OPPORTUNITIES OF DUAL CAREER IN PARALYMPIC SPORT



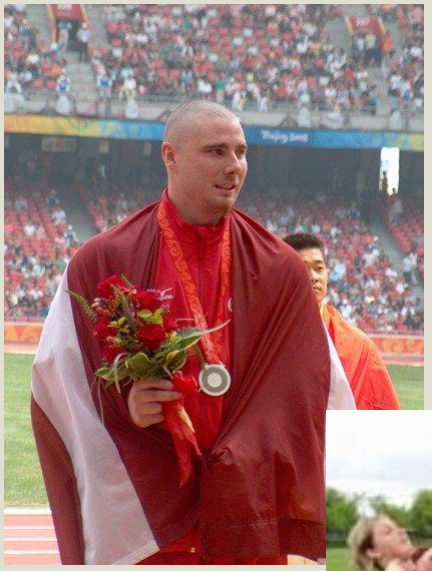
Assoc.prof. Aija Klavina
Latvian Academy of Sport Education
Latvian Paralympic Committee

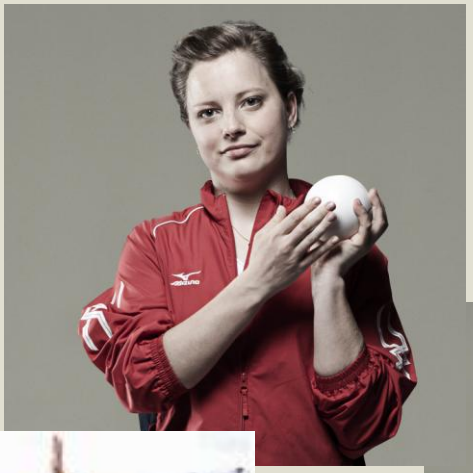
Dual Career Network, Riga
September 13-15, 2012

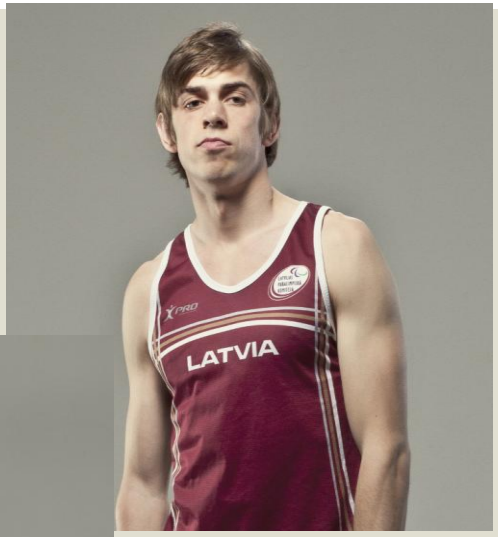
DEVELOPMENTS



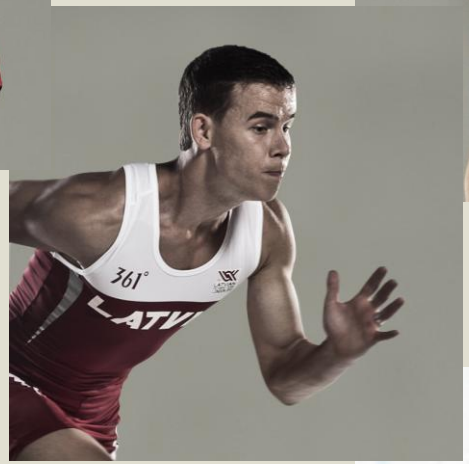
Sport has become a global phenomenon with many faces





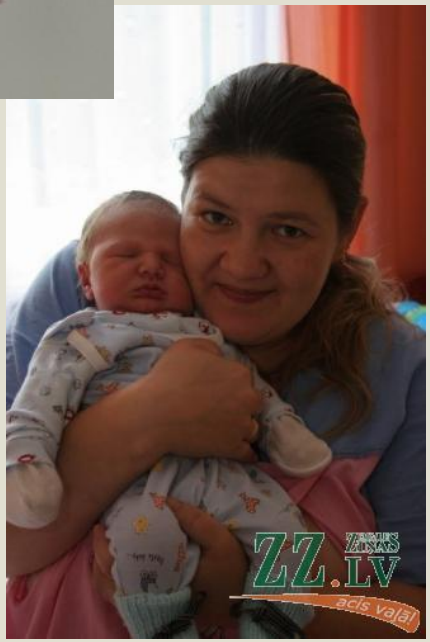

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CHALLENGES IN PARALYMPIC SPORT

- Sport system more important than the athlete (Legg&Wheeler, 1998)
- Athletes with a disability do not plan for their retirement/or transfer
- Factors impacting career:
  - Type and severity of disability
  - How the athlete with disability becomes Paralympic athlete (e.g., by chance, negative experience in PE in sport, starting in rehabilitation)
- The ultimate challenge – delivering the maximal product with minimal support

LATVIAN PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE

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IPC: CAREER PROGRAM

- In 2007 the IPC joined with Adecco to develop the Athlete Career Program
- Supports elite and Paralympic athletes with employment opportunities:
  - Career development - customized program for athletes in defining career goals, creating CV/resume, interview techniques, networking tips etc.
  - Job placement– making the right match between athletes and employers
  - Regional offices in Vilnius,

Klaipeda, Kaunas (Lithuania)

www.advantus.lt



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OPTIONS: CAREER IN EDUCATION

- Some of higher education programs are free
  - e.g., Latvian Academy of Sport Education: participants of paralympic games receive extra 10 points in enrollment exams
  - Studies for students with disabilities are free
- No information on how many students with disabilities are studying in Latvia (including athletes with disabilities)

Challenges:

- Accessibility
- High costs



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CAREER IN EDUCATION

- Lithuanian National Union of Students presented results of the survey on students with disabilities in higher education settings on 2011.
  - 33 of 35 private higher education setting were involved
  - Number of students with disabilities:
    - 2007./2008. – 915,
    - 2008./2009. – 980,
    - 2009./2010. – 1026
    - 2010./2011. – 944.
  - 59% of students cover their education expenses
  - Only 1/5 of higher education settings are accessible

OPTIONS: CAREER IN BUSINESS

- Subsidized work places for persons with disabilities (since 2001)
  - financial support for employer and employee up to 24 months
- Lower tax for employer of employee with disability for making accessible work place (person with disability must work at the company for at least two years)

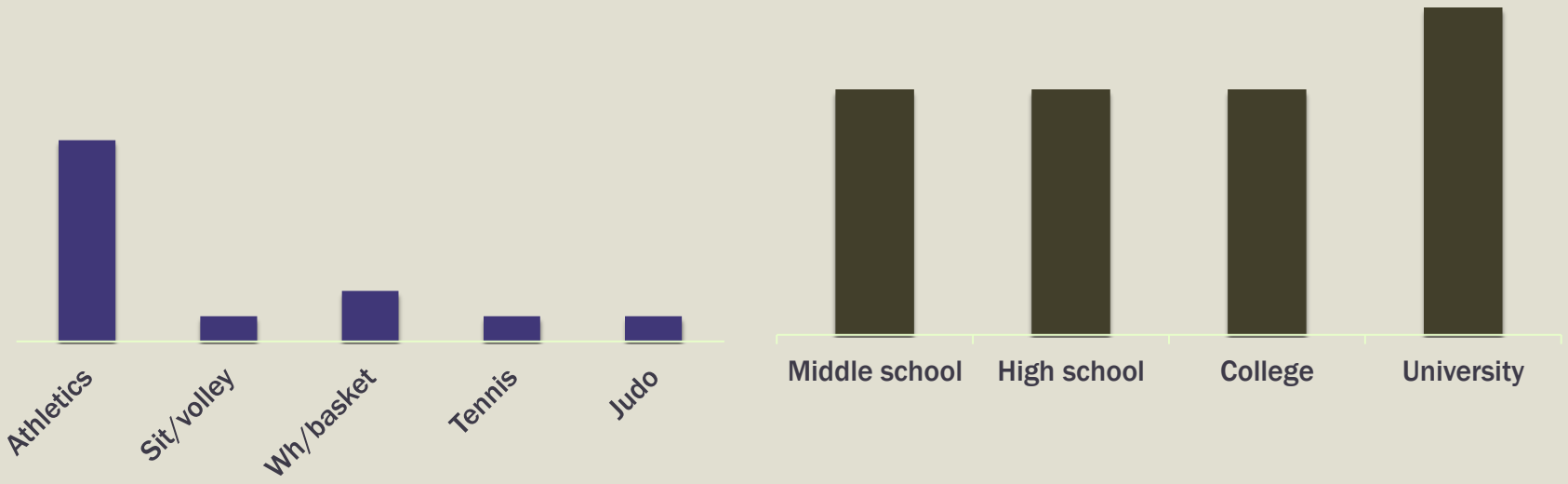
- ***However,*** *not enough benefits/ support from government to encourage employers to employ persons with disabilities*

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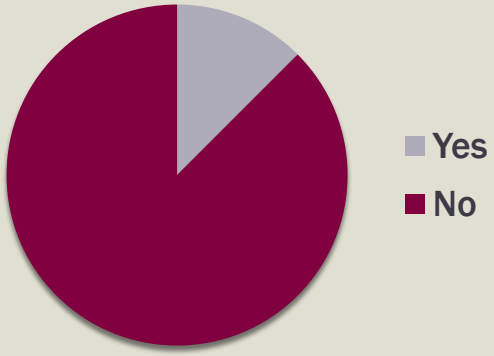
SURVEY OF ATHLETES

- Instrument: Modified survey A2B
- Participants: athletes representing paralympic sports – athletics, tennis, judo, sitting volleyball, wheelchair basketball.

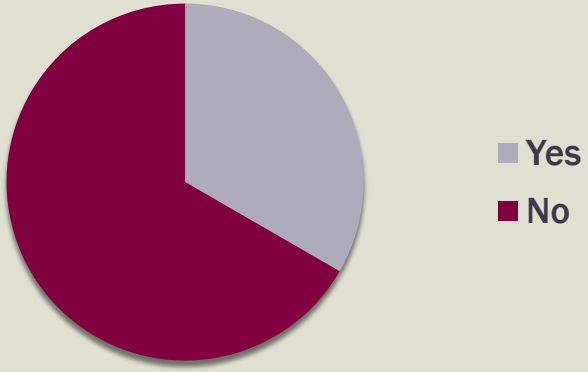


SURVEY OF ATHLETES (CONT.)

- Did you have to change education plans because of sport?

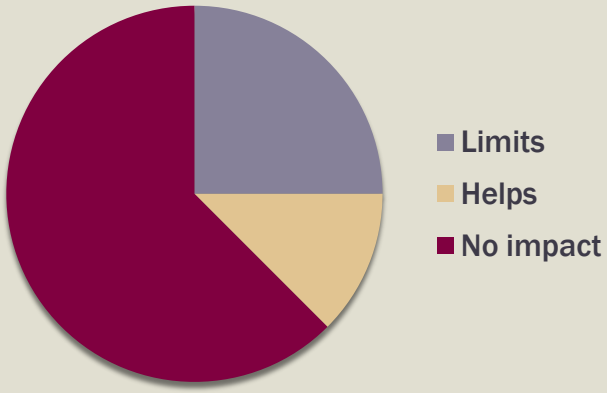


- Is it challenging to combine sport and education career?

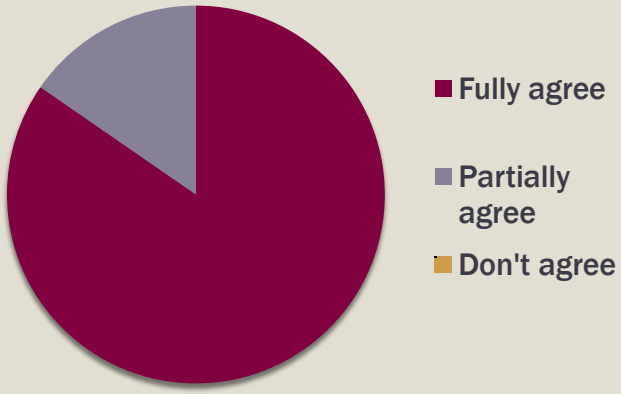


SURVEY OF ATHLETES (CONT.)

- What is impact of sport on your job career?

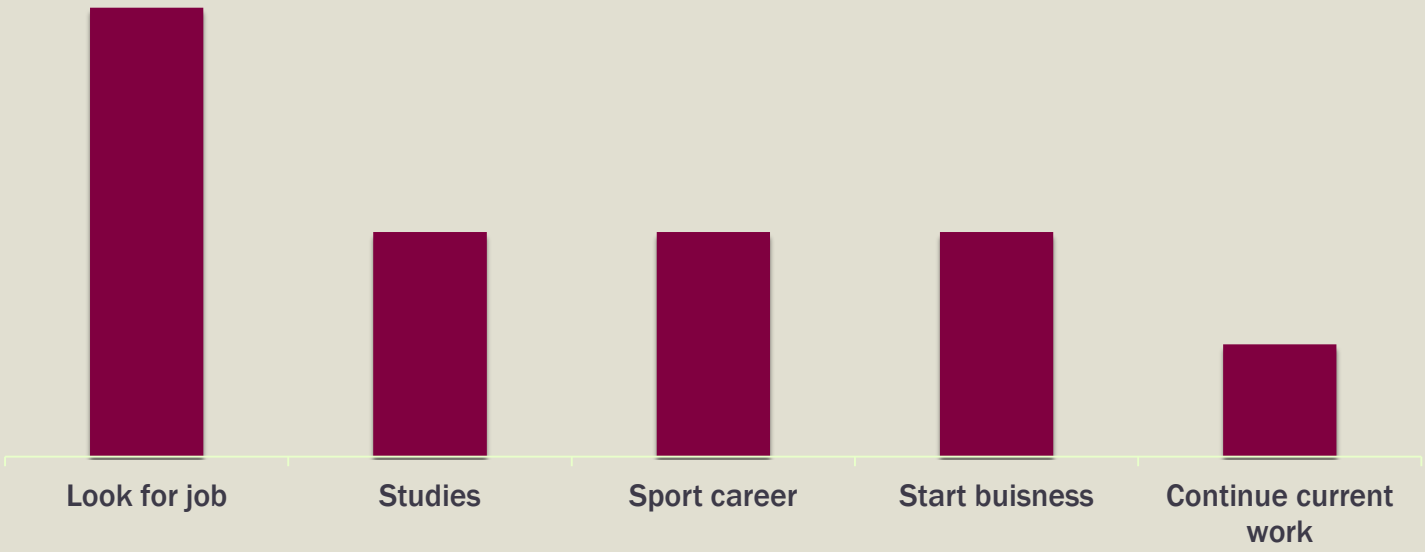


- Can sport career help in your future professional career?



SURVEY OF ATHLETES (CONT.)

- What are your plans after sport career?



THANK YOU!

Questions



Comments

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