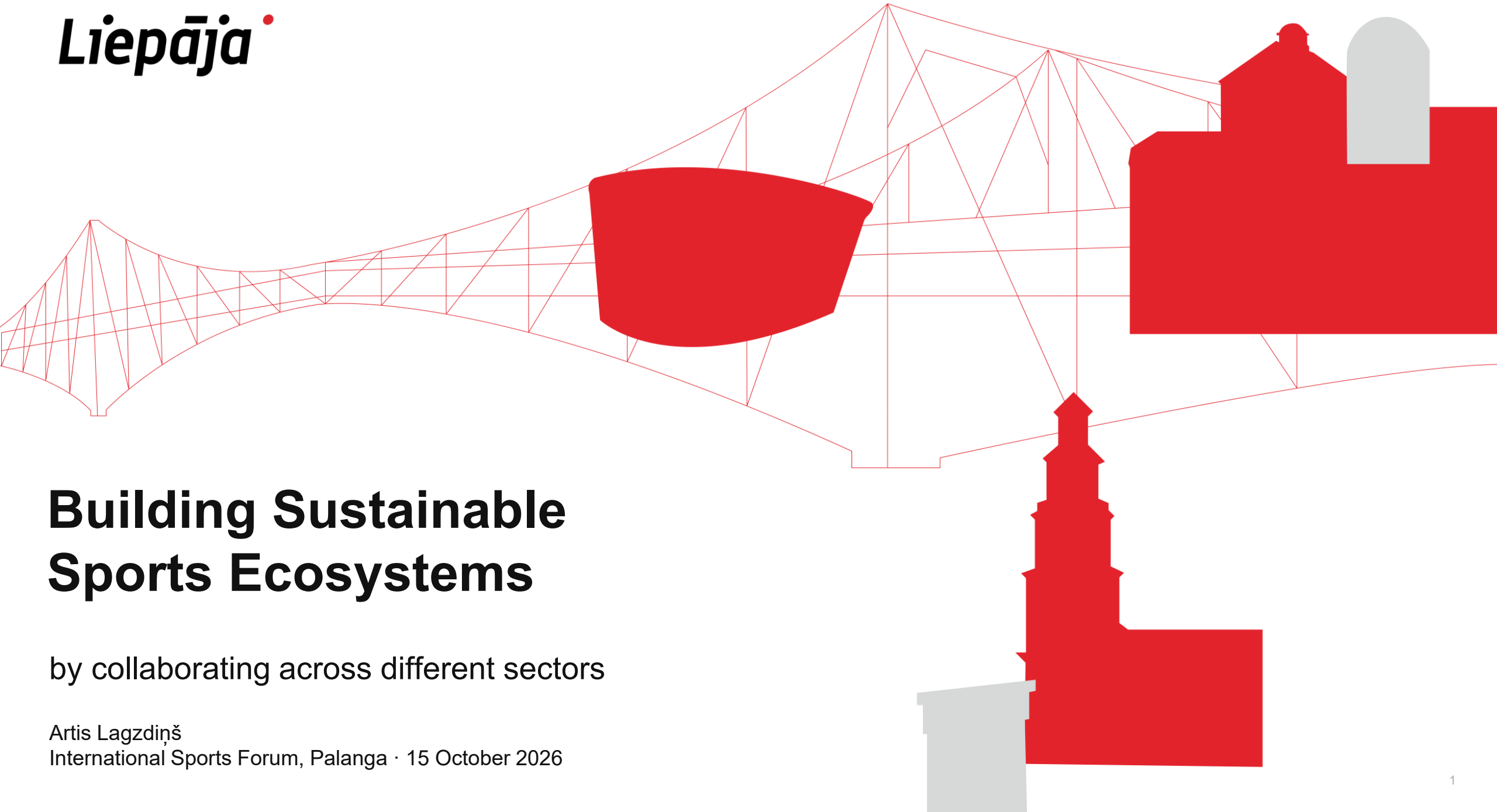


Liepāja

Building Sustainable Sports Ecosystems

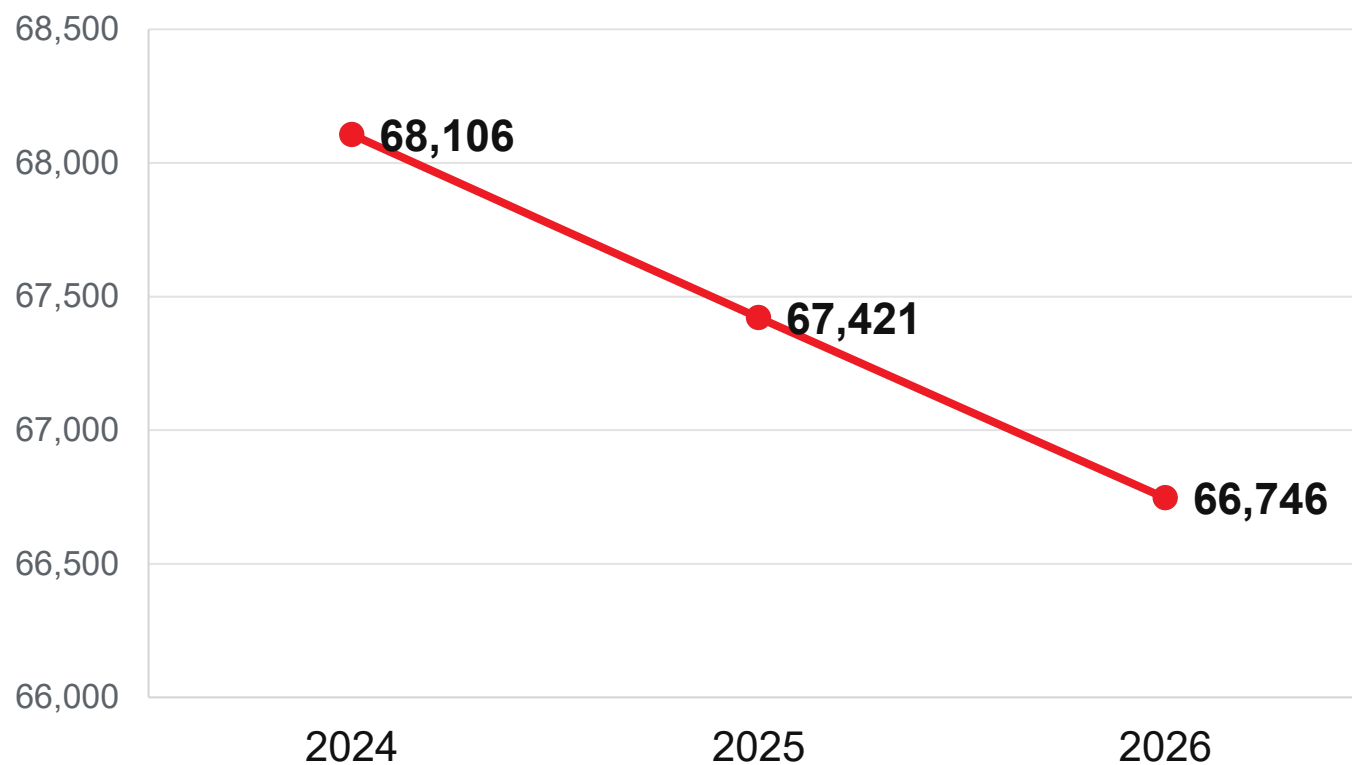
by collaborating across different sectors

Artis Lagzdīņš
International Sports Forum, Palanga · 15 October 2026



Liepāja: population and participation

Liepāja

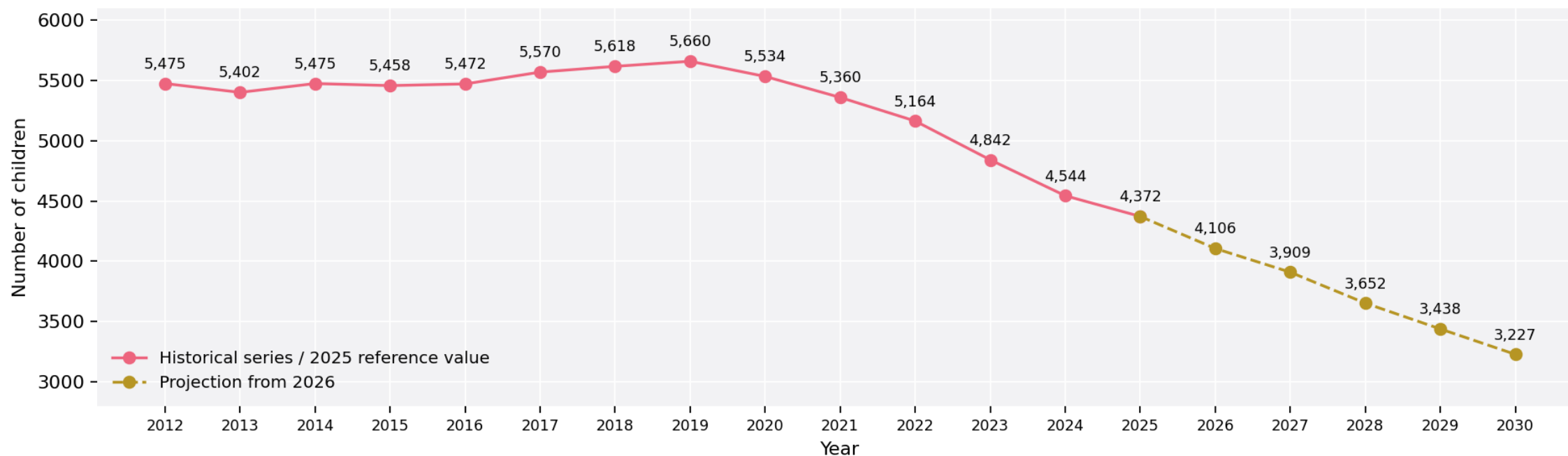


-2.0%

**Population change
2024–2026**

A smaller population makes
access and sustained
participation more important

Children aged 0–6 in Liepāja



Smaller child cohorts make cooperation, accessible activities and sustained participation increasingly important

The municipal policy foundation

Development Programme 2022–2027	Connection to the ecosystem
RV6 · Culture, tourism and sport	U6.2: quality sport services, physical activity, talent and community sport
RV2 · Public health	Health promotion and prevention through accessible local services
RV7 · Quality, accessible, inclusive education	Movement habits in preschool and school, and access to sports education

2027: delivery within the current programme

2028: transition and alignment with the next planning period

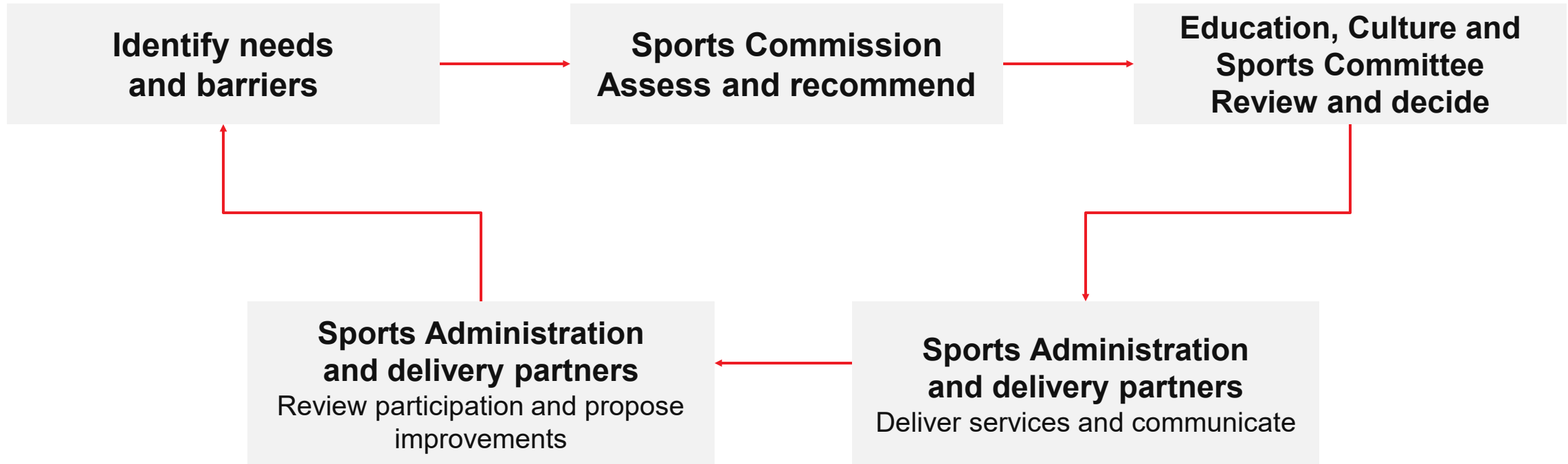


Partners and their contribution

Partner	Contribution
Public participation and health promotion	Prevention, accessible activities and community outreach
Sports Administration	Sports-school coordination, community sport and club support
Education Administration and schools	Daily movement habits, teacher support and SPURTS
Social Service	Access and support for people facing participation barriers
Facility operators, clubs and NGOs	Venues, coaching, local communities and regular delivery
Sports Commission	Brings together municipal representatives, the Sports Administration and sports professionals to assess needs and develop recommendations
Education, Culture and Sports Committee	Reviews proposals and makes decisions within its remit; refers matters requiring City Council approval to the Council

A shared purpose needs named responsibilities and regular coordination

How coordination creates a usable service



The Sports Commission brings together municipal representatives, the Sports Administration and sports professionals. The Committee decides within its remit; matters requiring City Council approval are referred to the Council

The sports-school pathway in numbers

Municipal sports school	Enrolments
Sports Games School	1 274
Complex Sports School	1 130
Football School	745
Tennis Sports School	235

3 384 enrolments across four schools

A funded public-health service

Liepāja. Healthy. Active. Happy. 2.0

€531,309

**Total project budget
2025–2028**

Funding source	Share
European Social Fund Plus	85%
National budget	15%

Equal access to local health promotion and prevention, with particular attention to people at risk of exclusion.

Free activities close to everyday life

Liepāja



Neighbourhood exercise

Activities across five city districts

Different ways to move

Beach exercise, Nordic walking, orienteering and swimming

Offers for different needs

Children, people aged 55+, young mothers and people with disabilities

Current schedules and eligibility depend on the activity

Schools help establish healthy habits

Liepāja

Physical activity

Movement skills, equipment and teacher development

Nutrition

Food education and healthy eating in the school setting

Emotional wellbeing

Support and prevention within educational institutions



Preschool: a shared implementation plan

Action in 2026/2027	Timing	Responsibility
Professional development for sports teachers	Sep, Oct, Nov, Jan, Mar	Education Administration and methodological support
Parent engagement and home movement advice	September–May	Preschool leadership and teachers
Joint planning meetings between preschool sports and group teachers	September–May	Preschool leadership and group teachers
Integration of physical activity into other learning areas	September–May	Preschool leadership and group teachers
Assessment of physical skills	September–May	Preschool leadership and sports teachers

The same skills can connect preschool, home and the first years in sport

SPURTS: education and sport together

A partnership at Liepāja Raiņa Secondary School

Partner	Role in the partnership
Raiņa Secondary School and Education Administration	School education and coordination
Sports Administration and SPURTS association	Sport pathway and partnership delivery

88 young people · 4 classes · 18 coaches

Grades 7–10: 68 lower-secondary and 20 upper-secondary pupils

Public space supports everyday movement

Liepāja

Active travel / 50+ km

Cycle routes and walking connect activity with daily journeys

Outdoor facilities / 12+

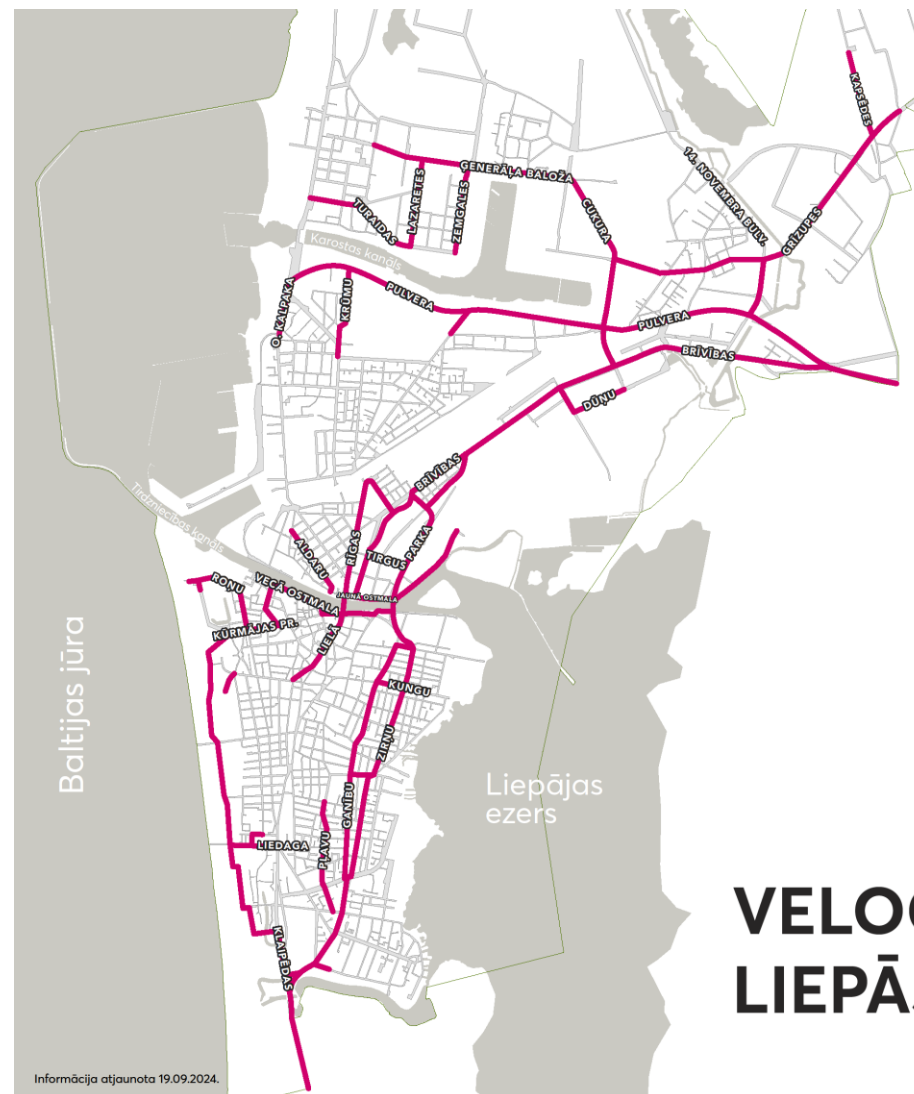
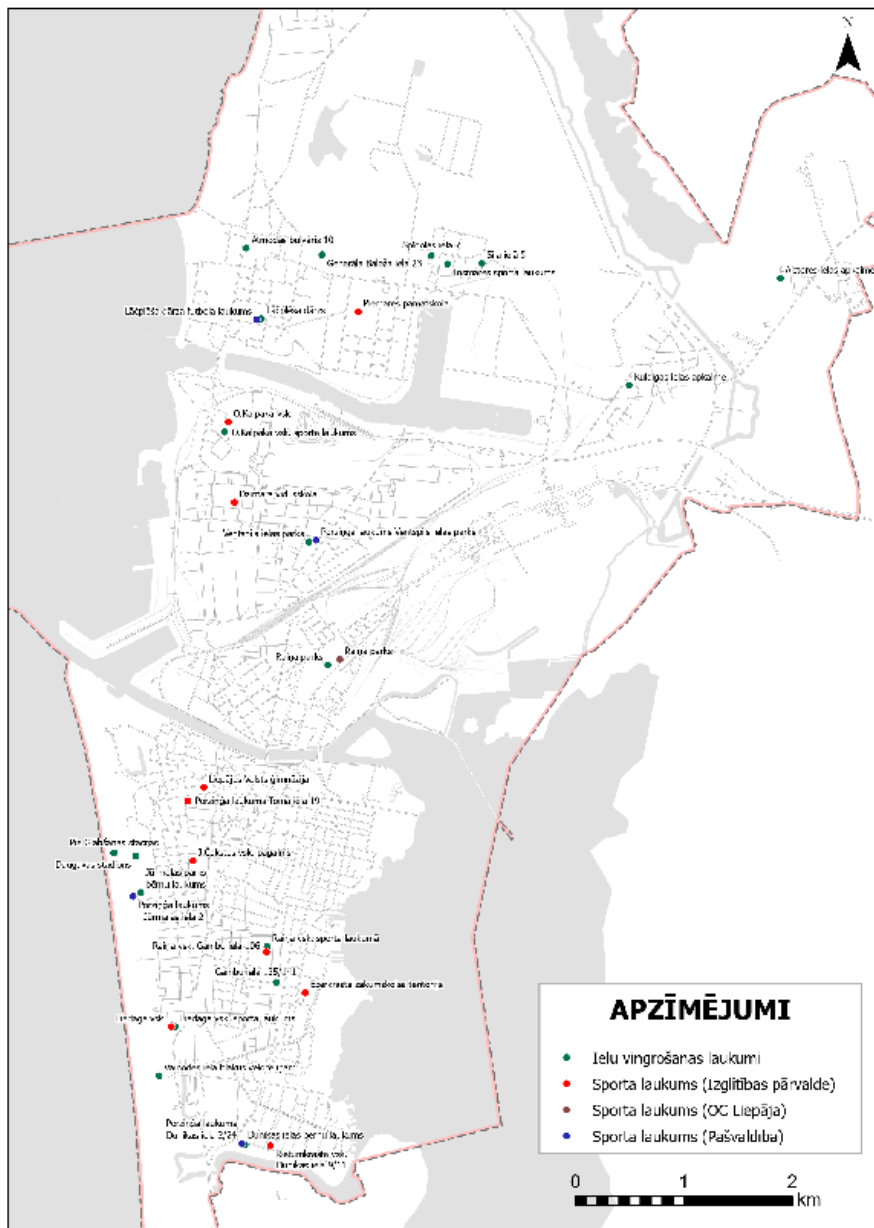
Free-access exercise areas and neighbourhood sports grounds

A common foundation / 100%

Swimming instruction offered to all municipal grade-2 classes



Offer to all classes is different from 100% actual attendance or swimming proficiency



City map of freely accessible sports grounds and facilities, and a cycling route map

Access for different ages and abilities



Older residents

Regular classes supporting movement and social contact

People with disabilities

Adapted activities and access suited to individual needs

Families facing barriers

Accessible prices, nearby venues and appropriate support



Clinical support

Sports medicine, specialist advice and rehabilitation

Movement and recovery

Physiotherapy, massage and nutrition advice

A role in evaluation

Aggregated findings can inform safe training and service needs

Community organisations extend the offer



Clubs and NGOs bring people together

Regular groups create social contact and reasons to return

Municipal support can help with venues, equipment and communication

Resource	What continuity requires
Municipal and national resources	Core services, staff and annual operating decisions
External project funding	Clear project scope, eligibility and end date
Clubs, NGOs and facility operators	Agreed contributions and delivery responsibilities
Facilities and equipment	Maintenance and access arrangements after investment

Partners coordinate resources while each funding source keeps its own responsibilities

What the city should measure

Delivery	Participation	Change over time
Sessions and facilities Funding and staff inputs	Unique people and repeat visits Age groups and neighbourhoods	Regular activity and retention Skills and participant experience
What we provide	Who we reach	Whether the offer works

Counts of sessions show volume. Attendance and follow-up show who benefits and whether participation lasts

Next steps in the working action plan

2027 priorities	2028 transition and review
Common quality criteria and coach development	Review delivery and refine the successful elements
Multisport in initial training groups	Continue or extend after participation and resource review
A programme catalogue and dropout-reason records	Compare avoidable withdrawal with the 2027 baseline
Open activities in neighbourhood facilities	Review reach and align with the next development period
Developing a unified sports policy	Implementing and monitoring the sports policy

Lessons other municipalities can use

Start with a shared policy purpose

Connect the sport offer to education and public-health goals

Make the pathways visible

Help people find a suitable activity and continue when their needs change

Agree ownership and evaluate participation

Named responsibilities, reliable counts and feedback support better decisions

Artis Lagzdiņš

artis.lagzdins@liepaja.lv

+371 29 114 185

www.liepaja.lv

