



LATVIAN ACADEMY OF SPORT EDUCATION

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY

2015-2020

Introduction

Latvian Academy of Sport Education (LASE) is an academic and professional state higher education and research institution. Its main objective is to provide students with the opportunity to obtain higher academic and higher vocational education and preparedness, develop sport science and research in health care and sports, foster culture in order to preserve necessary intellectual and physical potential of the Latvian Republic (LR), promoting and ensuring nation

harmonious development. LASE is the only higher education institution in the field of sport in the country, which guarantees the unity of studies and scientific research in sport science and health care in sport in accordance with the "Latvian National Development Plan 2014 - 2020", "Science, Technology Development and Innovation guidelines 2014-2020", "Smart specialization strategies 2014- 2020", " Guidelines for the Development of Education 2014-2020" and "Sports Policy Guidelines 2013-2020" in order to enable students to obtain academic and scientific degrees, professional qualifications and promote innovation in sports science and health care in sport. LASE as a scientific institution on 9 May 2006 was established in the register of research institutes with No. 172075.

1. Mission

Provide internationally recognized quality studies, develop innovative research in sport science, integrating in study process health care in the field of sport to promote growth opportunities for Latvian science, technology, sports and health care in sport into globally competitive and Latvian national economy and social development needs meeting field, prepare for Latvian and international labor market competitive various sport and health-care professionals, thereby promoting and supporting technological progress of national economy.

2. The basic guidelines for the development of science

LASE scientific development basic guidelines:

1. The establishment of Latvian sports science center in collaboration with the Sports Department of Latvian Ministry of Education and Science (MES), functionally consolidating with the Latvian Olympic Committee (LOC), the Latvian Olympic Unit (LOV), the Latvian Sports Federation Council (LSFP) Murjāņi Sports Gymnasium, Olympic centers and sports federations in the field of sports science and health care in sports, as well as research in collaboration with other Latvian, European, particularly Baltic, Scandinavian and the world higher education institutions and research centers.

2. Close cooperation with industry and other sectors of the economy to generate innovation and high value-added products and technologies and effectively coordinate of the development of science and sports education industry and health care in the field of sports.

3. The development of Institution research directions

According to the "Latvian National Development Plan 2014 - 2020", "Science, Technology Development and Innovation guidelines 2014- 2020", "Smart specialization strategy 2014-2020", "Guidelines for the Development of Education 2014 - 2020" and "Sports Policy Guidelines 2013-2020" modern practice has demonstrated the need to promote sports science and health care unity in the field of sport. Sports science has developed as a separate branch of science that studies the regularities of the formation of human physical health, development, preparedness and sports achievements.

In LASE research themes are determined the following four main directions (see Appendix 2):

1. Sports, sport education and socialization.

2. Enhancing public health in different age people: sports for all, children's and youth sports, adapted sports.

3. High-achievement sport.

4. Sports socio-economic aspects.

4. Performance assessment (SWOT analysis)

4.1. Strengths

4.1.1. Lecturer and researcher high pedagogical and scientific qualification.

4.1.2. Successful high-class athlete investigation in cooperation with LOV and sports federations.

4.1.3. Close scientific cooperation with 39 foreign universities and research institutions, especially active cooperation with University of Tartu, *Lithuanian Sport University*, *Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences*, *Josef Pilsudski University of Physical Education in Warsaw*, *Swedish School of Sports and Health Science*, *Katholieke Universiteit Leuven*, *Bologna University*.

4.1.4. The organization of annual Baltic Sport Science conferences in the framework of Baltic Sports Science Association.

4.1.5. The organization of annual LASE doctoral students, Master's and Bachelor's conferences

4.1.6. Every year in LASE Promotion Council are defended 3-4 Doctoral Theses, obtaining doctor's scientific degree in sports science.

4.1.7. The organization of LASE scientific equipment exhibitions, informing sport and health care in sport specialists about the methodology of the practical use of the equipment and the results to be obtained.

4.1.8. The use of the potential of LASE research laboratories and centers for student and lecturers research, as well as for commercial needs.

4.1.9. The reflection of LASE Scientific Capacity in peer reviewed journal in English "*LASE Journal of Sport Science*".

4.2. Weaknesses

4.2.1. Inadequate government funding and support for the purchase of scientific databases and for the implementation of scientific research.

4.2.2. Large academic load of lecturer and researcher involved in research.

4.2.3. Lack of regular access to research results in sport and health care professional practice

4.2.4. Lack of closer cooperation in research with other Latvian higher education institutions in the framework of academic doctor higher education program "Sport Science".

4.2.5. Insufficient potential of infrastructure and technologies for carrying out innovative scientific research in the fields of sport and health care in sport.

4.2.6. Insufficient lecturer and researcher activity in the preparation of peer reviewed publications.

4.2.7. Insufficient material stimulation of lecturers and researchers involved in research.

4.3. Opportunities

4.3.1. Develop closer cooperation in research with other Latvian universities and research institutes, especially in the framework of academic higher education doctoral program "Sport Science"

4.3.2. Expand cooperation in research with other Baltic and Scandinavian universities and research institutes.

4.3.3. Promote the development of the created research laboratories, emphasizing the provision of independent activity and self-financing in project implementation process, attracting for research funds of interested businesses.

4.3.4. Activate participation of lecturers and researchers in research projects.

4.3.5. Improve infrastructure of sport science and health care in the field of sports, attracting state funding and funds of European projects and private entrepreneurs.

4.3.6. Appeal to students and teachers to continue their professional development in the field of sport science and health care in sport, enrolling in doctoral program.

4.3.7. Promote the offers of innovative ideas, close cooperation with industry and various sectors of the economy to increase their productivity in order to facilitate a gradual transition to high-tech industries and products.

4.3.8. Facilitate the inclusion of employer and labor market requirements into LASE programs and science.

4.4. Threats

4.4.1. Starting from 2016, LASE research in the field of sport science and health care in sport lacks state guaranteed basic funding.

4.4.2. Insufficient amount of state funding for conducting research in health care and sports science, particularly in the field of physical education, that threatens the provision of young generation optimal level of physical health.

4.4.3. In society there is observed a change of values, which tends to be reflected in public opinion that research in sport science and health care in sport does not guarantee the formation of human personality and health.

4.4.4. Lack of material stimulation for young professional involving in research.

4.5. The main conclusions

Research work in LASE research laboratories and centers (see Appendix 1) is carried out in

accordance with the defined directions in the development of sport science and health care in sport (see Appendix 2).

In the coming years, great emphasis and special attention will be devoted to the creation of a single Latvian Sports Science Centre, which will serve as a center of competence to implement "Latvian National Development Plan 2014 - 2020", "Science, Technology Development and Innovation guidelines 2014 - 2020", "Smart specialization strategies 2014 - 2020", "Guidelines for the Development of Education 2014 - 2020" and "Sports Policy Guidelines 2014 - 2020". The formation of Latvian Sports Science Centre will contribute to the provision of a strategic approach to economic development (human resources, public health, methodologies for the achievement of high sporting results, etc.) and innovations to secure international research, patent development and preparation of publications. This in turn will pave the way for the implementation of such directions in research in sport science and health care in sport, in which is possible the development of industry, using the experience and knowledge gained by specialists involved in such research, and this will secure the introduction of research results into economics, thereby ensuring the reflection of industry long-term interests in the directions of the research.

5. The medium-term and long-term objectives

5.1. The medium-term objectives

LASE medium-term objective is to create facilities that will provide studies and high-quality scientific research in Institution main fields of research - sport science and health care in sport - and promote a strategic approach to economic development (human resources, public health, methodologies for high sporting results, etc.) and the introduction of innovations.

In order to realize the medium-term objective, it is planned to strengthen the facilities of LASE research laboratories and centers, this will contribute to the research in public health and high achievements sport. To explore the opportunities of improving the quality of life in all ages and encourage the creation of innovations it is planned to involve full-time researchers in the areas of biomechanics, recreation, sport ergonomics, sports physiotherapy in perspective.

5.2. Long-term objectives

LASE long-term goal is to develop and in the process of development become a strong international level member organization in the fields of sports science and health care, becoming a sports university with accredited academic study programs in sport science and a number of professional high-quality, prestigious and internationally recognized study programs with an international inter-university study program development and implementation in master and doctoral studies, emphasizing the importance of research and research integration into the study process.

In collaboration with Sports Department of the Ministry of Education, Latvian Olympic

Committee, Latvian Olympic Unit, Latvian Council of the Federations of Sports, Murjāņi Sports Gymnasium, Olympic centers and Federations of Sports establish a Latvian sports science center for sports science and health sector research coordinated development under the "Latvian National Development Plan 2014-2020", "Science, Technology development and Innovation guidelines 2014- 2020", "Smart specialization strategies guidelines 2014-2020", "Guidelines for the Development of Education 2014 - 2020" and " Sports Policy Basic Guidelines 2013-2020."

6. Performance in achieving strategic objectives in 2020

No.	Scope of results	Performance <input type="checkbox"/> Publications <input type="checkbox"/> Patents <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>
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1.

Scientific staff: researchers

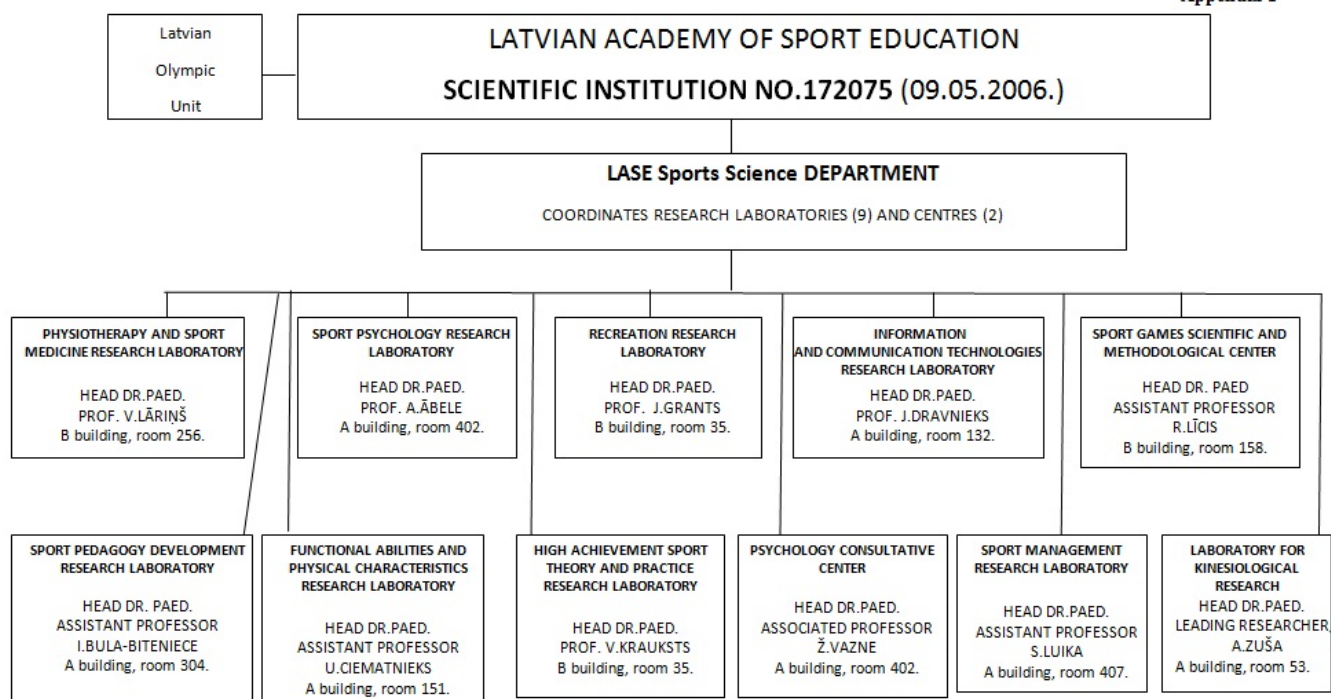
(FTE terms)

4.	Number of defended doctoral thesis	4	3-5
5.	The number of registered patents	1	5
6.	Scientific articles published in international databases Scopus, Web of Science	12	42
7.	Monographies	2	4
8.	Methodological materials	42	64
9.	Participation in international projects	8	12
10.	ERDF projects, national research programs, projects, market-oriented research, LSC grants	16	16
11	Contracts with Latvian legal entities	3	5

In the coming years particularly important will be the creation of united **Latvian Sports Science Centre**, based on the "Latvian National Development Plan 2014 - 2020", "Science, Technology Development and Innovation guidelines 2014 - 2020", "Smart specialization strategies 2014 -2020", " Guidelines for the Development of Education 2014 - 2020" and "Sports Policy Guidelines 2014- 2020". This

would promote a strategic approach to the development of economics (human resources, the development of methodologies for the achievement of high sporting results, etc.) and innovations in order to provide high-quality international research and publications.

Appendix 1



LASE sports science and health care in sport development directions 2015-2020

