



Kultūras ministrija



Sabiedrības integrācijas
fonds

PĒTĪJUMA “POLITISKO PARTIJU IEKŠĒJĀ DEMOKRĀTIJA LATVIJĀ” UN PARTIJAS BIEDRA ROKASGRĀMATAS

PREZENTĀCIJAS PASĀKUMS

2023. GADA 3. NOVEMBRIĒ | PLKST. 10.00–11.00

INTERNAL DEMOCRACY OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN LATVIA

How much do we know about internal party democracy? We invite you to attend Delna's presentation event on the latest research "Internal Democracy of Political Parties in Latvia" and handbook for party members on November 3rd, 2023.

Although the issue of internal party democracy in Latvia has received relatively little attention, it remains relevant. Political parties represent society – their voters. Therefore, according to Delna, it is essential to ensure that the decision-making process within parties provides various opportunities for party members' involvement and expression of opinions, rather than concentrating power in the hands of a few influential representatives.

The event will be live-streamed on [Delna's Facebook page](#) or with registration on the "Zoom" conference platform [here ->](#).

Full text available in Latvian.

[Read more](#)



IN 2022 RECEIVED THE LOWEST NUMBER OF WHISTLEBLOWER REPORTS

Since the introduction of the whistleblowing system in Latvia in 2019, the number of whistleblowing reports have not significantly changed. However, in 2022, the lowest number of whistleblowing reports had been received – 396 reports. In 2021, there were 527 reports.

Furthermore, every year, at least 70% of the reports received through the whistleblowing system do not correspond to the essence of whistleblowing. In Delna's view, these trends indicate the continued low public understanding of whistleblowing and the fear of reporting. Delna calls on the responsible authorities to continue explaining to the public the essence of whistleblowing, its goals, and the associated benefits for both society and the reporter.

Full text available in Latvian.

[Read more](#)



HOW TO USE PUBLIC DATA TO UNCOVER CORRUPTION

During a visit to the Vidzeme University on October 19, 2023, experts from Delna, the Ministry of Finance, and the Data School shared their knowledge and experience on how to use publicly available data to recognize and uncover suspicious activities, behaviors, or financial transactions.

With the lecture attendees, we discussed the work of the European Anti-Fraud Coordination Service (AFCOS) and the most common irregularities in the supervision of EU funds in Latvia. Data enthusiast Aivis Brutāns shared his insights into the analysis of various publicly available data in his spare time and outlined possible instances of misconduct, or the so-called "red flags," observed among politicians. A similar lecture will take place on November 16 at Ventspils University.

Full text available in Latvian.

[Read more](#)



YOUTH CIVIC PARTICIPATION

How can young people engage in civic participation activities in their schools and municipalities? In September and October, as part of the project "Youth Civic Participation" project, Delna visited 14 Latvian schools in various regions (7 schools in Latgale, 1 school in Vidzeme, Kurzeme, and Zemgale, and 4 schools in Riga).

During the school visits, students, teachers, and school administration familiarized themselves with Delna's methodological materials on the implementation of the participatory budgeting process in schools and generated ideas for improving the school environment. Delna also conducted workshops on civic participation and discussed various youth participation opportunities at the local and national level. In Delna's view, it is essential for every young person to be informed about their rights and opportunities to participate in shaping their environment and country.

Full text available in Latvian.

[Read more](#)

PANEĻDISKUSIJA

Dezinformācija un informēta sabiedrība: kā izdarīt apzinātu izvēli?



DISINFORMATION AND AN INFORMED SOCIETY

Delna researcher Olafs Grigus together with young people from the youth organization "Club "The House" discussed disinformation and public awareness in a panel discussion. They talked about the credibility of information sources and what kind of news it is wise to share and pay attention to when preparing for the European Parliament elections.

Delna recommends evaluating first whether there are facts and/or opinions in the information source or whether the facts can be verified in other sources. It is essential to research not only the party programs but also the individual candidates' experience, interests, and reputation. The discussion can be heard in Latvian [here->](#).

Read more

DELNAS COMMENTS IN MEDIA

In the past ten years significant changes in the alcohol market have not occurred due to industry lobbying efforts

In Latvia, alcohol consumption increases every year. Last year, on average, one person consumed nearly 13 liters of pure alcohol. Although statistics show that a significant number of Latvian residents suffer from alcoholism, any legislative amendments related to the alcohol market or advertising in the Latvian Parliament faces strong industry lobbying.

Commenting on the industry's lobbying influence, Inese Tauriņa, the director of Delna, emphasizes, *"Delna sees that the Law on Transparency of Interest Representation already allows us to observe many things. The law does not prohibit deputies from disclosing whom they have met with, what opinions they have heard, and how their decision on specific proposals and in which specific industry is influenced. However, in practice, it does not work, and the law is currently only 'on paper.'"*

You can listen to the full broadcast at Latvian Radio 1 in Latvian [here](#) ->

Why has it not been possible to reduce the "shadow wage" level for 15 years?

Arnis Sauka's latest research indicates a shadow economy of 26%, while an Austrian economist estimates it at 19.9% of GDP. The State Revenue Service points out that the exact prevalence of the shadow economy cannot be measured.

Evita Goša, the head of the Foreign Investors' Council's Shadow Economy Fighting Working Group, the board member of SCHWENK Latvia, and the chairperson of Delna's board emphasizes: *"The situation is not improving, and for years, the eradication of the shadow economy has been hindered both by politicians and businesses. Moreover, society does not fully understand the consequences and negative impact of the shadow economy."*

More on this topic on the Latvian Radio 1 broadcast *"Atvērtie Faili"* in Latvian ->

Delna on development of the National Security Concept in secret

The 14th Saeima approved the National Security Concept (NSC), which specifies that from 2026 the public media will not publish content in the Russian language. Concerns arose in society due to the secrecy of the NSC development and the inclusion of specific measures with precise deadlines related to the use of the Russian language in the public media.

Delna's legal consultant Krista Asmusa, explains the process of developing the NSC and states: *"The concept is based on intelligence information and other sensitive state threats that are not publicly available. This is why the secrecy of the document's development is necessary. If the procedure were different, meaning if the confidential content of the concept were publicly available, there would be security risks."*

You can read the full article in Latvian on Delfi.lv in the paid section [here](#)->.

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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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