Physiotherapy and Physiotherapists in Latvia

• Dace Bertule
• Chair of the board of LPA
In Latvia title of "physiotherapist" and professional functions are legally defined. The physiotherapist is legally responsible for his or her own professional actions.
Education: undergraduate programs

• Riga Stradiņš University
• Latvian Academy of Sports Education
• Daugavpils University

Four years, 240 ECTS

*Degree conferred:* Professional Bachelor of Science in Medical Sciences (BSc)

*Qualification:* Physiotherapist
Education: post-graduate programs

• *Latvian Academy of Sports Education*

Professional master study program "Health care specialist in sport” with qualifications:
- Sport physiotherapist
- Adapted physical activity specialist in rehabilitation

• *Riga Stradiņš University*

Academic master study program in physiotherapy:
Master of Science in Medical Sciences (M.Sc.)
Practice and regulation

**Compulsory:**
Registration and re-registration every five years
(Health Inspectorate)

**Mandatory:**
Certification and re-certification every five years

CPD compulsory for re-certification and re-registration
Some data:

Around 70
new graduates every year

Around 1100
physiotherapists working
Primary working areas

- Out-patient: 63%
- In-patient: 11%
- Education: 7%
- Sport: 4%
- Welfare: 15%

Patient: In-patient, Out-patient, Education, Sport, Welfare
Forms of employment in health care

- Employed by the state: 8%
- Employed by a private company: 19%
- Self-employed: 32%
- Combination: 41%
Funding sources in health care

- National Health Insurance: 9%
- Private Health Insurance: 2%
- Out of pocket payment: 7%
- Combination: 82%
Average wage (netto, EUR)
Latvian Physiotherapist’s association

• A professional body founded in December 5, 1995
• A member organization of WCPT and ER-WCPT since 1999
• Around 830 members
Subgroups

- Sport physiotherapy
- Mental health
- Physiotherapy students
The main activities are:

• Promote development of the field of physiotherapy, ensuring quality of health services for Latvian society;
• Participate in promotion of health for people in Latvia and improve health care system in our country;
• Organize scientific and practical events to improve professional qualification of physiotherapists;
• Coordinate and provide certification and recertification of physiotherapists, and physiotherapy assistants;
• Maintain collaboration with physiotherapists in Latvia and abroad;
• Develop professional collaboration with professional organizations in health and social welfare area, with education settings and research institutions;
• Protect and represent interests of the LPA members
Structure

Board, elected for 4 years (7 members)

Employees:
• web page maintainer
• correspondence coordinator
• accountant
• certification commission, elected for 4 years (7 members)
Services and member’s benefits

• CPD conferences six times a year – free for members
• Access to educational resources and assessment tool database at our website- free for members
• List of practitioners in our website: “Find a Physio”
• Counseling
“Find a Physio”
Challenges

• To maintain the quality of our services
• Increase in medical tariffs for physiotherapy - negotiation with NHS
• Physiotherapy integration in education, sport and welfare settings
• Physiotherapist – direct access ?????
Thank you!