



## **FROM THE RECEIVING WHISTLEBLOWER REPORT UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE DISCIPLINARY CASE AT THE RIGA CITY COUNCIL**

On June 22, 2023, Delna began observing the investigation of disciplinary cases involving officials from Riga City Council's Traffic Department. In Delna's view, the submission of the request by the Deputy Chairman of the Council, Vilnis Ķirsis, and the Council's vote on changing the investigator and forming an investigation commission were unnecessary and unhelpful steps.

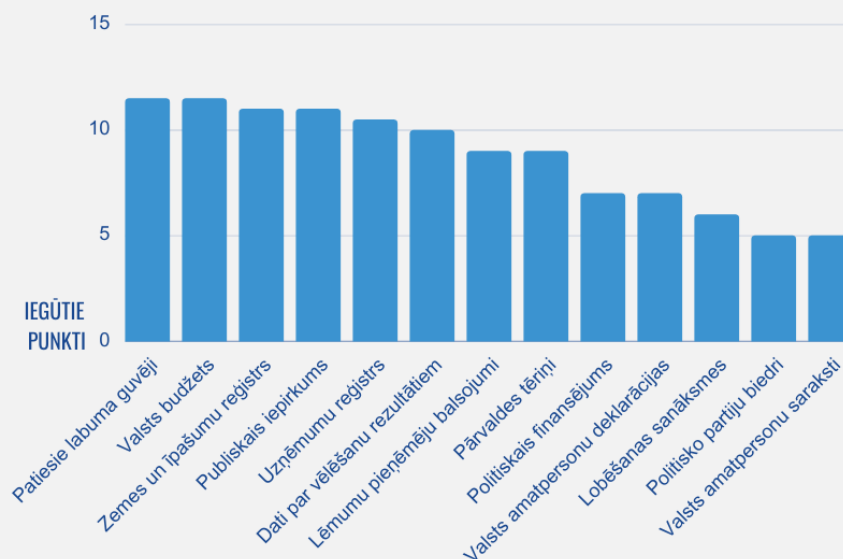
According to Delna, the work of the investigation commission was not properly defined from the beginning. The received report from the whistleblower should have been handed over to the responsible individuals for evaluating its compliance with the criteria for raising an alarm and deciding on its further course. Despite the lack of evidence of wrongdoing, Delna urges to continue the investigation.

Full text available in Latvian.

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# PUBLISKĀ SEKTORA DATU KOPU PIEEJAMĪBA LATVIJĀ



## ACCESSIBILITY OF PUBLIC SECTOR DATA IN LATVIA

In recent years state institutions in Latvia have been actively working to make public sector data more accessible and create a legal basis for open government data. Delna has been monitoring these changes and has published an evaluation of the accessibility of 13 different datasets.

During the evaluation process, the best results were achieved by datasets that have been published on the open data portal. Conversely, datasets that are either not published at all or not published in an aggregated form showed poorer results.

Full text available in Latvian.

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## FINAL REPORT ON THE OBSERVATION OF THE SELECTION PROCESS OF RIGA CITY COUNCIL INSTITUTION DIRECTORS

Delna and the Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation (LAPAS), as independent observers with advisory rights, participated in the selection commissions for the positions of directors of Riga City Council's institutions starting from April 6, 2023. Delna took part in the selection commissions for the positions of directors in Riga City Council's Education, Culture and Sports Department, Housing and Environment Department, and Urban Planning and Mobility Department. Delna was represented by its director, Inese Tauriņa.

Overall, Delna and LAPAS assess the work of the selection commissions as qualitative, appropriate, and responsible. They conclude that the selection commissions acted in the interests of Riga City Council, selected professionally qualified candidates, and made decisions in accordance with the regulations of the competition.

Full text available in Latvian.

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## YOUTH WITH HIGH MOTIVATION MONITOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Seven active young people (aged 16 to 19) from Liepaja city, South Kurzeme district, and Dobeles district conducted civic monitoring reports on topics of interest to them in local governments from July 5 to July 20, 2023.

The topics they monitored included:

- Reasons for the suspension of renovation works at Nica Secondary School's main hall and the prolonged delay in resuming them.
- Activities and qualifications of the project team for "Liepaja – European Capital of Culture 2027" project.
- Accessibility of mental and psychological health services for young people in Liepaja city.

The high motivation and choice of monitoring topics by these young individuals demonstrate their engagement in monitoring local government activities. They have shown the ability to conduct quality research on observed issues and write monitoring reports about them.

Full text available in Latvian.

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## DELNAS COMMENTS IN MEDIA

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### **Re:Baltica wins against KNAB in court regarding information transparency in the investigation of party finances**

Baltic Center for Investigative Journalism Re:Baltica has won in the first instance against Corruption Prevention and Investigation Bureau (KNAB). KNAB refused to provide journalists with the closed case materials before the 14th Saeima elections regarding possible funding violations of the political party "Latvijas Attīstībai" (Latvian Development).

Delna's researcher Olafs Grigus pointed out that although the availability of data related to reducing corruption and promoting political integrity is gradually improving in Latvia, there is still a weak understanding within the state administration of the role of journalists and civil society in monitoring officials and preventing corruption. A glaring example of this has been the amendments to the state secrecy law rapidly pushed through in the parliament by security authorities in the spring."

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

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### **Sabotage or political revenge – what is happening in the case of Riga City Council's Traffic Department?**

Sabotage has occurred within Riga City Council to prevent the justification of suspicious road repair expenditures amounting to millions. Delna had observer status in the disciplinary investigation of Riga City Council's Traffic Department. In its interim report, Delna pointed out that the investigation process demonstrates how legal means can be used to ensure that a process ends without any result.

Delna's director Inese Tauriņa stated: "Although this document was submitted under the title "Whistleblower Report", the actions required by both the Whistleblowing Law and Riga City Council's internal regulations were not taken. While the author of this specific submission was not identified, there are various other reasons why it would be important to redirect this submission for consideration under the whistleblowing report pathway."

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

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### **European Commission reports on the rule of law in Latvia**

In general, the Latvian justice system continues to operate effectively, and the aim of several initiatives is to improve case management and the efficiency of using judicial resources," according to the European Commission's Rule of law report 2023.

Delna also positively evaluates the efforts of Latvian institutions in strengthening the rule of law, but points out: "To further enhance the rule of law environment in Latvia, reduce corruption in the long term, and improve Latvia's rankings in the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index, it is necessary to continue implementing recommendations and addressing shortcomings. For example eliminating political influence in the appointment process of Supreme Court judges, and ensuring clarity in the current whistle-blower protection regulations. The Legislator must take measures to fully comply with the Constitutional Court's ruling on the legal, economic, and social protection of all families."

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

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### **Lost in the shadow of suspicion? Muižniece works at the former advisor's private school**

Handing over the position of Minister of Education and Science to Anda Čakša (JV), former minister Anita Muižniece ("Conservatives") became the project manager at the private secondary school "Patnis". Two of her former advisors – Zane Ozola and Jānis Ozols – were closely associated with this educational institution.

Delna's researcher Olafs Grigus points out: "Understanding of conflict of interest in Latvia is far from ideal. That's why it would be crucial to make this law easier to understand and perceive. This issue is on the agenda of Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau. Even state officials often have uncertainty about how to avoid situations of conflict of interest."

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

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# Kopā pret korupciju!

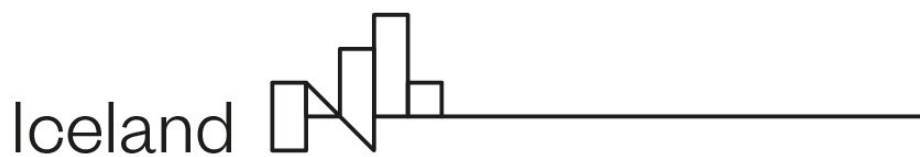
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