



Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania: 2021 Annual Report

Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania

RADIO AND TELEVISION COMMISSION OF LITHUANIA
2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

For the purpose of complying with its obligation set out in the Law on the Provision of Information to the Public (the “LPIP”), the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania presents the annual report for the year 2021 prepared for the attention of and discussion by the Lithuanian Seimas (the “Seimas”).

The RTCL was founded by virtue of the LPIP in 1996, and is an independent body accountable to the Seimas. The RTCL acts as a regulator and supervisor of radio and television broadcasters and providers of on-demand audiovisual media services under the jurisdiction of Lithuania, including providers of video sharing platforms, re-broadcasters and other persons operating in Lithuania and engaged in the dissemination of television programmes and/or individual programmes via the Internet to Lithuanian users. The RTCL also has the mandate to enforce copyright protection on the Internet.

The LPIP sets out the composition of the RTCL, i.e., 11 members are elected for a term of four years and can serve a maximum of two terms in a row.

In early 2021, most members have completed their terms and the RTCL continued with new members.

The current members of the RTCL include Rimantas Bagdzevičius (Chairman), Ričardas Slapšys (Deputy Chairman) and Aurelijus Zykas appointed by the Seimas; Lauras Bielinis and Audronė Naugaraitė appointed by the President of the Republic of Lithuania; Ramutis Rimeikis, Edita Utarienė and Arūnas Matelis nominated by the Lithuanian Artists' Association; Vytautas Kvietkauskas nominated by the Lithuanian Union of Journalists; Darius Chmieliauskas delegated by the Lithuanian Society of Journalists; and Valdas Kilpys delegated by the Lithuanian Bishops' Conference of the Catholic Church.

At the end of 2021, the RTCL was overseeing 109 entities engaged in both licensed and unlicensed activities.

In the reporting year, as part of its functions, the RTCL held 30 meetings and 33 conference meetings, passed 219 decisions, imposed 11 administrative sanctions, handled 38 complaints and responded to over 200 inquiries, sent 555 official documents, and received 572 official letters.

In 2021, just like for the past couple of years, the authority faced regulatory challenges due to the restrictions worldwide and domestically necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The RTCL, however, was able to quickly transition to remote work and continued working successfully.

In the reporting year, the RTCL mostly focused on the actions aimed at the practical implementation of the EU's Audiovisual Media Services Directive (the “AVMSD”) post transposition into national law, and on active participation in the virtual work of the European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services (ERGA) which advises the European Commission on different matters of implementation of the AVMSD.

On 14 January 2021, the Seimas adopted legislation amending the LPIP for the purpose of transposing the AVMSD. A review of the AVMSD was undertaken to reflect the ever changing realities of the audiovisual services market. Member States were given less than two years to transpose the amended Directive into their national law.

Amendments to the LPIP have defined the new rules for regulating video sharing platform services; strengthened the protection of minors against the detrimental effects of public information online; relaxed the requirements for television advertising, total time of teleshopping segments, etc.

These amendments came into force on 1 February 2021.

In an attempt to ensure the proper implementation of the AVMSD and the LPIP, the RTCL focused particularly both on reviewing the existing internal legal acts and drafting new ones.

It is worth mentioning that in the reporting year the RTCL was highly successful in protecting the rights of copyright owners on the Internet. Under the Law on Copyright of the Republic of Lithuania (the “Copyright Law”) the RTCL was given the mandate to monitor and protect the rights of copyright owners on the Internet as well as powers to block websites and mirror sites that publish copyrighted content illegally. The enforcement of measures provided for by the Copyright Law has demonstrated unequivocally that the blocking of piracy sites works – the number of visits to these sites has dropped significantly and some sites were forced to shut down.

The Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania has noticed, however, that the blocking of domain names for the purpose of protecting the copyright owners’ interests online may not be sufficiently effective or efficient in all cases and in particular in cases when the operators of websites that publish copyrighted content illegally generate economic benefits from their illegal activities. Decisions by the RTCL to block piracy sites have failed to limit the operators’ possibilities to further generate financial gain from their illegal activities.

Having regard to these findings and in an attempt to develop and implement a more effective and efficient mechanism of copyright and related rights’ protection online, the RTCL took the initiative to draft a bill amending Article 78 of the Copyright Law. The bill was adopted by the Seimas on 29 June 2021 and came into force on 1 November 2021.

In accordance with Article 78 of the Copyright Law, the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania has the mandate to issue binding orders to payment, financial and other institutions instructing these institutions to cancel access to payments and other financial operations to entities engaged in any copyright infringing activity.

To strengthen the protection of copyright and prevent copyright infringements in ways other than through judicial proceedings, including through the publication and dissemination of lists of piracy sites with the aim of minimizing the chances of these sites generating income from advertising, etc., the RTCL started engaging in copyright protection efforts on an international level as well. On 3 May 2021 in response to an invitation from the World Intellectual Property Organisation (the “WIPO”) to cooperate in the area of copyright protection, the RTCL and WIPO signed a memorandum of understanding.

Under this Memorandum, the RTCL has joined the WIPO ALERT data platform. WIPO ALERT is a secure data platform that stores information on an international level of websites blocked for reason of copyright infringements. The aim of the WIPO ALERT project is to increase awareness in the business community of copyright infringing websites and prevent these sites from generating advertising revenue.

That thanks to the continuous efforts of the RTCL, illegal activities were prevented and copyright owners effectively protected online.

One of the most important goals of the last year, which the RTCL has successfully implemented and aims at improving upon every year, is ensuring equal regulatory conditions for all economic operators engaged in similar activities that the RTCL supervises; implementing convenient and efficient tools of consultation and cooperation and providing methodological assistance, collecting feedback, and reducing the administrative burden for the operators.

To reduce the administrative burden on regulated economic operators, the RTCL has implemented guidelines issued by the Ministry of Economy and Innovations of the Republic of Lithuania prepared specifically for this purpose.

In light of these guidelines, in the second half of 2021 the RTCL modified as many as five of its decisions relating to the activities of regulated economic operators, namely, updated and clarified questionnaires, rules of operator inspections, descriptor of consultations to individuals, simplified the descriptor of changes to licence terms and conditions as well as the descriptor of risk assessment of economic operators overseen by the RTCL.

Another thing that needs highlighting is that in 2021 the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania, just like other European regulators, faced certain limitations of participating in international activities – because of the COVID-19 pandemic around the world, international efforts were rather slow. To the extent possible, however, the RTCL did attend virtual meetings of ERGA and the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA), continued cooperating with Latvian, Estonian, Moldovan and Ukrainian regulatory authorities and promoted cooperation with colleagues from Armenian and Georgian regulatory authorities.

In 2021, the RTCL held the nineteenth traditional competition of the best in radio and television *Pragiedruliai*. Because of the coronavirus pandemic the jury chose winners and nominees remotely, and the award ceremony could not be held publicly. This traditional competition, which was held even in a year of significant challenges, remains an important event for radio and television producers and authors that encourages them to create better quality and multi-faceted radio and television content.

In 2021, all activities of the RTCL outlined in the 2022-2024 Strategic Action Plan were carried out using the funds available for the RTCL's programmes and strategic and priority goals.

In the reporting year, financial activities were carried out responsibly by maintaining a balance between the authority's revenue and expenditure.

Rimantas Bagdzevičius

Chairman

LICENSING OF BROADCASTING ACTIVITIES AND RE-BROADCAST CONTENT AND REGULATION OF UNLICENSED ACTIVITIES

In 2021, the RTCL was engaged in the activities of radio and television broadcasting and re-broadcasting licensing; organised competitions to award radio and television broadcasting licences; made changes to licence terms and conditions when requested by the broadcasters and re-broadcasters; cancelled licences and permits; registered notifications by economic operators of the start of unlicensed activities, etc.

Between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2020, the RTCL received 6 notifications of the start of unlicensed activities of radio and television broadcasting and provision of on-demand audiovisual media services to viewers in Lithuania.

In the reporting year, the RTCL took 219 decisions related to licensing, competition announcements and their implementation, and other matters related to the activities of the economic operators regulated by the RTCL (*Table 1*).

Table 1. Decisions by the RTCL related to licensing, competition announcements and their implementation, and other matters relating to the regulation of the economic operators under the jurisdiction of the RTCL in 2021.

No	Nature of the decision	Number of decisions
1.	Changes to licence terms and conditions	19
2.	Licence cancellations	2
3.	Competition announcements	6
4.	Competition results	4
5.	Permit issuance	3
6.	Changes to permit terms and conditions	5
7.	Consents in relation to share transfers and acquisitions	4
9.	Temporary suspension of activities	3
10.	Mandatory orders to Internet access service providers	143
11.	Mandatory orders to network service providers	3
12.	Laws and regulations	23
13.	Other	4

Announcement and implementation of competitions to award licences

During the reporting year, the RTCL announced 2 competitions to award television re-broadcasting licences, 3 competitions to award radio broadcasting licences, 1 competition to award a television broadcasting licence, and took 4 decisions relating to competition results (**Table 2**).

Table 2. Competitions announced in 2021 and their results.

No	Objective	Station location, territory covered by the licence	Radio frequency/ TV channel	Applicants
				Winner
1.	Licence for re-broadcast television content	Lithuania	AB LRTC II SATT**	The competition declared invalid in the absence of submissions.
2.	Licence for radio station broadcasting	Nida	89.8 MHz	VšĮ KVARTOLE
				UAB Solfega
3.	Licence for radio station broadcasting	Klaipėda	87.5 MHz	VšĮ KVARTOLE
				UAB RADIOLA
4.	Licence for radio station broadcasting	Klaipėda	89.1 MHz	UAB Solfega
				UAB Interbanga
5.	Licence for television station broadcasting*	Bukiškis Vlg., Vilnius reg., Karužiškės stading, Vilnius reg., Juzina Vlg., Švenčionys reg., Akmeniškės Vlg., Vilnius reg.	TV channel 37	UAB Bridge media
6.	Licence for re-broadcast television content***	Lithuania	AB LRTC II SATT**	—

*Decision on competition results to be taken in 2022.

**The second terrestrial television network of AB Lietuvos radijo ir televizijos centras.

***The deadline for submissions 31 January 2022.

The RTCL received and examined 9 submissions in response to competition announcements. Having calculated the results, the RTCL announced 3 winners in 2021 and modified the terms and conditions of 2 licences issued earlier.

Decisions by the RTCL to modify licence terms and conditions, licence cancellations

In 2021, the RTCL passed 19 decisions to modify licence terms and conditions. These decisions were related to changes in the structure and content of television and radio programmes, lists of re-broadcast television programmes and other licence terms and conditions: 14 decisions were aimed at changing licence terms related to the structure and contents of radio programmes; 3 decisions aimed at changing re-broadcast content licence terms related to the lists of re-broadcast programmes; 1 decision was taken to change the terms of television programme structure and content; and 1 decision was taken to change the broadcasting time start under a television broadcasting licence.

Over the reporting period, the RTCL took 2 decisions to cancel 2 broadcasting and re-broadcast content licences (**Table 3**).

Table 3. Licence cancellations.

No	Licence holder	Grounds for licence cancellation	Licensed activities
1.	UAB BALTICUM TV	Licence holder decided to give up the licence	Television programme re-broadcasting, No LC-445(T445)
2.	UAB Eteris	Licence holder decided to give up the licence	Television programme broadcasting, No LC-414(T414)

As of 31 December 2021, the RTCL had issued 131 broadcasting and re-broadcast content licences to radio and/or television broadcasters and re-broadcasters engaged in licensed activities, and 9 permits to VšĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA.

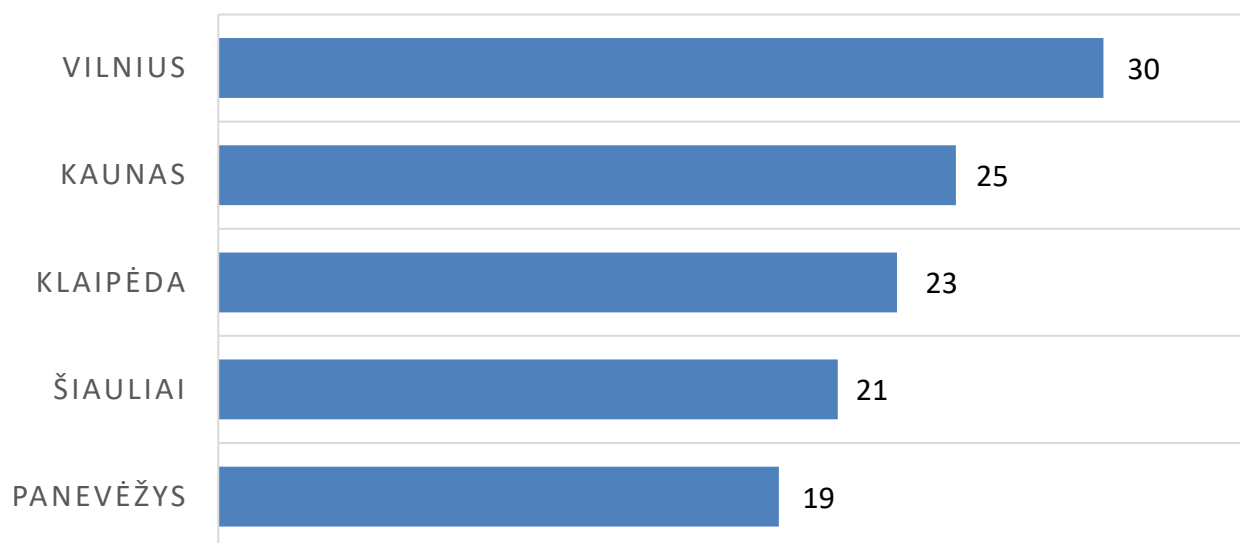
RADIO

At the end of 2021, there were 42 radio broadcasters in Lithuania broadcasting 52 radio stations. Over the reporting year, the majority of radio stations in Lithuania were transmitting a mix of music and information content.

In 2021, 2 broadcasters already engaged in radio broadcasting having won competitions announced by the RTCL had their licence terms modified, i.e., licence coverage was expanded to include a wider territory.

The greatest diversity of radio stations in 2021 was observed in major Lithuanian cities: 31 radio stations in Vilnius, 25 in Kaunas, 24 in Klaipėda, 22 in Šiauliai, and 19 radio stations in Panevėžys (**Figure 1**).

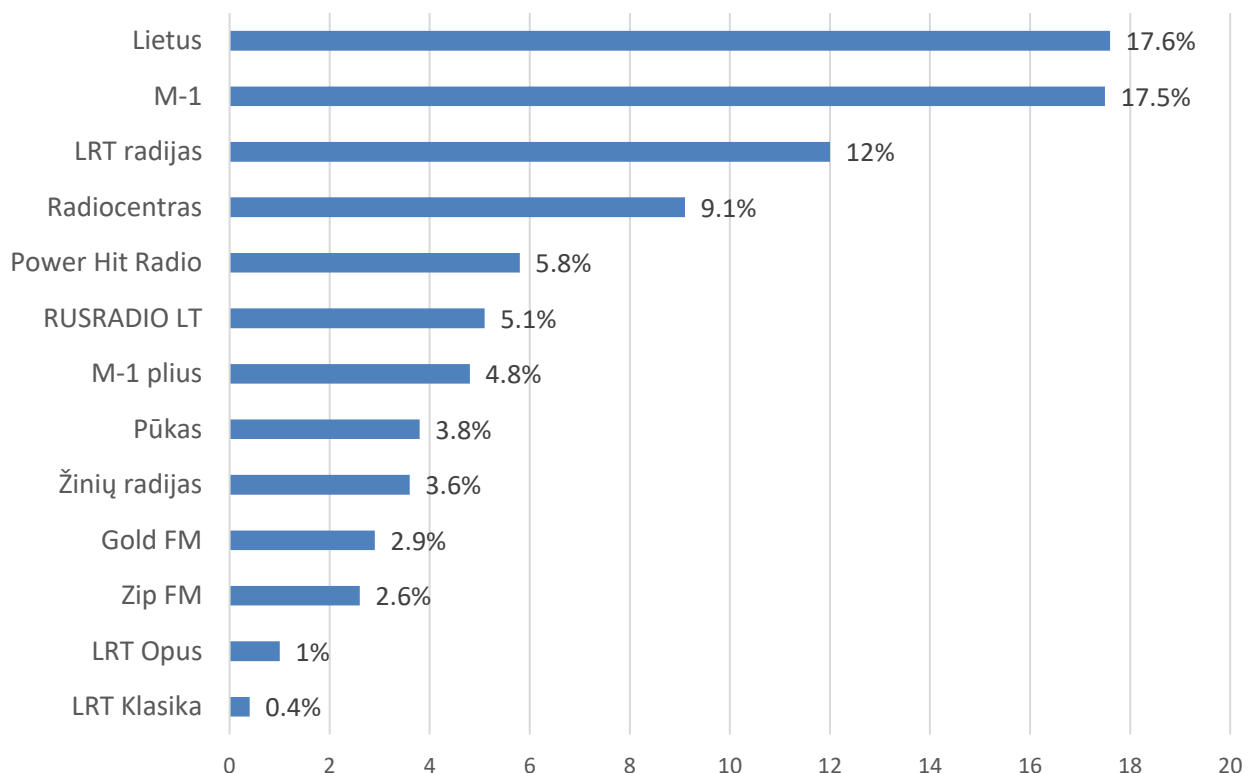
In terms of radio coverage, there were 13 national radio stations (**Table 4**), 8 regional radio broadcasters (**Table 5**), and 27 broadcasters broadcasting local radio stations (**Table 6**) in Lithuania in 2021.

Figure 1. Number of radio stations in major Lithuanian cities in 2021.*Source: RTCL**Table 4. National radio stations.*

No	Broadcaster	Station
1.	UAB M-1“	M-1
2.	UAB M-1	M-1 plus
3.	UAB Pūkas	Pūkas
4.	UAB RADIOCENTRAS	Radiocentras
5.	UAB RADIOCENTRAS	ZIP FM
6.	UAB RADIOCENTRAS	RUSRADIO LT
7.	UAB RADIO STOTIS ULTRA VIRES	Lietus
8.	VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA	LRT RADIJAS
9.	VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA	LRT KLASIKA
10.	VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA	LRT OPUS
11.	UAB ŽINIŲ RADIJAS	Žinių radijas
12.	UAB LAISVOJI BANGA	Gold FM
13.	UAB All Media Radijas	Power Hit Radio

By time spent listening to radio, the following four national radio stations were leading in the ratings: Lietus, M-1, LRT RADIJAS and Radiocentras. In 2021, they accounted for 56.2% of the respondents' total time spent listening to radio (*Figure 2*).

Figure 2. Audience share of national radio stations by time listened, winter to spring of 2021.



Source: Kantar

Table 5. Regional radio broadcasters.

No	Broadcaster	Radio station	Locations
1.	VšĮ Marijos radijas	Marijos radijas	Druskininkai, Ignalina, Mažeikiai, Nida, Plunksniai, Raseiniai, Skuodas, Visaginas
2.	UAB Alytaus radijas	FM 99	Alytus, Druskininkai
3.	UAB GERUDA	Geras FM	Vilnius, Kaunas
4.	UAB Info XXL	XXL FM	Plungė, Telšiai, Šiauliai
5.	VšĮ KVARTOLĖ	RELAX FM	Vilnius, Šiauliai, Klaipėda, Panevėžys, Kaunas, Utena, Plungė, Biržai, Mažeikiai, Rokiškis, Šilutė, Jurbarkas, Ignalina, Joniškis, Raseiniai, Nida
6.	UAB Pūkas	Pūkas-2	Vilnius, Klaipėda, Šiauliai, Kaunas, Panevėžys, Telšiai, Tauragė, Rokiškis, Raseiniai
7.	UAB RADIOCENTRAS	ROCK FM	Vilnius, Kaunas, Panevėžys, Klaipėda
8.	UAB ŽINIŲ radijas	EASY FM	Vilnius, Kaunas

Table 6. Local radio stations.

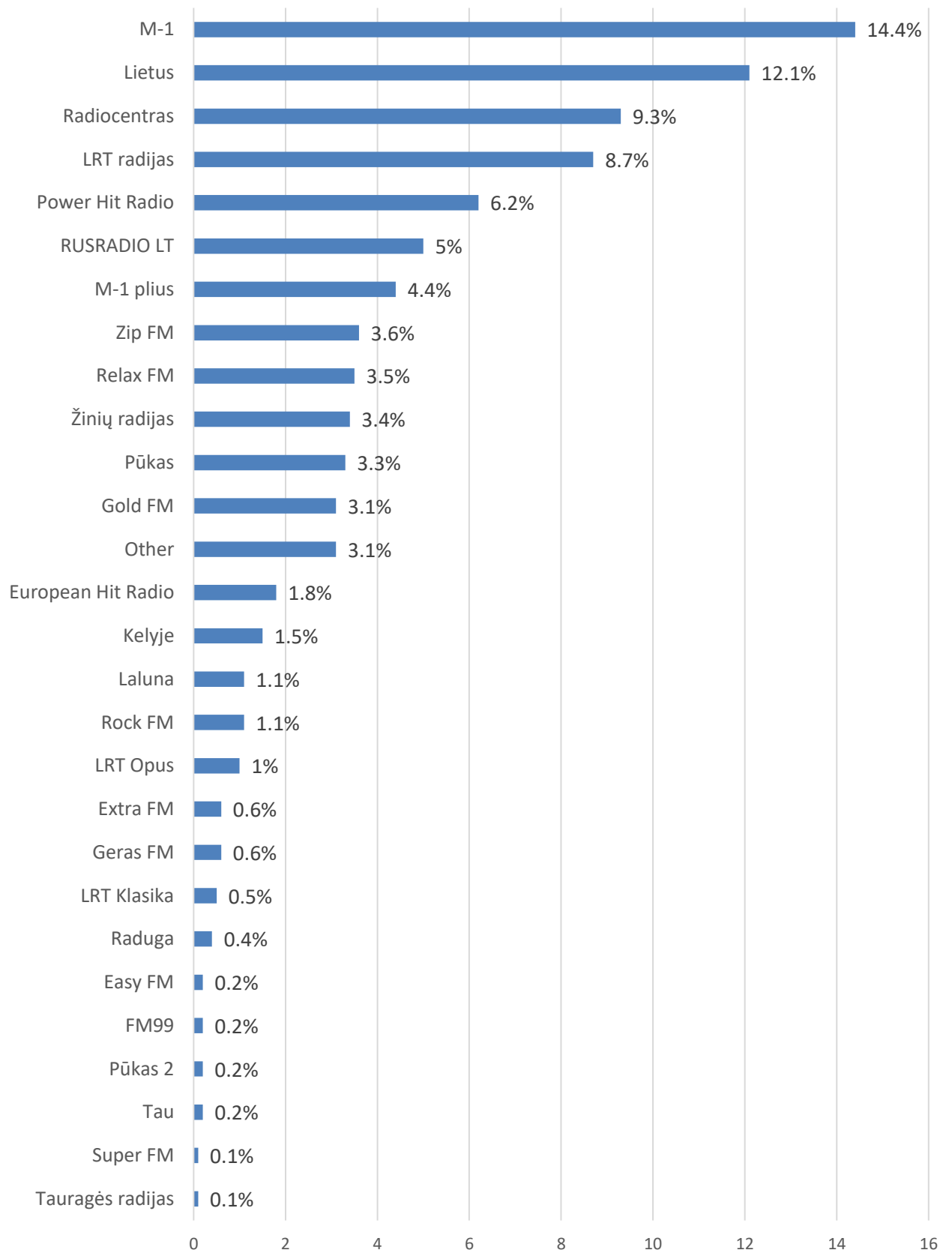
No	Broadcaster	Radio station	Location
1.	UAB Antroji reklamos ateljė	RS 2	Šiauliai
2.	UAB Artvydas	Tau	Kaunas
3.	UAB ATVIRAI	Radijo stotis Nykščiai	Anykščiai
4.	UAB AUKŠTAITIJO RADIJAS	XFM	Panevėžys
5.	UAB Centro medija	XFM	Kėdainiai
6.	UAB Garso klipai	MANO FM	Kaunas
7.	UAB Interbanga	EXTRA FM	Kaunas
8.	UAB Interbanga	EXTRA FM	Klaipėda
9.	UAB Interbanga	EXTRA FM	Šiauliai
10.	UAB Interbanga	EXTRA FM	Vilnius
11.	UAB Interbanga	EXTRA FM	Marijampolė
12.	UAB Interbanga	EXTRA FM	Panevėžys
13.	UAB Interbanga	EXTRA FM	Raseiniai
14.	UAB Interbanga	EXTRA FM	Ukmergė
15.	UAB Interbanga	EXTRA FM	Utena
16.	UAB Interbanga	EXTRA FM	Plungė
17.	UAB VYDAS	A2	Vilnius
18.	UAB Labas, Klaipėda	XFM	Klaipėda
19.	UAB Labas, Klaipėda	XFM	Kaunas
20.	UAB Labas, Klaipėda	XFM	Vilnius
21.	UAB Labas, Klaipėda	XFM	Biržai
22.	UAB Lamantas	Mažeikiai.FM	Mažeikiai
23.	UAB Lamantas	Kapsai	Marijampolė
24.	VšĮ Marijos radijas	Marijos radijas	Šiauliai
25.	VšĮ Marijos radijas	Marijos radijas	Klaipėda
26.	VšĮ Marijos radijas	Marijos radijas	Kaunas
27.	VšĮ Marijos radijas	Marijos radijas	Vilnius
28.	VšĮ Marijos radijas	Marijos radijas	Viešintos
29.	VšĮ Marijos radijas	Marijos radijas	Alytus
30.	VšĮ Marijos radijas	Marijos radijas	Telšiai
31.	VšĮ Marijos radijas	Marijos radijas	Marijampolė
32.	VšĮ Marijos radijas	Marijos radijas	Biržai
33.	VšĮ Marijos radijas	Marijos radijas	Utena
34.	VšĮ Marijos radijas	Marijos radijas	Varėna
35.	VšĮ Marijos radijas	Marijos radijas	Jurbarkas
36.	VšĮ Marijos radijas	Marijos radijas	Rokiškis
37.	VšĮ Marijos radijas	Marijos radijas	Joniškis
38.	VšĮ Marijos radijas	Marijos radijas	Šilutė
39.	VšĮ Marijos radijas	Marijos radijas	Plungė
40.	VšĮ Marijos radijas	Marijos radijas	Tauragė

41.	UAB Mažeikių aidas	Mažeikių aidas	Mažeikiai
42.	UAB PLUNSTA	Spindulys	Plungė
43.	UAB PROARSA	JAZZ FM	Vilnius
44.	UAB PROARSA	Vaikų radijas	Vilnius
45.	UAB Radijas kelyje	Kelyje	Kaunas
46.	UAB Radijas kelyje	Kelyje	Klaipėda
47.	UAB Radijas kelyje	Kelyje	Vilnius
48.	UAB RADIOLA	Europos Hitų Radijas (European Hit Radio)	Vilnius
49.	UAB RADIOLA	Europos Hitų Radijas	Klaipėda
50.	UAB RADIOLA	Europos Hitų Radijas	Kaunas
51.	UAB RADIOLA	SUPER FM	Vilnius
52.	UAB RADIJO PULSAS	Pulsas	Biržai
53.	UAB RADIJO PULSAS	Pulsas	Panevėžys
54.	UAB RADIJO STOTIS LALUNA	Laluna	Klaipėda
55.	UAB RADIJO STOTIS LALUNA	Raduga	Klaipėda
56.	UAB REKLAMOS GAMA	Radijogama	Klaipėda
57.	UAB SAULĖS RADIJAS	Saulės radijas	Šiauliai
58.	Šiaulių Didždvario gimnazija	Radijo klubas	Šiauliai
59.	VšĮ Šou imperija	Tauragės radijas	Tauragė
60.	UAB TARPTAUTINIS BALTIJOS BANGŲ RADIJAS	TARPTAUTINIS BALTIJOS BANGŲ RADIJAS	Anykščiai (Viešintos)
61.	VšĮ Utenos radijas	Utenos radijas	Utena
62.	Vilniaus Baltupių progimnazija	Baltupių radijas	Vilnius
63.	Vilniaus universitetas (<i>University of Vilnius</i>)	Start FM	Vilnius
64.	UAB ZNAD WILII RADIJO STOTIS	Znad Wilii	Vilnius

VšĮ Zorza which broadcasts radio station RADIOWILNO, VšĮ Ištiesk gerumo ranką nuskriaustiesiems which broadcasts FIX FM, and UAB Solfega which broadcasts radio station SOL FM do so online only.

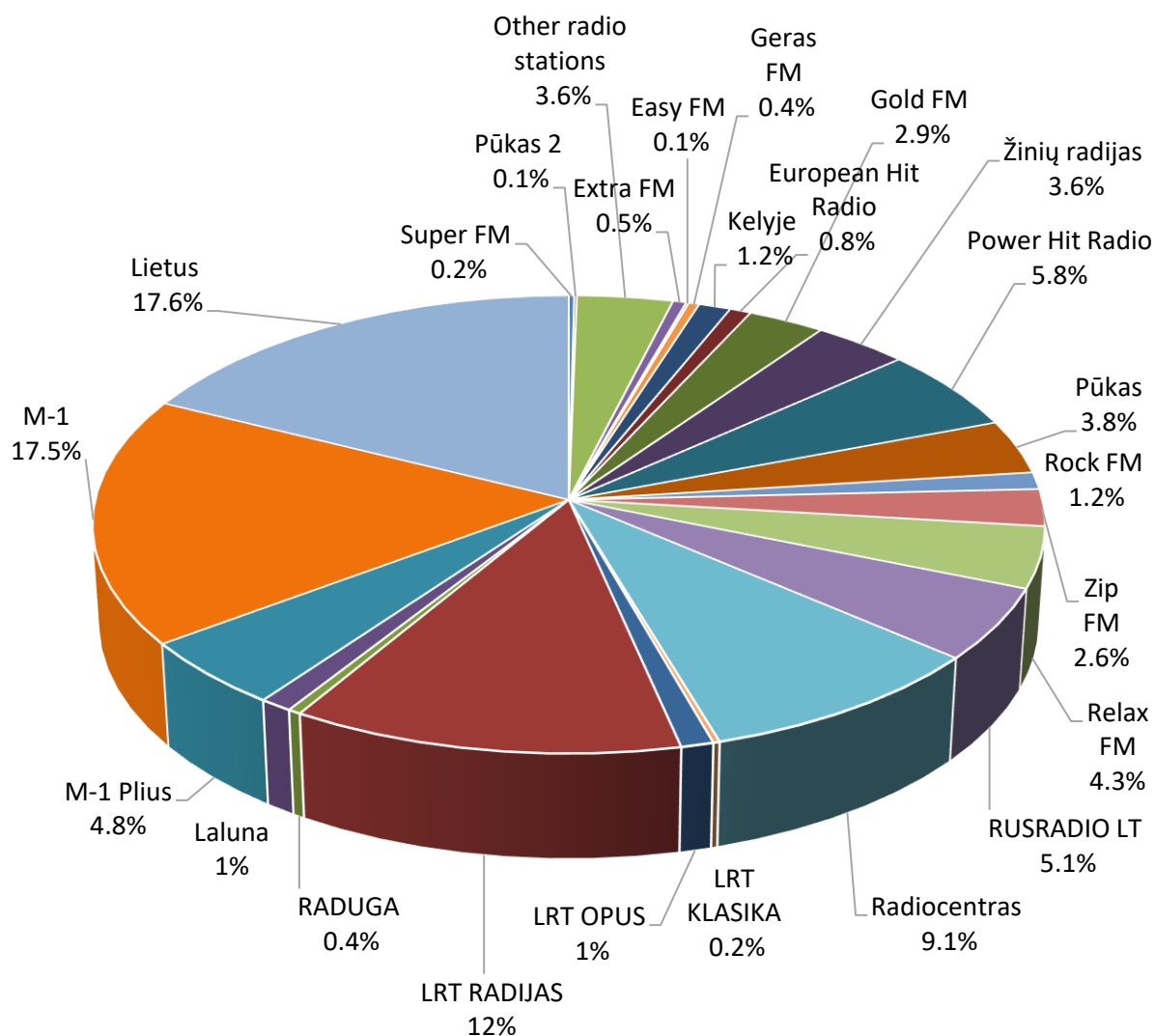
In 2021, M-1 remained the most popular radio station in Lithuania by daily audience reach followed by radio station Lietus. In 2021, LRT RADIJAS conceded the third spot to Radiocentras, which ranked fourth in 2020 (**Figure 3**). LRT RADIJAS did, however, maintain the third spot by share of time spent listening to radio (**Figure 4**).

Figure 3. Daily audience reach of radio stations, winter to fall of 2021.



Source: Kantar

Figure 4. Share of audience by time spent listening to radio, winter to autumn of 2021.



SOURCE: Kantar

TELEVISION

Digital Terrestrial Television

Television broadcasting over digital terrestrial TV transmitter stations (networks)

In 2021, Lithuanian viewers were able to receive 12 free-to-air (not encrypted) national television channels over the digital terrestrial transmitter stations (**Table 7**).

Table 7. Free-to-air national DVB-T stations.

No	Broadcaster	Television station (channel)	Electronic communications network
1.	VšĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA	LRT TELEVIZIJA	DVB-T network of LRT
2.	VšĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA	LRT PLIUS	
3.	UAB All Media Lithuania	TV3	First DVB-T network of LRTC (Lithuanian Radio and Television Centre)
4.	UAB All Media Lithuania	TV6	
5.	UAB All Media Lithuania	TV8	
6.	UAB LAISVAS IR NEPRIKLAUSOMAS KANALAS	BTV	
7.	UAB LAISVAS IR NEPRIKLAUSOMAS KANALAS	LNK	
8.	UAB LAISVAS IR NEPRIKLAUSOMAS KANALAS	Info TV	
9.	UAB LAISVAS IR NEPRIKLAUSOMAS KANALAS	2TV	
10.	UAB LAISVAS IR NEPRIKLAUSOMAS KANALAS	TV1	
11.	UAB Lietuvos ryto televizija	Lietuvos rytas.tv	
12.	UAB DELFI	Delfi TV	

At the end of 2021, there were 8 local television channels available over the digital terrestrial television transmitter stations (**Table 8**).

Table 8. Local television stations available over the digital terrestrial transmitter stations.

No	Broadcaster	Television station (channel)	Location
1.	UAB Pūkas	Pūkas-TV	Kaunas
2.	UAB Šiaulių apskrities televizija	Šiaulių televizija	Šiauliai
3.	UAB Roventa	Roventos TV	Mažeikiai
4.	VšĮ Marijampolės televizija	Marijampolės televizija	Marijampolė
5.	UAB Ilora	Ventos regioninė televizija	Venta
6.	UAB TV7	TV7	Jonava
7.	VšĮ Alytaus regioninė televizija	Dzūkijos televizija	Alytus
8.	VšĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA	LRT LITUANICA	Lazdijai

Two regional television broadcasters use the networks of digital terrestrial TV transmitter stations to transmit their programmes, i.e., VšĮ Regioninė televizija Aidas broadcasts regional TV station *Regional TV station Aidas* on channel 24 in Trakai on channel 24 in Papliauškos Vlg., Elektrėnai Mun., UAB Bridge media broadcasts *BM TV* on channel 24 in Trakai, on channel 24 in Papliauškos Vlg., Elektrėnai Mun., on channel 46 in Kėdainiai, Ukmergė and in Panevėžys.

Television re-broadcasting over digital terrestrial TV transmitter stations

In 2021, there were 5 re-broadcasters re-broadcasting television stations over digital terrestrial TV transmitter stations, i.e., VšĮ Alytaus regioninė televizija, UAB BALTICUM TV, UAB TARPTAUTINIS BALTIJOS BANGŲ RADIJAS, AB Lietuvos radijo ir televizijos centras, and VšĮ Regioninė televizija Aidas.

VšĮ Alytaus regioninė televizija was re-broadcasting television station Pūkas-TV over channel 30 of the digital terrestrial transmitter station in Alytus.

Until 1 December 2021 UAB BALTICUM TV was re-broadcasting a package of 9 television stations over channel 40 of the digital terrestrial transmitter station in Plungė.

UAB TARPTAUTINIS BALTIJOS BANGŲ RADIJAS was re-broadcasting television station *Nastojas* over the first digital terrestrial television network operated by AB Lietuvos radijo ir televizijos centras.

AB Lietuvos radijo ir televizijos centras was re-broadcasting 6 Polish television stations over channel 31 in Vilnius and Šalčininkai, and over channel 33 in Švenčionys.

VšĮ Regioninė televizija Aidas was re-broadcasting television station Pūkas-TV over a digital terrestrial network on channel 46 in Kėdainiai, Panevėžys and Ukmergė.

Television station broadcasting

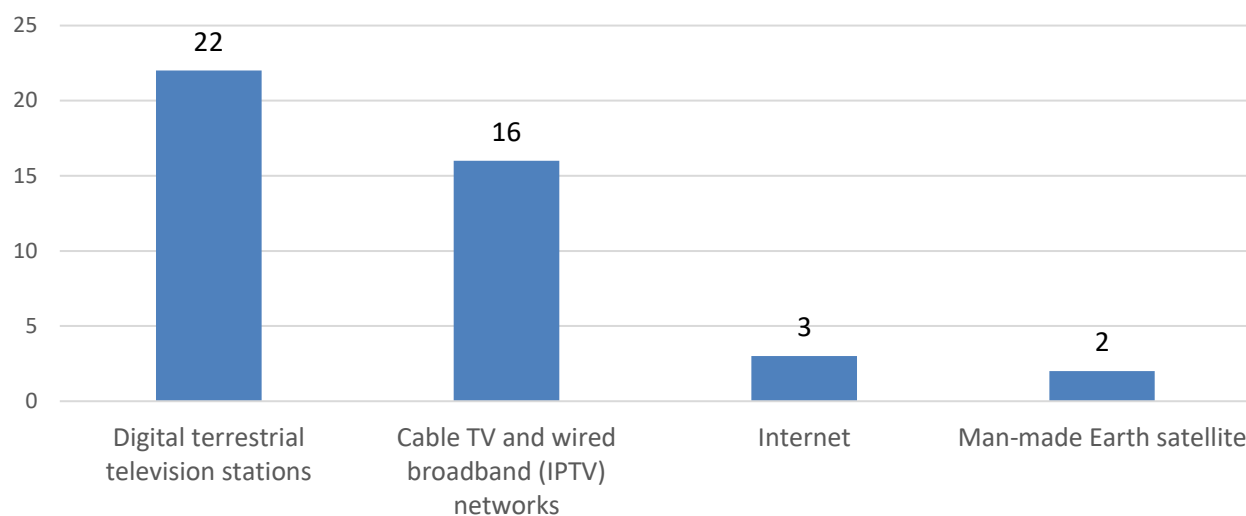
In Lithuania, television stations may be broadcast using these networks of electronic communications:

- Digital terrestrial television transmitter stations (networks)
- Cable television networks
- Wired broadband communication networks (IPTV)
- Internet
- Man-made Earth satellite

At the end of 2021, there were 29 television broadcasters broadcasting 42 television stations:

- 22 television stations over digital terrestrial television networks or transmitter stations
- 16 television stations over the cable television and IPTV networks
- 3 television stations on the Internet
- 2 television stations over a man-made Earth satellite (*Figure 5*)

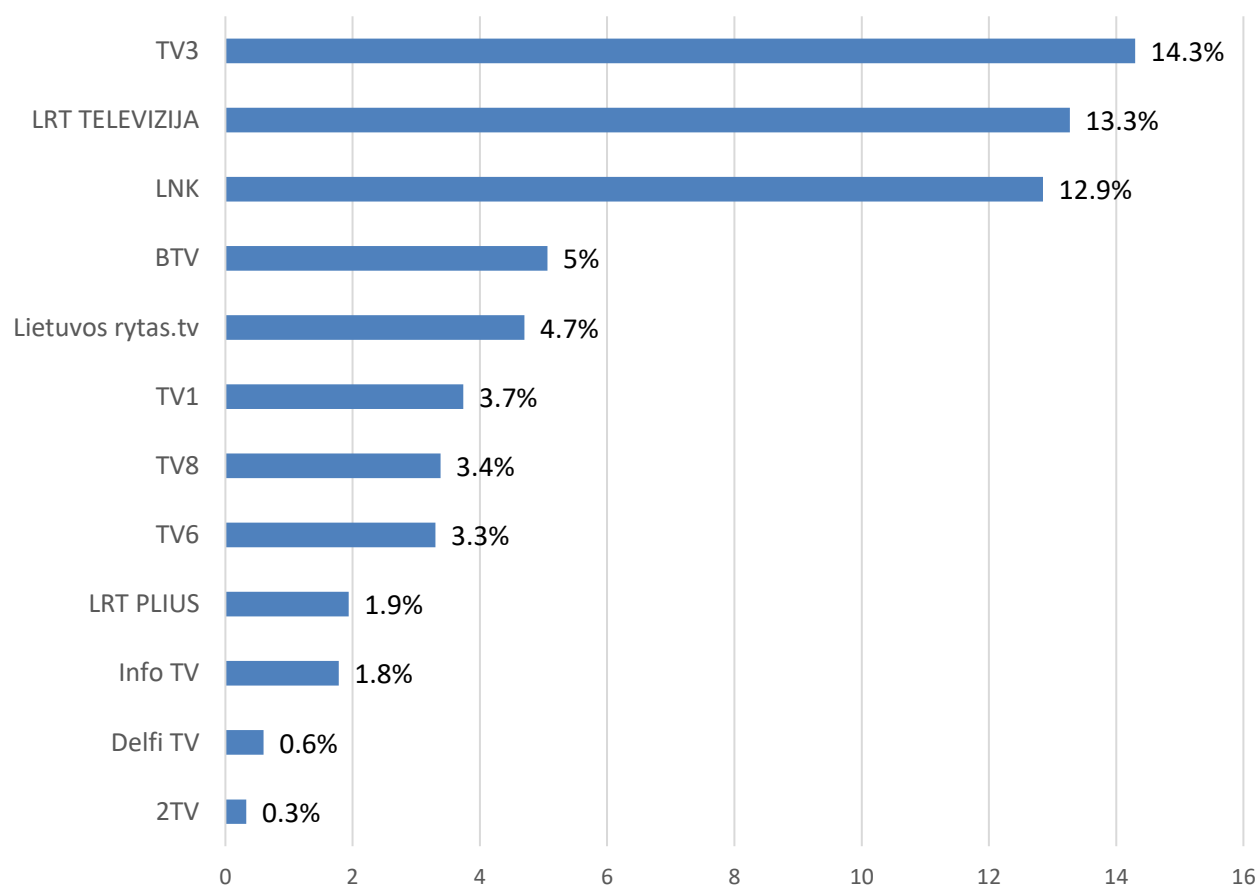
Figure 5. Television broadcasting in 2021 by type of electronic communications used.



Source: RTCL

Audience structure of national television stations in 2021 is presented in the figure below (Figure 6). In 2021, LRT TELEVIZIJA overtook LNK by audience share.

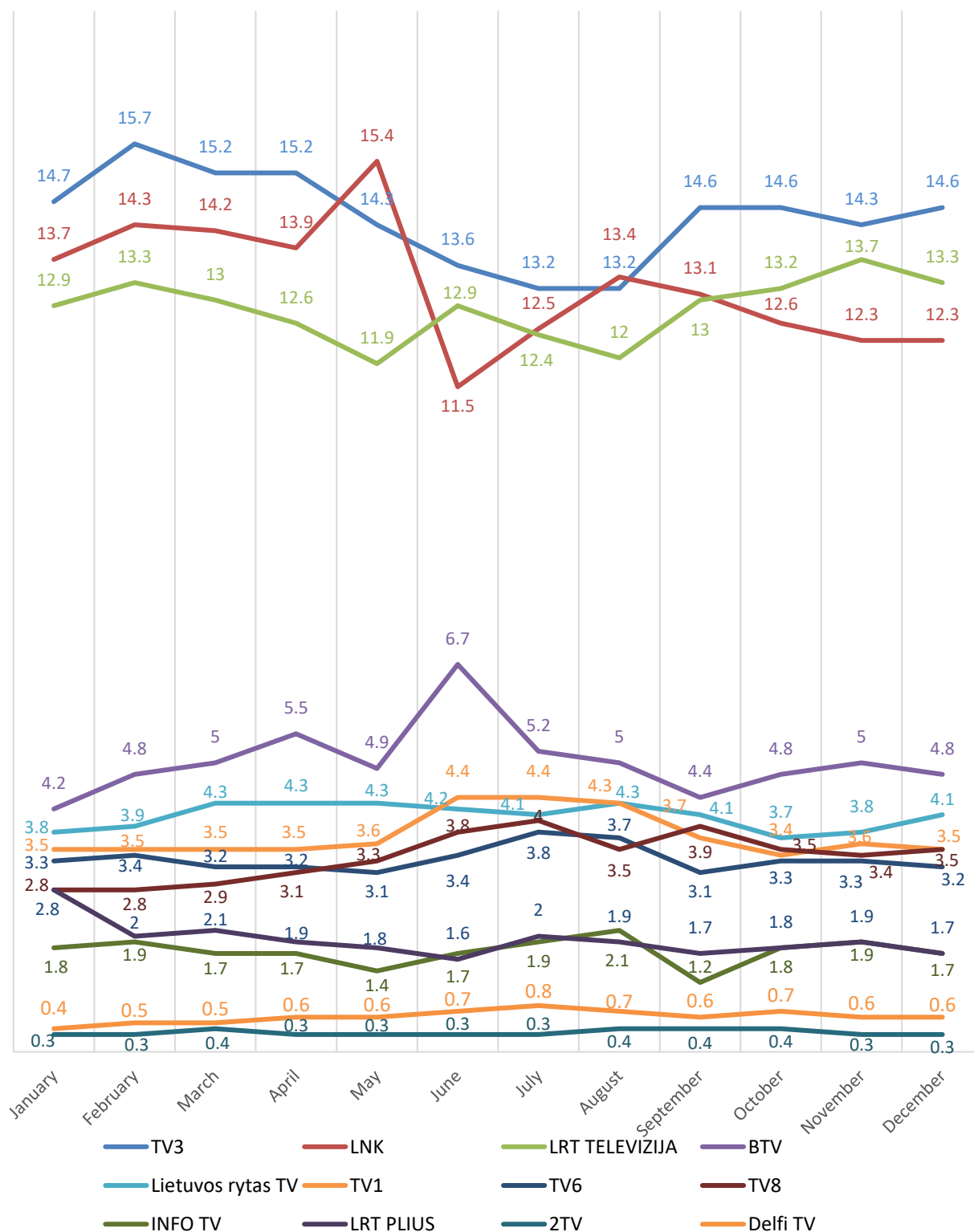
Figure 6. Audience share by national TV station in 2021.



Source: Kantar

Changes to audience share of each national television station by month in 2021 are shown in Figure 7. It is evident that the Eurovision Song Contest 2021 in May had significantly increased the audience share of LRT TELEVIŽIJA.

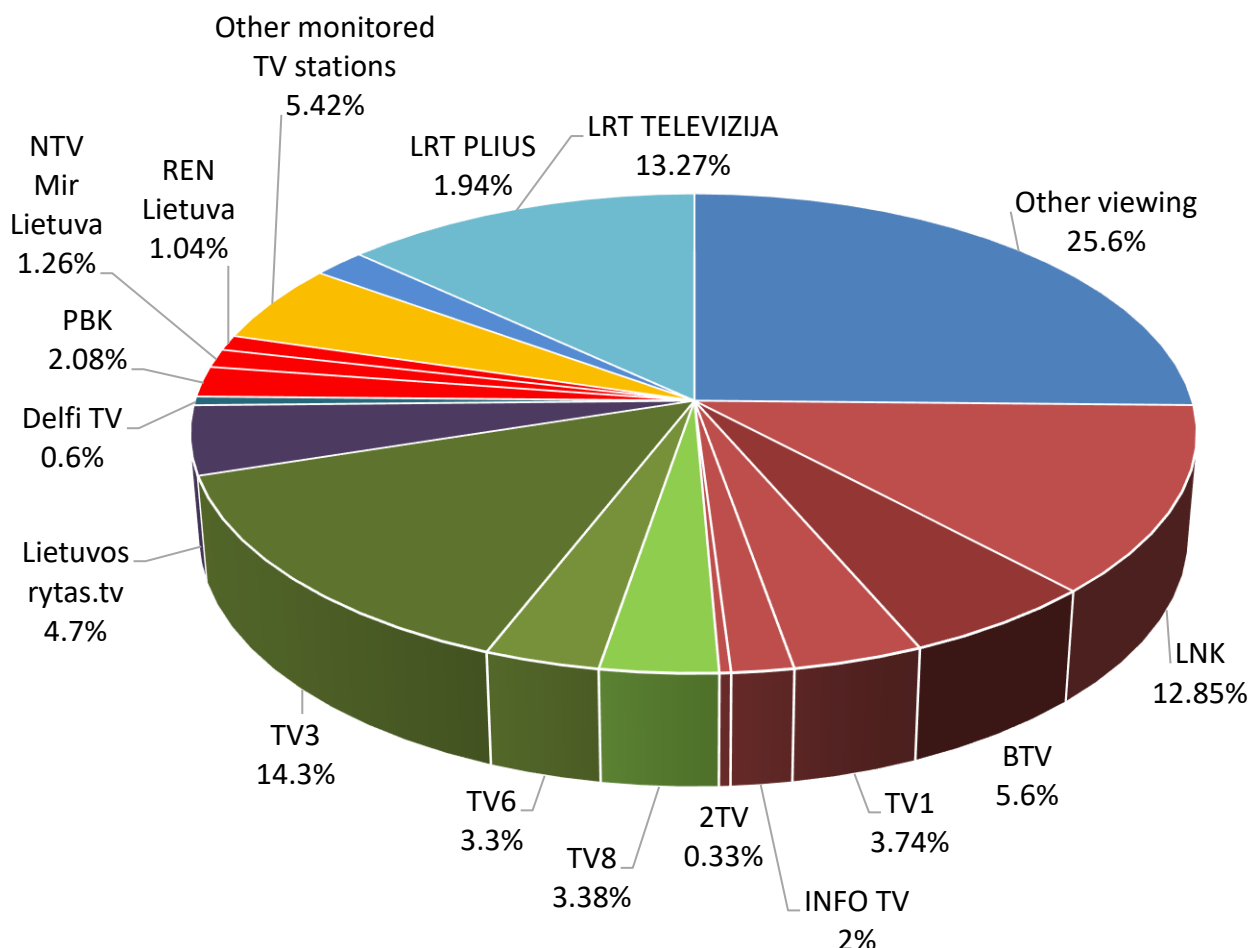
Figure 7. Audience share by national TV station by month in 2021.



Source: Kantar TNS

Figure 8 shows audience share of every television station monitored by KANTAR TNS LT by time watched.

Figure 8. Audience structure of TV stations by time watched in 2021; live viewing data.



Source: Kantar

Television stations under the umbrella of UAB All Media Lithuania Group accounted for almost 21% of all viewership – the same as the previous year. Viewership of television stations owned by UAB LAISVAS IR NEPRIKLAUSOMAS KANALAS also remained the same as the year before, i.e., 24.5%. Viewership of the two television stations broadcast by VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIŽIJA was 15.2%, representing an increase of 0.3% compared to 2020.

Television station re-broadcasting

In Lithuania, radio and television stations may be re-broadcast over these networks of electronic communications:

- Cable television networks

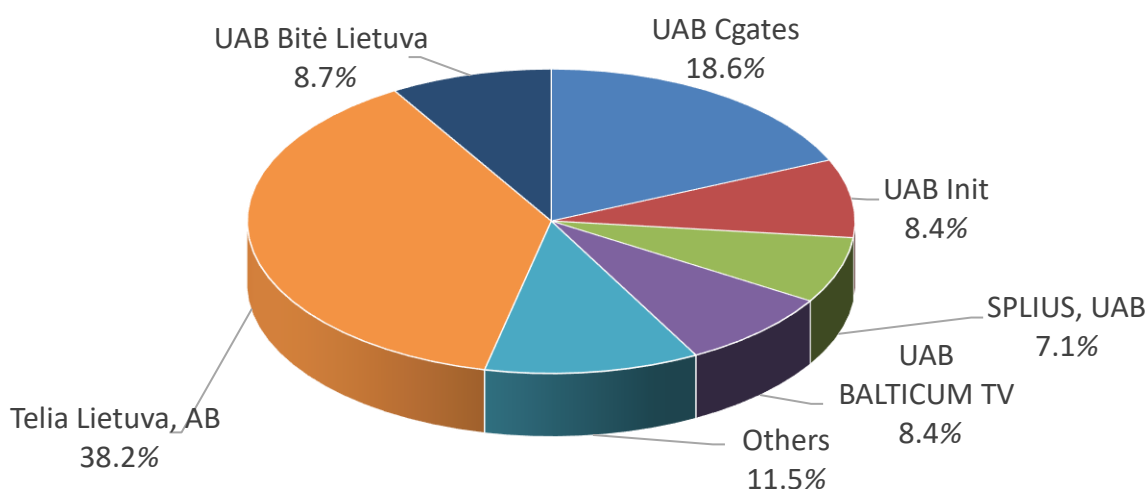
- Multichannel Multipoint Distribution Service (MMDS)
- Digital terrestrial television transmitter stations (networks)
- Wired broadband networks the main purpose of which is not radio or television broadcasting and/or re-broadcasting (IPTV)
- Internet
- Man-made Earth satellite

At the end of 2021, there were 47 re-broadcasters re-broadcasting television stations using a mix of technologies:

- 5 economic operators held 6 licences to re-broadcast television stations over the digital terrestrial transmitter stations or a network of transmitter stations;
- 2 economic operators held 2 licences to re-broadcast television stations over the MMDS networks;
- 16 economic operators were re-broadcasting television stations over the cable television networks;
- 10 economic operators were re-broadcasting television stations over the cable television and IPTV networks the main purpose of which is not radio and/or television broadcasting and/or re-broadcasting;
- 15 economic operators were re-broadcasting television stations over the IPTV networks the main purpose of which is not radio and/or television broadcasting and/or re-broadcasting;
- 2 economic operators were re-broadcasting television stations over a man-made Earth satellite.

An analysis of the television broadcasting services reveals that the number of cable television, MMDS and digital terrestrial television subscribers has been shrinking consistently, though the total number of paid TV users remains stable as a result of the increasing number of Internet TV users. The number of these users has almost caught up with cable TV subscriber numbers (**Figure 9**).

Figure 9. Paid TV subscribers by method of service delivery, Q3 of 2021.



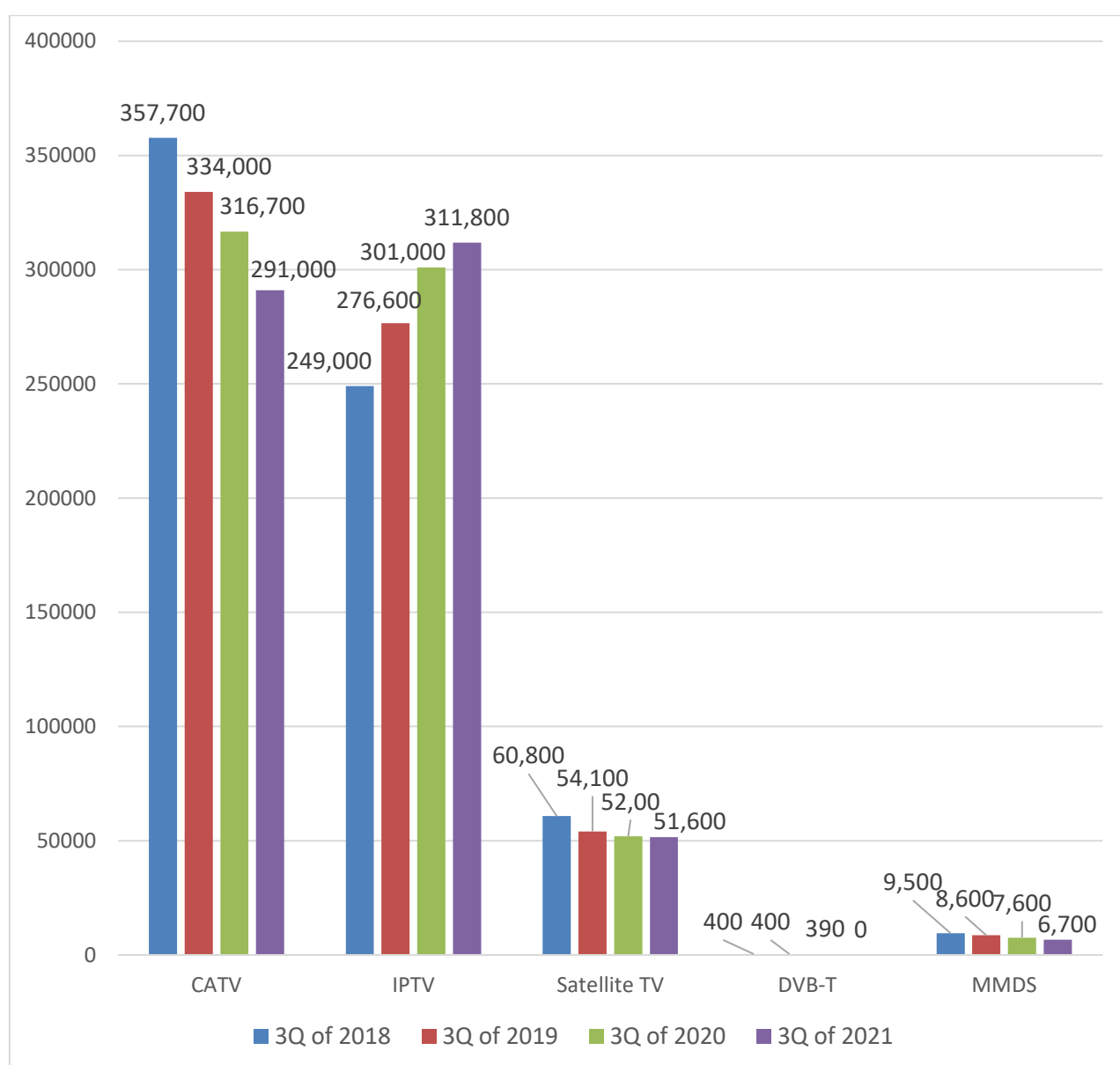
Source: RTCL

The dynamics of paid TV users (**Figure 10**) show that the number of users watching television on the Internet has been growing around 3.6% annually, whereas the number of cable TV subscribers has been shrinking by around 8% annually.

As the demand for the television re-broadcasting service using the IPTV technology keeps on growing, AB Telia Lietuva, which provides paid TV service to 38.2% of the total paid TV subscribers in the country, remains the market leader.

It is worth mentioning that in 2021 the number of re-broadcast television service subscribers using the IPTV technology has, for the first time in history, exceeded that of the cable TV users.

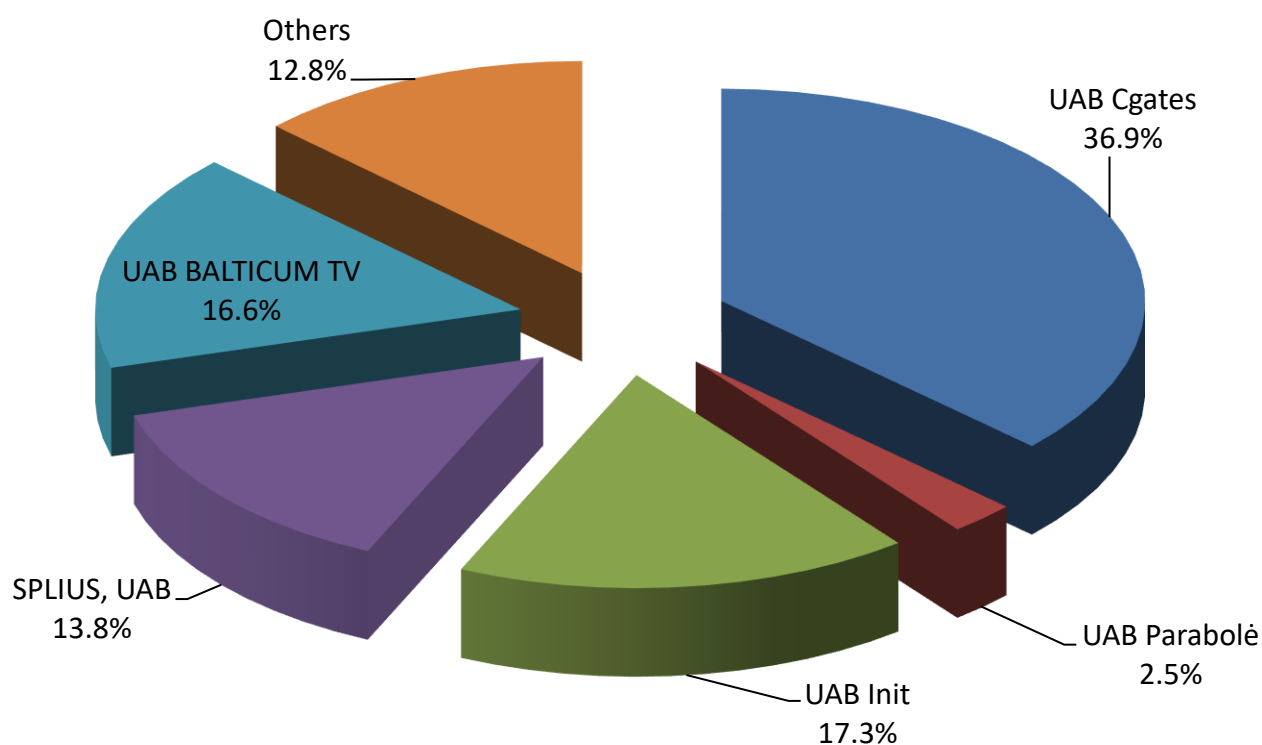
Figure 10. Changes in the paid TV subscriber structure by service delivery method, thousands, Q3 of 2018-2021.



Source: RTCL

In 2021, the five biggest cable TV providers were: UAB Cgates, UAB Init, UAB BALTICUM TV, UAB SPLIUS, and UAB Parabolė. Their subscribers accounted for 87.1% of all cable TV subscribers in the country (*Figure 11*).

Figure 11. Five biggest cable TV providers in the country.



Source: RTCL

The RTCL observes that the Netflix platform has become one of the major market players in the Lithuanian audiovisual media market. According to a survey done by the RTCL, the popularity of this on-demand audiovisual media platform in Lithuania has been growing continuously.

In the first half of 2020, Netflix had 40,000 subscribers, in the second half of 2020 that number grew to 51,000 and in the first half of 2021 went further up to 65,000 subscribers (in 2019, Netflix had around 20,000 subscribers and in 2018 only around 7,000). A comparison of results for 2020 and the first half of 2021 shows an increase of 62%.

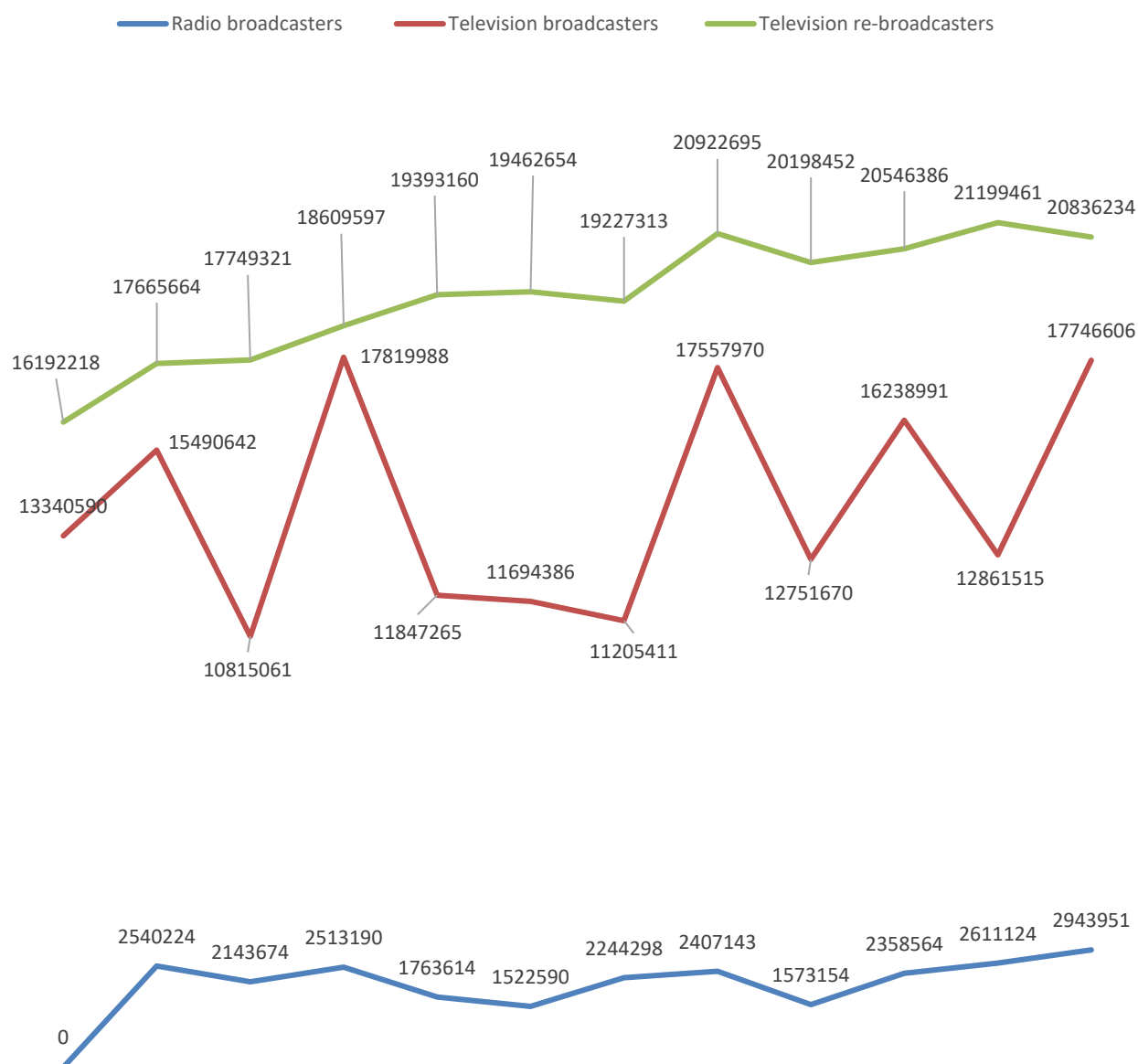
It should be noted that the Netflix video platform has a big economic impact on the Lithuanian audiovisual media service providers and on all local producers of audiovisual content in general.

The RTCL conducted a study based on the information provided by the State Tax Inspectorate under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania regarding the Value Added Tax payable by the Dutch company Netflix International B.V. which operators the Netflix platform.

REVENUE DYNAMICS OF RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTERS AND RE-BROADCASTERS

Every year the RTCL uses quarterly financial reports and quarterly reports provided by the economic operators under the RTCL's jurisdiction to calculate their revenue generated from the provision of audiovisual media services (**Figures 12, 13**).

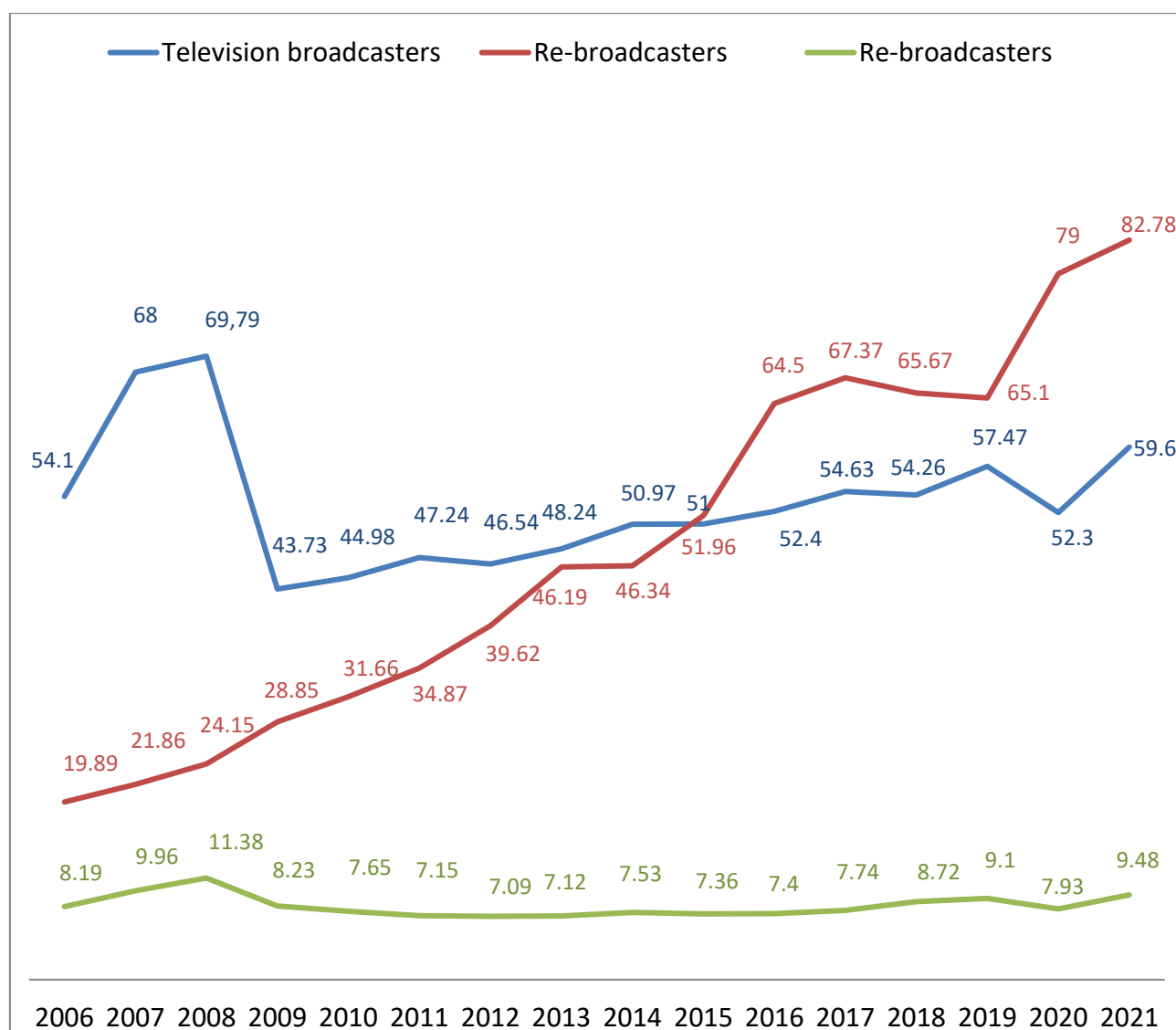
Figure 12. Economic operator revenue in 2019-2021 by quarter, million euros.



Source: RTCL

The dynamics of economic operator revenue in the long term, including the effects of the financial crisis of 2018 and the pandemic restrictions around the world in 2020, are reflected in **Figure 13**.

Figure 13. Economic operator revenue dynamics in 2006-2021, million euros.



Source: RTCL

VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA

VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA holds 7 valid permits: 3 permits to broadcast radio stations, 1 permit to re-broadcast a radio station, and 3 permits to broadcast television stations.

In 2021, the RTCL modified the terms and conditions of permits issued to VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA for television stations LRT TELEVIZIJA and LRT PLIUS expanding their coverage to include Vištytis Laukas I Vlg. in Vilkauskis Region, terms and conditions of permits for radio stations LRT RADIJAS and LRT KLASIKA expanding their coverage to include Lazdijai, and for radio station LRT OPUS to include Alytus.

The radio and television stations broadcast by VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA are provided in **Table 9**.

Table 9. Radio and television stations broadcast by VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA.

No	Name	Type of electronic communications network
1.	Radio station LRT RADIJAS	A network of analogue terrestrial transmitter stations, Internet
2.	Radio station LRT KLASIKA	Analogue terrestrial transmitter stations, Internet
3.	Radio station LRT OPUS	Analogue terrestrial transmitter stations, Internet
4.	Television station LRT TELEVIZIJA	Digital terrestrial television network (in standard definition (SD) and high definition (HD) formats), Internet
5.	Television station LRT PLIUS	Digital terrestrial television network (in standard definition (SD) and high definition (HD) formats), Internet
6.	Television station LRT LITUANICA	Digital terrestrial transmitter station in Lazdijai, Internet

VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA re-broadcasts BBC WORLD SERVICE over a terrestrial analogue radio transmitter station in Vilnius, and provides on-demand audiovisual media services on the Internet.

UNLICENSED ACTIVITIES

As of the end of 2021, the RTCL had received 106 notifications of the start of unlicensed radio and television broadcasting and re-broadcasting, dissemination of television programmes and/or individual programmes via the Internet to Lithuanian audiences, and of provision of on-demand audiovisual media services.

At the end of 2021, there were 20 economic operators engaged in the provision of on-demand audiovisual media services; 7 economic operators were disseminating television programmes and/or individual programmes via the Internet.

Over the reporting year, 5 economic operators notified the RTCL of the start of unlicensed radio and television broadcasting and re-broadcasting and of provision of on-demand audiovisual media services.

In 2021, 1 economic operator terminated its unlicensed activities of on-demand audiovisual media services, and 2 economic operators terminated their activities of television re-broadcasting over wired broadband communication networks.

ANNUAL FEES SET BY ORDERS OF THE MINISTER OF CULTURE

In 2021, in accordance with the Descriptor of the procedure for setting the annual fee for radio and/or television broadcasting, re-broadcasting, dissemination via the Internet and on-demand

audiovisual media services approved by Order No IV-318 of 21 April 2011 of the Minister of Culture, the RTCL sent 8 official letters to the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania regarding the annual fee for radio and/or television broadcasting, re-broadcasting, dissemination via the Internet, on-demand audiovisual media services. These letters served as a basis for setting the fees for 4 economic operators (**Table 10**).

Table 10. Annual fees.

No	Economic operator	Annual fee (BSB)
1.	UAB Mezon	46.3
2.	VšĮ Technologijų slėnis	30
3.	UAB Bitė Lietuva	110
4.	UAB Labas, Klaipėda	Not determined

**BSB – basic social benefit determined by the Lithuanian Government; €40 in 2021.*

STATE FEES PAID BY HOLDERS OF BROADCASTING AND/OR RE-BROADCAST CONTENT LICENCES

In the reporting year, the RTCL took 19 decisions to modify the terms and conditions of the existing broadcasting and re-broadcast content licences. For modifications and revisions to the terms and conditions of the existing broadcasting and/or re-broadcast content licences, licence holders paid €532 to the national budget. In the course of 2021, the RTCL issued 3 radio broadcasting licences to competition winners. For the issuance of these licences, their holders paid €1,042 in state fees.

SALE AND OTHER TRANSFERS OF SHARES (STAKES, INTERESTS) IN BROADCASTING AND/OR RE-BROADCAST CONTENT LICENCE HOLDERS

In 2021, for the purposes of compliance with the requirements of Article 22 of the LPIP, the RTCL examined requests by the broadcasting and/or re-broadcast content licence holders to approve transfers of shares (stakes, interests) and/or control (management) in the licence holders, taking 4 decisions to that effect (**Table 11**).

Table 11. Sale and other transfers of shares (stakes, interests).

No	Name of the entity whose shares are being transferred	Name of the entity/person transferring the shares (name, surname)	Name of the entity/person acquiring the shares (name, surname)
1.	UAB M-1	Ramunė Grušnytė-Mikalauskienė	Rūta Grušnienė

2.	UAB AUKŠTAITIJOS RADIJAS	Algirdas Šatas, Remigijus Jucevičius, Rimas Ridikas	VŠĮ GEROSIOS NAUJIENOS CENTRAS
3.	UAB Centro medija	UAB Labas, Klaipėda	VŠĮ GEROSIOS NAUJIENOS CENTRAS
4.	UAB Labas, Klaipėda	Aivaras Laukaitis	VŠĮ GEROSIOS NAUJIENOS CENTRAS

THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AND ENFORCEMENT

Directive (EU) 2018/1808 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 amending Directive 2010/13/EU on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services (Audiovisual Media Services Directive) in view of changing market realities was transposed to national law on 1 February 2021. Consequently, the Law on the Provision of Information to the Public had to be amended accordingly.

In an attempt to properly implement the provisions of both the AVMSD and the LPIP, the RTCL focused on amendments to the existing internal legal acts and the adoption of new ones.

On 3 February 2021, the RTCL recast and adopted the Descriptor of the procedure for implementing the requirements for audiovisual commercial communications and advertising transmission, sponsorship of audiovisual media services, radio programmes and individual programmes in radio and/or television stations (the “Descriptor”) approved by Decision No KS-58 of 11 April 2012. Key amendments were related to relaxed provisions on television advertising, total time of teleshopping spots, i.e., it was decided to drop regulation to the limit of precision of an astronomic hour and establish that the time in question has to account for no more than 20% of the time between 06:00 and 18:00 hrs (or no more than 2 hours 24 minutes in a period of 12 hours) and no more than 20% of the timer between 18:00 and 24:00 hrs (no more than 1 hour 12 minutes in a period of 6 hours) leaving the discretion to the audiovisual media service provider to decide where specifically insert advertising and teleshopping spots on the timelines specified. The AVMSD has introduced a prohibition on teleshopping spots in children’s programmes and teleshopping for medicinal products as well as teleshopping for medical treatment. On 3 February 2021, the RTCL passed a new decision, i.e., Decision No KS-12 *Regarding the publication of information about the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania and Ethics Commission in the Provision of Information to the Public*, that establishes simpler requirements to publish information about the possibility to approach the RTCL in the event of breaches of the LPIP and the Ethics Commission in the Provision of Information to the Public in the event of violations of the Code of Ethics in the Provision of Information to the Public.

On 24 February 2021, the RTCL adopted Decision No KS-23 amending Decision No KS-44 of 28 August 2019 of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania *On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure for assessing risk of performance of entities supervised by the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania*. Amendments to the said Descriptor were introduced to

harmonize the use of terms in the AVMSD and the LPIP and to take into account the comments provided by the Ministry of Economy and Innovations.

On 7 April 2021, the RTCL adopted Decision No KS-42 amending Decision No KS-172 of 23 September 2015 of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania *On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure for transferring shares (stakes, interests) in broadcasting and/or re-broadcast content licence holders*. The said Decision was adopted for the purpose of implementing LPIP provisions post the AVMSD transposition, and removed the obligation to notify the RTCL of a sale or transfer of less than 10% of shares (stakes, interests) in a broadcasting and/or re-broadcast content licence holder.

In an attempt to implement amendments to the Law on the National Radio and Television that came into effect on 1 January 2021, the RTCL has drafted a descriptor of the procedure for controlling the implementation of Article 6 of the Law on the National Radio and Television whereby the RTCL set out the terms and the process of controlling how cultural, social and educational information, advertising and audiovisual commercial communications are disseminated in the programmes of the National Radio and Television and its website.

On 5 May 2021, the RTCL adopted Decision No KS-103 amending Decision No KS-167 of 9 September 2015 of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania *On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure for information provision on the activities of radio and television broadcasters and re-broadcasters, providers of on-demand audiovisual media services and of dissemination of television programmes and/or individual programmes via the Internet*. The amendments provided for a possibility to give notifications to the RTCL on service provision using a video sharing platform, and a possibility in general to notify the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania of video sharing platforms under the jurisdiction of Lithuania. There were also other amendments made to harmonise the Descriptor with the LPIP.

In light of the transposed AVMSD and amendments to the Law on Public Administration of the Republic of Lithuania, the RTCL adopted Decision No KS-119 of 9 June 2021 amending Decision No KS-166 of 9 September 2015 of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania *On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure for the handling of applications, complaints and notifications by individuals and customer service* that recast the Descriptor, established a clearer procedure for filing and handling complaints, and harmonised provisions with the Law on Public Administration of the Republic of Lithuania.

On 8 September 2021, the RTCL adopted Decision No KS-154 approving the Descriptor of the procedure for determining the effectiveness of the codes of conduct (ethics) or their portions applied by audiovisual media service providers and video sharing platform providers. The said Descriptor is designed to implement the LPIP's provisions related to the effectiveness of the codes of conduct (ethics) or their portions selected by audiovisual media service providers and video sharing platform providers. The Descriptor sets out the procedure of determining how effective the codes of conduct (ethics) or their portions selected by audiovisual media service providers and video sharing platform providers are and the attribution of mandatory requirements. The Description also requires that, within 6 months from the effective day of this Descriptor, audiovisual media service providers and video sharing platform providers notify the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania of the codes of conduct (ethics) or their portions they choose to apply that concern improper audiovisual

commercial communications targeted at children about foods and beverages that should be consumed in moderation, also of other codes of conduct (ethics) or their portions applied.

On 8 September 2021, as a follow-up to the Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Economy and Innovations in April of 2021 regarding the assessment of supervisory authority performance and performance improvements, the RTCL amended the Descriptor of the procedure for providing methodological assistance to economic operators in their first year of operations, Rules for audits of economic operator activities conducted by the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania, Descriptor of the procedure for conducting risk assessments of economic operators overseen by the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania, and control questionnaires for announced audits of economic operators. The amendments will provide for more effective and transparent supervision of operators.

On 1 November 2021, amendments to Article 78 of the Law on Copyright and Related Rights came into effect. The amendments were initiated by the RTCL and were aimed at giving the mandate to the RTCL to issue mandatory orders to payment, credit and other financial institutions to stop payments and other financial operations involving an entity engaged in illegal publishing of copyrighted content online (on the Internet). These amendments were designed to effectively ensure that no entity that is found guilty of publishing copyrighted content illegally online and where the appropriate mandatory orders had been issued to Internet service providers is able to continue financially profiting from this activity (in cases when the entity was generating a profit from its activities). These amendments will contribute to more effective enforcement of copyright protection and help to minimise piracy levels in Lithuania.

Table 12. Regulatory decisions by the RTCL.

No	Title
1.	<u>Decision No KS-11 of 3 February 2021 amending Decision No KS-58 of 11 April 2012 On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure for implementing the requirements for audiovisual commercial communications and advertising transmission, sponsorship of audiovisual media services, radio programmes and individual programmes in radio and/or television stations.</u>
2.	<u>Decision No KS-12 of 3 February 2021 Regarding the publication of information about the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania and Ethics Commission in the Provision of Information to the Public.</u>
3.	<u>Decision No KS-13 of 3 February 2021 amending Decision No KS-55 of 19 September 2018 On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure for radio and/or television station and individual programme monitoring.</u>
4.	<u>Decision No KS-14 of 3 February 2021 amending Decision No KS-72 of 30 October 2019 On the approval of the Rules for audits of economic operator activities conducted by the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania.</u>
5.	<u>Decision No KS-23 of 24 February 2021 amending Decision No KS-44 of 28 August 2019 On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure for conducting risk assessments of economic operators overseen by the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania.</u>

6.	<u>Decision No KS-32 of 10 March 2021 amending Decision No KS-37 of 20 June 2018 On the approval of control questionnaires in relation to routine inspections of economic operators.</u>
7.	<u>Decision No KS-42 of 7 April 2021 amending Decision No KS-172 of 23 September 2015 On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure for transferring shares (stakes, interests) in broadcasting and/or re-broadcast content licence holders.</u>
8.	<u>Decision No-48 of 7 April 2021 Regarding the control of implementation of Article 6 of the Law on the National Radio and Television of the Republic of Lithuania.</u>
9.	<u>Decision No KS-103 of 5 May 2021 amending Decision No KS-167 of 9 September 2015 On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure for information provision on the activities of radio and television broadcasters and re-broadcasters, providers of on-demand audiovisual media services and of dissemination of television programmes and/or individual programmes via the Internet.</u>
10.	<u>Decision No KS-107 of 19 May 2021 amending Decision No KS-63 of 28 November 2018 On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure for personal data processing and exercise of data subject rights at the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania.</u>
11.	<u>Decision No KS-119 of 9 June 2021 amending Decision No KS-166 of 9 September 2015 On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure for the handling of applications, complaints and notifications by individuals and customer service.</u>
12.	<u>Decision No KS-128 of 30 June 2021 amending Decision No KS-45 of 28 August 2019 On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure of consultations to the public.</u>
13.	<u>Decision No KS-129 of 30 June 2021 amending Decision No KS-2 of 9 January 2019 On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure of public consultations.</u>
14.	<u>Decision No KS-130 of 30 June 2021 amending Decision No KS-14 of 27 March 2019 On the approval of the Descriptor for handling copyright owners' requests to issue mandatory orders to Internet service providers.</u>
15.	<u>Decision No KS-147 of 7 July 2021 amending Decision No KS-25 of 22 January 2014 On the approval of the Rules of Procedure of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania.</u>
16.	<u>Decision No KS-154 of 8 September 2021 On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure for determining the effectiveness of the codes of conduct (ethics) or their portions applied by audiovisual media service providers and video sharing platform providers.</u>
17.	<u>Decision No KS-155 of 8 September 2021 amending Decision No KS-58 of 20 May 2020 On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure for providing methodological assistance to economic operators in their first year of operations.</u>
18.	<u>Decision No KS-156 of 8 September 2021 amending Decision No KS-72 of 30 October 2019 On the approval of the Rules for audits of economic operator activities conducted by the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania.</u>
19.	<u>Decision No KS-157 of 8 September 2021 amending Decision No KS-44 of 28 August 2019 On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure for assessing risk</u>

	<i>of performance of entities supervised by the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania.</i>
20.	<i>Decision No KS-174 of 13 October 2021 amending Decision No KS-101 of 18 May 2016 On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure for amending terms and conditions of broadcasting and re-broadcast content licences.</i>
21.	<i>Decision No KS-183 of 3 November 2021 amending Decision No KS-37 of 20 June 2018 On the approval of control questionnaires in relation to routine inspections of economic operators.</i>

ECONOMIC OPERATOR OVERSIGHT AND CONTENT MONITORING

In 2021, the RTCL carried out 30 routine inspections and 6 special inspections of economic operators. In addition to routine and special inspections, the RTCL conducted monitoring of 52 individual programmes triggered by viewer complaints. Also in 2021, the RTCL focused on the monitoring of potentially illegal activities of television broadcasting online and the dissemination of individual programmes via the Internet, conducting 23 investigations into illegal dissemination of television programmes and individual programmes via the Internet to Lithuanian viewers. In 2021, the RTCL also conducted 169 investigations into websites that publish copyrighted content illegally.

Routine inspections of economic operators

In 2021, the RTCL carried out 30 routine inspections of economic operators (*Table 13*) as provided for in the Plan of planned inspections of economic operators of 2021 approved by Order No V-2 of 13 January 2021 of the Chairman of the RTCL *On the approval of the Plan of planned inspections of economic operators in 2021*.¹

Table 13. Results of routine inspections of economic operators.

Nature of violation	Violations
Compliance with the obligations set out in radio and/or television broadcasting and re-broadcast content licences and permits issued by the RTCL	3
Compliance with the requirement set out in Article 34 of the LPIP relating to the language public information is disseminated in	7
Compliance with the requirement set out in Article 35 of the LPIP relating to the retention of information published	2

¹ Order No V-2 of 13 January 2021 of the Chairman of the RTCL *On the approval of the Plan of planned inspections of economic operators in 2021*.

Compliance with the requirements for advertising, audiovisual commercial communications and teleshopping set out in Article 39 of the LPIP and the Descriptor of the procedure for implementing the requirements for audiovisual commercial communications and advertising transmission, sponsorship of audiovisual media services, radio programmes and individual programmes in radio and/or television stations (the “Descriptor”) approved by Decision No KS-58 of 11 April 2012 of the RTCL	8
Compliance with the requirements set out in Article 40 of the LPIP and the Descriptor relating to programme sponsorship	6
Compliance with the requirements set out in Article 40 ¹ of the LPIP and the Descriptor relating to product placement	3
Compliance with the requirements of the Descriptor of the procedure for information provision in relation to economic operator activities	22
Compliance with the requirement set out in paragraph 9 of Article 38 of the LPIP relating to the airing of the name of a radio or television station at least once in an hour	1
Compliance with the requirements set out in the Rules for television programming	2
Compliance with the requirement set out in Decision No KS-12 of 3 February 2021 of the RTCL relating to the publication of information about the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania and Ethics Commission in the Provision of Information to the Public	3

Findings of routine inspections conducted by the RTCL in 2021 reveal that the majority of violations were related to failure to comply with the requirements set out in the Descriptor of the procedure for information provision in relation to economic operator activities approved by Decision No KS-167 of 9 September 2015 of the RTCL – these violations accounted for 38% of all violations. Violations of the requirements set out in Articles 39, 40 and 40¹ of the LPIP and the Descriptor relating to advertising, audiovisual commercial communications, teleshopping, sponsorship and product placements accounted for 30% of all violations.

Some of the violations were classified as minor violations of statutory provisions – after routine inspections economic operators would be advised of the violations ascertained and provided consultations as to proper implementation of the relevant provisions.

In 2021, the RTCL imposed 12 administrative sanctions for gross and recurrent violations of statutory provision, out of which 11 were warnings and 1 was a fine. 7 sanctions were related to violations of Article 477 of the Lithuanian Code of Administrative Offences (the “CAO”) (violations of the terms and conditions of broadcast content licences and permits, unlicensed activities of radio and/or television broadcasting and/or re-broadcasting, provision of on-demand audiovisual media services, video sharing platform services or television programme and/or individual programme dissemination via the Internet without the required notification of the start of activities or service

provision), 4 sanctions were imposed for violation of Article 146 of the CAO (violations of the requirements for advertising, product placements, commercial audiovisual communications and sponsorship of audiovisual media services, radio programmes and/or individual programmes).

Special inspections of economic operators in 2021, and the monitoring of individual radio, television programmes and of provision of on-demand audiovisual media services

In 2021, the RTCL carried out 6 special inspections of economic operators: special inspections were aimed at checking whether the economic operators had rectified the violations ascertained during the earlier routine inspections (*Table 14*). Over the reporting year, the RTCL also carried out inspections at 28 economic operators for suspicion of illegal provision of on-demand audiovisual media services and/or illegal dissemination of television programmes.

Table 14. Results of special inspections of economic operators and of programme monitoring.

Objective	Violations
Compliance with the obligations set out in radio and/or television broadcasting and re-broadcast content licences and permits issued by the RTCL	1
Compliance with the requirements of the Descriptor of the procedure for information provision in relation to economic operator activities	5

In 2021, special inspections carried out by the RTCL resulted in 6 violations.

In 2021, the RTCL paid particular attention to the monitoring of dissemination of television programmes and individual programmes via the Internet. The majority of persons making television programmes and individual programmes available online were engaged in these activities without prior notification to the RTCL of the start of these activities. The RTCL took 6 decisions to block access to 13 websites in relation to the illegal dissemination of television programmes or individual programmes via the Internet to Lithuanian viewers (*Table 15*).

Table 15. List of persons engaged in the illegal activities of television programme and/or individual programme dissemination via the Internet to Lithuanian viewers.

No	Details of the person engaged in the illegal activities of television programme and/or individual programme dissemination via the Internet to Lithuanian viewers		Date and number of a decision by the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania
	Legal person	Internet domain name identifying the website	
1.		1srv.org	Decision No KS-120 of 9 June 2021 of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania

2.		ilook.tv	Decision No KS-124 of 16 June 2021 of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania
3.		spr24.net	Decision No KS-167 of 6 October 2021 of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania
4.		ilooktv.ru ilook-tv.com vipdrive.net	Decision No KS-184 of 3 November 2021 of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania
5.		cbilling.in shara-tv.org iptv.online	Decision No KS-197 of 24 November 2021 of the Radio and Television Commission
6.		ottg.tv tv.team crdru.net itv.live	Decision No KS-207 of 15 December 2021 of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania

Implementation of European works quotas

In 2021, just like in previous years, in an attempt to ensure that television broadcasters and providers of on-demand audiovisual media services under the jurisdiction of Lithuania comply with the requirements of the LPIP relating to the European works quotas, the RTCL carried out surveys showing the trends of the implementation of the European works quotas in Lithuania by broadcasters and providers of on-demand audiovisual media services.

In accordance with paragraph 5 of Article 37 of the LPIP, national broadcasters of television programmes must, where possible, reserve more than half of the television programme time remaining after deducting the time allocated for news, sports events, games and advertising programmes, teletext services and teleshopping for European works. Similar provisions in paragraph 6 of Article 37 of the LPIP apply to providers of on-demand audiovisual media services: “providers of on-demand audiovisual media services under the jurisdiction of Lithuania shall ensure that at least 30% of the programmes in the catalogue of on-demand audiovisual media services are European works”. Requirements of this paragraph do not apply to those providers of on-demand audiovisual media services whose gross annual turnover, including the turnover of affiliated companies, is small (accounts for less than one per cent of its gross revenue generated in the Lithuanian audiovisual services market), or whose audience is small (the audience share of the on-demand audiovisual media service in Lithuania is less than one per cent).

In 2021, the RTCL conducted a survey of all 12 national television stations: LRT TELEVIZIJA, LRT PLIUS, TV3, TV6, TV8, LNK, Info TV, 2TV, TV1, BTV, Lietuvos rytas.tv and Delfi.TV to

assess the share of time (in per cent) that each of the stations dedicated to European works (**Table 16**).

Table 16. Share of television programming time dedicated to European works in television stations LRT TELEVIZIJA, LRT PLIUS, TV3, TV6, TV8, LNK, Info TV, 2TV, TV1, BTV, Lietuvos rytas.tv and Delfi.TV.

Television station	Share of European works	Monitoring times
LRT TELEVIZIJA	82%	01/03/2021–07/03/2021
LRT PLIUS	82%	01/03/2021–07/03/2021
TV3	38%	01/03/2021–07/03/2021
TV6	22%	01/03/2021–07/03/2021
TV8	43%	01/03/2021–07/03/2021
LNK	34%	01/03/2021–07/03/2021
Info TV	45%	01/03/2021–07/03/2021
2TV	92%	01/03/2021–07/03/2021
TV1	52%	01/03/2021–07/03/2021
BTV	18%	01/03/2021–07/03/2021
Lietuvos rytas.tv	83%	01/03/2021–07/03/2021
Delfi TV	91%	01/03/2021–07/03/2021

Results of the survey have shown that not all television stations complied with the requirement of the LPIP to allocate at least half of the programming time to European works. Compared to the results of the previous year, however, some stations did increase the share of European works in their programming time in 2021 (LRT TELEVIZIJA, TV3, TV8, TV6, Info TV, 2TV, Lietuvos rytas.tv), and in some there was a slight decrease in the share of European works (BTV, TV1, LRT PLIUS) or no change at all (LNK). In the case of Delfi TV, which was monitored for European works for the first time, the share of European works was as high as 91%. It should be noted that the requirements of paragraph 5 of Article 37 of the LPIP are not binding, i.e., television broadcasters must reserve more than half of the television programme time for European works *where possible*. Consequently, the RTCL took no action that is available to it under the Lithuanian Code of Administrative Offences against the television broadcasters in question for failure to comply with the European works quotas.

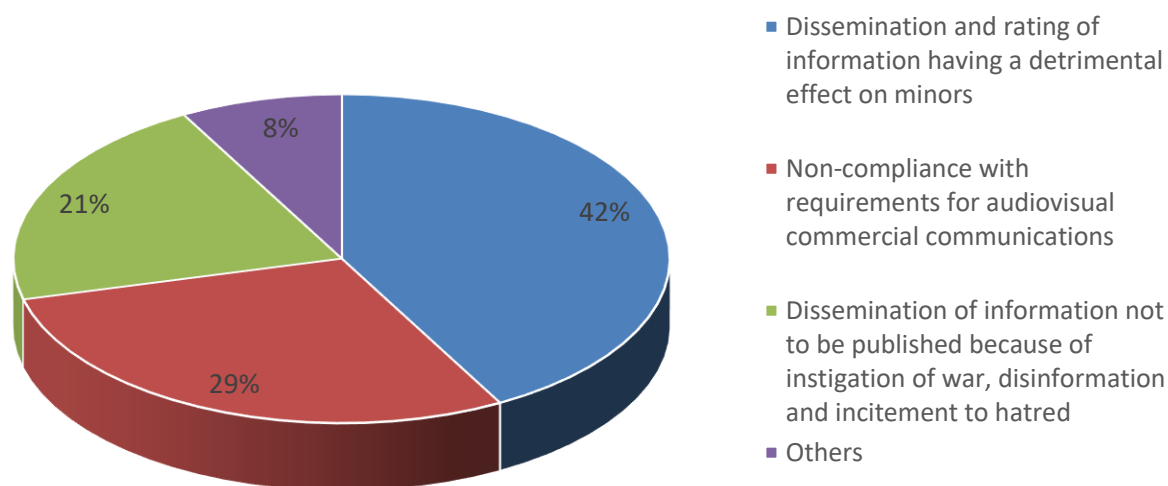
Every two years, providers of on-demand audiovisual media services are required to submit to the European Commission data on the share of European works in their programming. In 2021, there were 20 providers of on-demand audiovisual media services registered with the RTCL. In the reporting year, only one out of these service providers was routinely inspected, i.e., AB Telia Lietuva. The inspection revealed that the provider did comply with the requirement of paragraph 6 of Article

37 of the LPIP to European quotas (European works in the catalogue of this service provider accounted for 38.2% of all content).

Complaints handled in 2021

In 2021, the RTCL received a total of 38 complaints. Complaints received were related to the content broadcast in radio and television stations possibly spreading information not to be published or restricted public information that has a detrimental effect on the development of minors, improper rating of the content broadcast, or the inappropriate time of airing. Viewers were also complaining about violations of the requirements for audiovisual commercial communications in television stations (advertising, sponsorship and product placement). Some complaints dealt with disinformation and incitement to hatred in the mass media, failures to observe licence terms and conditions, etc. (**Figure 15**).

Figure 15. Complaints received in 2021.



Each complaint was examined for validity, and an investigation was carried out on the basis of the complaint. In accordance with Clause 33 of the Descriptor of the procedure for the handling of applications, complaints and notifications by individuals and customer service approved by Decision No KS-166 of 9 September of 2015 of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania,² complaints have to be examined within 20 working days after their recorded receipt at the RTCL. Once the investigation has been completed, the individual who filed the complaint and/or the economic operator(s) involved are informed of the findings of the investigation, decision taken by the RTCL regarding sanctions, or the invalidity of the complaint.

² Descriptor of the procedure for the handling of applications, complaints and notifications by individuals and customer service approved by Decision No KS-166 of 9 September 2015 of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania.

Consultations

The RTCL sees consultations as an essential part of its oversight activities and therefore consultations were available to all economic operators in the form of virtual meetings with the RTCL, in writing, by phone and by e-mail. Most often, economic operators received consultations on the requirements for audiovisual commercial communications (this type of consultations accounted for over 90% of all consultations), dissemination and labelling of public information that might have a detrimental impact on the development of minors, also on compliance with the terms and conditions of broadcasting and/or re-broadcast content licences.

It should be noted that a significant portion of consultations to the economic operators was provided during routine and special inspections of 2021. It was observed that the economic operators would take the RTCL's input and methodological assistance into account thus avoiding violations of the law. This approach invalidates the belief that compliance can only be achieved through punitive sanctions. Consultations to economic operators is a priority measure of the RTCL that is being actively implemented and publicised. Consequently, in accordance with point 4 of paragraph 2 of Article 36⁵ of the Law on Public Administration, the RTCL publishes consultations on its website, including all information about consultations available and methodological assistance activities.

In an attempt to support the economic operators that are just starting out and help them be successful in a competitive environment, and realising that the most important task of oversight is to ensure that the appropriate legal requirements are complied with to prevent the need for sanctions, the RTCL advised three newly established economic operators in 2021 about the consultancy services available from the RTCL and consultancy seminars. These efforts also reflect the RTCL's desire to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration on the First Business Year.

The RTCL supported and provided consultations to the following entities that started operating in 2021:

- VšĮ Technologijų slėnis
- Eurasian Broadcasting Enterprise Limited (UK)
- VšĮ Avakademija

COPYRIGHT PROTECTION ON THE INTERNET

Amendments to Article 78 of the Law on Copyright that came into effect on 1 April 2019 provide for the possibility for the owners of these rights to apply to the RTCL asking that the RTCL issues mandatory orders to Internet service providers servicing the third parties that use the services for the illegal publication of audiovisual works, works protected by way of related rights or *sui generis* rights (copyrighted content) through public computer networks (Internet). The RTCL also has the mandate to issue mandatory orders to Internet service providers instructing them to block access to illegally published copyrighted content by blocking the domain name associated with the site until a

copyright infringement is remedied (and later on to block the site).³ As of 27 November 2019, the RTCL has the authority to block mirror sites at its own discretion where the mirror sites provide access to the same activity as the original website.⁴ The existence of a mirror site is established against 5 criteria: domain name, publicly available content, visualisation, similarity of user interface and website manager or administrator identity.⁵

In 2021, the RTCL took 133 decisions to block 169 websites,⁶ out of which:

- 2 were publishing music works illegally;
- 8 were publishing literary works illegally; and
- 159 were publishing audiovisual works illegally.

Following the amendments to Article 78 of the Law on Copyright that came into effect on 1 November 2021, the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania now has the mandate to issue binding orders to payment, financial and other institutions instructing them to cancel access to payments and other financial operations to entities engaged in copyright infringing activities on the Internet.⁷ In 2021, the RTCL took decisions in relation to six individuals who traded in *filmai.in* points on websites and social media. These points would be used to access the preferred copyrighted content published illegally. Vilnius Regional Administrative Court sanctioned all the decisions by the RTCL regarding the cessation of payments and other financial operations. In addition to the powers under the Law on Copyright, the RTCL regularly communicates with international financial platforms, including PayPal, Stripe and Selly, reporting copyright infringements and termination of services to certain individuals engaged in illegal activities. For the purpose of blocking access to card payments, the RTCL also reports to VISA and Mastercard regarding financial restrictions on debit/credit cardholders.

On 25 October 2021, the RTCL had a meeting with the leadership of the Lithuanian Police Force where an agreement was reached to cooperate more closely in the area of copyright protection and better enforcement online. All the data collected by the RTCL in the area of copyright protection have significantly contributed to the process of identifying the individuals who later on were tried for administrative offences.

In 2021, in an attempt to survey the effectiveness of blocking orders, the Division of Economic Operator Supervision at the RTCL carried out a total visitor traffic survey⁸ on websites subject to DNS⁹ blocking and intended for Lithuanian users. Survey findings have shown that in the period between April 2019 and October 2021, visitor traffic to the websites so blocked went down by over

³ Paragraph 3 of Article 78 of the Law on Copyright and Related Rights of the Republic of Lithuania.

⁴ Order No IV-771 of 25 November 2019 of the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania *On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure of mandatory orders to Internet service providers*, p. 6.

⁵ Ibid, p. 5.

⁶ List of websites that publish copyrighted content illegally [<https://www.rtk.lt/lt/atviri-duomenys/interneto-svetaines-kuriose-pazeidziamos-autoriu-teises>].

⁷ Law No XIV-460 of 29 June 2021 amending Article 78 of Law No VIII-1185 on Copyright and Related Rights of the Republic of Lithuania.

⁸ Statistics of visitor traffic to RTCL-blocked websites between 2019 and 2021 available at https://www.rtk.lt/uploads/documents/files/2021%2012%2030%20LRTK%20piratiniu%CC%A8%20svetainiu%CC%A8%20tyrimas%202019%20m_2021%20m.pdf.

⁹ Domain Name System.

60% (*Tables 17 and 18*), including 76 websites that had been removed from domain registries or that had their hosting service terminated (i.e., they no longer function).

According to figures from MUSO,¹⁰ a data company monitoring global digital piracy, prior to amendments to Article 78 of 1 April 2019, Lithuania ranked second in the EU in terms of the scale of digital piracy (calculated as unique visitor visits per year), dropping to fifth position in 2021 (*Tables 19 and 20*). In terms of the global rating of total visitor traffic to piracy sites, Lithuania has moved down from being number 13 in 2018 to being number 35 in 2021 (*Tables 21 and 22*).

Table 17. Change in total visitor traffic (%) to audiovisual media piracy sites intended for Lithuanian users, 2019-2021.

Website	Change in the number of total visits after DNS blocking (%)	Website	Change in the number of total visits after DNS blocking (%)
filmaionline.net	-100%	ziuri.me	-76%
filmux.tv	-100%	filmai.co	-71%
superfilmai.net	-100%	8filmai.fun	-68%
filmux.live	-100%	torrent.ai	-66%
filmas.in	-100%	ziurim.gokas.lt	-58%
films24.net	-100%	filmaiin.club	-53%
visifilmai.net	-100%	serialai.online	-53%
filmai.plus	-100%	torrent.lt	-45%
8filmai.online	-100%	filmaivip.com	-44%
filmai.tv	-99%	filmai.to	-35%
8filmai.org	-96%	filmux.life	-14%
filmai.org	-95%	filmux.to	-13%
filmai.gokas.lt	-89%	filmaioso.lt	0%
filmai.live	-84%	filmaionline.com	0%
ziurim.club	-84%	filmai.life	45%
filmai.in	-82%	filmai.dev	137%
ziuri.online	-81%	filmux.top	239%
onlinefilmai.org	-81%		

¹⁰ MUSO – an information technology company that researches digital piracy market and scale, for more go to <https://www.muso.com/>.

Table 18. Change in total visitor traffic (%) to literary content piracy sites intended for Lithuanian users, 2019-2021.

Website	Change in the number of total visits after DNS blocking (%)	Website	Change in the number of total visits after DNS blocking (%)
changebook.net	-65%	pdfknygos.com	-80%
skaitiniai.org	-54%	pdfknygos.biz	-100%
elektronines.com	-44%	bknyga.club	-100%

Table 19. The average number of visits to piracy sites (per capita) in a year in EU countries in 2018, according to MUSO.

2018		
Rating	Country	Number of visits
1	Latvia	204.15
2	Lithuania	187.59
3	Malta	163.18
4	Bulgaria	126.05
5	Slovakia	123.57
6	Estonia	118.7
7	Portugal	106.66
8	Romania	102.32
9	Cyprus	98.06
10	The Czech Republic	94.69
11	Greece	93.82
12	Ireland	92.70
13	Poland	92.56
14	Croatia	92.17
15	Luxembourg	87.98
16	Belgium	83.61
17	France	82.20
18	Hungary	80.39

19	The Netherlands	73.32
20	Slovenia	73.00
21	Sweden	70.09
22	The United Kingdom	69.115
23	Austria	64.55
24	Spain	61.88
25	Italy	55.86
26	Denmark	54.54
27	Germany	53.69
28	Finland	35.38

Table 20. The average number of visits to piracy sites (per capita) in a year in EU countries in 2021, according to MUSO.

2021		
Rating	Country	Number of visits
1	Malta	108.24
2	Latvia	100.54
3	Estonia	81.93
4	Cyprus	80.93
5	Lithuania	74.68
6	Luxembourg	61.67
7	Bulgaria	60.61
8	Denmark	59.55
9	Sweden	59.38
10	Slovenia	57.28
11	Hungary	56.22
12	Croatia	53.64
13	Romania	53.60
14	Ireland	53.47
15	Portugal	52.98
16	Greece	50.46
17	Slovakia	47.72

18	The Netherlands	46.95
19	The Czech Republic	46.64
20	Spain	44.66
21	Belgium	44.61
22	The United Kingdom	44.37
23	Austria	43.77
24	France	42.58
25	Italy	37.97
26	Finland	36.23
27	Germany	29.46
28	Poland	21.99

Table 21. Global number of visits to piracy sites (per capita) in a year in 2018, according to MUSO.

2018		
Rating	Country	Number of visits
1	Saint Vincent and Grenadines	629.52
2	Saint Lucia	521.32
3	Greenland	419.87
4	Antigua and Barbuda	340.61
5	Grenada	286.94
6	Bermuda	232.37
7	Georgia	230.08
8	Barbados	223.21
9	Ukraine	212.73
10	Andorra	205.39
11	Latvia	204.15
12	Saint Kitts and Nevis	190.19
13	Lithuania	187.59
14	Dominica	186.79
15	Belarus	182.06

29	Moldova	118.89
30	Estonia	118.7

47	Israel	98.9
48	Cyprus	98.06
49	Norway	95.35

50	Serbia	95.22
51	The Czech Republic	94.69
52	Greece	93.82
53	Ireland	92.7
54	Poland	92.56
55	Croatia	92.17

70	Canada	80.86
71	Hungary	80.39
72	Hong Kong	79.44
73	Jamaica	78.35
74	Chile	78.04
75	Macao	75.49
76	Australia	75.35
77	Tunisia	74.56
78	Algeria	74.43
79	The Netherlands	73.32
80	Slovenia	73
81	Guinea-Bissau	71.64
82	Argentina	70.39
83	Viet Nam	70.26
84	Sweden	70.09
85	The United Kingdom	69.15
86	Kazakhstan	67.27
87	The New Caledonia	66.72
88	Indonesia	65.46

120	The United States of America	39.86
121	Bahrain	38.98
122	Samoa	38.88
123	Malawi	37.9
124	Somalia	37.13
125	Venezuela	36.85

Table 22. Global number of visits to piracy sites (per capita) in a year in 2021, according to MUSO.

Rating	Country	Number of visits
1	The Seychelles	996.01
2	Barbados	259.62
3	Bermuda	240.87

4	Andorra	169.36
5	Somalia	154.82
6	Belize	137.57
7	Jamaica	136.82
8	Georgia	133.12
9	Ukraine	126.59

16	Belarus	108.85
17	Singapore	108.68
18	Malta	108.24
19	Latvia	100.54

30	Estonia	81.93
31	Cyprus	80.93
32	Montenegro	80.21
33	Canada	79.68
34	The Brunei Darussalam	77.98
35	Lithuania	74.68
36	Ecuador	73.57

44	Norway	63.04
45	Costa Rica	62.83
46	Luxembourg	61.67

72	Fiji	48.82
73	Slovakia	47.72
74	Macedonia, Republic of	47.7
75	Thailand	47.5
76	El Salvador	47.47

81	The Russian Federation	46.52
82	Colombia	46.43
83	Argentina	45.86

107	Albania	36.46
108	Finland	36.23
109	Indonesia	35.13
110	Monaco	32.61
111	The United States of America	32.54

134	Afghanistan	18.01
135	Bangladesh	17.2
136	Rwanda	16.19
137	Mozambique	15.81

150	China	5.91

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL WORK

In the reporting year, due to the challenging circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic globally and domestically, the RTCL continued its international cooperation efforts through virtual participation in the work of both **EPRA**¹¹ and **ERGA**¹².

EPRA is the oldest and the biggest network of regulators of audiovisual media services in Europe. In 2021, EPRA united 55 regulators from 47 countries. EPRA is the ideal platform for information sharing and exchange of best practices in this field in Europe. The European Commission, European Council, European Audiovisual Observatory and OSCE are observers in this organisation.

As usual, in 2021 the RTCL engaged in relevant electronic information sharing with other members of the organisation, attended virtual events, for example, plenary sessions, thematic working groups, lectures, round table discussions, and seminars.

Similarly, all work of ERGA was also done virtually in 2021. RTCL members attended 2 plenary sessions; 12 subgroup meetings; 4 contact network meetings; and 6 seminars and conferences.

On 11-12 November 2021, within the framework of a cooperation agreement Estonian and Latvian audiovisual media regulatory authorities and the RTCL met in Tallinn. The meeting was dedicated to discussing the regulatory issues stemming from the efforts to transpose the Audiovisual Media Services Directive into the national law and implement its provisions in the three Baltic States.

On 22 June 2021, the RTCL held a virtual meeting/discussion *Implementation of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive and Freedom of the Media: Fighting Disinformation, Electoral Tampering and Incitement to Hatred*. The meeting was organised as part of the cooperation memorandum signed in 2018 with the Moldovan Audiovisual Media Coordination Council and was designed to exchange experiences and discuss ways to combat the spreading of hatred as well as the legal regulation of election campaigns in audiovisual media in both countries.

The RTCL has also welcomed a visit by member of the board of the Moldovan Audiovisual Media Coordination Council professor dr. Dragos VICOL who met people from the national public broadcaster, members of the Communication Faculty at the University of Vilnius to discuss how the public broadcaster worked, tools to ensure balance of political powers on the programmes during an election campaign, ways to combat disinformation, hostile propaganda and incitement to hatred.

¹¹ <https://www.epra.org/>

¹² <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/european-regulators-group-audiovisual-media-services-erga>

RTCL members have also attended a variety of training sessions and meetings: international conferences *Challenges of Today's Infosphere and Opportunities to Maintain the Independence and Professionalism of Lithuanian Media*; *Increasing the Accessibility and Competitiveness of European Audiovisual and Media Content*; *International Law and Policy on Disinformation in the Context of Freedom of the Media*; seminar held by the European Audiovisual Observatory *Working Together: Why Does It Matter? Benefits of Cooperating in the Area of Regulation to Address the Emerging Digital Challenges*, and other events.



COMPETITION OF THE BEST IN RADIO AND TELEVISION *PRAGIEDRULIAI*

On 21 January 2021, the jury of *Pragiedruliai* announced the nominees and winners of the best in radio and television competition held for the nineteenth time. The competition awarded the best radio and television shows aired for the first time in 2020.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic globally and domestically, there was no award ceremony held, but nominees and winners were awarded diplomas created by artist Egidijus Rudinskas and all winners received monetary prizes.

Despite the challenging situation, the jury consisting of members of the RTCL worked remotely to listen to and watch 112 submissions in the competition.

Laurynas Jonavičius, political analyst, member of the RTCL and professor at the Institute of International Relations and Political Science of VU was appointed as chairman of the jury. The rest of the jury members included member of the board of the Lithuanian Union of Journalists at Kaunas Division Vidas Mačiulis; Deputy Chairman of the RTCL and PR expert Ričardas Slapšys; poet and translator Antanas Jonynas; poet Dalia Teišerskytė; stage and film actor and director Algis Matulionis; journalist and chairman of the Lithuanian Union of Journalists Dainius Radzevičius; political analyst Vincentas Vobolevičius.

As always, by holding this competition the RTCL aims at promoting better quality and more varied radio and television content production.

The jury judged all submissions against the regulations of *Pragiedruliai* competition and several criteria, namely, relevancy, lasting and artistic value, originality, impact on the development of cultural, human, civic and aesthetical values as well as the degree of professionalism and creativity.

In 2021, the competition received 112 submissions: 77 television shows and 35 radio shows.

Out of all submissions, the following were judged to be the best radio and television shows aired for the first time in 2020.

BEST RADIO PROGRAMME

Lino kančia from the cycle *Išgyventi 90-iejį*

Authors: Agnė Matulevičiūtė, Živilė Zablackaitė, Adomas Koreniukas, Gediminas Rimeika, Vita Ličytė, Rasa Kregždaitė, Vita Ličytė, Monika Bičiūnaitė, Jolanta Dapkūnaitė, Elzė Gudavičiūtė, Miglė Polikevičiūtė, Remigijus Bučius, Mindaugas Jusčius, Gediminas Rimeika, Ramutis Rimeikis, Arūnas Sakalauskas, Arūnas Vozbutas. Laurita Peleniūtė, Oki Kano and Rumiko Kano-REKPO – Lithuanian National Drama Theatre Production, aired on LRT RADIJAS.

Nominations

Mūza ant peties

Author: Gerūta Griniūtė, aired on LRT RADIJAS.

Labirintas from the cycle Išgyventi 90-ieji

Authors: Julija Šatkauskaitė, Edita Puskunigytė, Raimundas Paulauskas, Sure Fang, Vaida Pilibaitytė. Rasa Kregždaitė, Kęstutis Cicėnas, Gediminas Rimeika, Julija Šatkauskaitė, Arūnas Sakalauskas, Mindaugas Jusčius, Arūnas Vozbutas, Paulius Tamolė, Vainius Sodeika, Marijus Mažūnas, Toma Vaškevičiūtė, Vygandas Vadeiša – Lithuanian National Drama Theatre Production, aired on LRT RADIJAS.

BEST RADIO PROGRAMME ABOUT LIFE IN LITHUANIAN REGIONS

Autoparduotuvė – II dalis from the cycle Už Vilniaus

Author: Edvardas Kubilius, aired on LRT RADIJAS.

Nominations

Oi tu Bite! from the cycle Radijo dokumentika

Author: Rūta Dambravaitė, aired on LRT RADIJAS.

10-12 transliacija iš Kačerginės

Authors: Rūta Kupetytė, Aušra Jūraitė, Edvardas Kubilius, aired on LRT RADIJAS.

BEST RADIO THEATRE PROGRAMME

Šiaurės miestelis. Episode 1

Authors: Birutė Kapustinskaitė, Teklė Kavtaradzė, Ričardas Matačius, Raimundas Paulauskas, Ramūnas Jasutis, Jurga, Rasa Kregždaitė. Gelminė Glemžaitė, Laurynas Jurgelis, Aistė Zabotkaitė, Simonas Dovidauskas, Jūratė Vilūnaitė, Vygandas Vadeiša, Kęstutis Cicėnas, Janina Lapinskaitė, Jurgis Marčėnas, Paulius Tamolė, Marija Petravičiūtė – Audiotheatre *Biliety nėra*, aired on Start FM.

BEST HISTORICAL MEMORY TELEVISION PROGRAMME

Žydiškoji Plungė from the cycle Zachor. Atsimink

Authors: Indrė Zelbaitė-Ciesiūnienė, Dovilė Kundrotaitė, Marius Povilas Eljas Martynenko, Julija Ciurupa, Robertas Razma, Gintautas Vasiliauskas, Kostas Kazlauskas, Raimundas Razvadauskas, Vilius Gudeliūnas, Mindaugas Šmėga, Algimantas Apanavičius, aired on LRT TELEVIZIJA.

Nominations

Kunigo Tumo kelionės

Authors: Daiva Griksienė, Nerijus Gulbinas, Augustė Tomkutė, aired on Info TV.

Piotras Stolypinas ir Lietuva. Kalnaberžė ir Vilnius* from the cycle *Reformatorius iš Lietuvos

Authors: Natalija Ju, Zdislavas Juchnevičius, Vincas Kubilius, VšĮ Studija JU, aired on INIT TV.

BEST HISTORICAL DOCUMENTARY TELEVISION PROGRAMME

Elė ir Daktaras

Author: Rimas Bružas, aired on LRT PLIUS.

Nominations

Neužmiršti. Loreta Asanavičiūtė

Authors: Aistė Stonytė-Budzinauskienė, Česlovas Stonys, Audrius Stonys, Janina Sabeckienė, aired on LRT PLIUS.

Episode 3 from the cycle *Nepriklausomų valstybių – Lietuvos ir Latvijos – kūrėjai Mintaujos gimnazijoje*

Author: Saulius Pučinskas, aired on Info TV.

BEST PORTRAIT TELEVISION PROGRAMME

Tikrovė ir sapnai. Vytautas Šerėnas

Authors: Aistė Stonytė-Budzinauskienė, Česlovas Stonys, Audrius Stonys, Janina Sabeckienė, aired on LRT PLIUS.

Nominations

LEGENDOS. Šiandien ir visados. Leonas Strioga

Authors: Aistė Stonytė-Budzinauskienė, Česlovas Stonys, Audrius Stonys, Janina Sabeckienė, aired on LRT PLIUS.

Kelias į namus su Gintautu Dabrišiumi

Authors: Ingrida Laimutytė, Ginta Liaugminienė, Aleksas Matvejevas, Haroldas Klevinskas – VšĮ Vilniaus medija, aired on LRT PLIUS.

BEST EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION PROGRAMME

STOP juosta. Maršrutas Nr. 109 – Vilnius, Tauro ragas ir kavinė Tauras

Authors: Jurgė Pridotkaitė, Svetlana Gužauskienė, aired on LRT PLIUS.

Nominations

Episode 15. Apkabink Lietuvą

Authors: Ignas Krupavičius, Rokas Makarevičius, aired on LRT TELEVIŽIJA.

STOP juosta. Maršrutas Nr. 98 – Baltarusija, Glubokas

Authors: Jurgė Pridotkaitė, Svetlana Gužauskienė, aired on LRT PLIUS.

BEST CULTURAL TELEVISION PROGRAMME

Episode 1. Tarp dalių (ne)plojama

Authors: Mantas Vilimas, Armas Rudaitis, Gerūta Griniūtė, Justina Dovydaitytė, aired on LRT PLIUS.

Nominations

Teatras

Authors: Margarita Alper, Tomas Tamošaitis, aired on LRT PLIUS.

2 EILĖ: teatro žmonės, episode 2

Authors: Marija Martinaitienė, Aleksas Matvejevas, Haroldas Klevinskas, aired on LRT PLIUS.

BEST REGIONAL TELEVISION PROGRAMME

Paslėpti lobiai. Sieninė tapyba

Author: Saulius Pučinskas, aired on Šiaulių televizija.

Nominations

Valstybės simboliai. Himnas

Authors: Miglė Greičiuvienė, Vytas Jankevičius, Algirdas Žvinakevičius, aired on Marijampolės televizija.

Pakelėje rymantys Rykantai

Authors: Lina Leparskienė, Česlovas Rulevičius, aired on AIDAS.

BEST TELEVISION TALK SHOW

Ramūs pokalbiai. Verslas Dusetose

Author: Miglė Gaižiūtė, aired on LRT TELEVIZIJA.

Nominations

Sėkmės tandemas

Authors: Daiva Žeimytė Bilienė, Skirmantė Palčinskaitė, Andrius Lygnugaris, Gintautas Vasiliauskas, Kristina Kumžienė, Edmundas Jakilaitis, aired on LNK.

Pokalbis su Slava Poluninu from the cycle Skambantys pasauliai su Nomeda Kazlaus

Author: Nomeda Kazlaus, aired on LRT PLIUS.

BEST ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION SHOW

Lietuvos balsas. Vaikai

Authors: Rovenka Sankalienė, Gediminas Jaunius, Creative House ELITAZ, John De Mohl, ITV studios, aired on LNK.

SPECIAL PRIZE FOR THE FREEDOM OF MEMORY

Juodasis paukštis. Romų genocido atmintis

Authors: Rūta Sinkevičienė, Tomas Medekša, Ligita Gužas, aired on LRT TELEVIZIJA.

KKS2 (aired on LNK television station) WAS AWARDED A SPECIAL DIPLOMA OF PRAGIEDRULIAI BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE RTCL MANTAS MARTIŠIUS for a colourful and witty depiction of life in Lithuania.

PUBLICITY WORK BY THE RTCL

The main tool used to inform of and publicise the activities of the RTCL is its website at www.rtk.lt. The website is functional, has a user-friendly menu and a secure browsing possibility which makes it easy to find information visitors are interested in. The website is equally easy to browse on smart phones and mobile devices.

According to findings of a survey done by the Committee on Information Society Development against the common requirements for websites and mobile applications of state and municipal authorities and agencies, the RTCL's website was assessed as very good. The RTCL, however, will continue its efforts to improve the site further, making it more accessible to the disabled, etc.

In order to publicise the latest information on important decisions and events to wider audiences in the most effective way, the RTCL employs the services of Baltic News Service which is the largest news agency in the Baltic States.

Also, in an attempt to explain the latest developments in the field regulated by the RTCL to the general public and discuss various novelties and issues as widely as possible, representatives of the RTCL take part in radio and television current affairs programmes.

MISSION AND PRIORITIES FOR 2022

The RTCL's mission is to create value to society by protecting the state and societal morals and ensuring the dissemination of reliable and quality information.

The following are key priorities for the RTCL in 2021 laid down in the Strategic Action Plan for 2022-2024:

- Effective oversight of LPIP implementation

By virtue of the LPIP, the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania was given the mandate to supervise one more type of services, i.e., services of video sharing platforms, which until 1 February 2021 fell outside of the scope of any regulation in Lithuania. Video sharing platforms have been widely used to disseminate audiovisual content for quite some time now. Video sharing platforms have essentially been designed to provide to the public content produced by other entities (programmes or user-created films) without any editorial responsibility. By setting a separate legal regime, the RTCL seeks to ensure fair competitive conditions for all audiovisual media service providers irrespective of the tools or ways (platforms) used to provide or make available these audiovisual media services to the public. For the purpose of effective supervision of this new type of services, the RTCL is developing the necessary tools and taking action to enforce the mandate given to it.

- Protection of minors against the detrimental effects of public information

Combating the accessibility of public information in radio and television programmes, catalogues and individual programmes that is prohibited to be published or has a detrimental effect on the physical, mental or moral development of minors remains one of the most important objectives of activities for the RTCL.

- Oversight of the implementation of the Action Plan to Improve Information Accessibility to the Disabled

In an effort to ensure better accessibility of public information to the disabled, amendments to the LPIP set out specific mechanisms and an action plan to improve the accessibility of information to the disabled. The RTCL was made in charge of supervising the implementation of this plan and will have to periodically, i.e., every three years, draft an implementation report to the European Commission.

- Supervision of Codes of Ethics

Widened applicability of codes of ethics in the area of audiovisual media services, the introduction of certain requirements for the drafting of these codes of ethics and of a mechanism to ensure their effectiveness has meant that the RTCL was given new powers in this area, i.e., in the area of ethics in the provision of information to the public. The RTCL now has the duty to assess the effectiveness of the codes of ethics in the area of audiovisual media service provision.

- Provision of consultations and methodological assistance to economic operators

The RTCL intends to continue its efforts to improve its own performance in the area of consultations to economic operators, in particular in the light of the new requirements and new regulation of certain services that had been introduced with the new amendments to the LPIP. Even though findings of a survey conducted by the Ministry of Economy and Innovations in 2020 assessing the operational performance of entities have shown a high degree of compliance of the RTCL's activities with consultancy requirements, the Radio and Television Commission will seek to improve on its efforts so that the consultations it provides are more useful and acceptable to economic operators.