



## **CORRUPTION: A THREAT TO GLOBAL SECURITY**

On International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December 2022, Transparency International Latvia (Delna) and the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau (KNAB) organised the event "Corruption – a threat to national and global security" and invited foreign colleagues to share their experiences and observations on the negative impact of corruption and ways to curb it.

U.S. Anti-corruption Expert Sarah Chayes stresses: "Corruption is a system of sophisticated networks." The case of corruption cannot be viewed in isolation from the wider context, related persons and activities, therefore the fight against corruption must also be carried out at several levels. Good practices of foreign experts show that corruption can be everywhere – from church, court and army to companies and even international organizations. Cooperation is the only way to fight against it and restore peace around the world.

(Full text available in Latvian)

Video of the event is also available in English.

[Watch here](#)



## IMPACT OF CORRUPTION ON THE SECURITY OF LATVIA

This year, after Russia's invasion in Ukraine, it has become obvious to everyone that corruption poses a direct threat to national and global security.

Pointing to the importance of the topic of corruption, in the opening address of the event, the Speaker of the Latvian Parliament (Saeima) Edvards Smiltēns emphasized: "The war in Ukraine has made us much more aware and demanding. We see more clearly what the weaknesses are and where significant reinforcement is needed."

It is essential for a country to demonstrate its ability to improve its internal security and address corruption-related issues in order to gain international recognition and be heard. As KNAB Director Jekabs Straume said, "The country is as strong as the fight against corruption in it." The discussion has repeatedly highlighted the lack of trust of citizens in public administration, which does not allow to effectively reduce corruption and illegal activities in general.

(Full text available in English)

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## **FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IS A LOW PRIORITY IN THE GOVERNMENT'S DECLARATION**

According to Delna, the declaration of Krišjānis Kariņš new government provides a very limited understanding of the concrete steps to be taken in the fight against corruption. In addition, the succession of the work begun by the first government of K. Kariņš does not appear either, which is to be expected in this situation, when the prime minister continues to work.

It should be noted that the process of drafting the declaration, as well as the inconclusively justified amendments to the State Administration Structure Law on the introduction of ministerial members, pushed by the political forces of the coalition, cast a shadow over the presence of political integrity in the new government document.

The fact that the final version of the declaration was made available to the general public only shortly before the vote in the Saeima is a worrying signal.

(Full text available in Latvian)

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## DELNA DEFENDS THE RIGHTS OF WHISTLEBLOWERS

Fraud takes place on different scales – it can be carried out not only by individuals, but also by officials at the state or municipal level. It is in the interest of every employee and the public to raise the alarm about observed violations in order to prevent public funds from being spent on narrow interests.

In February 2022, Delna was approached by two whistleblowers, reporting possible violations in the work of the local government. A building, for the creation of which European Union funding was attracted, was built by the municipality, knowing who would be the user of the building and adapting the structure to the user's needs. It should be noted that the whistleblowers had previously reported the situation to the KNAB, but received a reply that they could not be treated as whistleblowers.

Taking into account Delna's experience in working with whistleblowers and participation in the development of the Whistleblowing Law, we believe that the KNAB, like other institutions, sometimes tends to misinterpret the provisions of the Whistleblowing Law. As a result, the whistleblower does not obtain the guaranteed protection, and the risk that the perpetrators will not be held accountable increases.

Delna supports whistleblowers without remuneration (pro bono). If it is also important to you that whistleblowers receive support and advice, support us with a donation!

(Full text available in Latvian)

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## PUBLISKA DISKUSIJA

“Informācijas atklātība un personas datu aizsardzība”

2022. GADA 25. NOVEMBRIS



### **SUMMARY: A LACK OF STRATEGIC VISION FOR THE USE OF DATA IN ANTI-CORRUPTION WORK**

How to find a balance between the availability of data in reducing corruption and the rights to privacy? This was the central issue of the online expert forum and the public discussion organised by Delna "Freedom of Information and Protection of Personal Data", which took place on 25 November 2022.

Data is mostly talked about in the context of economic development, but the availability of data also plays a role in political decision-making, identification of conflict of interest and other bad faith actions. Data sets should be published in user friendly and machine readable formats (open data), also avoiding fragmentary information on the websites of various institutions.

On the way to a more complete use of data, Latvia lacks the Anti-Corruption Data Strategy and a clear vision of the development of anti-corruption data infrastructure and possibilities of using data sets. In addition, it is necessary to create incentive mechanisms for the governing bodies to open up more datasets and to organize training for employees of the administration on the potential and use of data in their daily work.

(Full text available in Latvian)

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# STARPTAUTISKĀ PRAKSE VIRTUĀLO VALŪTU REGULĒŠANĀ



## INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE IN THE REGULATION OF VIRTUAL CURRENCIES

The importance of virtual currencies in the global environment continues to grow, making it necessary to develop a unified approach at the international level. On September 15, 2022, Delna held a seminar on the international practice of virtual asset regulation. With the examples of Lithuania and the Netherlands, we gained a broader understanding of the role of the state and other players in the field of virtual assets and money laundering.

Virtual assets are involved in various types of illegal activities, such as cybercrime (hacking, ransomware), online drug trafficking, tax avoidance, the use of virtual assets in criminal networks at the national and supranational level, fraud, money laundering.

At the seminar, experts highlighted the problems and challenges associated with combating criminal activities. Timely identification of potential challenges and raising awareness among market participants requires cooperation at different levels, from law enforcement authorities to the public and private sectors or internationally.

(Full text available in Latvian)

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# VIRTUĀLO AKTĪVU RADĪTIE RISKI SANKCIJU IEVĒROŠANAI



## VIRTUAL ASSETS – A TOOL TO CIRCUMVENT SANCTIONS?

With Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the issue of sanctions and related risks has been particularly raised. At the end of the virtual asset seminar cycle, on November 24, 2022, Delna spoke at a seminar on sanctions, their importance and opportunities to use virtual assets to circumvent sanctions. The event was organized by Delna.

Sanctions are an instrument of foreign and security policy that makes it possible to respond to violations of international law and security challenges, avoiding the use of military force. The aim of the sanctions is to return a stable, secure internal and external political situation as soon as possible.

During the seminar, we discussed more broadly the issues related to financial sanctions, the freezing of assets, which applies to all funds owned by sanctioned persons – including virtual assets.

(Full text available in Latvian)

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## DELNA'S COMMENTS IN THE MEDIA

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### LATVIA HAS IMPROVED ITS PERFORMANCE IN COMBATING BRIBERY OF FOREIGN OFFICIALS

Latvia is the only European Union (EU) country that has improved its performance in combating bribery of foreign officials. Latvia together with six other countries – Germany, France, the Great Britain, Australia, Norway and Israel – has obtained an average rating.

Delna pointed out that the report analyses the progress made by the member states of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in implementing the convention on combating bribery of foreign public officials in international business transactions from 2018 to 2021.

Read more on [ism.lv](https://ism.lv)

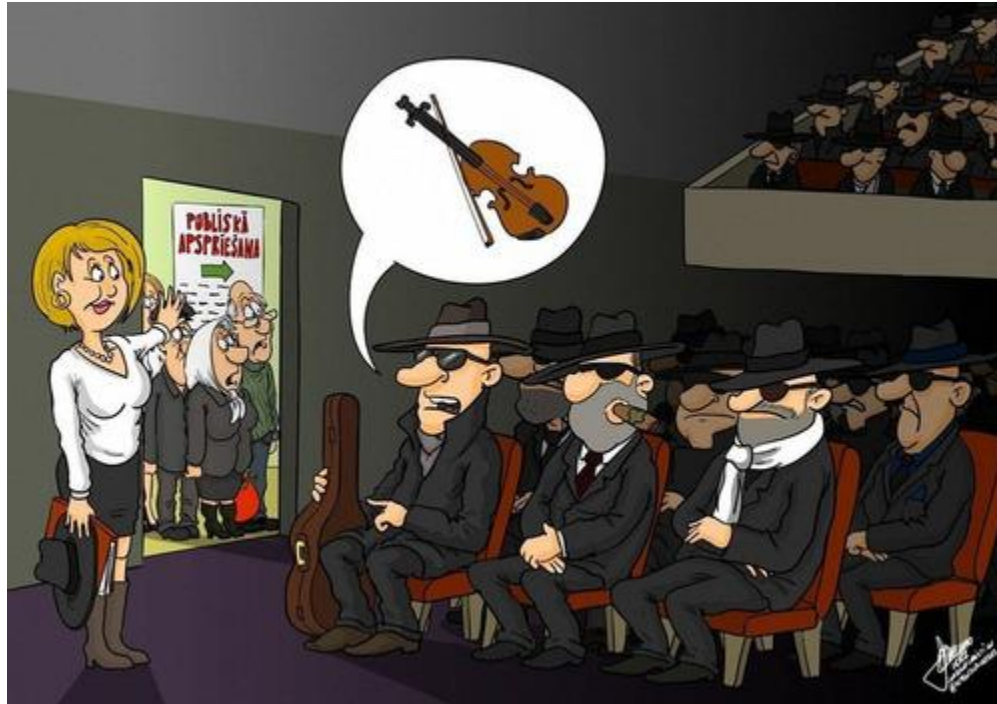
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## IN SELECTION OF HIGH OFFICIALS IN LATVIA, RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTIONS TAKES REPUTATIONAL LIGHTLY

Inese Tauriņa, Executive Director of Delna, pointed out at the thematic international anti-corruption day event "Corruption – a threat to national and global security" that in the selection processes of high level officials reputational risks are not taken into account seriously in Latvia.

Read more on [tv3.lv](https://www.tv3.lv)

## CIVIC PARTICIPATION CHALLENGES DESCRIBED IN CARTOONS



In the field of civic participation and involvement of citizens, there are still problems in Latvia, which the think tank Providus offers to look at also through cartoons.

"What is the purpose of the public consultation? To listen to every citizen, to different interest groups and to give everyone the opportunity to express their views. What if someone wants to sabotage the expression of different opinions? Simple! Representatives of one particular point of view should be invited to the meeting, they should occupy as many seats as possible. It is also desirable to look sinister and speak using complex language and terms. Then the active population will not get to speak.

But it's not a solution how to build an inclusive, citizen-friendly city or county. We will organize such meetings where we can find out what the residents want, what their vision or proposal is!" says Inese Tauriņa, Executive Director of Delna.

Read more on [lsm.lv](https://www.lsm.lv)

We invite you to support our work! Every euro donated to Delna helps in the fight against corruption in Latvia



**Delna**

SABIEDRĪBA PAR ATKĻĀTĪBU  
TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL  
LATVIJAS NODAĻA

# Kopā pret korupciju!

If you also want to participate in Delna's work and help reduce corruption in Latvia – we invite you to become a member. As a member of Delna, you will join a community of [89 people in Latvia](#) and be part of [Transparency International's global anti-corruption network](#) with chapters in more than 100 countries around the world!

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A collection of white cookies with various shapes including stars, hearts, and Christmas trees, some filled with red or orange jam, scattered on a dark, textured surface.

Have a prosperous  
New Year!

