

PICKET FOR THE DISMISSAL OF OGRE MAYOR EGILS HELMANIS

EUROPEAN PUBLIC
PROSECUTOR'S
OFFICE
INVESTIGATION IN
LIVANI, VALMIERA
AND VALKA



1

APPROVAL OF THE ANTI-
CORRUPTION
PREVENTION AND
COMBATING MEASURES
PLAN FOR THE YEAR
2023-2025

2

3

TOP ANTI-CORRUPTION EVENTS RANKING

RESULTS: 2023 ANTI-CORRUPTION EVENTS

Delna compiled the most important political and public activities, achievements in the fight against corruption in Latvia. In a vote open to every interested party, we identified the top 3 anti-corruption events and 3 actions by Delna in the field of anti-corruption that you consider most significant.

According to the respondents' assessment, the main anti-corruption event in Latvia in 2023 was the picket for the dismissal of Ogre Mayor Egils Helmanis. Meanwhile, among Delna's most significant actions in the anti-corruption field, gaining an equal number of votes, were: the 2022 Corruption Perception Index (CPI), which compiles results and analysis of Latvia, and the evaluation of local government website transparency "Transparency Index of Local Authorities 2023".

Full text available in Latvian.

[Read more](#)



CONFERENCE "CORRUPTION – A NATIONAL AND GLOBAL SECURITY THREAT"

On the day before the United Nations International Anti-Corruption Day, on December 8, 2023, Delna and the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau organized a conference titled "Corruption – A National and Global Security Threat."

"The eradication of corruption is not solely the responsibility of one state institution, such as KNAB, but the overall state administration, or individual non-governmental sector organizations. It is equally a shared responsibility for the private sector, which is a cornerstone of Latvia's economic growth, and for the citizens," emphasized Jēkabs Straume, the head of KNAB.

Full text available in English.

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LIST OF WORK OF THE 14TH SAEIMA

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Improving openness of information | 4. Consistent and smart personal policy at national level | 7. Institutional solutions to fight corruption |
| 2. Mitigating the impact of money on politics | 5. Improving the public procurement system | 8. Support for qualitative decision-making in the public sector; and public control over it |
| 3. Integrity and ethics in the public sector | 6. Preventing governance problems in state and municipality-owned companies | 9. Recognising the importance of whistleblowers |

UPDATED AGENDA OF THE 14TH SAEIMA IN THE FIELDS OF ANTI-CORRUPTION, TRANSPARENCY, AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Delna has updated the work agenda for the 14th Saeima in the areas of anti-corruption, transparency, and good governance. As of now, the 14th Saeima has not fulfilled any of the tasks published by Delna in December 2023, but limited progress can be observed in certain issues, such as amendments to the Saeima Rules of Procedure.

In December 2023, Delna supplemented the list published at the beginning of the year with 6 tasks. In total, the list comprises 36 tasks in 9 themes – improvement of information transparency, reduction of money influence in politics, rethinking and consistent state personnel policy regarding integrity and ethics in the public sector, improvements to the public procurement system, addressing governance issues in state and municipal capital companies, institutional solutions for fighting corruption, support for higher-quality decision-making in the public sector, and public oversight over the public sector, strengthening the role of whistleblowers.

We invite everyone to participate in the evaluation of Saeima's work and not to remain silent if any suspicious actions are observed that are inconsistent with the interests of society and the state!

Full text available in Latvian.

[Read more](#)



TYPES OF CIVIC OVERSIGHT: A COMPARISON WITH THE INTEGRITY PACT APPROACH

HOW TO MONITOR THE USE OF PUBLIC FINANCES FOR CITIZENS

Information about suspicions regarding the use of public funding, as well as the disregard for integrity and good governance principles in state and municipal institutions, regularly appears in the media and public space. Civic oversight is an effective tool for any citizen or representative of non-governmental organizations to monitor the work of institutions and collaborate with them to mitigate risks and draw timely attention to them.

Delna has created a report titled 'Types of Civic Oversight: A Comparison with the Integrity Pact Approach.' The Integrity Pact (IP) is just one of the methods of civic oversight, so it is important to understand what other oversight methods are available and how they differ from the IP.

In the Delna report, it examines other types of civic oversight that can be used in monitoring public procurement as an alternative to the Integrity Pact. The report also identifies the main risks in public procurement oversight and initiatives and organizations in which Latvia is involved.

Full text available in Latvian.

[Read more](#)



Information about violations observed by residents does not always reach the responsible authorities. Often, residents are the only ones who can provide information about a observed violation, and by reporting it, they help prevent it.

KRISTA ASMUSA

Delna Whistleblower Centre consultant



SUPPORT THE WHISTLEBLOWER: DONATE 25 EUROS AND PROVIDE 1 HOUR OF SUPPORT TO THE WHISTLEBLOWER

Don't stay silent about corruption and other wrongdoings; report them – blow the whistle. Only by reporting possible misconduct by officials to the responsible authorities can it be prevented. We must not allow dishonest individuals to cheat the country, municipalities, and residents!

Usually, it is the youth, socially vulnerable groups, and the poorest residents who suffer from corruption because they have limited opportunities, such as obtaining education or receiving medical services, as the money goes to those who take bribes. Moreover, we have heard about inflated procurement prices, more expensive bridges, or road repairs. Why? Because there are companies and decision-makers who believe they can work without fair competition and negotiate these deals.

By supporting whistleblowers, you support the idea that everyone can raise an alarm about observed injustice and receive support in the whistleblowing process! Each whistleblower report is a crucial support for a better and more just Latvia!

Full text available in Latvian.

[Read more](#)



DELNA'S HANDBOOK FOR IDENTIFYING CORRUPTION

Delna has released and published a handbook on how to use the digital tool 'Deputāti uz Delnas' and how to utilize publicly available data for identifying corruption.

Since 2010, Delna regularly updates, compiles, and publishes information about parliamentary candidates on the website www.deputatiuzdelnas.lv. The website has been significant for both voters and other organizations and institutions, providing a convenient way to access diverse information and data about deputies' donations, incomes, major party donors, expenses, and other aspects.

The handbook issued by Delna also provides a brief and comprehensive overview of how to use public data for identifying corruption. The international anti-corruption movement Transparency International has developed guidelines on how to develop and use indicators of the risk of corrupt policies. This handbook provides an overview of the use of risk indicators in the analysis of party financiers, as well as a compilation of all available public data sources in Latvia. This is a part of the international project "Integrity Watch".

Full text available in Latvian.

[Read more](#)

SOCIETY'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE WORK OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Island 
Liechtenstein
Norway

**Active
citizens fund**



WHAT TO KNOW TO EFFECTIVELY ENGAGE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT LIFE

On January 1, 2023, the new Local Government Law came into effect, providing and elaborating on various citizen participation tools – collective submissions, resident councils, participatory budgets, public discussions. Delna, in its daily communication with decision-makers in local governments, civil society, residents, and the media, has critically examined these citizen participation tools and explains in which situations to use each tool and what kind of feedback to expect from the local governments.

"To increase civic participation, residents' interest, and the desire to engage in municipal activities and monitor municipal activities, it is necessary to explain to the wider public both the opportunities provided by these tools and how to use them in communication with the local government," emphasizes Delna's Advocacy and Project Manager Agnija Birule.

Full text available in Latvian.

[Read more](#)



KĀ UZ DELNAS: PODCAST ABOUT CORRUPTION WITH JOURNALIST PAULS RAUDSEPS

In a conversation about corruption in Latvia and worldwide, Delna's Supervisory Council Chair Evita Goša and Executive Director Inese Tauriņa talk with journalist Pauls Raudseps.

Delna's podcast - meaningful conversations about the essentials - how we, as a society, can live better.

Listen on Spotify or other platforms in Latvian.

[Listen](#)



Delna

SABIEDRĪBA PAR ATKLĀTĪBU
TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL
LATVIJAS NODAĻA

We are looking for colleague – Project Manager Assistant (part-time)

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN THE TEAM – PROJECT MANAGER ASSISTANT

We are looking for a colleague - a project manager assistant (part-time) to work on various anti-corruption topics!

The main duties of the project manager assistant include supporting the office and director in administrative tasks related to project implementation and maintaining office records. The work can be combined with studies, providing an opportunity to gain practical experience.

Candidates are invited to send their applications by **January 14** to the email address **ti@delna.lv**:

- CV.
- Motivational letter (up to 500 words).

When sending an email, please indicate the following subject: 'APPLICATION [NAME SURNAME]'."

[Read more](#)



Delna

SABIEDRĪBA PAR ATKLĀTĪBU
TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL
LATVIJAS NODAĻA

We are looking for colleague – Researcher/Project Manager (full-time)

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN THE TEAM – RESEARCHERS/PROJECT MANAGERS

We are looking for a colleague - a researcher/project manager to work on various anti-corruption topics!

The main duties of the researcher include researching, analyzing, preparing reports, collaborating with colleagues not only in Riga but also in other TI departments in Europe, implementing projects, etc.

Candidates are invited to send their applications by **January 14** to the email address **ti@delna.lv**:

- CV.
- Motivational letter (up to 500 words).
- One publication in Latvian (report, policy review, conference report, blog post, essay, analysis, etc.). The publication does not necessarily have to be related to the topic of combating corruption, but we encourage you to choose such an example.
- Optional: a written work sample in English, regardless of whether it is related to the topic of corruption.

When sending an email, please indicate the following subject: 'APPLICATION [NAME SURNAME]'."

[Read more](#)

DELNA COMMENTS IN MEDIA

Delna's Director: State Budget Priorities Align with the Current Situation

The priorities set in next year's state budget are appropriate for the current situation, said Inese Tauriņa, the head of the transparency organization 'Delna,' in an interview with Latvian Radio. She emphasized that security, strengthening the Latvian economy, education, and healthcare are directed towards the well-being of the people

More about this in Latvian on [Latvijas Radio 1](#)

State officials will have to provide a broader range of information in their declarations

With amendments to the law 'On the Prevention of Conflict of Interest in the Activities of Public Officials,' it is envisaged to expand the scope of information provided in the declarations of public officials. The Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau (KNAB) has also proposed amending the first sentence of Article 10 of the law to provide an exception to commercial activity restrictions for high-ranking state officials.

Krista Asmusa, legal consultant at Delna, when asked to assess the proposed amendments by KNAB to Article 10 of the law, agrees that 'in the context of such norms, one should talk about the PLG status. However, conflicts of interest and corruption risks could arise in situations described in the final part of the norm, namely, openly tendered procurement exceptions from this prohibition.

Read more in Latvian on [lvportals.lv](#)

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



Delna

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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 almost 100 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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Sabiedrība par atklātību - Delna | Veru iela 6, Centra rajons, Rīga, LV-1010

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