



KNAB

Annual Report
2025



Address by the Director of the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau

Preventing and combating corruption is essential for strengthening a country's democracy and the rule of law. It is a long-term effort that requires a clear vision, perseverance, professionalism, and public trust. The performance indicators and actions taken confirm that 2025 was an intense and important year for the implementation of anti-corruption policy.

The Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau (hereinafter – Bureau) started in 2025 by successfully taking over the investigation and operational functions of the Internal Security Directorate of the State Revenue Service. In the context of the transfer of functions, the Bureau worked closely with the State Revenue Service and carried out regional visits to the major customs control posts to learn first-hand about the specifics of customs operations.

The year 2025 shaped up to be a particularly productive one in the fight against corruption. Following successful pre-trial investigations, the Bureau initiated prosecutions against 53 persons in 35 criminal proceedings, the highest level in the last ten years. The most frequent evidence obtained by the Bureau was evidence of corruption-related offences in the activities of local and state authorities. The Bureau opened 45 new criminal proceedings, the highest number in five years.

Among the priorities of the Bureau's activities in 2025 was the monitoring of pre-election campaigning ahead of the municipal elections on 7 June. Although the checks of the Bureau indicate that the municipal elections were conducted without significant irregularities, this election was characterised by a particularly high level of whistleblowing compared to other elections in recent years. As one of the institutions monitoring campaigning, the Bureau received around 700 reports of possible irregularities before the last municipal elections.

The pre-election campaigning period helped the Bureau reach a new significant indicator: in 2025, the Bureau received a total of 2,021 reports of alleged offences. This is the highest number of reports received in the history of the Bureau. The Bureau's online reporting platform and its mobile app "Report KNAB!" also received 569 reports, which is about twice as many as a year earlier. The willingness of citizens to report offences is also confirmed by the Bureau's public opinion survey: 20% of citizens would report corruption in a self-identified way, and 40% would report it anonymously if they came into contact with it. Self-identified reporting is a growing trend, showing an increasing willingness to engage in the fight against corruption openly.



*Director of the Corruption Prevention
and Combating Bureau*
Jēkabs Straume

Also in 2025, a major project, “Strengthening the Corruption Prevention Framework in Latvia”, involving the European Commission and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, was concluded. The project achieved all three sub-objectives, including the development of a methodology for assessing internal anti-corruption control systems prepared by public institutions and recommendations for the development of a methodology for assessing national corruption risks.

The reporting period was the last year of the Corruption Prevention and Combating Action Plan 2023–2025. The Bureau, in cooperation with professionals from other institutions of public persons and non-governmental organisations, drafted a new national-level corruption prevention policy planning document to be operational in 2026 and 2027. The new plan aims to strengthen the integrity, transparency and public interest-oriented operation of public administration by implementing corruption prevention measures that promote good governance, the rule of law, and ethical standards.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Bureau’s team and partners for their contribution to the implementation of the corruption prevention policy. I also commend every citizen of Latvia who stands up for a fair and lawful state without corruption!

Honour over Power!



2025 in figures and facts



45 ↑

criminal proceedings initiated

35 ↑

criminal cases referred for initiation of prosecution

53 ↑

persons referred for prosecution

319 ↑

administrative offence cases opened

60 610 € ↑

imposed in administrative fines

132

opinions on draft legislation prepared by ministries

72

educational activities

6710

participants in educational activities

80 ↑

submissions received as whistleblower reports

2021 ↑

reports received

820 148,97 € ↑

declared to be the proceeds of crime, confiscated for the benefit of the State and transferred to the State budget

953 588,93 € ↑

of material damage to institutions of public persons prevented



Increase compared to 2024



Highlights

The Bureau **successfully took over the investigation of corruption-related offences** and operational functions **of the Internal Security Directorate of the State Revenue Service.**

The Bureau ensured **successful monitoring of the pre-election campaigning period** before the municipal elections on 7 June 2025.

The major project “Strengthening the Corruption Prevention Framework in Latvia” was concluded. It involved the European Commission and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The Bureau worked with public and private sector organisations to **reform the conflict of interest regulatory framework.**

The Bureau, in cooperation with representatives of public sector institutions and non-governmental organisations, **drafted the Corruption Prevention and Combating Action Plan 2026–2027.**

The Bureau **started the process of taking over the functions of the contact point for whistleblowing.** The Bureau will take over the role of contact point from the State Chancellery in 2026.

The **highest number of criminal proceedings opened** in the last five years and the **highest number of criminal proceedings initiated for prosecution** in the last ten years.

The Bureau **seized crypto-assets for the first time** in criminal proceedings.

The Bureau **received the highest number of whistleblowing reports** to date. The Bureau also received the highest number of reports of alleged offences to date.



The most important criminal proceedings in which the Bureau initiated prosecution



On 3 November, the Bureau requested the Prosecution Office for Investigation of Public Office Holders Misconduct Offences to prosecute **two natural persons**. Information obtained in the investigation shows that the two persons allegedly **planned to pay a 100,000 euro bribe to a public official to get the entry ban lifted for a foreigner** on Latvia's list of undesirable persons.



On 27 October, the Bureau requested the European Public Prosecutor's Office to prosecute **three Valka Municipality Local Government officials for alleged large-scale fraud** carried out within the framework of the industrial territory development project. The alleged criminal activities have resulted in the fraudulent embezzlement of more than 168,000 euros from the European Regional Development Fund and the Latvian state budget.



On 26 November, the Bureau requested the European Public Prosecutor's Office to prosecute **three Valka Municipality Local Government officials and two persons employed by the Local Government for alleged large-scale fraud** and other criminal offences. These activities were carried out in the construction of a production building, illegally attracting more funds from the European Regional Development Fund and the Latvian state budget than required by the laws and

Table of Contents

Address by the Director of the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau	2
1. General characteristics and priorities of the Bureau	8
2. The Bureau's performance in corruption prevention	10
2.1. Anti-corruption policy planning	10
2.2. International cooperation	13
2.3. Education and public participation	15
3. The Bureau's performance in the fight against corruption	20
3.1. Criminal investigation	20
3.2. Control of Activities of Public Officials	25
3.3. Control of Financing of Political Parties and Pre-election Campaigning	27
4. Personnel policy and internal control	29
5. Implementation of the operational strategy of the Bureau	30
6. Use of budget resources	33



1. General characteristics and priorities of the Bureau

The Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau (hereinafter – Bureau) is a direct administration institution under the supervision of the Cabinet of Ministers and performs the functions established by the Law on Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau in the field of corruption prevention and combating, as well as control over the financing of political parties and the implementation of pre-election campaigning regulations.

Vision of the Bureau

As the leading anti-corruption institution in Latvia, the Bureau promotes a social, economic and judicial environment that is geared towards institutions of a public person acting in the public interest, ensuring that every individual and society as a whole has confidence in the legislator, the executive power, the judiciary, and in the work of State and local government institutions.

Mission of the Bureau

“We take action against corruption for the good of society and the national interest with the full force of law and public support, in order to achieve integrity in the exercise of power vested in officials of State.”

Structure of the Bureau

The Director of the Bureau has three deputies:

1. The Deputy Director for Investigation Matters, who oversees the Criminal Investigation Department (comprising two investigation divisions) and the Administrative Investigation Department (comprising the Division for Investigation of Political Organisations and the Division for the Investigation of Administrative Violations);
2. The Deputy Director for Criminal Intelligence, who oversees the Criminal Intelligence Department (comprising two criminal intelligence divisions) and the Criminal Intelligence Support Department (the Criminal Intelligence Technical Support Division, and the other: the Criminal Intelligence Support Division);
3. The Deputy for Strategy and Policy Planning who oversees the Policy Planning and Communication Department (Policy Planning Division and Communication Division) and the Strategy Department (Strategic Analysis Division and Tactical Analysis Division).

The Director of the Bureau also oversees separate divisions (Record-keeping, Legal and Financial Matters, Internal Security, Human Resources and IT Division) and the internal auditor and advisor.

Bureau Priorities

In 2025, the Bureau planned its activities in line with five priorities set out in the Bureau's operational strategy for 2023–2026:

1. To mitigate corruption risks in public procurement and EU-funded projects, in particular:
 - a) in the areas where the largest projects in terms of funding are implemented;
 - b) projects and tenders implemented by the State and local governments;
 - c) the Rail Baltica project.
2. To improve the practice of declaring the proceeds of alleged corruption of public officials as proceeds of crime and confiscating them for the benefit of the State.
3. To ensure an effective national anti-corruption policy.
4. To promote zero tolerance of corruption in the public and private sectors.
5. To implement digital transformation.

The Bureau's strategy identifies 24 strategic objectives, with 57 deliverables set, 19 of which are selected as key performance indicators, defining a target value for each year of the strategy period.





2. The Bureau's performance in corruption prevention

To reduce the risks of corruption and conflicts of interest, as well as the risk that financial resources and property of a public person are wasted, the Bureau drafts development planning documents, information reports and drafts of legal acts, makes proposals to the responsible institutions on the need for amendments to laws and regulations or drafting new legislation, and coordinates the implementation of development planning documents in the field of preventing and combating corruption.



2.1. Anti-corruption policy planning

During the reporting period, the Bureau carried out an analysis of potential corruption risks in the draft legislative acts submitted for initial and repeated approval to the Draft Legal Acts Portal. In line with the findings of the risk analysis, the Bureau issued 132 opinions on draft legislation prepared by ministries, expressing both conceptual and drafting objections or proposals. The Bureau also prepared and delivered opinions on the European Commission's proposals for a directive on combating corruption and a directive establishing harmonised requirements in the internal market for the transparency of the representation of interests on behalf of third countries.

Monitoring and development of the Corruption Prevention and Combating Action Plan

The Bureau also continued its work on the implementation and enforcement of the measures of the Corruption Prevention and Combating Action Plan 2023–2025 (hereinafter – CPCAP). In 2025, the Bureau also implemented targeted measures to ensure the development of the Corruption Prevention and Combating Action Plan 2026–2027 (hereinafter – CPCAP 2026–2027), ensuring the involvement of civil society and extensive inter-institutional cooperation in the drafting process. A working group was set up for this purpose, comprising 36 public administration institutions, including line ministries and their subordinate bodies, as well as six non-governmental organisations. During the drafting process, members of the working group made more than 60 suggestions on future anti-corruption policies and possible actions for the plan. The draft CPCAP 2026–2027 was adopted at the meeting of the State Secretaries on 15 January 2026 and will be submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers for approval by mid-February 2026.

The objective of the CPCAP 2026–2027 is to strengthen the integrity, transparency and public interest-oriented operation of public administration by implementing targeted anti-corruption prevention measures to ensure good governance, the rule of law, and high ethical standards. The objective of the plan is applicable to all institutions of a public person – state and local government institutions, as well as derived public persons. The plan includes 19 actions, with 23 deliverables.

Key amendments to anti-corruption legislation

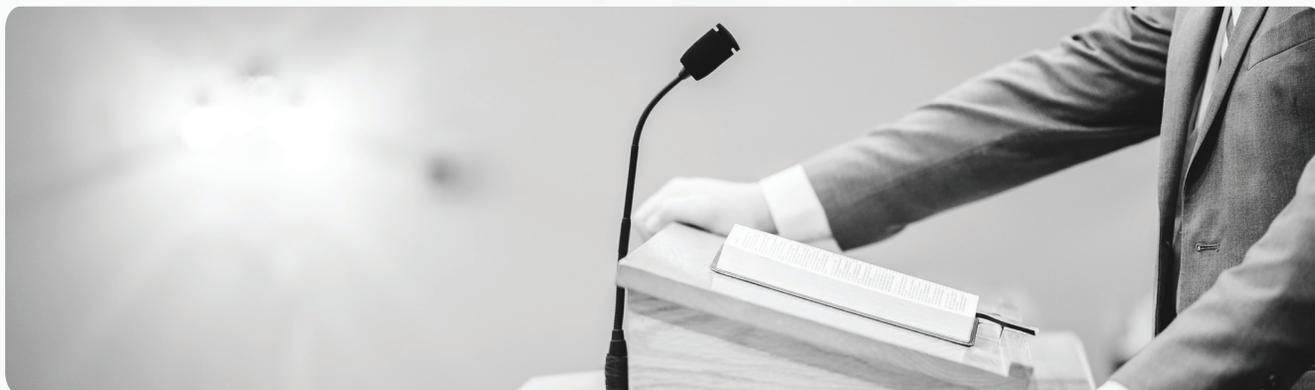
The Bureau has prepared a draft information report assessing the model for allocating state budget funding to political organisations and analysing the accountability mechanisms for the funding used. The Bureau carried out an in-depth analysis of the financial records and spending of political parties and their associations receiving state budget funding between 2018 and 2023. In light of the above, the Bureau concluded that amendments to the regulatory framework were necessary.

The Bureau provided its opinion on amendments to the Whistleblowing Law, which, among other things, provide for the Bureau to be the contact point for whistleblowers from 1 March 2026. Until now, the State Chancellery has been responsible for coordinating whistleblowing issues in Latvia. The amendments also provide that the Bureau will provide further training to contact persons and persons responsible for whistleblowing, as well as deal with the reports of whistleblowers for which the competent authority is not clearly identifiable.

In addition, the Bureau continued its work on amendments to the Law on Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau, which, inter alia, provide for:

- 1) Strengthening the capacity of the Bureau in terms of human and material resources by improving its analytical capabilities;
- 2) Performing tactical analysis of natural and legal persons;
- 3) Strengthening the risk analysis information system of the Bureau and its software as a national information system. These amendments have been approved by the Saeima in the 2nd reading.

In 2025, a working group established within the Bureau drafted the Law On Integrity and On Prevention of Conflict of Interest in Public Administration. The aim of the draft law is to ensure the integrity of public administration employees by timely identifying, detecting and eliminating the risks of influence of personal or material interests on decision-making and actions, as well as to promote transparency, accountability and public trust in public administration. The public participation and inter-institutional coordination process for the draft law is expected to take place in 2026.



International project ensures the successful continuation of anti-corruption policy

The project “Strengthening the Corruption Prevention Framework”, implemented under the European Commission’s Directorate General for Structural Reform Support under the Technical Assistance Instrument, concluded in May 2025.

Methodology for the evaluation of anti-corruption control systems is publicly available on the Bureau’s website: www.knab.gov.lv

In this project, the Bureau, together with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (hereinafter – OECD), analysed the current approaches and contributions of institutions to assessing internal anti-corruption control systems in Latvia and developed a methodology. The methodology assesses the extent to which the institution has established and strengthened a culture of integrity, identified and assessed corruption risks, ensured an appropriate response to identified risks, established transparent and regular communication at all levels of the organisation, and implemented a targeted monitoring and evaluation plan for the continuity and development of the system. The methodology is primarily intended for Latvian institutions of a public person, but its use is also recommended for private sector organisations in order to promote transparency in governance and the compliance of activities with the public interest, and to reduce corruption risks in the business environment.

In 2025, the Bureau started work on the development of a National Corruption Risk Assessment methodology, based on the recommendations made by the OECD within the framework of the project “Strengthening the Corruption Prevention Framework”. Risk assessment is an essential process for identifying the institutions, functions and processes most at risk of corruption, assessing the potential impact of these risks and developing appropriate mitigating measures. A risk-based approach is central to the design and implementation of effective anti-corruption measures at both the institutional and national levels. In 2026, the methodology is expected to be finalised and validated, and the assessment itself launched.





2.2. International cooperation

During the reporting period, the Bureau, as the leading anti-corruption institution in Latvia, ensured participation in various events of international organisations, as well as fulfilled the obligations of the Council of Europe Treaty on the Establishment of a Group of States against Corruption (hereinafter – GRECO) and OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, The United Nations (hereinafter – UN) Anti-Corruption Convention, and participated in the implementation of the recommendations made by the European Council Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism, Moneyval, and in activities related to measures to protect the financial interests of the European Union.

The Bureau briefed the European Commission on progress in strengthening the anti-corruption framework in 2024. In July 2025, the Justice Scoreboard on the Member States of the European Union were published. The Scoreboard summarises information of the Member States on strengthening the rule of law in areas of the judicial system, media pluralism, anti-corruption and inter-institutional balance, and makes recommendations.

The Bureau also prepared and coordinated the provision of information for the OECD Public Integrity Indicators. These are indicators of issues related to preventing corruption risks and strengthening integrity. Latvia has provided and updated information on the quality of anti-corruption strategies, policymaking accountability and the effectiveness of internal control and risk management. At the same time, in 2025, it coordinated the provision of information on the integrity of the judicial system and the framework for disciplinary liability. The OECD analysis and conclusions on Latvia's situation compared to other OECD countries are expected to be published in March 2026.

In 2025, Latvia started to be evaluated by GRECO in the Sixth Evaluation Round. The Bureau coordinated the completion and submission of Latvia's self-assessment questionnaire to GRECO, reflecting the framework for preventing corruption and promoting integrity in Latvian municipalities. In 2026, GRECO experts will visit Latvia and prepare an evaluation report.

The Bureau also provided information for Latvia's self-assessment questionnaire for the Phase 4 assessment on progress made in implementing the requirements of the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions in Latvia. In January 2026, the OECD Working Group on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions will visit Latvia and prepare an assessment report.

The Bureau, as the Latvian coordinating body, continued its work on updating the voluminous information provided earlier and preparing responses to experts' comments and questions in relation to the self-assessment of Latvia's compliance with Chapter II "Preventive Measures" and Chapter V "Asset Recovery" of the UN Convention against Corruption (hereinafter – Convention). Latvia's progress in implementing the Convention is expected to be assessed in 2026.

In 2025, the Bureau continued its work on the implementation and reporting of two projects supported by the European Union Anti-Fraud Programme (hereinafter – EUAF) to improve the Bureau's material and technical support for investigative, operational and analytical functions. Implementing projects, the Bureau has purchased equipment to support its investigative functions, which has significantly improved the Bureau's capacity and performance in this area. A digital platform for tactical and strategic analysis has also been developed and deployed, enabling the automated analysis of large volumes of data from different data sets according to defined criteria, significantly improving the capacity, performance and efficiency of the analytical function of the Bureau.

In 2025, the Bureau finalised the implementation of the project "Strengthening the Anti-Corruption Framework" under the European Commission's Directorate General for Structural Reform Support under the Technical Assistance Instrument, and prepared three new project proposals for the EUAF call for proposals.





2.3. Education and public participation

Educating public officials and the public

In 2025, the Bureau's officials organised or participated in 72 awareness-raising events on various anticorruption topics. A total of 6,710 persons were educated, which is less than in previous years. The decrease is due to the strengthening of the Bureau's train-the-trainer programme in 2025, which resulted in basic training being provided in some institutions by the trainers of the institutions. The number of educational events held by the Bureau and their participants is shown in Figure 1.

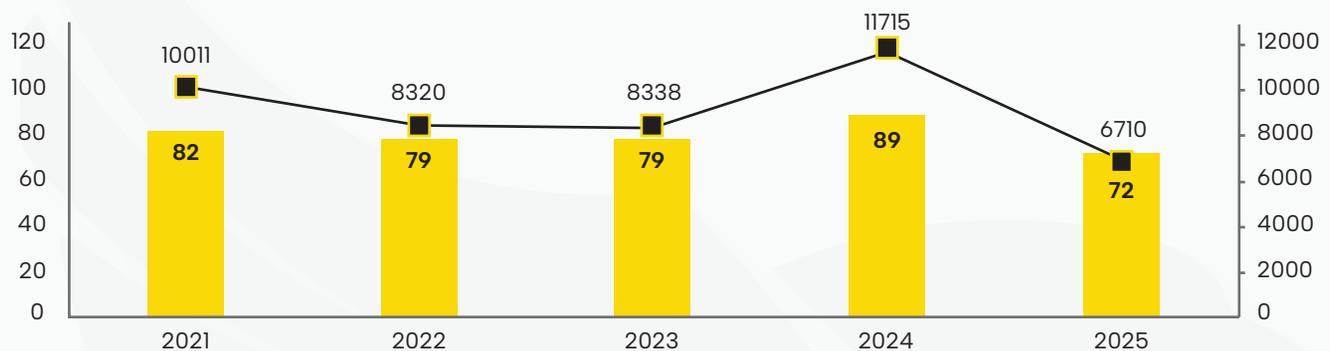


Figure 1. Number of educational events and participants

In 2025, the Bureau, with the support of the School of Public Administration, implemented three training events for trainers with existing experience, strengthening the knowledge of 144 persons on anti-corruption issues. The Bureau also held two training events for professionals from national and local government institutions, who were enrolled in the trainers' programme after the training.



During the reporting period, the Bureau organised or participated in at least 25 public relations activities. On 6 and 7 February, the Bureau organised a hackathon where national and international experts developed proposals on how artificial intelligence can help identify or mitigate corruption risks in public procurements. Meanwhile, on 3 and 4 March, the Bureau organised a hackathon to generate ideas on how to identify and effectively mitigate corruption risks in the use of funding allocated to the defence sector.



The ideas developed during the hackathon have been used to draft the Anti-Corruption Action Plan 2026–2027 and to develop proposals for the reform of the Public Procurement Law. The findings of the hackathon have also been shared with the relevant institutions. Both hackathons were initiatives of the Bureau, funded with the support of the Bilateral Cooperation Fund of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2014–2021 Programme “International Police Cooperation and Combating Crime”.

In the first quarter of 2025, the Bureau participated in a public information campaign on the results of the EEA grant programme “International Police Cooperation and Combating Crime”. During the campaign, informative posters about the Bureau’s online reporting platform and its mobile app “Report to KNAB!” were placed in the city and on social networks, which helped to boost the trust of citizens. The reporting platform “Report to KNAB!” is one of the main results of the project “Support for the establishment of a whistleblowing system in Latvia” implemented by the Bureau and supported by an EEA Grant.

In autumn 2025, the Bureau started cooperation with LTVI’s popular student erudition programme “Smart, Smarter”. In this season of the programme, students have the opportunity to increase their knowledge about the institution and the anti-corruption field in general by answering questions prepared by the Bureau.



In November, the Bureau, together with the State Chancellery, supported the international conference “Courage to Report: whistleblowing as a mechanism to protect public interests” organised by Transparency International Latvia (Delna). The event focused on the role of whistleblowing in protecting the public interest, and featured presentations and panel discussions by experts on various aspects of whistleblowing. At the conference, the representatives of the Bureau highlighted the importance of whistleblowing in the detection of corruption and expressed their views on possible challenges and improvements to the whistleblowing mechanism in the future.



As the Bureau is due to take over the whistleblowers' contact point from the State Chancellery in 2026, on 9 December, which is known worldwide as International Anti-Corruption Day, the Bureau organised the event "See. Hear. Speak up: whistleblowing today and tomorrow". Organised in cooperation with the State Chancellery and the School of Public Administration, the event looked back at the functioning of the whistleblowing mechanism to date and familiarised participants with the planned changes. The event brought together nearly 70 experts from various state and local government institutions who are responsible for the day-to-day handling of whistleblower reports.

Attitudes of citizens and business towards corruption

A public thought survey was conducted at the end of 2025 to find out the actual attitudes of citizens and businesses towards corruption. A business survey was also carried out at the end of the year and in January 2026 with the same aim.

The survey shows that 28% of citizens and 21% of businesses have used informal solutions to resolve a problem in the last two years. Compared to the previous period, the experience of using such solutions has increased in both groups of respondents. The most common informal solution used by both citizens and businesses is the use of personal contacts.

There is also an increasing willingness among citizens to pay bribes to officials in order to get a settlement that they or a relative want. In 2025, 24% of the population said they would be willing to do so, with the most common reason given for bribery being greater certainty that the problem will actually be dealt with. Meanwhile, there has been a downward trend in the number of respondents who would be willing to bribe public officials among businesspeople in recent years. In 2025, 20% of businesses were willing to do so, with the main reason given being that it would solve the problem faster or at least actually solve it.

When asked what they would do if they encountered corruption, 60% of people said they would report it. 20% of these respondents said they would be willing to report in a way that identified themselves, a figure that tends to increase each year. Similarly, the willingness of citizens to report directly to the Bureau has been a relatively stable trend in recent years, with 41% of citizens saying they would do so in 2025.

Number of calls and applications received by the Bureau

During the reporting period, the Bureau received a total of 2021 reports. Of these, 887 were submitted by natural persons, 175 by legal persons, 105 by State and local government authorities, and 854 by anonymous applicants. In 2025, the number of reports received from individuals increased by a third compared to the previous reporting period, which shows that the public is ready to report to the Bureau.

In 2025, the mobile app "Report to KNAB!" received 569 reports, which is approximately twice as many as in the previous period, with the largest number of reports concerning possible violations during the campaign period before the local elections. The Bureau received and heard 29 visitors. A total of 3,173 calls were made to 67356161 and the helpline 80002070. The number of applications and visitors received by the Bureau is shown in Figure 2.

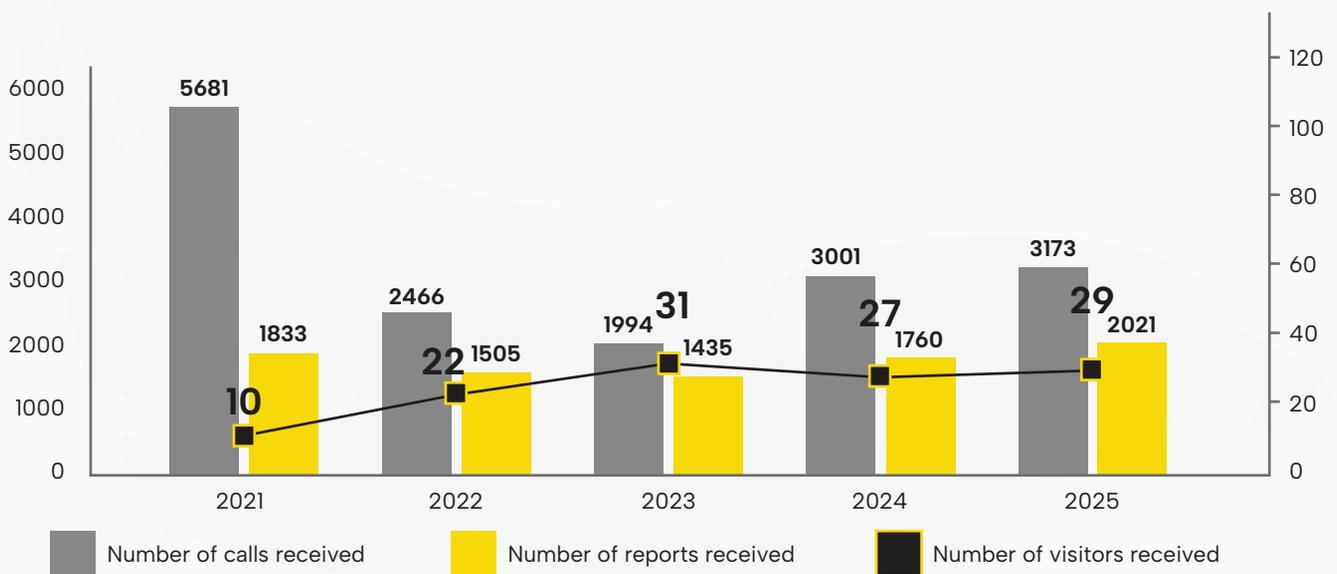


Figure 2. Public participation

The Bureau is one of the competent authorities to which a whistleblower can report a suspected crime or offence. In 2025, the Bureau received 80 reports recognised as whistleblowing reports, an increase of 20 reports compared to the previous reporting period (see Figure 3).

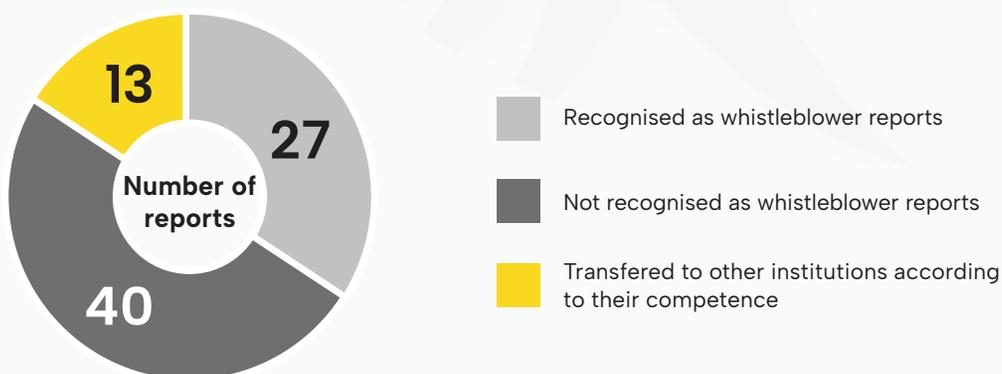


Figure 3. Progress of reports received within the meaning of the Whistleblowing Law

Activities of the Public Consultative Council

The Public Consultative Council of the Bureau was established to ensure the participation of public representatives in the development and implementation of anti-corruption policy and public education thereon. The role of the Public Consultative Council is to promote the relationship between the Bureau and the public by making recommendations on relevant issues.

In 2025, the Public Consultative Council of the Bureau held three meetings on various issues. The Office presented to the members of the Council the reform of the conflict of interest framework implemented by the institution, the performance indicators of the Bureau, as well as the published corruption risk analysis of the Bureau on public funding for Latvian sports organisations. The session on corruption risk analysis was expanded to include institutions and representatives involved in sport or policy planning in the field of sport.





3. The Bureau's performance in the fight against corruption

In accordance with the Law on Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau, the Bureau holds public officials administratively liable and applies sanctions for administrative violations in the field of corruption prevention. To combat the illegal financing of political organisations (parties), as well as corruption-related offences in the service of public authorities, the Bureau carries out operational actions, departmental examinations and criminal procedural activities, as well as provides assistance to foreign states in carrying out procedural activities, if they are related to corruption investigations.



3.1. Criminal investigation

In 2025, the Bureau initiated 45 criminal proceedings, of which 13 were initiated on the basis of information obtained during operational activities, 21 were initiated on the basis of applications from natural or legal persons, two were initiated on the basis of information provided by the Administrative Offences Investigation Unit, and the rest – from other sources of information. During the reporting period, 13 criminal proceedings pending before the Bureau were terminated.

In 2025, the Bureau initiated the most criminal proceedings in relation to illegal actions in the activities of state and municipal institutions, as well as customs control areas (see Figure 4).

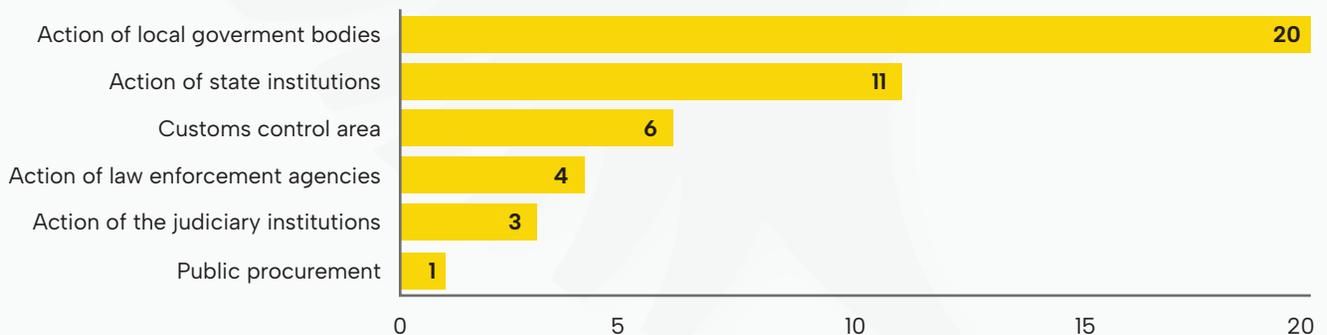


Figure 4. Breakdown of initiated criminal proceedings by areas

During the reporting period, the highest number of criminal proceedings were initiated for criminal offences such as bribery, using an official position in bad faith, bribe-taking, and service forgery (see Figure 5).

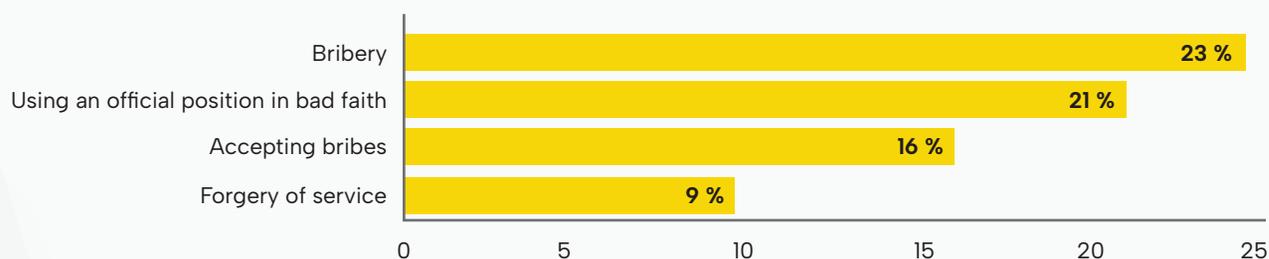


Figure 5. Types of criminal offences recorded in initiated criminal proceedings

In 2025, the Bureau referred 35 criminal proceedings to prosecutors for prosecution. 52 natural persons and one legal entity were referred for prosecution (see Figure 6).

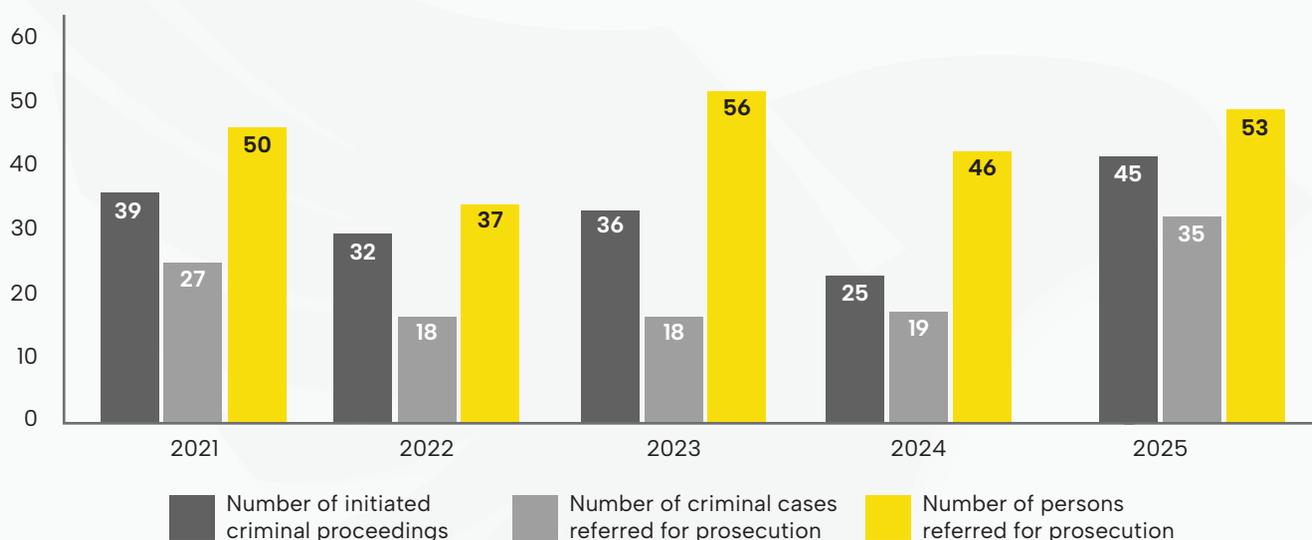


Figure 6. Progress of criminal proceedings

In 2025, the number of legal persons referred for prosecution (coercive measures) decreased, but there is still a tendency for corrupt transactions carried out by natural persons to take place in the interests of legal persons.

During the reporting period, criminal proceedings were referred for prosecution in cases involving criminal offences in the activities of local and state authorities and public procurement (see Figure 7).

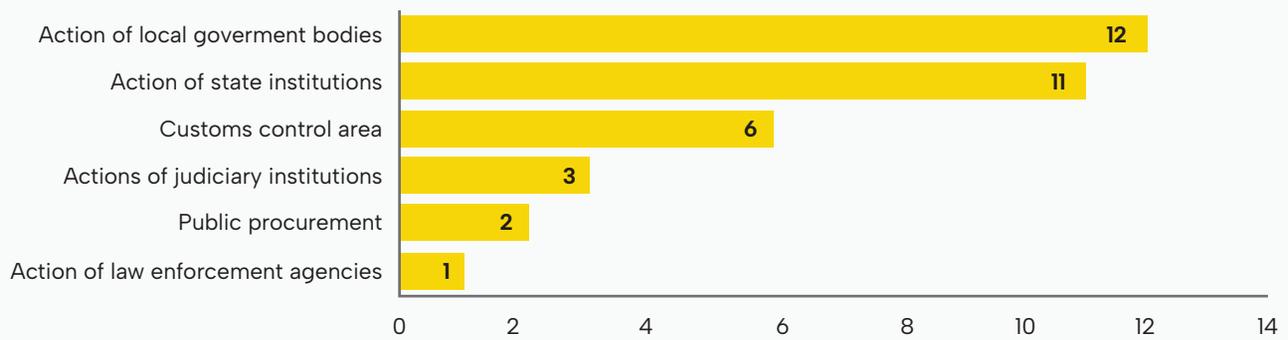


Figure 7. Breakdown of the number of criminal proceedings referred for prosecution by areas

Almost half (48%) of the criminal proceedings referred for prosecution were opened in 2025 and 42% in 2024, indicating the capacity of the Bureau to investigate alleged corruption offences efficiently and within a reasonable timeframe. 17, or 38%, of the 45 criminal proceedings initiated in 2025, have been referred to the prosecutor's office for prosecution. Nine of them have a public prosecutor's penal order, one has a judgment of conviction, and six are ongoing. During the reporting period, the average duration of criminal investigations at the Bureau was five months.

In 2025, the most prosecuted offences were fraud, service forgery, bribery, using an official position in bad faith, and embezzlement (see Figure 8).

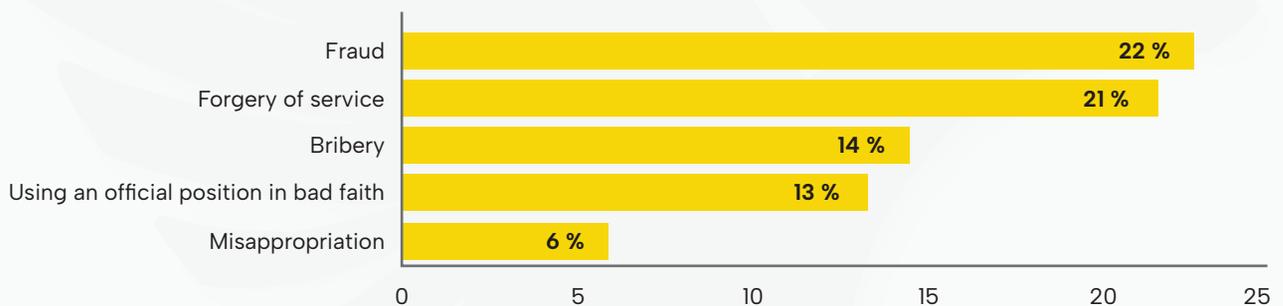


Figure 8. Types of offences referred for prosecution

In 2025, the Bureau initiated three proceedings for criminal property, requesting that the property be declared criminally acquired and confiscated for the benefit of the State. During the reporting period, financial assets amounting to EUR 820,148.97 were declared to be the proceeds of crime, confiscated for the benefit of the State and transferred to the State budget. In the criminal proceedings under the control of the Bureau, financial assets amounting to EUR 6,000, crypto-assets amounting to EUR 63,987.14 and two immovable properties were seized.

In the reporting year, the criminal proceedings investigated by the Bureau and referred for prosecution prevented the potential infliction of material damage amounting to EUR 953,588.93 on institutions of a public person and the transfer of bribes to public officials totalling EUR 7,370.

During the reporting period, 24 criminal proceedings initiated or investigated by the Bureau were adjudicated, in which 10 persons came to an agreement with the prosecutor on a penal order, 18 persons were convicted, and one person was acquitted. One person was sentenced to actual imprisonment, four to conditional imprisonment, including both imprisonment and community service, 13 to a fine, four to community service, and two to both a fine and community service (see Figure 9).

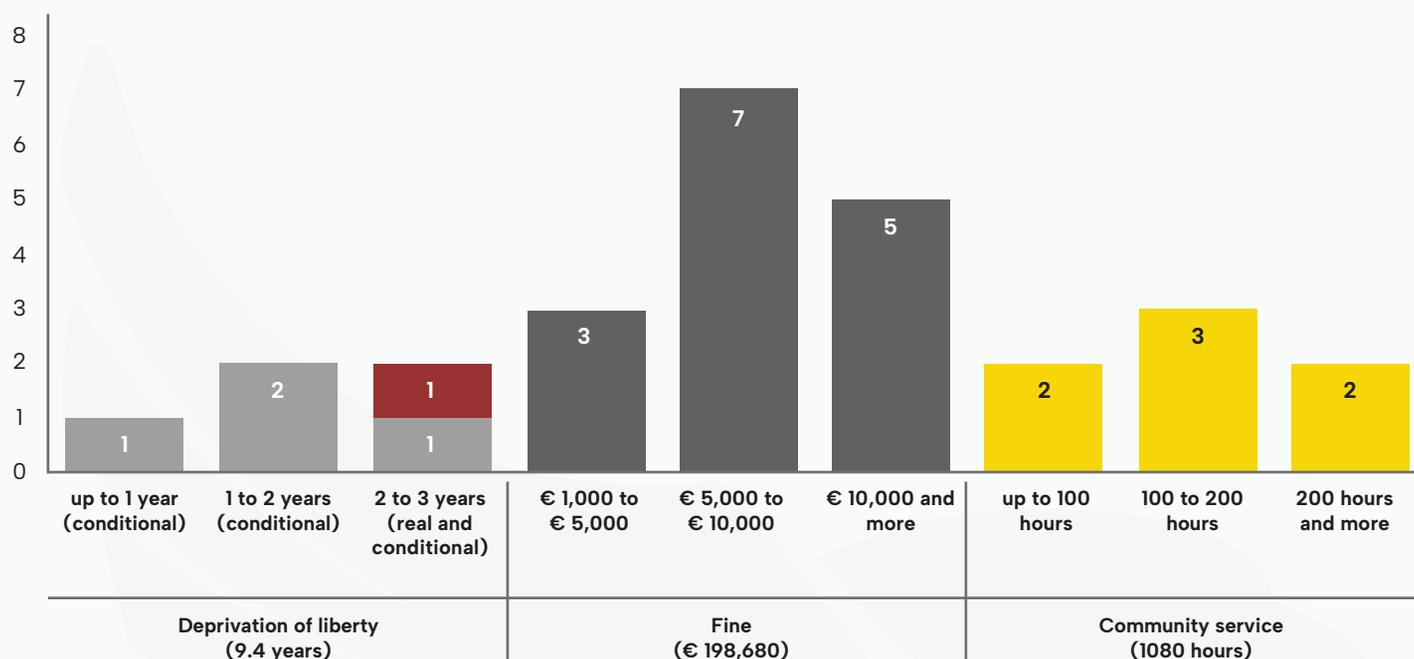


Figure 9. Sentences imposed on convicted persons

Additional penalties were imposed on 12 persons, with the most frequent being the restriction of the right to hold specific offices for a certain period of time and confiscation of property. Five persons have received both additional penalties. (see Figure 10).

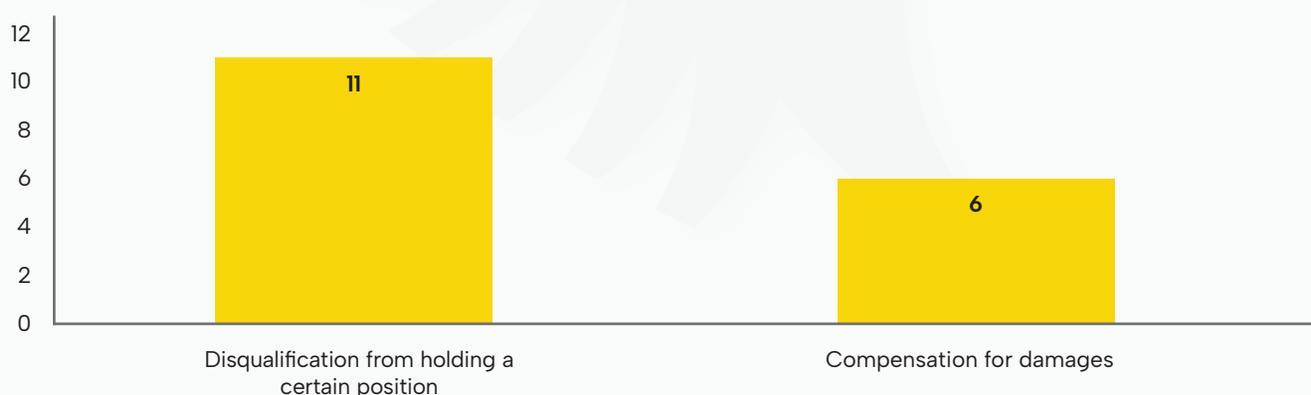


Figure 10. Additional penalties imposed on convicted persons

The most common criminal offences in the criminal trials were bribery, service forgery, fraud, and bribe-taking.

At the end of the reporting period, the Bureau was investigating 48 criminal cases, 11 criminal proceedings initiated or under investigation by the Bureau and referred for prosecution were still under pre-trial investigation by the Prosecution Office, and 95 criminal proceedings against 219 persons were pending before the courts.

In 2025, the Bureau officials examined 311 applications from natural and legal persons, assessing information on possible criminal offences. During the reporting period, 49 departmental examinations were opened, 60 departmental examinations were completed, and 57 resulted in a decision not to initiate criminal proceedings. In other cases, applicants were given replies or their applications were forwarded as appropriate.

In 2025, the Bureau received 17 foreign requests for international cooperation (European Investigation Orders and foreign legal assistance requests) from countries such as Ukraine, Moldova, Lithuania, England, the Netherlands, and Poland.

To ensure the acquisition and consolidation of evidence in criminal proceedings pending before the Bureau, it prepared 15 requests for legal assistance to be sent abroad in 2025. Most of the requests for legal assistance were made to EU Member States, as well as Ukraine and Russia.

During the reporting period, the Bureau, in the course of its tactical analysis, proposed that the Financial Intelligence Unit convene 23 meetings of the Liaison Coordination Group and, by involving credit institutions in the process of tactical analysis, identified officials whose activities showed signs of a criminal offence.



3.2. Control of Activities of Public Officials

To ensure that public officials act in the public interest by preventing the influence of any personal or material interest of a public official, his/her relatives or business partners on the activities of a public official, the Bureau monitors compliance with the Law on Prevention of Conflict of Interest in Activities of Public Officials, as well as the observance of additional restrictions specified for other public officials in regulatory enactments.

In 2025, the Bureau provided 220 written explanations and 1218 oral explanations on the application of the provisions of the Law on Prevention of Conflict of Interest in Activities of Public Officials, which is a third more than in 2024, thus raising awareness of the prohibitions and restrictions imposed on public officials by the Law.

During the reporting period, the Bureau's Division for the Investigation of Administrative Violations initiated 389 and completed 398 departmental investigations, some of which were opened in 2024.

When examining applications regarding the possible activities of public officials in a situation of conflict of interest, the information provided in the declarations of these public officials was simultaneously examined to establish whether the public officials have complied with the restrictions, prohibitions and obligations established by the Law on Prevention of Conflict of Interest in the Activities of Public Officials. In 2025, 828 declarations by public officials were verified.

154 administrative offence cases were opened, and 39 decisions on a refusal to open administrative offence proceedings were prepared for non-compliance with the restrictions set by the Law on Prevention of Conflict of Interest in the Activities of Public Officials.

In 2025, 165 administrative offence decisions were adopted, and in 110 cases, public officials were fined a total of EUR 17,630. 27 public officials received admonitions, and in 28 cases the administrative proceedings were terminated due to the establishment of circumstances excluding administrative liability (see Figure 11).

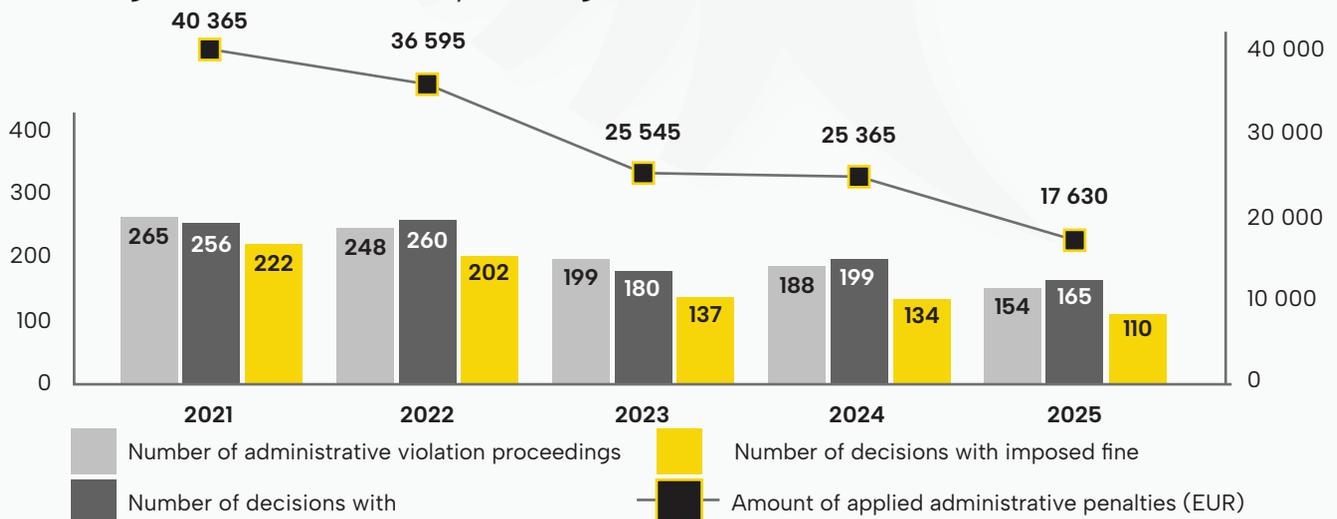


Figure 11. Number of decisions adopted and total amount of fines

In 2025, administrative fines totalling EUR 17,105 were paid to the State budget on the basis of decisions taken by the Bureau in administrative offence cases. In cases where the person subject to administrative liability has received income or material benefits which have caused material damage to the State that can be assessed in financial terms, the Bureau shall take a decision on compensation. During the reporting period, the Bureau ordered 16 persons to compensate the State for damages suffered by the State for a total amount of EUR 28,449.57, while 13 persons were exempt from the obligation to compensate the State for damages suffered by the State.

The distribution of decisions adopted in 2025 by type of infringement is almost identical compared to 2024, with a 2% change across all types of infringement. The majority of infringements are still related to restrictions on combining positions of the public officials and acting in a conflict of interest situation, while a smaller share of infringements are related to non-compliance with restrictions on commercial activities and the use of information for purposes not related to the performance of official duties (see Figure 12).

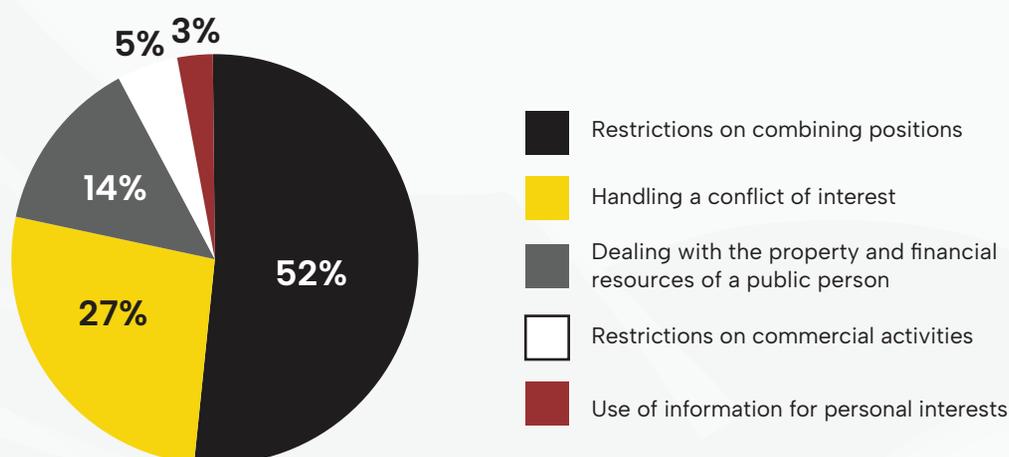


Figure 12. Breakdown of decisions adopted by type of violation

In 2025, the persons upon whom an administrative penalty was imposed appealed against 17 decisions taken by officials of the Division for the Investigation of Administrative Violations. On the basis of the complaints received, the Director of the Bureau annulled three decisions in their entirety and amended the penalty in one case. In 13 cases, the persons administratively sanctioned appealed against the decisions taken by the Director of the Bureau. In two cases, the court upheld the decision of the Director of the Bureau, while in the other cases, the proceedings are still pending.



3.3. Control of Financing of Political Parties and Pre-election Campaigning

The Bureau controls the enforcement of the regulations on the financing of political organisations (parties) and associations thereof, and, in the cases specified in law, holds the guilty persons administratively liable by imposing a penalty. The Bureau compiles and analyses information on the annual reports submitted by the parties, irregularities detected therein, and cases of non-compliance with the restrictions set out in the laws and regulations. Before the elections of the Saeima, the European Parliament and local government, the Bureau controls compliance with the restrictions on pre-election campaigning, and after the elections, it checks the election returns and declarations of income and expenditure submitted by political organisations (parties) and their associations.

Taking into account the additional restrictions and conditions set by the Law On Financing of Political Organisations (Parties) regarding the financing of political parties individually for each party and the total amount of financing received by the parties, the Bureau published and verified information on donations and membership fee contributions made by 4,629 persons to political parties in the amount of EUR 2,250,270.59.

In 2025, state budget funding of EUR 5,998,138.21 was paid to 12 political parties or their associations.

The Bureau received and published the 2025 annual reports and updates of 63 parties and completed 69 audits of annual reports.

At the same time, in 2025, the Bureau completed 2023 funding checks and started / completed 2024 annual accounts checks, together with the 2024 state budget funding checks, as well as started/completed 2025 municipal elections declarations checks (98 declarations in total), the results of which are summarised and published on the Bureau's website according to the procedure laid down in the laws and regulations.

In 2025, several educational webinars were organised on the completion of the annual report and the use of state budget funding, as well as webinars for advertising service providers, deputy candidates, political parties, third parties, etc. – on restrictions ahead of the upcoming 2025 municipal elections.

Performing checks of applications and complaints related to the alleged infringements of the financing of political parties and pre-election campaigning, in 2025, the Bureau launched 577, and by the end of the year, it had completed 567 sectoral inspections. In the reporting period, 157 explanations were also provided on issues related to the financing of political organisations (parties) and the regulation of the Pre-election Campaign Law.

In 2025, the Bureau opened 165 administrative offence cases against political organisations (parties) and other legal and natural persons for violations of the Law on Financing of Political Organisations (Parties) and the Pre-election Campaign Law, adopting 163 decisions. As a result of inspections, in cases of administrative violations committed by parties and other legal and natural persons, the Bureau adopted 112 decisions on the imposition of fines amounting to EUR 42,980.00 and 12 decisions on the repayment of financial resources to the State budget for a total amount of EUR 111,619.39. The decisions taken over the last five years are shown in Figure 13.

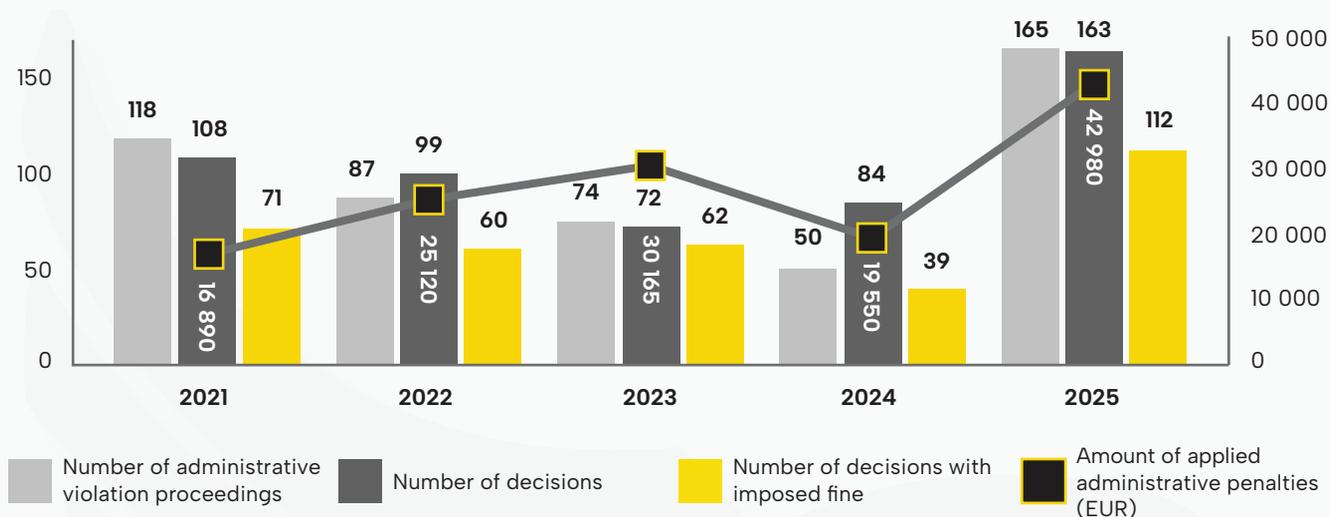


Figure 13. Number of decisions adopted and total amount of fines

In 2025, nine decisions taken by officials of the Division of Investigation of Financing of Political Parties were appealed to the Director of the Bureau by administratively sanctioned persons. On the basis of the complaints received, the Director of the Bureau annulled five decisions in their entirety, and in one case, modified the penalty imposed. In three cases, the persons administratively sanctioned appealed against the decisions taken by the Director of the Bureau; these cases are still pending.

In 2025, work continued on the development of the Electronic Data Entry System (EDIS), which includes the development of functionality for the automated transmission of annual returns and election revenue and expenditure declarations to Latvijas Vēstnesis, and functionality for the automatic calculation of limits for payments received by political organisations from donors and members.



4. Personnel policy and internal control

On 31 December 2025, the Bureau had 181 posts, of which 153 were filled. The Bureau employs 61 men and 92 women. During the reporting period, 14 officials began their service and 11 officials terminated their service at the Bureau.

The minimum requirements for applicants to the Bureau are laid down in the Law on Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau. During the recruitment process, the national security authorities verify whether candidates meet the requirements of the Law on Official Secret for an official to obtain a special permit for access to official secrets.

In accordance with the amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Bureau agreed by the Prime Minister E. Siliņa on 5 December 2024, as well as on the basis of structural changes related to the reorganisation of the State Revenue Service, an institution subordinate to the Ministry of Finance, and the transfer of the functions of the Internal Security Administration of the State Revenue Service to the Bureau, which entered into force on 1 January 2025, a review of the positions of the Bureau was carried out, 10 positions were created, and the job descriptions of the Bureau were updated.

As in previous years, cooperation with the School of Public Administration continued within the framework of its European Social Fund project. Training was offered and organised for the Bureau's staff in cooperation with the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), which develops, implements and organises training for police officers and other law enforcement officials. Cooperation with the Internal Security Academy of Rīga Stradiņš University was initiated, resulting in the training of one official of the Bureau at the Academy during the reporting period.

In 2025, Bureau officials participated in 93 conferences, seminars, training and further training events on the prevention and combating of corruption, financial investigation and analysis, prevention of money laundering and conflict of interest, as well as artificial intelligence and other current topics. The officials of the Bureau travelled abroad on 48 missions to participate in conferences, various working groups of interinstitutional and foreign institutions, anti-corruption forums, exhibitions, and experience exchange trips.

The Bureau ensures that data subjects have access to the Bureau's Data Protection Officer in all matters relating to the processing of their personal data. No cases of personal data breaches requiring notification of the data protection supervisory authority and the data subject in accordance with the procedures laid down in laws and regulations were detected during the reporting period.

In 2025, the Bureau carried out two procurement audits, and an audit of the State Centre for Defence Logistics and Procurement on "Efficiency, Functional Sufficiency and Digitisation of the State Defence Military Installations and Procurement Centre" was carried out by a team of inter-departmental auditors. Five recommendations were made to the Bureau's departments, and 19 recommendations were implemented during the reporting period, including those from audits carried out in previous years.



5. Implementation of the operational strategy of the Bureau

During the reporting period, the Bureau carried out its activities in line with the objectives and priorities set out in the new Bureau's Operational Strategy for 2023–2026. The performance indicators for the implementation of the Bureau's Operational Strategy are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1. Performance indicators

Goal	Result	2022 implement	2023 implement	2024 implement	2025 implement	2025 plan	Comment
To improve the professional capacity and material and technical support of investigators and operational staff in obtaining information and securing evidence.	The number of criminal proceedings initiated by the Bureau and referred for prosecution and not terminated by the Prosecution Office is increasing.	18	18	19	35	20	The goal has been achieved. No criminal proceedings referred for prosecution have been discontinued by the prosecutor's office.
To improve the Bureau's material and technical support.	The number of criminal proceedings initiated by the Bureau on the basis of information obtained in the course of operational activities is increasing.	10	11	13	13	12	The goal has been achieved. In addition to the criminal proceedings initiated by the Bureau, the information obtained during operational activities is also forwarded to other law enforcement authorities for the initiation of criminal proceedings.
To carry out parallel financial investigations in every criminal case where possible.	The number of criminal proceedings initiated by the Bureau to investigate money laundering, which have been referred for prosecution and have not been terminated by the Prosecution Office, is increasing.	0	1	0	0	3	Goal not met. In 2025, the Bureau did not refer any criminal proceedings investigating money laundering for prosecution, while the Bureau opened two criminal proceedings investigating money laundering.
To take action against criminally acquired property by seeking its confiscation for the benefit of the State and transfer to the State budget.	The number of proceedings initiated by the Bureau to declare funds as proceeds of crime, in which the funds are confiscated and transferred to the State budget, is increasing.	1	1	0	1	5	Goal not met. In 2025, the Bureau initiated three proceedings for criminal property, requesting that property be declared criminally acquired and confiscated for the benefit of the State; in one proceeding EUR 820,148.97 was declared criminal assets and confiscated for the benefit of the State.
To detect and investigate bribery of foreign public officials and related criminal offences.	The number of criminal proceedings for bribery of foreign officials initiated by the Bureau is increasing.	1	1	0	0	3	Goal not met. In 2025, the Bureau did not initiate any criminal proceedings involving the bribery of foreign officials.
To conduct the strategic and tactical analysis of corruption risks in areas identified as priorities, and to analyse laws and regulations, making proposals to prevent corruption risks.	The number of corruption risk analyses leading to the initiation of investigatory process matters, or criminal proceedings in priority areas, is increasing.	6	4	5	5	6	Goal not met. The work of the Bureau's analysts has contributed to the acquisition of information that has led to the opening of five operational investigations.

Goal	Result	2022 implement	2023 implement	2024 implement	2025 implement	2025 plan	Comment
To obtain corruption risk information and organise information exchange with the European Public Prosecutor's Office and the Financial Intelligence Unit of Latvia.	The number of meetings of the Cooperation Coordination Groups (CCGs) initiated by the Bureau and resulting in a report from the Financial Intelligence Unit to the Bureau is increasing.	7	7	5	6	11	Goal not met. Although the Bureau initiated at least 23 meetings of the Cooperation Coordination Group during the reporting period, only in six cases were suspicious transactions in the activities of public officials detected.
To improve the system for preventing conflicts of interest.	Proportion of decisions adopted by the Bureau imposing administrative fines for violations of the Law on Prevention of Conflict of Interest, which have not been annulled (%).	98,8%	98,9%	98,5%	98,18%	98%	The goal has been achieved. On the basis of the complaints received, the Director of the Bureau annulled three decisions in their entirety and amended the penalty in one case. In 2025, the Bureau adopted 165 decisions in administrative offence cases, 17 of which were appealed to the Director of the Bureau.
	Proportion of decisions taken by the Bureau in the area of controlling the activities of public officials concerning the reimbursement of funds to the State budget, which have not been annulled (%).	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	90 %	The goal has been achieved. In 2025, 13 decisions taken by the Director of the Bureau were appealed; in two cases, the Court upheld the decision of the Director of the Bureau, and in the remaining cases, the proceedings are pending, so no decision has been overturned.
To strengthen the enforcement of the regulations on the financing of political parties and pre-election campaigning.	Proportion of decisions adopted by the Bureau imposing administrative fines for violations of the procedure for political party financing and campaigning that have not been annulled (%).	98 %	99 %	98,8 %	97 %	98 %	Goal not met. On the basis of the complaints received, the Director of the Bureau annulled five decisions in their entirety, and in one case, modified the penalty imposed. In 2025, the Bureau adopted 165 decisions in administrative offence cases, nine of which were appealed to the Director of the Bureau.
	Proportion of decisions adopted by the Bureau in the area of controlling political party financing and pre-election campaigning concerning the reimbursement of funds to the State budget that have not been annulled (%).	94,4 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	90 %	The goal has been achieved. In 2025, three decisions taken by the Director of the Bureau were appealed, but the proceedings are still pending, so no decision has been overturned.

Goal	Result	2022 implement	2023 implement	2024 implement	2025 implement	2025 plan	Comment
To raise public and private sector awareness of corruption risks through awareness-raising activities.	During the pre-election campaign period, the Bureau provides educational events for representatives of political parties (associations thereof) and advertising service providers (number).	5	1	6	5	4	The goal has been achieved. In 2025, the Bureau organised five educational events on municipal elections.
	The share of entrepreneurs who say they are willing to pay a bribe is decreasing (% of respondents).	27 %	22 %	21 %	20 %	21 %	The goal has been achieved. The share of entrepreneurs who say they are willing to pay a bribe is decreasing every year.
	The share of people who say they are ready to pay a bribe to a public official to solve their problems with state or local government institutions is decreasing (% of respondents).	15 %	20 %	17 %	24 %	12 %	Goal not met. The most common reason why people would be willing to pay a bribe is "more certainty that the problem will actually be solved".
To implement and develop a platform for reporting issues within the competence of the Bureau.	The number of users of the online reporting platform increases (% increase in users).	n/a	n/a	+90 %	+109 %	+5 %	The goal has been achieved. Online reporting platform "Report to KNAB!" received 569 reports, which is twice more than in the previous year.
To promote public awareness and public involvement in recognising the signs of corruption-related criminal offences, and reporting possible cases of corruption or signs of corruption.	The volume of information received by the Bureau through all reporting channels is increasing (%).	n/a	0	+33 %	+15 %	+5 %	The goal has been achieved. In 2025, the number of calls received by the Bureau increased by 6%, and the number of reports received increased by 15%. Overall, the volume of information received through all reporting channels increased by 15%.
	Public willingness to report corruption is increasing (% of respondents).	61 %	59 %	63 %	60 %	68 %	Goal not met. However, the number of people who are willing to report has increased, as has the willingness of people to report to the Bureau.
To carry out educational and informational activities to raise awareness of anticorruption issues and to increase public confidence in the work of the Bureau.	Latvia's score in the annual Corruption Perceptions Index (score) is improving.	59	60	59	60	64	+1 point increase and a rise by one position, with Latvia ranking 37th among 182 countries.
To introduce the Document and Information Management System, ensuring integration with the e-case platform and other national registers and information systems.	The circulation of electronic documents and the proportion of documents circulated electronically only is increasing (%).	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	+15 %	In 2025, the Bureau saw a decrease in the volume of paper documents sent and an increase in the number of documents circulated electronically. A greater increase in the circulation of electronic documents is expected with the introduction of the new Document and Information Management System in 2026.



6. Use of budget resources

In 2025, the Bureau received state budget funding of **EUR 18,963,292** and was also granted state budget funding for political organisations (political parties) of **EUR 6,023,355**.

The use of budget resources is presented in Table 2, which is completed in accordance with the Annex to Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 413 of 5 May 2010 "Regulations on Annual Public Accounts".

Table 2. Use of budget resources (EUR)

Seq. No.	Financial indicators	Previous year (actual implementation)	Reporting year	
			approved by law as amended	actual implementation
1.	Financial resources to cover expenditures (including budget funding for political organisations (parties))	17 399 489	18 464 559	17 759 317
1.1.	grants to cover the Bureau's expenditures	11 307 814	12 338 238	11 655 916
	grants to provide state budget funding for political organisations (political parties)	6 040 389	6 023 355	6 023 354
1.2.	paid services and other own income	28 862	3 000	167
1.3.	foreign financial assistance	0	0	0
1.4.	state budget transfers	22 424	99 966	79 880
2.	Office expenses	11 482 177	12 939 937	11 956 392
	expenditures to provide state budget funding for political organisations (political parties)	6 040 389	6 023 355	6 023 354
2.1.	maintenance costs (total)	17 223 559	17 508 100	17 211 642
2.1.1.	running costs	11 171 868	11 305 399	11 008 946
2.1.2.	interest costs	0	0	0
2.1.3.	subsidies and grants	6 040 389	6 023 355	6 023 354
2.1.4.	current payments to the European Community budget and international cooperation	9 364	10 446	10 445
2.1.5.	social payments and compensation	0	158 390	158 388
2.1.6.	transfers of maintenance expenditure	1 938	10 510	10 509
2.2.	Capital expenditures	299 007	455 192	768 104



Report Centre phone:
+371 67356161

E-mail:
pasts@knab.gov.lv

Website:
www.knab.gov.lv

**Reporting platform and its
mobile app "Zino KNAB!":**
zino.knab.gov.lv



HONOUR OVER POWER!

Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau
Citadeles iela 1, Rīga, Latvia, LV-1010