DISKUSIJAS REZULTĀTI



2021. gada 18. februārī plkst. 15:00





How to Improve Latvia's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2020 Results Discussed at Conference

To better understand why Latvia has been unable to improve its CPI rating over the past years and to search for ways to reduce corruption, TI Latvia / Delna invited judicial and corruption experts, representatives from the country's legal field and business sector to discuss these issues. Different viewpoints and concrete solutions were presented at the February 18, 2021 conference.

For a more detailed report on the main points discussed, please click on the link to the Delna website (in English). Delna's homepage ->



Dismissal of the Rīga City Council Voted Top Anti-Corruption Action

In a poll of TI Latvia / Delna supporters, respondents voted the dismissal of the Rīga City

Council as the top anti-corruption act of 2020. Voters viewed the dismissal as a justified punishment for the possible illegal and arbitrary actions of the Council. In second place were changes made to the Office of the Prosecutor Law that now calls for open competition in the selection of the Prosecutor General. Improvements enacted to Latvia's financial system regulations was voted third.

With regard to Delna's work, the top vote getter was our analysis of parliamentarian votes, which includes a call to MPs not to use the "abstain" option in voting. By not abstaining in the Parliament votes, legislators exhibit greater responsibility and transparency.

The complete anti-corruption voter results and Delna's most important actions of 2020 can be found at <u>Delna's home page</u> (in Latvian).



Delna Draws Attention to the Corruption Potential in the Covid Vaccination Program

In a letter to the National Health Service (NVD) and the Ministry of Health, Delna drew attention to the importance of realizing and avoiding potential corruption risks.

The letter, dated February 18, 2021, points out that Covid-19 vaccine production and distribution are currently limited and that demand in the EU and Latvia is very high. This creates conditions for possible corruption, particularly where persons may receive the vaccine out of order and deny it to someone in vital need of it.

Delna invites the NVD and the Vaccinations Bureau to provide the following information:

- Has a system been established to avoid the risk of persons receiving inoculations out of order?
- Is there a procedure in place so that people or institutions that have concrete information regarding Covid-19 vaccinations received out of order can report it?

The full text of the letter can be viewed here (in Latvian): Delna homepage ->

We kindly ask to support our work! Every Euro Donated to Delna Helps in the Fight Against Corruption in Latvia!



Atkiātas un organizētas interešu aizstāvības pamatā ir caurskatāma viedokļu apmaiņa, kurā iesaistās trīs sabiedrības grupas: pilsoniskā sabiedrība, privātais un publiskais sektors, kas sanākuši kopā, lai atklāti īstenotu savas intereses atbilstošos politiskos lēmumos. Šos pamatprincipus esam arī atainojuši interešu aizstāvības logotipā.

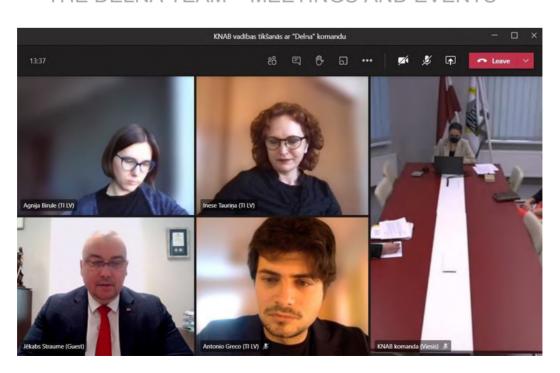
Delna Develops a New Website Devoted to Interest Representation

Since 2019, Delna has been an active participant and supporter of the Saeima in the development of regulations relating to interest representation (lobbying).

Delna has developed a new website on interest representation, where we track legislation as it weaves through parliament and publish articles, research, videos, etc. on this issue.

We invite you to visit our new website at: https://intesesuaizstaviba.lv/ (also in English)

THE DELNA TEAM - MEETINGS AND EVENTS



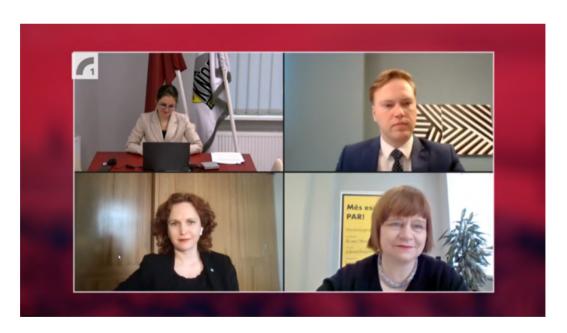
Delna Discusses Continued Cooperation with the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau (KNAB)

On February 18, 2021 Delna team members had an online conference with KNAB Director Jēkabs Straume and his command to discuss future cooperation, the involvement of NGOs in anti-corruption efforts by KNAB, as well as a number of other related issues. Members of both organizations expressed readiness and determination to strengthen cooperation in order to work toward our common goal of reducing corruption in Latvia.

Webinar on Involving Young People in Local Government

The webinar "Working with Young People Today and Tomorrow" with the focus on involving young people in local government, was hosted on February 11, 2021. Delna's director Inese Taurina introduced participants with the results of our project "Implementing Your Idea in School" and plans for setting up a school integrity network. You are invited to view the entire seminar on the Facebook page of the organizer "Agency for International Programs for Youth".

DELNA IN THE MEDIA



Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) Results and What to Do

On February 9, 2021 Delna's director Inese Tauriņa participated in the Latvia Radio program "Crosspoint" to discuss the latest CPI results, the factors that influence the perception of corruption, questions about the index reflecting the totality of corruption, and what to do to improve the state of corruption in Latvia. Participants in the program included MP Inese Voika, KNAB representative Anna Aļosina, and BKPI director Andris Grafs. The program can be viewed on the LR1 Facebook page.

Covid-19 Procurements. How were decisions made in selecting the vaccines and their shipment? Who will store the vaccine and syringes? What other issues are there in the purchase agreements? These and other questions were discussed by Latvia TV1 news program "Panorāma" journalists with their colleagues from the Russian news program "Ličnoje ģelo". Delna director Inese Tauriņa comments on procurement issues can be viewed on LTV1 Youtube channel -> .

A Decision Rendered by the Supreme Court of Latvia is a Surprise for Those Fighting Corruption in Latvia. A recent Supreme Court decision could make it easier for a dishonest official to hide property, hinder the work of the court, and undermine trust in the courts. Delna's commentary can be viewed here: LTV1 "Panorāma", February 17, see at LSM.lv ->

Campaign Season Opens for Local Government Elections. How to recognize violations of campaign laws and Delna's recommendations for reducing the risk of violating them can be viewed here: LVportals.lv article ->

The Court of First Instance Decision in the Trial of Aivars Lembergs is a Turning Point in the Fight Against Corruption. As noted by Delna's director Inese Taurina, one of the main factors in Latvia's rather low Corruption Perceptions Index is the unnecessarily long legal proceedings and trials that involve high ranking persons, such as Aivars Lembergs. Extended trials, such as this 12-year-long legal court case, undermine society's trust in the legal system. This decision will hopefully signal a fundamental change in the fight against corruption. Delna's commentary and recommendations on reducing corruption can be viewed here: LVportals.lv article ->

Aivars Lembergs is Found Guilty and Sentenced to Five Years in Prison.Delna council member Valdis Liepiņš, interviewed by *Bloomberg*, stated that, "Mr. Lembergs was an oligarch's oligarch. The court decision against him is a signal that others can also be caught." The full article can be found on *Bloomberg* -> (with subscription)

PLEASE SUPPORT ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS IN LATVIA

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 95 other concerned citizens in Latvia and become part of Transparency International's global anti-corruption network with chapters in more than 100 countries.



PLEASE DONATE FOR DELNA

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"Sabiedrība par atklātību — Delna" electronic newsletter is financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants programme "Active Citizens Fund" and it reflects the opinion of the Transparency International Latvia.

