



Over the past seven years the level of corruption has not declined in Latvia and the government is not doing enough to effectively combat it, according to the [Eurobarometer special report](#) (June 2020) on corruption in EU member states.

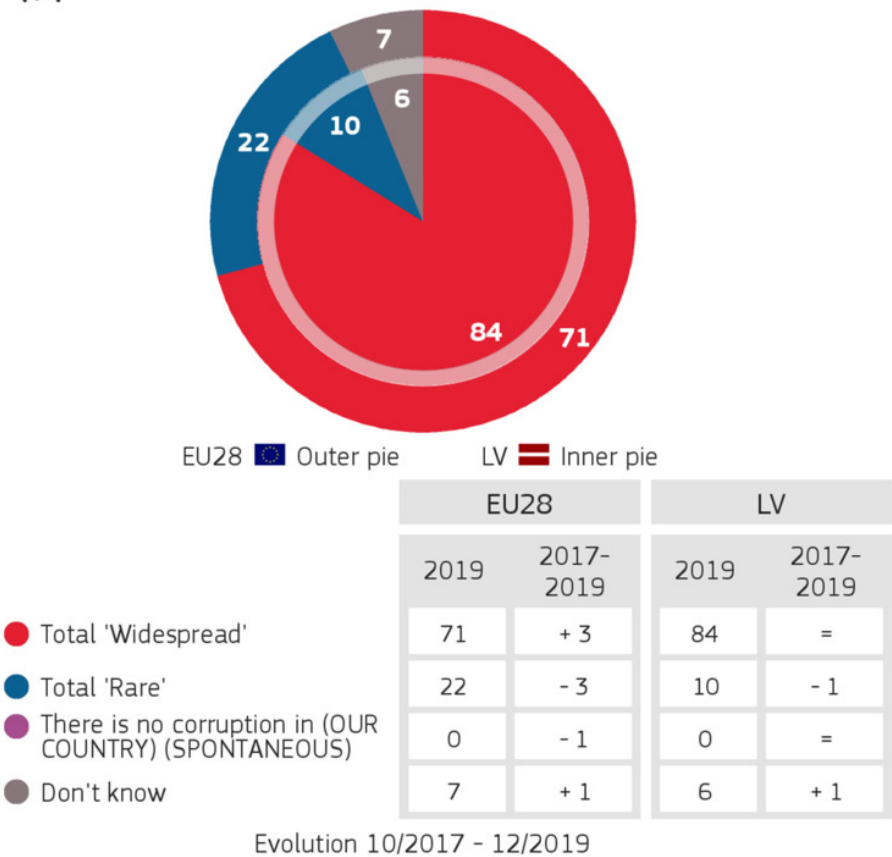
84% of respondents in Latvia feel that corruption is widespread in the country. This is higher than the EU average of 71% and has not changed significantly since 2013. Only 15% of respondents believe that government efforts at combatting corruption are effective, less than half of the EU average of 32%.

Personal experience with corruption in Latvia is the same as the EU average: 5% have been the victims of it or witnesses to it. However, only 3% have reported incidents of corruption. This is significantly lower than the EU average of 21% who report incidents of corruption.

Delna's (Transparency International Latvia) view is that these Eurobarometer results should be considered in conjunction with the Corruption Perception Index in which Latvia experienced a downward slide in 2019. The high level of tolerance against corruption and the low motivation to report instances of corruption is affected by a lack of results in government efforts to punish corrupt officials and bribers.

However, in order to successfully combat corruption, the giving of a thank you gratuity, and to increase society's trust in honest processes in government administration and politics, it is important not only to fight corruption but to invest in prevention and the education of society. As anti-corruption policies are being developed, Delna recommends that agencies give priority to improving internal control systems as well as the strengthening of transparency and ethical standards in public sector and politics. For more on our views, please visit our [Delna website](#).

QB5 How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)?
(%)



Delna, KNAB (Corruption Prevention and Combatting Agency) and representatives of higher education cooperate to put off the weakening of financial disclosures of government officials

On July 1 the Saeima (parliament) State Administration and Municipality Commission decided to postpone changes to the law on “Preventing Conflicts of Interest” which would reduce the amount of publicly available information board members of state-owned enterprises report on their Declaration of Interests. The *Cross-Sectoral Coordination Center* was asked to prepare alternatives to the current proposal by September. Delna is participating in the preparation of the new proposal and is opposed to any reduction in transparency.

Please support our work! Every donation, large or small, helps to fight corruption in Latvia!

The Register of Enterprises in Latvia (REL) is ready to publish information in Open

Data format about beneficial owners

On October 1, 2021, per legislation passed by Saeima, information about beneficial owners will be available to all in the Open Data format. The REL informed Delna and the Data School (Datu Skola) that they are technically ready to make the information available this year if Saeima amends the law. That would significantly simplify Delna's work on [this digital tool \(Opener\)](#) that will hopefully help identify conflicts of interest in public procurement.



From the left: Antonio Greko (Delna), Andis Cīrulis (Datu skola), Liene Gātere (Delna), Guna Paidere (Enterprise Register).

Delna is critical of the changes to the National Civil Service Law

There are concerns that the proposed model will weaken state administration professional standards and permit political motivated job rotations or dismissal from work, using incompatibility as an excuse. In order to successfully resolve compatibility issues in the public and political sectors, Delna's view is that ethics norms need to be strengthened and that further discussions are needed regarding the political neutrality and professionalism of public administration. For more on Delna's views, see [LVportāls \(in Latvian\)](#).

Delna director Liene Gātere shares her experience uncovering corruption with professionals in Uzbekistan

On May 29 Uzbekistan's General Prosecutor Academy and the UN Development Program organized a digital conference on the topic "Issues of Interaction Between Government Bodies and Non-Governmental Organizations in the Area of Combatting Corruption." Liene Gātere shared her experience with best practices, whistleblowers, promoting the use of Open Data, monitoring public procurement, and uncovering corruption.



Delna's lawyer Zane Zvirgzdiņa is moving on to a new job

Zane did a great job for us and we wish her all the best. Her departure leaves Delna with an opening for a motivated legal expert for which we are currently recruiting.

Kārlis Ātrens is Delna's new Chairman of the Board



Delna's new Chairman of the Board Kārlis Ātrens

Delna's board of directors elected **Kārlis Ātrens** as its new chairman and Kaspars Strazds as vice-chairman. Mr. Ātrens is an IT specialist with Baltic Agro Machinery and a lecturer at the Riga Business School where he teaches courses in business administration and corporate governance. Ātrens has been a Delna board member since 2017. Delna wishes Kārlis Ātrens success in his new position and thanks the outgoing chairman Valdis Liepiņš for all of his contributions to improving Delna over the past five years.

During the distance General Assembly on June 9 Anna Plaudiņa and Jana Simanovska were elected to **the board** where they will join Evija Celma, Valdis Verners and Valdis Liepiņš. Agnese Alksne was elected a board candidate.

If you would like to participate in the work Delna does and help reduce corruption in Latvia, please become a member. As a Delna member you will join 90 others in Latvia and become part of **Transparency International's** global anti-corruption network with chapters in more than 100 countries.

Become a member of Delna!

DELNA'S VIEWPOINTS

"De svenska bankerna SEB och Swedbanks roll i den bedrägerimisstänkta låneplattformen Envestios transaktioner väcker kritik från antikorrupsionsorganisationen Transparency International."

Liene Gātere's comments on June 18, 2020 to [Sweden's television station SVT](#) (in Swedish) regarding the role of SEB and Swedbank in possible fraudulent entanglements.



Picture: Liene Gātere (Delna), by SVT

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Newsletter #22: People in Latvia still tolerant of corruption

Kāpēc es saņēmu šo vēstuli?

[Lai atteiktos no turpmākām vēstulēm, spiediet šeit](#) | [Atjaunot profilu](#)