



How Latvia is organized to fight corruption

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and Combating Bureau

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Administration

General information

- ✓ Inhabitants - 2,3 million
- ✓ Area - 64 689 sq.km;
- ✓ Capital RIGA -0,8 million. inhabitants;
- ✓ Ministries – 17;
- ✓ Civil servants – 31491:
 - general - 8111;
 - special - 23380.

Corruption In Latvia

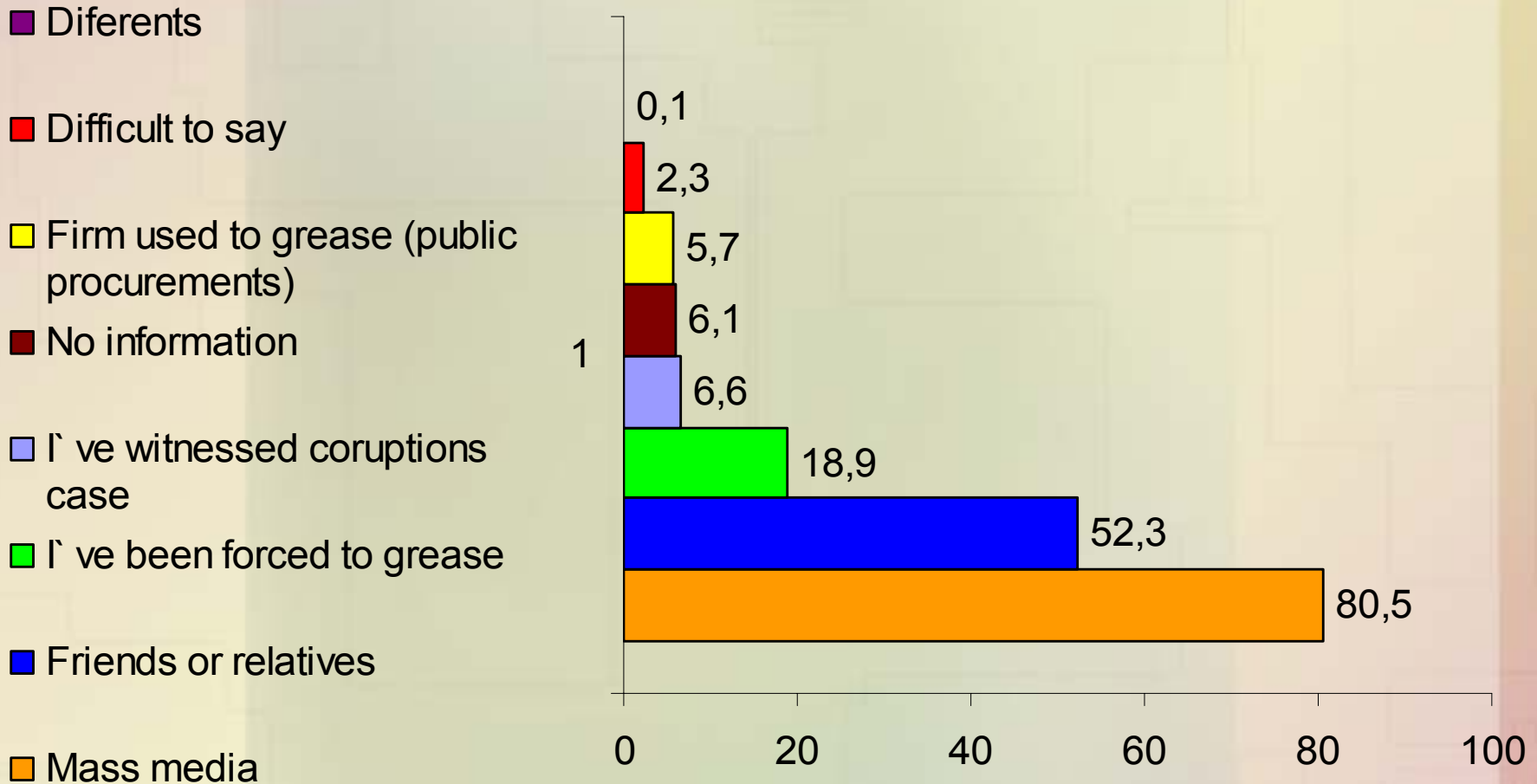
Is it widespread?

- ✓ Tasks in the Declaration of the Government:
to strengthen the rule of law, combat corruption, crimes and misconduct of officials.

- ✓ Corruption perception index:
 - Country rank 51 (2005);
 - Score 4,2 out of 10.

- ✓ Public opinion poll:
52,4% **had not faced** with corruption situations within last two years.

Information sources on corruption issues



Organizational chart of fight corruption In Latvia

PRIME MINISTER

Corruption Prevention And Combating Bureau

coordination of institutions

Ministry of Interior

Ministry of Finance

Corruption Prevention functions:

Corruption Combating functions:

State Police Criminal Police

Security Police

State Revenue Service

Checking of public officials disclosure forms and finances of political parties

Investigates criminal offences regarding corruption

Economic Police

Organised Crime Enforcement Bureau

Finance Police

Elaboration of strategy and program

Criminal Intelligence to prevent and combat offences

Investigates criminal offences regarding corruption of public and private sector

Investigates criminal offences regarding state security

Analytical and methodological work

Examination of administrative offences connected with corruption

Investigates criminal offences regarding organized crime

Investigates criminal offences related with taxes

Harmonisation of legislation

Public Education

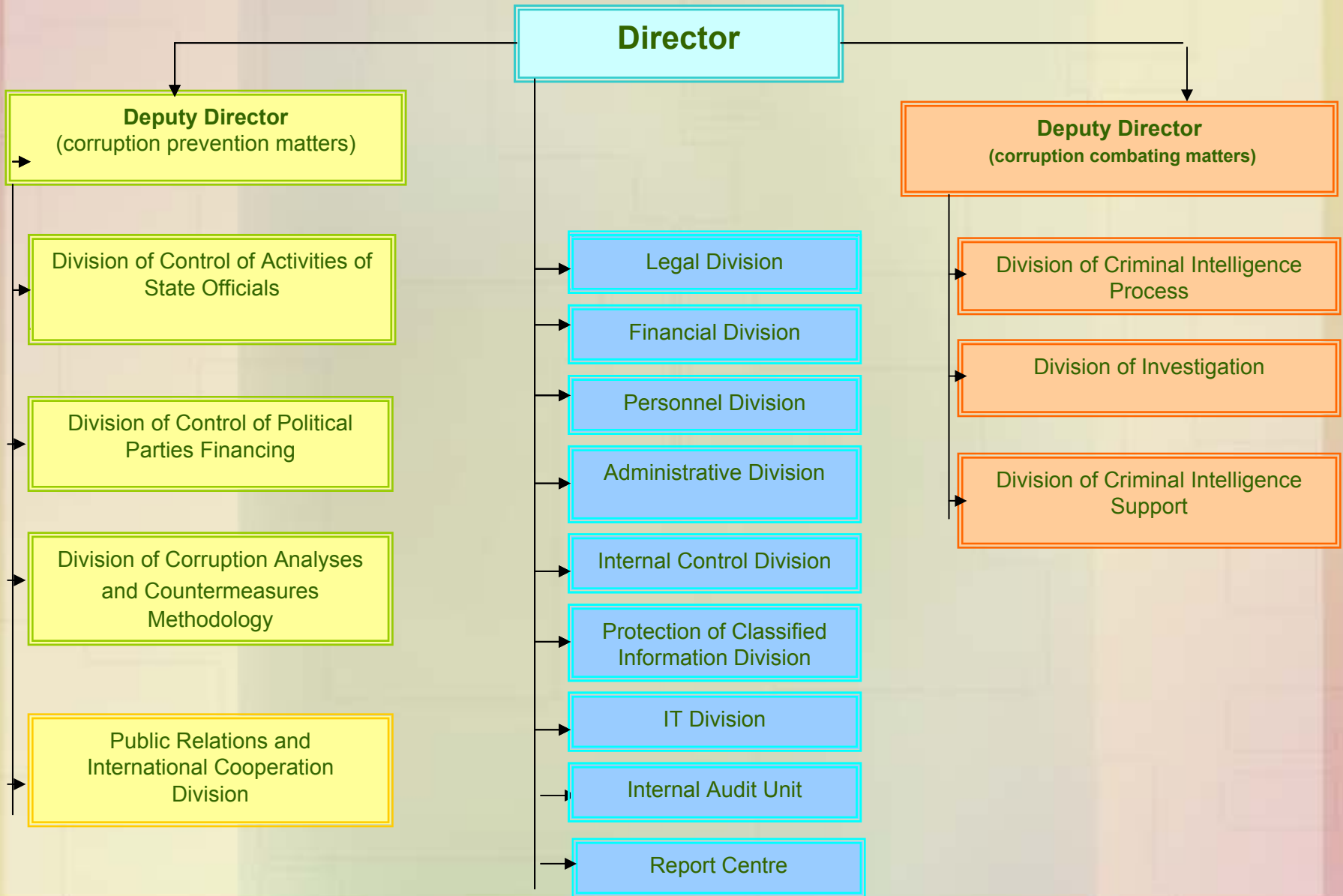
Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau

- ✓ The Bureau is an institution within the State Administration and is under the supervision of the Cabinet of Ministers
- ✓ The Bureau Director is appointed by Parliament
- ✓ The Bureau plays a central and leading role in preventing and combating corruption
- ✓ The Bureau is mandated to perform investigatory operations

Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau

- ✓ The work of the Bureau is based on the following three pillars:
 - ✓ prevention of corruption
 - ✓ combating of corruption
 - ✓ education of the society
- ✓ Currently the Bureau employs 123 people
- ✓ Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau is fully operational since 1st of February 2003

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF CORRUPTION PREVENTION AND COMBATING BUREAU



Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau tasks

- ✓ To assess the compliance of the actions of public officials to the law “On prevention of Conflict of Interest In Actions of State Officials”;
- ✓ To carry out investigation and criminal intelligence actions of corruption;
- ✓ To charge public officials with administrative liability and impose punishment in cases of corruption;
- ✓ To monitor political parties` compliance with party financing regulations;
- ✓ To develop methods for the prevention and fighting of corruption In public and private sector;
- ✓ To educate the public and state officials In the areas of the law, ethics and corruption prevention.

**NATIONAL STRATEGY
FOR CORRUPTION PREVENTION AND COMBATING
FOR 2004 - 2008**

Points out basic principles and objectives of the corruption prevention and combating policy as well as defines problems solution of which requires implementation of the national anticorruption policy

**NATIONAL PROGRAMME
FOR CORRUPTION PREVENTION AND COMBATING
FOR 2004 - 2008**

Sets priorities, defines responsible institutions, their tasks and timeframe for the implementation of the strategy

I Prevention and combating undue influence of private individuals on decision-making in state and municipal institutions (*state capture*)

- ✓ to prevent inappropriate influence to policy making
- ✓ to improve control mechanisms of political organizations financing
- ✓ legalization of lobbying

- ✓ political parties have received donations in contradiction with the Law on Financing of Political Organizations (Parties) in total amount of 315 541,91 LVL (448 975,68 EUR)
- ✓ 76 cases administrative charges against representatives of political parties (a fine)
- ✓ Upon the request of the Bureau the Court has stopped temporarily activities of 10 political parties, activities of 6 parties were terminated

II Prevention and combating of inexpedient, inefficient and illegal use of state and municipal property

- ✓ to enhance control over expenditure of state property
 - draft law On Leasing the Assets of the State and Local Authorities
- ✓ introduction of accountability for violators of public procurement procedures
- ✓ transparency ensurance of state and municipal budgets

III Improvement of control over illegal income and expenditure

- ✓ improvement of tax administration legislation
- ✓ creation of control system over income of individuals
Concept on Improvement of Income Control of Individuals:
obligatory annual declaration for all citizens and residents of Latvia and in some cases, for non-residents as well
- ✓ decrease legalization of illicitly acquired assets (money laundering)

IV Building the anti-corruption capacity by ensuring fast and qualitative investigation of criminal cases

- ✓ increase professional capacity of the Bureau and other relevant institutions
- ✓ development of legal liability for corruptive actions in the field of public service (health care, education etc.)
 - introduction of legal liability for providers of public services (teachers, physicians)
- ✓ protection of witnesses and whistle-blowers
- ✓ international cooperation

- ✓ There are 82 criminal cases within the competence of the Bureau
- ✓ 61 criminal cases are passed to the Prosecutor's Office for criminal prosecution against 99 persons
- ✓ most recent cases
 - ✓ accepting a bribe
 - ✓ receiving a bribe
 - ✓ using official position in bad faith
- ✓ public reporting system – the **Report Center**: receiving reports on corruption cases from people – anonymous or in person, in writing, by phone, e-mail or fax

Corruption cases

- ✓ a bribe of EUR 20,000 during the elections of the Jurmala City Council chairman for a favourable outcome in mayoral elections for the former Jurmala Mayor
- ✓ Owner of the medication retail chain offered a EUR 64,000 bribe to a bureau's official so that the Bureau would not carry out probes on his company's operations. Beside the bribe, he pledged to pay additional EUR 1,500 a month
- ✓ Year later - the businessman offered EUR 71, 150 to the Bureau's official in order to rig a criminal case in his favour at another law enforcement agency, and to cover up all wrongdoing on the part of the businessman

- ✓ Latvia continues its alignment with anti-corruption instruments of the European Union
- ✓ Ratified the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption on 9 February 2001
- ✓ The Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption is effective as from July, 2002
- ✓ Council of Europe Civil Law Convention on Corruption has been ratified by the Parliament in March, 2005
- ✓ Ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption in December, 2005

VI Ensuring and improvement of the internal anti-corruption system in state and municipal bodies

- ✓ prevention conflicts of interests of public officials
- ✓ introduce internal control mechanisms in each public institution
- ✓ codes of ethics/conduct

- ✓ The Bureau has examined 1641 declarations of public officials, conflict of interest and their connection with business activities

- ✓ 216 public officials were charged administratively
 - Restrictions on issuing administrative acts, performance of supervision, control, inquiry or punitive functions and entering into contracts;
 - Restrictions on combining offices of public officials and on the obtaining of income;
 - Restrictions on accepting gifts

- ✓ in 52 cases caused losses have to be returned to the state budget

V Ensuring legitimate and useful allocation of funding of European Union and other international institutions and organisations

VII Building legal awareness among state officials and other members of the society on issues of corruption

✓ educates society and the public officials in the areas of law and ethics, informs the public about the development tendencies of corruption and cases of corruption found, as well as steps taken to prevent and fight corruption; discussion rounds and seminars for representatives from various institutions

✓ **Public Consultative Council**

- members from the NGO sector, mass media and private sector

- In order to ensure the necessary linkage with the society and promote the public confidence in the Bureau's objectives

Latvian School of Public Administration activities In corruption prevention

- ✓ Conferences and workshops;
- ✓ PHARE project;
- ✓ International cooperation projects;
- ✓ Training courses for Civil servants:
 - ✓ Corruption prevention course;
 - ✓ Professional ethic course;
 - ✓ Conflict of Interest course.

Corruption Prevention course

- ✓ Module 1-Histori,Definitions, causes and effects of Corruption;
- ✓ Module 2-Legal aspects of fighting corruption;
- ✓ Module 3-Organizational aspects of fighting corruption;
- ✓ Module 4-Conflict of Interests and Codes of conduct In Public Administration.

Useful Internet links

www.mk.gov.lv

www.iem.gov.lv

www.knab.gov.lv

www.vas.gov.lv

www.politika.lv

www.delna.lv

Thank You for Your attention!

www.knab.gov.lv

www.vas.gov.lv