

# THENAPA FINAL REPORT OF THE COUNTRY

**NAME of the country:** LATVIA

## **Aims and objectives of the work at national level:**

### ➤ **Implementation Study program “Adapted Physical Education”.**

The main result and success is the compulsory study program “Adapted Physical Education” in the Latvian Academy of Sport Education. Approval of the specialisation in “Adapted Physical Education” in the Latvian Academy of Sport Education for 2002/2003.

### ➤ **Dissemination of the information and materials from the THENAPA**

Dissemination of information about THENAPA and course in APA in the LASE in the Latvian Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs. Since the sport and education in Latvia is financed by the Latvian Ministry of Education and Science, then it is positive result that sport for disabled as well as APA study program is approved and support by the government.

### ➤ **Implementation and realisation of the proposals and tasks carried in the THENAPA**

There were several local projects on 2001/2003 carried out by the Latvian the Latvian Disabled Children’s and Youth Sport federation together with the state education settings and others NGOs..

☞ “Inclusion and education of young people with disability in APA” supported by the Latvian Ministry of Education and Science. In the result of this project young people with special needs were actively included in national sport events for school youth, ex. National Olympic Day.

☞ “Social rehabilitation program” financed by the UN Development program. This project concerns development of social rehabilitation program where one of means is adapted physical activities of people with special needs.

☞ “Empowerment of young people with disability toward participation in active life”, supported by the Nordisk (North Council of Ministers) Task was to develop the social activity program (including APA activities) in Latvia.

☞ “Integrative Sport Education in Latvia”, supported by the international Baltic –American Project program. The project included questionnaire of more than 200 regular education institutions in Latvia regarding inclusion of students with disabilities in sport education.

**To carry out the tasks and aims of the THENAPA**, there were significant improvements done in co-operation and exchange of information among national organisations and institutions dealing with people with disability in Latvia (federations, government settings, education institutions etc.)

**Organisational approach and structure** developed within the partnership to manage the project at the national level

**The national group** of the THENAPA includes representatives from the university level who are working in sport NGO’s for disabled (representatives from the Latvian Academy of Sport Education: **Viesturs Larins** (Latvian national Basketball team), **Aija Klavina** (president of the Latvian Disabled Children’s and Youth Sport Federation) , **Pavels Mustafin** (sport doctor, international classifier in sitting volleyball), other NGOs **Ruta Klavina** – director of local sport and rehabilitation club for disabled “Ceriba”, **Linda Frišenbrudere** – chief of the sport club for disabled “Tukums”, **Valdis Nagobads** – president of the Latvian Paralympic Committee etc.). The National THENAPA working group represents 8 different structures from area of sport in Latvia.

**Exchange and dissemination of the information about THENAPA between the national THENAPA working group and:**

- Latvian Paralympic Committee
- Latvian Disabled Children’s and Youth Sport Federation

- Latvian CP and Wheelchair Sport Federation
- Latvian Sport Federation for People with Physical Disabilities
- Latvian Blind Sport Federation
- Latvian Special Olympic

☞ Dissemination of information about THENAPA and course in APA in the LASE in the Latvian Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs.

☞ Since the sport and education in Latvia is financed by the Latvian Ministry of Education and Science, then it is positive result that sport for disabled as well as APA study program is approved and support by the government.

☞ There were six local projects on 2001/2003 organized by the representatives and organizations participating in the national THENAPA working groups.

☞ Since the APA isn't fully financed by the state, the local private sponsors support all activities organized in sport and APA for disabled in Latvia.

### **Methodology, tools and technology used**

*The educational and teaching approach* promoted within the project at the national level

Compulsory study program in Adapted Physical Education started in the Latvian Academy of Sport Education on October 2000. Revised and improved on 2001/2003.

*Curriculum consists of 76 hours and it includes 6 themes:*

- 1) *Development of the Area of Adapted Physical Activity: Sociological Aspects*
- 2) *Structure in Sport for People with Special Needs: International Perspectives*
- 3) *Classification in Sport for People with Special Needs*
- 4) *Adapted Sport Activities for People with Different Disabilities: Implementation and Practice Techniques*
- 5) *Organisation and Social (Re)integration*
- 6) *Educational, Social and Medical Aspects of Adapted Physical Activity.*

On 2002/2003 the specialization is approved in adapted physical activity in the LASE. The program will offer the specialization in the social, pedagogic and technical aspects of adapted physical activities to specific population. In addition to mentioned above, the student will be given the opportunity

### ***Tools and technology***

*CD developed by the THENAPA* was used and disseminated in Latvian organizations and institutions dealing with APA area. Some video were acquired from other THENAPA members (for ex. About skiing for disabled in Austria, Special Olympic International). These materials were used within the APA study program in the LASE.

### **Products and results, their dissemination**

*An overall qualitative description of the outcomes (products)* of THENAPA at national level (materials, publications, modules, conferences, reports, studies and etc.)

### **Integration through APA**

- Investigation (questionnaire) regarding the inclusion of students with special needs in regular sport courses (attitude of sport teachers)
- Video material about role of APA in life of disabled people – social rehabilitation program where APA is one of the means for social integration.

## **Education and training in APA**

- Study program in APA in the LASE
- Questionnaire for students of the LASE regarding the compulsory study program in APE (attitude of pre-graduate sport teachers).
- Specialisation in APA in the LASE.

### **Elements of good practice identified and discoveries:**

#### **Integration through APA**

#### **Education and training in APA**

**See above:** Study program, questionnaire, local and international cooperation, (more detailed results are available about outcomes of the questionnaires).

#### ***Dissemination***

CD of THENAPA was disseminated to several institutions and organizations dealing with APA area in Latvia (Latvian Academy of Sport Education, sport federations for disabled, NGOs dealing with people with disability, Ministry of Education and Science, Sport department of Latvia). We received very positive remarks about this material.

#### **Specify how the project has attributed to promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities in the country**

Organizational aspect is adequate to the current situation in APA in Latvia. However, it's evident that creation of the national working groups of the THENAPA has helped to obtain and to gather information about organizations, institutions and individuals responsible for APA on national level.

Due to the general financial and economical problems in Latvia, there aren't many possibilities to make highly effective improvements in APA. However, there are several positive results and improvements that are important to mention. Finances from the Latvian Academy of Sport Education for the implementation of the new study program and specialisation in APA in the academy. Financial support from project foundations for the research regarding inclusion of disabled students in regular education settings as well as for the video material. There is little support from the government for national sport federations for disabled in Latvia. However, there are several documents and regulation implemented that promotes private sponsorship in the area of sport for disabled (for ex., tax release etc.)

#### **Evaluation**

Criteria for the evaluation:

**See above:** Study program, questionnaire, local and international cooperation, (more detailed results are available about outcomes of the questionnaires).

In general there are not significant problems found regarding the content of the THENAPA project on national level. Since the APA is new are in sport in Latvia, the outcomes of the THENAPA are useful and implemented to the possible extend.

March 28, 2003

National representative of Latvia in the THENAPA

Aija Klavina