

Template for applicants for EASM Board elections 2022

Candidate details	
Last name:	Valantine
First name:	Irena
Gender:	Female
Nationality:	Lithuanian
Affiliation	
Name of the organisation:	Lithuanian Sports University
Position held:	Full Professor for Sport Management since 2016. Head of Researchers Group in Sport and Leisure Management since 2016. Director of undergraduate Sport and Tourism Management programme (since 2013).
Brief description of duties:	My main work tasks as the leader of the undergraduate programme and researchers' group are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - teaching and academic writing, - research projects (national and international), - co-operation with international partner universities and national sport organisations, - thesis supervision, - organising scientific conferences and some administrative duties.
EASM Board	
Please, briefly describe your experience, skills and competences (if any) in the following areas that you consider useful for a position in the EASM Board.	
Current & previous EASM involvement:	have been having the honour to serve EASM since 2017 as a Board Member. Since then, I have been actively involved in the EASM teaching, learning & student matters/career development. Previously was involved in the activities covering international projects, marketing and members relations. I have been attending EASM Conferences from 2014 every year, although actively serving as a reviewer of Abstracts for EASM Conferences. Annually, I am a jury member for the Alberto Madella Scholarship Fund with the task of reviewing applications and making recommendations to the Board. Currently, leading the working group of 30th EASM Anniversary.

<p>Strategic management & leadership:</p>	<p>As the Head of Bachelor study programme, I am holding position of a Leader in the field of management. Co-author of LSU strategy 2018-2022, 2023-2027. CEO of Sport Policy Institute in Lithuania (from 2018). Board member of Lithuanian Sport Management Association (from 2018). One of the leaders at National Athletes Dual Career Centre in Lithuania (from 2021).</p>
<p>Learning & teaching:</p>	<p>As an academic staff, holding position of Associate Professor for 8 years and last 6 years being Full Professor at LSU, I have taught or still teaching: Sport Policy and Good Governance, Sport Events, Leadership and Entrepreneurship. Although, supervise thesis in undergraduate, graduate and PHD levels. During the past 10 years have provided lectures in Germany, Spain and Portugal Bosnia & Hercegovina, Croatia. As mentioned above, I am responsible for the curriculum development of BSc program Sport and Tourism Management.</p>
<p>Research & scholarly activity:</p>	<p>From 2015 have reviewed 4 PhD thesis defended in Spain, supervised 5 PhD thesis (defended in Croatia and Spain), was Chair of the PhD defending procedure in Spain. Currently supervising 2 PhD students from Lithuanian Sports University. As holding the position of Full Professor, I am the Head of the researchers group at LSU. Leading the NSGO research in Lithuania (under supervision of Play the Game). Currently, I am an editorial board member and reviewer of few international scientific journals: "International Journal of Sport Marketing & Sponsorship", "Homospoticus", "Leisure time research". From 2008, I am an author or co-author of more than 90 publications (more detailed list can be found on https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Irena_Valantine). Co-author of the books: "Business Models of Lithuanian Fitness Centres" (2021) and "Digital Fitness in Lithuanian Fitness Centres" (2022) (both published by Emerald). Editorial Board Member of the research topic "The Management of Emotions in Sports Organizations" in Frontiers.</p>

<p>Practitioner & sport industry experience:</p>	<p>My experience in sport industry mostly as a volunteer started in 2002 at U-16 European Basketball Championship. Then followed as Head of Delegations Attaché at U20 European Athletics Championship (2005), as Head of Delegations Attaché at U23 European Athletics Championship (2009), as Event manager at U-16 European Men Basketball Championship (2009), as Event Manager at Omnitel U-18 European Men Basketball Championship (2010) and as Event Manager at EuroBasket 2011 (2010-2011). Currently actively involved in the international collaboration between Valencia CF and “Kauno Žalgiris“ football academy.</p> <p>As the Head of a Bachelor programme “Sport Management” I am constantly keep relations and collaborate with many stakeholders in the field of sport management.</p>
<p>Internationalisation:</p>	<p>As the Head of the BSc Programme “Sport and Tourism Management” (provided in English or Lithuanian languages), I interact with scholars from around the world covering teaching and joint research. Starting in 2012, I have already organised seven international conference’s in Lithuania and one of the best evaluated was 2nd WASM World Conference. Last ones organised were ENGSO European Sport Platform (2021) and Sport Forum (2021).</p> <p>From 2020 leading the module International Sport Management at LSU (leader JAMK (Finland) in cooperation with SUNY Cortland University (USA) and Bilgi University (Turkey).</p>
<p>Marketing:</p>	<p>As the Head of the BSc program “Sport and Tourism Management” (from 2013 till now) I am responsible for promotion to national and international audience using social media and networks (Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn).</p>
<p>Project management:</p>	<p>I have been and still part (10 Erasmus+ Sport) of multiple project teams (since 2015 till now), mainly outside the university. I am good in networking with different stakeholder groups within the academia and sports industry, and I have developed and managed projects in the field of sports.</p> <p>Currently leading the project “Sportpreneurship: smart & sustainable sport business” partly funded by Nordplus.</p>

Finance & accounting:	Finance and budgeting experience mainly related to the conferences organised, management of study programme and international projects lead.
Legal:	Just basic knowledge of legal issues needed for daily work.
Additional personal statement:	<p>I have enjoyed working with my colleagues and I would love to continue for another period to help EASM becoming an even better organisation for the engagement of all members.</p> <p>Above all mentioned, I just would like to prove my passion, experience and international networking in the field with statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - YES, I am ready to effectively contribute to the work of EASM and demonstrate excellent teamwork and project management skills; - YES, I am self-motivated and able to work both independently or as part of a team; - YES, I am ready to take responsibility and to work accurately and methodically; - YES, I have good communication, strategic and interpersonal skills; - YES, I have high level of enthusiasm and commitment; - YES, I am able to deliver on deadlines; - And YES, I am friendly and helpful.
Nominators	
Nominator 1	<p>Professor Paul Downward School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences Loughborough University (UK)</p>
Nominator 2	<p>Ferran Calabuig Moreno, PhD. Dean, Faculty of Physical Activity and Sport Sciences University of Valencia (Spain)</p>
Nominator 3	<p>Pia Kreuz Academic Coordinator, Senior Lecturer School of Business, JAMK (Finland)</p>