



Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania 2019 Annual Report

Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania

RADIO AND TELEVISION COMMISSION OF LITHUANIA

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It is my pleasure to present the annual report of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania (the “RTCL”) for the year 2019 prepared for the attention of the *Seimas* of the Republic of Lithuania (the “Seimas”).

The RTCL has been operating since 1996 when it was founded by virtue of the Law on the Provision of Information to the Public of the Republic of Lithuania (the “LPIP”). The LPIP ensures that the RTCL is an independent body accountable to the Seimas and responsible for the regulation and oversight of radio and television broadcasters, providers of on-demand audiovisual media services under the jurisdiction of Lithuania, including re-broadcasters and other persons based in Lithuania and engaged in the dissemination of television programmes and individual programmes via the Internet to viewers in Lithuania. As of 1 April 2019, the RTCL acts as the institution with the mandate to enforce copyright protection on the Internet.

Given the current regulatory framework and the functions delegated to it, the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania is no longer just an institution that oversees the activities of radio and television broadcasters and re-broadcasters, and of other audiovisual media service providers. Following the passing of several amendments to the Law on Copyright and Related Rights of the Republic of Lithuania, the RTCL now has the mandate to enforce copyright protection on the Internet, and once the EU's Audiovisual Media Services Directive (the “AVMSD”) is transposed into national law the RTCL will also be acting as the institution overseeing online video sharing platforms. Against the backdrop of these changes, the current name of the RTCL is no longer relevant. Moreover, the name itself, i.e. Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania, has often been confused with the supreme body—the Council—of the public broadcaster of Lithuania, i.e. *Lietuvos nacionalinis radijas ir televizija*.

Public information activities have increasingly moved online. Often, public information activities involve the use of not one but several methods of information presentation (for example, information websites will often present information in an audiovisual format or with sound). The RTCL acts as an institution overseeing the activities of audiovisual media service providers and other entities engaged in the dissemination of radio and television programmes, whereas the Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics (the “OIJE”) oversees all other originators and providers of public information. There are other points of contact between the functions of the RTCL and the OIJE. In an attempt to oversee the spread of public information more efficiently and to reduce the administrative burden on economic operators, efforts should be made to reorganise the RTCL and the OIJE by way of a merger resulting in the establishment of a new institution—the National Media Commission.

If the two institutions were to be merged, i.e. the RTCL and the OIJE, the new body would jointly perform the functions delegated to the RTCL and the OIJE under the existing legal framework. The mandate of the new body would include the regulation and oversight of the entire public information sector. The regulatory work would be streamlined by eliminating surplus or overlapping functions. All these efforts would contribute to the creation of a stronger and more efficient regulatory body. The merging of the two institutions would undoubtedly contribute to a more effective fight against the threat of an information war. The centralised performance of the RTCL's and OIJE's

functions in the field of national security would ensure a more effective and efficient coordination within a single body.

At the end of 2019, the RTCL was overseeing 107 entities engaged in both licensed and unlicensed activities.

In the reporting year, for the purpose of performing its functions the RTCL held 26 meetings, 29 conference meetings, passed 83 decisions, imposed 25 administrative sanctions, out of which 23 were warnings and 2 were fines, handled 200 complaints and inquiries filed by individuals, sent 643 official documents and received 888 official letters.

In 2019, just like in the previous years, the organisation of the RTCL's activities was based on its strategic action plan. The Strategic Action Plan for 2019–2021 included the following key priorities in the reporting year:

- more effective prevention of illegal broadcasting activities, provision of on-demand audiovisual media services, and of the dissemination of television programmes and individual programmes via the Internet; copyright protection;
- consumer protection from harmful content in the audiovisual media;
- more effective performance of the oversight functions associated with the economic operators regulated by the RTCL;
- development of international cooperation with EU institutions and audiovisual media regulators of other Member States;
- promotion of the RTCL's activities.

In 2019, the RTCL focused on copyright protection and the tackling of piracy online.

As of 1 April 2019, following the entry into force of the Law on Copyright and Related Rights of the Republic of Lithuania, copyright owners have the option of applying to the RTCL with a request to issue mandatory orders to Internet service providers that provide services to third parties for the purpose of their commercial operations, i.e. illegal distribution of copyrighted content on the Internet. The said piece of legislation gives the mandate to the RTCL to issue mandatory orders to Internet service providers demanding that they block access to copyrighted content that has been published illegally by blocking the domain name associated with the site until copyright infringements are remedied.

In 2019, the RTCL passed 16 decisions to block access to 19 sites that published copyrighted content illegally.

In an attempt to protect consumers from harmful content in the audiovisual media, the RTCL engaged in continuous radio and television programme monitoring. In the reporting period, there were no proceedings instituted for reason of disinformation dissemination or incitement to hatred in the Russian-language programmes re-broadcast in Lithuania. It is likely that this positive performance was due to the proactive and effective efforts by the RTCL in this area over the past several years, and the amendments to the LPIP initiated by the RTCL which provide for more flexible possibilities to respond to incitement to hatred in the public domain quickly, in particular when incitement to hatred threatens national security.

In the reporting period the RTCL also paid great attention to improving the regulatory aspects of the operator consultation and oversight process. For the purpose of establishing a process of preparing, delivering and announcing consultations, ensuring consistent and quality interpretation of the application of legal provisions as well as compliance with other legal requirements where this compliance is monitored by the RTCL, the Descriptor of the procedure of consultations to the public

was approved. The RTCL continued implementing measures aimed at strengthening the feedback process and assessing consumer satisfaction levels in relation to customer service.

For the purpose of determining risk assessment indicators for the economic operators overseen by the RTCL, the procedure of risk indicator calculation and the economic operator rating system, the RTCL has approved the Descriptor of economic operator risk assessment. This Descriptor was used for the purposes of operational oversight based on the economic operator's risk level.

In 2019, the RTCL introduced an online data provision system making it possible for the economic operators and persons wishing to engage in unlicensed activities to provide information expediently and in an electronic format giving all the details about the activities of a radio and television broadcaster, re-broadcaster, on-demand audiovisual media service provider or television programme and/or individual programme distributor via the Internet, also notifications about the start of unlicensed radio and television broadcasting, re-broadcasting activities, dissemination of television programmes and/or individual programmes via the Internet and on-demand audiovisual media services to Lithuanian audiences. This system provides a great opportunity to save money of both the RTCL and the operators it oversees as part of its regulatory functions, and to conserve the natural resources as there is no longer the need for printing documents or using postal services.

The reporting year presented a great challenge for the RTCL in the form of the revised Audiovisual Media Services Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018. Provisions of this Directive will have to be transposed into national law by 19 September 2020 at the latest. For this purpose, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania formed a working group on the transposition of the AVMSD. The RTCL was actively involved and continues to be involved in the work of this group together with other authorities, broadcasters, re-broadcasters and other stakeholders. Since the RTCL is one of the main institutions that will be directly affected by the AVMSD provisions in its work, it made a number of comments and proposals relating to the transposition of the Directive and presented those in the meetings of this working group. It was planned that the Seimas will pass the LPIP, including the transposed provisions of the AVMSD, in the spring session.

The Ministry of Culture was also the one to organise the transposition of the Copyright and Related Rights Directive (EU) 2019/789 and Directive (EU) 2019/790 into national law. Given that the RTCL is involved in the protection of copyright and related rights online to some extent, the working group also included representatives of the RTCL who were actively involved in the efforts of this working group as well. The Directives have to be transposed into national law by 7 June 2021 at the latest.

In the reporting period, just like in the previous year, the RTCL was active on the international stage continuing its cooperation with the European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services (ERGA) which advises the European Commission on various matters related to the implementation of the AVMSD. The RTCL was also involved in the work of the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA) established as a response to the need to strengthen cooperation between European regulators, share information and exchange experiences in the field of audiovisual media regulation. The RTCL continued working on the Baltic Project designed to provide a platform for Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian audiovisual media regulators to meet up once a year and discuss matters that are of great relevancy for all three states in their field of regulation. In the process of implementing the new provisions of the AVMSD encouraging informal cooperation between the EU and non-EU

states, the RTCL prepared and approved a new cooperation agreement with the Georgian audiovisual media regulator.

Aiming to ensure the efficient implementation of the RTCL's activities, administrative staff were engaged in continuous professional development by means of attending various seminars and training and knowledge acquisition through domestic and international conferences together with other members of the RTCL, gave presentations and provided information to the public thus promoting the RTCL's work in TV and radio shows and other online media.

In 2019, in an attempt to promote the development of better quality and more varied national radio and television content, the RTCL held the traditional seventeenth competition of the best in radio and television *Pragiedruliai*.

In 2019, all activities of the RTCL outlined in the 2019–2021 Strategic Action Plan were carried out using the funds available for the RTCL's programmes and strategic and priority goals. In the reporting period, financial activities of the RTCL were conducted responsibly by maintaining a balance between its revenue and expenditure.

Mantas Martišius
Chairman

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

The RTCL's mission is to ensure the provision of quality and user-tailored services of radio and television broadcasting and re-broadcasting, on-demand audiovisual media services, and dissemination of television programmes and/or individual programmes via the Internet concurrently protecting all users of these services from harmful content, and to encourage the development of the audiovisual media market in Lithuania. It is the RTCL's mission to ensure that consumers have access to quality content, i.e. radio and television programmes that comply with statutory requirements, respect the principles of freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom of conscience, promote the diversity of opinions, development of democracy and citizenship, foster and protect national cultural values, and protect society against hate speech and incitement to war.

The objective of the RTCL is to create equal operating conditions for all market players overseen by the RTCL and protect the rights and legitimate interests of consumers of audiovisual media services.

MEMBERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION

In accordance with the LPIP, the RTCL consists of 11 members appointed to the office for a term of four years. Membership in the RTCL is limited to two consecutive terms in office.

The RTCL is led by a commission member delegated by the President of the Republic of Lithuania, scientist Mantas Martišius, who was appointed to the office of the Chairman by the Seimas on 10 October 2018 from the members of the RTCL. The second member delegated by the President is Laurynas Jonavičius, professor at the Institute of International Relations and Political Science at VU.

On 11 November 2019, the Seimas appointed PR expert Ričardas Slapšys to act as the Deputy Chairman of the RTCL. Ričardas Slapšys was also one of the members delegated to the RTCL by the Seimas.

As per the LPIP, the Seimas appoints three members to the RTCL. One of the members delegated by the Seimas and working in the RTCL is poet Dalia Teišerskytė, and one member remains to be appointed.

On the basis of the LPIP, the Lithuanian Association of Artists has appointed three members to the RTCL, i.e. poet and translator Antanas Jonynas, Chairman of the Lithuanian Union of Journalists Dainius Radzevičius and theatre and film actor and director Algis Matulionis. Political analyst Vincentas Vobolevičius was delegated by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Union of Journalists has delegated Vidmantas Mačiulis who is a board member of the Kaunas Section of the Lithuanian Union of Journalists. The Lithuanian Society of Journalists has delegated journalist Liudvika Pociūnienė.

The administration supports the RTCL by managing its finances, facilities and resources, and assists the RTCL with the implementation of the RTCL's functions. In line with the amendments of the LPIP that came into effect on 14 December 2017, the RTCL's Chairman serves as the head of administration as of 1 January 2019.

The administration consists of three divisions, i.e. Legal, Public Information and Economic Operator Supervision which conducts continuous economic operator oversight and radio and television programme monitoring. The administration has 25 positions. In the reporting year, the administration employed 20 staff—13 women and 7 men. The average age of staff was 45, and the majority of them held a university degree.

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

In 2019, the RTCL was engaged in the activities of radio and television broadcasting and re-broadcasting licensing; organised competitions to award radio and television broadcasting and re-broadcasting licences; made changes to licence terms and conditions when requested by the broadcasters and re-broadcasters; cancelled licences; registered notifications by economic operators of the start of unlicensed activities, etc.

Between 1 January and 31 December 2019, the RTCL received 2 notifications of the start of unlicensed activities of the dissemination of television programmes and/or individual programmes via the Internet to viewers in Lithuania.

In the reporting period, the RTCL took 83 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 2019.

No	Nature of the decision	Number of decisions
1.	Changes to licence terms and conditions	17
2.	Licence cancellations	5
3.	Competition announcements	9
4.	Competition results	5
5.	Permit cancellations	1
6.	Changes to permit terms and conditions	2
7.	Consents to share transfers and acquisitions	2
9.	Issuance of licences without competition	1
10.	Temporary suspension of activities	5
11.	Laws and regulations	12
12.	Other	24

Announcement and implementation of competitions to award licences

During the reporting period, the RTCL announced 4 competitions to award radio broadcasting licences, 3 competitions to award television broadcasting licences, and 2 competitions to award re-broadcast television content licences. The RTCL took 5 decisions relating to the results of these competitions (*Table 2*).

Table 2. Competitions announced in 2019 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 for one television station	Vilnius and Šalčininkai	Channel 31	AB Lietuvos radijo ir televizijos centras (<i>Radio and Television Centre of Lithuania</i>)
		Švenčionys	Channel 33	
2.	Licence for radio station broadcasting	Raseiniai	89.5 MHz	VŠĮ KVARTOLĖ
3.	Licence for radio station broadcasting	Klaipėda	93.3 MHz	UAB RADIOCENTRAS
4.	Licence for television station broadcasting	Vilnius and Šalčininkai	Channel 31	UAB Inno LT
		Švenčionys	Channel 33	
5.	Licence for radio station broadcasting	Marijampolė	87.6 MHz	UAB All Media Radijas, VŠĮ KVARTOLĖ, UAB RADIO STOTIS ULTRA VIRES, UAB Solfega
				UAB All Media Radijas
6.	Licence for television station broadcasting*	Lithuania	AB LRTC I SATT**	UAB DELFI, Kids Network Television OÜ, TELEWIZJA POLSKA S.A.
				UAB DELFI
7.	Licence for radio station broadcasting*	Klaipėda	93.3 MHz	UAB RADIOCENTRAS
8.	Licence for television station broadcasting*	Kėdainiai, Panevėžys and Ukmergė	Channel 46	UAB Inno LT
9.	Licence for re-broadcast television content for one television station *	Kėdainiai, Panevėžys and Ukmergė	Channel 46	VŠĮ Regioninė televizija Aidas

*Decision as to the results of the competition was taken in 2020.

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

In 2019, the RTCL issued 6 new licences: 1 licence for re-broadcast television content to the winning applicant, 1 licence for television station broadcasting to the winning applicant, 1 licence for radio station broadcasting without a competition, and 3 licences for radio station broadcasting to the winning applicants. Moreover, the RTCL modified the terms and conditions of 2 permits issued to VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA (*Lithuanian National Radio and Television*) in relation to its television stations LRT TELEVIZIJA and LRT PLIUS changing the structure and contents of the programmes broadcast.

In 2019, the RTCL passed 17 decisions to modify licence terms and conditions. These decisions were related to the changes in the structure and content of television and radio programmes, list of re-broadcast television programmes and other licence terms and conditions: 9 decisions were aimed at changing licence terms related to the structure and contents of television programmes; 5 decisions were aimed at changing licence terms related to the structure and contents of radio programmes; 2 decisions were aimed at changing the lists of re-broadcast programmes under a re-broadcast content licence; and 1 decision was taken to dismiss the application for changes to the structure and contents of a television programme under a television broadcasting licence.

Over the reporting period, the RTCL passed 6 decisions to cancel 4* broadcasting and re-broadcast content licences and 1 permit (*Table 3*).

Table 3. Licence cancellations.

No	Licence holder	Grounds for licence cancellation	Licensed activities, licence number
1.	MB Finbros	The licence holder failed to start radio broadcasting operations in Klaipėda within the time frame set; the Lithuanian Communications Regulatory Authority cancelled the licence holder's right to use 88.2 MHz frequency in Klaipėda.	Broadcasting of a radio station, No LC-500
2.	MB Finbros	The licence holder failed to get the RTCL's consent to the transfer of the licence holder's controlling interest or licence holder's control (management) to another person (persons); the licence holder's right to broadcast a radio station in Nida using 89.8 MHz frequency was cancelled.	Broadcasting of a radio station, No LC-500
3.	J. Jasiulionio individuali įmonė	Licence holder waived the licence	Broadcasting of a television station, No LC-283(T283)
4.	UAB Bitė Lietuva	Licence holder waived the licence	Broadcasting of television stations, No LC-507

5.	UAB RADIOCENTRAS	Licence holder waived the licence	Broadcasting of a radio station, No LC-511
6.	VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA	Licence holder waived the permit	Broadcasting of a television station, No LD-11(NTP11)**

*The radio broadcasting licence for MB Finbros was cancelled in two decisions.

**The permit cancelled as of 1 January 2020.

As of 31 December 2019, the RTCL had issued 132 broadcasting and re-broadcast content licences for 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 2019, there were 41 radio broadcasters in Lithuania broadcasting 51 radio stations. Two radio broadcasters, i.e. VŠĮ Zorza broadcasting radio station RADIOWILNO and VŠĮ Ištiesk gerumo ranką nuskriaustiesiems broadcasting radio station FIX FM, operate exclusively online. Over the reporting year, the majority of radio stations in Lithuania were transmitting a mix of music and information content.

In 2019, the RTCL issued 2 radio broadcasting licences, 1 of them was issued without a competition. 2 radio broadcasting licence holders who had won competitions announced by the RTCL had their licences amended to include a wider territory of licensed activities.

In the reporting year, 2 radio broadcasting licences were cancelled.

The greatest diversity of radio stations in 2019 was in major Lithuanian cities: 30 radio stations in Vilnius, 25 in Kaunas, 23 in Klaipėda, 22 in Šiauliai, and 19 radio stations in Panevėžys (*Figure 1*).

In terms of radio station coverage, there were 13 national radio stations (*Table 4*), 8 regional radio broadcasters (*Table 5*), and 27 broadcasters airing local radio stations (*Table 6*) in Lithuania in 2019.

Figure 1. Number of radio stations in major Lithuanian cities in 2019.

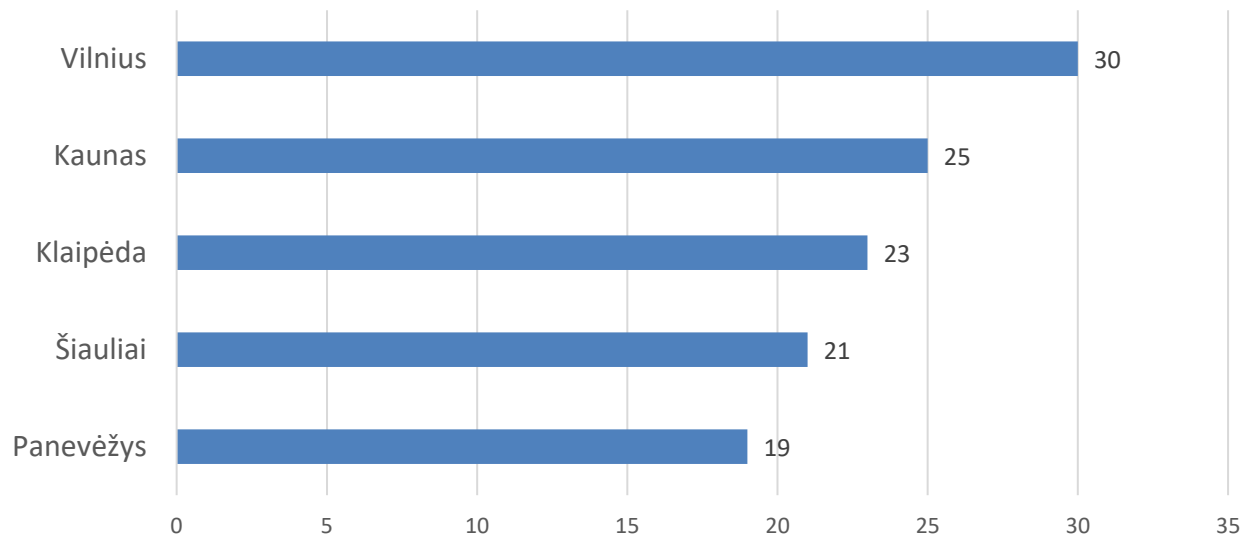


Table 4. National radio stations.

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 RADIJO 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 share of the time spent listening to radio, the following four national radio stations were leading in the ratings: Lietus, M-1, LRT radijas and Radiocentras. In 2019, they accounted for 59% of the total time spent listening to radio as compared to 55.9% in 2018 (*Figure 2*).

Figure 2. Audience share of national radio stations by time spent listening to radio, autumn to winter of 2019. Source: TNS LT

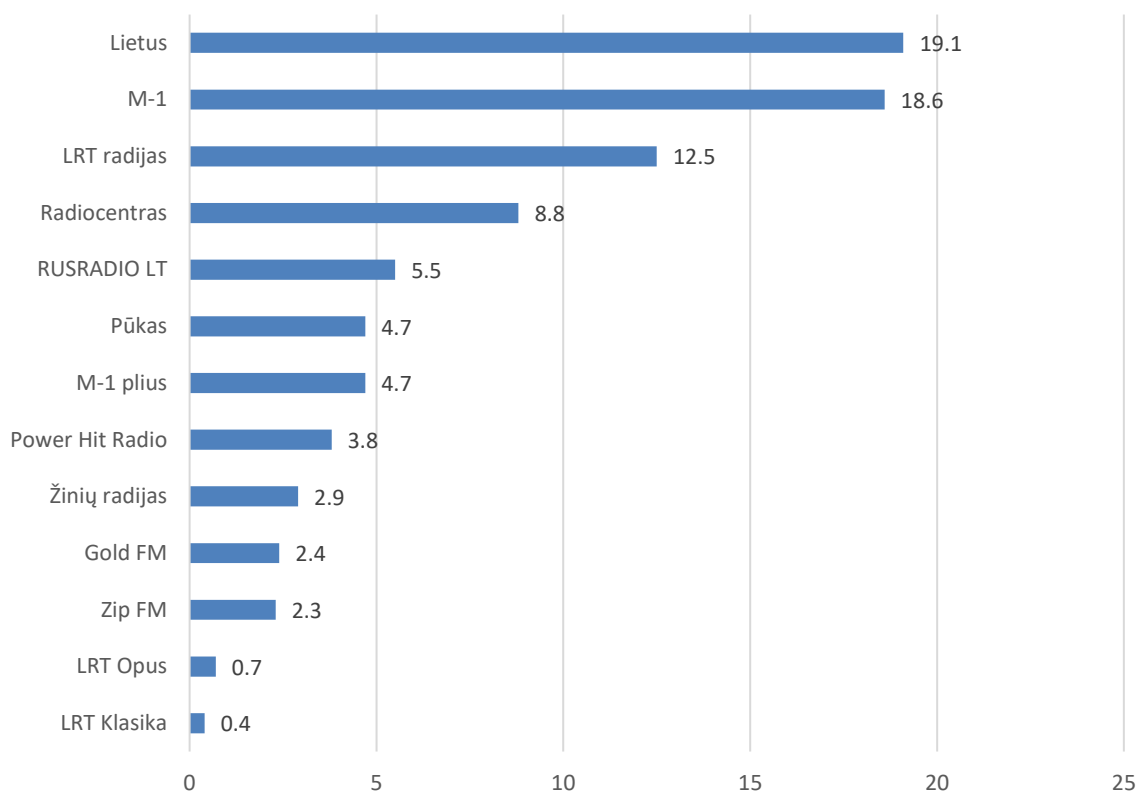


Table 5. Regional radio broadcasters.

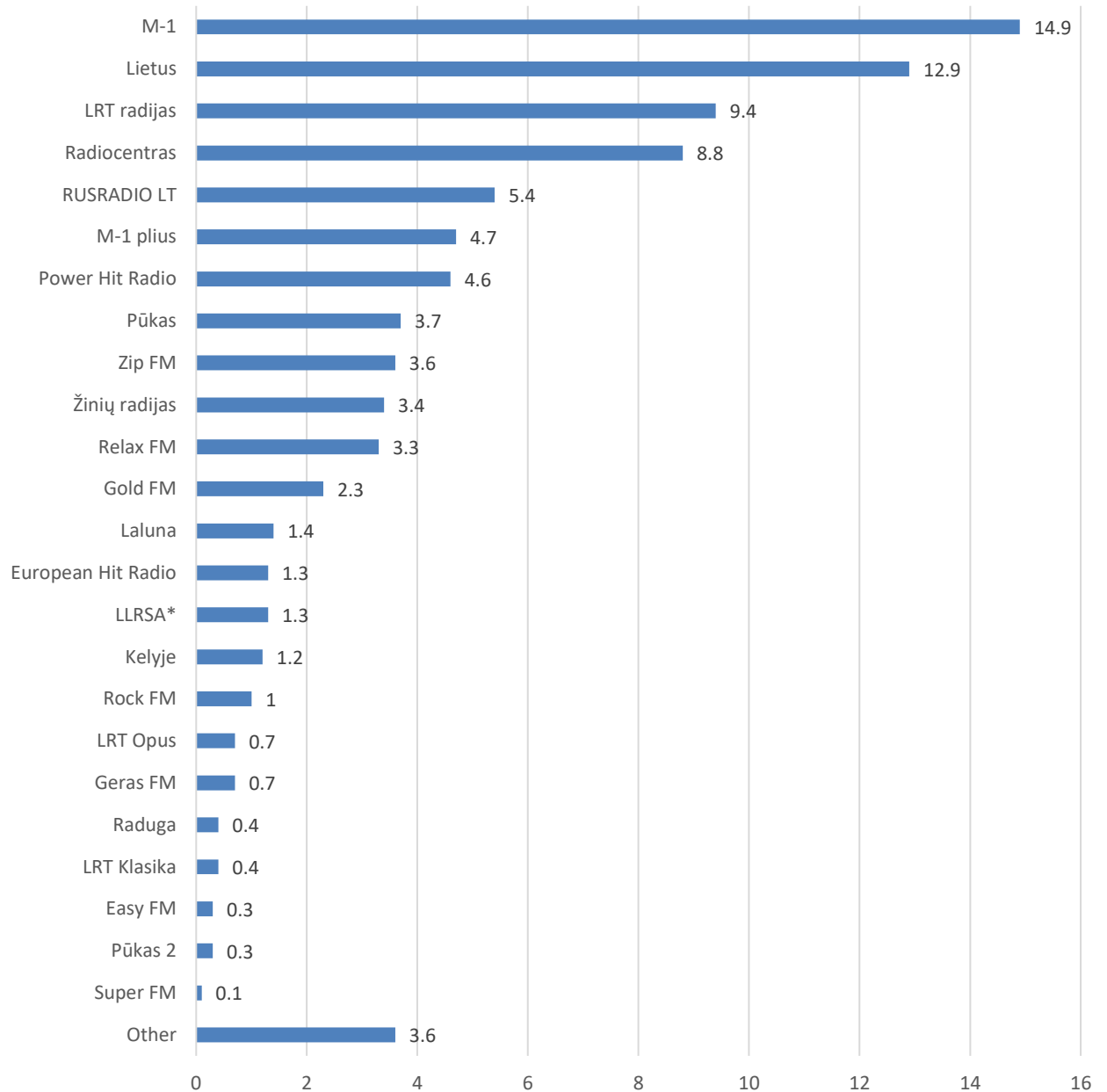
No	Broadcaster	Radio station	Locations
1.	VšĮ Marijos radijas	Marijos radijas	Druskininkai, Ignalina, Mažeikiai, Nida, Plunksniai, Raseiniai, Skuodas, Visaginas
2.	UAB Alytaus radijas	FM 99	Alytus, Druskininkai
3.	UAB GERUDA	Geras FM	Vilnius, Kaunas
4.	UAB Info XXL	XXL FM	Plungė, Telšiai, Šiauliai
5.	VšĮ KVARTOLĖ	RELAX FM	Vilnius, Šiauliai, Klaipėda, Panevėžys, Kaunas, Utena, Plungė, Biržai, Mažeikiai, Rokiškis, Šilutė, Jurbarkas, Ignalina, Joniškis, Raseiniai
6.	UAB Pūkas	Pūkas-2	Vilnius, Klaipėda, Šiauliai, Kaunas, Panevėžys, Telšiai, Tauragė, Rokiškis, Raseiniai
7.	UAB RADIOCENTRAS	ROCK FM	Vilnius, Kaunas, Panevėžys
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	Radio stotis Nykščiai	Anykščiai
4.	UAB AUKŠTAITIJOS 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 VYDAS	A2	Vilnius
17.	UAB Labas, Klaipėda	XFM	Klaipėda
18.	UAB Labas, Klaipėda	XFM	Kaunas
19.	UAB Labas, Klaipėda	XFM	Vilnius
20.	UAB Labas, Klaipėda	XFM	Biržai
21.	UAB Labas, Klaipėda	XFM	Šiauliai
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 (<i>European Hit Radio</i>)	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	Radio 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

In 2019, M-1 remained the most popular radio station in terms of daily audience reach. Lietus is leading the ratings by share of time listened to radio. LRT Radijas was in the third spot by daily audience reach and share of time listened to radio (*Figure 3*).

Figure 3. Daily audience reach of radio stations, autumn to winter of 2019. Source: TNS LT

*LLRSA – radio stations that are members of the Lithuanian Association of Regional Radio Stations.

Television

Digital Terrestrial Television

Television broadcasting over digital terrestrial TV stations (networks)

In 2019, Lithuanian viewers were able to receive 11 free-to-air (not encrypted) national television channels over the available digital terrestrial stations (networks) (*Table 7*).

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

No	Broadcaster	Television station	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	LIUKS!	
10.	UAB LAISVAS IR NEPRIKLAUSOMAS KANALAS	TV1	
11.	UAB Lietuvos ryto televizija	Lietuvos rytas.tv	

At the end of 2019, there were 8 local television channels available over the digital terrestrial television stations (network) (*Table 8*).

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

No	Broadcaster	Television station	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.	VšĮ LN televizija	Žemaitijos televizija	Plungė
6.	UAB Ilora	Ventos regioninė televizija	Venta
7.	UAB TV7	TV7	Jonava
8.	VšĮ Alytaus regioninė televizija	Dzūkijos televizija	Alytus

Two regional television broadcasters use the network of digital terrestrial TV stations to transmit their programmes, i.e. on channel 24 in Trakai and channel 24 in Paplaiuškos Village, Elektrėnai Municipality. Two more regional television broadcasters transmit two television stations (VšĮ Regioninė televizija Aidai broadcasts television station *Regioninė televizija Aidai*, and UAB Inno LT broadcasts television station *FMT TV*). UAB Inno LT uses the digital terrestrial television

network to broadcast television station *FM TV*—over channel 31 in Vilnius, channel 31 in Šalčininkai, and channel 33 in Švenčionys.

Television re-broadcasting over digital terrestrial TV stations

In 2019, there were 4 re-broadcasters engaged in the re-broadcasting activities and/or that started re-broadcasting activities, namely, VšĮ Alytaus regioninė televizija, UAB BALTICUM TV, UAB TARPTAUTINIS BALTIJOS BANGŲ RADIJAS, and AB Lietuvos radijo ir televizijos centras.

VšĮ Alytaus regioninė televizija was re-broadcasting television station Pūkas TV over channel 55 of the digital terrestrial television station in Alytus.

UAB BALTICUM TV was re-broadcasting:

- a package of 10 television stations over channel 45 of the digital terrestrial TV station in Klaipėda;
- a package of 9 television stations over channel 40 of the digital terrestrial TV 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 5 Polish television stations over channel 31 in Vilnius and Šalčininkai, and over channel 33 in Švenčionys; AB Lietuvos radijo ir televizijos centras was issued a re-broadcast content licence whereunder the operator agreed to start re-broadcasting television station *TVP Wilno* over channel 31 in Vilnius and Šalčininkai, and over channel 33 in Švenčionys by 15 December 2019 at the latest.

Television station broadcasting

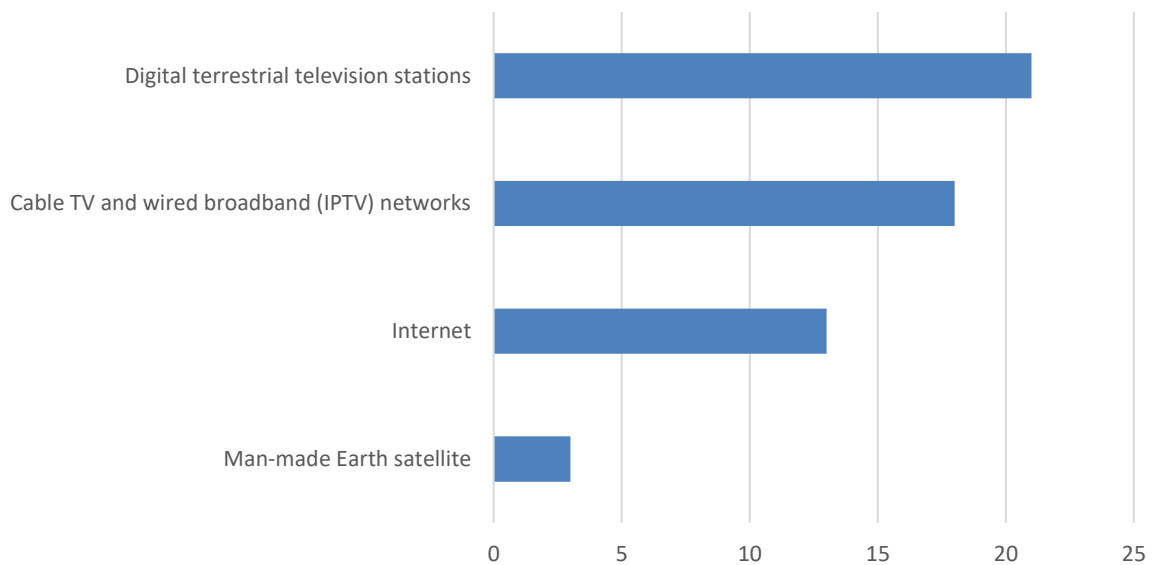
In Lithuania, television stations may be broadcast using these networks of electronic communications:

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

At the end of 2019, there were 32 television broadcasters that held broadcasting licences to broadcast television programmes. They were broadcasting 38 television stations (**Figure 4**):

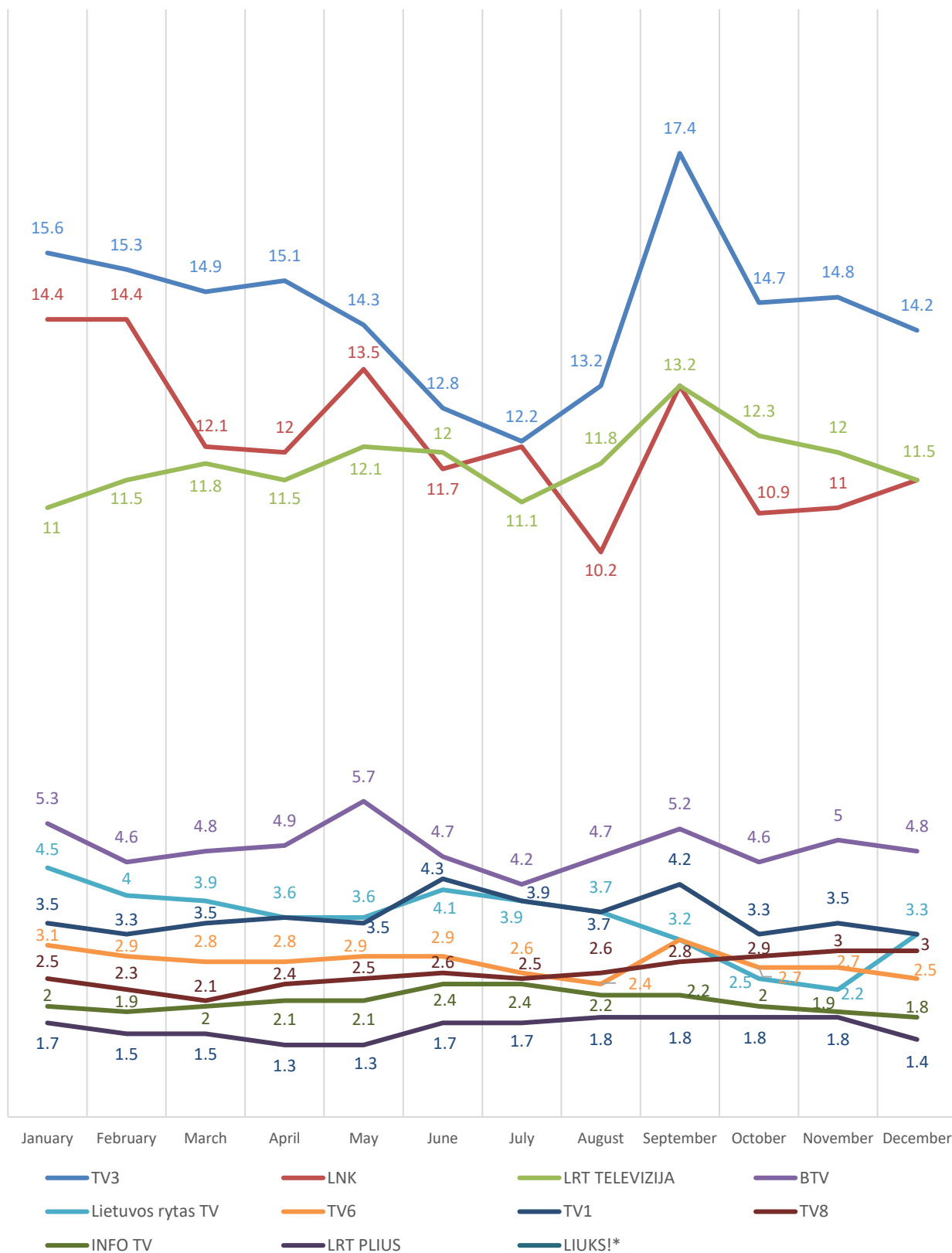
- 21 television stations over digital terrestrial television networks or stations
- 18 television stations over the cable television and IPTV networks
- 13 television stations on the Internet
- 3 television stations over a man-made Earth satellite

Figure 4. Television broadcasting in 2019 by type of electronic communications used.



The exceptional feature of the reporting year was the fact that after more than several decades LRT TELEVIZIJA has become a serious contestant for the attention of audiences, competing with the most popular stations TV3 and LNK. For the first time ever, for the duration of several months of 2019, the audience share of LRT TELEVIZIJA has exceeded that of LNK (*Figure 5*).

Figure 5. TV audience structure by time watched. Live watching data of 2019. Source: TNS LT.



*Not surveyed.

Television station re-broadcasting

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

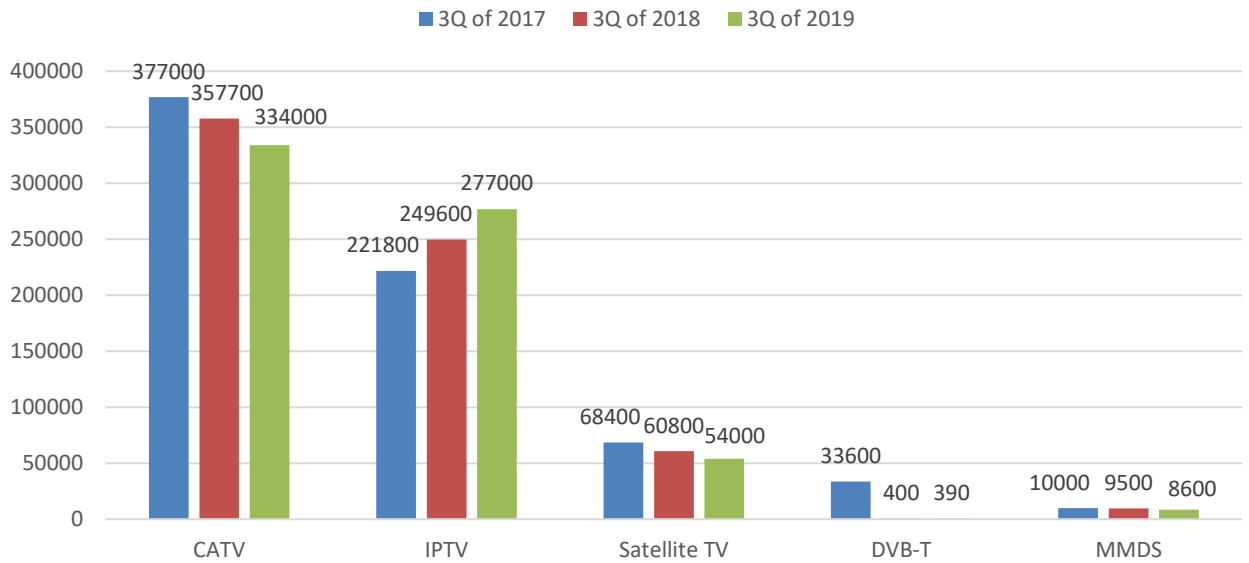
- Cable television networks
- Multichannel Multipoint Distribution Service (MMDS)
- Digital terrestrial television stations (networks)
- Wired broadband networks the main purpose of which is not radio or television broadcasting and/or re-broadcasting (IPTV)
- Internet
- Man-made Earth satellite

At the end of 2019, there were 44 economic operators re-broadcasting television stations (2 economic operators were re-broadcasting 2 radio stations) using a mix of technologies:

- 4 economic operators held 6 licences to re-broadcast television stations over the digital terrestrial television stations or a network of 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;
- 1 economic operator was re-broadcasting television stations over a man-made Earth satellite.

Analysis of the services provided by television re-broadcasters reveals that the numbers of cable television, MMDS and digital terrestrial television subscribers have been continuously shrinking, though the total number of paid TV users remains stable as a result of the increasing number of Internet TV users (*Figure 6*).

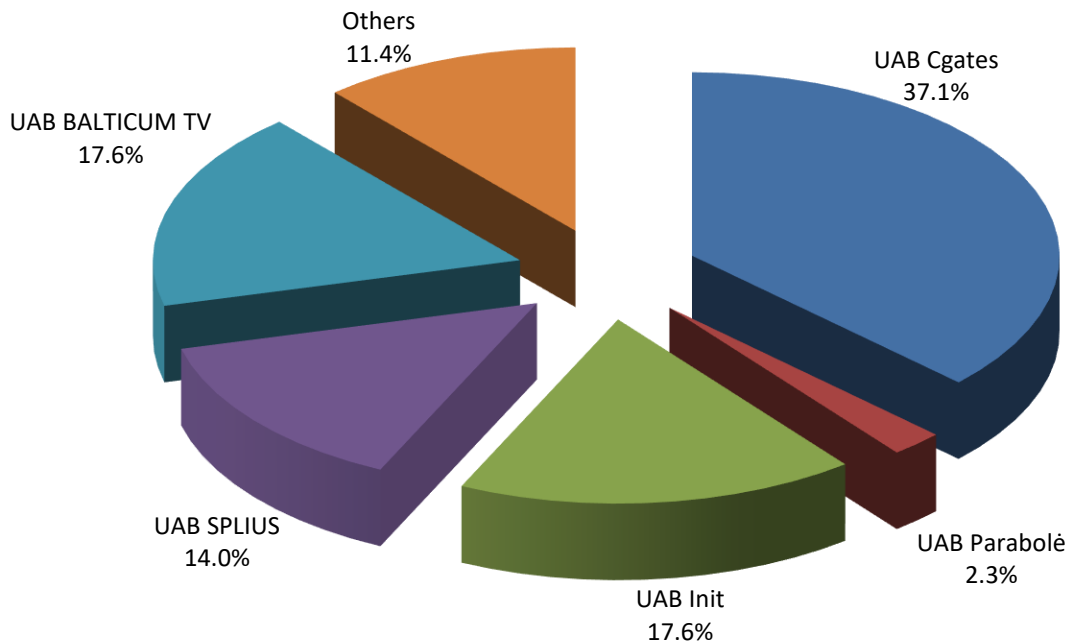
Figure 6. Paid TV subscribers by method of service delivery.



Source: RTCL

In 2019, five major cable TV providers were: UAB Cgates, UAB Init, UAB BALTICUM TV, UAB SPLIUS, and UAB Parabolė. Their subscribers accounted for 88.6% of all cable TV subscribers in the country (Figure 7). In 2018, these five providers had 85.5% of all cable TV subscribers.

Figure 7. Cable TV subscribers (a total of 334,000) by service provider, Q3 of 2019.

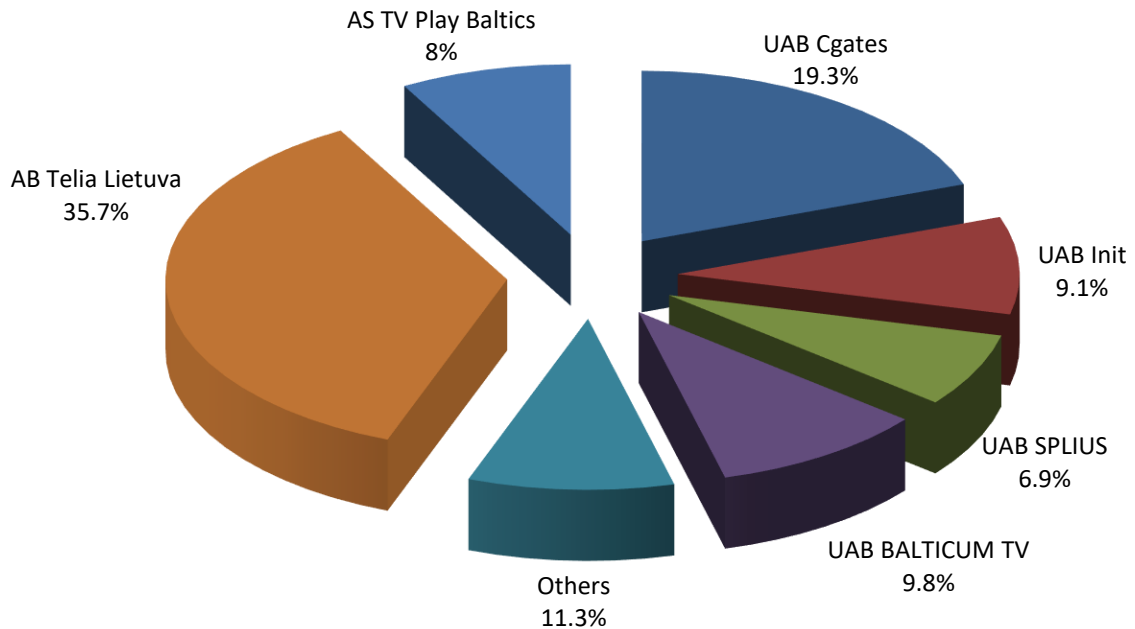


Source: RTCL

As the demand for the television re-broadcasting service using the IPTV technology keeps on growing (there has been an increase of 4.3% in subscriber numbers in 2019), AB Telia Lietuva

remains the undisputed market leader in the paid re-broadcast television sector serving as much as 35.7% of all paid TV subscribers (**Figure 8**).

Figure 8. Paid TV subscribers (a total of 673,100) by service provider, Q3 of 2019.



Source: RTCL

VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA

Last year, VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA (the “LRT”) had 9 permits: 5 permits to broadcast radio stations, 1 permit to re-broadcast a radio station, and 3 permits to broadcast television stations.

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	Analogue terrestrial radio stations, man-made Earth satellite, Internet
2.	Radio station LRT KLASIKA	Analogue terrestrial radio stations, man-made Earth satellite, Internet
3.	Radio station LRT OPUS	Analogue terrestrial radio 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	Man-made Earth satellite, Internet

VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA re-broadcasts BBC WORLD SERVICE over a terrestrial analogue radio station in Vilnius.

VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA also provides on-demand audiovisual media services on the Internet.

Unlicensed activities

As of the end of 2019, the RTCL had received 103 notifications of the operations of radio and television broadcasting and re-broadcasting, dissemination of television programmes and/or individual programmes via the Internet to Lithuanian audiences, and provision of on-demand audiovisual media services that do not require a licence (unlicensed activities).

At the end of 2019, there were 19 economic operators engaged in the provision of on-demand audiovisual media services, 6 economic operators were disseminating television programmes and/or individual programmes via the Internet.

During the reporting year, 2 economic operators notified the RTCL of the start of unlicensed activities of television broadcasting on the Internet.

In 2019, 2 economic operators terminated their unlicensed activities of on-demand audiovisual media services, 1 economic operator terminated its radio broadcasting on the Internet, 2 economic operators – television broadcasting on the Internet, and 1 economic operator terminated its re-broadcasting activities.

Annual fees set by the Minister of Culture on proposal by the RTCL

In 2019, 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 15 official letters to the Ministry of Culture 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 or revising annual fees for 16 economic operators (*Table 10*).

Table 10. Annual fees.

No	Economic operator	Annual fee (BSB)
1.	UAB LNK studija	110
2.	UAB Bitė Lietuva	89.7, revised
3.	UAB Labas, Klaipėda	3.8
4.	UAB Consilium optimum	38.4

5.	VšĮ LN televizija	4
6.	VšĮ Transliacijų centras	37.5
7.	Vilniaus Baltupių progimnazija	0.3
8.	AB Lietuvos radijo ir televizijos centras	20.8
9.	AS TV Play Baltics	110
10.	UAB Consilium optimum	13.4
11.	UAB Televizijos produkcija	37.5
12.	VšĮ KVARTOLĖ	1.5
13.	VšĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA	6.75
14.	UAB Progmera	2.4
15.	UAB Nacionalinis telekomunikacijų tinklas	98.1, void
16.	UAB Nacionalinis telekomunikacijų tinklas	33.2, revised
17.	UAB BALTICUM TV	7.3
18.	UAB BALTICUM TV	7.3
19.	UAB BALTICUM TV	7
20.	UAB BALTICUM TV	110

*BSB – basic social benefit determined by the Lithuanian Government; €38 in 2019.

State fees paid by the holders of broadcasting and/or re-broadcasting content licences

In the reporting year, the RTCL took 17 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 licences, licence holders paid €448 to the national budget. Through 2019, the RTCL issued 5 radio and television broadcasting and re-broadcasting licences for competition winners, and 1 television broadcasting licence without a competition. In exchange for the issuance of these licences, their holders paid €1,707 in state fees.

Sale and other transfers of shares (stakes, interests) in broadcasting and/or re-broadcast content licence holders

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 in question. The RTCL approved the requests passing 2 decisions to that effect (*Table 11*).

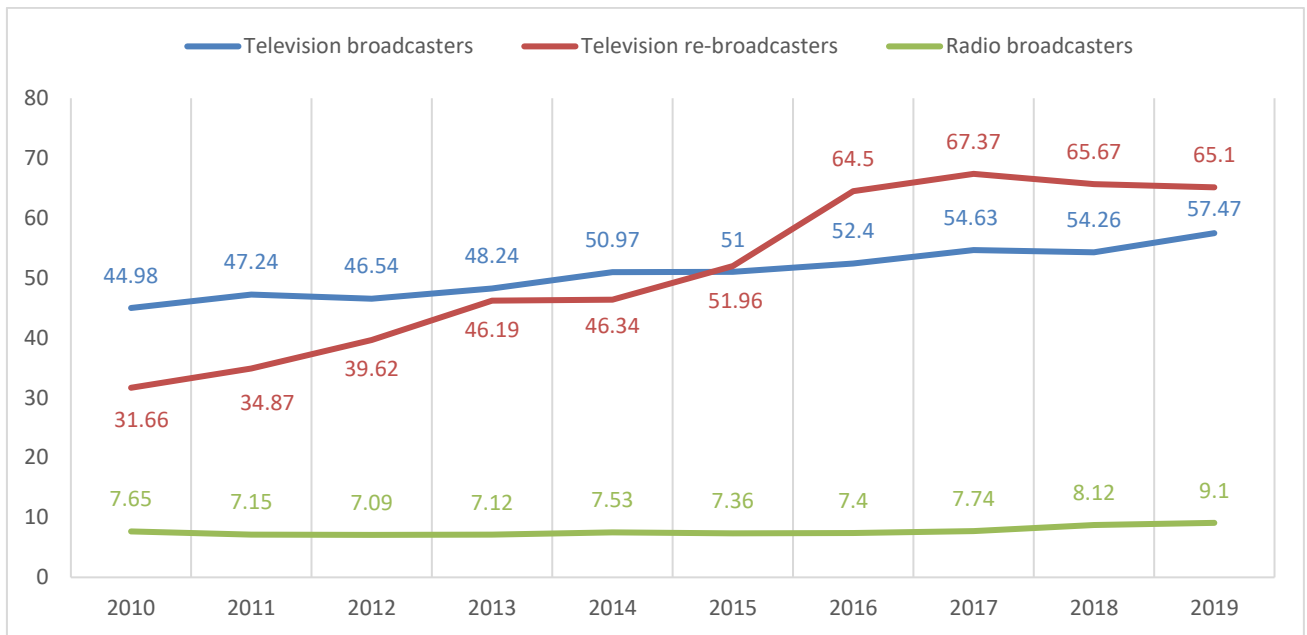
Table 11. Sale and other transfer of shares (stakes, interests).

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 ŽINIŲ RADIJAS	UAB SSPC	UAB Litvalda – 65.8% interest
2.	UAB Lietuvos ryto televizija	UAB LIETUVOS RYTAS	UAB Singing fish – 100% interest

Revenues of television broadcasters and re-broadcasters and radio broadcasters

Each year, the RTCL uses notifications provided by the economic operators under the RTCL's jurisdiction to calculate broadcaster revenues generated from the audiovisual media services the operators provide (*Figure 9*).

Figure 9. Economic operator revenue dynamics, million euros.



Source: RTCL

THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AND ENFORCEMENT

In 2019, the RTCL paid a lot of attention to copyright protection on the Internet, consultations, and better regulation of the economic operator oversight process.

On 1 April 2019, the new amendments to Article 78 of the Law on Copyright and Related Rights came into effect with the following effect:

- 1) right owners may apply to the RTCL with a request to issue mandatory orders to Internet service providers where these service providers serve the third parties that use the services for activities that involve the illegal publication of works subject to copyright, related rights or *sui generis* rights (copyrighted content) over the public computer networks (Internet);
- 2) the RTCL has the mandate to issue mandatory orders to Internet service providers to block access to illegally published copyrighted content by blocking the domain name associated with the website until a copyright infringement is remedied.

On 27 March 2019, in light of these provisions of the Law on Copyright and Related Rights of the Republic of Lithuania, the RTCL approved the Descriptor of the procedure for handling

copyright owners' requests to issue mandatory orders to Internet service providers.¹ The said Descriptor provided for the procedure how requests by the owners of copyright, related rights and *sui generis* rights to issue mandatory orders to Internet service providers are handled, and set requirements for the form and content of the request to issue mandatory orders to Internet service providers where these service providers serve third parties that use the services for the activities that involve the illegal publication of works subject to copyright, related rights or *sui generis* rights (copyrighted content) over the public computer networks (Internet).

For the purpose of establishing a process of preparing, delivering and announcing consultations, ensuring the consistent and quality interpretation of the application of Lithuanian statutory provisions, and compliance with other legal requirements where this compliance is monitored by the RTCL, the Descriptor of the procedure of consultations to the public was approved.² This piece of legislation sets out that the RTCL may provide consultations to individuals in writing, by e-mail and verbally (by telephone or on arrival to the RTCL). Any such consultation may be made public, i.e. published on the RTCL's website, or disseminated to public information originators, and/or posted on the RTCL's social media accounts. The RTCL continues introducing measures that enhance the feedback process and enable the assessment of satisfaction with the services received (e.g., members of the public may fill out an extensive quality assessment questionnaire available on the RTCL's website; where an employee of the RTCL provides consultation to a member of the public face-to-face, the employee may, having assessed the situation, suggest that the consultation is recorded for the purpose of ensuring quality of the consultation process, etc.). In 2019, certain changes were also made to the Descriptor of the procedure for the handling of applications, complaints and notifications by individuals and customer service³ in an attempt to harmonize this piece of legislation with the Descriptor of the procedure of consultations to the public at the RTCL.

In an attempt to introduce more clarity on problem questions, the RTCL has uploaded some explanations on its website in the section FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions): How to identify whether on-demand audiovisual media services are provided?; Reorganisation of the holder of a broadcasting and/or re-broadcast content licence; When do you need written consent from the RTCL to sell or otherwise transfer shares (stakes, interests) in a broadcasting and/or re-broadcast content licence holder?; Methodological assistance and application of sanctions to new businesses.

In 2019, the RTCL approved the Descriptor of the procedure of sanctions on economic operators⁴ which defines the system of sanctions available to the RTCL, the decision-making process in relation to these sanctions, the particulars of application of the administrative sanctions, and the processes of informing economic operators about the decisions taken and of appealing these decisions.

For the purpose of determining the risk assessment indicators in relation to the activities of the economic operators under the RTCL's jurisdiction, the process of calculating these indicators and rating all economic operators, the RTCL approved the Descriptor of the procedure for economic

¹ Decision No KS-14 of 27 March 2019 of the RTCL *On the approval of the Descriptor for handling copyright owners' requests to issue mandatory orders to Internet service providers.*

² Decision No KS-45 of 28 August 2019 *On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure of consultations to the public.*

³ Decision No KS-73 of 30 October 2019 of the RTCL 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.*

⁴ Decision No KS-43 of 28 August 2019 of the RTCL *On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure of sanctions on economic operators.*

operator risk assessment.⁵ Economic operator risk assessment is a process whereby the RTCL analyses the information it collects about the activities of radio and television broadcasting, re-broadcasting, on-demand audiovisual media services and dissemination of television programmes and/or individual programmes via the Internet. The process results in a calculated and assessed risk level of a particular economic operator. The risk level of an economic operator is expressed in a score which is the total of all points against each of the risk assessment criteria for that particular economic operator. Once the risk levels for all of the economic operators are measured, a list of economic operators is compiled where the economic operators are listed by their risk level in descending order. The oversight activities of the RTCL are based on the operator risk levels so determined (high risk, average risk and low risk).

On 1 July 2019, a new wording of paragraph 4 of Article 34 of the LPIP came into effect. The new wording states that at least 90% of all content in the main television package offered to the general public in Lithuania by the persons disseminating television programmes or individual programmes via the Internet and/or television re-broadcasters should be in the official EU languages. In the new version of the Law, the requirement to include, in the 90% mentioned, programmes delivered in non-official EU languages but originating in other EU Member States was waived. In light of these changes, the RTCL has modified accordingly the routine inspection control questionnaire for the economic operators engaged in radio and/or television re-broadcasting and/or dissemination of television programmes and/or individual programmes via the Internet.⁶

In 2019, the RTCL submitted to the Ministry of Culture a number of drafts (two versions) in relation to the amendments to the Rules for the licencing of broadcasting activities and re-broadcast content. The Minister of Culture approved the Rules for the licencing of broadcasting activities and re-broadcast content⁷ which provide for a simpler procedure when the economic operators apply to the RTCL for an extension of their programme offer within the existing re-broadcast content licence. Moreover, in light of the changes to the Law on Public Administration of the Republic of Lithuania and on instruction from the Lithuanian Government, the new Rules no longer include the obligation of a licence holder to be in possession of a paper-based licence and a duplicate, and related duties—all licence-related information will now be filed on the Licencing Information System operated by state enterprise Centre of Registers. Also, in response to the recent amendment to the LPIP relating to the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2017/2394, the RTCL has prepared a draft amendment of the Rules for the licencing of broadcasting activities and re-broadcast content licence.

The new Rules for economic operator inspections conducted by the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania approved on 30 October 2019⁸ lay down the basics, process and the duration of inspections conducted by the RTCL in relation to radio and/or television broadcasters, re-broadcasters, persons engaged in the dissemination of television programmes and/or individual programmes via the Internet to viewers in Lithuania, and on-demand audiovisual media services, including the method of recording inspection findings, compiling the annual list of economic operators

⁵ Decision No KS-44 of 28 August 2019 of the RTCL *On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure for economic operator risk assessment under the jurisdiction of the RTCL.*

⁶ Decision No KS-46 of 28 August 2019 of the RTCL amending Decision No KS-37 of 20 June 2018 of the RTCL *On the approval of control questionnaires in relation to routine inspections of economic operators.*

⁷ Order No IV-668 of 21 October 2019 of the Minister of Culture amending Order No IV-281 of 1 April 2011 of the Minister of Culture *On the approval of the Rules for the licencing of broadcasting activities and re-broadcast content.*

⁸ Decision No KS-72 of 30 October 2019 of the RTCL *On the approval of the Rules for economic operator inspections conducted by the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania.*

to be inspected by the RTCL and the selection criteria for economic operators that are not on the list but are to be inspected, the process of advising economic operators on matters within the RTCL's competence during any such inspection of operations, the process of applying sanctions and their terms, and criteria of minor infringements.

The Descriptor of the procedure for information provision in relation to economic operator activities⁹ was approved in 2019. The Descriptor governs the process of providing information about the activities of radio and television broadcasters and re-broadcasters, providers of on-demand audiovisual media services and persons disseminating television programmes and/or individual programmes via the Internet, including the RTCL notification process in relation to the start of unlicensed radio and television broadcasting, re-broadcasting activities, dissemination of television programmes and/or individual programmes via the Internet and on-demand audiovisual media services to the Lithuanian audiences. This piece of legislation is intended to streamline the process of providing information and notifications to the RTCL—economic operators are now in the position to provide information not just in writing but also electronically via a secure access online data provision information system of the RTCL.

It should be pointed out that in 2019 the RTCL issued orders to Internet service providers ordering them to block access to the domain names associated with certain sites on the service provider's Domain Name System (DNS) thus blocking 27 sites for reason of these sites being engaged in illegal television broadcasting on the Internet to Lithuanian viewers, i.e. persons were engaged in the broadcasting activities without prior notification to the RTCL of the start of unlicensed activities of television broadcasting on the Internet.

In 2019, the RTCL passed 7 regulatory decisions (*Table 12*).

Table 12. Regulatory decisions by the RTCL.

No	Title
1.	Decision No KS-43 of 28 August 2019 <i>On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure of sanctions on economic operators.</i>
2.	Decision No KS-44 of 28 August 2019 <i>On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure for economic operator risk assessment under the jurisdiction of the RTCL.</i>
3.	Decision No KS-45 of 28 August 2019 <i>On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure of consultations to the public.</i>
4.	Decision No KS-46 of 28 August 2019 amending Decision No KS-37 of 20 June 2018 of the RTCL <i>On the approval of control questionnaires in relation to routine inspections of economic operators.</i>
5.	Decision No KS-72 of 30 October 2019 <i>On the approval of the Rules for economic operator inspections conducted by the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania.</i>

⁹ Decision No KS-74 of 6 November 2019 of the RTCL amending Decision No KS-167 of 9 September 2015 of the RTCL *On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure for information provision on radio and television broadcasters and re-broadcasters, providers of on-demand audiovisual media services and of television programmes and/or individual programmes via the Internet.*

6.	Decision No KS-73 of 30 October 2019 amending Decision No KS-166 of 9 September 2015 of the RTCL <i>On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure for the handling of applications, complaints and notifications by individuals and customer service.</i>
7.	Decision No KS-74 of 6 November 2019 amending Decision No KS-167 of 9 September 2015 of the RTCL <i>On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure for information provision on radio and television broadcasters and re-broadcasters, providers of on-demand audiovisual media services and of television programmes and/or individual programmes via the Internet.</i>

ECONOMIC OPERATOR OVERSIGHT AND CONTENT MONITORING

In 2019, the RTCL carried out 29 routine and 15 special inspections of economic operators. The RTCL also conducted a monitoring exercise in relation to 75 individual programmes triggered by viewer complaints. Last year, a particular area of concern for the RTCL was the monitoring of potentially illegal dissemination of television programmes on the Internet and the dissemination of individual programmes via the Internet. Consequently, the RTCL carried out 30 investigations into potentially illegal dissemination of television programmes and individual programmes via the Internet to Lithuanian viewers. Following the entry into force of amendments to Article 78 of the Law on Copyright and Related Rights of the Republic of Lithuania (the “LCRR”) on 1 April 2019,¹⁰ the RTCL carried out 19 investigations into the sites publishing copyrighted content illegally.

Routine inspections of economic operators

In 2019, the RTCL carried out 29 routine inspections of economic operators (*Table 13*) as provided for in the Plan of planned inspections of economic operators for 2019 approved by Order No V-8 of 18 January 2019 of the Chairman of the RTCL On the approval of the Plan of planned inspections of economic operators in 2019.¹¹

¹⁰ Law amending Articles 20, 201, 65 and 78 and Annexes 1 and 2 of the Law No VIII-1185 on Copyright and Related Rights of the Republic of Lithuania.

¹¹ https://www.rtk.lt/uploads/documents/files/administracine-informacija/ukio-subjektu-prieziura/planuojamu_tikrinti_ukio_subjektu_sarasas/2019m/Del-2019-planiniu-patikrinimu_.pdf

Table 13. Results of routine inspections of economic operators.

Objective	Number of programmes inspected against the objective of the routine inspection	Violations
Compliance with the requirements of the LPIP relating to information not to be published	25	-
Compliance with the requirements of the LPIP and the Rules for the licensing of broadcasting activities and re-broadcast content to notify the RTCL of the start of unlicensed radio and/or television broadcasting, re-broadcasting activities	23	-
Compliance with the requirements of the LPIP in relation to the language of public information	23	-
Compliance with the requirements of the LPIP for re-broadcasters to prioritize official EU languages	5	-
Compliance with the requirements of the LPIP and Decision No KS-117 of 22 December 2010 of the RTCL relating to information about the provider of audiovisual media services	15	13
Compliance with the requirements of the LPIP relating to the retention of the information published	25	1
Compliance with the requirements of the Rules for television station packages and the requirement of the LPIP relating to the obligation to re-broadcast or disseminate via the Internet all uncoded television programmes of the LRT	5	1
Compliance with the requirements of the LPIP relating to European works	15	1
Compliance with the requirement of the LPIP to publish the name of the programme	22	1
Compliance with the requirement of the LPIP prohibiting any alterations to or any inserts of other information in the programmes re-broadcast and/or disseminated via the Internet	5	-

Compliance with the requirements for advertising, audiovisual commercial communications set out in the LPIP and the Descriptor of the procedure for implementing the requirements for audiovisual commercial communication and advertising transmission, sponsorship of audiovisual media services, radio programmes and individual programmes in radio and/or television stations (the “Descriptor”) approved by Decision KS-58 of 11 April 2012 of the RTCL	24	10
Compliance with the requirements of the LPIP and the Descriptor relating to sponsorship messages	24	7
Compliance with the requirements of the LPIP and the Descriptor for product placement	14	4
Compliance with the requirements of the LPIP, Law on the protection of minors against the detrimental effect of public information and the Descriptor of the procedure for rating and disseminating public information having a detrimental effect on minors approved by Resolution No 1121 of 21 July 2010 of the Lithuanian Government relating to the protection of minors	25	3
Compliance with RTCL decisions	26	16
Compliance with the requirements set out in broadcasting licenses, re-broadcast content licences	23	10

Findings of the routine inspections conducted by the RTCL in 2019 reveal that the majority of violations were related to failure to comply with the decisions of the RTCL (these violations accounted for 38% of all violations) and failure to comply with the requirements set out in Decision KS-117 of 22 December 2010 of the RTCL relating to information about the audiovisual media services provider (these violations accounted for 19% of all violations). Even though the majority of violations were classified as minor violations of law, each of the economic operators inspected was notified of the violations ascertained and provided consultations as to how to meet the statutory requirements relevant to the economic operator.

In 2019, the RTCL imposed 25 administrative sanctions for gross and recurrent violations of law, out of which 23 were warnings and 2 were fines. 13 sanctions were related to violations of Article 477 of the Lithuanian Code of Administrative Misdemeanours (the “CAM”) (violations of the requirements of re-broadcast content licences and permits), 10 sanctions were related to violations of Article 146 of the CAM (violations of the requirements for advertising, product placements, commercial audiovisual communications and sponsorship of audiovisual media services, radio programmes and/or individual programmes), 1 sanction was imposed for the violation of Article 548 of the CAM (violation of the requirements for the retention of information disseminated via the audiovisual media), and 1 sanction was imposed for the violation of Article 78 of the CAM (violation of the requirements for the rating and/or dissemination of public information having a detrimental effect on the development of minors).

Special inspections of economic operators in 2019, and the monitoring of individual radio, television programmes and of provision of on-demand audiovisual media services

In 2019, the RTCL carried out 15 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. Some of these inspections were also carried out where there had been complaints received or reasonable suspicion that an economic operator disseminates information not to be published, or is engaged illegally in any of the activities overseen by the RTCL (*Table 14*). Over the reporting year, the RTCL also carried out 26 inspections of economic operators for suspicion of illegal provision of on-demand audiovisual media services and/or television programme dissemination.

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

Objective	Number of programmes monitored against the objective of the special inspection	Violations
Compliance with the requirements of the LPIP relating to information not to be published	-	-
Compliance with the requirement of the LPIP and the Rules for the licensing of broadcasting activities and re-broadcast content to notify the RTCL of the start of unlicensed radio and/or television broadcasting, re-broadcasting activities	3	-
Compliance with the requirements of the LPIP relating to the language of public information	-	-
Compliance with the requirements of the LPIP for re-broadcasters to prioritize official EU languages	1	-
Compliance with the requirements of the LPIP and Decision No KS-117 of 22 December 2010 of the RTCL relating to information about the provider of audiovisual media services	8	4
Compliance with the requirements of the LPIP relating to the retention of the information published	-	-
Compliance with the requirements of the LPIP relating to European works	-	-
Compliance with the requirement of the LPIP to publish the name of the programme	3	1

Compliance with the requirements of the LPIP and the Descriptor for advertising, audiovisual commercial communications	8	3
Compliance with the requirements of the LPIP and the Descriptor for sponsorship messages	5	4
Compliance with the requirements of the LPIP and the Descriptor for product placement	2	2
Compliance with the requirements of the LPIP, Law on the protection of minors against the detrimental effect of public information and the Descriptor of the procedure for rating and disseminating public information having a detrimental effect on minors approved by Resolution No 1121 of 21 July 2010 of the Lithuanian Government relating to the protection of minors	5	-
Compliance with RTCL decisions	10	2
Compliance with the requirements set out in broadcasting licenses, re-broadcast content licences	8	2

In 2019, special inspections carried out by the RTCL resulted in 18 violations ascertained. The majority of violations, accounting for 44% of all violations, were related to non-compliance with the requirements for sponsorship messages and information about the provider of audiovisual media services.

Last year, the RTCL also 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.

It should be noted that there had been a lot of cases of potentially illegal activities of the dissemination of television programmes or individual programmes via the Internet to Lithuanian viewers. Unfortunately, the RTCL has no possibility of locating these service providers as the respective sites where the services are provided post no contact details of the service provider.

Where the RTCL ascertains that an infringing website is hosted on a server in Lithuania, the RTCL contacts the hosting provider for the website with a request to provide information about the domain name owner.

In 2019, the RTCL filed petitions with Vilnius Regional Administrative Court on 17 occasions in relation to the illegal activities of television programme or individual programme dissemination via the Internet to Lithuanian viewers (*Table 15*). On all occasions Vilnius Regional Administrative Court satisfied these petitions allowing the RTCL to issue mandatory orders to network service providers. These orders are designed to instruct service providers to block access to the websites used in connection with the illegal dissemination of television programmes or individual programmes via the Internet to Lithuanian viewers.

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		Name of the court which permitted mandatory orders to be issued to network service providers, date and number of the court order
	Legal person	Internet domain name identifying the website	
1.	Compic OU	europe.playlist-play2pay.tk; astra.playlist-play2pay.tk; rus.playlistplay2pay.tk	Court order of 30 January 30 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-2107-463-2019
2.	ARIEL IMPEX LP	tvteka.tv; tvteka.com	Court order of 29 March 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-3029-463-2019
3.	Kartina Digital GmbH	kartina.tv; kartinatv.net	Court order of 29 March 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-3029-463-2019
4.	SIA Personiga Interaktiva Komunikacija	persik.tv	Court order of 29 March 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-3029-463-2019
5.	EAST UNION LLP	galaktyka.tv	Court order of 29 March 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-3029-463-2019
6.	OOO HIII TEHET	tenet.tv	Court order of 29 March 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-3029-463-2019

7.	Concern ortus Ltd and natural person Jennifer Catherine Rene	ortus-global.com	Court order of 29 March 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-3029-463-2019
8.	Svitlana Tkachenko	mirant.kiev.ua	Court order of 29 March 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-3029-463-2019
9.	SPB TV	spbtonline.ru	Court order of 29 March 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-3029-463-2019
10.		interntv.ru	Court order of 7 June 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-3877-1063/2019
11.		tivix.co	Court order of 7 June 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-3877-1063/2019
12.		tv-one.org	Court order of 7 June 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-3877-1063/2019
13.		piranya.com	Court order of 7 June 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-3877-1063/2019
14.		vefire.ru	Court order of 7 June 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-3877-1063/2019
15.		tvradio.biz	Court order of 7 June 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-3877-1063/2019

16.		tvvtv.ru	Court order of 7 June 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-3877-1063/2019
17.		ottclub.cc; online-television.net; pr2pr.net; trefoil.tv; sunduk-tv.com; sunduk.tv; videomore.ru; viaway.com; rus24.tv; lapti.tv	Court order of 12 September 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-5066-1063-2019

Implementation of European works quotas

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 8 of Article 38 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.” Paragraph 2 of Article 40⁴ of the same law applies 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 half of the programmes in the catalogue of on-demand audiovisual media services are European works.”

In 2019, the RTCL conducted a survey of all 11 national television stations: LRT TELEVIZIJA, LRT PLIUS, TV3, TV6, TV8, LNK, Info TV, LIUKS!, TV1, BTV and Lietuvos rytas.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, LIUKS!, TV1, BTV and Lietuvos rytas.tv.

Television station	Share of European works	Monitoring times
LRT TELEVIZIJA	81%	04/03–10/03/2019
LRT PLIUS	88%	04/03–10/03/2019
TV3	36%	04/03–10/03/2019

TV6	17%	04/03–10/03/2019
TV8	40%	04/03–10/03/2019
LNK	35%	04/03–10/03/2019
Info TV	75%	04/03–10/03/2019
LIUKS!	75%	04/03–10/03/2019
TV1	51%	04/03–10/03/2019
BTV	40%	04/03–10/03/2019
Lietuvos rytas.tv	58%	04/03–10/03/2019

As evident from the results of the survey, 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 their share of European works in 2019 (for example, in TV8, TV1, LNK), and in others this share remained stable (for example, in LIUKS!). It should be noted that the requirements of paragraph 8 of Article 38 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 Misdemeanours 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. During the routine inspections of providers of on-demand audiovisual media services conducted in 2019, the RTCL established that all 6 economic operators inspected, out of 20 registered with the RTCL, complied with the requirements of paragraph 2 of Article 40⁴ of the LPIP relating to European quotas (*Table 17*).

Table 17. Share of programming time allocated to European works in the catalogues of providers of on-demand audiovisual media services, 2019.

Provider of on-demand audiovisual media services	Share of European works in the catalogue
UAB DELFI	96%
VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA	90%
UAB Init	100%
UAB Lrytas	100%
VŠĮ Marijampolės televizija	No less than 50%
VŠĮ Alytaus regioninė televizija	No less than 50%

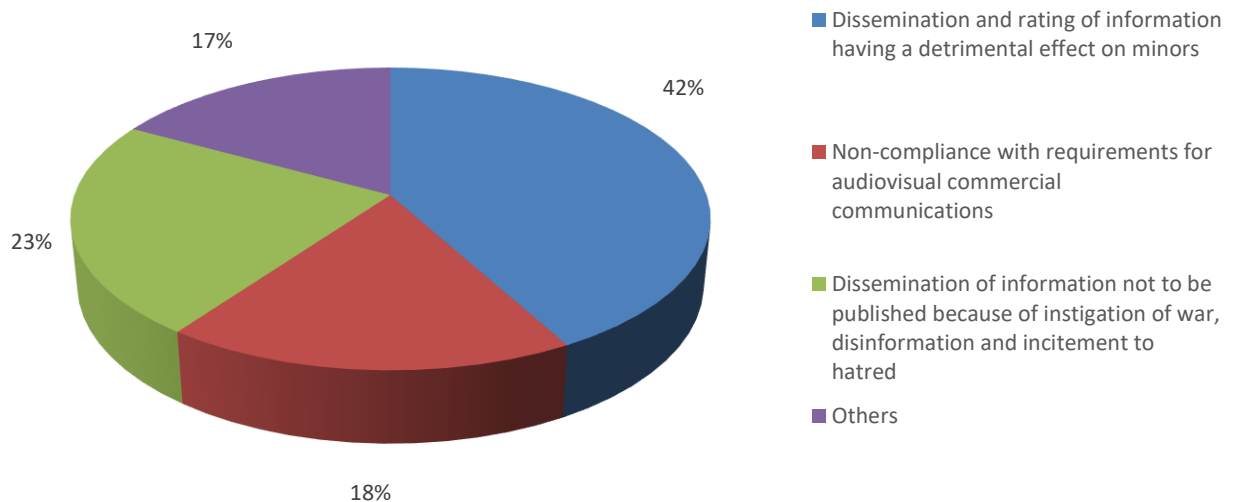
It is important to mention that the total share of European works in the catalogues of providers of on-demand audiovisual media services was in excess of the minimum quota of 50% set forth in paragraph 2 of Article 40⁴ of the LPIP. It is highlighted that in the case of two inspected providers of on-demand audiovisual media services, i.e. UAB Init and UAB Lrytas, the share of European works in their catalogues was 100%, for UAB DELFI it was 96%, and for VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA – 90%.

Complaints handled in 2019

In 2019, the RTCL received a total of 77 complaints. Complaints received were related to the content broadcast in radio and television stations which possibly disseminated information not to be published or restricted public information having a detrimental effect on the development of minors, improper rating of the content broadcast, or the wrong airing time of the content. Viewers were also complaining about the improperly highlighted or labelled audiovisual commercial communications (television ads, sponsorship messages and product placement). There were also complaints in relation to disinformation and incitement to hatred in the mass media, illegal activities of television programme and/or individual programme dissemination via the Internet, and failure to observe licence terms and conditions (*Figure 10*).

It is important to mention that in the reporting period the RTCL ascertained 6 infringements in the following television stations re-broadcast in Lithuania: *Pirmais Baltijais Kanals*, *NTV Mir Lithuania*, *Rossija 24*, *Planeta RTR*. The infringements were related to information that qualifies as information not to be published under Article 19 of the LPIP (disinformation, incitement to hatred). Persons responsible for the publication of this information have been notified of the infringements but no process of the temporary suspension of the free reception of these Russian-language programmes in Lithuania had been started as infringements did not reoccur.

Figure 10. Complaints received in 2019.



The majority of complaints were submitted by completing an electronic complaint form¹² available on the RTCL's website. 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-166¹³ of 9 September 2015 of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania, complaints have to be examined within 20 working days after their

¹² <https://www.rtk.lt/lt/formos/pateikite-e-skunda>

¹³ <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/e2d839d05c3d11e589fccd6fa118e11c>

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.

Consultations

Having regard to paragraph 1 of Article 36³ of the Law on Public Administration where consultations to economic operators are defined as an essential part of economic operator oversight and sub-clause 7.4 of the Descriptor of the Guidelines for optimizing the institutional oversight functions approved by Resolution No 511 of 4 May 2010 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania On the optimization of the institutional oversight functions (the “Descriptor”) where consultations and other methodological assistance are defined as an operational priority for oversight (supervision) institutions, the RTCL paid particular attention to this area in 2019.

Last year, in an attempt to ensure and regulate a consistent consultation process on matters of competence of the RTCL and involving economic operators, the RTCL approved the Descriptor of the procedure of consultations to the public.

The RTCL sees consultations as an essential part of its oversight activities and therefore consultations are available to all economic operators as part of meetings with the RTCL, in writing, by phone and by e-mail. A major part of the consultations to economic operators was focused on the requirements for audiovisual commercial communications, dissemination and labelling of public information that might have a detrimental impact on the development of minors, also in relation to the requirements set out in 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 2019. 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 which 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 the consultancy and methodological assistance activities.

In 2019, the Ministry of Economy and Innovations of the Republic of Lithuania carried out an oversight performance evaluation (Scoreboard) involving oversight (supervisory) institutions¹⁴ against 3 categories—one of them being consultancy activities. Based on the results of this evaluation, the RTCL’s consultancy activities were scored 3.53. One thing to note, however, that the evaluation exercise was done for the period between 1 January 2018 and 1 May 2019.

In 2019, the RTCL took proactive efforts and concrete measures to improve on the score, i.e. has defined a process of providing consultations to the public, has enhanced its consultancy efforts during the economic operator inspections, and has published more public consultations on its website.

In an attempt to support the economic operators that are just starting out and help them be

¹⁴ <http://eimin.lrv.lt/lt/veiklos-sritys/verslo-aplinka/verslo-prieziuros-politika/svieslente>

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 two newly established economic operators in 2019 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 understands that ensuring the quality of consultations as part of an administrative service requires additional active actions and measures from the RTCL and therefore the RTCL sees the improvement and enhancement of this area of oversight as a priority area of its activities for 2020.

COPYRIGHT PROTECTION ON THE INTERNET

Amendments to Article 78 of the Law on Copyright and Related Rights of the Republic of Lithuania (the "LCRR") 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 authority 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).

In 2019, the RTCL took 16 decisions to block 19 websites (**Table 18**) which were publishing copyrighted material illegally. Access was blocked to the most popular website in Lithuania that was publishing audiovisual works illegally, i.e. *filmai.in*. According to the findings of a survey done by the RTCL, this website was being visited by over 700,000 unique visitors. Access was also blocked to one of the most popular P2P (peer-to-peer) websites in Lithuania in terms of total traffic, i.e. *torrent.ai*. It should be noted that on 10 July the RTCL took the decision to block *sputniknews.lt* which had almost 1,500 articles posted illegally. On 2 August, after the *sputniknews.lt* team has remedied the copyright infringement in question, access to the site was restored.

Table 18. List of websites that were publishing copyrighted content illegally.

No	Domain name identifying the website	Name of the court which permitted mandatory orders to be issued to network service providers, date and number of the court order
1.	themusiclt.com	Court order of 13 May 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-3551-463-2019
2.	themusiclt.com	Court order of 7 June 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-3873-1063/2019

3.	tophitai.com	Court order of 7 June 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-3874-1063-2019
4.	pdfknygos.net	Court order of 12 July 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-4415-1063/2019
5.	ldiena.lt	Court order of 30 August 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-4947-463/2019
6.	filmix.co	Court order of 13 September 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-5077-1063-2019
7.	yts.lt	Court order of 13 September 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-5078-1063-2019
8.	new-rus.tv; newru.tv; tebox.eu	Court order of 13 September 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-5079-1063-2019
9.	filmai.in	Court order of 4 October 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-5321-1063-2019
10.	torrent.ai	Court order of 4 October 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-5322-1063-2019
11.	hdxa.me	Court order of 9 October 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-5365-463/2019
12.	bobfilm.xyz	Court order of 9 October 2019 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI-5366-463/2019
13.	filmix.guru, filmix.org.ua	Decision No KS-79 of 4 December 2019 of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania
14.	themusiclt.net	Decision No KS-81 of 17 December 2019 of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania
15.	knygos.in	Decision No KS-82 of 17 December 2019 of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania

In an attempt to survey the effectiveness of the blocking orders, the Division of Economic Operator Supervision carries out continuous monitoring of the sites access to which had been blocked due to copyright infringements—the RTCL monitors changes in the numbers of visitors before and after blocking. It was observed that in October 2019 following the issue of two mandatory orders to Internet service providers instructing them to block access to *filmai.in* visitor traffic to these sites decreased (-24% in October, -29% in November, -4% in December) (**Figure 11**). Traffic to *torrent.ai*

kept on decreasing each month following the RTCL’s decision to block this site made in October 2019 (-26% in October, -36% in November, -1% in December) (**Figure 12**).

Figure 11. Filmai.in traffic by month in 2019.

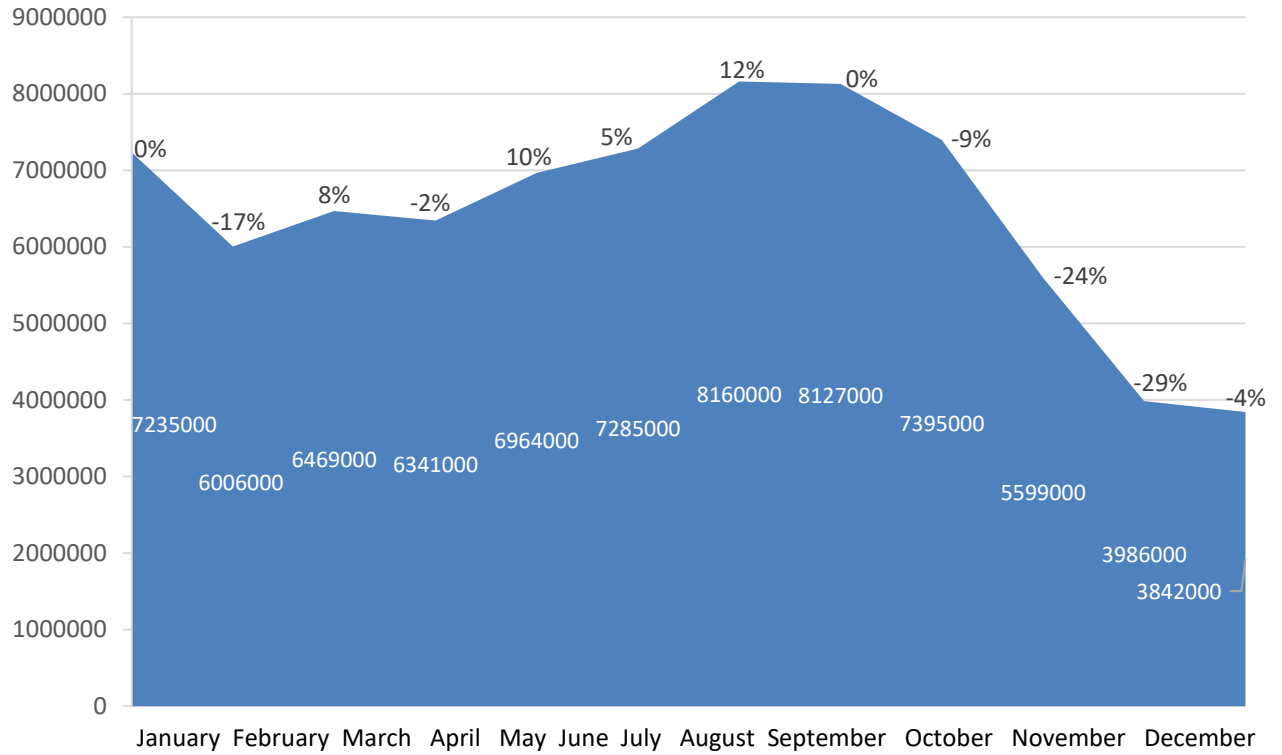
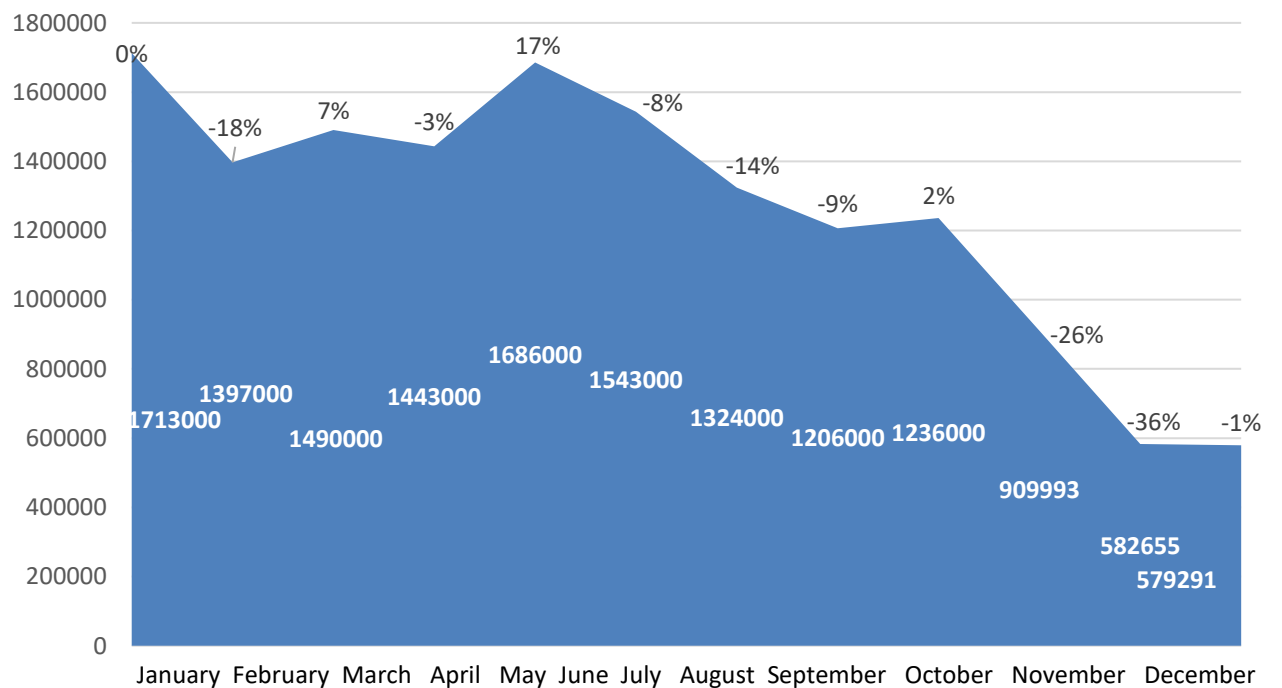


Figure 12. Torrent.ai traffic by month in 2019.



In accordance with the Descriptor of the procedure of mandatory orders to Internet service providers approved by 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 providers¹⁵ (the “Descriptor”), the RTCL conducted continuous monitoring of the mirror sites of the sites blocked earlier—these sites were providing access to the same activities as the original ones, and consequently blocked 5 mirror sites.

In May of 2019, the RTCL met up with a team at Internet technology company Google to discuss the possibility of removing the sites so blocked from the Google search engine. The two parties also discussed the possibility of restricting access to information through Google DNS server to make the circumventing of the RTCL’s decisions more difficult and thus their implementation more effective.

During the meeting, a representative of Google explained that there was a possibility to request the removal of the site that had been blocked from the search engine by completing a special form online; restricting access to information through Google DNS server, however, was difficult to implement.

EXTERNAL MEETINGS

The RTCL aims to promote media literacy and the development of a conscious information society, and seeks to familiarise better with the activities of the economic operators supervised by the RTCL and public needs in the area of the audiovisual media out in the field. To achieve these objectives members of the RTCL continued with the tradition of meetings outside the RTCL’s office. In 2019, the RTCL had 2 external meetings. One of the meetings was targeted at the South Eastern region of Lithuania—the RTCL went to Šalčininkai to visit television re-broadcaster UAB Etanetas. The RTCL took this opportunity to familiarize with television consumption habits in the region, the possibilities of ethnic minorities to receive objective and unbiased information, viewer needs and expectations, radio programme dissemination and wishes of both radio and television consumers in the South East of Lithuania. Members of the RTCL also gave presentations to the general public about the audiovisual media market and its regulation in Lithuania, engaged in discussions about the mass media as a political weapon and a propaganda tool, the extent of and threats posed by disinformation.

The destinations of the second external meeting included Šakiai, Punkskas and Alytus. During this meeting, members of the RTCL visited Šakiai-based television re-broadcaster VŠĮ Viltuva where the RTCL was familiarized with the activities of this entity, future plans and concerns.

In Punkskas, members of the RTCL met up with the Polish community in Lithuania to discuss the issues of the visibility and audibility of Lithuanian-language television and radio programmes in the border region.

During the meeting in Punkskas, members of the Polish community in Lithuania mentioned that the availability of television and radio programmes broadcast in Lithuania was complicated in the Polish-Lithuanian border region. Members of the community expressed their desire to watch and listen to Lithuanian-language television and radio programmes in better quality.

¹⁵ Order No IV-771 of 25 of 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.*

The RTCL promised to take action to ensure better visibility and audibility of Lithuanian-language television and radio programmes in the region.

On their way back, members of the RTCL visited Alytus-based radio broadcaster UAB Alytaus radijas. CEO of the company talked about their achievements, plans and vision for the future.

RTCL COOPERATION

Cooperation with the audiovisual media services market players and public authorities

To carry out its functions set out in the LPIP and achieve its strategic goals, the RTCL pays particular attention to cooperation with the economic operators it oversees. Regular dialogue with the representatives of the audiovisual media market is one of the most important aspects of the RTCL's activities. To address a variety of matters relating to the audiovisual media services market oversight, the RTCL consults with broadcasters, re-broadcasters and their organisations: Lithuanian Cable Television Association (LCTA) and Lithuanian Association of Telecom Operators (LATO). In the reporting year, the RTCL held regular meetings with these associations and representatives of individual economic operators where the parties discussed such matters as the prevention of law violations, improvements to the regulatory framework, prevention of the dissemination of information not to be published, and other relevant matters and provided methodological assistance to them.

Last year, the RTCL's staff attended the annual conference organised by the LCTA *Paid Television and Electronic Communications Markets: Is Fair Competition Possible?*, and delivered a presentation titled *Regulation of Remedies Available to Copyright, Related Rights and Sui Generis Rights Owners, their Agents and Collective Administration Entities and the Particulars of their Application from 1 April 2019*.

In the reporting year, the RTCL worked closely with the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, Ministry of Justice, Lithuanian Collective Copyright Management Association LATGA, Lithuanian Neighbouring Rights Association AGATA, Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics, Communications Regulatory Authority, Department of Strategic Communication of the Lithuanian Armed Forces, and other authorities on matters of television and radio content, potential violations of the Law on the Protection of Minors against the detrimental effect of public information in radio and television programmes, illegal publishing of copyrighted content on the Internet, television programme labelling, possible violations of advertising requirements, hidden ads and potential dissemination of propaganda and incitement to hatred, etc.

International cooperation

EPRA

The RTCL has been a member of EPRA¹⁶ for the past 21 years. EPRA was established in 1995 as a response to the need for stronger cooperation between the European regulators. EPRA is the oldest and the biggest network of regulators of audiovisual media services in Europe. In 2019, EPRA united 53 regulators from 47 countries. The European Commission, European Council, European Audiovisual Observatory and OSCE are observers in this organisation.

Two times a year staff of the RTCL attend conferences, prepare material for the agenda of the conferences, complete thematic questionnaires on a variety of matters relating to the regulation of audiovisual media services, etc.

In 2019, as usual there have been 2 meetings of EPRA.

The 49th EPRA conference took place in May of 2019 in Sarajevo, on invitation by the audiovisual media regulator of Bosnia and Hercegovina. The conference was attended by the Lithuanian team, and invited experts on the mass media sector, permanent observers of the European Council, European Commission and OSCE—a total of 150 representatives from 50 EPRA regulators. They shared their experiences and discussed matters relating to the regulation of the audiovisual media in Europe, challenges with the implementation of the revised AVMSD after November of 2018, issues of the protection of minors on the Internet, and paid a lot of attention to broadcasting rights and aspects of broadcasting of sports events.

Three working groups discussed the practices of media literacy improvement in different countries, the importance and methods of determining the origin of European works, prevention of incitement to hatred in the media in multicultural communities, and other topics that are important and relevant to all EPRA members.

The 50th EPRA conference took place in October of 2019 in Athens on invitation by the Greek National Radio and Television Council.

The plenary meetings debated such topics as the protection of minors in the digital world and the resulting challenges to national regulators of audiovisual media services and data protection authorities. A lot of attention was paid to a new topic of “Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning”.

Three working groups working in parallel discussed the following topics: *Media Literacy; European Works, Significance and Best Examples*; and *Accessibility of Television and On-demand Audiovisual Media Services*, where representatives of different regulators had the chance to share experiences and best practices.

The Baltic Project

Regulators of the three Baltic States meet up once every year. In September of 2019, the three regulators came together in Riga on invitation of the National Electronic Mass Media Council of Latvia. The meeting brought together representatives of the RTCL, the Estonian Technical Regulatory Authority, and the National Electronic Mass Media Council of Latvia. The goal of the

¹⁶ <https://www.epra.org/>

meeting was to discuss the challenges and experiences related to the transposition of the AVMSD to national law of each of the three states.

ERGA

In 2019, representatives of the RTCL continued their active work as part of ERGA¹⁷ consisting of the representatives of national regulatory authorities. Last year ERGA members continued advising and making recommendations to the European Commission on various matters of transposition to national law and implementation of the AVMSD, seeking to strengthen further cooperation between the EU and non-EU audiovisual media regulators.

In 2019, ERGA's work programme included work in four subgroups:

1. Media pluralism. The objective of this subgroup is to analyse pluralism in the internal mass media, focusing mostly on external pluralism and media use literacy.
2. The future of ERGA. This subgroup seeks to explore ways how ERGA could work better following the review of the AVMSD.
3. Implementation of the revised AVMSD. The goal for this subgroup is to analyse the impact of changes introduced by the revised AVMSD.
4. Gender diversity. This subgroup seeks to explore how much attention regulators give to gender mainstreaming and exchange of best practices between the authorities working in this field.

In the reporting year, members of the RTCL attended 5 meetings of ERGA subgroups and 1 plenary session.

Last year, ERGA organised two additional meetings to discuss the results of social media monitoring.

As European citizens have to increasingly face disinformation, misleading and clearly fake information being spread on social media, the European Commission started implementing an extensive action plan aimed at fighting the spread of disinformation and analysing its impact on European citizens. In September of 2019, the European Commission and the biggest social media companies and associations signed the EU Code of Practice on Disinformation¹⁸ which sets out a list of measures aimed at increasing transparency in social media.

In early 2019, on request of the European Commission, ERGA approached all EU regulators asking to observe the dissemination of political advertising on social media during the election campaign to the European Parliament. The RTCL and another 12 EU audiovisual media regulators answered this call. The RTCL joined forces with the Central Electoral Commission of Lithuania to monitor live dissemination of political advertising on the three social media networks and compared this with the information available in the political and other advertising archives of Facebook,¹⁹ Google,²⁰ and Twitter. It was analysed whether political advertising was labelled as such and whether political advertising rates could be determined.

Monitoring political ads on social media during the election campaign to the European Parliament revealed that political ads published and available on the archives of Facebook were the most transparent and the platform itself was most compliant with the obligations under the Code of

¹⁷ <http://erga-online.eu/>

¹⁸ <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/code-practice-disinformation>

¹⁹ https://www.facebook.com/ads/library/?active_status=all&ad_type=political_and_issue_ads&country=LT&q=lietuva

²⁰ <https://transparencyreport.google.com/political-ads/region/LT>

Practice on Disinformation. Twitter was the least transparent of all about political ads on the platform. Moreover, this platform was unable to archive ads by country, unlike Facebook and Google.

Having summarised observations from thirteen countries, ERGA came to the conclusion that even though certain information about the identity of certain political figures, sponsors, scope of advertising and the money spent on ads was available on the archives of the said social media platforms, monitoring showed that the archives were not extensive and in general gave no clear, extensive or reliable picture about the nature and scope of political advertising on the three platforms during elections.



COMPETITION OF THE BEST IN RADIO AND TELEVISION *PRAGIEDRULIAI*

The award ceremony of the best radio and television content creators took place on 25 April 2019 at the National Library of Martynas Mažvydas.

In January of 2019, the RTCL announced the traditional seventeenth competition of the best in radio and television *Pragiedruliai*. The competition awarded programmes aired for the first time in 2018.

The competition aims to promote better quality and more varied radio and television content. Consequently, the jury judged the submissions against the criteria of relevancy, lasting and artistic value, originality, impact on the development of the cultural, human, civic and aesthetical values as well as the degree of professionalism and creativity. The RTCL aims to make this competition a prestigious one, a significant event for the country and its culture, and an award for the participating creators an important acknowledgement.

In 2019, the jury was composed of the following members of the RTCL: PR expert and chairman of the jury Ričardas Slapšys; poet and translator Antanas Jonynas; poet Dalia Teišerskytė; member of the board of the Lithuanian Union of Journalists at Kaunas Division Vidas Mačiulis; theatre and film actor and director Algis Matulionis; political analyst and professor at the Institute of International Relations and Political Science of VU Laurynas Jonavičius; journalist Liudvika Pociūnienė; journalist and chairman of the Lithuanian Union of Journalists Dainius Radzevičius; political analyst Vincentas Vobolevičius.

In 2019, the jury received 114 submissions: 89 television and 25 radio shows. The last year's winners included:

Best cultural radio show – *Vieno M. K. Čiurlionio paveikslų istorija* from the radio cycle *Radijo dokumentika*, author Rūta Dambraitė. The show was aired on LRT RADIJAS.

Other two high-scoring shows in the category were *Apie Punksą* from the radio cycle *Atrask Lietuvą*, author Jolanta Jurkūnienė, aired on LRT RADIJAS, and the radio cycle *Lietuvos valstybės atkūrimo šimtmečiui*, author Virgilijus Kubilius, aired on A2.

Best radio talk show – interview with Arkadijus Gotesmanas in two parts from the radio cycle *Alytaus gatvelėmis*, author Eglė Malinauskienė, aired on FM99.

Another prominent cycle of shows was *Lietuvos giesmė*, author Sigutis Jačėnas, aired on Extra FM.

Best current affairs radio show – *Vienkartinė planeta*, author Inga Janiulytė, aired on LRT RADIJAS.

Other high-scoring shows in the category were *Krepšinio aikštelė* from the radio cycle *Radijo dokumentika*, author Inga Janiulytė, aired on LRT RADIJAS, and *Lietuvos karo aviacijos šimtmečio belaukiant*, author Jurgita Jokubauskienė, aired on Mažeikiai.FM.

Best educational radio show – cycle *Daiktų istorijos*, authors Saulius Pilinkus and Edita Mildažytė, aired on LRT PLIUS.

Close competitors for the winner's title in the category were *Keliaujanti biblioteka*, authors Daiva Pikturnienė, Tomas Mizgirdas and Jonas Skupeika, aired on Šiaulių televizija, and a show about archaeological surveys within the Palace of Dukes from the cycle *Mokslo sriuba*, author Ignas Kančys, aired on LRT PLIUS.

Best TV portrait – cycle *Kelias į namus*, authors Ginta Liaugminienė, Ingrida Laimutyte, Haroldas Klevinskas and Aleksas Matvejevas, aired on LRT PLIUS.

Other high-scoring shows in the category were a cycle of shows titled *Vyrų šešėlyje* from authors Audronė Kosciuškienė, Justinas Lingys, Povilas Vaičiulis, Artūras Kavaliauskas and Algirdas Žvinakevičius, aired on Lietuvos rytas.tv, and shows from the cycle *Kalbantys tekstai*, authors Linas Aleksevičius, Mindaugas Nastaravičius, Irena Morkevičienė, Rimvydas Miškelevičius and Česlova Juršėnienė, aired on LRT PLIUS.

Best regional television show – *Sentikių Daniliškės ir Salkininkai, Aukštadvaris ir Trakų Dievo Motina* from the television project *Žemės ir laiko prakalbinimas*, authors Lina Leparskienė, Česlovas Rulevičius and Lukas Zmejevskis, aired on Regioninė televizija Aidas.

Other prominent and high-scoring shows were *Muna kalnele* and *Kelmės krašto asmenybės ir datos (Jonas Smilgevičius)*, author Rita Ščiglinienė, aired on Šiaulių televizija, and shows from the cycle *Po Baltų Lietuvą. Padavimų žemėlapiai* from author Nijolė Jačėnienė, aired on Balticum televizija.

Best current affairs TV show – two shows from authors Jurgė Pridokaitė and Svetlana Gužauskienė: a walk around Kaunas with artist Zanas Hoffmanas from the cycle *7 Kauno dienos*, and *Maršrutas Nr. 58 – Radviliškis* from the cycle *STOP JUOSTA*, aired on LRT PLIUS.

Another show that received a high score was a cycle of shows titled *100 metų propagandos* from authors Indrė Juškutė, Kęstutis Kučinskas, Domas Gudaitis, Tatjana Ponikarčuk, Ignas Žvinakis (the cycle of TV shows was produced by small partnership TV Europa ir partneriai), aired on Info TV, and the cycle *Lietuva mūsų lūpose*, authors Mindaugas Sėjūnas, Tomas Loiba, Teresa Rožanovska, Jurga Kalvaitytė, Romuald Lavrynovič, Mykolas Alekna, Andrius Seliuta, Vincas Kubilius, Antanas Smetona, aired on LRT PLIUS.

Best cultural television show – about Petras Tarasenko from the cycle *Rusų gatvė*, authors Olegas Kurdiukovas, Asta Giraitytė, Miglė Gaižiūtė, Romualdas Gruodis, aired on LRT PLIUS.

Another show that was highly scored was about creative architectural workshop and Nanook from the cycle *Kuriantys* from authors Gailė Garnelytė, Haroldas Klevinskas, Vytautas Oškiniš, Aleksas Matvejevas, Ignas Žvinakis (small partnership TV Europa ir partneriai), aired on Šiaulių televizija, and *LSF Valstybės radiofonas* created by Justinas Lingys and aired on INIT TV.

Best television talk show – *Skambantys pasauliai su Nomedu Kazlaus* (submissions for the competition included interviews with mega star Andrea Bocelli, globally acclaimed director Eimuntas Nekrošius and violinist and mega star Nigel Kelly), author Dr. Nomedas Kazlauskas, aired on LRT PLIUS.

Another high-scoring show in the category was a cycle of TV shows titled *Gyvieji liudininkai* (submissions for the competition included films about partisan Juozas Jakavonis-Tigras, communications officer for the partisan movement Apolonija Navickienė-Šaka and another communications officer Vitalija Juselytė-Naktibalda) from author Saulius Pučinskas, aired on INIT TV.

Best TV entertainment project – a cycle of shows titled *Geriausi mūsų metai. 100-mečio šou* created by creative director Arvydas Rimas and director general of TV3 television station Laura Blaževičiūtė, aired on TV3.

Other high-scoring shows included the final show of Season 6 of the *Voice of Lithuania* produced by Gediminas Jaunius, aired on LNK, and the cycle *Gražiausias poetų dainos*, author Saulius Basijokas, aired on LRT TELEVIZIJA.

The jury decided to award DELFI with a **special diploma** for novel approach, convergence of technologies and a keen interest in current affairs.

All winners received original diplomas created by graphic artist Egidijus Rudinskas, and monetary prizes.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF STAFF

Institutional efficiency is impossible without continuous professional development and upskilling of staff. Last year too professional development remained a course of action for the RTCL as set out in the RTCL's Strategic Action Plan for 2019–2021.

In 2019, the RTCL decided to allocate up to 2% from the budget allocations on salaries on professional development projects.

The administrative staff of the RTCL were encouraged to refresh their knowledge in a variety of training courses and workshops, international and domestic conferences to avoid the debilitating routine in their work and encourage staff to share their experience and knowledge not just with co-workers but also with fellow colleagues from other regulatory authorities.

In the reporting year, staff of the RTCL took part in the following:

1. Seminar *e.Document Management (Archiving)—Problems and Solutions. The Principles of Recordkeeping*.
2. A seminar organised by the Public Procurement Office aimed at familiarising public procurement officers with changes in the public procurement process and best practices, green public procurement, etc.
3. Seminar *Changes in Document Management after 2020*.
4. A seminar organised by CountLine titled *Risk Management in the Public Sector*.
5. Conference *HR Week Lithuania* which is the biggest HR conference in the Baltic States. Attendees discussed the future of human capital and the latest trends reshaping the world of personnel, entrepreneurial society and social welfare, employer image, recruitment and talent development, HR challenges in the digital world, inspiring leadership and employee engagement, the latest insights in the fields of psychology, neuroscience and behavioural economy and their application to human resources management.

6. Training organised by the Ministry of Culture *Strategic Communication and Fighting Disinformation.*
7. Courses organised by the Ministry of Economy and Innovations *Building the Skills for Quality Consultations in an Institution Supervising Economic Entities.*
8. 2-day seminar organised by the Ministry of Economy and Innovations *The Basics of Contemporary Business Oversight.*
9. Training organised by VšĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA *Theoretical and Practical Considerations in the Areas of Advertising and Sponsorship Messages in LRT Programmes.*
10. A seminar organised by the European Commission on the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2017/2394 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2017 on cooperation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws and repealing Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004. The seminar took place in Riga and was attended by the representatives of the authorities responsible for implementing the said regulation from the three Baltic States, i.e. Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. The seminar served as an opportunity to discuss the legal framework of the three Baltic States and chances of cooperation as well as the regulatory provisions that will be introduced by way of the new regulation. Members of the European Commission drew attention to potential issues and highlighted the need for cooperation.
11. Workshop organised by the Ministry of Culture *Crisis Communication and Fighting Disinformation.*
12. In the Media Forum, participants discussed the impact of new technologies on society and mass media, topics of media and information literacy in the field of culture and explored how mass media creates immunity against fake news.
13. Training on intellectual property and the Internet organised by the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania and the European Union Intellectual Property Office.

PUBLICITY WORK BY THE RTCL

The main tool used to inform and publicise the activities of the RTCL is its website at www.rtk.lt.²¹ The RTCL constantly makes improvements to the website based on the recommendations of the Ministry of Economy and Innovations and comments by website users by adding the missing information on new sections of the site as recommended.

In September of 2019, the RTCL signed a contract with UAB Dizaino kryptis to purchase coding solutions for website design and content management in line with the guidelines of Order No 480 of 18 April 2003 of the Lithuanian Government On the approval of the Descriptor of the common requirements for websites and mobile applications of state and municipal authorities and agencies. The updated website failed to launch by the end of 2019 as was planned for objective reasons, yet the RTCL is convinced that the website will be fully operational by the beginning of 2020. The site will offer more functions, a user-friendly menu and more secure browsing resulting in quicker and easier search for information. The website will also be easier to browse on smart phones and tablets.

²¹<https://www.rtk.lt/>

The main language of the website is Lithuanian, though some of the most relevant information can be found in English as well. The RTCL also has an account on Facebook where users can comment on the activities of the RTCL, post their observations, etc. The site provides a range of information about the activities of the RTCL, decisions taken, administrative services and other—it is also used for regular expedient publication and dissemination of press releases. All of this help society to learn quickly of the latest developments in the field overseen by the RTCL, and ensure the publicity and transparency of the RTCL's work. The site contains the latest information about the audiovisual media market meaning that consumers can find the information of relevance to them about the programmes, broadcasters and re-broadcasters, providers of on-demand audiovisual media services and persons disseminating television programmes or individual television programmes via the Internet. The option of filing complaints and requests directly via the site also makes it easier for the RTCL to learn more about the issues of concern to the general public.

To accomplish one of the strategic goals of its work, i.e. publicity of the RTCL's work, the RTCL renews, on an annual basis, a contract it has with BNS spaudos centras so that all relevant information about important decisions and events reaches the widest audience possible in the most efficient way.

In an attempt to explain the latest developments in the field regulated by the RTCL to the general public and publicise and discuss various issues as widely as possible, Chairman of the RTCL Mantas Martišius often took part in radio and television shows on current affairs, such as:

- 15min studio
- Laisvės TV
- Lietuvos rytas.lt
- LRT *Dienos tema*
- *LRT forumas*
- LRT *RADIJAS 60 minučių*
- *Aktualijų studija*
- LRT *Žinios*
- A current affairs segment filmed by a Czech TV station discussing the challenges of the audiovisual media regulators of the three Baltic States in order to prevent the dissemination of disinformation in the Russian-language programmes.

Last year, Mr Martišius also delivered presentations at:

- 4th Zagreb Security Forum organised by Hybrid Warfare Research Institute and St. George Association
- Workshop in Helsinki on News Media and Legal Resilience organised by the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats
- Meeting of the Human Dimension Committee of the OSCE, meetings with experts of the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media; international conference in Vienna organised by the OSCE RfoM conference *Journalists Under Attack: a threat to media freedom*
- Meetings with staff of the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania to Georgia to discuss the possibilities of preventing the spread of disinformation, hatred and war propaganda in television programmes

- Discussions on freedom of expression and freedom of the media within the framework of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
- International conference Hybrid Threats and Wars in the 21st Century

PRIORITIES FOR 2020

The following are the main priorities of the RTCL for 2020:

- Enhanced protection of individuals, including minors, against the harmful effects of public information by preventing the dissemination of information not to be published or restricted information on radio and television through the legal means available to the RTCL
- Ensuring equal regulatory conditions for all economic operators overseen by the RTCL and engaged in equivalent operations
- Continued introduction and use of measures that deliver user-friendly, efficient and information technology-based consultations and other services, enable cooperation with economic operators and between institutions and provision of information to economic operators
- Mandatory orders to Internet service providers in an attempt to block access to copyrighted content that is published illegally
- Continued publicity work