

In April Delna published recommendations to the Cabinet of Ministers and the Saeima (parliament) to promote greater transparency in the use of COVID-19 related emergency funding and allocation of emergency contracts.

On April 2 Delna published [ten recommendations](#) for preventing corruption. On April 19 Delna organized a discussion titled [“COVID-19 and Transparent Public Procurement”](#) with Karolis Grancikas, a procurement expert with the international organization Open Contracting Partnership. He recommended providing public access to all emergency procurement contracts. Grancikas proposed that data from these contracts be collected and published in open data format so that the government can effectively plan for the exiting of the crisis and prepare for future states of emergency. To this end, Delna has already invited government agencies [to evaluate the justification](#) for a specific emergency procurement made related to the COVID-19 outbreak. Public Procurement Monitoring Bureau has started an inspection.

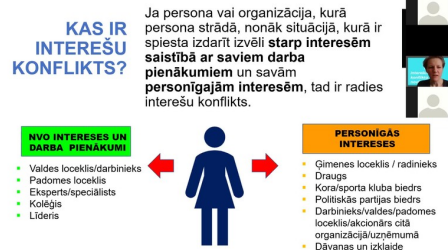
As of April 23, Latvia’s government has published data on its web page [covid19.gov.lv](https://www.covid19.gov.lv) describing which agencies used government monies, in what amount, and for what purposes. Also included are contracts that have been allocated without applying the law. [The data base](#) is still in progress.

Delna will Oversee Centralized Procurements - *pro bono*

In order to promote greater transparency, fair competition, and effective use of state resources, Delna has agreed to an appeal from the Ministry of Defence to oversee the centralized procurement of disinfectants and personal protection required in combating COVID-19. Delna will perform the oversight *pro bono*. [A Facebook broadcast with Defence Minister Artis Pabriks](#) took place on May 5 (in Latvian).

Conflict of Interest Topics Explained by Delna at NGO Seminar

Representatives from more than 20 organizations participated in a webinar hosted by Delna explaining typical conflict of interest situations in the NGO sector and how to prevent them. The presentation, including recommendations, can be [downloaded](#) (in Latvian).



More than 35 Municipal Government Representatives Participated in Delna's Webinar

The webinar [“Public Procurement by Municipal Governments and Public Involvement in Monitoring Procurements”](#) took place on April 28. Municipal procurement specialists learned from Delna how to involve the public in monitoring procurements, were introduced to new public procurement document package, and became acquainted with the activities of the Delna Whistleblower Center. Procurement Monitoring Bureau (IUB) representative Dace Ozola explained to the participants situations in which IUB encourages to "blow a whistle".

Work on the Project "Reducing Corruption and Strengthening Anti-Corruption Community on Latvia" Has Started

Delna has undertaken to present its expertise to anti-corruption decision makers, perform analytical work, initiate an information campaign, and work with NGOs from various spheres in an effort to reduce tolerance of corruption. Of the 91 project proposals submitted to the Social Integration Fund, Delna's was selected as one of 22 finalists in the NGO Fund competition. [The project](#) deadline is October 31, 2020.

Delna Opposes Efforts to Keep

Government Worker Salaries Secret

On April 27 Delna [formally asked](#) the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) not to go forward with its proposal to amend the "Preventing Conflict of Interest" law. The MES proposal would weaken the public reporting requirements of the interest declaration for officials of institutions of higher education and board members of state-owned enterprises.

THE ALLIANCE AGAINST CORRUPTION IN LATVIA



Picture: Martin Laine, Estonian journalist.

Martin Laine: "Only One Man is Needed To Destroy Corruption"

"There's nothing I can tell someone that would actually persuade them to whistleblow. There's no guarantee that whistleblowing will end up in whistleblower's favour; usually it happens the other way around," said Martin Laine, a journalist from Estonia. But he underscores that, "A whistleblower is someone whose testimony will quite surely lead to some kind of an impact necessary for the development of a society or an institution." In preparing for this autumn's ["Whistleblower's Conference"](#) organized by the Alliance Against Corruption in Latvia, please read [this interview with Martin Laine](#), who will be a key speaker at the conference.

Corruption Risks Greater in a Crisis -

Please Let Us Know!

During states of emergency, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the risk of fraud, bribery, and corruption increases greatly as well as the temptation for government officials to expand their authority for personal gain. Each one of us can prevent such potential violations or inappropriate actions, which is why Delna has prepared [recommendations](#) on what to do during a crisis. Please inform yourself about the risks and [share](#) the links to spread information.

SUPPORT OUR ANTI-CORRUPTION WORK

If you support our work, please [become a donor](#). Your small, but regular monthly donation via bank transfer will help us perform more *pro bono* work and shine light on corruption risks and irregularities in Latvia. Thank you!

How to donate:

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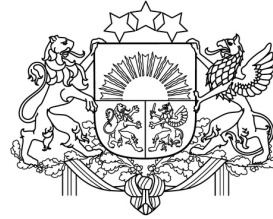
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