

INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY  
CONFERENCE

## CORRUPTION – A THREAT TO NATIONAL AND GLOBAL SECURITY | 2023

SPECIAL GUEST

**Oliver Bullough**

UK, investigative journalist and author



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09:30-13:30



ONLINE



Delna

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### CONFERENCE "CORRUPTION – A THREAT TO NATIONAL AND GLOBAL SECURITY

What can we do in Latvia today to make significant progress in the fight against corruption in the next ten years? What are today's challenges and future opportunities? Latvia's results in the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index significantly lag behind what is expected in Latvia's National Development Plan (to reach 64 points by 2024). In the last six years, Latvia's score has improved by only 1 point, standing at 59 points.

We invite you to participate in the online conference "*Corruption - A Threat to National and Global Security*." The conference will take place a day before the UN International Anti-Corruption Day 2023, on December 8, from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM t the Radisson Blu Ridzene Hotel. The event is organized by Delna and the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau.

Program and live broadcast on [Delna's website](#).

[Read more](#)





## LOCAL GOVERNMENT PUBLIC PROCUREMENTS AND 'HIDDEN' PRICE SURVEYS

Often, opinions circulate in society and political circles that the field of public procurement is associated with various fraud risks and problems. While promises to work on it and eliminate risks are made, there is often a lack of detailed problem analysis and specific solutions. Delna, recognizing the risks associated with the field, published an evaluation of the price survey practice in all 43 municipalities in Latvia, familiarizing itself with the procedure for conducting price surveys in them or noting its absence.

The relevance of the price survey issue is related to the fact that municipalities spend significant funds in public procurement - just under 1.5 billion euros in 2021, which is 40% of the total public procurement in the country. It is important for residents to know how municipalities spend these funds.

Full text available in Latvian.

[Read more](#)

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## LATEST INDICATORS ON THE CITIZENS OPINION OF CORRUPTION IN LATVIA

The Eurobarometer survey of 2023 reveals that 74% of Latvia's citizens consider corruption to be a widespread problem in our country. Additionally, Latvia's score in the 2022 Corruption Perception Index published by Transparency International, which indicates the perception of corruption in the private sector within the public sector, shows a high prevalence of corruption – 59 points out of 100. In both indicators, Latvia lags behind the European Union's average.

To combat corruption, according to Delna, decision-makers, law enforcement agencies, and society as a whole have much to do. The overall anti-corruption effort should show faster progress in combating corruption and promote public sector understanding of the negative consequences of corruption.

Full text available [Latvia](#).

[Read more](#)

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## ASSOCIATIONS IN LIEPĀJA AND OGRE WILL MONITOR PUBLIC PROCUREMENTS IN THEIR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

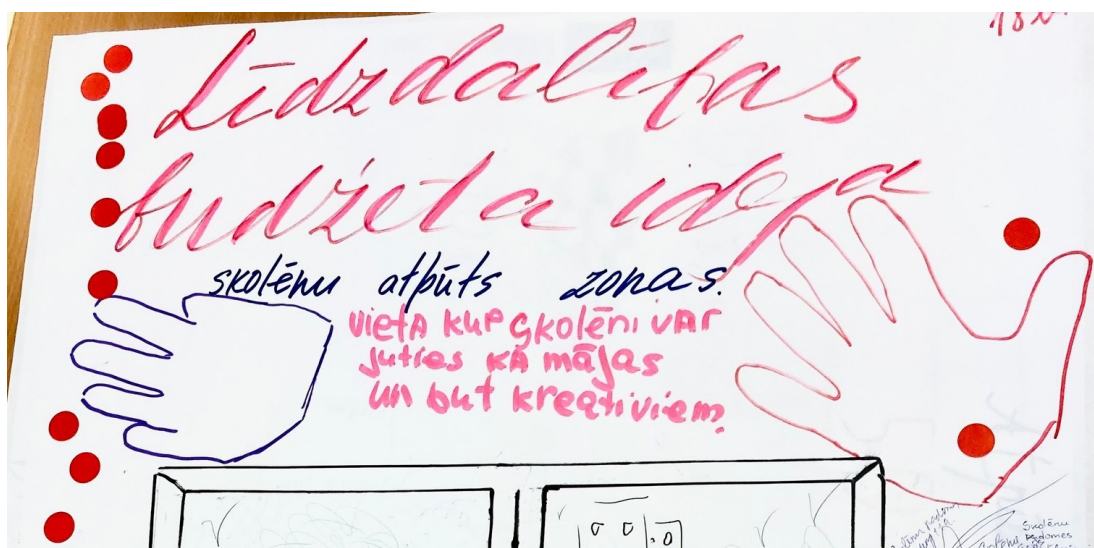
Do citizens and organizations have the right to monitor and analyze how local governments and the state use budgetary funds? Of course! Several tools have been developed to allow civil society organizations, in collaboration with local governments or state institutions, to ensure that taxpayer money is spent fairly in significant procurements. One such instrument is the 'Integrity Pact.'

To strengthen the ability of non-governmental organizations to monitor the use of public funding using the Integrity Pact method, Delna, the association 'Radi Vidi Pats,' the Civic Cooperation and Development Association of Ogre Municipality (ONPSAB), and Liepāja District Foundation will implement Integrity Pact pilot projects in their local governments."

More about the project here ->

Full text available in Latvian.

[Read more](#)



## YOUTH IN RIGA SECONDARY SCHOOLS AIM TO IMPROVE SPACES AND ORGANIZE EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

In October and November, Delna visited Riga Secondary School No. 22, Riga Secondary School No. 86, and Riga Ķengarags Secondary School, introducing the concept of participatory budgeting. Representatives from the Riga City Council also participated in the visits, sharing information about youth participation opportunities in Riga, such as involvement in advisory councils and the possibilities offered by collective submissions.

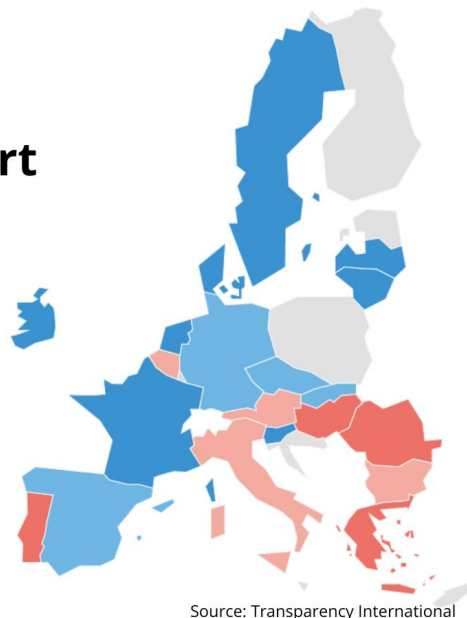
At Riga Secondary School No. 86 and Riga Ķengarags Secondary School, using the participatory budgeting method, popular ideas included creating relaxation rooms and arranging corners in school spaces. Meanwhile, at Riga Secondary School No. 22, the idea focused on the event "A Day as an Adult," aiming to promote financial literacy among youth, including simulating home acquisition and participation in job interviews.

Full text available in Latvian.

[Read more](#)

## Scope of what whistleblowers can report

- Comprehensive and consistent
- Wide but fragmented
- Sectoral
- Minimal



Source: Transparency International

## HOW WELL DO EUROPEAN UNION COUNTRIES PROTECT WHISTLEBLOWERS?

In Transparency International's latest study, "How Well Do EU Countries Protect Whistleblowers?" 20 European Union member states, including Latvia, were analyzed to assess the regulation of whistleblower protection.

Latvia is among the 7 countries that provide state-supported legal or financial assistance to whistleblowers in legal proceedings and is one of the 8 countries where whistleblowing can be raised for various violations, with protection guaranteed in all cases. Importantly, Latvia is also one of the 10 countries that mandate all public authorities to establish internal whistleblower reporting systems.

At the same time, there are several requirements that Latvia does not meet. Our regulations do not impose penalties on organizations that have not implemented internal whistleblower reporting systems, do not recognize anonymous reports as whistleblower reports, and do not provide penalties for disclosing the identity of whistleblowers.

Full text available in Latvian.



Full text available in Latvian.

[Read more](#)



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## DELNA COMMENTS IN MEDIA

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### **Delna Study: Strengthening Internal Democracy in Latvian Political Parties**

The problems of Latvian political parties include low public trust, frequent changes within parties, a small number of members, unclear ideological orientation, excessive dependence on private donors, and insufficient internal democracy involving members in decision-making.

Director of Delna, Inese Tauriņa, emphasizes the importance of internal party democracy in preventing corruption, citing this year's Eurobarometer survey in which 74% of Latvian citizens consider corruption a significant problem in the country. Tauriņa highlights, *"43% of surveyed Latvian citizens believe that corruption is most commonly found in political parties. Concerningly, the surveyed citizens admit to fearing reporting corruption cases and expressing a lack of confidence in law enforcement's ability to effectively combat corruption."*

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

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### **Restricted Access to Audit Report on Irregularities in Riga Street Repairs**

Do Riga citizens overpay for the capital's street repairs? Upon receiving the audit results, the Riga City Council asserts that there is no evidence of illegal or uneconomical activities. However, access to the audit results is restricted, and the responsible committee of the Riga City Council evaluated them in a closed session.

Director of Delna, Inese Tauriņa expressed concerns about the audit results: *"Based on publicly voiced comments from the Riga City Council, it seems that procedures, rules, and the compliance of street repair work with them have been assessed. But perhaps, considering the situation, these procedures and rules are, in fact, absurd, incomplete, and illogical. We don't see, fundamentally, how it is possible to reform that department and its operations. Neither from the public rhetoric nor from the actions taken, it does not appear that those responsible truly want to understand what is happening in the department, explain it to the residents, and significantly improve their operations."*

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

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### **Municipal Debt Issues in the Absorption of European Union Funds**

In the case initiated by the European Prosecutor's Office regarding potential violations in the absorption of European Union funds, the former Chairman of the Valka District Council, Vents Armands Krauklis, has been assigned the status of a person against whom a criminal process has been initiated. He categorically denies that he personally or the local government organized the construction of production facilities for any specific company or misappropriated EU funding. Meanwhile, European Prosecutor Gatis Doniks acknowledges the interpretation of regulatory acts in municipalities as a systematic problem.

Director of Delna, Inese Tauriņa, emphasizes, *"We can write various rules and instructions, but if, at their core, officials working in local governments, where everyone knows each other well, and where entrepreneurs are well acquainted, cannot distance themselves from them, then it is*

simply a fundamental understanding problem."

Watch more on [ltv.lsm.lv](http://ltv.lsm.lv)

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



# 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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Delna's electronic newsletter is funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway grant program "Active Citizens Fund" and reflects the opinion of Delna.

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