

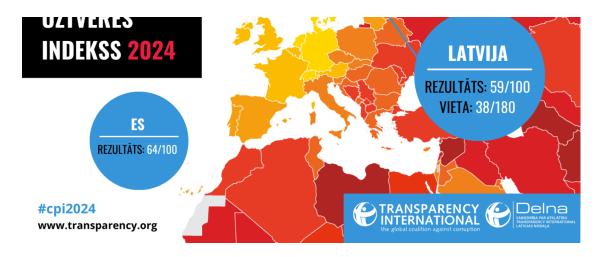
CHANGES IN TI LATVIA TEAM

There have been changes in the team of the TI Latvia. After more than four years in the role of Director, Inese Tauriņa is moving on to new challenges. Starting from April 1, 2025, TI Latvia will be led by the current TI Latvia lawyer Krista Asmusa and advocacy and project manager Agnija Birule, who will assume the positions of Acting Director and Deputy Acting Director, respectively. Krista and Agnija joined TI Latvia in the autumn of 2020.

The leadership changes at TI Latvia are taking place at a time when the organization's operations and financial position are stable, which will enable the new team to successfully continue implementing TI Latvia's strategic goals.

There have also been changes in TI Latvia's Board. The new Board members are: Evita Goša (Chair of the Board), Anna Plaudiņa, Aleksejs Loskutovs, Roberts Alhimionoks, and Kristīne Tarvida (elected in March 2025).





TI LATVIA CLARIFIES KNAB'S POSITION ON THE CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX

TI Latvia seeks to clarify the comments made by KNAB regarding the results of the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). KNAB questions the validity of certain sources, particularly the WEF EOS survey, the absence of which in Lithuania's data, in KNAB's view, affects comparability. TI Latvia points out that the WEF EOS data pertains to public sector corruption and meets the CPI criteria.

The information used by KNAB is based on outdated methodology and confused with another study. Moreover, comparing data across years is not justified, as the methodology has changed. TI Latvia emphasizes the transparency of the methodology and offers to provide clarification if there are any uncertainties.

Full text available in Latvian.

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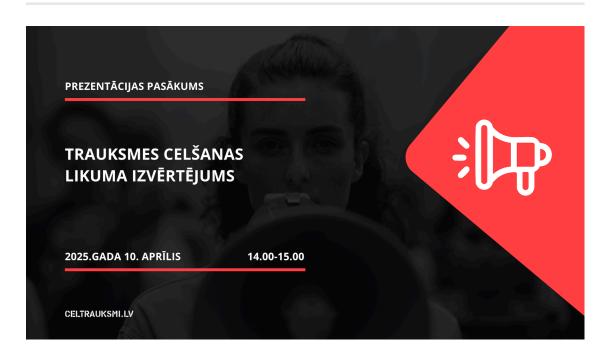
DISCUSSION: HOW COMPANIES REDUCE CORRUPTION IN LATVIA

Latvia's results in the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) are improving too slowly – this year they have even declined, while Lithuania and Estonia show more stable progress. One way for Latvia to improve its performance is by strengthening integrity in the private sector.

On 20 March 2025 at 14:00, TI Latvia will host an online discussion on the role of businesses in reducing corruption. The programme includes CPI analysis and recommendations from TI Latvia, updates from KNAB, and a business-focused discussion. The CPI is a globally recognised indicator of public sector corruption, based on business and expert assessments in 180 countries. It uses 13 sources globally, with 10 applied to Latvia. On a scale from 0 to 100, a score below 50 indicates serious corruption issues. Registration for the event is open via an online form.

Full text available in Latvian.

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INVITATION TO A PRESENTATION EVENT ON THE WHISTLEBLOWING LAW EVALUATION

TLL atvia invites you to an online presentation event on "Assessment of the Whistlehlowing

Law" on 10 April 2025 from 14:00 to 15:00.

The aim of the event is to present TI Latvia's evaluation of Latvia's Whistleblowing Law, providing insights into its compliance with international standards, as well as identifying key challenges and opportunities for improvement. Based on 25 indicators, the analysis assesses how well the law protects whistleblowers, how effective the reporting mechanisms are, and how retaliation is being addressed.

The event will place particular focus on the practical application of the law and the shortcomings identified, such as insufficient protection for whistleblowers, an incomplete anonymous reporting system, and institutional deficiencies.

Full text available in Latvian.

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"LAFLORA" JOINS TI LATVIA'S ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE

The peat extraction company "Laflora" has joined TI Latvia's "Zero Tolerance for Corruption" initiative, committing to implement anti-corruption policies and strengthen transparency and ethical principles. Company CEO Uldis Ameriks emphasizes that this is a key step in their ESG and sustainability strategy, integrating policies such as a Code of Ethics and a Whistleblowing Mechanism, which will also be included in the company's annual reports. The initiative aligns with international standards, including the UN Global Compact and the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention.

TI Latvia's Director, Inese Tauriņa, notes that every company that publicly takes a stand

against corruption helps strengthen integrity in society. "Laflora" is one of the largest peat companies in Latvia, employing over 300 people, exporting to 40 countries, and reaching a turnover of €34.7 million in 2024.

Full text available in Latvian.

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WHO AND HOW MAINTAINS LATVIA'S ASSET REGISTERS? MOST IMPORTANT CONCLUSIONS FROM THE SEMINAR

On 20 February 2025, TI Latvia hosted a seminar on the beneficial ownership of high-value assets in Latvia. We presented data on the accessibility, interoperability, and availability of asset registers. Laima Letiņa from the Enterprise Register highlighted the future significance of Regulation 2024/1624 in enhancing corporate transparency, while Kārlis Pūce from the Financial Intelligence Unit emphasized challenges to be addressed in the art market.

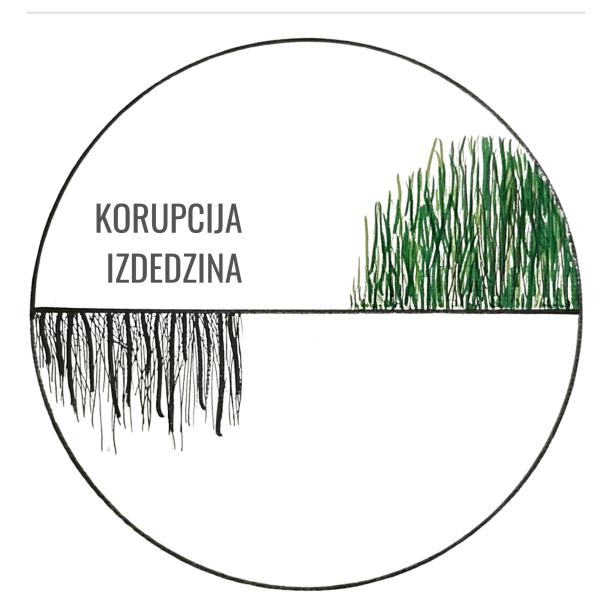
Identified shortcomings include the lack of a unified approach to historical ownership data, limited compliance of FIU access to the Aircraft Register with EU directives, and restricted access to the Land Register for certain EU member states.

TI Latvia also took part in a workshop in Berlin, analysing register accessibility at the EU level and developing advocacy plans. The importance of a pending Constitutional Court case on shareholder data disclosure was also underlined, as it could have a wider impact on transparency across the EU

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Full text available in English.

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WE INVITE YOU TO LISTEN TO THE LATEST PODCASTS "KĀ UZ DELNAS"

Transparency international Latvia (Sabiedrība par atklātību – Delna) podcast – meaningful conversations about the essentials - how we as a society can live better.

"Korupcija izdedzina" visual author - artist Yvonne Gerner.

In the podcasts, the chairperson of the board of Transparency international Latvia Evita Goša and the director Inese Taurina talk to various personalities.

Podcasts are available on Spotify or on other top streaming sites. Podcasts are in Latvian.

INESE TAURIŅA ON LEADING TI LATVIA, RESTORING HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN AIZPUTE, AND SERVING IN THE NATIONAL GUARD

In the podcast episode, I. Taurina explains that TI Latvia's financial situation is stable, the organization's team is experienced, and this makes it a suitable moment for her to leave the organization and continue her professional journey in a new direction.

She emphasizes that if we want to bring about change, it starts with each of us. In addition to her work in the field of anti-corruption, Inese is also deeply committed to defense – after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, she joined the National Guard. In her free time, together with her family, Inese contributes to the restoration of historic buildings in Aizpute, her husband's hometown.

Link to Spotify->.

ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT WITH LTD "RĪGAS MEŽI" CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD ANITA SKUDRA

In a conversation with TI Latvia, Anita Skudra shares her experience of transitioning from the private sector to a state-owned company in 2021 and the biggest challenges she faced. She discusses the shift in the company's internal culture, the implementation of good governance principles in daily operations, and the challenges encountered by the company's management and employees—all in pursuit of establishing a new corporate governance model.

Anita is driven by a strong sense of mission, recognizing that both she and "Rīgas Meži" serve the public. This is why sustainable forest management, the company's successful operations, and ensuring forest accessibility for residents are crucial. We also asked Anita about implementing good governance principles at the national level and reducing bureaucracy in the country. Listen to her insights in this podcast!

Link to Spotify->.

Listen to podcasts here

TI LATVIA COMMENTS IN MEDIA

The requirement to publish officials' salaries – open to broad interpretation

Since February, state and municipal institutions in Latvia are required to publish employee

salary information monthly. However, the regulation is already being interpreted broadly – there are differences in which employees' salaries are disclosed and how. Not all ministries have complied, and the data is only available for one month, making long-term analysis difficult.

Member of Parliament Skaidrīte Ābrama emphasizes that this falls short of the goal of transparency. The State Chancellery defends the one-month period as a compromise between transparency and privacy.

"We've seen wasteful practices where mid-level employees hold multiple positions simultaneously. This raises questions about how a person can work more than eight hours a day. This doesn't fully achieve the law's intended purpose," stressed TI Latvia's Director, Inese Taurina.

Read more in Latvian on Latvian Public Media.

TI Latvia points out that Latvia is stagnating in the Corruption Perceptions Index due to a lack of systemic anti-corruption efforts

Latvia's Corruption Perceptions Index has stagnated over the past 10 years, fluctuating between 55 and 60 points. In 2024, Latvia is the only Baltic country whose score has declined – dropping by one point to 59. TI Latvia highlights the lack of systemic anti-corruption efforts, particularly in public procurement oversight, interest and asset declarations, and lobbying regulation.

"There should be a mechanism requiring high-level officials to declare private interests as soon as they arise, not just once a year. Secondly, the Public Procurement Law needs improvement, especially in monitoring mechanisms. And importantly, given the current geopolitical context, there must be increased oversight in sectors receiving rising amounts of public funding," said TI Latvia's project manager Jēkabs Kārlis Rasnačs.

Read more in Latvian on Latvian Public Media.

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





If you also want to participate in TI Latvia's work and help reduce corruption in Latvia – we invite you to become a member. As a member of TI Latvia you will join a community of $\underline{94}$ people in Latvia and be part of Transparency International's global anti-corruption network with chapters in more than 100 countries around the world.

DONATE TO TI LATVIA'S WORK

Follow TI Latvia's news on social networks



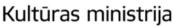






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