

The Young Athlete's Prize is intended to acknowledge young, under-21-year-olds with very good academic achievements. The First Lady's Foundation of the President's Cultural Foundation and Nordea Bank Estonia will sign a cooperation agreement on Saturday, April 18th at the new Paide Sports Hall initiating a Young Athlete's Prize. The cooperation agreement will be signed during the final games of the legendary "Ready, Steady, Go!" sports competition. After the signing, a spirited relay race will take place with Evelin Ilves and Erika Salumäe as team captains.

The Young Athlete's Prize is intended to acknowledge young, under-21-year-olds with very good academic achievements. The prize is earmarked and intended to cover training and competition costs. The amount of the prize can total 50,000 EEK. The prize will be awarded for the first time in November 2009, and thereafter twice a year – in the spring and fall.

As a supporter of healthy and active lifestyles, Evelin Ilves is convinced that active recreation must already be established as a lifestyle in childhood. She wishes to increase the appreciation of active recreation in the entire society, especially among children.

In order to make decisions and find those who need assistance, Evelin Ilves has convened a council comprised of Anu Kaljurand (Marketing Director of the Estonian Olympic Committee), Erika Salumäe (President of the Estonian School Sports Federation), Õnne Pollisinski (coach for disabled children at the Kalev Swimming School) and Heli Suvi (Counselor on Domestic Policy to the President of the Republic).

The cooperation agreement will be signed during the final games of the legendary "Ready, Steady, Go!" sports competition. The Estonian School Sports Federation (ESSF) is the largest sports organization in Estonia, with almost all Estonian general education schools as members. Every year, more than 40,000 students participate in competitions organized by the ESSF.

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