:

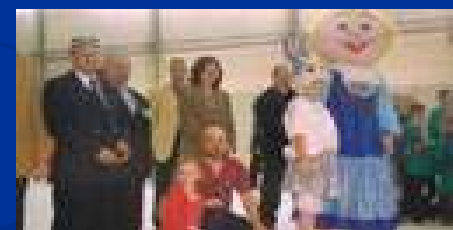
- More than 85% of primary school students were diagnosed with posture problems;
- Education of all-round subject teachers;
- In 2006 participants from 22 schools;
- In 2007 participants from 50 schools;
- Ultimate diagnostics with regular monitoring and measurements;
- Movement exercise intermissions during the class (breathing, blood circulation, posture);
- Possible proposals for the organisation of teaching process in the primary classes.



# Integration of Society

## Minority nationalities

- Children's and Youth Festival of Minority Nationalities of Latvia;
- 18 years experience;
- Approx. 800 participants;





## Wheel Basketball

- Joint project of Ministry of Education and Science – the British Council – the Embassy of Great Britain
- Objective of the project – to encourage children and youth with disabilities to join physical activities
  - camp;
  - referee workshop;
  - state competition Latvia vs. Great Britain



Finals in Arena Riga



## Support for social risk groups

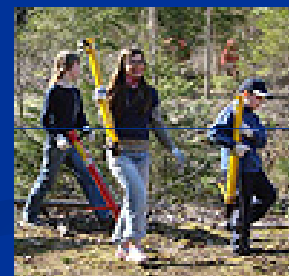
- NSDP – new opportunities
- Children from the families with limited resources involved in sports
- Sports centres offers creative ideas
- Children remains in sport





## Project FOOTPRINTS

- Project of environmental education
- Clean-up turned into competition
- Participation of elite athletes





# National Sports Awards

- Annual national Sports Awards Ceremony
- Live on National Television
- High awareness of society;
- Among 13 nominations – TEACHER OF THE YEAR;
- Winner of the year 2005 works in the school for children with mental disabilities.







# Youth sports organizations. Coordination of operations.



# Youth Sports Council

- According to European Sports Charter Article 3 “...essential is to ensure establishment of machinery for the development and co-ordination of sport”.
  - Consulting council,
  - Proposals for sport policy makers;
  - Budgeting proposals;
  - Coordination of competition schedules and activities.
- 
- Meetings – twice a month



# Latvian School Sports federation



- Organizes and coordinates competition within schools;
- NSDP – new opportunities;
- Additional funding to improve capacity of federation;
- Summer seminars for teachers;
- Trend – more non-competitive activities;





The finals of school competition in volleyball.

1140 participants. Competitions held on 12 courts simultaneously.



# Medical care







- Co-operation with Sports Medicine State Agency
- Control and Monitoring of children involved in Professionally oriented sports education programmes
  - Preventive medical examinations;
  - Additional preventive medical examinations;
  - Annual medical examinations;
  - Observations;
  - Medical care and rehabilitation.

- NSDP – new opportunities
- Over 700 000 EUR distributed to municipalities and sport federations to ensure:
  - children monitoring at their place of residence;
  - improved monitoring during youth sport events.
- Early professional orientation:
  - early success;
  - burning out;
  - long-lasting sport activities;
  - additional researches to be done.

# Youth Sports Competition

- Funding for over 70 sports federations and especially, their activities in the field of youth sport.
- Funding and other support for the youth events organised in Latvia by sports federations:
  - European Championship in Volleyball U-18 (2006)
  - World Championship in ice-hockey (U-18) (2006)
  - European Championship in floor ball (U-18) (2006)
  
  - European championship in basketball U-16 (2007.)
  - World championship in ice-hockey U-20 (2007.)

# Sports for disabled children

- Support for activities of disabled
- Since 2000 Latvia Academy of Sports education offers special educational course ADAPTED SPORTS EDUCATION (mandatory for those studying coaching, teaching, sports managing, physiotherapeutic treatment).
- Support for Special Olympics (mental disability) activities in Latvia. Majority of new sport facilities in Latvia are accessible for disabled





# Students sports

- Students sport in Latvia is coordinated and overlooked by the Sports Union of Latvian Higher Education Institutions (SULHEI)
  - annual students competitions;
  - participation in international students sport events;
- SELL games in 2005 organized in Latvia by the SULHEI (participants from Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, Portugal)
- New NSAP initiative – special grants for the most talented students in sports.

# Continuing education

- Latvia Center of Coaches Continuing education (LCCCE) – opportunity for coaches self development
- Coaching certificate needed to run the children sport activities.
- Certification organized by Council of Latvian Sport Federations.

# Future challenges children and youth sports in Latvia



- Implement National Sport Development Programme 2006-2012, providing sufficient financial resources for the implementation of the Programme and the individual sections thereof
- Work out precisely defined action plans corresponding to priority action directions for all bodies involved in the implementation of the National Sport Development Programme 2006-2012
- Work out and adopt the Physical Education Law, in order to straighten physical education system (pyramid principle) in Latvia
- Continue develop of appropriate links between schools or other educational establishments, school sports clubs and local sports clubs
- Improve system for children and youth sports financing, implementing financing system on principle – “money follows after student”
- Strengthen cooperation with Ministry of Health, set up the common action plan to fight obesity, overweight and ensure children involvement in physical activities