

THENAPA DISSEMINATION YEAR LATVIA

The main aim of the project in national perspective in Latvia was to define and develop the national dimension within an area of adapted physical education where sport is a tool for social integration as well as for tolerance and acceptance of difference.

Objectives of the project included development of the comprehensive informative materials and production of the education program ADAPT-Latvian translation of the body text of the CD-ROM and the two summaries of the TENAPA reports. The initiative and practical work to translate the texts on national level was provided by the Latvian Academy of Sport Education and the Latvian Disabled Children's and Youth Sport federation (LDCYSF).

The ADAPT CD-ROM was presented in international as well as in local conferences and meetings. The first presentation about new education material was given in the international scientific conference "Sport Education through Centuries" organized by the Latvian Academy of Sport Education in April 14-16, 2004.

May 7-16, 2004 the LDCYSF candidates to the International Paralympic Games participated in the Open Belgian Championship in Blankenberge and in Heuzden-Zolden. Information about the project of the LDCYSF and production of the national education program in APA was disseminated among delegations from other countries.

May 30 to June 5 the international sport camp in wheelchair basketball and in athletics took place in the Sport Centre "Ozolnieki", Jelgava's distr. 34 participants, mostly young people in wheelchairs, were from Finland and from Latvia. This camp was organized to promote social and psychological integration of disabled people, generally, individuals in a wheelchair who needs adaptations and assistance to guarantee their full participation in social activities. This camp

also was a positive example of good practice for 25 sport teachers, coaches, instructors and other volunteers to present ADAPT CD-ROM and to reveal sport as a human activity resting on fundamental social, educational and cultural values. 25 visitors and 34 participants had opportunity practically analyse and to share experience regarding existing integration methods in different places in Latvia.

The central promotion event for the ADAPT CD-ROM was *the Latvian Sport Festival for People with Disability in June 5*. There were 548 participants from all over the country. The welcome speech was given by the Minister of Welfare of Latvia, mayor of the Jelgava's city council Mr. Andris Ravins as well as other official responsible from local authorities.

THENAPA impact in Latvia was huge, especially during the time of dissemination. We want to conclude that:

1. The creation and production of the ADAPT CD-ROM that is a comprehensive program in Adapted Physical Activity appropriate and available for respective education settings dealing with various sport disciplines for people with disabilities – was a necessary step to be taken in Europe.
2. The professional network links on local as well as in international level are developed within this project among sport specialists, sport institutions and other structures where adaptive physical activity for persons with disability is organized on regular basis. Using sport as a tool for social integration, it might forward solutions to national problems regarding the integration of disabled persons into society through adapted physical activity.
3. Various complementary informative as well as education brochures were produced within this project to define importance of inclusion process from early stages (“Iekļaujošā pirmsskolas izglītība”), and to inform about sources of the adapted physical education in Latvia as well as about available materials in this field (brochures about ADAPT CD-ROM, on inclusion of people with disability and on vocational training of APA specialists).

The outcome and future perspective of the project can be formulated as social benefit to identify examples of good practices in adapted physical education relating to integration in both the educational as well as in the society in general with regard to persons with disability. Till now in our society a specialist in APA was not well known and recognized, as well as educational dimension of sport was not fully revealed.

