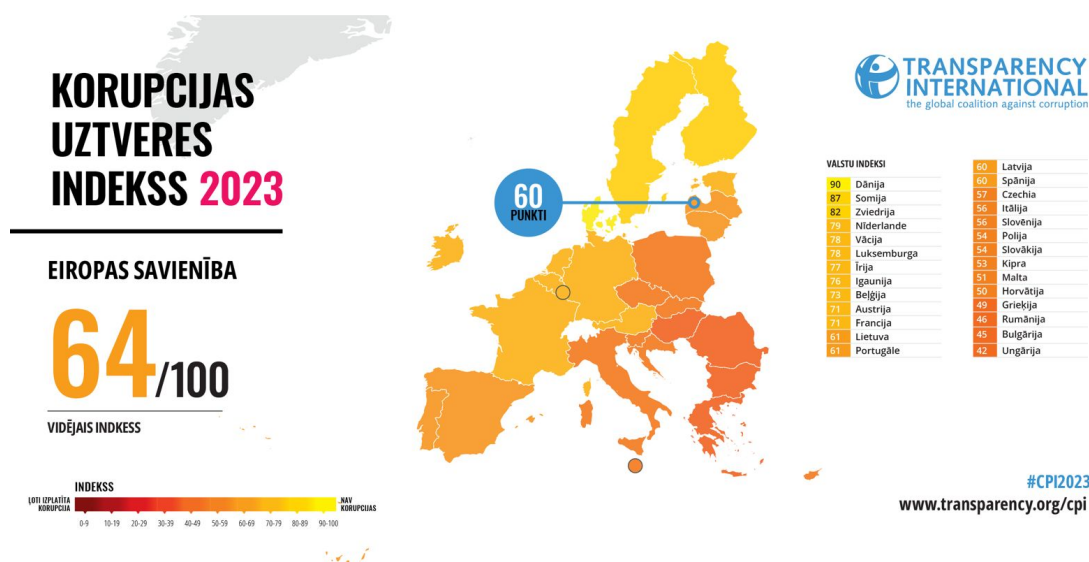


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RESULTS: 2023 CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX

The international anti-corruption organization Transparency International (TI) has published the 2023 results of the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). Latvia's results have improved by one point compared to previous years, reaching the mark of 60 points. Although Latvia's results are slowly improving in the long term, we still lag behind some of the EU and OECD countries, and we will certainly not reach the targets set in the National Development Plan 2021-2027.

"Latvia's slow progress in the fight against corruption can be explained by the delay in taking responsibility and implementing brave anti-corruption measures. TI Latvia has prepared a series of recommendations for the government and decision-makers, which we can hope will improve the fight against corruption in areas such as political integrity, prevention of wastage of public resources, as well as business integrity," emphasises Inese Tauriņa, director of TI Latvia

You can find the analysis of Latvia results of the CPI [here ->](#).

Full text available in Latvian.

[Read more](#)





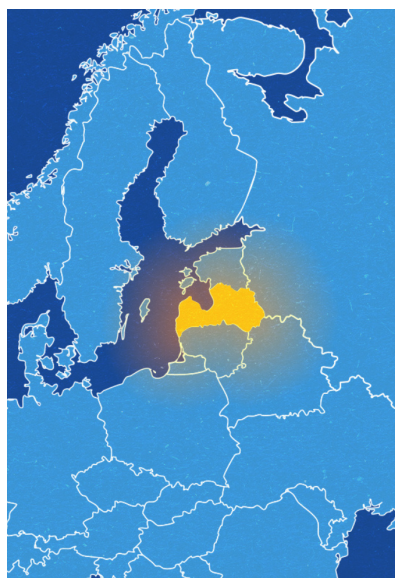
SURVEY RESULTS: ENGAGEMENT OF STUDENTS IN CIVIC PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS – LOW

Civic participation means that a citizen is open and interested in participating in activities in his community - it can be school, city, municipality or national level events. In connection with the civic participation of young people in Latvia, several surveys have been conducted in recent years, which show that the activity is low.

TI Latvia visited 15 schools throughout Latvia in the autumn of 2023, surveyed 500 students, as well as 30 teachers, about their knowledge and experience in relation to the possibilities of civic participation in schools and municipalities. This article summarises the main lessons learned from the questionnaire data in the context of observations of interactions with young people and teachers in schools.

Full text available in Latvian.

[Read more](#)



STARPTAUTISKĀ
PRETKORUPCIJAS DIENA

**KORUPCIJA –
NACIONĀLĀS
UN GLOBĀLĀS
DROŠĪBAS DRAUDS
2023**

 **08.12.2023.**

INTERNATIONAL
ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY

**CORRUPTION –
A THREAT TO
NATIONAL AND
GLOBAL SECURITY
2023**

 **RĪDZENE**



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LATVIJAS NODAĻA

25
GADUS
CĪVILIS
KORUPCIJAI





SUMMARY OF THE CONFERENCE: THE WHOLE SOCIETY SUFFERS FROM CRIMES OF CORRUPTION

For more than 25 years in Latvia, including the founding of the Transparency International Latvia (Delna) chapter, the work in the fight against corruption has contributed to significant changes in various fields, but every year we make sure that there is no less work left. In this article, we will highlight the most important topics and findings of the conference "Corruption – a threat to national and global security" organized by Delna and the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau (KNAB) on December 8, 2023, the day before the International Anti-Corruption Day.

The conference showed that as a result of the war in Ukraine, awareness of the harmfulness of corruption has grown both in state institutions and in society, seeing its impact on national security. Referring to the panelists, in the fight against corruption, one must understand that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen each of the three important elements of corruption prevention: creation of normative acts, strengthening of the capacity, professionalism and knowledge of the parties involved in the process, as well as cooperation with international partners.

Full text available in Latvian.

[Read more](#)



RAIDIERAKSTI "Kā uz DELNAS"

PRETKORUPCIJAS UN LABAS PĀRVALDĪBAS JOMĀ

LISTEN UP: PODCASTS ON THE MOST CURRENT TOPICS IN THE FIELD OF ANTI-CORRUPTION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Delna has published a series of podcasts "Kā uz DELNAS" on the audio streaming platform "Spotify" about the most important topics of 2023, providing a broad insight into the **selected topics**:

- Civic participation and the responsibility of local governments in the implementation of the new Local Government Law (with [part 1](#) and [part 2](#));
- [The progress of the development of the Cabinet of Ministers' regulations in connection with the implementation of the Law on Transparency of Interest Representation](#);
- [The application of the Whistleblowing Law in Latvia and elsewhere in Europe](#);
- [The success of the Financial Intelligence Unit of Latvia in the digitalization of management](#);
- [The impact of the latest amendments to the Public Procurement Law on the openness and fairness of the field](#).

Podcasts are recorded in Latvian.

Full text available in Latvian.

[Read more](#)



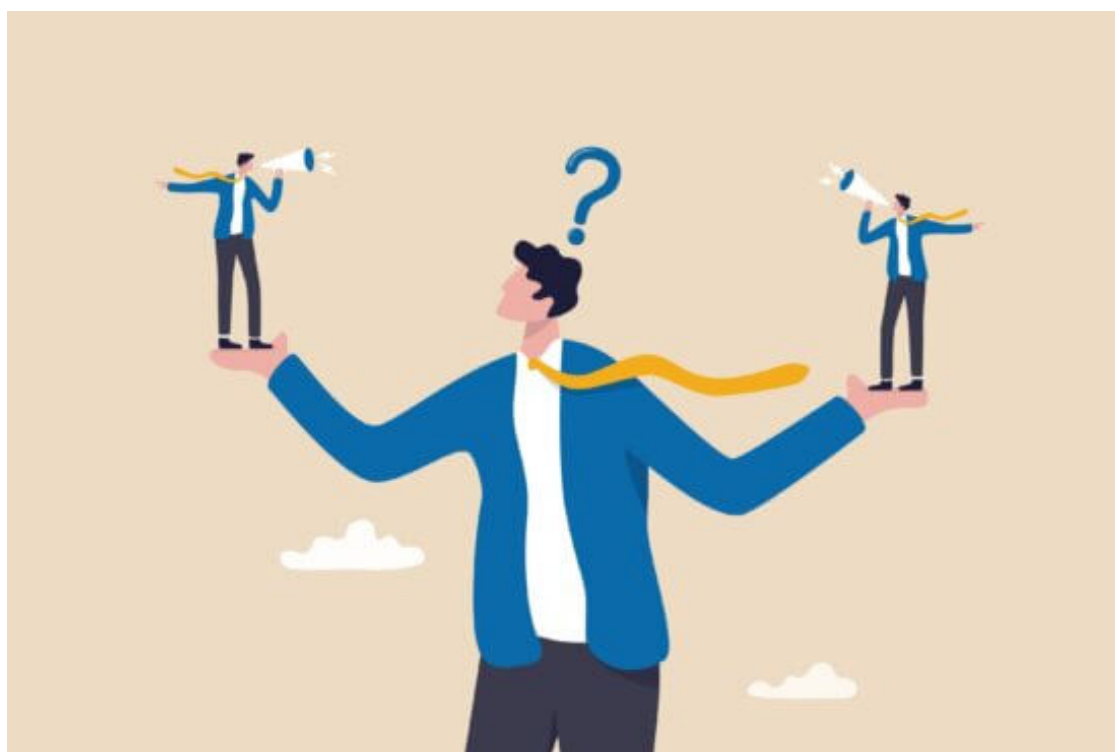
DELNA COMMENTS ON CORRUPTION PREVENTION AND COMBATING BUREAU (KNAB) DECISION ON NOT INITIATING CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS IN THE RIGA CITY COUNCIL DEPARTMENT OF TRAFFIC CASE

In the view of the Delna, the KNAB's decision is insufficiently argued, superficial and generally weak. The department examination should be objective, neutral and most of the KNAB's decision is a retelling of the opinion of the Riga City Council's disciplinary investigation commission.

On the other hand, in the part of the decision, where KNAB expresses its conclusions, they are insufficiently reasoned and contain only general conclusions that no evidence was obtained during the inspection that would confirm specific facts. KNAB also emphasises several possible problems in the case, stating that their evaluation is not within the competence of KNAB.

Full text available in Latvian.

[Read more](#)



HOW TO PROMOTE INTEGRITY IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENTS

Before the holidays, TI Latvia (Delna) discussed improvements to the public procurement system and ways to prevent the risks of dishonesty at the online event "How to improve the public procurement system and promote the fight against dishonesty" together with representatives of non-governmental organizations, the private sector, as well as state and local government institutions, including representatives from the Procurement Supervision Office (IUB) and the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau (KNAB).

It is clear that the work in the fight against corruption can be divided into different topics and specific tasks, which then allows us to work purposefully to achieve change. To talk

and specific tasks, which then allowed us to work purposefully to achieve change. To talk about specific works, the discussion focused on 4 points from the 2023-2025 Corruption Prevention and Combating Measures Plan (KNAPP).

Full text available in Latvian.

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DELNA COMMENTS IN MEDIA

Rīga road surfacing controversy rumbles on

"Primarily, it's low-quality work! If there's no waste, great! But then let KNAB really make sure of it in quality work," said "Delna" director Inese Tauriņa. She said that the KNAB investigator based his decision on the conclusion of the Riga City Council audit.

It was ordered by the management of the municipality for a different time period than when the suspicious actions of the officials are alleged to have taken place. KNAB's decision also used the opinion of the disciplinary commission, which was made hastily and in the opinion of "Delna" is a low-quality and highly questionable document.

More about this in English on [LSM](#).

How did the proceedings in the corruption case of the former President of the Bank of Latvia Ilmars Rimševičs go?

Inese Tauriņa, director of Transparency international Latvia (Sabiedrība par atklātību – Delna), stated: *"20 years ago, you could assume that we would not have come close to such a verdict. I would say, well, no, there was no hard evidence. Nothing was written on paper. No one caught anything on hand, so we can't prove anything."*

Listen more in Latvian on [LSM](#).

Māris Knoks, adviser to the executive director of the city of Riga, appeals to the State Labor Inspectorate for his unlawful dismissal

Inese Tauriņa, director of Delna, states: *"It has been a question since midsummer why Mayor of Riga is trying to sweep under the rug or sabotage this investigation, the work of clarifying information. What does he want to cover up. Is it his own inaction, or some dishonest interests or the interests of the department. But one thing is clear, the mayor does not act in the interests of the citizens or his voters."*

Find out more in Latvian on [TV3](#).

Railway company "Vivi" members of council lose their positions due to train delays

Inese Tauriņa, director of TI Latvia (Delna), says that she appreciates the council's resignation, as it is an important step to both acknowledge their responsibility and also give

the opportunity to new forces to get involved in solving the crisis.

"It must be admitted that it is not really clear whether the council resigned on its own or was dismissed. Of course, it looks like it was to the council's advantage to resign quickly by themselves rather than get fired. The council is the one that supervises all the activities of the company in cooperation with the board. The task of the Ministry of Transport is to find a council that is ready to solve this crisis and problems," admits I. Tauriņa.

'Advised to delete evidence.' Suspicion of the prosecutor's unethical actions in protecting a coach

Everyone knew and whispered, but no one intervened - such a scene unfolds, continuing to unravel the events ten years ago, when the coach of the Jūrmala basketball school started a relationship with his 14-year-old student. A judge, a prosecutor, a police officer, a psychologist - although among the people who were the first to learn about what happened at that time, there were those who would have the knowledge and obligation to react in accordance with the law in such a situation, the actions did not follow. Even now, when what was done has come to light, most people see the fault and responsibility not in themselves, but in the circumstances, those around them or even in the girl - who "wanted it herself".

Krista Asmusa, the legal consultant of the Delna, states that *"in this situation, the prosecutor's personal interest in the specific case (conflict of interest in the sense of the law) would not be visible at all, however, the prosecutor clearly influenced the parties involved, convincing them of her personal opinion that it was not worth initiating any proceedings in connection with this case, which is an issue of ethical nature. It is clear from the situation that the prosecutor gave such advice to the persons involved in private and not within the frames of professional capacity. However, it must be remembered that the prosecutor is subject to heightened behavioural requirements, both in the performance of official duties and in private in life. Consequently, prosecutors are also obliged to respect the work of law enforcement agencies in private life and private communication, to act and encourage others to act in accordance with the laws and regulations and not to invite other people to hide the violations they have encountered."*

More about this in Latvian on Delfi.lv.

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



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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 96 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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This information has been prepared with the financial support of the Society Integration Fund from Latvian state budget funds allocated by the Ministry of Culture. Transparency International Latvia ("Sabiedrība par atklātību – Delna") is responsible for the content of the information.



Kultūras ministrija



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