



RADIO AND TELEVISION
COMMISSION OF LITHUANIA
2024 Annual Report

Vilnius 2025

Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania

RADIO AND TELEVISION COMMISSION OF LITHUANIA

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

14 March 2025 No. ND-1

Vilnius

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

For the purpose of complying with its obligation set out in the Law on the Provision of Information to the Public (the “LPIP”), the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania (the “RTCL”) presents the annual report on its activities for the year 2024, including the set of financial statements with the independent auditor’s opinion and audit report, prepared for the attention of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (the “Seimas”).

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

The RTCL consists of 11 members appointed for a term of four years who can serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

In 2024, the RTCL consisted of the following members: Rimantas Bagdzevičius (Chairman), Ričardas Slapšys (Deputy Chairman) and Agnesta Filatovė appointed by the Seimas; Lauras Bielinis and Audronė Nugaraitė appointed by the President of the Republic of Lithuania; Ramutis Rimeikis, Edita Utarienė and Arūnas Matelis delegated by the Lithuanian Artists’ Association; Vytautas Kvietkauskas appointed by the Lithuanian Union of Journalists; Darius Chmieliauskas delegated by the Lithuanian Society of Journalists and Valdas Kilpys delegated by the Lithuanian Bishops’ Conference of the Catholic Church.

In 2024, the RTCL was overseeing 129 (compared to 121 in 2023) entities engaged in both licensed and unlicensed activities.

In the reporting year, as part of its functions, the RTCL held 24 meetings and 23 conference meetings, took 174 decisions, imposed 109 administrative sanctions (5 warnings and 104 fines), handled 86 complaints and responded to over 350 inquiries, sent 834 official documents and received 618 letters.

In 2024, the RTCL’s activities were focused in 2 main areas, namely, the enforcement of international sanctions and the copyright protection on the Internet.

The RTCL ensures the implementation of international sanctions, taking into account and in accordance with the Regulations of the Council of the European Union that apply restrictive measures for disinformation and propaganda against the European Union (EU) and its Member States. According to them, it is forbidden for economic operators to broadcast or create more favourable conditions for broadcasting the content of legal entities, entities and organizations included in the lists available in Annexes to the Regulations, or otherwise contribute to such a broadcast by transmitting or distributing it by any means, i.e. cable, satellite, IP (Internet Protocol) TV, online video-sharing platforms, etc.

Therefore, the RTCL continued to actively monitor radio and television programmes seeking ways to limit the accessibility of Russian and Belarusian programmes and disinformation disseminated therein in a more effective manner. The RTCL found that television channels that have been sanctioned by the EU are distributed on the Internet. It was detected that data packs of the banned television channels are obtained using IP (Internet Protocol) addresses through which the television channels can be accessed.

In 2024, the RTCL continued the effective application of the new method of blocking (which was adopted for the first time in 2023), ordering the providers of public electronic networks and of public electronic communication services to take every measure possible so that EU sanctions are complied with and access to the IP addresses indicated by the RTCL is blocked. This method of blocking is considered to be more effective and more difficult to circumvent compared to the DNS (Domain Name System) blocking previously used by the RTCL.

In 2024, 1,083 IP addresses (compared to 367 in 2023) were blocked using this method.

In 2024, having detected violations, the RTCL imposed a fine on one Lithuanian economic entity for the unlawful distribution of prohibited television programmes controlled or funded from the Russian Federation.

It was found that UAB Goruva was broadcasting their programmes on video-sharing platform *YouTube*, in which the participants of the programmes deliberately announced in public false, tendentious, biased information not based on any facts in order to form an unfavourable opinion about Jonas Ohmanas, Founder and Chairman of the Board of VšĮ Mėlyna ir geltona (Blue Yellow), and his activities of collecting support to Ukraine.

Such public dissemination of disinformation, especially in today's geopolitical context, is dangerous, incites mistrust and unreasonable doubt on the process of collecting support for Ukraine.

In order to share good practices on the prevention of disinformation, the representatives of the RTCL participated in the meetings and conferences organized by various regulatory authorities in different countries.

In implementing the provisions of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania Copyright and Related Rights (hereinafter, the Law on Copyright and Related Rights), the RTCL continued to actively defend copyright on the Internet during the reporting year. Under the said Law, the RTCL became the authority in charge of supervision and protection of copyright on the Internet and was given the right to block websites and copies thereof that illegally publish copyright-protected content. In order to strengthen the protection of copyright on the Internet, the RTCL has intensified cooperation with representatives of Google regarding the removal of websites that illegally publish copyright-protected content. At the request of the RTCL, the removal of URLs (uniform resource locator) with IP addresses from the Google search engine and the removal of apps from the Google Play Store have been initiated.

During the reporting year, when implementing the provisions of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Lithuania, which became effective in 2023, the RTCL continued to impose administrative liability on entities unlawfully publishing copyright-protected content. Under the provisions of the Code of Administrative Offences, the unlawful public performance, reproduction or publication to the public of the object of copyright or related rights or any part thereof may result in a fine of up to EUR 600. The RTCL applied administrative liability against 99 persons who were imposed with fines.

It should be mentioned that ensuring equal regulatory conditions for all entities engaged in similar activities overseen by the RTCL remained one of the essential and most important objectives of the RTCL's activities. Understanding that the content resulting from the new services, such as video clips or user-generated content, has been growing in scale and importance and that new market participants, including providers of on-demand audiovisual media services and video-sharing platforms (vloggers), have been gaining in popularity and influence among their followers, the RTCL continued its efforts to improve the oversight of the services provided by them. By the end of 2024,

there have been 20 entities engaged in the provision of on-demand audiovisual media services via a video-sharing platform.

The reporting year was marked by active international cooperation. Representatives of the RTCL had 17 visits to 13 EU Member States in order to discuss problematic issues, make presentations, share and exchange experience with colleagues in the field of regulation of audiovisual media services.

In 2024, just like in previous years, members of the RTCL attended three meetings of ERGA, the European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services which advises the European Commission on different matters of AVMSD implementation, and two meetings of the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA).

Aiming to facilitate quick access to information of interest to economic operators and anyone interested in the activities of the RTCL and when visiting the RTCL's website, in the light of the general requirements for the compliance of websites of state and municipal authorities and institutions, and the proposals of the Information Society Development Committee, the RTCL has improved the structure of the website and the presentation of information on it. According to the survey carried out by the aforementioned Committee, the RTCL's website meets the evaluation criteria with a score of 99% for the second consecutive year.

In 2024, all activities of the RTCL were carried out using the funds available for the RTCL's mission and programmes, strategic and priority goals outlined in the 2024-2026 Strategic Action Plan.

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

Chairman

Rimantas Bagdzevičius

MISSION AND PRIORITIES OF THE RTCL FOR 2024

The RTCL's mission, which is laid down in the 2024-2026 Strategic Action Plan of the RTCL, is to create value to society by protecting the state and societal morals and ensuring the dissemination of reliable and high-quality information.

The following were the main priorities of the RTCL's activities in 2024:

- restriction of dissemination of prohibited information in public media outlets and monitoring of implementation of restrictions;
- provision of mandatory instructions to providers of internet access services in order to disable the possibility of accessing illegally published copyright-protected content made available online;
- reinforcement of copyright and related rights in digital space, ensuring a more effective fight against copyright violations;
- strengthening the provision of consulting and methodological assistance.

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

In 2024, 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 of unlicensed activities submitted by economic operators; set annual fees for the services of radio and/or television broadcasting, re-broadcasting, dissemination of television programmes and/or individual programmes via the Internet, provision of on-demand audiovisual media services, etc.

Between 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2024, the RTCL registered 14 notifications of the start of unlicensed activities of radio broadcasting, re-broadcasting of television programmes, dissemination of television programmes on the Internet, provision of on-demand audiovisual media services to users of the Republic of Lithuania.

In the reporting year, the RTCL took 174 decisions related to licensing, competition announcements and their implementation, and other matters relating to the activities of the economic operators regulated by the RTCL.

Table 1. Decisions taken by the RTCL in 2024 in relation to licensing, competition announcements and their implementation, and other matters relating to the regulation of the economic operators under the jurisdiction of the RTCL.

Ref. No.	Nature of the decision	Number of decisions
1.	Consent to transfer and acquire shares	7
2.	Competition announcements	8
3.	Competition results	8
4.	Temporary suspension of activities	2
5.	Revocation of licenses	4
6.	Issuance of licenses without competition	1
7.	Modification of the terms and conditions of licenses	11

8.	Issuance of permits	2
9.	Setting of annual fees	63
10.	Mandatory orders to Internet access service providers	42
11.	Mandatory orders to network service providers	5
12.	Laws and regulations	12
13.	Other	9

ANNOUNCEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITIONS TO AWARD LICENCES

During the reporting year, the RTCL announced 4 competitions to award radio broadcasting licences and 4 competitions to award television broadcasting licenses and took 8 decisions relating to competition results (*see Table 2*).

Table 2. Competitions announced by the RTCL in 2024 and their results.

Ref. No.	Objective	Station location, territory covered by the license	Radio frequency/ TV channel	Participants
				Winner
1.	Broadcasting license for radio programme broadcasting	Anykščiai	99,9 MHz	UAB All Media Radijas Association Aukštaitijos komunikacijos projektai VšĮ KVARTOLĖ UAB Pūkas
2.	Broadcasting license for radio programme broadcasting	Druskininkai	94,3 MHz	UAB All Media Radijas VšĮ KVARTOLĖ VšĮ KVARTOLĖ
3.	Broadcasting license for television programme broadcasting	Šiauliai	30 TV kanalas	UAB Šiaulių apskrities televizija Declared unsuccessful
4.	Broadcasting license for television programme broadcasting	Kėdainiai Panevėžys Ukmergė	46 TV kanalas	UAB Etaplus Declared unsuccessful
5.	Broadcasting license for television programme broadcasting	Šiauliai	30 TV kanalas	UAB Etaplus
6.	Broadcasting license for television programme broadcasting	Kėdainiai Panevėžys Ukmergė	46 TV kanalas	UAB Etaplus
7.	Broadcasting license for radio programme broadcasting	Vilnius	104,3 MHz	UAB All Media Radijas UUAB RADIOLA UAB Solfega VšĮ Sostinės media VšĮ Sostinės media
8.	Broadcasting license for radio programme broadcasting	Alytus	94,5 MHz	UAB Interbanga VšĮ KVARTOLĖ UAB Pūkas UAB Interbanga

9.	Broadcasting license for radio programme broadcasting*	Kėdainiai	91,7 MHz	
10.	Broadcasting license for radio programme broadcasting*	Klaipėda	95,3 MHz	

**Decisions regarding the results of competitions will be taken in 2025.*

The RTCL received and examined 17 tenders in response to competition announcements. Having calculated the results, the RTCL announced 6 winners in 2024, issuing 4 new licenses and supplementing the terms and conditions of 2 licenses issued earlier. The RTCL declared 2 competitions as unsuccessful because the tenders submitted the participants did not comply with the terms and conditions of the competition.

DECISIONS BY THE RTCL ON THE AMENDMENT OF LICENCE TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND CANCELLATION OF LICENSES

In 2024, the RTCL took 11 decisions on the amendment of license terms and conditions. These decisions were related to changes in the structure and content of television and radio programmes, name of television programme broadcasting, modification of the map marking the territory of licensed activities and modification of the main operating conditions of the electronic communications network using the television channel.

Over the reporting period, the RTCL took 4 decisions to cancel broadcasting licences (**Table 3**).

Table 3. Licence cancellations.

Ref. No.	Licence holder	Grounds for licence cancellation	Licensed activities
1.	UAB Ignalinos televizija	Licence holder decided to give up the licence	Television programme broadcasting LC-279(T279)
2.	MB Televizijos transliuotojas	In the absence of the consent of the Commission, the license holder (management) was passed to another person.	Television programme broadcasting LC-515
3.	UAB REKLAMOS GAMA	In the absence of the consent of the Commission, the license holder did not carry out the radio programme broadcasting activities as laid down in the license for more than 2 consecutive months.	Radio programme broadcasting LC-417(R417)
4.	VšĮ Gerų naujienų televizija	Licence holder decided to give up the licence	Television programme broadcasting LC-468(T468)

As of 31 December 2024, the RTCL had issued 132 broadcasting and re-broadcast content licences to radio and/or television broadcasters and re-broadcasters engaged in licensed activities, and 7 permits to VšĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA (PUBLIC RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTER OF LITHUANIA).

RADIO

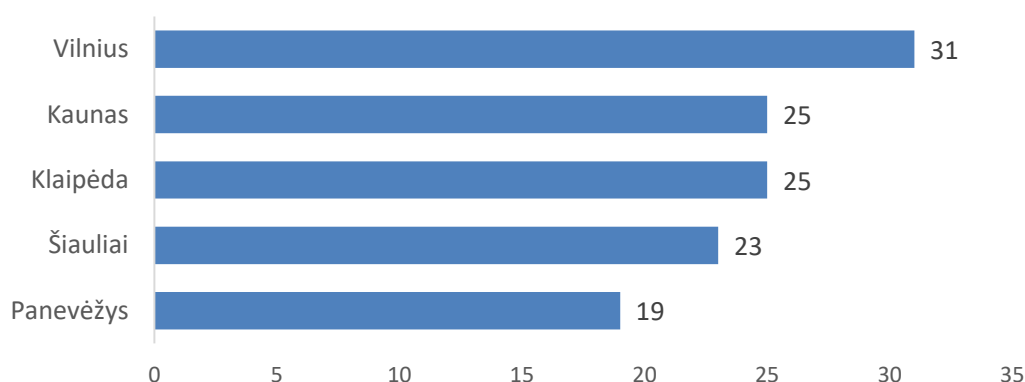
At the end of 2024, there were 39 radio broadcasters in Lithuania broadcasting 58 radio stations. Over the reporting year, the majority of radio stations in Lithuania were transmitting a mix of music and information content.

2 radio broadcasting licences were issued in 2024 to the winners of competitions organised by the RTCL for the purposes of extension of the territory of licensed activities; 1 license to the radio programme broadcaster, who won the competition announced by the RTCL, was issued a broadcasting license to broadcast a radio programme using the terrestrial analogue radio transmitter station in Vilnius, 1 license to the radio programme broadcaster, who won the competition announced by the RTCL, was issued a broadcasting license to broadcast a radio programme using the terrestrial analogue radio transmitter station in Alytus.

The greatest diversity of radio stations in 2024 was observed in major Lithuanian cities: 31 radio stations in Vilnius, 25 in Kaunas, 25 in Klaipėda, 23 in Šiauliai and 19 radio stations in Klaipėda (*Figure 1*).

In 2024, in terms of radio coverage in Lithuania, there were 15 national radio stations (*Figure 4*), 6 regional radio broadcasters (*Table 5*) and 25 broadcasters broadcasting local radio stations (*Table 6*).

Figure 1. Number of radio programmes in major Lithuanian cities in 2024.



Source: RTCL

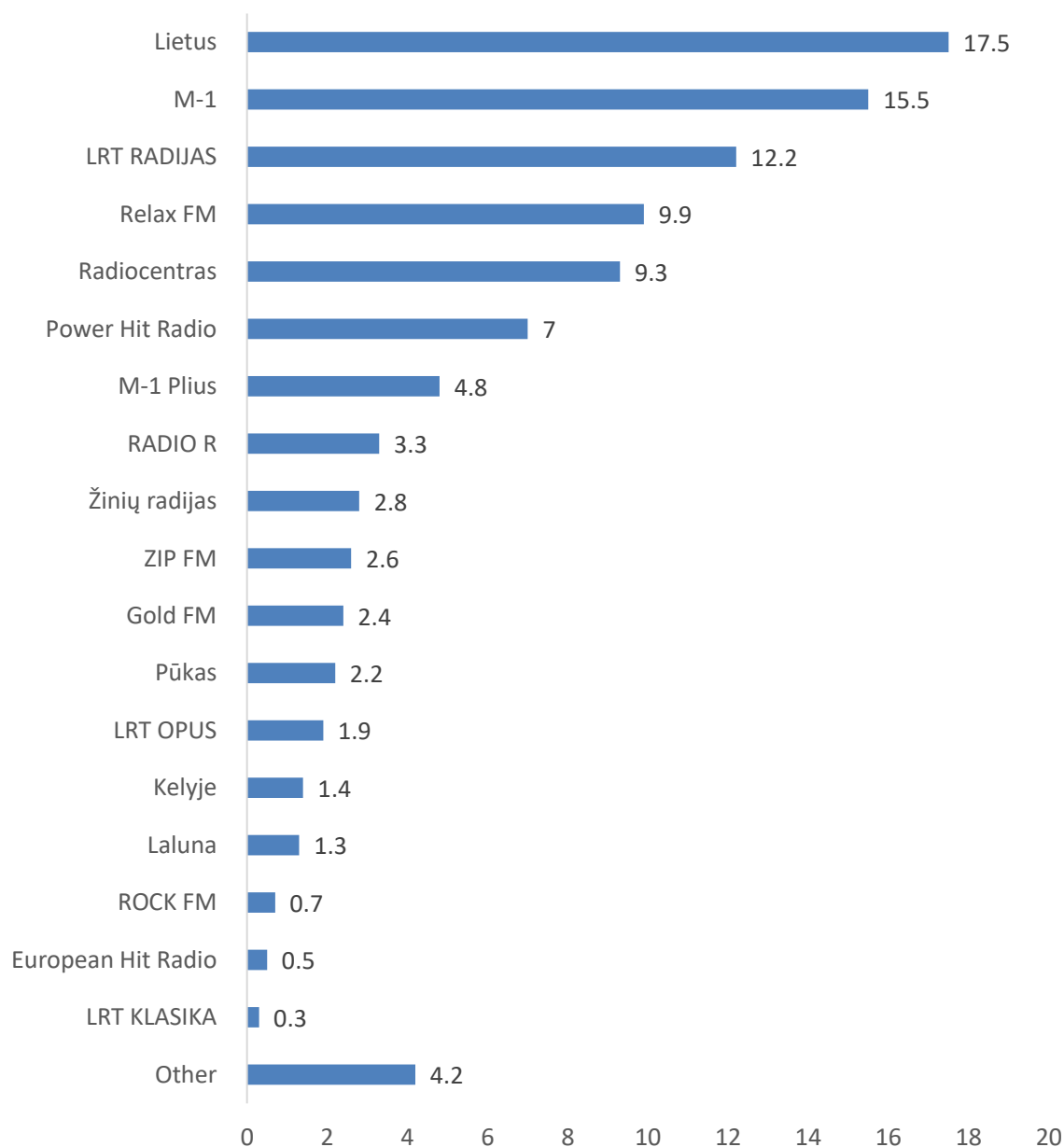
Table 4. National radio stations.

Ref. 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	RADIO R
7.	UAB RADIOCENTRAS	ROCK FM
8.	UAB RADIJO STOTIS ULTRA VIRES	Lietus
9.	VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA	LRT RADIJAS

10.	VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA	LRT KLASIKA
11.	VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA	LRT OPUS
12.	UAB ŽINIŲ RADIJAS	Žinių radijas
13.	UAB LAISVOJI BANGA	Gold FM
14.	UAB All Media Radijas	Power Hit Radio
15.	VŠĮ KVARTOLĖ	RELAX FM

By time spent listening to radio, the most listened to radio stations Lietus and M-1 accounted for 33% of the total time listened to radio. In the winter 2023 to spring 2024 period, LRT RADIJAS took the third position (**Figure 2**).

*Figure 2. Audience share of national radio stations by time listened.
Winter 2023 – spring 2024.*



Source: Kantar

Table 5. Regional radio broadcasters.

Ref. 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.	UAB Pūkas	Pūkas-2	Vilnius, Klaipėda, Šiauliai, Kaunas, Panevėžys, Telšiai, Tauragė, Rokiškis, Raseiniai
6.	UAB ŽINIŲ RADIJAS	EASY FM	Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda

Table 6. Local radio stations.

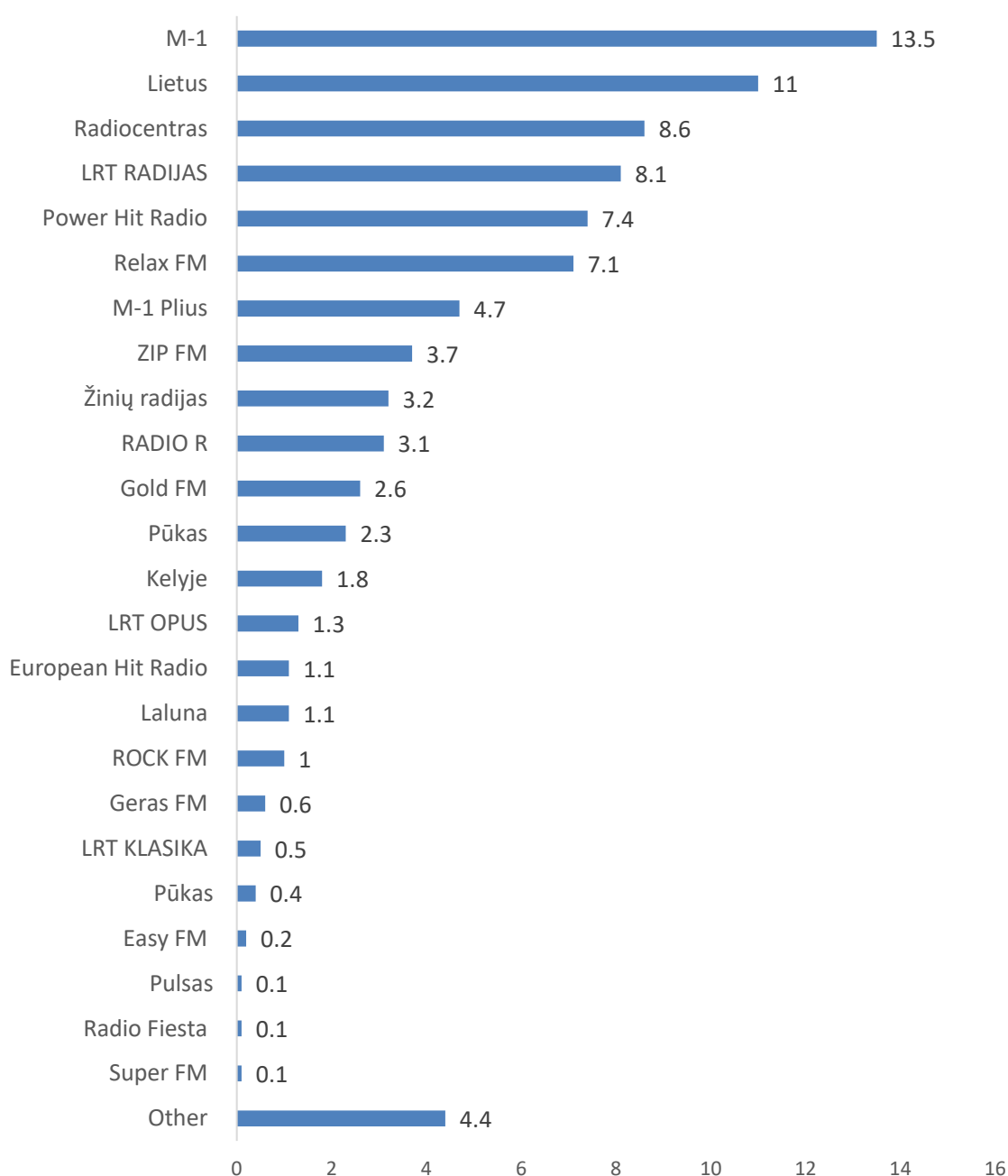
Ref. No.	Broadcaster	Radio station	Location
1.	UAB Antroji reklamos ateljė	,RS 2	Šiauliai
2.	UAB Artvydas	Tau	Kaunas
3.	UAB Centro medija	XFM	Kėdainiai
4.	UAB Garso klipai	MANO FM	Kaunas
5.	UAB Interbanga	EXTRA FM	Kaunas
6.	UAB Interbanga	EXTRA FM	Klaipėda
7.	UAB Interbanga	EXTRA FM	Šiauliai
8.	UAB Interbanga	EXTRA FM	Vilnius
9.	UAB Interbanga	EXTRA FM	Marijampolė
10.	UAB Interbanga	EXTRA FM	Panevėžys
11.	UAB Interbanga	EXTRA FM	Raseiniai
12.	UAB Interbanga	EXTRA FM	Ukmergė
13.	UAB Interbanga	EXTRA FM	Utena
14.	UAB Interbanga	EXTRA FM	Plungė
15.	UAB Interbanga	EXTRA FM	Alytus
16.	UAB Labas, Klaipėda	XFM	Klaipėda
17.	UAB Labas, Klaipėda	XFM	Kaunas
18.	UAB Labas, Klaipėda	XFM	Vilnius
19.	UAB Labas, Klaipėda	XFM	Biržai
20.	UAB Labas, Klaipėda	XFM	Šiauliai
21.	UAB Labas, Klaipėda	XFM	Panevėžys
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 PROARSA	JAZZ FM	Vilnius
43.	UAB PROARSA	Vaikų radijas\“	Vilnius
44.	UAB Radijas kelyje	Kelyje	Kaunas
45.	UAB Radijas kelyje	Kelyje	Klaipėda
46.	UAB Radijas kelyje	Kelyje	Vilnius
47.	UAB RADIOCENTRAS	RADIO FIESTA	Vilnius
48.	UAB RADIOLA	Europos Hitų Radijas	Vilnius
49.	UAB RADIOLA	Europos Hitų Radijas	Klaipėda
50.	UAB RADIOLA	Europos Hitų Radijas	Kaunas
51.	UAB RADIOLA	SUPER FM	Vilnius
52.	UAB RADIO PULSAS	Pulsas	Biržai
53.	UAB RADIO PULSAS	Pulsas	Panevėžys
54.	UAB RADIO STOTIS LALUNA	Laluna	Klaipėda
55.	UAB RADIO STOTIS LALUNA	M-1 Dance	Klaipėda
56.	UAB SAULĖS RADIJAS	Saulės radijas	Šiauliai
57.	UAB Solfega	SOL FM	Klaipėda
58.	VšĮ Sostinės media	Vilnius FM	Vilnius
59.	Šiaulių Didždvario gimnazija	Radio klubas	Šiauliai
60.	VšĮ Šou imperija	Tauragės radijas	Tauragė
61.	UAB TARPTAUTINIS BALTIJOS BANGŲ RADIJAS	TARPTAUTINIS BALTIJOS BANGŲ RADIJAS	Anykščiai (Viešintos)
62.	VšĮ Utenos radijas	Utenos radijas	Utena
63.	Vilniaus Baltupių progimnazija	Baltupių radijas	Vilnius
64.	Vilniaus universitetas	Start FM	Vilnius
65.	UAB ZNAD WILII RADIO STOTIS	Znad Wilii	Vilnius

VšĮ Zorza which broadcasts radio station RADIO WILNO, UAB M-1 which broadcasts M-1 Dance, UAB RADIOCENTRAS which broadcasts radio stations RADIO R ENERGY and ZIP FM IŠ KASETĖS, VšĮ KVARTOLĖ which broadcasts radio stations RELAX FM Sentimentai and RELAX FM 100 Hitų, UAB All Media Radijas which broadcasts radio station Power Gold, MB Unikaliuos paslaugos which broadcasts radio station Tavo Balsas, and MB Adventeris which broadcasts radio station Neringa FM do so online only.

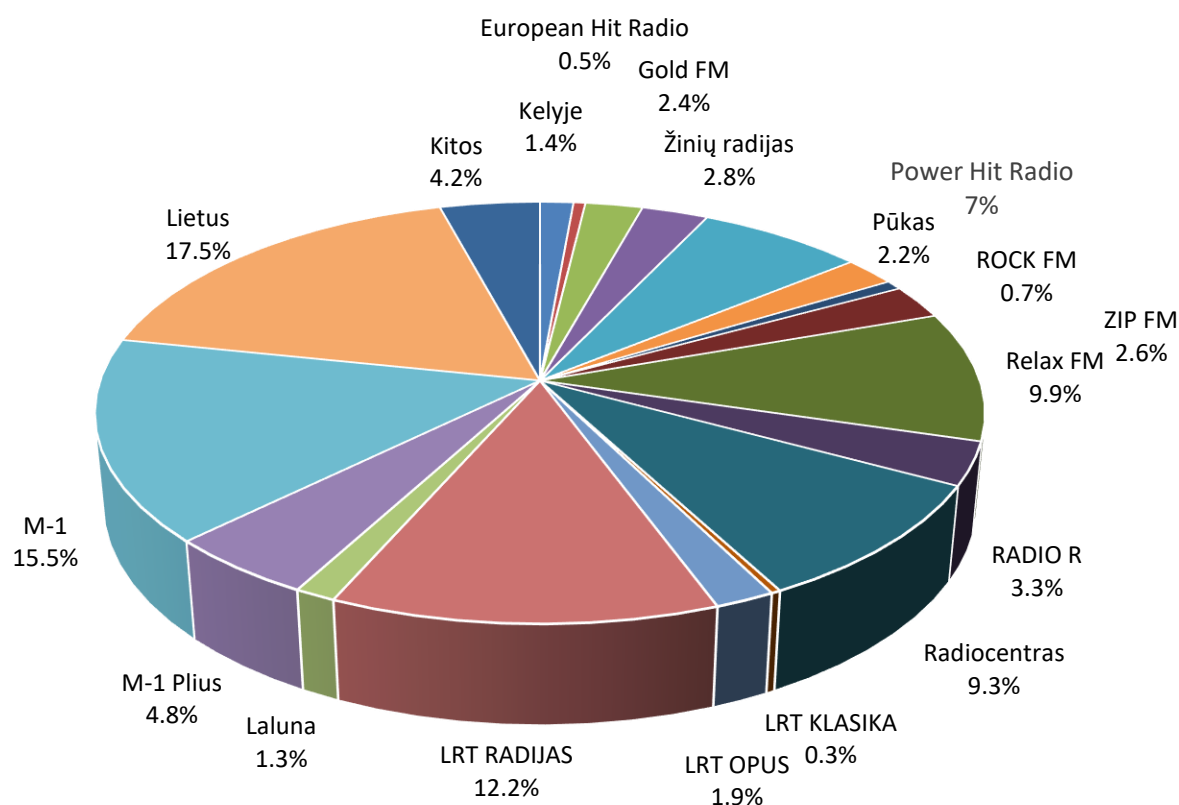
In 2024, M-1 remained the most popular radio station in Lithuania by daily audience reach followed by radio station Lietus. In 2024, LRT Radijas conceded the third spot to radio station Radiocentras by the same indicator (**Figure 3**), however, LRT RADIJAS ranked third by audience share (**Figure 4**).

Figure 3. Daily audience reach of radio stations. Winter 2023 – spring 2024.



Source: Kantar

Figure 4. Share of audience by time spent listening to radio (%). Winter 2023 – spring 2024.



Source: Kantar

TELEVISION

Digital Terrestrial Television

Television broadcasting over digital terrestrial TV transmitter stations (networks)

In 2024, Lithuanian viewers were able to receive 12 free-to-air (not encrypted) national television channels over the digital terrestrial transmitter stations (**Table 7**).

Table 7. Not encrypted national DVB-T stations.

Ref. No.	Broadcaster	Television station (channel)	Electronic communications network
1.	VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA	LRT TELEVIZIJA	DVB-T network of LRT
2.	VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA	LRT PLIUS“	
3.	UAB All Media Lithuania	TV3	First DVB-T network of LRTC
4.	UAB All Media Lithuania	TV6	

5.	UAB All Media Lithuania	TV8	(Lithuanian Radio and Television Centre)
6.	UAB LAISVAS IR NEPRIKLAUSOMAS KANALAS	BTv	
7.	UAB LAISVAS IR NEPRIKLAUSOMAS KANALAS	LNK	
8.	UAB LAISVAS IR NEPRIKLAUSOMAS KANALAS	Info TV	
9.	UAB LAISVAS IR NEPRIKLAUSOMAS KANALAS	2TV	
10.	UAB LAISVAS IR NEPRIKLAUSOMAS KANALAS	TV1	
11.	UAB Lietuvos ryto televizija	Lietuvos rytas.tv	
12.	DELFI, UAB	Delfi TV	

At the end of 2024, there were 7 local television stations available over the digital terrestrial television transmitter stations (**Table 8**).

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

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

Four regional television broadcasters use the networks of digital terrestrial TV transmitter stations to transmit their programmes, i.e. VšĮ Regioninė televizija *Aidas* broadcasts Regional TV station *Aidas* on channel 24 in Trakai and on channel 24 in Papliauškos Vlg., Elektrėnai Mun., UAB Bridge media broadcasts BM TV on channel 24 in Trakai; Papliauškos Vlg., Elektrėnai Mun., on channel 46 in Ukmergė and Panevėžys, on channel 37 in Bukiškis Vlg., Avižieniai Township, Vilnius District; Karužiškiai settlement, Buivydziai Township, Vilnius District; Juzina Vlg., Sariai Township, Švenčionys District and Akmeniškės Vlg., Marijampolis Township, Vilnius District, TELEWIZJA POLSKA S.A. uses TV transmitter stations of the second terrestrial network of AB Lietuvos radijo ir televizijos centras to broadcast TVP WILNO in Giruliai, Druskininkai, Juragiai, Kalvarija, Mažeikiai, Varėna and Visaginas, and UAB Etaplius broadcasts Etaplius on channel 46 in Kėdainiai, Panevėžys and Ukmergė.

Television re-broadcasting over digital terrestrial TV transmitter stations

In 2024, there were 6 re-broadcasters re-broadcasting television stations over the digital terrestrial TV transmitter stations, i.e., VšĮ Alytaus regioninė televizija, UAB TARPTAUTINIS BALTIJOS BANGŲ RADIJAS, AB Lietuvos radijo ir televizijos centras, VšĮ Regioninė televizija *Aidas*, UAB All Media Lithuania and TELEWIZJA POLSKA S.A.

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

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 9 Polish television stations over channel 31 in Vilnius and Šalčininkai, and over channel 33 in Švenčionys using the digital terrestrial TV transmitter station network.

VšĮ Regioninė televizija *Aidas* was re-broadcasting television station Pūkas-TV and 2 television stations broadcast by Ukrainian broadcasters over the digital terrestrial network on channel 46 in Kėdainiai, Panevėžys and Ukmergė, also television station Euronews and 2 Ukrainian television stations over the digital terrestrial network on channel 24 in Trakai and Papliauškos Vlg. in Elektrėnai Mun., on channel 37 in Bukiškis Vlg., Avižieniai Township, Vilnius District; Karužiškės settlement, Buivydžiai Township, Vilnius District; Juzina Vlg., Sariai Township, Švenčionys District and Akmeniškės Vlg., Marijampolis Township, Vilnius District.

UAB All Media Lithuania was using the digital terrestrial network to retransmit TV station TV3 Plus on channel 31 in Vilnius and Šalčininkai and on channel 33 in Švenčionys.

TELEWIZJA POLSKA S.A. was using the second digital terrestrial network of AB Lietuvos radijo ir televizijos centras to re-broadcast 5 television stations of Polish broadcasters.

Television station broadcasting

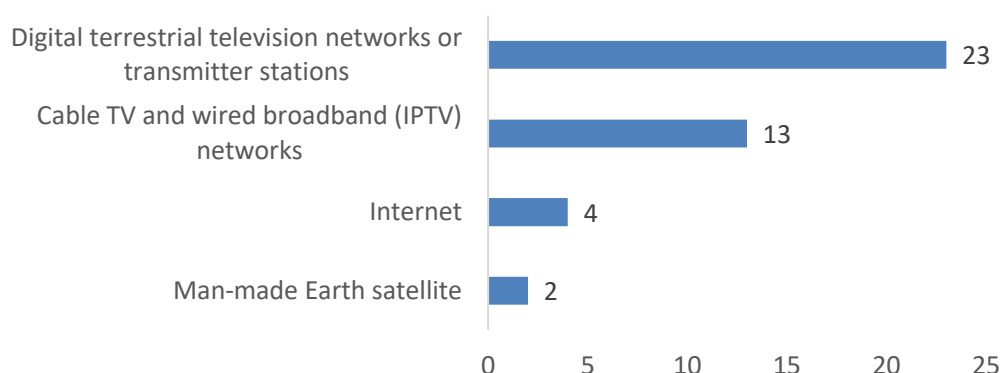
In Lithuania, television stations may be broadcast using the following networks of electronic communications:

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

At the end of 2024, there were 26 television broadcasters broadcasting 39 television stations (**Figure 5**):

- 23 television stations over the digital terrestrial television networks or transmitter stations;
- 13 television stations over the cable television and IPTV networks;
- 4 television stations on the Internet;
- 2 television stations over a man-made Earth satellite.

Figure 5. Television broadcasting in 2024 by type of electronic communications used.

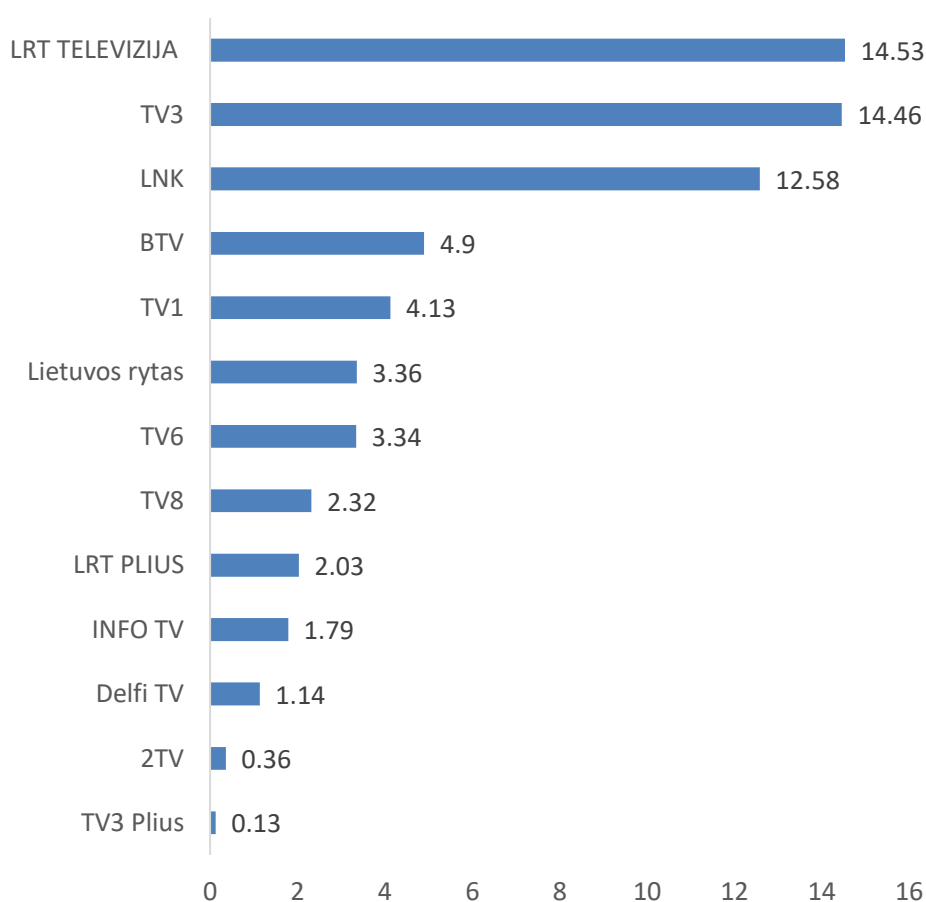


Source: RTCL

The share of audience of national television stations

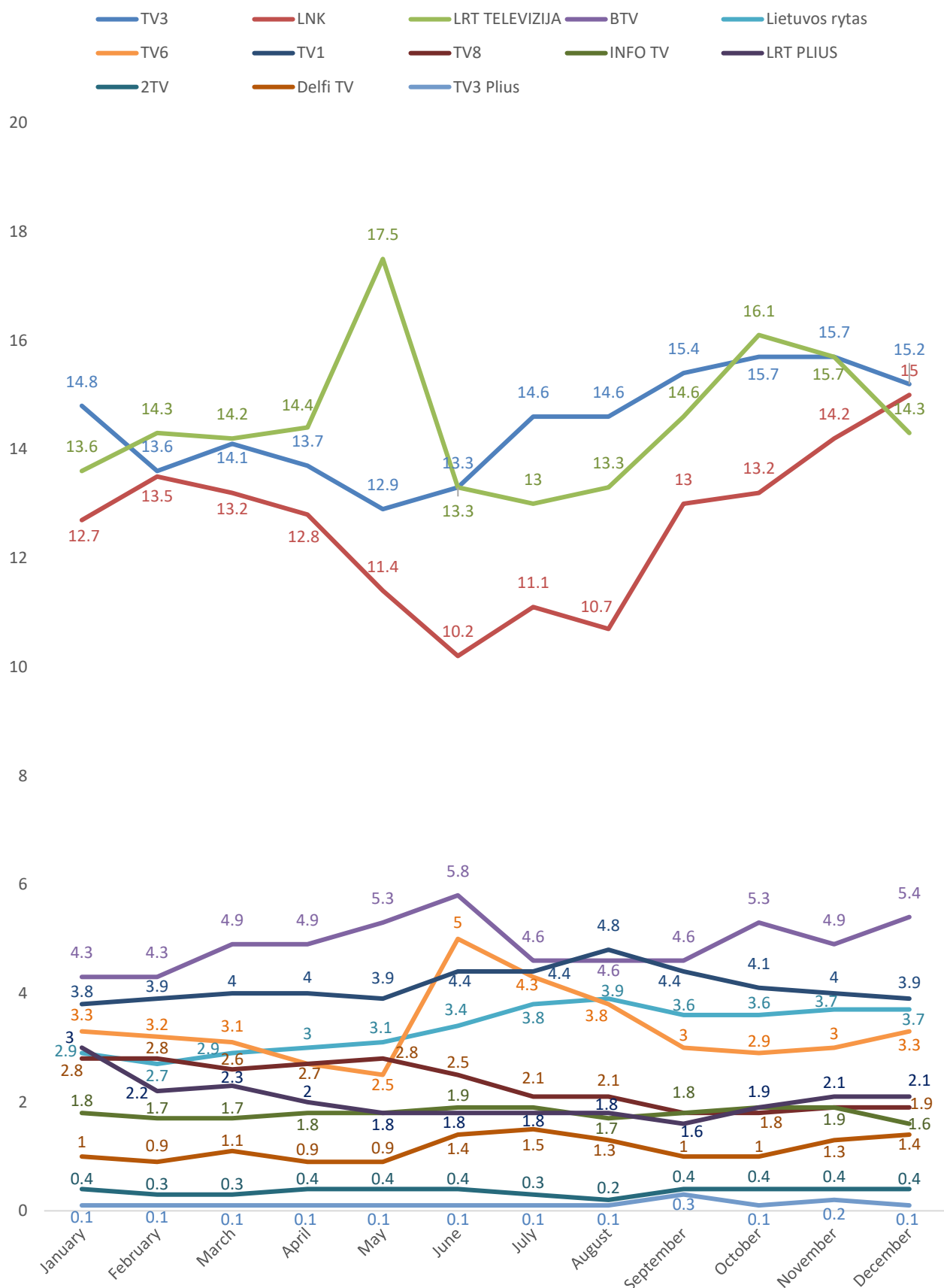
The share of audience by national TV station changed only slightly compared to 2023. A slight increase in the viewership of LRT TELEVIZIJA was observed which outperformed other national television stations (**Figures 6, 7 and 8**).

Figure 6. Audience structure of national TV stations by time watched in 2024; consolidated viewing data (including 7-day time shifted viewing)



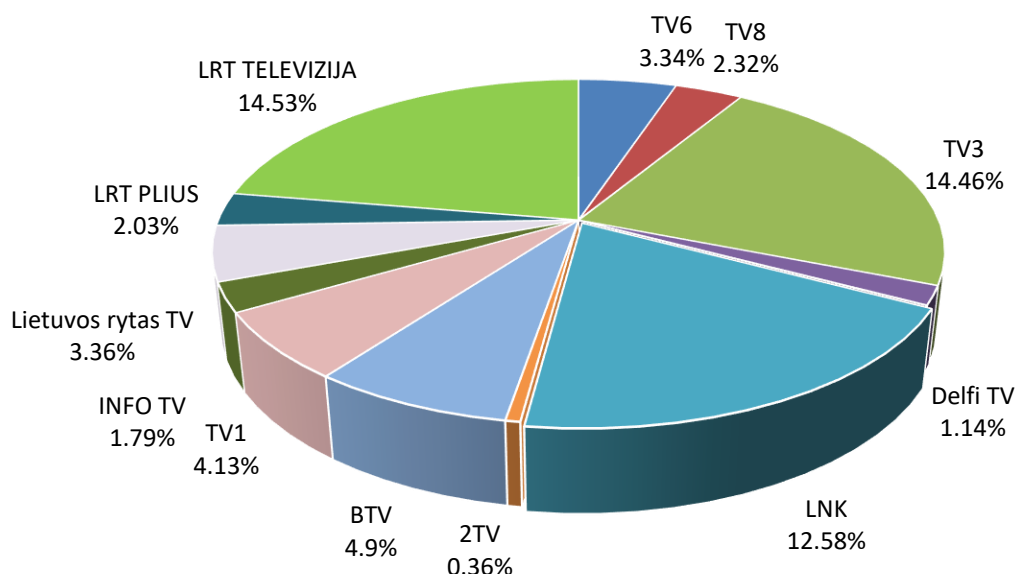
Source: Kantar

Figure 7. Audience structure of national TV stations by time watched every month of 2024; consolidated viewing data (including 7-day time shifted viewing)



Source: Kantar

Figure 8. Audience structure of national TV stations by time watched in 2024; consolidated viewing data (including 7-day time shifted viewing)



Source: Kantar

As seen from Figure 8, television stations under the umbrella of LNK Group (23.76%) and All Media Group (20.25%) accounted for 44.01% of all viewership. Viewership of the two television stations broadcast by VšĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIŽIJA was 16.56%.

Television station re-broadcasting

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

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

At the end of 2024, there were 46 operators re-broadcasting television stations using a mix of technologies:

- 6 economic operators held 8 licences to re-broadcast television stations over the digital terrestrial transmitter stations or a network of transmitter stations;
- 2 economic operators held 2 licences to re-broadcast television stations over the MMDS networks;
- 13 economic operators were re-broadcasting television stations over the cable television networks;

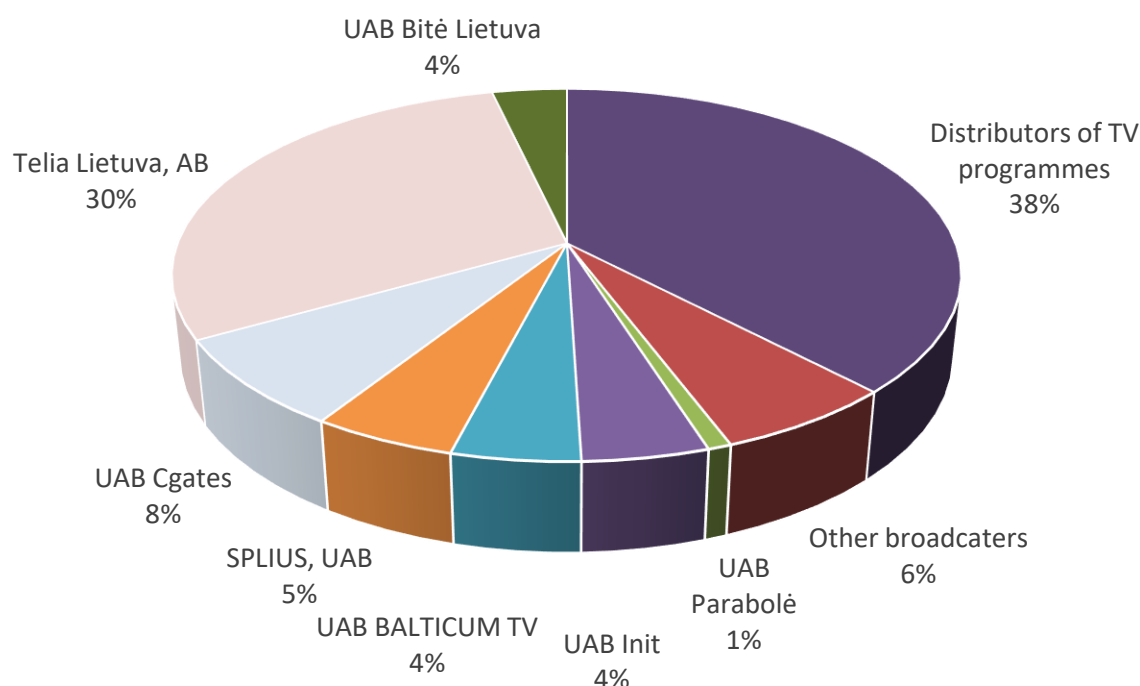
- 11 economic operators were re-broadcasting television stations over the cable television and IPTV networks the main purpose of which is not radio and/or television broadcasting and/or re-broadcasting;
- 14 economic operators were re-broadcasting television stations over the IPTV networks the main purpose 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.

Distribution of paid TV subscribers (IPTV, cable and satellite) by service provider

In the 3rd quarter of 2024, there were 870,295 paid television subscribers in Lithuania. Of them, 541,075 were paid television subscribers who had subscribed to the television re-broadcasting services and 329,220 were paid television subscribers who have subscribed to the online television programmes distribution services, i.e. those who receive television services exclusively online regardless of which internet service provider they use.

An analysis of television re-broadcasting services reveals that the number of cable television and satellite television subscribers has been shrinking consistently (the number of cable television subscribers has decreased by 5.7% over the year, whereas the number of satellite television subscribers has decreased by 0.8% over the year). AB Telia Lietuva had the biggest share of paid TV subscribers of all providers (**Figure 9**).

Figure 9. Paid TV subscribers by service provider (total of 870,295 thousand), Q3 2024.*



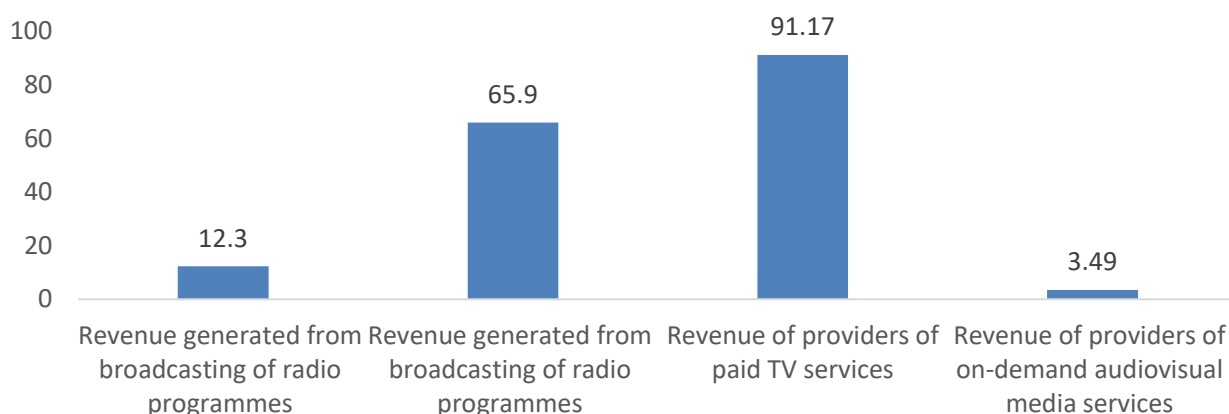
* The Figure shows only subscribers of re-broadcasting services provided by the specific providers. Some of them also provide a television program distribution service.

Source: RTCL

REVENUE DYNAMICS OF RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTERS, PAID TELEVISION AND PROVIDERS OF ON-DEMAND AUDIOVISUAL MEDIA SERVICES

Every year the RTCL uses quarterly financial reports provided by the economic operators under the RTCL's jurisdiction to calculate their revenue generated from the provision of audiovisual media services (**Figure 10**). The total revenue of all entities under the regulatory scope of the RTCL has increased by EUR 5.86 million compared to 2023.

Figure 10. Economic operator revenue in 2024, million euros



Source: RTCL

VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA

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

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.

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

5.	Television programme LRT PLIUS	Digital terrestrial television network (in standard definition (SD) and high definition (HD) formats), Internet
6.	Television programme LRT LITUANICA	Digital terrestrial transmitter station in Lazdijai, Internet

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

UNLICENSED ACTIVITIES

As of the end of 2024, the RTCL had received 141 notifications of unlicensed activities of radio and television broadcasting and re-broadcasting, dissemination of television programmes and/or individual programmes via the Internet to Lithuanian audiences, and of provision of on-demand audiovisual media services and on-demand audiovisual media services using a video sharing platform.

At the end of 2024, there were 22 economic operators engaged in Lithuania in the provision of on-demand audiovisual media services, 21 economic operators engaged in the provision of on-demand audiovisual media services using a video sharing platform, and 13 economic operators were disseminating television programmes and/or individual programmes via the Internet .

Over the reporting year, 19 economic operators notified the RTCL of the start of unlicensed activities of radio and television broadcasting and re-broadcasting, dissemination of television programmes and/or individual programmes via the Internet, provision of on-demand audiovisual media services and provision of on-demand audiovisual media services using a video sharing platform.

In 2024, 1 economic operator terminated unlicensed activities of television re-broadcasting using wired broadband networks; 1 economic operator terminated unlicensed television broadcasting activities; 1 economic operator terminated unlicensed radio broadcasting activities.

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

In the reporting year, the RTCL took 11 decisions to modify the terms and conditions of the existing broadcasting and re-broadcast content licences. For modifications and revisions to the terms and conditions of the existing broadcasting and/or re-broadcast content licences, licence holders paid EUR 280 to the national budget. In the course of 2024, the RTCL issued 7 broadcasting licenses: 4 radio broadcasting licences, 3 television broadcasting licences. Licence holders paid EUR 3,126 to the national budget for the issuance of these licences.

THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AND ENFORCEMENT

During 2024, the RTCL adopted 10 normative acts aimed at aligning the existing legal framework with the new legislation and at establishing a more efficient, transparent and simple oversight of the economic operators (*Table 10*).

On 20 March 2024, the RTCL adopted Decision No KS-64 “Regarding the Amendment of Decision of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania No KS-166 of 9 September 2015 “Regarding the Approval of the Description of the Procedure for the Handling of Applications, Complaints and Notifications by Individuals and Customer Service””. The said Description was presented in the new wording, taking into account the new wording of the Rules for the Handling of Applications and Complaints by Entities of Public Administration adopted by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. Besides, the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Public Administration was amended on 1 January 2024. The amendment has aligned legal regulation with the relevant legislation. In this regard, it has been established that applications and complaints to the RTCL may be made both in writing and orally, and the appropriate procedures have been put in place. The amendment discusses in detail how the customer service is carried out through the points of single contact and lays down more related duties to the person receiving applications and complaints. It has been established that applications and complaints should be received not only in the official language but also in English, and in certain cases – even in other languages.

On 10 April 2024, the RTCL adopted Decision No KS-80 “Regarding the Amendment of Decision of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania No KS-43 of 28 August 2019 “Regarding the Approval of the Description of the Procedure of Imposition of Restrictive Measures against Economic Entities””. The said Description was supplemented with the provisions on mandatory orders to payment, credit or other financial institutions as laid down in the current Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Copyright and Related Rights. The Description is consistent with the provisions, which lay down the obligation of the RTCL to impose administrative penalties against the persons who unlawfully post on the Internet the works protected by copyright or related rights, and to impose administrative penalties on the persons who violate international or national sanctions.

On 24 April 2024, the RTCL adopted Decision No KS-94 “Regarding the Amendment of Decision of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania No KS-101 of 18 May 2016 “Regarding the Description of the Procedure of Modification of the Terms and Conditions of Broadcasting and Re-Broadcasting Licenses””, and on 29 May 2024, the RTCL adopted Decision No KS-108 “Regarding the Amendment of Decision of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania No KS-172 of 23 September 2015 “Regarding the Approval of the Description of the Procedure of Shares (Parts, Units) of Holders of Licenses of Broadcasting and Re-Broadcasting Content””. They contain amendments of technical nature after the change of the name of the court to which appeals against the Decisions of the RTCL may be filed.

On 16 May 2024, the RTCL adopted Decision No KS-103 “Regarding the Amendment of Decision of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania No KS-14 of 27 March 2019 “Regarding the Approval of the Description of the Procedure of Examination of Requests by Holders of the Rights to Issue Mandatory Orders to Providers of Internet Access Services””. The amendments to the said Description were necessary in view of the amendments of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Electronic Communications and the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Copyright and Related Rights, which became effective on 1 May 2024 and amended the procedure of issuance of mandatory orders. Therefore, the Description has amended the wording of mandatory orders to remove or disable the possibility to access information (unlawfully published copyright-protected content). The relevant amendments have also been made to the procedure for issuing mandatory orders by stating that after the examination of the request, the RTCL must apply to the administrative

court of first instance for an authorisation to issue mandatory orders. mandatory orders are issued only with the authorisation of the court.

On 15 May 2024, the RTCL adopted Decision No KS-104 “Regarding the Amendment of Decision of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania No KS-167 of 9 September 2015 “Regarding the Approval of the Description of the Procedure of Provision of Information on Activities””, which lays down that the persons engaged in the provision of television programme and/or individual programme distribution services must notify the RTCL of the number of users who are using such services provided by them. The said amendment is necessary for the RTCL in order to determine the market size of distribution of television programmes and/or individual programs on the Internet.

On 12 June 2024, the RTCL adopted Decision No KS-113 “Regarding the Amendment of Decision of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania No KS-37 of 20 June 2018 “Regarding the Approval of Control Questionnaires for Routine Inspections of Economic Entities””. The amendments have approved a separate control questionnaire to be used during the routine inspection of the economic operator engaged in the provision of on-demand audiovisual media services through a video-sharing platform. The questions in the said questionnaire reflect the activities of and requirements for such economic operators.

On 12 June 2024, the RTCL adopted Decision No KS-114 “Regarding the Amendment of Decision of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania No KS-44 of 28 August 2019 “Regarding the Approval of the Description of the Procedure for the Assessment of the Operational Risk of the Economic Operators under the Supervision of by the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania””, which contains amendments of technical nature relating to the change of the title of “Guidelines for the Supervision of the Activities of Economic Operators based on Risk Assessment”.

On 3 July 2024, the RTCL adopted Decision No KS-120 “Regarding the Amendment of Decision of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania No KS-45 of 28 August 2019 “Regarding the Approval of the Description of the Procedure of Consulting Persons by the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania””, and Decision No KS-121 “Regarding the Amendment of Decision of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania No KS-58 of 20 May 2020 “Regarding the Approval of the Description of the Procedure of Provision of Methodological Assistance to the Economic Operators in their First Year of Activities””. They contain amendments of technical nature relating to the change of the title of “Guidelines for the Supervision of the Activities of Economic Operators based on Risk Assessment”.

In 2024, the RTCL also adopted a number of other significant decisions relating to the dissemination of disinformation and hate speech on video-sharing platform *YouTube*. (**Table 11**).

On 6 March 2024, the RTCL adopted Decision No KS-61 “On the imposition of a fine against UAB GORUVA”. The RTCL determined that programme “What Plan B has been developed by Ukraine’s leadership? And what does the *Maginot Line* mean?” that was broadcast in the account of UAB GORUVA on video-sharing platform *YouTube*, disseminated disinformation. During the monitoring conducted by the RTCL it was found that during the said programme, its participants intentionally announced in public false, tendentious, biased and unfounded information, presented in an emotional manner and with the aim of forming an unfavourable opinion about Jonas Ohmanas, Founder and Chairman of the Board of VšĮ Mėlyna ir geltona (Blue Yellow) and his activities of collecting support for Ukraine. In this way, the aim was to create the impression that the funds collected for Ukraine were not being used in a transparent manner, to encourage distrust in the

organisations engaged in the collection of support and to discourage donations to Ukraine. The RTCL concluded that such dissemination of disinformation in public, especially in the current geopolitical context, was dangerous, incited mistrust and unjustified doubts in the process of collecting support for Ukraine. In view of the seriousness of the violation (the said programme received more than 56,000 views), company GORUVA was imposed with a fine of EUR 1,900.

On 16 October 2024, the RTCL adopted Decision No KS-148 “On the imposition of a warning to Algis Ramanauskas” for the dissemination of prohibited information in account “Algis Ramanauskas” on video-sharing platform *YouTube*. Following the monitoring and evaluation of the content, purpose, context and impact of the content posted in the said account, the RTCL concluded that the programme was disseminating hatred and inciting physical violence against a group of people on an ethnic basis. However, considering that the hate narrative was not developed throughout the entire programme, and the phrase was uttered only once, when possibly improvising, and in the public space there were many instances when Algis Ramanauskas was positive about Lithuania’s Russians who were not supporting the Kremlin regime, the RTCL imposed a warning against Algis Ramanauskas.

In view of the wording of Article 122 paragraph 1 of the Code of Administrative Offences (hereinafter, the Code of Administrative Violations), which became effective in 2023 and which provides for administrative liability for the use of a work protected by copyright or related rights in any manner on the Internet, the RTCL conducted investigations of 120 persons, who had illegally downloaded and disseminated films from the websites infringing copyright. 99 of them were imposed with fines.

On 2 October 2024, the RTCL examined a case of administrative offence and established that UAB Consilium optimum had unlawfully disseminated to their subscribers television programme Go3 Sport Open owned by Go3 and other television programmes represented by AS Go3 and the exclusive rights to which in the Republic of Lithuania are held by Go3. Article 122 paragraph 3 of the Code of Administrative Offences lays down that the unlawful public performance, reproduction, presentation in public, including making available to the public on computer networks (the Internet), other use for commercial purposes by any means and methods whatsoever of an object protected by copyright or related rights, and the distribution, transport or storage for commercial purposes of unlawful copies of an object protected by copyright or related rights is punishable by a fine of between EUR 300 and EUR 3,500. In view of this, an administrative penalty of EUR 1,900 was imposed against the Director of company Consilium optimum.

In 2024, the RTCL adopted 3 decisions regarding the instructions of providers of public electronic communications networks and public electronic communications services to remove the possibility of accessing specified IP addresses used to access TV channels that are subject to the sanctions approved by the EU Council.

In this way, the RTCL sought to limit Russian disinformation and propaganda even more effectively and to ensure that the EU sanctions were properly implemented. The blocking was applied to 1,083 IP addresses.

Cooperation with Google, which operates the largest video-sharing platform *YouTube*, was also continued. At the request of the RTCL, the official accounts of 7 Russian singers, actors, programme hosts included in the EU sanctions list were deleted. 18 accounts relating to the Belarusian state television and radio company Beltelradio, which is included in the EU sanctions list, were geo-

blocked on the territory of Lithuania. In addition, seven apps allowing users to watch Russian programmes that were violating the EU sanctions, were removed from Google Play Store.

Table 10. Decisions of the RTCL regarding the approval of legislative acts.

Ref. No.	Title
1.	Decision No KS-64 of 20 March 2024 “Regarding the Amendment of Decision of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania No KS-166 of 9 September 2015 “Regarding the Approval of the Description of the Procedure for the Handling of Applications, Complaints and Notifications by Individuals and Customer Service””
2.	Decision No KS-80 of 10 April 2024 “Regarding the Amendment of Decision of the Radio and television Commission of Lithuania No KS-43 of 28 August 2019 “Regarding the Approval of the Description of the Procedure of Imposition of Restrictive Measures against Economic Entities””
3.	Decision No KS-94 of 24 April 2024 “Regarding the Amendment of Decision of the Radio and television Commission of Lithuania No KS-101 of 18 May 2016 “Regarding the Description of the Procedure of Modification of the Terms and Conditions of Broadcasting and Re-Broadcasting Licenses””
4.	Decision No KS-103 of 16 May 2024 “Regarding the Amendment of Decision of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania No KS-14 of 27 March 2019 “Regarding the Approval of the Description of the Procedure of Examination of Requests by Holders of the Rights to Impose Mandatory Orders to Providers of Internet Access Services””
5.	Decision No KS-104 of 15 May 2024 “Regarding the Amendment of Decision of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania No KS-167 of 9 September 2015 “Regarding the Approval of the Description of the Procedure of Provision of Information on Activities””
6.	Decision No KS-108 of 29 May 2024 “Regarding the Amendment of Decision of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania No KS-172 of 23 September 2015 “Regarding the Approval of the Description of the Procedure of Shares (Parts, Units) of Holders of Licenses of Broadcasting and Re-Broadcasting Content””
7.	Decision No KS-113 of 12 June 2024 “Regarding the Amendment of Decision of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania No KS-37 of 20 June 2018 “Regarding the Approval of Control Questionnaires for Routine Inspections of Economic Entities””
8.	Decision No KS-114 of 12 June 2024 “Regarding the Amendment of Decision of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania No KS-44 of 28 August 2019 “Regarding the Approval of the Description of the Procedure for the Assessment of the Operational Risk of the Economic Operators under the Supervision of by the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania””
9.	Decision No KS-120 of 3 July 2024 “Regarding the Amendment of Decision of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania No KS-45 of 28 August 2019 “Regarding the Approval of the Description of the Procedure of Consulting Persons by the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania””
10.	Decision No KS-121 of 3 July 2024 “Regarding the Amendment of Decision of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania No KS-58 of 20 May 2020 “Regarding the Approval of the Description of the Procedure of Provision of Methodological Assistance to the Economic Operators in their First Year of Activities””

Table 11. Other important decisions by the RTCL.

Ref. No.	Title
1.	Decision No KS-61 of 6 March 2024 <i>On the imposition of a fine to UAB Goruva</i>
2.	Decision No KS-81 of 10 April 2024 “Regarding the Implementation of Restrictive Measures of the European Union in the light of Russia’s Actions Destabilising the Situation in Ukraine”
3.	Decision No KS-148 of 16 October 2024 <i>On the imposition of a warning to Algis Ramanauskas</i>
4.	Decision No KS-168 of 18 December 2024 “Regarding the Implementation of Restrictive Measures of the European Union in the light of Russia’s Actions Destabilising the Situation in Ukraine”
5.	Decision No KS-169 of 18 December 2024 “Regarding the Implementation of Restrictive Measures of the European Union in the light of Russia’s Actions Destabilising the Situation in Ukraine”

ECONOMIC OPERATOR OVERSIGHT AND CONTENT MONITORING

In 2024, the RTCL carried out 31 routine (announced) inspections and 5 special (unannounced) inspections of economic operators. On the basis of consumer complaints and at the initiative of the RTCL, 135 monitoring reports were drafted by the RTCL.

The RTCL also paid a lot of attention to the monitoring of potentially illegal activities of television broadcasting online and the dissemination of individual programmes via the Internet, conducting 48 investigations into illegal dissemination of television programmes and individual programmes via the Internet to Lithuanian viewers.

In addition to this, the RTCL conducted 41 investigations into websites that publish copyrighted content illegally.

Routine inspections of economic operators

In 2024, the RTCL carried out 31 routine inspections of economic operators (**Table 12**) as provided for in the List of Planned Inspections of Economic Operators by the RTCL in 2024¹.

Table 12. Results of routine inspections of economic operators.

Nature of violation	Violations
Compliance with the obligations set out in radio and/or television broadcasting and re-broadcast content licences and LRT permits	6

¹ Order of the Chairman of the RTCL No V-3 of 18 January 2024 “Regarding the Approval of the List of Economic Operators the Inspection Whereof by the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania is Planned in 2024”

Compliance with the requirements of the Law on the protection of minors against the detrimental effect of public information and the Description of the procedure for rating and disseminating public information having a detrimental effect on minors approved by Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania No 1121 of 21 July 2010	1
Compliance with the requirement set out in Article 34 of the LPIP relating to the language in which public information is prepared and disseminated	4
Compliance with the requirement set out in Article 35 of the LPIP relating to storage of announced information	2
Compliance with the requirements for advertising, audiovisual commercial communications and teleshopping set out in Article 39 of the LPIP and the Description of the procedure for implementing the requirements for audiovisual commercial communications and advertising transmission, sponsorship of audiovisual media services, radio programmes and individual programmes in radio and/or television stations (the “Description”) approved by Decision of the RTCL No KS-58 of 11 April 2012	4
Compliance with the requirements set out in Article 40 of the LPIP and the Description relating to programme sponsorship	7
Compliance with the requirements set out in the Description relating to product placement	2
Compliance with the requirements set out in the Rules on the Composition of Television Programme Packages approved by Decision of the RTCL No KS-171 of 23 September 2015	2
Compliance with the requirements set out in the Description of the Procedure of Provision of Information on Activities approved by Decision of the RTCL No KS-167 of 9 September 2015 (hereinafter, the Description of the Procedure of Provision of Information on Activities)	23
Compliance with the requirement to announce information about the Public Information Ethics Commission as set out in Decision of the RTCL No KS-12 of 3 February 2021	2

Findings of routine inspections conducted by the RTCL in 2024 reveal that the majority of violations were related to failure to comply with the requirements set out in the Descriptor of the procedure for information – these violations accounted for 43% of all violations.

Some of the violations were classified as minor because of their seriousness, duration, number and consequences – after routine inspections economic operators were not only advised of the violations, but also provided consultations as to proper implementation of the relevant regulatory provisions.

In 2024, the RTCL imposed 109 administrative penalties against regulated economic operators and persons for the violations of legal acts; of them, 5 were warnings and 104 were fines. 6 sanctions were related to violations of Article 477 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Lithuania (violations of the terms and conditions of broadcast content licences and permits, unlicensed activities of radio and/or television broadcasting and/or re-broadcasting, provision of on-demand audiovisual media services, video sharing platform services or television programme and/or individual programme dissemination via the Internet without the required notification of the start of activities or service provision), 99 sanctions were imposed for violations of paragraph 1 of Article 122 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Lithuania (violations of copyright and related rights), 1 sanction was imposed for a violation of paragraph 5 of Article 70 of CAO (violations of the requirements for the rating and/or dissemination of public information having a

detrimental effect on the development of minors in radio and/or television programmes, individual programmes, catalogues of on-demand audiovisual media services), 3 penalties were imposed for the violations of Article 226¹ of the Code of Administrative Offences (non-compliance with the requirements for the application of technical means in the use of results).

Special inspections of economic operators in 2024, and the monitoring of individual radio, television programmes and of provision of on-demand audiovisual media services

In 2024, the RTCL carried out 5 special inspections of economic operators: special inspections were aimed at checking whether the economic operators had rectified the violations detected during the earlier routine inspections. Following the special inspections, it was ascertained that the majority of violations detected during earlier planned inspections had been rectified, however, there were repeated violations detected as well.

In 2024, the RTCL paid particular attention to the monitoring of dissemination of television programmes and individual programmes via the Internet. The majority of persons making television programmes and individual programmes available online were engaged in these activities without prior notification to the RTCL of the start of these activities. The RTCL took 5 decisions to block access to 349 websites that made television programmes or individual programmes available online to consumers in Lithuania. Also in 2024, the RTCL filed 5 petitions with Vilnius Regional Administrative Court regarding the illegal dissemination of television programmes or individual programmes via the Internet to consumers in Lithuania. In all cases the court sanctioned the RTCL's petitions to issue mandatory orders to network service providers asking to block access to the websites that distribute television programmes via the Internet to consumers in Lithuania illegally (**Table 13**). The RTCL adopted decisions to block access to the 621 websites distributing television programmes Pervyi Kanal, NTV / NTV MIR, Rossiya 1, Rossiya 24 / Russia 24, Rossiya RTR / RTR Planeta, Ren TV. The Council of Europe has applied restrictive measures against the aforementioned television programmes for dissemination of disinformation and propaganda against the European Union and its Member States.

Table 13. List of websites engaged in the illegal activities of television programme and/or individual programme dissemination via the Internet to Lithuanian viewers in 2024.

Ref. 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 that authorised mandatory orders to network service providers, date and number of the court order
	Legal person	Internet domain name identifying the website	
1.		rustv.live telegoo.cc rutv.pw ok.domatv.net tv-app.ru irk.telik.top smotrimtv.ru	Ruling of the Regional Administrative Court of 18 January 2024, administrative proceedings No e12-6219-1029/2024

		tv-com.kz myru.cc olimp.tv topiptv.link satbilling.info tvizi.net russiaplus.tv ruskoetv.shop doma.vip ott-antifriz.com myantifriz.com fox-tv.fun pa.fox-tv.fun balo.live bubik.live cricfree.live/public/hdstreams sweet.tv iptvtelevizija.com uspeh.tv	
2.		rustvlive.com seelisten.eu russia-tv.online kion.ru start.ru tvset.sbs oxax.tv rutvtube.com rusnight.ru rus.guljaj.com rustv.today tv.canlitvvollo.com tvrus.eu oneotv.online 8tv.ru parsatv.com zee5.com mirtv.ru tavotv.net m24.ru ontvtime.net pro-tv.biz ip.viks.tv tv.garden news.by ont.by tv.mts.by videobel.by tv-online.top fun2k.com satq.tv telegoo.top peaktv.io vip.tvua.biz live.domatv.net	Ruling of the Regional Administrative Court of 2 October 2024, administrative proceedings No eI2- 16471-561/2024

3.		raspberrytv.net en44.sportplus.live sport5.by stream-24.net sportcast.online antennasport.ru live.getsport.me myfootball.top peaktv.info peaktv.online peak-tv.shop rubababa.ru peaktv.com.ru peak-tv.xyz peaktv.space peaktv.fun am01.sh365.org ch01.sh365.org eu01.sh365.org fr01.sh365.org nl01.sh365.org pl01.sh365.org ru01.sh365.org ru02.sh365.org cdn.ch03.sh365.org udtcqvfe.rostelekom.xyz 2.troya.one 3.troya.one 8.troya.one 9.troya.one 10.troya.one 11.troya.one 13.troya.one 15.troya.one cdn.troya.on cdn2.troya.one cdn3.troya.one hk.troya.one nl.troya.one nl2.troya.one ru2.troya.one ru3.troya.one rucdn.troya.on rucdn2.troya.one ua.troya.one ua2.troya.one	Ruling of the Regional Administrative Court of 15 November 2024, administrative proceedings No eI2- 18820-561/2024
4.		dunesisterhood.ru booflix.to mbkino.com mover.uz kinogo.fm kinogo.men kinogo.pink kinogo.ec m.kinogo-new.com	Ruling of the Regional Administrative Court of 27 November 2024, administrative proceedings No eI2- 19541-764/2024

		kinogo-cx.biz kinogo.ing kinogo.li kinogo-net.la kinogofm.biz kinogo1.biz kinogo-1.net kinogo-go.tv kinogo-go.online kinogo.sk kinogobiz.fm kinogo.bz kinogo-fm.biz kinogo.art kinogo-biz.org q.hd-kinogo.co kinogo.mn kinogo-films.fm kinogofilm.biz thecinema.online k3.uzor.su k50.uzor.su kinoprofi.day bobfilm.info knie.bobfilm.org kinojump.com kinozoxan.cc serialy-2023.com ua.tv-series.download series.kino-besplatno.com 0day.community kinovo.mirfilm.net kinoukr.mirfilm.net kino.mirfilm.net eneyida.mirfilm.net o.torrentfilmov.net i67b.pirat.one moviestape.mirfilm.net rezka-ua.tv inoriginal.net dmarc.piratbit.top hdrezka.info hd-rezka.one hdrezka.zip hdzo-rezka.net rezka.it vsekinovtor.online all-episodesfun.com ex-fs.net serialroom.net serial2oll.uzor.su baskino.se vu.baskino.website ze.baskino-space.fun baskino.is	
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Implementation of European works quotas and the amount of advertising on national television programmes

In 2024, just like in previous years, in an attempt to ensure that television broadcasters and providers of on-demand audiovisual media services under the jurisdiction of Lithuania comply with the requirements of the LPIP relating to the European works quotas, the RTCL carried out surveys showing trends of the implementation of the European works quotas in Lithuania.

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

In 2024, the RTCL conducted a survey of all 12 national television stations: LRT TELEVIZIJA, LRT PLIUS, TV3, TV6, TV8, LNK, Info TV, 2TV, TV1, BTV, Lietuvos rytas.tv and DelfiTV to assess the share of time (in per cent) that each of the stations dedicated to European works (**Table 14**).

Table 14. Share of television programming time dedicated to European works in television stations LRT TELEVIZIJA, LRT PLIUS, TV3, TV6, TV8, LNK, Info TV, 2TV, TV1, BTV, Lietuvos rytas.tv and DelfiTV:

Television station	Share of European works	Monitoring times
LRT TELEVIZIJA	90%	06/05/2024–12/05/2024
LRT PLIUS	84%	06/05/2024–12/05/2024

TV3	38%	06/05/2024–12/05/2024
TV6	20%	06/05/2024–12/05/2024
TV8	53%	06/05/2024–12/05/2024
LNK	28%	06/05/2024–12/05/2024
Info TV	50%	06/05/2024–12/05/2024
2TV	84%	06/05/2024–12/05/2024
TV1	57%	06/05/2024–12/05/2024
BTV	30%	06/05/2024–12/05/2024
Lietuvos rytas.tv	71%	06/05/2024–12/05/2024
Delfi TV	52%	06/05/2024–12/05/2024

Results of the survey have shown that not all television stations complied with the requirement of the LPIP to allocate at least half of the programming time to European works. When compared to the results of the previous year, the results of 2024 show that some television stations slightly reduced the share of European works in their programming time: (LRT TELEVIZIJA (-4%), LRT PLIUS (-7%), TV6 (-3%), TV8 (-8%), LNK (-5%), Info TV (-4%), 2TV (-3%), TV1 (-6%), BTV (-7%), Lietuvos rytas.tv (-7%). The share of European works was significantly reduced in the programming time of Delfi TV (-31%) and was slightly increased in the programming time of TV3 (+6%).

It should be noted that the requirements of paragraph 5 of Article 37 of the LPIP are not binding, i.e., television broadcasters must reserve more than half of the television programme time for European works *where possible*. Consequently, the RTCL took no action that is available to it under the Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Lithuania against the television broadcasters in question for failure to comply with the European works quotas.

Complaints handled in 2024

In 2024, the RTCL received a total of 86 complaints. Complaints received were related to the content broadcast in radio and television stations possibly spreading information not to be published or restricted public information that has a detrimental effect on the development of minors, improper rating of the content broadcast, or the inappropriate time of airing, some complaints were related to the spread of disinformation, war propaganda and incitement to hatred, and other topics of interest to consumers.

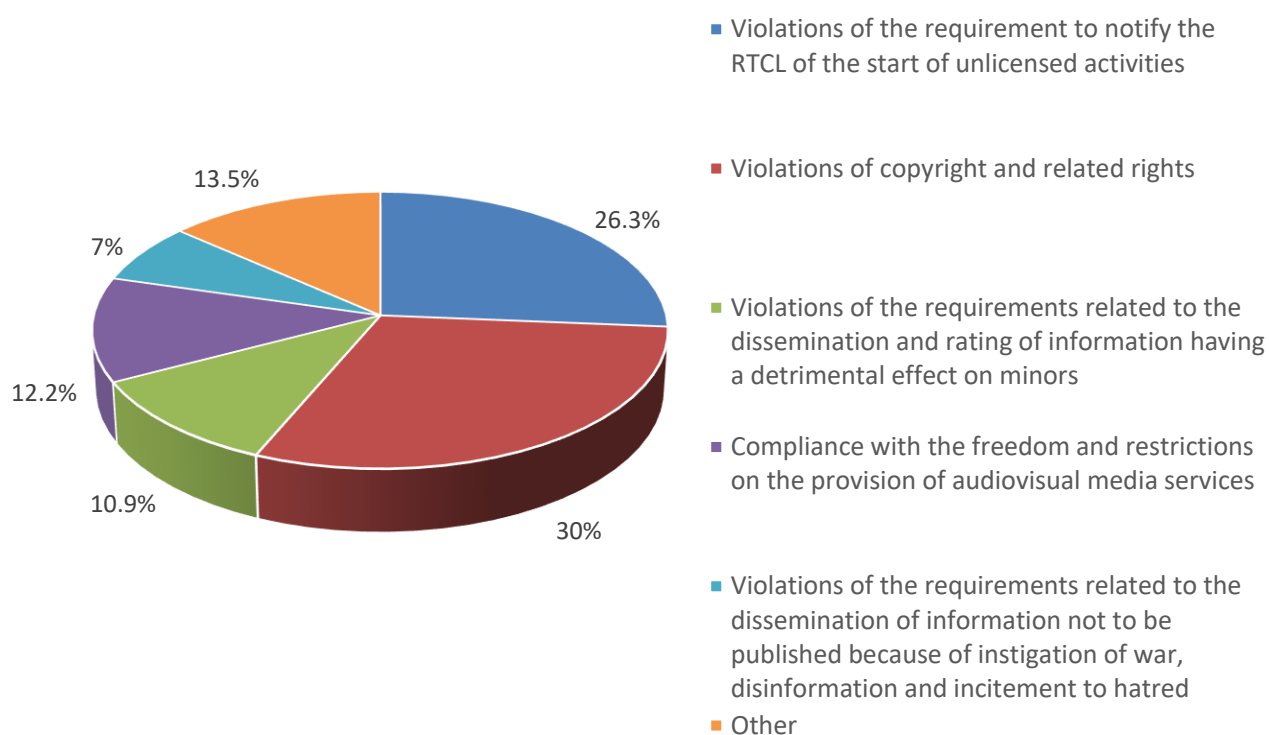
Each complaint was examined for validity, and an investigation was carried out on the basis of the complaint. In accordance with Clause 33 of the Description of the procedure for the handling of applications, complaints and notifications by individuals and customer service approved by Decision No KS-166 of 9 September of 2015 of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania², complaints have to be examined within 20 working days after their recorded receipt at the RTCL. Once the investigation has been completed, the individual who filed the complaint and/or the economic operator(s) involved are informed of the findings of the investigation, decision taken by

² Description of the Procedure for the Handling of Applications, Complaints and Notifications by Individuals and Customer Service approved by Decision of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania No KS-166 of 9 September 2015.

the RTCL regarding sanctions, or the invalidity of the complaint. Some complaints were forwarded to the Commission for Ethics in Information Provision to the Public.

In 2024, the RTCL carried out content monitoring on the basis of complaints received and at the initiative of the RTCL, drafting a total of 135 monitoring reports. Reports in relation to violations of copyright and related rights (violations listed in Article 122 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Lithuania) accounted for the majority of these monitoring reports (30.1%). 26.3% of monitoring reports were related to violations of unlicensed activities of radio and television programme broadcasting and re-broadcasting (failure to notify the RTCL of the start of activities) (paragraph 1 of Article 33 of the LPIP) and 12.2% of monitoring reports were related to violations of Article 34¹ of the LPIP as regards the freedom of provision of audiovisual media services and compliance with restrictions (**Figure 11**).

Figure 11. Monitoring reports of the RTCL in 2024.



Consultations

The RTCL sees consultations as an essential part of its oversight activities and therefore consultations were available to all economic operators in the form of live meetings, virtual meetings with the RTCL, in writing, by phone and by e-mail. Most often, economic operators received consultations on the requirements for audiovisual commercial communications (this type of consultations accounted for over 80% of all consultations), dissemination and labelling of public information that might have a detrimental effect on the development of minors, on compliance with the terms and conditions of broadcasting and/or re-broadcast content licence as well as the provision of on-demand audiovisual media services.

It should be noted that a significant portion of consultations to the economic operators was provided during routine and special inspections. It was observed that the economic operators would take the RTCL's input and methodological assistance into account thus avoiding violations of the law. This approach invalidates the belief that compliance can only be achieved through punitive sanctions. Consultations to economic operators is a priority measure of the RTCL that is being actively implemented and publicised.

In an attempt to support the economic operators that are just starting out and help them be successful in a competitive environment, and recognising 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 eleven newly established economic operators in 2024 about the consultancy services available from the RTCL and consultancy seminars thus contributing to the implementation of the Declaration on the First Business Year. 9 out of 11 newly established economic operators started the provision of audiovisual media services using a video sharing platform *YouTube*.

The RTCL supported and provided consultations to the following entities that started operating in 2024:

- UAB Artis TV
- MB Adventeris
- Andrius Talžūnas
- Antanas Jakimavičius
- MB Nofilm
- TV Manager, UAB
- UAB ŽMONĖS Cinema
- UAB Technikos pasaulis

COPYRIGHT PROTECTION ON THE INTERNET

Amendments to Article 78 of the Law on Copyright that came into effect on 1 April 2019 provide for the possibility for the owners of these rights to apply to the RTCL asking that the RTCL issues mandatory orders to Internet service providers servicing the third parties that use the services for the illegal publication of audiovisual works, works protected by way of related rights or *sui generis* rights (copyrighted content) through public computer networks (Internet). In accordance with the Law on Copyright and Related Rights of the Republic of Lithuania, the RTCL also has the mandate to issue mandatory orders to Internet service providers instructing them to block access to illegally published copyrighted content by blocking the domain name associated with the site until a copyright infringement is remedied ("website blocking")³. The RTCL has the authority to block mirror sites at its own discretion where the mirror sites provide access to the same activity as the original website⁴.

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

⁴ Paragraph 6 of Order of the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania No IV-771 of 25 November 2019 *On the Approval of the Description of the Procedure on Mandatory Orders to Internet Service Providers*

The existence of a mirror site is established against 5 criteria: domain name, publicly available content, visualisation, similarity of user interface and website manager or administrator identity⁵.

In 2024, the RTCL took 41 decisions to block 108 websites⁶, out of which:

- 1 was publishing music works illegally;
- 2 were publishing informational articles illegally;
- 105 were publishing audiovisual works illegally.

A round table discussion, which took place on 4 April 2024 at the initiative of the RTCL⁷, discussed the copyright protection measures and the extent and trends of digital piracy. In its regular online monitoring, the RTCL summarised and presented statistics on the extent of digital piracy in Lithuania. In addition to the issues of copyright infringements, the RTCL demonstrated the open-source intelligence (OSINT) tools used to investigate violations and threats to intellectual property from hostile countries as well as to protect personal data. The EU-wide surveys on the extent of piracy were also critically evaluated: the methodology used by the producers of statistics, i.e. digital piracy survey company MUSO was analysed and weaknesses highlighted. Notwithstanding the data published in these statistics, the RTCL presented objective errors in data collection, which were brought to the attention of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) by the RTCL. The meeting also discussed the extent of the sale of illegal Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) add-ons with television services and the damage caused in Lithuania. Representatives of the Ministry of Culture, LATGA, AGATA, the Lithuanian Cable Television Association, other organisations interested in copyright protection as well as representatives of the media took an active part in the discussion.

On 2 June and 2 December 2024, the RTCL took part in the meetings arranged by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) concerning the implementation of Recommendation of the European Commission (EU) 2023/1018 of 4 May 2023 on combatting online piracy in sports and other live events⁸. During the meetings, the RTCL revealed open-source intelligence tools and techniques that can be used to reduce the scale of digital piracy in EU Member States. Despite the legal progress in the area of copyright protection, the RTCL emphasized that the main obstacle was the practical (technical) implementation of copyright protection. With the interest expressed by the ESINT members, on 24 September 2024, Andrius Katinas, Head of the Division of Supervision of Activities of Economic Operators of the RTCL, and the representatives of the EUIPO and the Greek Copyright Protection Office organised training on copyright protection in the digital space. The content of the training consisted of general knowledge of the information technology infrastructure, the restrictive measures taken by the national supervisory authorities to stop copyright infringements and the tools used by open-source intelligence to investigate infringements. The training was intended for all EU institutions responsible for copyright protection in order to implement the Recommendation more effectively.

⁵ Paragraph 5 of Order of the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania No IV-771 of 25 November 2019 *On the Approval of the Description of the Procedure on Mandatory Orders to Internet Service Providers*

⁶ [List of websites that illegally publish copyright-protected content](#)

⁷ <https://www.rtk.lt/lt/naujienos/lrtk-siekia-dar-efektyvesnes-autoriu-teisiu-apsaugos-internete-apzvelgtos-autoriu-teisiu-apsaugos-priemones-bei-skaitmeninio-piratavimo-mastai-ir-tendencijos-lietuvoje>];

⁸ [Recommendation of the European Commission of 4 May 2023 on combatting online piracy in sports and other live events](#)

PARTICIPATION OF THE RTCL IN INTERNATIONAL WORK

ERGA

A plenary session of the European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services (ERGA) was held in July 2024 in Brussels, Belgium. During the meeting, various ERGA subgroups presented their work, reports were prepared and other works for the next six-months' period were discussed.

In particular, discussions were focused on ERGA's future vision, given that the European Media Freedom Act (EMFA), which defines the direction in which the supervision of the activities of the media service providers will be moved, will become effective in full extent in 2025. The EMFA provides that the current ERGA will be replaced by a new, independent European Board for Media Services (EMBA). Therefore, the aim was to find out how the newly acting EMBA was envisaged by the Member States, who should represent it and take decisions. It was decided that it would be best if the EMBA worked on the similar principle as the current ERGA, i.e. by appointing representatives from the national media supervisory institutions. The representatives of the institutions would elect the EMBA Board, which would draw up the agenda for the meetings, taking into account what is relevant to the Member States at the time, and would take the relevant decisions.

The meeting also discussed the priorities for the next six months. It was stated that the main objective was to prepare properly for the entry into force of the EMFA and for the functioning of the EMBA, to focus more on the issues of protection of minors in the media and limitation of the spread of disinformation.

The ERGA Academy's training and the Plenary Session were held in November 2024 in Rome, Italy.

The one-day session was dedicated to the ERGA Academy's training on 'The central role of media supervisory authorities in regulating content distributed across all channels and platforms'. The training took place in the form of two public discussions and included discussions between representatives of different supervisory institutions, academic world, platforms and the European Commission. Discussions focused on the different roles and challenges faced by media supervisory (regulatory) authorities when supervising traditional and online media in accordance with current and forthcoming legislation, including the European Media Freedom Act (EMFA), the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act and the future amendments to the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD).

The ERGA plenary session, which took place on the following day, was particularly focused on the future of the ERGA as an organisation, in view of the forthcoming entry into force of the EMFA. Reports prepared by the different working groups of ERGA were presented and their results discussed. Much attention was paid to discussions on video-sharing platforms and their compliance with the requirements. The representative of the European Commission noted that the Audiovisual Media Services Directive would need to be revised in 2025 and that the role of the supervisory authorities would be particularly important in the said process.

Participants also discussed the functioning of the ERGA after the entry into force of the EMFA when its duties would be taken over by the Media Services Board, the priority areas for the next six months' period and were given a brief presentation of the issues of EU sanctions.

EPRA

In 2024, representatives of the RTCL participated in two conferences hosted by the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities⁹ (EPRA). EPRA is the biggest network of regulators of audiovisual media services in Europe, uniting 55 regulatory authorities from 47 countries. The RTCL joined the organisation in 1998. This organisation is the ideal platform to share information and exchange best practices in the area of audiovisual media regulation. The European Commission, European Council, European Audiovisual Observatory and OSCE are observers in this organisation. During conferences, their representatives share the latest information, working documents and guidelines on the most relevant matters of regulation.

Traditionally, EPRA conferences take place two times a year at the invitation of one of the members of the organisation. The 59th conference took place in Rotterdam, Kingdom of the Netherlands, in June 2024, and the 60th^h EPRA conference was held in Limassol, Cyprus, in October 2024.

The main theme of the 59th conference was 'High expectations for media literacy in a tense geopolitical environment and artificial intelligence as an aid to media regulators'. It was attended by 140 representatives from 50 independent regulators of the audiovisual sector.

Two plenary sessions examined the role of media literacy and regulatory authorities in ensuring the integrity of democracy, as well as the opportunities and challenges for regulatory authorities presented by artificial intelligence, and discussed how media regulatory authorities can integrate AI technology into their working methods and regulatory challenges.

The 60th EPRA conference was dedicated to the influence of artificial intelligence in the media sector and the fight against hateful content. 130 representatives from 45 regulatory authorities participated in this conference.

During the conference sessions, participants were informed of the influence of artificial intelligence on media and challenges that artificial intelligence poses to media companies and regulation. Discussions also focused on the role of media regulatory authorities when observing and reporting the hate speech on the Internet and preventing it.

COOPERATION WITH FOREIGN COLLEAGUES

In September 2024, a tripartite meeting of the regulatory authorities of the audiovisual media services sector of the Baltic States took place at the invitation of the Estonian regulator, i.e. the Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority (TTJA). Such meetings are traditional annual events to discuss the most relevant issues of the year and to exchange experience in the various areas of regulation in the sector. They have been organised since 2005 at the invitation of one of the institutions. It has been planned that in 2025, such meeting will take place in Vilnius at the invitation of the RTCL.

At the meeting, representatives of all three regulatory authorities, i.e. the Latvian National Council for Electronic Media, the Estonian regulator and the RTCL discussed the problems faced in the area of regulation, how to prevent the distribution of illegal content online more effectively, and

⁹ <https://www.epra.org/>

the challenges and opportunities of regulating video-sharing platform services and on-demand audiovisual media services.

During the discussion, it turned out that in implementing the requirements of international and national of legislation, each state often faces various challenges, and the experiences and achievements of the neighbouring countries are therefore very valuable in improving the regulation of the area in all three Baltic States.

In 2024, the RTCL continued its activities in the field of international cooperation in accordance with the signed cooperation agreements and the representatives of the RTCL shared their experience and best practices in the field at events in Moldova and Georgia at the invitation of the regulatory authorities.

Seminar "Coordination of regulatory practice in order to achieve a strong media ecosystem" organized by the Council of Europe and the Audiovisual Council of Moldova was held in September 2024 in Chisinau, Moldova. In order to support the institutional strengthening of Moldova's National Regulatory Council, in the framework of project "Support for media pluralism and freedom of expression in the Republic of Moldova", the Council of Europe approved and carried out consulting activities with the participation of the representatives of the RTCL. The Head of the Legal Department gave a presentation of the experience in the area of regulation of vloggers in Lithuania, and the Head of the Division of Supervision of Economic Operators shared how the RTCL applies artificial intelligence tools in practice, how this helps use human resources more efficiently and ensure a faster performance of functions in combating disinformation and copyright violations.

Conference "Challenges in the market of television advertising: highlighting the display of goods" was held in April 2024 in Tbilisi at the invitation of the Telecommunications Commission of Georgia. The Conference was attended by representatives of the Telecommunications Commission of Georgia, representatives of broadcasters and media and by other interested persons. The representatives of the RTCL were also invited to the conference.

During the conference, the representatives of the Telecommunications Commission of Georgia shared their experiences and challenges when trying to respond properly to the problems of displaying goods on television. It was discussed that television broadcasters do not inform the viewers of the display of goods, that this is a problem in Georgia and that attempts are made to solve it.

At the conference, the presentation was also given by the Head of the Legal Division of the RTCL, who told Lithuania's experience and requirements for the display of the goods.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

A conference dedicated to the start of Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union was held in February 2024 in Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium. Since the theme of the conference was very important from the point of view of the institutions conducting regulation the area of audiovisual media services, the representatives of the RTCL also took part in the said conference. The conference was dedicated to discussing the areas of regulation of opinion makers and content developers, advertising, protection of minors and other important issues. The conference emphasized that control of opinion makers was necessary due to the content distributed by them, which is often harmful: unhealthy food, financial advice on investment, alcohol consumption, etc.

The conference participants shared their opinions on the enormous influence of opinion makers on traditional media and content consumption habits, the challenges of artificial intelligence when

distinguishing between the content created by real people and the content created by artificial intelligence, much attention was paid to hate speech online, the importance of the Digital Services Act in order to deal with illegal content on internet platforms.

In February 2024, representatives of the RTCL participated in an annual conference on artificial intelligence and fundamental rights organized by the Academy of European Law (ERA) in Trier, Germany.

The EU Artificial Intelligence Act, including its principles, regulatory methods, guidelines for application, etc., was introduced at the conference; discussions were held around the issues relating to the elections planned in the majority of European countries in 2024 and the possibility of artificial intelligence to influence them, especially the *Deepfake* technology, which uses artificial intelligence to create images of fake events. Besides, the conference participants also discussed the potential, benefits and risks of artificial intelligence in the activities of the courts of the European Union Member States.

Much attention to the influence and importance of artificial intelligence when examining facts and fighting against disinformation was also paid at the 11th Global Fact-Checking Summit held in June 2024 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The meeting participants discussed various topics related to fact-checking in both social and traditional media. In their presentations, speakers also discussed the importance of maintaining accuracy and impartiality when facing possible threats and limited access to information. Ethical, psychological and security aspects arising during the fact-checking process in the hostile environment were highlighted and various artificial intelligence tools used to verify information were introduced.

The discussions were also attended by the representatives of Meta (Facebook). As one of the largest social media companies in the world, Meta plays an important role in the formation of online information environment. Meta gave a presentation on the use of its strategies and tools in order to recognize, mark and reduce false or misleading content on Facebook, Instagram, Threads and WhatsApp.

Much attention was paid to discussions on the European Union's joint initiatives and legislation in the fight against disinformation. The participants were introduced with the legislative and regulatory tool (the Digital Services Act) developed in the European Union with the aim to combat the online disinformation and ensure a high level of accountability by the platforms in this area.

The International Digital Platform Regulatory Conference: Creating Global Network Forum was held in June 2024 in Dubrovnik, Croatia. The conference was attended by platform supervisors from different countries of the world, representatives of the executive power and platforms. During the discussions, the best practices in the area of platform supervision were discussed and the need to improve cooperation between platforms and regulators was emphasized.

Much attention was paid to the dissemination of hate speech using platforms and to the issues of the platform activity model when the content with hate speech is put forward based on the algorithms used by platforms thus giving it even greater popularity. Representatives of platform service providers assured that they were making great efforts to limit the dissemination of hate speech. However, during the discussions with the representatives of supervisory authorities it was concluded that the efforts made by platforms often do not reach sufficient level and hate speech can be spread on platforms.

PUBLICITY WORK BY THE RTCL

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

The RTCL aims to improve its website by taking into account the General requirements for compliance of websites of national and local authorities and bodies and the proposals of the Committee on Information Society Development, and findings of surveys. According to their surveys, the RTCL's website met over 99% of the assessment criteria in 2024.

In order to publicise the most relevant information to wider audiences in the most effective way, the RTCL employs the services of Baltic News Service which is the largest news agency in the Baltic States.

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