



Transparency International Latvia (Delna) together with Transparency International and national chapters in Lithuania and Sweden [sounded the alarm](#) over the glaring flaws in the European Union's anti-money laundering system following new revelations concerning Swedbank. Organizations have been calling for [tighter EU-wide supervision](#) of financial institutions and urging the new European Commission to bring up for debate [proposals](#) put forward by a group of member states last year.

The [218-page independent report](#) commissioned by Swedbank and published last week finds that the bank and its Baltic branches actively sought clients with a high-risk profile and reportedly approved at least US \$40 billion in high-risk transactions between 2014 and 2019, ignoring the bank's anti-money laundering policy.

Swedbank branches in Latvia approved transactions worth 4.5 billion Euros (~ US \$5 billion) from high-risk clients. [Latvia's State Police Economic Crimes Commission is investigating](#) Swedbank's transactions in Latvia.

Conference Conclusions: Citizens Should Be Involved in Monitoring EU Financed Procurements Post 2020

On February 28 Delna hosted the conference “[Integrity Pacts for Safeguarding EU Funds in Latvia and Europe.](#)” Experts from Latvia and other countries underscored the benefits from involving citizens in monitoring EU funds. Panelists called on involving citizens in monitoring complicated infrastructure projects, especially in local governments where transparency is lacking. The conference video, expert presentations, and more recommendations can be found on the Delna [website](#).



From left: moderator Haralds Burkovskis, Liene Gātere (Delna), Ivan Zupan (Transparency International), Solita Dombrovskā (CFLA), Vasja Čepič (Transparency International Slovenia)



From left: Māra Šimane (Cross-Sectoral Coordination Centre), Inese Kuške (State Chancellery), Inguna Kramiņa (European Commission), Atis Egliņš-Eglītis (Cesis Council), Līga Staļeckā (think tank PROVIDUS), Inta Vingre (Procurement Monitoring Office)

Delna's Efforts to Have Integrity Pacts Included in Government Programs Paying Off

In February the Cabinet of Ministers approved the inclusion of Integrity Pacts in the 4th Open Government Partnership Action Plan for 2020-2021. For more on Delna's

efforts to expand inclusion of Integrity Pacts in Latvia click [here](#).

The KNAB (Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau) Public Advisory Council (SKP) Meeting on February 25

The 66th meeting of the SKP focused on [KNAB achievements in 2019](#) and the new strategy planned for 2020-2022, which include: 1) reducing ambiguities in law that might allow state employees to take illegal actions against a person's property and financial resources; 2) undertaking financial investigations during criminal inquiries; 3) improving the monitoring of political party financing; and 4) strengthening the Bureau's capacity. Delna's director Liene Gātere has been chairing the SKP since November 2018.



Participants of KNAB SKP meeting on February 25



Pictures: www.knab.gov.lv

Delna is Developing an Open Data Tool for Detecting Conflicts of Interest in Public Procurement in Latvia and Estonia Within the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Digital Bootcamp

The joint proposal by Delna together with the “Datu Skola” (Data School), the Transparency International chapter in Estonia, Open Knowledge Estonia, and Estonia's Ministry of Justice to the IMF Anti-Corruption Challenge, was selected as [one of eight finalists](#) from over 120 proposals. Organizations have been invited to participate in the IMF Digital Bootcamp. Under the guidance of IMF experts, the idea will be refined through October. To learn more about other finalists, please click [HERE](#).

THE ALLIANCE AGAINST CORRUPTION IN LATVIA

A New Game – an Aid in Solving Ethical Dilemmas and Whistleblowing Cases in Businesses

In cooperation with Agnese Alksne, chairwoman of Latvia's Corporate Social Responsibility Platform (CSR Latvia) and CSR expert, and business game designer and organization culture designer Krista Griķe from AryGames, we have designed a practical game for companies and organizations to help solve internal ethical dilemmas as well as assist in implementing whistleblowing procedures.

The goal of the game is to help employees understand what are ethical dilemmas, how to recognize them at work, and how to properly respond to them. The game also helps to more effectively recognize cases which require reporting to public institutions. For more information about the game, a demonstration of the game, business reviews, and how to obtain a copy of it, please contact the game's co-author and Alliance director Inese Tauriņa (inese.taurina@delna.lv).



The game in action

Delna's Whistleblowing Center Lawyers Consulted with Potential Whistleblowers 44 Times in 2019

Last year our legal experts gave advice, support or in-depth consultations to potential whistleblowers, including advising on reporting to authorities to solve the issues. They

also assisted in preparing documents, and, in one case, represented the person in court. [In nine instances](#) the person was deemed a whistleblower in the context of the Whistleblower Law. To learn more regarding under what circumstances to turn to Delna, please visit our updated website www.celtrauksmi.lv. (in Latvian).

COMING SOON

New Delna Projects for 2020

Plans for 2020 include continuing our advocacy work, further developing cooperation with NGOs in Latvia, organizing an international event related to lobbying transparency regulations, training public employees, and participating in cooperation projects with Transparency International national chapters and the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA).

DONATE

If You Support What Delna Does, We Invite You to Become a Monthly Donor.

Your [donation](#) in 2020 will help us monitor appointment of the Chief of the Latvian State Police, build an open data tool to detect conflicts of interest in public procurement, and shine light on corruption risks and irregularities in Latvia. Such work can only be possible through funding from donations.

How to donate:

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**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORT DELNA AND TO
THOSE WHO PLAN TO DO SO!**

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