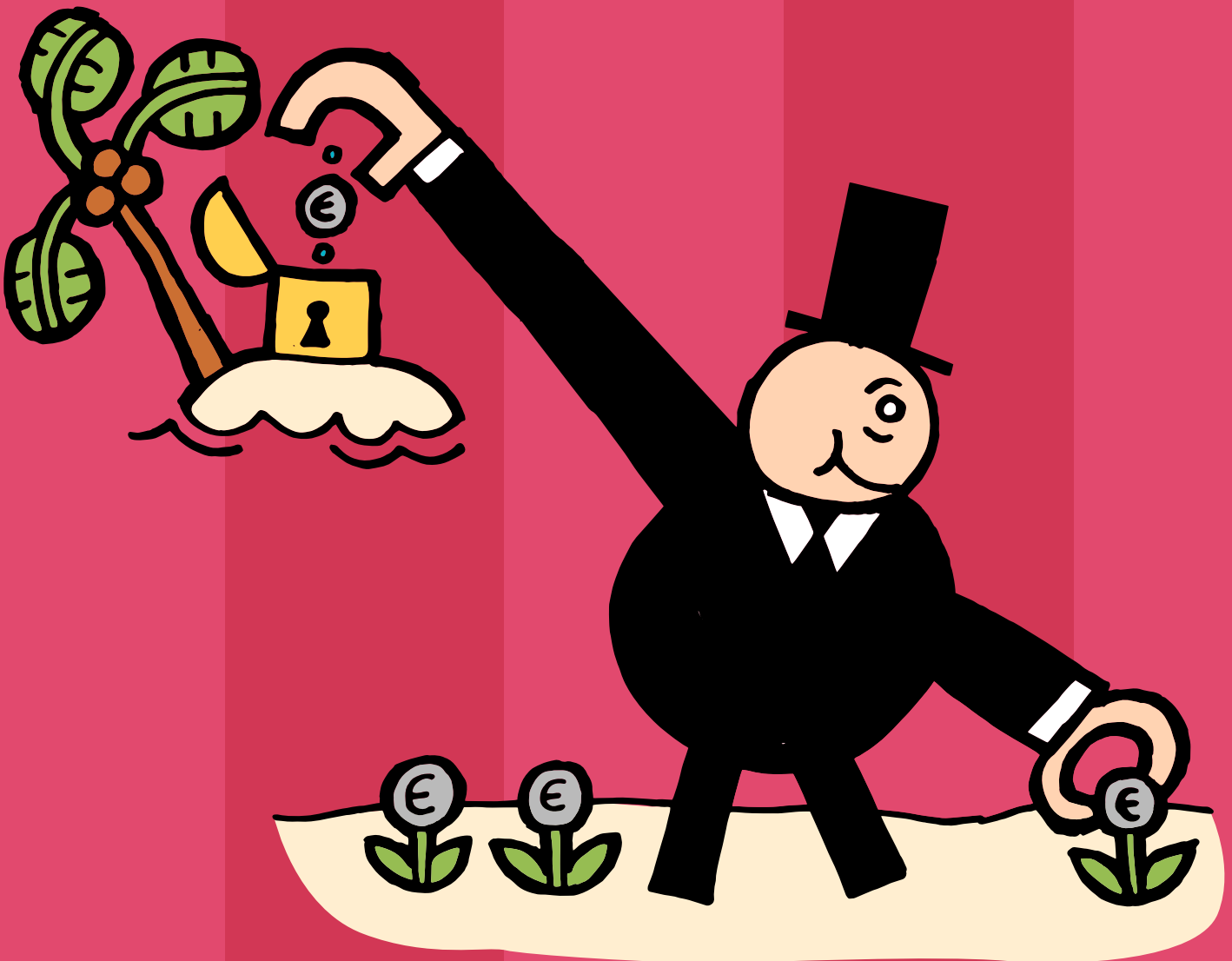


DISCUSSION INTERNATIONAL TAX POLICY. FACTS. OPINIONS. VALUES.



15 FEBRUARY 2017
THE EUROPEAN UNION HOUSE,
FIREPLACE ROOM (2ND FLOOR),
28 ASPAZIJAS BLVD, RIGA

CONTEXT OF DISCUSSION:

The international project Tax Justice Together was launched within the European Year for Development 2015 two years ago (see www.godiginodoklivosiem.lv). This project has been underway in 19 countries, including 16 European Union member states, at the same time. The Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation (LAPAS) is an implementing partner of the project along with non-governmental organisations such as Action Aid, Oxfam and Eurodad.

Over the two years, more than 2,500 representatives from different sectors have been educated in Europe and partner countries in Africa and South America. The public has been addressed with a message of fair international tax policy (the audience of over 124 million has been covered), and lobbying work has been carried out with 1,637 decision-makers, of whom approximately one third have expressed public support for progressive tax reforms. During this time, the United Kingdom, Spain and France have adopted laws and regulations that contribute to a fairer tax system. Several studies have been carried out and education campaigns have been implemented in the participating countries.

The first stage of the project is drawing to a close this spring, so LAPAS is holding the discussion International Tax Policy. Facts. Opinions. Values. Three studies have been carried out within the project (see <http://ejuz.lv/bla>) with a participation of Latvia among other countries. Based on the facts and examples from these studies, we will invite representatives of different sectors to join the discussion and express their vision of the current situation as well as outline the prospects for development.

Among those invited to the event are policy makers and implementers, entrepreneurs, representatives of the financial sector, academic sphere, non-governmental sector, and students.

Please register by 9th of February, 2017 to lapasinfo@gmail.com. Number of places is limited.

The goal of the project is to promote tax fairness and educate the European people about the practices used by international or, in other words, multinational companies to avoid fair taxes leading to dangerous social and economic inequality.

DISCUSSION PROGRAM

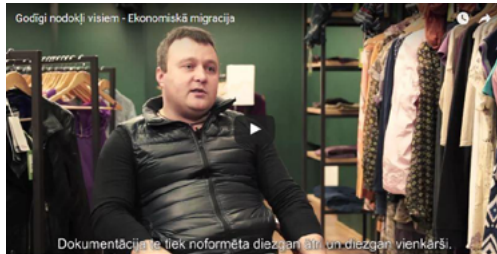
The working language of the conference is Latvian. Simultaneous translation will be provided during Part 1 and English subtitles for movies session in Part 2.

10.30 - 11.00	Registration		
11.00 - 11.15	Project context, results and conclusions. Inese Vaivare, Director, Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation		
11.15 - 13.30	Policy discussion How and Where Are We Going? During the interdisciplinary discussion, we will get to know the facts and examples to look for answers to your questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• who are the winners and who are the losers from international tax “optimisation schemes”?• is it fair to use legal tax “schemes”?• who and how can influence the international tax policy?• why does the public accept tax “scheming”?• why are entrepreneurs afraid to talk about the topic of taxes?	Participants: Andrejs Birums , Deputy Head of the Direct Tax Department at the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Latvia Ilze Berga , FCCA, Director, Tax Advisory, KPMG Baltics SIA Sandra Martinsone , Tax Justice Project Manager, ActionAid UK Zuarguss , High Emotional Intelligence Centre Cilvēkam Linda Liepiņa , entrepreneur, co-owner of the Wok to Walk franchise in Latvia and Estonia María Félix Estrada Alonzo , Nicaragua Tax Research Institute INIET, researcher, Nicaragua	Moderator: Ansis Bogustovs , journalist
13.30 - 14.15	Lunch and photos with the guests from the Cayman Islands		
14.15 - 16.00	Discussion Why Does the Public Need to Know This? And two premieres. PREMIERE: IKEA in Latvia: For or Against by S. Semjonovs PREMIERE (for many): The Awkward Society. (As Yet) by Zuarguss, U. Polis and R. Silavs		Moderator: Sandijs Semjonovs , journalist
16.00 - 17.00	Films, coffee and conversations in a casual atmosphere		

INTERESTING MATERIALS. READ, WATCH, EXPLORE, THINK.

- video stories of 4 cases, each of which illustrates how tax evasion by multinational corporations affects different spheres:

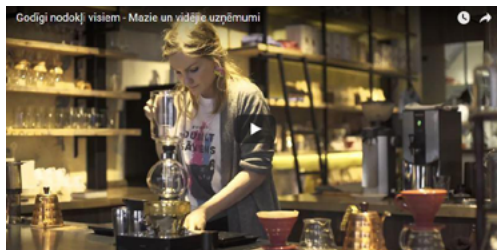
Economic migration.



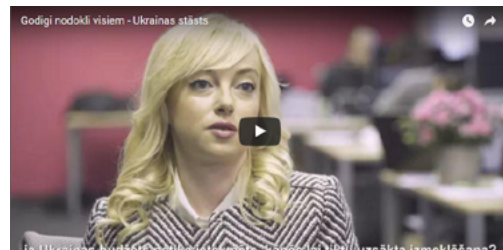
Unfair competition in the food market.



Small entrepreneurs.



Story from Ukraine.



- Research into Fair International Policy. Reference Material for Protection of Interests. (Z. Miežaine, A. Damberga, L. Rudzīte and A. Karlsberga. Riga, 2016)
- The 4th annual report Survival of the Richest: Europe's role in supporting an unjust global tax system 2016 (Eurodad, 2016), in English
- Satirical broadcast The Awkward Society. (As Yet) by Zuarguss, U. Polis and R. Silavs (available in English starting from 2nd February 2017 on <http://ej.uz/erbh>)



- Website www.godiginodoklivisiem.lv
- Exploratory documentary short film IKEA in Latvia: FOR or AGAINST. Available on the Youtube channel of LAPAS <http://ej.uz/erbh> starting from 20 February 2017.

The Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation (LAPAS) is an association that was established in 2004. It brings together 32 organisations active in development cooperation and development education. The goal of LAPAS is to provide a favourable environment for Latvian NGOs in addition to opportunities for development cooperation at the national and international levels. More about LAPAS: www.lapas.lv