

Short communication

BRANCH OF SPORT SCIENCE IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE IN LATVIAN ACADEMY OF SPORT EDUCATION (LASE)

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Branch of Sports Science

Currently, the Latvian Council of Science (LCS) database division in scientific and sub-sectors in Sports Science (No. 38) was merged with the Social Sciences. Sports Science is a branch of science which studies human physical health, development, physical fitness and the regularities of the formation of sports achievements. Sports science has two sub-sectors: 38.1 Sports Theory and History which is a Science subsector that explores methodological and theoretical correlation formation between human physical health, physical development and sporting achievements, as well as historical development of Sports theory, and 38.2: Sport Pedagogy: a scientific sub-sector exploring the regularities of sports and health education, teaching, mentoring and training. Sports Science involves sport-related integrated research on pedagogical, psychological, medical, biological, biomechanical, sociological and economical science issues. In several European countries science branch classifiers, Sports science as a separate branch already appeared in the last century (70s – 80s). In Latvia Sports Science as a separate branch of science was approved on February 17, 1998, with the LSC's decision, but it did not had corresponding name of Scientific degree, therefore it remained the same – Doctor of Pedagogy (Dr.paed).

LASE Sports Science Development

Sports specialists' path to the nomination of their own research sectors was not an easy task. The starting point was Latvian Cabinet of Ministers Decision (04.10.1991, No. 262) „Regulations for the Award of the Degrees", which approved Regulations for the award of degrees in Latvian Republic and commissioned to the research institutions and universities

consisting of Degree-granting Councils in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Soviet Union, to put an end to Soviet activities by December 31, 1991.

Initially Latvian Academy of Sport Education (LASE) made a bid for the promotion rights in Pedagogical Science sector, Physical Education and Sports Methodology sub-sector (25.10.1991), by applying seven expert candidates. Such rights Latvian Council of Science granted to Sports Academy with the Resolution No. 35-3-5 on March 19 1992. Later On March 23, 1992 Promotion Council in its meeting decided to rename the sub-sector Physical Education and Sports methodology to Sport Pedagogy by coordinating it with the Latvian Council of Science. In this meeting as a Promotion Council Chairman was appointed Professor I. Forands. With the Latvian Academy of Sports Education Rector's U.Grāvītis order (23.03.1992. No.68) were formally approved members of the Promotion Council in the field of Sport Pedagogy and its sub-sector which included seven members from the pedagogical and medical science industries. On the basis of the Latvian Science Council Decisions (19.03.1992, No.35-3-4 and 35-3-5), LASE Senate on May 7, 1992, approved its "Regulation on the Latvian Academy of Sport Education Promotion Council activities", and according to these documents LASE Promotion Council was empowered to grant Scientific Doctoral Degree in Pedagogy, sub-sector of Sport Pedagogy, granting Doctoral Degree for both independently carrying out original research on relevant scientific issues in Pedagogy and Sport, and equating degrees acquired abroad to Latvian post-Soviet certification system in Pedagogy and its sub-sectors. Consequently, on June 29, 1992, the first Scientific Doctoral Degree in restored Latvia, and thus the first in Sport Pedagogy, acquired LASE Skiing Department lecturer J.Grants (Latvian History of Sports, 1994). The Promotion Council alignment meeting took place even faster – on May 13, 1992, by nostrifying first acquired abroad scientific candidate degrees, and they were LASE teachers J.Dravnieks, U.Švinks, H.Erdmanis and E.Popovs. In 1993, within the frameworks of the LR Science Council's decision (25.11.1993 No.12-3-1) LASE submitted an application on Habilitation rights, applying experts in following composition: prof. L.Žukovs (LASE), prof. M.Āboltiņa (LASE), prof. R.Garleja (Latvian University) prof. D. Meikšāne, prof. I.Plotnieks (Latvian University), prof. N. Jaružņijs (LASE).

LCS in 1994, (12.04.1994 Decision 19-2-3) repeatedly granted the rights for Latvian Academy of Sport Education to form a Promotion Council with a 3 year term of office in Sport Education sector and sub-sector of

Pedagogical Science. In 1997, the Examination Board's prof. R.Garleja was replaced with Latvian University expert prof. A.Špona.

On June 19, 1998, LCS on the basis of LR Parliament and LR President adopted and promulgated Amendments to the Law „On Scientific Activity”, which envisaged powers to award degrees only in institutions of higher education and national research centers, stopped several Habilitation and Promotion Council activities in Latvia, but till October 31, 1998, extended all operational Habilitation and Promotion Council terms of office which are located nearly at all higher education institutions.

Following the previous Cabinet Regulation in 1997 and in 1998, LASE Doctoral Theses defended 10 people and nostrificated was 1 person. Overall from 1992 to 1999, 21 were defended and 41 nostrificated their works. During the period from July 1, 1999 to July 4, 2006, Latvian Academy of Sport Education Promotion Council was not established.

On July 4, 2006 with the decision of LSC Committee No. 4-3-8 with a 3 year terms of office (till July 4, 2009) as experts in scientific field "Sports Science" and sub-sectors "Sport Pedagogy" and "Sports Theory and History" were confirmed following scientists: L.Čupriks (Sport Pedagogy), J.Grants (Sport Pedagogy), U.Grāvītis (Sports Pedagogy, Sports Theory and History), R.Jansone (Sports Pedagogy), N.Jaružnijs (Sports Pedagogy), J.Lanka (Sports Pedagogy, Sports Theory and History), V.Lāriņš (Sports Theory and History). On August 31, 2006, LASE Senate approved regulations on Sport Science Promotion Council activities. Within the Council in addition to afore mentioned experts (without the LCS expert rights) were included: A.Konrads (Sports Theory and History), V.Krauksts (Sports Pedagogy), I.M.Rubana (Sports Pedagogy), U.Švinks (Sports Pedagogy, Sports Theory and History).

On May 15, 2009, LASE due to the fact that the Promotion Council's experts terms of office was coming to an end, asked the Latvian Council of Science to appoint new expert composition, submitting 14 candidate scientific documents (approved by the LASE Senate on May 7, 2009). LCS on July 3, 2009 with the Decision No. 6-2-1 as experts in Sports Science sphere appointed nine scientists: A.Ābele, J.Grants, U.Grāvītis, A.Kļaviņa, A.Konrads, J.Lanka, V.Lāriņš, I.Pontaga, A. Rudzītis with a term of office which lasts till July 3, 2012.

On July 21, 2011, LCS expert rights for 3 years acquired scientists: L.Čupriks, A.Fernāte, A.Emeljanovas (Lithuania) and A. Koka (Estonia). Consequently, the LASE Promotion Council became international. On October 20, 2011, for a time period of one year as experts were confirmed two more foreign university scientists – K.Piech (Poland) and R. Carlson

(Sweden). LASE Senate on August 30, 2012, on the basis of LCS Decision No. 26-4-1 on July 29, 2012, on granting expert rights to prof. A.Ābele, prof. J.Grants, asoc.prof. A.Kļaviņa, prof. A.Rudzītis, asoc.prof. Ž.Vazne, prof. J.Lanka, prof. I.Pontaga confirmed the new composition of the Promotion Board.

Doctoral Thesis

Starting from year 1992 to 2014, in Pedagogy and Sports Science field has been defended 42 Doctoral Thesis (Table 1).

Table 1

The authors of defended Doctoral Thesis in LASE Promotion Council

Year of defense	Name, Surname
1992	Juris Grants, Astra Vītola
1993	Ivans Kločkovs, Leopolds Kovals, Viktors Bonders, Ivans Klementjevs
1995	Ilze Avotiņa, Imants Liepiņš
1996	Tamāra Škoļņikova
1997	Jānis Žīdens, Leonīds Čupriks
1998	Baiba Smila, Andris Spunde, Jānis Melbārdis
1999	Jānis Želvis, Ludmila Beļikova, Ludmila Kurova, Juris Žuravļovs, Irēna Dravniece, Arvils Lielvārds, Jolanta Marija Garbacik
2009	Aldona Homiča, Una Veseta, Ivars Kravalis, Žermēna Vazne
2010	Antra Gulbe, Vita Mikitanova
2011	Inta Bula-Biteniece, Aivars Kaupužs, Inga Liepiņa
2012	Māris Lesčinskis, Uģis Ciematnieks, Ingrīda Smukā, Sergejs Saulīte, Luīze Ventaskrasta
2013	Monta Jakovļeva, Kalvis Ciekurs, Andris Molotanovs, Signe Luika
2014	Alina Kļonova, Anna Zuša, Renārs Līcis

Many university faculty members has defended their thesis in various research centers and universities in the USSR (Moscow, Leningrad, Minsk, Kiev, Tartu, etc.), thus all defended thesis till 1992 were nostrificated in LASE Promotion Council, awarding Doctoral Degrees in the correspondent field of science (Dr.paed., Dr.biol., Dr.med.; Table 2).

Table 2

Authors of nostrificated dissertations in the LASE Promotion Council

Year of nostrification	Name, Surname
1992	Juris Dravnieks, Uldis Švinks, Helmūts Erdmanis, Eduards Popovs, Viesturs Krauksts, Daina Krauksta, Jānis Muižnieks, Raisa Tarnopoļska, Valentīns Vološins, Aina Pētersone, Rasma Jansone, Vladimirs Maksimovs, Genādijs Kobzevs, Genādijs Vanajevs, Alberts Bagojans, Gunārs Briņķis, Valerjans Kokorēvičs, Viktors Mūzis, Igors Ķīsis, Tāivaldis Jēkabsons
1993	Andris Rudzītis, Leonīds Žilinskis, Laima Saiva, Oļģerts Altbergs, Silvija Skulme, Raisa Martuzāne, Mihails Amaļins, Valērijs Jaružnijs, Viveja Bulate, Sofija Laizāne, Vladimirs Demčeko, Isaks Jeļņiks, Jurijs Petrovs, Igors Kļosovs, Vladimirs Poļevojs, Jānis Kupčs, Aļģimantas Kubiļus
1994	Jeļena Solovjova
1995	Ārija Vasileva, Jevgeņijs Petkevičs
1999	Vera Molčanova

From an interview with the professor V.Krauksts: "The first sport scientists who went to the Moscow Central Institute of Physical Education "*Target post-graduate school*" at the end of 1960s were: professor I.Auliks, professor E.Popovs (1968), professors V.Krauksts un A.Ņemčenko (1969), professor A.Lielvārds, professor A.Konrads, and assistant professor G.Kobzevs, whereas prof. U.Grāvītis studied in Postgraduate courses in Moscow and defended his dissertation in USSR Scientific Research of Physical Education and Sports Institute.

Baltic Sports Science Association

For further promotion of Sports Science on April 24, 2009, in the Second Baltic Sports Science Conference in Vilnius was established the Baltic Sports Science Society, with the aim to provide Sports Science development in the Baltic countries, to create a single international doctoral program in Sports Science and by joint efforts integrate into the European and Global Sports Science movement. University of Tartu Faculty of Sports, Lithuanian Academy of Physical Education, Vilnius Pedagogical University Faculty of Sports and Health Education and the Latvian Academy of Sports Education are all among the founders of the Society

LASE Honorary Doctors

Great support for LASE has given professors from Sweden and Poland, who according with the regulations (approved by LASE Senate on October 7, 2004, protocol No.3) received LASE Honorary Doctor title. LASE Honorary Doctorate diplomas were presented in the opening ceremony of the 3rd Baltic Sports Science Conference, thus celebrating contribution of foreign colleagues in LASE development.

Cooperation with Professor Rolf Carlson from the Swedish School of Sport and Health Sciences already lasts for fifteen years. It all started in 1995, with the project "Latvia-Sweden in Sports", when the Professor R. Carlson gave lectures to the LASE university lecturers and other professionals in Sport Sociology. For several years he has educated LASE doctoral students on Qualitative research in Sports sphere, and he has worked together with LASE lecturers on different sports research projects. Professor R. Carlson led coaching practice of several LASE students and organized co-operation with the Swedish sports clubs to ensure practice to LASE students.

Professor Johnny Nilsson is a scientist in Sports Physiology and Biomechanics fields from the Swedish School of Sport and Health Sciences. On several occasions he advised our specialists on scientific research for both skiers and orienteers functional fitness. During LASE student internship in Stockholm he led Sports Medicine and Testing Methodology Courses for LASE students. He is currently working together with Professor V. Kraukts and PhD student K. Ciekuru on the research Project "Local Vibration Impact on Fitness of Cross-Country Skiers."

Together with Associate Professor Krzysztof Piech, who represents The Józef Piłsudski University of Physical Education in Warsaw, we have organized the International Summer School for doctoral students and graduate students. He is a curator of the Latvian students in Poland. For the sixth consecutive year, Professor K. Piech educates LASE students in both managing practical classes in subject "Nordic Walking" and giving lectures about "Family Sports Development Trends in the World".

For a significant and lasting contribution to LASE physical education and science development the honorary title "LASE Honorary Doctor" was given to Professor Ausma Špona.

LASE Scientific and Methodological Publications

By 2009, collection of LASE scientific articles were issued regularly in three languages (English, Latvian and Russian), which brought together many sports deviations – Sports Biomechanics, Sports Physiology,

Psychology, Pedagogy. As of 2010, the previous scientific collection was replaced with two new editions – magazine in Latvian for sports professionals and practitioners “Sport in Theory and Practice” in Latvian language and sports science magazine in English “LASE Journal of Sport Science”. The Journal website: <http://journal.lspa.lv/>

International Summer School of LASE

On August 2010, LASE along with two universities in Poland (The Józef Piłsudski University of Physical Education in Warsaw and Higher School of Computer Science and Business Administration in Lomza) organized the first International Summer School „Recreational Outdoor Games from the Historical Perspective in Latvia”, in which PhD and MA students had the opportunity to study qualitative research methods in practice interviewing local residents and collecting games characterizing Latvian traditions. International Summer Schools are held alternatively in both Latvian and Poland. This year it will take place in Latvian, in early September. Information about the events of the International Summer School can be obtained at website: <http://osress.weebly.com/>.

LASE Sport Science guidelines are based on our Alma Mater motto: education based on innovation, synergetics of study work and research, creative and open learning environment.

References:

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2. Latvian Council of Science decision on March 19, 1992, No. 35-3-5.
3. LASE Regulation on the Latvian Academy of Sport Education Promotion Council activities. Approved in LASE Senate on May 7, 1992.
4. Latvian History of Sports, 1994, page 266.
5. Latvian Council of Science (Resolution No. 19-2-3) on April 12, 1994.
6. LASE Regulation on the Latvian Academy of Sport Education Promotion Council activities. Approved in LASE Senate meeting on January 11, 1996.
7. Latvian Council of Science Resolution No. 8-1-17 on June 3, 1997.
8. Latvian Council of Science Resolution No. 1-2-1 on February 17, 1998.
9. Latvian Council of Science Resolution No. 6-1-17 on November 10, 1998.
10. Latvian Council of Science Resolution on April 27, 1999, No. 3-1 “On transition to a single-degree system”
11. Latvian Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 134 on April 6, 1999 “Regulations on Promotion procedures and Criteria”.
12. LASE Regulation on the Latvian Academy of Sport Education

- Promotion Council activities. Approved in LASE Senate meeting on May 6, 1999.
13. Latvian Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No.1000 on December 27, 1999, "Regulations on granting doctoral degree (PhD) delegation of rights on higher education institutions".
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 15. Latvian Council of Science Resolution No. 4–3–8 on July 4, 2006.
 16. LASE Regulation on the Latvian Academy of Sport Education Promotion Council activities. Approved in LASE Senate meeting on August 31, 2006.
 17. Latvian Council of Science Resolution No. 6-2-1 on July 3, 2009.
 18. LASE Regulation on the Latvian Academy of Sport Education Promotion Council activities. Approved in LASE Senate meeting on August 31, 2009.
 19. Latvian Council of Science Resolution No. 13-3-1 on July 21.
 20. Latvian Council of Science Resolution No. 16-3-1 on October 20, 2011.
 21. Latvian Council of Science Resolution No. 26-4-1 on July 3, 2012.
 22. LASE Senate Protocol No. 1. On August 30, 2012.

Submitted: May 1, 2014

Accepted: May 15, 2014