



Delna Publishes Study About Lobbying Practices in Latvia

In conjunction with the work of Latvian parliament (Saeima) on writing lobbying regulations, Delna produced a study about lobbying practices in Latvia with the goal of formulating proper lobbying recommendations based on research materials and empirical evidence.

The study looks at the importance of regulating lobbying, current lobbying practices and existing regulations. The analysis of lobbying practices is based on interviews with national and municipal level officials, including politicians and administration employees, focus groups, and the results of direct surveys of lobbyists.

It is Delna's view that the proposed legislation should include a register of innovative interest representatives as a part of a direct reporting platform. It should also include sections on "adopting public decisions", definitions of "public officials", a description of how decisions influenced by special interest groups are adopted, as well as persons who are responsible for these processes.

The study and Delna's views can be accessed on our [website](#).



Public Discussion on "Managing Conflicts of Interest in Latvia"

On June 18, 2021 Delna together with the USA Embassy in Latvia organized a public discussion on “Managing Conflicts of Interest in Latvia” with the goal of expanding the dialog on preventing, identifying, and managing conflicts of interest in Latvia’s central government and state owned enterprises.

Participants were introduced to international practices, learned about GRECO (Group of States Against Corruption) fifth round of recommendations for Latvia, and were presented an overview of activities that Latvia needs to complete in order to achieve fulfill the recommendations. Local experts and elected officials discussed current management of conflicts of interest and presented their views on the controversial changes to the law regulating conflicts of interest among government officials which would seriously reduce public disclosures currently required of government officials.

For more information and video of the discussions, please visit the [Delna homepage](#).

A summary of the discussions (in Latvian) can be viewed [here](#).

Delna Asks Latvia’s MPs Not to Support Efforts to Reduce Transparency in Government

Delna, the Civic Alliance Latvia (CAL), and Providus Centre for Public Policy have invited MPs on the Public Administration and Local Government Committee not to support changes to the law on Preventing Conflicts of Interest Among Government Officials. As has been pointed out, the proposed changes would greatly reduce the information board members of institutions of higher education and state-owned enterprises have to disclose to the public.

In addition to Delna, CAL, and Providus, the Ministry of Education and Science, MP Viktors Valainis, and the Corruption Prevention and Combatting Bureau of Latvia (KNAB) also submitted proposals.

Delna’s evaluation on the second reading of the proposed changes to the law (in Latvian) can be viewed [here](#).

Submitted proposals (in Latvian) can be read [here](#).

Please Support Our Efforts!
Every Donations Helps in the Fight Against Corruption in Latvia!



Delna Asks That the Public Be Involved in Overseeing Public Procurements

The EU has adopted a 1.8 trillion euro spending package that member states will be accessing and utilizing in the coming months, resulting in great increases in government spending that will involve a large number of public procurement contracts. These large financial resources as well as the need for their speedy utilization significantly raises the risk of fraud and corruption.

Delna along with other Transparency International national chapters have prepared a handbook for decision makers and civic society on public oversight of procurement contracts.

More information on the [Delna website](#) (In Latvian).

Handbook can be read [here](#).

DELNA'S COMENTARIES IN THE MEDIA

Delna Researcher on the Low Turnout in the Last Elections

Municipal elections were held across Latvia on June 5 and resulted in a record low turnout – only 34% of eligible voters participated in the elections.

Commenting on the record low turnout, Delna researcher Olafs Grigus pointed out that Riga always sees a comparatively large turnout, but with the city sitting out these elections (a special election was held in 2020), the overall results were down. Grigus notes that placing the turnout blame on the recent territorial administrative reform does not, at least now, seem accurate.

More about Olafs Grigus' views on the low turnout can be found [here](#). (in Latvian)

Experts and Politicians Differ on Proposed Changes to the Financial Declarations Required of Government Officials

The Financial Declaration provided by government officials is one way people can learn if these officials are truly working on their behalf. That is one of several conclusions from the discussions about Preventing Conflicts of Interest Among Government Officials that Delna organized. The discussions devoted a great deal of attention on proposals that if adopted would seriously reduce access to information currently required of government officials.

For more information, follow the link to [LTV Panorama](#) (in Latvian)

Delna Comments on Shady Construction Bidding Practices in TV Program Segment

More than a billion euros of taxpayer and EU money is spent on construction projects each year by state and municipal agencies. Although construction projects are subject to open bids that supposedly guarantee competition, there have been serious indications that the competitions have been less than honest. One possible solution could be the public unveiling of the offers after the close of bids, but construction companies oppose that, claiming it will hurt their business.

Delna's comments on the LTV [program Aizliegtais Paņēmiens](#) can be viewed [here](#) (beginning at minute 33—in Latvian).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TI Global Corruption Barometer – EU 2021: Three of Ten People in the EU Pay Bribes

Transparency International has published its latest report on people's views on corruption in the EU, including Latvia.

Although conditions compared to previous years have improved, people in Latvia are dismayed about corruption, with the COVID-19 crisis amplifying the negative perception. People feel that they can get more done through personal connections and bribery, and that the interests of a small number of people are placed above the interests of the public.

For more information (in Latvian) watch this [LTV news service segment](#).

Delna will publish its analysis of Latvia's results in August. We will participate in the discussion festival LAMPA on August 21 where the public will be invited to express their views.

Corruption Along the Border: Suspects Continue to Work in Customs

Back in April, the State Revenue Service carried out a special operation at the Terehova border crossing and detained 20 customs officials suspected of corruption. RETV presented a report on corruption case and describes the attitude of local inhabitants toward the events. The RETV report can be viewed [here](#). (in Latvian)

SUPPORT THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

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 [80 others in Latvia](#) and become part of [Transparency International's](#) global anti-corruption network with chapters in more than 100 countries.



Kopā pret korupciju!

WE ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN DELNA'S FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

FOLLOW DELNA IN THESE SOCIAL
PLATFORMS



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