

An Expert Forum and Public Discussion on “How to Increase Trust in Public Institutions in Latvia”

A lack of trust in public institutions has made it difficult to implement government decisions and that can affect various social spheres, from national security to achieving economic growth to combatting the COVID-19 virus.

On September 10 Transparency International Latvia (Delna) held an international expert forum and public discussion on “How to Increase Trust in Public Institutions in Latvia” where issues such as the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic in Latvia and the pandemic’s effect on the public’s trust in state institutions and on democracy in Latvia were examined. Participants were asked to share their views on the progress that Latvia needs to achieve in order to realize good governance and promote people’s trust in public institutions.

This was the third of four planned round table meetings that are based on recommendations from the Council of Europe’s Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO) and on promoting transparency and progress in preventing corruption in Latvia.

The event can be viewed [here->](#)

A summary of the event is available on the [Delna homepage->](#) (in Latvian).



Podcast: Latvia's New Money Laundering Risks

This past summer Delna published a study about money laundering in the Baltic states. Drawing on the study's conclusions, we prepared a podcast on Latvia's new money laundering risks which looks at threats to Latvia's financial system and possible solutions.

Delna's Project Assistant Laura Tvardovska explained a complex money laundering scheme which had victimized banks in Latvia and the other Baltic states, highlighting its main characteristics, and describing steps taken to prevent recurrences.

The podcast can be accessed on [Delna's homepage here->](#) (in Latvian). Report is published [here ->](#).

You can follow Delna's Audio News on Spotify [here](#) and on other popular platforms.

Research Materials on Lobbying

Delna has been an active participant in the preparing of lobbying regulation, organizing discussions and undertaking research in an effort to ensure that the new regulation are encompassing and are adopted. Our organization has been working on this issue for more than six years.

In anticipation of the Latvian Parliament's (Saeima) autumn session, Delna has gathered together research materials we have produced as well as information from public sources that we hope will be helpful to the Parliament as they continue to work on lobbying regulations.

These materials can be accessed on the [Delna homepage here->](#) (in Latvian)

THE ANNUAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION FESTIVAL "LAMPA"



Videos from Delna's Discussions at LAMPA 2021

On August people from across Latvia traveled to the town Cēsis for the annual conversation festival LAMPA. Delna participated with the stage "Kā uz Delnas" and hosted two days of discussions on transparency, civic participation, and anti-corruption issues.

Videos are available on Delna's Youtube channel:

- [How can I affect decision making in my school and municipality?](#) (Latvian)
- [13th Saeima - is there a progress in anticorruption area?](#) (Latvian)
- [Is my municipality transparent?](#) (Latvian)
- [Why should a company be transparent?](#) (Latvian)
- [Why to blow a whistle in the workplace?](#) (English)
- [Cryptocurrencies and money laundering. How to prevent these crimes?](#) (Latvian and English)

Follow Delna on our [YouTube channel](#)!

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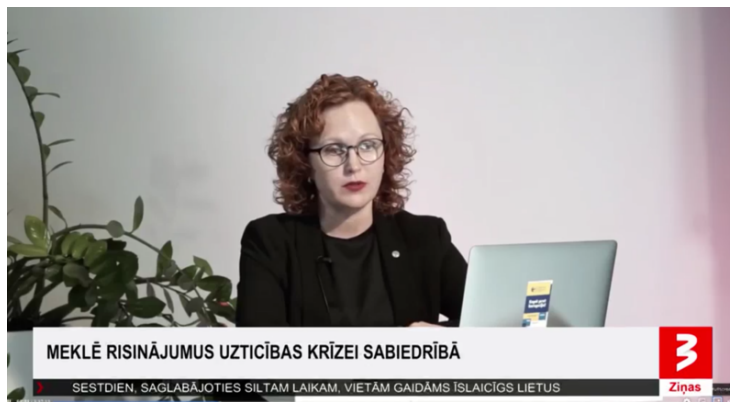
DELNA' S COMMENTARIES IN MEDIA

Regulations on Lobbying Transparency – A Step Toward Transparency and An Honest Political Environment

In order to improve the public's trust in the Parliament and the Government's decisions, discussions have been going on for almost 15 years on the need for more encompassing lobbying regulation.

Commenting on this Delna director Inese Tauriņa pointed out that the public's trust in how government decisions are made is very low. Regulations on transparency in lobbying is a step in the right direction in developing an honest and transparent political environment.

Her commentary on TV3 can be viewed [here->](#) (in Latvian).



The Director of Delna: Lack of Trust in Government Makes It Difficult to Implement Decisions

A concerning picture appears after analyzing the level of trust of state institutions in Latvia – studies confirm that people's trust in the executive branch, the parliament, and political parties is among the lowest in the EU, and this lack of trust in government institutions has made it harder to carry out political decisions.

Delna director Inese Tauriņa points out that this lack of trust in government can make it harder to put public decisions into effect. We see this on a daily basis and it can affect various spheres – national security, economic policies, the fight against COVID-19, vaccination efforts, and others.

The TV3 interview with Delna director Inese Tauriņa can be viewed [here->](#) (in Latvian)

NEWS



Taxes Should Serve Society

The risk that information gleaned from tax consultations can be used to help launder money is high. While taxpayers always want to pay as little in taxes

as possible, it is important to recognize and understand that taxes are important to society.

As pointed out by Daiga Zēna-Zēmane, chairperson of Latvia's Association of Tax Consultants (ATC), taxpayers want to see that their taxes are working for the good of society.

The full interview with Daiga Zēna-Zēmane can be read [here->](#) (in Latvian).

Jānis Ikstens: The Government is Holding the Reins to Fiscal Discipline too Tightly

While [researching transparency related issues during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) (in Latvian), Delna's discussions with social activists identified a problem – people don't know the criteria used in preparing the national budget.

Commenting on the 2022 state budget, political scientist Jānis Ikstens pointed out that Latvia's government is adhering to a policy of fiscal discipline while interest rates on borrowing are negative. Current economic conditions are such that Latvia can borrow money today and later pay back less than what they borrowed.

Please read Jānis Ikstens' complete commentary [here->](#) (in Latvian).

IN MEMORIAM

Long Time Delna Supporter Pēteris Bolšaitis Has Passed Away

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of long-time Delna friend and supporter Pēteris Bolšaitis who passed away on September 11.

Pēteris Bolšaitis was born in 1937 in Daugavpils, Latvia. In 1944 Pēteris and his family fled the war in Latvia, becoming refugees in Austria. From there they emigrated to Venezuela. In 1964 he received his doctorate degree from the University of Delaware. Pēteris together with his wife established two scholarships in Latvia: one for members of the sorority *Varavīksne* and the other the "Lāčplēša" Center scholarship. He also set up the "Silent Hero" foundation that provides scholarships to talented young people and has supported the publication of numerous books.

Supporting Delna, Bolsaitis donated 980 euros in total.

The members of Delna express their deepest condolences to Pēteris's family.

**WE INVITE YOU TO SUPPORT THE FIGHT
AGAINST CORRUPTION**

If you wish to take part in the effort to reduce corruption in Latvia, we invite you

to join Delna. As a Delna member you will become part of our [80 person community in Latvia](#) and be part of [Transparency International's global anti-corruption network](#) with chapters in more than 100 countries.



Delna
SABIEDRĪBA PAR ATKĻĀTĪBU
TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL
LATVIJAS NODAĻA

Kopā pret korupciju!

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Kāpēc es saņēmu šo vēstuli?

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