

EAS 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*Dual Career of Elite Athletes:
Integrating Sport and Education
for Future Success*



6-8 October
UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA

Programme

OCTOBER 6 MAGNUM aud. HOUSE OF NATURE, Jelgavas str. 1, Riga

9.00-9.45	Registration of participants	
Chair: Assoc.prof. Ilvis Ābeļkalns		
9.45 – 10.00	Opening • Enno Ence (Vice Rector of University of Latvia) • Laura Capranica (President of European Athlete as Student network) • Raimonds Lazdiņš (President of National Olympic committee) • Agita Ābele (President of Latvian Universities Sports Federation)	
10.00-12.55	PLENARY SESSION Chair: Ole Keldorf	
10.00-10.30	Izabela Pelczynska (European Education and Culture Executive Agency EACEA)	European funding opportunities in sport (Online)
10.30-10.50	Sara Massini (Secretary General of ENGSO)	Grassroots Sport and Dual Career - a Global Approach for Stakeholders
10.50-11.10	Fernando Parente (FISU Executive Committee member)	International University Sports Federation (FISU) and Dual Career – a global approach for stakeholders
11.10-11.15	BeActive Break	
11.15-11.50	Coffee break, networking	
11.50 – 12.05	Edgars Pukinskis (Deputy State Secretary for Sports and Youth Affairs, Ministry of Education and Science Republic of Latvia)	Legacy Dual careers – double impact, double responsibility
12.05-12.25	Joerg Foerster (German University Sport Federation- adh)	Legacy of the FISU World University Games, focusing on the Dual Career of Student-Para-Athletes
12.25-12.30	BeActive Break	
12.30-12.55	(Chair: Risto Keskitalo, Laura	Presentation of the Bengt Nybelius Scholarship winner, 2025 Bengt

	Capranica EAS) Olga Papale (University of Cassino, Italy)	Nybelius Scholarship Award Ceremony “Eating Right, Sleeping Tight? The Evaluation of the Student-Athlete Paradox”
12.55-13.10	GROUP PHOTO	
13.15-14.15	Lunch	
Chair: Risto Keskitalo, Ole Keldorf, Antonio Sánchez -Pato		
14.20-14.40	Felipe Rodrigues da Costa, Daniel Vasconcelos Veloso, Tainá Alves, Maressa D’Paula Gonçalves Rosa Nogueira, António Figueiredo (University of Brasilia, Brazil, Santa Cecília University, Brazil, University of Coimbra, Portugal)	Challenges and opportunities for implementing and developing a student-athlete support program in the Federal District (Brazil)
14.40-15.20	Working Group Activities:	1) Dual Career in High School, Transition from High School to University (MAGNUM aud.); 2) Dual Career in Universities (SINISTRUM aud.); 3) Transition from a Sports Career to Employment (DEXTRUM II aud.).
15.20-15.50	Coffee break	
15.50-16.10		Working group feedback (MAGNUM aud.)
16.10-16.20	General Discussion	
16.20-17.00	BeActive Break	University Walking Tour
19.00-21.00	Social dinner in the “Mercure Hotel ” (Address: Elizabetes 101, 7 min walk from Opera Hotel)	

OCTOBER 7 RIMI OLYMPIC CENTER, Grostonas str. 6B, Riga

9.00	Bus to the Conference Venue (departure from Hotel "OPERA")	
10.00-10.20	Ruta Millere Celmiņa (Latvian Olympic Committee, Latvia)	Elite Level Athletes' Awareness and Use of Dual-Career Programs in Latvia
10.20-10.40	Klāvs Olšteins (Latvian Basketball Union, Latvia)	Basketball – as an opportunity to earn an education
10.40-11.00	Jacopo Bouquet (Sport4impact, Italy)	Dual Career from the perspective of SDG17 and PPPs
11.00-11.05	BeActive Break	
11.05-11.30	Coffee break	
11.30-12.50	Oral Presentations	
Chair: Mojca Doupona TBC		
11.30-11.40	Anna-Lena Toft Petersen; Malene Thisgaard Knudsen (AU Elitesport, Aarhus University, Denmark)	Focus on the transition from university to the job market: initiative by AU Elitesport

11.40-11.50	Agita Ābele, Edgars Kulda (Latvian Universitys sports federation, Riga Stradins University, Latvia)	Updating Dual Career Self-Management in Individualized Mentor- Mentee Collaboration in Sports and Studies
11.50-12.00	Antonio Sánchez-Pato (Universidad Internacional de La Rioja, Spain)	University mentoring network to facilitate the dual career of athlete- students
12.10-12.20	María José Maciá Andreu ^{1,2} , Juan Alfonso García Roca ^{1,2} , M ^a de la Trinidad Morales Belando ¹ , Eva Vegue Parra ³ & Cem Tinaz ⁴ (UCAM Universidad Católica de Murcia ² Centro de Estudios Olímpicos. ⁴ International Sport Management (ISPM). The Hague University of Applied Sciences, Spain)	Sustainability Perceptions Among Young Tennis Players: Insights from the European GreenTennis Project
12.20-12.30	Gamze Aydın (Sportstech Türkiye, Türkiye)	Advancing Athlete Employability through Career Mentorship and Education
12.30-12.40	Dorothee Brac de la Perriere (INSA Lyon, France)	Improving the support to student athletes with international mobility
12.40-12.50	Pekka Fredriksson, Jani Syrjälä, Ismo Miettinen (Kastelli Upper Secondary Sport School, Oulu, Finland)	Presentation of the 2026 EAS Conference
12.50-12.55	BeActive Break	
12.55- 13.40	Chair: Ole Keldorf	EAS General Assembly
13.40-14.45	Lunch	
Chair: Laurence Blondel, Antonio Sánchez-Pato		
14.45-14.55	Juan Alfonso Garcia Roca, Lourdes Meroño-García ^{1,2} , M ^a Trinidad Martínez-Belando ¹ , Abraham López-Vivancos ¹ , Domenico Cherubini ¹ (UCAM, Spain)	Advancing Training and Support for Dual Career Officers Throughout Europe
14.55-15.05	Pertti Huotari (University of Jyväskylä, Finland)	Finnish high school student athletes’ perceptions of the implementation of the dual career
15.05-15.15	Francesca Di Rocco ^{1*} , Cristian Romagnoli ¹ , Elvira Padua ¹ , Flavia Guidotti ¹ (San Raffaele Open University of Rome, University of Rome, Italy)	PORTAL Project: Building an Inclusive European Platform for Olympians’ Post-Career Transitions
15.15-15.25	Nenad Stojiljković (University of Nis, Serbia)	ERASMUS Sport Project - FIND ME: University Dual Career Opportunities
15.25-15.35	Cristina Cortis ^{1,2} , Olga Papale ^{1,2} , Emanuel Festino ^{1,2} , Lamprini Papargyri ³ , Andrea Fusco ⁴ (¹ University of Cassino and Lazio Meridionale, Cassino, Italy	Designing and Evaluating a Stakeholder-Informed Mobile App to Promote Physical Activity in Children: The Walk Around the Earth Erasmus+ Project

	2 European University of Technology EUT+, Viale dell'Università, Cassino, Italy 3 MindSpin, Nicosia, 1678, Cyprus 4 University "G. d'Annunzio" of Chieti-Pescara, Chieti, Italy)	
15.35-15.45	Owen Southgate (NYSA, Sweden)	Elevate DC – Building the Future of Elite Athlete Careers in Latvia
15.45-15.55	BeActive Break	
15.55-16.30	Coffee break	
16.30-16.40	ÇAKIR, Rıdvan (Şırnak University, Türkiye)	Choosing Non Teaching Paths in PETE: An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis of Dual Career University Footballers
16.40-16.50	Mojca Doupona, Anastasiya Khomutova, Malgorzata Slawinska (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia)	Fostering Success in Young Biathletes: Addressing Cultural and Educational Challenges
16.50-17.00	Kıvanç Semiz (Recep Tayyip Erdogan University, Türkiye)	Books, Boxing, Belonging: The Case of Turkish Female Student-Athlete Duo
17.00-17.10	Juan Alfonso Garcia Roca, (UCAM, Spain)	Perception of barriers in dual careers and the importance given to psychological characteristics in athletes in training: a gender perspective
17.10-17.20	Anda Paegle (University of Latvia; "Andara plus", Latvia)	Winning in life, winning in sport
17.20-17.30	Harve Bizzoto (INSA LYON, France)	Supporting High Level Athletes at INSA, France
17.30-17.40	Rajmund Tomik (Academy of Physical Education in Katowice, Poland)	Forms of support for the student athletes in the Academy of Physical Education in Katowice
17.40-17.50	General Discussion	
17.50 -	BeActive Activity	
19.00; 20.00	Social event	Riga Black Balsam Experience (Tasting & Storytelling). Pre-registration is required. Address: Kaļķu str. 10, Riga (Oldtown).

OCTOBER 8 OLD TOWN TOUR and SPORTS MUSEUM, Alksnāja str. 9, Riga

9.00-9.40	Guided Tour	Guided Tour of the University of Latvia Main Building Address: Raiņa Boulevard 19 (just a 5-minute walk from Hotel "Opera") Meeting point: Main Entrance Lobby
9.40 -11.00	BeActive Activity	Guided walking tour of the Old Town Meeting point: UL Main Entrance Lobby
11.00-11.30	Coffee break	
11.30-13.00	Baiba Purviņa	Visiting the Latvian Sports Museum

13.00	Laura Capranica, Risto Keskitalo, Ilvis Abelkalns	Closing Ceremony in the Sports Museum
	General Discussion	
	Departure	