

Full implementation of measures - precondition for further success

Full implementation of the adopted anti-corruption plans and measures is a precondition for further success in reducing the level of corruption in the country. Police, Customs and the Judiciary are among those institutions to be targeted as the first ones to gain full confidence that they are free from corruption.

In Customs, the heads of territorial customs units perform regular risk analysis with regard to the positions of high corruption risk and organize anonymous opinion polls of customs clients and persons crossing the border. The improvement of police work includes control of document flow, and the rotation of road police officers taking place twice a year.

Strengthening the effectiveness and independence of the judicial system is an area to which Latvia attaches the utmost importance. Latvia continues a thorough systematic reform of the judicial system supported by sufficient funding. The reform is being implemented on the basis of the Development Program of the Judicial System for the years 2001-2006, which concentrates on areas such as speeding up of court proceedings, enforcement of court decisions, modernization of courts and training of judges.



Members of the Bureau for the Prevention and Combating of Corruption meeting with the Prime Minister Einars Repše to discuss the anti-corruption plans and measures.
/ Photo: Raitis Puriņš, A/S "Diena" /

Active Involvement of NGOs

The Latvian affiliate of Transparency International - Delna, has been very active in recent years in promoting the involvement of society in state affairs thus ensuring increased transparency. NGOs have been particularly effective in initiating the discussion on anti-corruption in the regions of the country mainly focusing on the importance of the public support to address the challenges.

A number of opinion polls have been carried out by Delna. It has been concluded that public concern about corruption is more serious than its actual occurrence - more than 85% of people surveyed have never come into direct contact with corruption and only 1.5% had had personal experience of bribing.

International Institutions: Positive Assessment of Latvia's efforts

International institutions: Positive Assessment of Latvia's efforts.

International institutions have recognized Latvia's efforts. Transparency International in its latest index of perception of corruption in 2002 has placed Latvia seven positions higher compared to 2001. The GRECO (Group of States against Corruption) welcomed the steps taken to improve legislation related to the prevention of corruption. International and local analysts have recognized that some of current policy changes and activities will bear visible results in coming years.