

# Workshop 3

## *The Ethics Commission of the State Audit Office of Latvia*

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# The *Ethics Commission* – SAI of Latvia

## Mission

To strengthen norms of professional ethics in line with the aims and objectives of the State Audit Office and to facilitate activities of the officials and employees of the State Audit Office in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Ethics of the State Audit Office.

# The *Ethics Commission* – SAI of Latvia

## Objective

To review complaints in respect of the actions of the State Audit Office employees.

# The *Ethics Commission* – SAI of Latvia

## Functions

- Submits proposals and takes part in improving the Code of Ethics;
- Analyses and solves conflicts of ethical character;
- Reviews and evaluates complaints submitted in respect of the actions of the State Audit Office employees;
- Provides an opinion to the Auditor General on the offence of norms of behavior determined by the Code of Ethics.

# The *Ethics Commission* – SAI of Latvia

## Rights / Powers

- Within the scope of its competency request and receive information from the employees;
- Invite employees to the meetings of the Ethics Commission in order to provide information and suggestions on the issues concerning ethics;
- Take decisions on suggestions for improvement and enhancement of internal regulatory enactments determining ethics;
- Depending on the nature of the offence, make suggestions to the Auditor General on the application of disciplinary penalty against the employee offending the norms of the Code of Ethics.

# The *Ethics Commission* – SAI of Latvia

## Who can submit an application or complaint to the *Ethics Commission*

- The employee of the State Audit Office;
- The representative of the audited entity;
- The representative of another state or local authority institution;
- Another person whose interests have been directly infringed by the actions of the State Audit Office employee.

# The *Ethics Commission* – SAI of Latvia

## Composition

Composition of the Ethics Commission is approved annually by the Council of the State Audit Office and Chairman of the Ethics Commission is appointed from among the members of the Ethics Commission

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## Work

Work of the Ethics Commission takes place at its meetings. Meetings of the Ethics Commission are called by the Chairman of the Commission within ten working days of receipt of complaint on the action of the State Audit Office employee



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## Decision

- Decisions of the Ethics Commission carry advisory character to the Auditor General.
- The case is reviewed by the Ethics Commission not later than within the period of one month of the day of bringing an action and one of the following decisions (opinions) is provided:
  - On the dismissal of the case;
  - Suggestion to apply disciplinary penalty;
  - Suggestion to express a verbal warning.

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## Experience

- There has been just one case many years ago.
- In that only case, the Commission agreed to demand an explanatory statement from the involved employee.
- The Commission made suggestion to the Auditor General on the application of disciplinary penalty against the employee offending the norms of the Code of Ethics.

**Thank you for your attention!**