



Valsts kanceleja



Valsts administrācijas skola



ONLINE CONFERENCE

"WHISTLEBLOWING: THE NEXT LEVEL"

5 and 6 November, 2020

More than a year has passed since the Whistleblowing Law¹ came into force in Latvia on 1 May 2019. It provides legal basis for whistleblowing channels in public institutions and private companies and organisations, and offers citizens a secure way to report possible violations that are related to their work and can harm the public interest.

The State Chancellery has prepared the first annual report for 2019, including statistics and first conclusions about the whistleblowing system and cases in Latvia.²

The amendments to the Whistleblowing Law were promulgated on 6 August 2020. They aim to transpose the EU Directive 2019/1937 on the protection of persons who report breaches of Union law ("Whistleblowers Directive").³

Representatives of public bodies in charge of whistleblowing, as well as other representatives of state and municipal bodies, entrepreneurs, representatives of law firms, researchers, and journalists are invited to this conference. It aims to study the whistleblowing experience of Latvia and other countries, and to discuss the current progress and potential improvements in the whistleblowing system.

Organisers	Latvian School of Public Administration The State Chancellery Transparency International Latvia (Delna) Alliance Against Corruption in Latvia
Date	5-6 November, 2020
Virtual participation	Zoom After registration, a link will be sent to registered participants. The conference will be live-streamed .
The language of the conference	Latvian and English (simultaneous interpretation will be provided)
Contact persons	Inese.Andersone@vas.gov.lv Inese.Kuske@mk.gov.lv TI@delna.lv

Conference proceedings will be prepared and published after the conference. Conference **will be recorded** and re-translated.

¹ likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/302465-whistleblowing-law

² www.trauksmescelejs.lv/statistika

³ Draft law "Amendments to the Whistleblowing Law" is available [here](#).

THURSDAY, 5 NOVEMBER, 2020

Moderator: **Laima Letiņa**

8.50-9.00	<i>Time for participants to join the conference remotely</i>
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INTRODUCTION	
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9.00-9.15	Jānis Citskovskis , Director of the State Chancellery
	Agita Kalviņa , Director of the School of Public Administration
	Inese Tauriņa , Executive Director of the Transparency International Latvia- Delna, Manager of the Alliance against Corruption in Latvia

SESSION 1: Creating a whistleblowing system in Latvia – trends, outcomes and future directions	
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9.15-9.30	Set-up of the Whistleblowing Law: main outcomes
	Inese Kuške , the Public Administration Policy Department of the State Chancellery

9.30-9.45	The role of the Whistleblowers’ Point of Contact and main outcomes
	Līga Peinberga , Document Management Department of the State Chancellery

9.45-10.10	Transposing the European Union Whistleblowers Directive into the national law – main provisions and reasoning behind the Directive
	Georgia Georgiadou , DG Justice and Consumers, European Commission

10.10-10.30	Discussion
	<i>Interactive break</i>

SESSION 2: Whistleblowing mechanisms in other EU countries – current models	
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10.30-10.50	Whistleblowing and protection of whistleblowers in Lithuania (“prosecution model”)
	Gintarė Bliujienė , Office of the Prosecutor General of Lithuania

10.50-11.00	Questions and answers
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11.00-11.20	Investigations and consultations of the Whistleblowers’ House. Protection of whistleblowers in the Netherlands (“specialised institution model”)
	Wilbert Tomesen , chairman, Whistleblowers’ House (Whistleblowers Authority), the Netherlands

11.20-11.30	Questions and answers
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11.30-11.50	Whistleblowing in France: the role and experience of the Defender of Rights (“ombudsman model”)
	Néphéli Yatropoulos , Defender of Rights (Le Défenseur des droits), France

11.50-12.00	Questions and answers
12.00-13.00	<i>Lunch</i>
13.00-14.30	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION 1:</p> <p>Reporting to competent authorities – experience and lessons learned</p> <hr/> <p>Questions for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What types of violations do whistleblowers report? Typical examples, trends. ○ Do reporting persons meet statutory criteria applicable to whistleblowers? How to improve the current system? ○ Is the investigation of whistleblower reports successful? What forms do investigations take? What challenges do competent institutions face? ○ How successful is inter-institutional co-operation? How can it be improved? ○ What actions are taken to respond to reports not recognized as whistleblowers' reports? ○ Is the identity of whistleblowers protected well? <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Contact Persons on Whistleblowing Issues in Competent authorities:</p> <p>Iveta Ritere, Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau, Kristīne Pulkstene, State Labour Inspectorate, Līga Plaude, State Revenue Service, Aleksejs Remesovs, Ministry of Justice, Asnate Sikorska, Whistleblowers' Point of Contact-State Chancellery, Dzidra Ikauniece, State Environmental Service, Ieva Mortukāne, the Procurement Monitoring Bureau</p> <hr/> <p><i>Interactive break (mini-Live Poll)</i></p>
14.30-15.20	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION 2:</p> <p>Preconditions for effective protection of whistleblowers and sanctions in whistleblowing area</p> <hr/> <p>Questions for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Protection guarantees for whistleblowers in cases of reprisal ○ Responsibility for whistleblowing <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Sanita Armagana and Dace Vārna, Ministry of Justice, Jeļena Bārbale, Legal Aid Administration, Inese Kuške and Kristīne Stone, the State Chancellery, Kristīne Pulkstene, the State Labour Inspectorate, Iveta Smoča, State Police and Ieva Žeimunde, Data State Inspectorate of Latvia</p>
15.20-15.30	<p><i>Closing</i></p> <p>Day 1 Summary</p>

FRIDAY, 6 NOVEMBER, 2020

Moderator: **Laima Letiņa**

8.50-9.00	<i>Time for participants to join the conference remotely</i>
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INTRODUCTION	
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9.00-9.10	Inese Tauriņa , Executive Director of the Transparency International Latvia–Delna, Manager of the Alliance against Corruption in Latvia
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	H.E. John L. Carwile , the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia
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	H.E. Govert Jan Bijl de Vroe , Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Republic of Latvia
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SESSION 1: How does protecting whistleblowers change the society and the professional environment?	
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9.10-9.30	Justice and human rights in the context of whistleblowing
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	Hans Groot , Senior Advisor on Issue of Integrity at the Centre of Expertise for Labour Relations in the Public Sector (CAOP) in the Netherlands
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9.30-9.40	Questions and answers
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9.40-10.00	A whistleblower’s story. How whistleblowing changes a person
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	Vladimir Radomirovic , Editor in Chief of <i>Pistaljka</i> , an online investigative journalism outlet, Serbia; https://pistaljka.rs
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10.00-10.10	Questions and answers
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10.10-10.20	Monitoring results – how are internal whistleblowing systems implemented in Latvia?
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	Inese Tauriņa , Executive Director of the Transparency International Latvia–Delna
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SESSION 2: Benefits of creating internal whistleblowing systems in institutions and companies. Opportunities.	
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10.20-10.40	Experience and benefits of setting up whistleblowing systems in Lithuanian institutions and companies
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	Sergejus Muravjovas , Transparency International Lithuania, CEO
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10.40-10.50	Questions and answers
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10.50-11.10	Experience of Riga City: implementation and operation of internal whistleblowing system by municipal administration
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	Aigars Evardsons , Riga City Council’s Center against Bureaucracy, Senior Expert in Corruption Prevention matters
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11.10-11.20	Questions and answers
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11.20-11.40	How do companies foster whistleblowing? Insight into Swedbank’s internal whistleblowing system and industry best practice guidelines
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	Sarmite Zeibe , Deputy Head of Compliance Latvia at Swedbank
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11.40-11.50	Questions and answers
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11.50-12.00	Expert discussion Marika Lapīņa , DPD Latvija, Head of HR Inese Kuške , the Public Administration Policy Department of the State Chancellery
12.0-13.00	<i>Lunch</i>
SESSION 3: What does it mean to be a whistleblower?	
13.00-13.30	A mole at Siemens! Per-Yngve Monsen , one of Norway's best-known whistleblowers
13.30-13.40	<i>Questions and answers</i>
13.40-14.00	How to support whistleblowers – role of the media. What not to do in the case of whistleblowing in an institution or company Martin Laine , Investigative journalist – <i>Ekspress Meedia</i> , Estonia
14.00-14.10	<i>Questions and answers</i>
14.10-14.30	How to boost employee confidence in the whistleblowing system? Tom Devine , Legal Director, Government Accountability Project, USA
14.30-14.40	<i>Questions and answers</i>
SESSION 4: DISCUSSION – Future challenges and opportunities	
14.40-15.20	Questions for discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How does the Whistleblowing Law affect the human resources capacity and who are the designated persons in the private and public sector to take care of whistleblowers' reports? ○ How to foster successful reporting and reliance on whistleblowing system? ○ What improvements to the law and the system are needed – proposals for mitigating system shortcomings ○ Can the government's support to whistleblowers and Contact Points be strengthened? <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Evita Goša, Legal Director, Management Board Member at Schwenk, Katrīne Pļaviņa, Attorney-at-law, VILGERTS Ameet Kabrawala, Federal Prosecutor and Resident Legal Advisor, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Embassy Latvia</p>
15.20-15.30	<i>Closing</i> Day 2 Summary

NACIONĀLAIS
ATTĪSTĪBAS
PLĀNS 2020



EIROPAS SAVIENĪBA
Eiropas Sociālais
fonds

IEGULDĪJUMS TAVĀ NĀKOTNĒ

Conference is co-financed from European Social Fund project Nr.3.4.2.0/15/I/002 "Professional Development of Human Resources in Public Administration for Preventing Corruption and Reducing Shadow Economy"



Conference is co-financed by the U.S. Embassy in Latvia, The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Latvia and World Federation of Free Latvians (PBLA)

Norwegian contribution through EEA grants to Latvia in the field of the whistleblowing system