

CONGRATULATION



The Sports Science Promotion Council made a unanimous decision to grant **Aiga PAIKENA**, former PhD student of the Latvian Academy of Sports Education (LASE), a PhD in Sport Science in the subfield of Sports Pedagogy for her defended promotion work "High Performance Sports Management in Latvia".

In Dr. paed. Aiga PAIKENA's thesis is evaluated the implementation of high performance sport policy in the country and its impact on the success of Latvian athletes, as well as elaborated a success oriented sports management model and worked out recommendations for its implementation.

Up to now, high performance sports management in Latvia has been poorly studied and described. The doctoral thesis focuses on the historical development of the Latvian sports management system and provides a detailed overview of the contemporary sports sector legal regulation. The study provides a description of the most important macroeconomic indicators for the Latvian sports industry in the period 2010 - 2017.

The study elicits the views of three groups of respondents – representatives of recognized sports federation managers, certified sports specialists and high-performing athletes, identifying also key factors contributing to athlete's success in the opinion of each group.

The success oriented model of high performance sports management is fixing of the current situation in Latvia and the recommendations are developed by summarizing the existing problems in the field of sports, in high performance sports management. Changes can be made to model factors, their order and recommendations as national sport policy changes.

The supervisor of Aiga Paikena's doctoral thesis is the Head of LASE Department of Management and Communication Science, associate professor Dr. paed. Signe LUIKA, the consultant - Vice-Rector for Studies, Professor Dr. paed. Andra FERNĀTE.

Aiga PAIKENA (née Dombrovska) is a lecturer at the Academy of Sport Education and the Director of the Latvian Coaches Further Education Center.