



#MOTORSPORTCAREER

The start of my racing success began in 2019 when I became champion in the Micro60 category in Lithuania. It was an incredible feeling to win and it showed me that I had what it takes to race at a high level. I was the only girl in this category. I also finished 4th in the Prokart r85 class in Latvia.

In 2020, I secured 3rd place in the Prokart Rotax Micro Max category in Latvia. It was a different track, but I still showed my skills and finished on the podium.

In 2021, I won the Rotax Micromax category in Lithuania. This was an exciting achievement and made me proud of my hard work. I was the only girl competing against 24 boys and proved that there are no limits to what I can achieve.

My racing adventure continued in 2022 when I finished third in the highly competitive Lithuanian Karting Championship. It was a thrilling experience to stand on the podium among so many talented racers.

I did not stop! In 2023, I turned up the heat once again to take third place in the Lithuanian Karting Championship. I also dominated the most important project of my career, the FIA Girls on Track project, as the undisputed winner!

These highlights remind me of how far I've come and motivate me to keep going. I'm excited to see what else I can achieve in my racing career!

#MINARDIMANAGEMENT

Interview with Vanesa Šilkunaite

How did you get into motorsport?

My brother's participation in karting inspired me to get into motorsport. But what made my passion even stronger was the great support from my family. Although motorsport is mostly dominated by men, they encouraged me to pursue my dream of racing and prove that girls can also be successful in this sport. With their support, I took part in karting competitions and they constantly pushed me to improve and challenge gender stereotypes. With good results, I have shown the potential of female drivers.

How satisfied are you with your 2023 season and what were your highlights?

The 2023 season was indeed an incredible journey for me. Overall, I am very happy with my performance. It was a season full of challenges, triumphs and growth. However, if I had to pick out one of the key points that has brought me the most recognition and the opportunity to showcase my talent, it would be the FIA GIRLS ON TRACK project. I was selected as one of the four best female racers in the 12-14 age group and became champion. I was the first female racer in the Baltic States to receive such recognition. Winning this prestigious award was an important moment for my career, my self-confidence and my even greater passion for this sport.

What are your favorite moments in motorsport so far?

There have been so many memorable moments during my journey in motorsport. From exhilarating wins on the track to the camaraderie with other racers, each experience has been unique in its own way. However, if I had to name one special moment, it would be winning my first championship. Nothing compares to the feeling of winning a championship for the first time. It is the culmination of countless hours of hard work, dedication and passion. Standing on the podium and lifting the trophy above my head for the first time was a very satisfying experience. When the result finally translates into a win, you want to keep moving forward and improving your skills every day. I also really appreciate international success. Competing internationally against some of the best riders in the world is a highlight of my career. Representing my country and testing my skills against high-caliber competitors in different countries and on different tracks is both challenging and rewarding. Each race brings new experiences and opportunities for development. Standing on the podium in a foreign country is a testament to the hard work and determination it takes to reach this level.

Are there already plans for the 2024 season?

The 2024 season will be incredibly exciting, with many competitions in different countries. At the moment, I'm

planning to take part in the Lithuanian Karting Championship, the FIA Karting European Championship, the prestigious FIA Karting World Championship and the WSK series. These are just some of the planned competitions, but there are many more to come! I look forward to challenging myself, learning from each race and continuing to improve my skills on the track.

What are your wishes for your future in motorsport?

My wishes for motorsport are twofold. Firstly, I want to continue to test the limits of my abilities and strive for top performance. I want to compete at the highest levels of karting and keep pushing myself to achieve new successes. Secondly, I am passionate about promoting diversity and inclusion in motorsport. I want to inspire more girls and women to pursue their dreams in racing and break down barriers to entry into the sport.

What else would you like to tell our magazine readers about yourself or motorsport?

Although there is no shortage of challenges, frustrations and high workloads in this sport and every day requires a lot of work and perseverance, I would like to emphasize the incredible sense of community and camaraderie in the world of motorsport. It's not just about the thrill of the race or the pursuit of victory. It's also about the friendships you make, the lessons you learn and the shared passion that unites us all. Motorsport has the power to break down barriers and bring people from all walks of life together and I feel privileged to be part of such a vibrant and diverse community. I would encourage all readers of this magazine, whether experienced racers or newcomers, to pursue their passion for motorsport with dedication, determination and a sense of joy and camaraderie. Let's continue to push the limits together, chase our dreams and inspire others along the way.

#BIOGRAPHY

Name: Vanesa Šilkunaite

Birthday: 28.03.2011

Place of residence: Kauno Raj

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Hobbies: Painting, anything artistic, Lego, puzzles, tennis and traveling