



## **DELNA ABOUT THE SUSPENSION OF THE OGRE MAYOR**

On April 19, 2023, Delna sent a letter to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development (VARAM), as well as the Prime Minister Krišjānis Kariņš and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with a request for VARAM to assess the situation in the Ogre's municipality and to decide on the removal of the mayor Egils Helmanis.

Delna has extensive information about possible illegal actions in the work of the Ogre's municipality and its mayor Egils Helmanis. Delna calls on VARAM to take into account the information provided and to take action to restore democracy and the rule of law in Ogre.

(Full text available in Latvian)

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Rīgā, 2023

# VADLĪNIJAS TRAUKSMES CĒLĒJU ZIŅOJUMU IZSKATĪŠANAI

Iceland  
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LATVIJAS REĢIJA

## DELNA PUBLISHES GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING ALARM REPORTS

One of the most important objectives of the Whistleblowing Law is to ensure adequate protection of whistleblowers. This is possible if as many reports as possible are recognized as whistleblower reports.

Delna has developed "Guidelines for handling whistleblower reports", which explains what responsible persons in institutions, companies and organizations should consider when reviewing received whistleblower reports.

(Full text available in Latvian)

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## NOT RAISING ALARM IN LĪVĀNI

Delna has published the article "Investigation continues on possible fraud in Līvāni municipality". The article mentions that publicly available information shows that possible illegal activities have been reported in this municipality several times. However, the authorities did not see any violations in the situation and did not grant whistleblower status to the informants.

Delna has information on several submissions that former employees of Līvāni municipality have both submitted to the municipality administration and addressed to the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau. Delna, explains why status was not granted to persons who reported a possible violation observed at their workplace.

(Full text available in Latvian)

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## RAISING THE ALARM = HUMAN RIGHTS

The view of whistleblowing in the society differs – there are some people who are aware of the role of whistleblowing in a democratic society, while there are some who still look at whistleblowing as something negative. Therefore, it is particularly important to continue to explain the meaning of the whistleblowing system.

Whistleblowing in the context of human rights has a dual nature – on the one hand, whistleblowing is a human right that everyone has, like the right to freedom of expression. On the other hand, whistleblowing is also a mechanism for reporting possible human rights violations.

(Full text available in Latvian)

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## **DELNA PARTICIPATES IN THE DEVELOPMENT ANTI-CORRUPTION PROGRAM FOR UZBEKISTAN**

At the end of March 2023, representatives of the Delna and Riga Law School, together with their colleagues from Slovenia and Germany, met in Uzbekistan with the representatives of the Uzbek government and discussed the program of measures to support anti-corruption and administrative reforms. An integral part of the reform process is also working with the non-governmental sector and the media and raising the capacity of these two groups of society so that they can fully understand and evaluate and participate in political processes as successfully as possible. This is also the area where Delna is going to give its artava.

(Full text available in Latvian)

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## DELNA CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON INTEREST REPRESENTATION

What must be observed in communication with officials from January 1, 2023, when the Law on Transparency of Interest Representation came into force? Although significant parts of the law relating to the register of interest representatives and the activity declaration system will come into force only in the second half of 2025, Delna calls on representatives of interests and public authorities to start recording and revealing active interest representation activities now.

(Full text available in Latvian)

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# CIVIC EU

Young Civic Monitors for the Future

5-7 April 2023, Ljubljana, Slovenia

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## DELNA'S PROJECT "CIVIC EU" LEADS TO THE VISIT TO LJUBLJANA



During the experience exchange visit to Ljubljana (Slovenia), together with our partners, Delna created guidelines that will help young people to carry out civic monitoring in municipalities and follow up on the decisions made in the municipality.

We intend to introduce the guidelines to youth workers and youth leaders who want to improve their knowledge and skills in working with young people and in civic supervision, in order to then lead and coordinate the activities of young civic supervisors and provide them with support when needed.

More about the CIVIC EU project [here](#) ->

[Read more](#)



## DELNA MEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN THE "SUSTAINABILITY" FORUM

On April 21, at the "Sustainability" forum, more than 20 experts and industry professionals shared practical experience stories about sustainable solutions, ideas and already implemented projects, as well as prerequisites for forward-looking organizational activity.

Everyone agrees that the development of organizations must be done without harming the environment and the climate, in addition, it must be done in accordance with the principles of good governance and fairness. We can do many things individually already now, for example, ride a bicycle or walk everyday.

At the forum, Delna's members – "Narvesen" Sustainability and Project Manager Nataja Arbeiter and Tet.lv Sustainability Development Director Adriāna Kalniņa shared their experiences.

[Read more](#)



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# DELNAS COMMENTS IN MEDIA

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## What is happening with state secrets and the openness of information in Latvia?

In the Latvian media, Delna researcher Olafs Grigus discussed what is happening with state secrets and the openness of information in Latvia.

Public confusion has been caused by the amendments to the Law on Disclosure of Information and the Law "On State Secrets", moreover, the desire to adopt these amendments as a matter of urgency and to set aside only 1 hour for the submission of proposals has only intensified this confusion.

Read more in Latvian [here](#) ->

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## "Black campaigns" – is it easy to destroy someone's reputation?

Defamation ordered and carried out for various reasons is nothing new, and with the development of the Internet in the world, it has become a much more complicated problem. It seems that it is also the case in Latvia, but perhaps we haven't really covered it and haven't talked about it much. How do we distinguish between justified and unjustified accusations, and what do we do when we encounter such deliberate blatant defamation and damage to reputation?

Delna director Inese Tauriņa, digital communication consultant Ieva Knāķe, Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry board member Katrīna Zariņa and "Cobalt" patent attorney in the field of trademarks, sworn attorney Līga Fyodorova discussed in the Latvian radio program "Krustpunkts".

Full discussion in Latvian is available [here](#) ->

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## "Delna": Not seeing protection guarantees, a person loses faith in the whistleblowing mechanism

One of the most important goals of the Whistleblowing Law passed in 2022 is to ensure proper protection of whistleblowers. This is possible if as many reports as possible are recognized as whistleblower reports.

Delna's legal consultant, Krista Asmusa, met with several state administrative institutions and gathered the most important information about the current problems of the application of the Whistleblower Law, as well as studied specific cases in more detail.

Read more [here](#) ->

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**Delna**

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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 85 to the human community in Latvia and you will be part of Transparency International of the global anti-corruption network with branches in more than 100 countries!

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