



Valsts kanceleja



Valsts administrācijas skola



ONLINE CONFERENCE

"WHISTLEBLOWING: THE NEXT LEVEL"

5 and 6 November, 2020

More than a year has passed since the Whistleblowing Law¹ came into force in Latvia on 1 May 2019. It provides legal basis for whistleblowing channels in public institutions and private companies and organisations, and offers citizens a secure way to report possible violations that are related to their work and can harm the public interest.

The State Chancellery has prepared the first annual report for 2019, including statistics and first conclusions about the whistleblowing system and cases in Latvia.²

The amendments to the Whistleblowing Law were promulgated on 6 August 2020. They aim to transpose the EU Directive 2019/1937 on the protection of persons who report breaches of Union law ("Whistleblowers Directive").³

Representatives of public bodies in charge of whistleblowing, as well as other representatives of state and municipal bodies, entrepreneurs, representatives of law firms, researchers, and journalists are invited to this conference. It aims to study the whistleblowing experience of Latvia and other countries, and to discuss the current progress and potential improvements in the whistleblowing system.

Organisers	Latvian School of Public Administration The State Chancellery Transparency International Latvia (Delna) Alliance Against Corruption in Latvia
Date	5-6 November, 2020
Virtual participation	Zoom After registration, a link will be sent to registered participants. The conference will be live-streamed .
The language of the conference	Latvian and English (simultaneous interpretation will be provided)
Contact persons	Inese.Andersone@vas.gov.lv Inese.Kuske@mk.gov.lv TI@delna.lv

Registration is open until **30 October**. Kindly register [HERE](#).

¹ likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/302465-whistleblowing-law

² <https://www.trauksmescelejs.lv/statistika>

³ <http://tap.mk.gov.lv/lv/mk/tap/?dateFrom=2019-10-06&dateTo=2020-10-05&text=trauksme&org=0&area=0&type=0>

THURSDAY, 5 NOVEMBER, 2020

Moderator: **Laima Letiņa**

8.50-9.00	<i>Time for participants to join the conference remotely</i>
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INTRODUCTION	
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9.00-9.15	Jānis Citskovskis , Director of the State Chancellery
	Agita Kalviņa , Director of the School of Public Administration
	Inese Tauriņa , Deputy Director of the Transparency International Latvia-Delna, Manager of the Alliance against Corruption in Latvia

SESSION 1: Creating a whistleblowing system in Latvia – trends, outcomes and future directions	
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9.15-9.30	Set-up of the Whistleblowing Law: main outcomes
	Inese Kuške , the Public Administration Policy Department of the State Chancellery

9.30-9.45	The role of the Whistleblowers' Point of Contact and main outcomes
	Līga Peinberga , Ramona Zīle and Asnate Sikorska , Document Management Department of the State Chancellery

9.45-10.00	Transposing the European Union Whistleblowers Directive into the national law – main provisions and reasoning behind the Directive
	European Commission representative - <i>tbc</i>

10.00-10.30	Discussion
	<i>Interactive break</i>

SESSION 2: Whistleblowing mechanisms in other EU countries – current models	
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10.30-10.50	Whistleblowing and protection of whistleblowers in Lithuania (“prosecution model”)
	Monika Kalinauskienė , Office of the Prosecutor General of Lithuania

10.50-11.00	Questions and answers
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11.00-11.20	Investigations and consultations of the Whistleblowers' House. Protection of whistleblowers in the Netherlands ("specialised institution model")
	Wilbert Tomesen , chairman, Whistleblowers' House (Whistleblowers Authority), the Netherlands

11.20-11.30	Questions and answers
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11.30-11.50	Whistleblowing in France: the role and experience of the Defender of Rights (“ombudsman model”)
	Néphéli Yatropoulos , Defender of Rights (Le Défenseur des droits), France

11.50-12.00	Questions and answers
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12.00-13.00 *Lunch*

13.00-14.30 **PANEL DISCUSSION:**

Reporting to competent authorities – experience and lessons learned

Questions for discussion:

- What types of violations do whistleblowers report? Typical examples, trends.
- Do reporting persons meet statutory criteria applicable to whistleblowers? How to improve the current system?
- Is the investigation of whistleblower reports successful? What form do investigations take? What challenges do competent institutions face?
- How successful is inter-institutional co-operation? How can it be improved?
- What actions are taken to respond to reports not recognized as whistleblowers' reports?
- Is the identity of whistleblowers protected well?

Panelists:

Contact Persons on Whistleblowing Issues in key competent authorities – *names to be added*

Interactive break

14.30-15.20 **DISCUSSION: Preconditions for effective protection of whistleblowers**

Questions for discussion:

- Guarantees for protection of whistleblowers against repressions
- Responsibility for whistleblowing

Panelists:

Ministry of Justice, Legal Aid Administration, State Chancellery, State Labour Inspectorate, State Police and Data State Inspectorate – *names to be added*

15.20-15.30 *Closing*

Day 1 Summary

FRIDAY, 6 NOVEMBER, 2020

Moderator: **Laima Letiņa**

8.50-9.00	<i>Time for participants to join the conference remotely</i>
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INTRODUCTION	
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9.00-9.10	Inese Tauriņa , Manager of the Alliance against Corruption in Latvia Representative of the US Embassy in Latvia
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SESSION 1: How does protecting whistleblowers change the society and the professional environment?	
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9.10-9.30	Justice and human rights in the context of whistleblowing Representative of the Netherlands
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9.30-9.35	Questions and answers
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9.35-9.55	A whistleblower's story. How whistleblowing changes a person Vladimir Radomirovic , Editor in Chief of <i>Pistaljka</i> , an online investigative journalism outlet, Serbia; https://pistaljka.rs
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9.55-10.00	Questions and answers
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10.00-10.10	Monitoring results – how are internal whistleblowing systems implemented in Latvia? Representative of the Transparency International Latvia (Delna)
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10.10-10.15	Questions and answers
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10.15-10.30	Expert discussion
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10.30-11.00	<i>Interactive coffee break</i>
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SESSION 2: Benefits of creating internal whistleblowing systems in institutions and companies. Opportunities.	
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11.00-11.20	Experience and benefits of setting up whistleblowing systems in Lithuanian institutions and companies Sergejus Muravjovas , Transparency International Lithuania, CEO
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11.20-11.25	<i>Questions and answers</i>
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11.25-11.45	Experience of public authorities in the successful implementation and operation of whistleblowing systems Speaker
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11.45-11.50	<i>Questions and answers</i>
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11.50-12.10	How do companies foster whistleblowing? Experience in the financial services sector Speaker
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12.10-12.15	Questions and answers
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12.15-12.30	Expert discussion
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12.30-13.30	<i>Lunch</i>
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SESSION 3: What does it mean to be a whistleblower?

13.30-13.50 **How to support whistleblowers – role of the media. What not to do in the case of a whistleblowing in an institution or company**

Martin Laine, Investigative journalist – *Ekspress Meedia*, Estonia

13.50-14.00 *Questions and answers*

14.00-14.20 **How to boost employee confidence in the whistleblowing system?**

Tom Devine, Legal Director, Government Accountability Project, USA

14.20-14.25 **Questions and answers**

14.25-14.40 **Expert discussion**

14.40-15.00 *Interactive coffee break*

SESSION 4: DISCUSSION – Future challenges and opportunities

15.00-16.15 **Questions for discussion:**

- How does the Whistleblowing Law affect the human resources capacity and who are the designated persons in the private and public sector to take care of whistleblowers' reports?
 - How to foster successful reporting and reliance on whistleblowing system?
 - What improvements to the law and the system are needed – proposals for mitigating system shortcomings
 - Can the government's support to whistleblowers and Contact Points be strengthened?
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16.15-16.30 *Closing*
Day 2 Summary

NACIONĀLAIS
ATTĪSTĪBAS
PLĀNS 2020



EIROPAS SAVIENĪBA
Eiropas Sociālais
fonds

IEGULDĪJUMS TAVĀ NĀKOTNĒ

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