

**Erika Aze (LAT)**

Erika Aze was born on 6th of June, 1960, in one of the most beautiful regions of Latvia, Latgale. At the age of eight her family moved to Riga, the capital city of Latvia. Riga opened many more opportunities for development. First, Erika Aze started learning dancing and singing until at the age of eleven she went to a fencing practice together with her friend and started fencing foil.

Alongside fencing Erika’s interest has always been in literature and during the school years she divided her spare time between fencing tournaments and literature readings and workshops. After graduation, she chose to study literature and received a master degree in Faculty of Philology for Latvian Language and Literature. Since then, she has been an educator for eighteen years.

A special period in her life started in 1988 when Perestroika allowed a possibility to start owning a business and to travel. A possibility to get to know other cultures and exchange views with people from other countries made her wish for higher goals in life and to work hard in achieving them.

When Latvia regained its independence in 1991, she accepted the challenge to acquire new knowledge and to participate in starting the operation of The Examination Center of the Naturalization Board where she worked as a chairman of Examination Commission. Erika Aze had a possibility to learn about the foundation of law and public administration as well as economics, psychology and ethics. During this period she also took an opportunity to improve her education in a workshop organized by the University of Cambridge and its examinations syndicate.

In 2006 she was elected as a president of Latvian Fencing Federation and since then she has devoted important part of her time and professional aspirations for fencing. She sees it as her most important social objective and does it on a voluntary basis. At the moment, Erika Aze is happy to fulfill her duties as a president of Nordic Fencing Union and a member of the FIE Executive Committee. Apart from working for fencing, she enjoys working with her family in her family business that includes also a SPA and wellness center which offers fencing as a fitness practice.

She is married to her husband Janis. She is a proud mother of her son Reinis and daughter Klinta.