**Project: Support for establishment of whistle-blowing system in Latvia**

The Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau is the leading specialised anti-corruption authority of Latvia. Its aim is to fight corruption in Latvia in a coordinated and comprehensive way through prevention, investigation and education.

The right of citizens to report wrongdoing is a natural extension of the right of freedom of expression. All people have the inherent right to protect the well-being of other citizens and society at large. Whistleblowers play a crucial role as corruption often goes unchallenged when people do not speak out about it. Education of the society is also essential to de-stigmatise whistleblowing, so that citizens understand how disclosing wrongdoing benefits the public good.

The main activities of this project are:

1. The online whistleblowing platform will provide opportunities to report online anonymously, to follow results of examination of provided information and to get in touch with whistle-blower if there is necessity for additional information. This platform shall increase whistle-blowing activity in country and contribute to detection of severe criminal offences in Latvia.
2. Planning and organizing of public awareness campaigns to inform society about signs and patterns of corruption, available channels for whistle-blowing and to reduce tolerance towards corruption. This activity shall increase general awareness of society on negative consequences of corruption, improve whistle-blowers activity and increase reporting of latent crimes to law enforcement agencies.
3. Strengthening skills and abilities of officials working with prevention and combating of corruption in Latvia by organizing trainings and peer-exchange trips.

When witnesses of corruption are confident about their ability to report it, corrupt individuals cannot hide behind the wall of silence. The main aim of the Project is to encourage society to speak up by providing safe reporting channel and competent officials on working with whistleblowers’ reports.

In the name of the Bureau I would like to thank you for supporting us in a development of new techniques to fight corruption.