



RADIO AND  
TELEVISION  
COMMISSION  
OF LITHUANIA

2023  
Annual Report

Vilnius 2024

Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania

**RADIO AND TELEVISION COMMISSION OF LITHUANIA**  
**2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

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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 2023, including annual accounts together 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 Lithuania, including providers of video sharing platforms, re-broadcasters and other persons operating in Lithuania and engaged in the dissemination of television programmes and/or individual programmes via the Internet to Lithuanian users. The RTCL also has the mandate to enforce copyright protection on the Internet.

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

In 2023, the RTCL consisted of the following members: Seimas-appointed Rimantas Bagdzevičius (Chairman), Ričardas Slapšys (Deputy Chairman) and Agnesta Filatovė; 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.

At the end of 2023, the RTCL was overseeing 121 (compared to 109 in 2022) entities engaged in both licensed and unlicensed activities.

In the reporting year, as part of its functions, the RTCL held 20 meetings and 20 conference meetings, took 60 decisions, imposed 17 administrative sanctions (9 warnings and 8 fines), handled 30 complaints and responded to over 200 inquiries, sent 814 official documents and received 470 letters, and had 3 WG meetings.

In 2023, the RTCL’s activities were focused in 3 main areas, namely, the enforcement of international sanctions, copyright protection on the Internet, and the oversight and registration of on-demand audiovisual media service providers, i.e., vloggers (video blog makers).

As Russia continued its war against Ukraine in 2023, large-scale media manipulation, disinformation and hostile propaganda, continuously targeting civil society, asylum seekers, Russian ethnic minorities, sexual minorities as well as the European Union and the functioning of the democratic institutions of its Member States, continued to pour out of the Kremlin-controlled audiovisual media, which could still be seen and heard in Lithuania. Because of a direct threat to the public order and security in the EU, the dissemination of disinformation and propaganda against the EU and its Member States, the Council of the European Union has sanctioned many programmes disseminating Russian propaganda.

As the RTCL is responsible for the enforcement of international sanctions insofar the restrictive measures concern radio and television broadcasting, rebroadcasting and dissemination on the Internet, it 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. A monitoring exercise also revealed that data packs of the banned television channels are obtained using IP (Internet Protocol) addresses through which the television channels can be accessed.

In 2023, after assessing the situation, the RTCL has adopted, for the first time ever, a new method of blocking, 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 2023, 367 IP addresses were blocked using the method.

The Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania also continued to monitor and in instances of detected violations took decisions to impose fines on Lithuanian entities for the illegal dissemination of the banned television programmes controlled or financed from the Russian Federation. Fines were imposed on private companies, i.e., Definè LT and Stokeris.

Aiming to share best practices on combating disinformation, members of the RTCL attended a number of international meetings and conferences organised by regulatory authorities of different countries, including the Warsaw Summit “Stop Disinformation and Russian Propaganda”, where a decision was passed to take joint action aimed at educating and protecting citizens from organised disinformation and the spread of modern propaganda, consolidated in a signed declaration to combat disinformation.

In 2023, the RTCL continued to actively enforce copyright on the Internet. Once the RTCL had been made responsible for the oversight and protection of copyright online in accordance with the Law on Copyright of the Republic of Lithuania, it was also given the mandate to block websites and copies thereof which publish copyrighted content illegally. Aiming to strengthen copyright protection online, the RTCL has intensified its cooperation efforts with Google in order to remove the infringing websites. At the RTCL’s request, the company started removing Uniform Resource Locators with IP addresses from the Google search engine and apps on the Google Play store.

On 1 July 2023, amendments to the Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Lithuania came into effect whereby the RTCL received the mandate to enforce copyright and related rights by applying administrative sanctions. As per these new amendments, the illegal public performance, reproduction or publication of any object, in whole or in part, subject to copyright or related rights is punishable by a fine of up to €600.

To prevent the illegal use of audiovisual works by downloading them from infringing websites (such as *linkomanija.net*), the RTCL applied administrative sanctions to 42 individuals in the reporting year.

It should be mentioned that, as in the past, ensuring equal regulatory conditions for all entities engaged in similar activities overseen by the RTCL remained one of the most important objectives of the RTCL’s activities. The RTCL has sought to ensure that all requirements, including the regulation of vlogger activities, are successfully implemented. Understanding that the content resulting from these 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 oversee and register on-demand audiovisual media

services provided by vloggers. By the end of 2023, there have been 18 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. On the basis of agreements signed, meetings were organised remotely and in person to discuss matters of concern, to share and exchange experiences with peers in the field of regulation of audiovisual media services.

In 2023, just like in previous years, members of the RTCL were actively involved in the work of ERGA, the European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services which advises the European Commission on different matters of AVMSD implementation, attending 22 meetings of the Group.

The RTCL aims to facilitate quick access to information of interest to economic operators and anyone visiting the RTCL's website and therefore consistently takes into account the General requirements for compliance of websites of national and local authorities and the proposals of the Committee on Information Society Development, analyses findings of different surveys to improve the structure and presentation of information on the website.

We are proud to say that, according to a survey done by the aforementioned committee, the RTCL's website met 99% of the assessment criteria in 2023 (compared to 90% in 2022).

In 2023, the RTCL organised the 21st competition of the best in radio and television *Pragiedruliai*, which encourages radio and television producers and authors to create higher quality and more varied content.

In 2023, 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 2023-2025 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.

Rimantas Bagdzevičius

Chairman

## MISSION AND PRIORITIES FOR 2023

The RTCL's mission 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 should be highlighted as the main priorities of the RTCL's activities in 2023:

- Fight against the dissemination of prohibited information in public media outlets
- Oversight of video-sharing platform services
- Copyright protection on the Internet
- Protection of minors against the detrimental effects of public information

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

In 2023, the RTCL was engaged in the activities of radio and television broadcasting and re-broadcasting licensing; organised competitions to award radio and television broadcasting and re-broadcasting licences; made changes to licence terms and conditions when requested by the broadcasters and re-broadcasters; cancelled licences; registered notifications by economic operators of the start of unlicensed activities; 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 2023 and 31 December 2023, the RTCL received 29 notifications of the start of unlicensed activities of radio and television broadcasting, television dissemination on the Internet, provision of on-demand audiovisual media services to viewers in Lithuania.

In the reporting year, the RTCL took 160 decisions related to licensing, competition announcements and their implementation, and other matters related to the activities of the economic operators regulated by the RTCL.

*Table 1. Decisions by the RTCL related to licensing, competition announcements and their implementation, and other matters relating to the regulation of the economic operators under the jurisdiction of the RTCL in 2023.*

No	Nature of the decision	Number of decisions
1.	Changes to licence terms and conditions	7
2.	Licence cancellations	4
3.	Competition announcements	8
4.	Competition results	6
5.	Temporary suspension of activities	2
6.	Mandatory orders to Internet access service providers	57
7.	Mandatory orders to network service providers	7
8.	Setting of annual fees	56
9.	Laws and regulations	4
10.	Other	9

## ANNOUNCEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITIONS TO AWARD LICENCES

During the reporting year, the RTCL announced 6 competitions to award radio broadcasting licences, 1 competition to award re-broadcast radio content licence, and took 6 decisions relating to competition results (*Table 2*).

*Table 2. Competitions announced in 2023 and their results.*

No	Objective	Station location, territory covered by the licence	Radio frequency/ TV channel	Applicants
				Winner
1.	Licence for radio station broadcasting	Klaipėda	93.3 MHz	UAB Solfega MB Veiksmo ministerija <hr/> UAB Solfega
2.	Licence for radio station broadcasting	Tauragė	89.3 MHz	VšĮ KVARTOLĖ UAB Solfega <hr/> VšĮ KVARTOLĖ
3.	Licence for radio station broadcasting	Vilnius	96.4 MHz	UAB Garso klipai VšĮ KVARTOLĖ UAB RADIOLA UAB Solfega VšĮ Sostinės media <hr/> VšĮ KVARTOLĖ
4.	Licence for radio station broadcasting	Panevėžys	106.9 MHz	UAB Solfega VšĮ KVARTOLĖ UAB Labas, Klaipėda VšĮ Marijos radijas <hr/> UAB Labas, Klaipėda
5.	Licence for television station broadcasting	Marijampolė	TV channel 41	VšĮ Marijampolės televizija
6.	Licence for re-broadcast content for radio station	Sitkūnai	666 kHz	AB Lietuvos radijo ir televizijos centras
7.	Licence for radio station broadcasting*	Anykščiai	99.9 MHz	
8.	Licence for radio station broadcasting*	Druskininkai	94.3 MHz	

\*The deadline for submissions is 8 January 2024.



The RTCL received and examined 15 submissions in response to competition announcements. Having calculated the results, the RTCL announced 6 winners in 2023, issuing 3 new licences and supplementing the terms and conditions of 3 licences issued earlier.

## DECISIONS BY THE RTCL TO MODIFY LICENCE TERMS AND CONDITIONS, LICENCE CANCELLATIONS

In 2023, the RTCL passed 7 decisions to modify licence terms and conditions. These decisions were related to changes in the structure and content of television and radio programmes, language of broadcasting of a radio programme, name of a radio programme and terms and conditions of television broadcasting whereby the condition of television broadcasting without conditional access to a digital terrestrial television station was revoked leaving the right to engage in television broadcasting over the wired broadband networks the main purpose of which is other than radio and/or television programme broadcasting and/or re-broadcasting.

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

*Table 3. Licence cancellations.*

No	Licence holder	Grounds for licence cancellation	Licensed activities
1.	UAB VYDAS	Licence holder decided to give up the licence	Radio programme broadcasting LC-21(R021)
2.	UAB AUKŠTAITIJOS RADIJAS	Licence holder was liquidated	Radio programme broadcasting LC-8(R008)
3.	UAB ATVIRAI	Ownership of the controlling interest changed hands prior to the RTCL's approval	Radio programme broadcasting LC-409(R409); LC-481(R481)
4.	VšĮ Marijampolės televizija	Licence holder decided to give up the licence	Television programme broadcasting LC-102(T102s)

As of 31 December 2023, the RTCL had issued 131 broadcasting and re-broadcast content licences to radio and/or television broadcasters engaged in licensed activities, and 9 permits to VšĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA (PUBLIC RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTER OF LITHUANIA).

## RADIO

At the end of 2023, 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.

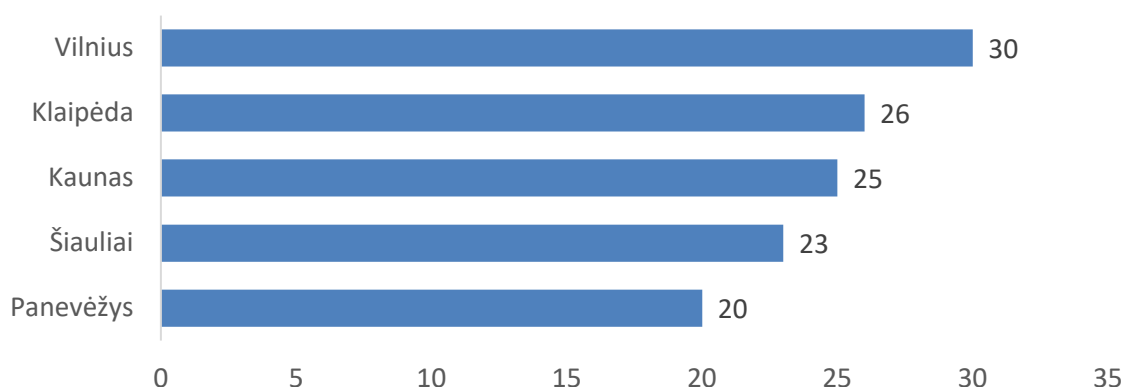
In 2023, 1 radio broadcasting licence holder won competitions announced by the RTCL and had its licence terms and conditions modified, i.e., licence coverage was expanded to include a wider

territory; 1 radio broadcaster was issued a broadcasting licence to broadcast a radio station using the terrestrial analogue radio transmitter station in Klaipėda; 1 radio broadcaster was issued a licence to broadcast a radio station using the terrestrial analogue radio transmitter station in Panevėžys.

The greatest diversity of radio stations in 2023 was observed in major Lithuanian cities: 30 radio stations in Vilnius, 25 in Kaunas, 26 in Klaipėda, 23 in Šiauliai and 20 radio stations in Panevėžys (*Figure 1*).

In 2023, in terms of radio coverage, there were 15 national radio stations (*Table 4*), 6 regional radio broadcasters (*Table 5*) and 25 broadcasters broadcasting local radio stations (*Table 6*).

*Figure 1. Number of radio stations in major Lithuanian cities in 2023.*



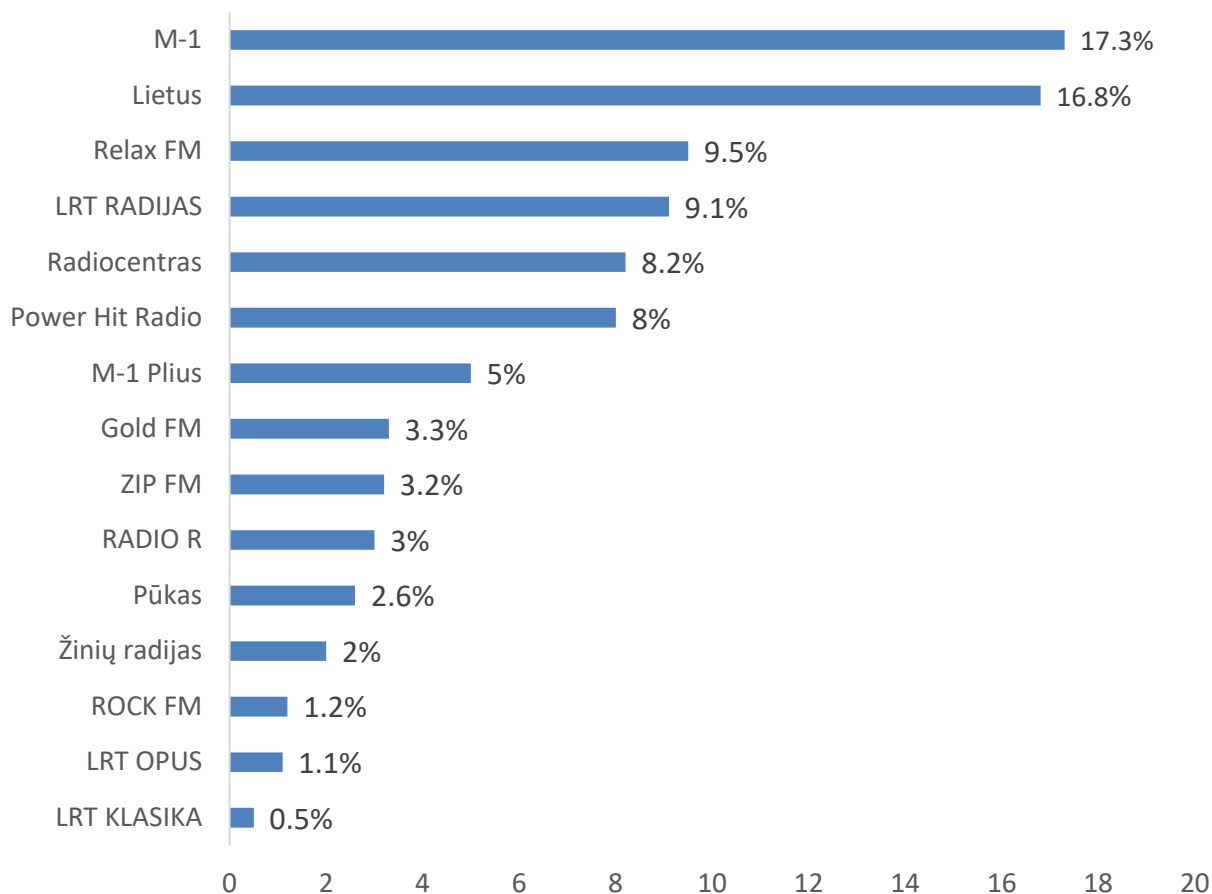
Source: RTCL

*Table 4. National radio stations.*

No	Broadcaster	Station
1.	UAB M-1	M-1
2.	UAB M-1	M-1 Plus
3.	UAB Pūkas	Pūkas
4.	UAB RADIOCENTRAS	Radiocentras
5.	UAB RADIOCENTRAS	ZIP FM
6.	UAB RADIOCENTRAS	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 34.1% of the total time listened to radio. In the spring and summer period of 2023, LRT RADIJAS and Radiocentras were surpassed in the ratings for the first time ever by RELAX FM (**Figure 2**).

Figure 2. Audience share of national radio stations by time listened, spring to summer of 2023.



Source: Kantar

Table 5. Regional radio broadcasters.

No	Broadcaster	Radio station	Locations
1.	VšĮ Marijos radijas	Marijos radijas	Druskininkai, Ignalina, Mažeikiai, Nida, Plunksniai, Raseiniai, Skuodas, Visaginas
2.	UAB Alytaus radijas	FM 99	Alytus, Druskininkai
3.	UAB GERUDA	Geras FM	Vilnius, Kaunas
4.	UAB Info XXL	XXL FM	Plungė, Telšiai, Šiauliai
5.	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.

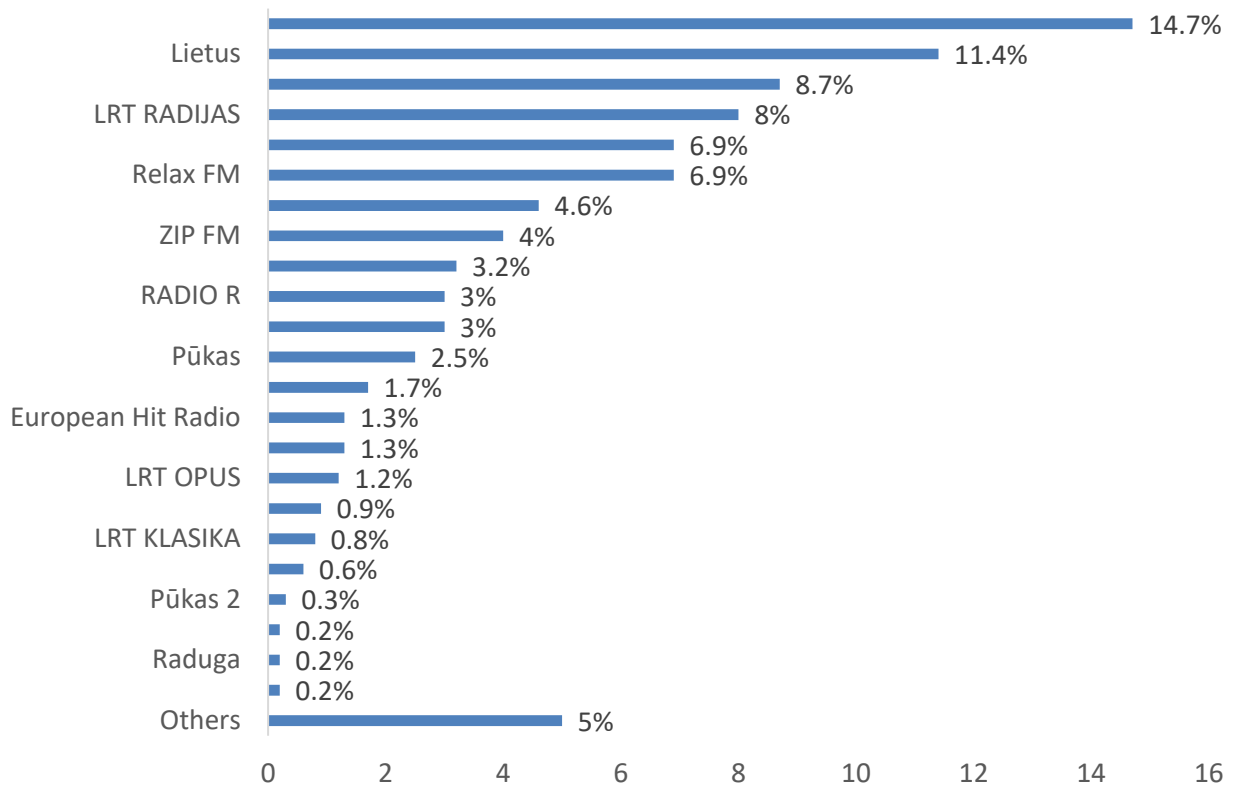
No	Broadcaster	Radio station	Location
1.	UAB Antroji reklamos ateljė	RS 2	Šiauliai
2.	UAB Artvydas	Tau	Kaunas
3.	UAB Centro medija	XFM	Kėdainiai
4.	UAB Garso klipai	MANO FM	Kaunas
5.	UAB Interbanga	EXTRA FM	Kaunas
6.	UAB Interbanga	EXTRA FM	Klaipėda
7.	UAB Interbanga	EXTRA FM	Šiauliai
8.	UAB Interbanga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

41.	UAB PROARSA	JAZZ FM	Vilnius
42.	UAB PROARSA	Vaikų radijas	Vilnius
43.	UAB Radijas kelyje	Kelyje	Kaunas
44.	UAB Radijas kelyje	Kelyje	Klaipėda
45.	UAB Radijas kelyje	Kelyje	Vilnius
46.	UAB RADIOCENTRAS	RADIO FIESTA	Vilnius
47.	UAB RADIOLA	Europos Hitų Radijas ( <i>European Hit Radio</i> )	Vilnius
48.	UAB RADIOLA	Europos Hitų Radijas	Klaipėda
49.	UAB RADIOLA	Europos Hitų Radijas	Kaunas
50.	UAB RADIOLA	SUPER FM	Vilnius
51.	UAB RADIJO PULSAS	Pulsas	Biržai
52.	UAB RADIJO PULSAS	Pulsas	Panevėžys
53.	UAB RADIJO STOTIS LALUNA	Laluna	Klaipėda
54.	UAB RADIJO STOTIS LALUNA	M-1 Dance	Klaipėda
55.	UAB REKLAMOS GAMA	Radijogama	Klaipėda
56.	UAB SAULĖS RADIJAS	Saulės radijas	Šiauliai
57.	UAB Solfega	SOL FM	Klaipėda
58.	Šiaulių Didždvario gimnazija	Radio klubas	Šiauliai
59.	VšĮ Šou imperija	Tauragės radijas	Tauragė
60.	UAB TARPTAUTINIS BALTIJOS BANGŲ RADIJAS	TARPTAUTINIS BALTIJOS BANGŲ RADIJAS	Anykščiai (Viešintos)
61.	VšĮ Utenos radijas	Utenos radijas	Utena
62.	Vilniaus Baltupių progimnazija	Baltupių radijas	Vilnius
63.	Vilniaus universitetas ( <i>University of Vilnius</i> )	Start FM	Vilnius
64.	UAB ZNAD WILII RADIJO STOTIS	Znad Wilii	Vilnius

VšĮ Zorza which broadcasts radio station RADIO WILNO, UAB VYDAS which broadcasts radio station A2, 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, and MB Unikalių paslaugos which broadcasts radio station Tavo Balsas do so online only.

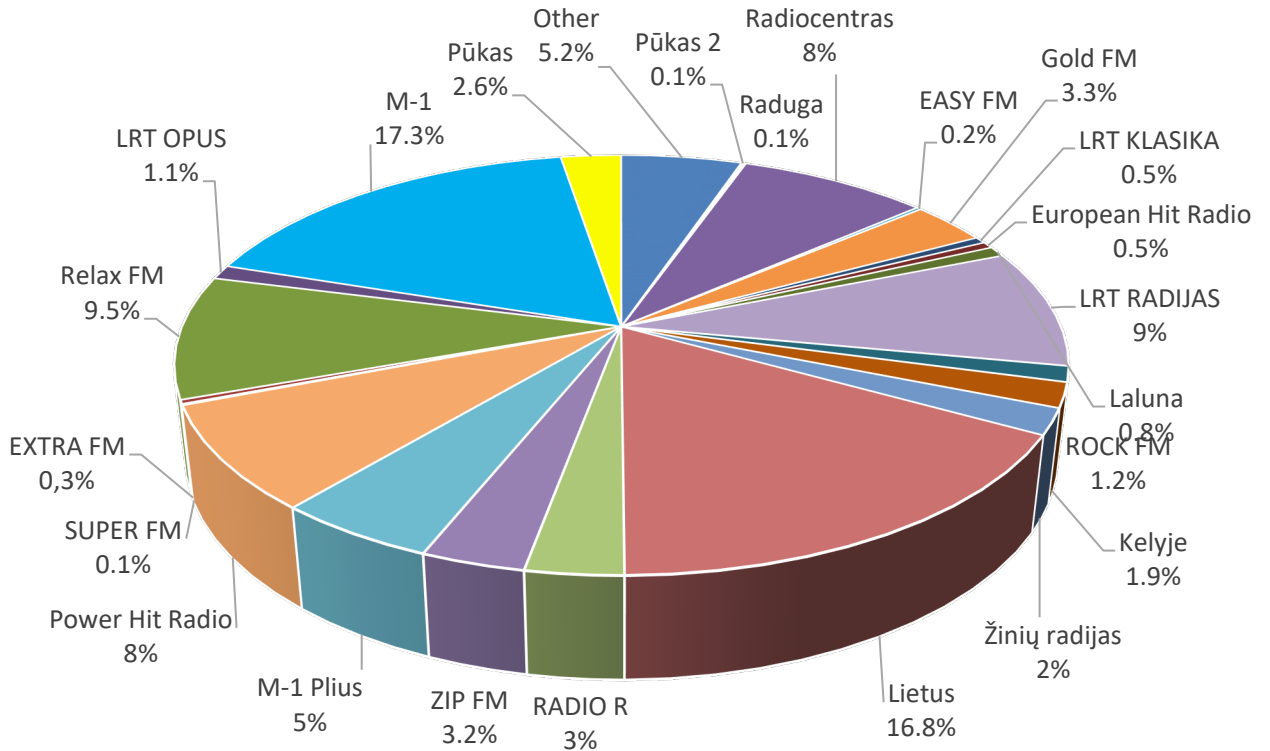
In 2023, M-1 remained the most popular radio station in Lithuania by daily audience reach followed by radio station Lietus. Last year, LRT Radijas conceded the third spot to radio station Radiocentras by the same indicator (**Figure 3**). The most popular radio stations by audience share ranked in the same order (**Figure 4**).

Figure 3. Daily audience reach of radio stations, spring to summer of 2023.



Source: Kantar

Figure 4. Share of audience by time spent listening to radio (%), spring to summer of 2023.



Source: Kantar

## TELEVISION

### Digital Terrestrial Television

#### Television broadcasting over digital terrestrial TV transmitter stations (networks)

In 2023, Lithuanian viewers were able to receive 12 free-to-air (not encrypted) national television channels over the digital terrestrial transmitter stations (**Table 7**).

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

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

At the end of 2023, there were 6 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.

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

Three regional television broadcasters use the networks of digital terrestrial TV transmitter stations to transmit their programmes, i.e., VšĮ Regioninė televizija *Aidas* broadcasts regional TV

station Regional TV station Aidas on channel 24 in Trakai 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, Buivydžiai Township, Vilnius District; Juzina Vlg., Sariai Township, Švenčionys District and Akmeniškės Vlg., Marijampolis Township, Vilnius District, and 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.

### Television re-broadcasting over digital terrestrial TV transmitter stations

In 2023, 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 55 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 retransmit 5 television stations of Polish broadcasters.

### Television station broadcasting

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

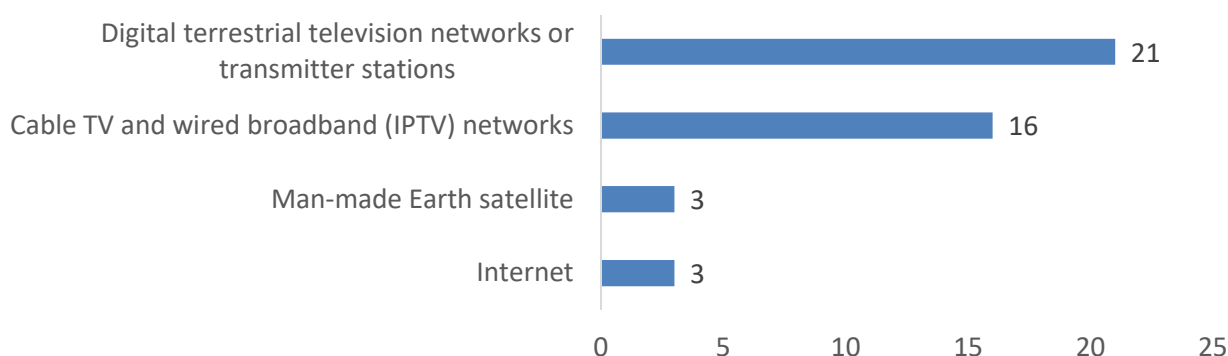
- Digital terrestrial television transmitter stations (networks)
- Cable television networks
- Wired broadband communication networks (IPTV)
- Internet
- Man-made Earth satellite



At the end of 2023, there were 28 television broadcasters broadcasting 41 television stations **(Figure 5)**:

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

Figure 5. Television broadcasting in 2023 by type of electronic communications used.

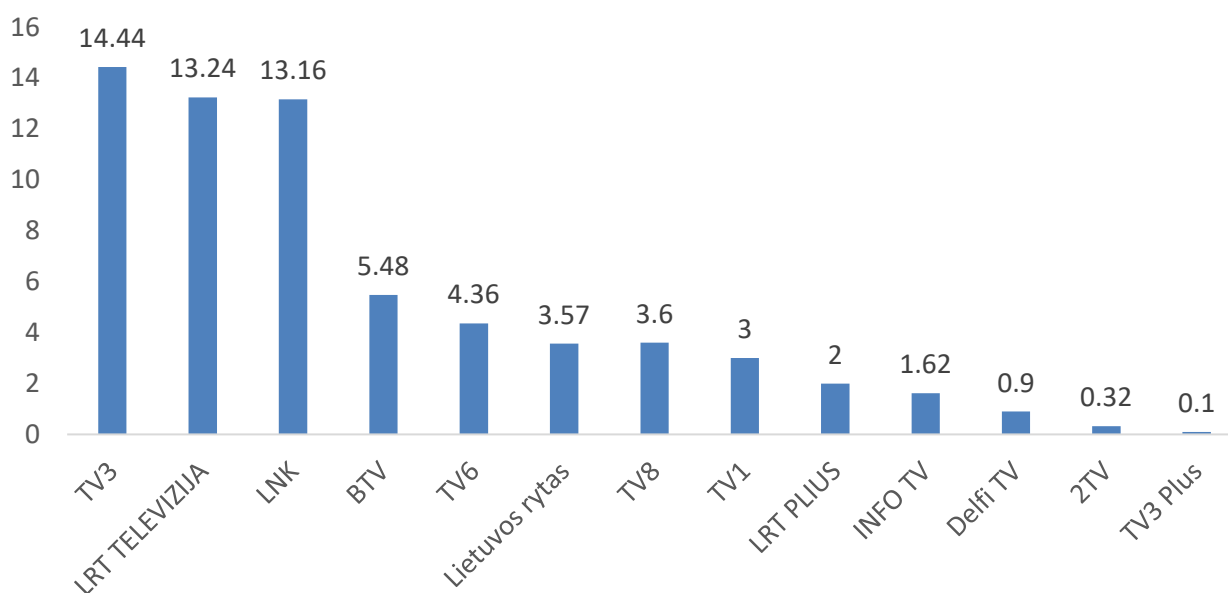


Source: RTCL

### The share of audience of national television stations

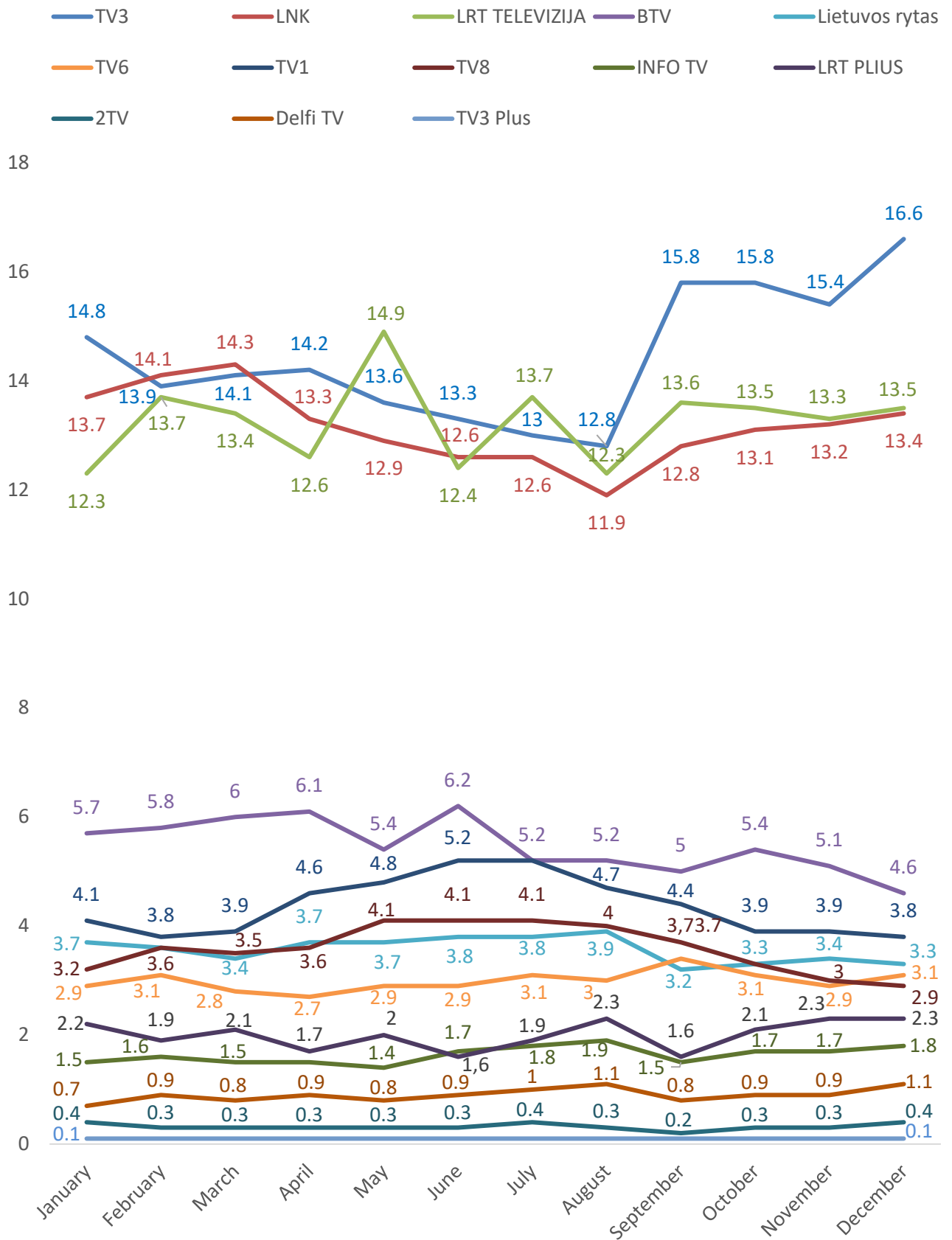
The share of audience by national TV station changed only slightly compared to 2022. A slight increase in the viewership of LRT TELEVIZIJA was observed which outperformed the LNK station in 2023 **(Figures 6, 7 and 8)**.

Figure 6. Audience structure of national TV stations by time watched in 2023; consolidated viewing data (including 7-day time shifted viewing).



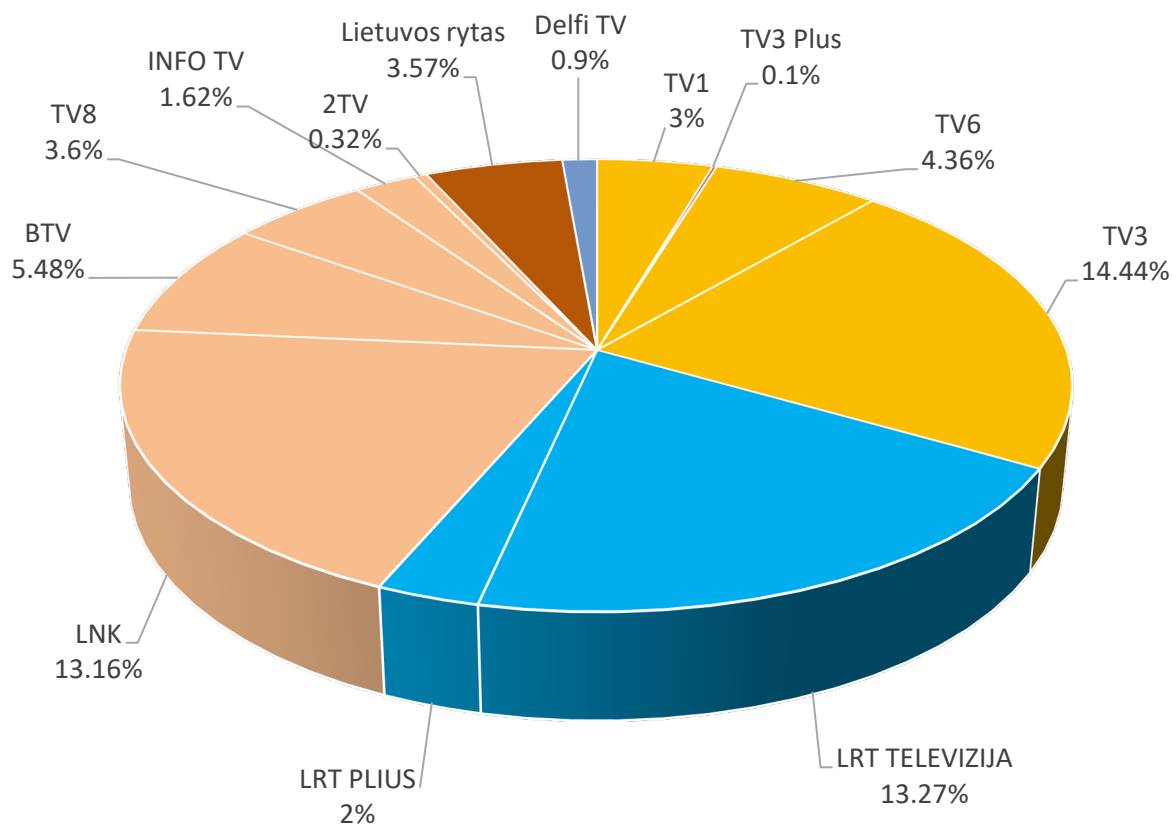
Source: Kantar

Figure 7. Audience structure of national TV stations by time watched every month of 2023; consolidated viewing data (including 7-day time shifted viewing).



Source: Kantar

Figure 8. Audience structure of national TV stations by time watched in 2023; consolidated viewing data (including 7-day time shifted viewing).



Source: Kantar

As seen from Figure 8, television stations under the umbrella of LNK Group (24.18%) and All Media Group (21.9%) accounted for 46.08% of all viewership. Viewership of the two television stations broadcast by VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA was 15.27%.

### 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 2023, 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;
- 15 economic operators were re-broadcasting television stations over the IPTV networks the main purpose of which is not radio and/or television broadcasting and/or re-broadcasting;
- 1 economic operator was re-broadcasting television stations over a man-made Earth satellite.

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

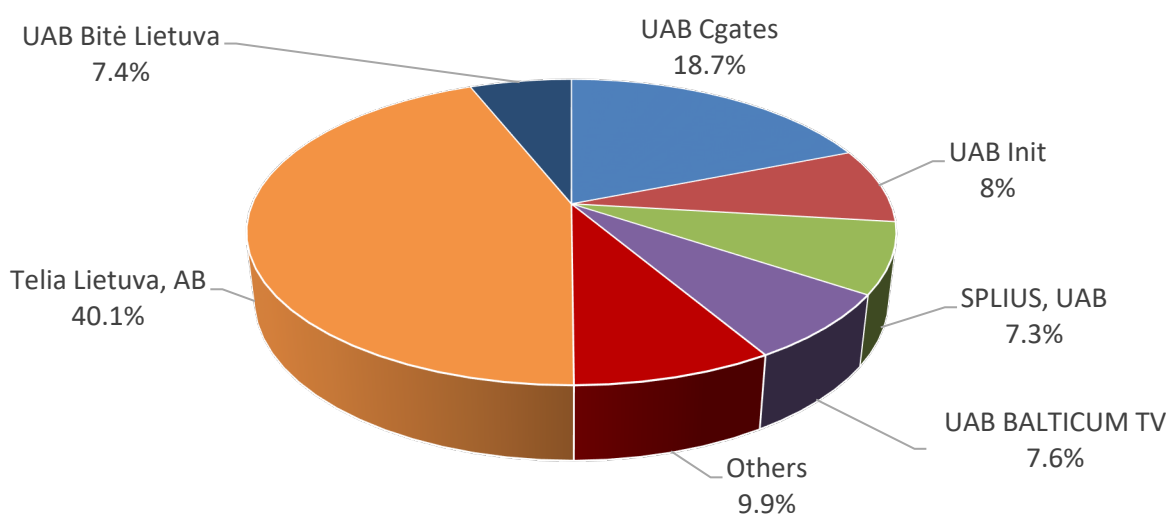
An analysis of television re-broadcasting services reveals that the number of cable television users has been shrinking consistently (15.5% compared to the previous year), just as was the number of satellite television subscribers (7.8% compared to the previous year) while the number of users watching television online kept on growing, increasing by 3.5% over the year. AB Telia Lietuva had the biggest share of paid TV subscribers of all providers (**Figure 9**).

In 2023, the five biggest cable TV providers were: UAB Cgates, UAB Init, UAB BALTICUM TV, UAB SPLIUS, and UAB Parabolė. Their subscribers accounted for 86.5% of all cable TV subscribers in the country (**Figure 10**).

The IPTV providers' market is dominated by AB Telia Lietuva (**Figure 11**).

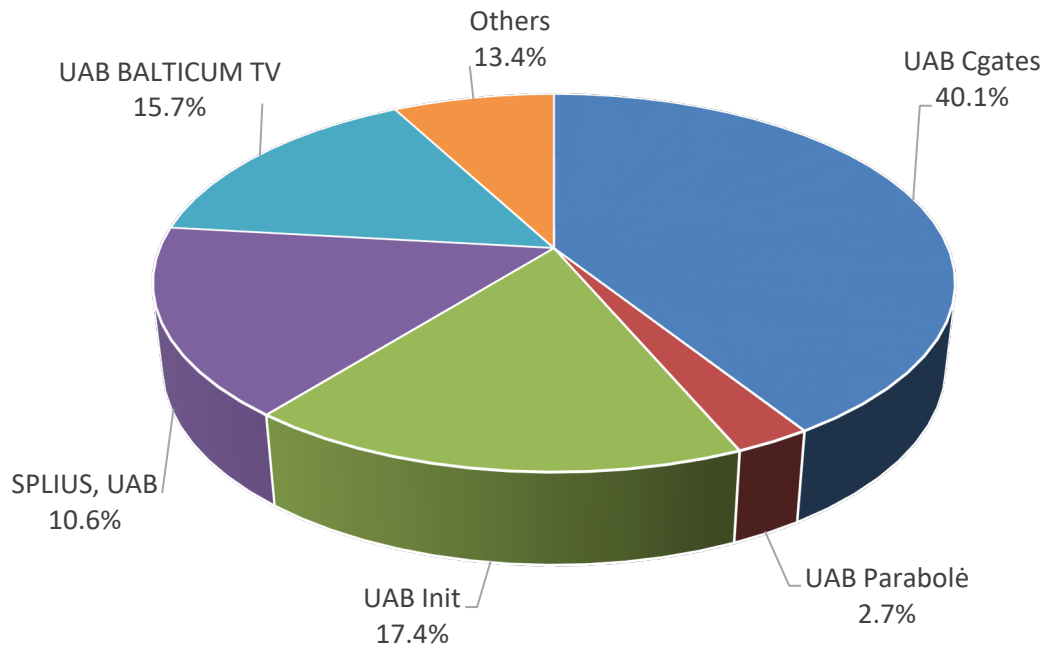
In the course of the year, the total number of paid TV subscribers shrank by 4.1%.

*Figure 9. Paid TV subscribers by service provider (total of 600,000), 2023.*



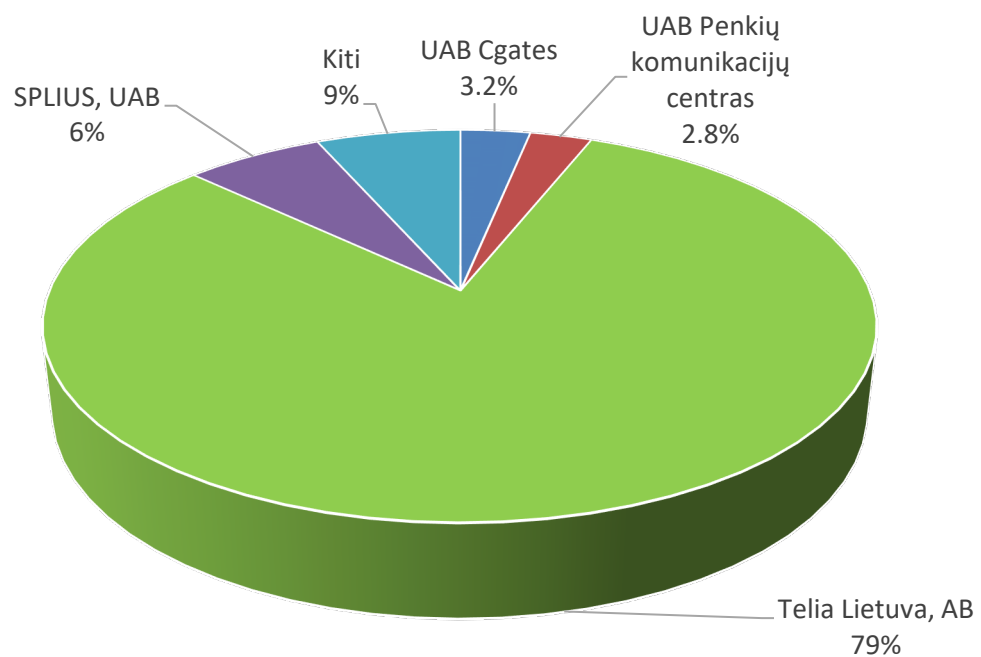
Source: RTCL

Figure 10. Cable TV subscribers by service provider (%), 2023.



Source: RTCL

Figure 11. IPTV subscribers by service provider, %, 2023.

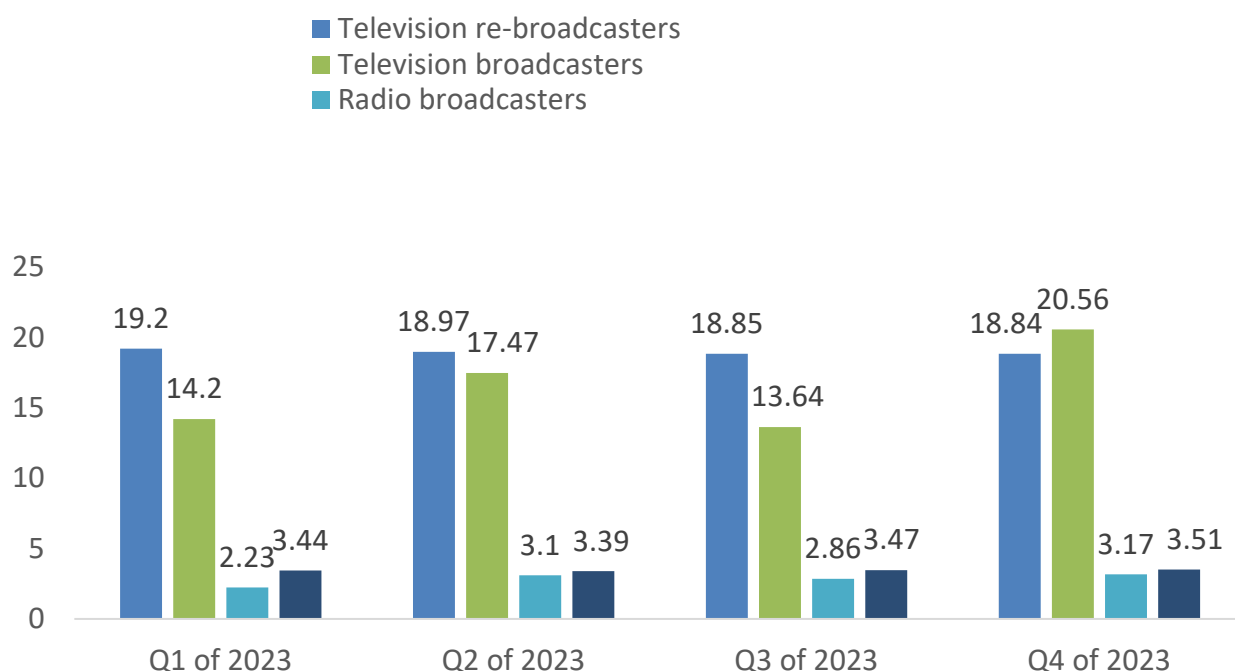


Source: RTCL

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

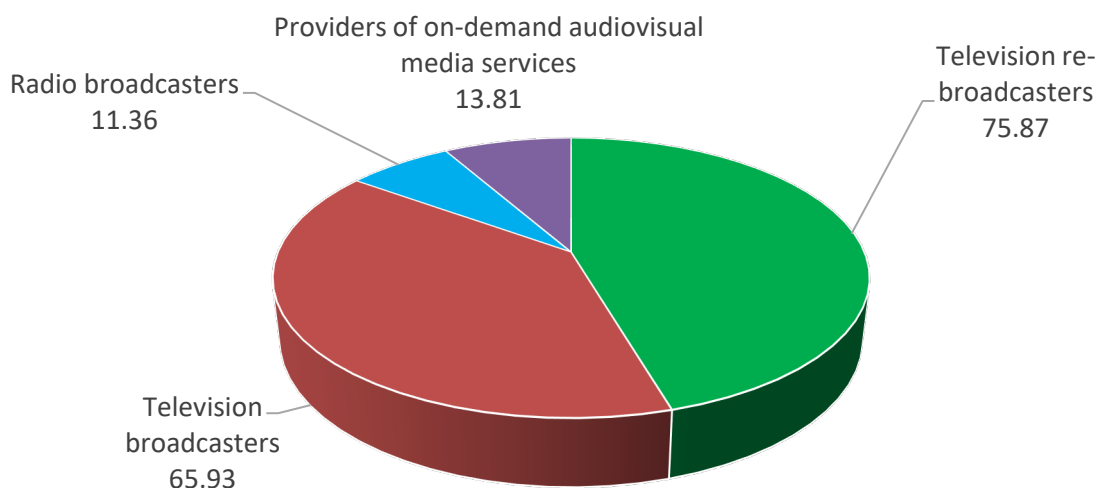
Every year the RTCL uses quarterly financial reports provided by the economic operators under the RTCL’s jurisdiction to calculate their revenue generated from the provision of audiovisual media services (*Figures 12 and 13*).

Figure 12. Economic operator revenue in 2023 by quarter, million euros.



Source: RTCL

Figure 13. Revenue of economic operators in 2023 by service category, 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.*

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

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

## UNLICENSED ACTIVITIES

As of the end of 2023, the RTCL had received 133 notifications 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 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 2023, there were 20 economic operators engaged in the provision of on-demand audiovisual media services; 16 economic operators engaged in the provision of on-demand audiovisual media services using a video sharing platform, and 9 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 2023, 1 economic operator terminated unlicensed activities of television re-broadcasting using wired broadband networks and television programme dissemination via the Internet, 1 economic operator terminated television re-broadcasting using cable TV networks, and 2 economic operators terminated unlicensed television broadcasting activities.

## ANNUAL FEES

On 1 June 2023, an amendment to the Law on the Provision of Information to the Public came into force whereby the RTCL was mandated to approve the Descriptor of the procedure for setting the annual fees (the “Descriptor”) after coordination with an authority designated by the Government and determine the annual fees in accordance with the said Descriptor. Until 1 June 2023 it was the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture to set the annual fees. On 30 August 2023, the RTCL adopted decision No KS-66 *On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure for setting the annual fees for radio and/or television broadcasting, re-broadcasting, dissemination via the Internet and provision of on-demand audiovisual media services*. On the basis of the Descriptor the RTCL took 56 decisions setting the annual fees for radio and/or television broadcasting, re-broadcasting, dissemination via the Internet and provision of on-demand audiovisual media services. Annual fees are transferred to the Association for Ethics in Information Provision to the Public.

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

In the reporting year, the RTCL took 7 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 €196 to the national budget. In the course of 2023, the RTCL issued 6 licences to competition winners: 4 radio broadcasting licences, 1 television broadcasting licence, and 1 re-broadcast content licence for a radio programme. Licence holders paid €3,126 to the national budget for the issuance of these licences. Payment for 2 licences issued in 2022 was received in 2023. In total, €4,364 were paid to the national budget by licence holders in 2023.

## THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AND ENFORCEMENT

During 2023, the RTCL adopted 3 pieces of legislation aimed at increasing the efficiency of oversight, reducing the bureaucratic burden for economic operators as well as ensuring the proper processing of personal data and enforcement of statutory provisions (**Table 10**).

On 11 January 2023, the RTCL adopted Decision No KS-4 amending Decision No KS-72 of 30 October 2019 *On the approval of the Rules for audits of economic operator activities conducted by the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania*. The amendment provides for the use of, in full or in part, control questionnaires normally used for routine (announced) inspections during special (unannounced) inspections depending on the goal of the unannounced inspection. The RTCL is no longer allowed to sanction economic operators for minor violations or failure to rectify them.



Accordingly, an economic operator may appeal, as provided for by law, any written instruction by the RTCL to rectify a minor violation.

On 29 March 2023, the RTCL adopted decision No KS-27 *On the amendment of the Descriptor of the procedure for personal data processing and the exercise of the rights of data subjects at the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania*. The amendment provides for the procedure and purpose of collecting personal data for the purpose of accessing the premises, the duration of data retention, and the manner of data collection.

On 30 August 2023, the RTCL adopted Decision No KS-66 *On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure for setting the annual fees for radio and/or television broadcasting, re-broadcasting, dissemination via the Internet and provision of on-demand audiovisual media services*. This decision was adopted to reflect the amendments to the Law on Provision of Information to the Public that came into force on 1 June 2023 and provided for the obligation of the RTCL to approve the procedure for setting the annual fees in coordination with an authority designated by the Government and use the procedure to set the annual fees. On the basis of this decision, the RTCL determined which entities qualify as annual fee payers, described what has to be taken into consideration when setting the annual fee and what are the intervals of annual fees depending on the service provided. Also, the Descriptor details how the annual fee is to be set and paid. It should be pointed out that annual fees are transferred to the Association for Ethics in Information Provision to the Public. Until 1 June 2023 it was the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture to set the annual fees and with the entry into force of the said amendments to the LPIP, the function was delegated to the RTCL.

Russia's war against Ukraine continued in 2023 and the RTCL continued to look for ways to limit, in a more efficient manner, access to Russian and Belarusian programmes and disinformation they disseminate. In light of the fact that following the outbreak of war in Ukraine, the Council of the EU has sanctioned many Russian programmes for the dissemination of disinformation and propaganda targeting the European Union and individual Member States and that the RTCL is responsible for the enforcement of international sanctions insofar they relate to the restrictions on broadcasting, re-broadcasting and dissemination of radio and television programmes via the Internet, the RTCL engaged in monitoring and has determined that television programmes subject to EU sanctions were being disseminated online. Since the banned programmes were being disseminated using the Internet, the RTCL deemed that Internet service providers had the obligation to take every measure possible to comply with the sanctions. For this reason, the RTCL adopted a decision ordering the providers of public electronic communication networks and of public electronic communication services to remove access to the designated IP (*Internet Protocol*) addresses used to access the television programmes under the sanctions imposed by the EU Council within 5 working days from the day of entry into force of the said decision.

It should be noted that this blocking technique has been applied for the first time ever. This blocking technique is considered to be more effective and harder to circumvent compared to DNS (*Domain Name System*) blocking. In the course of 2023, the RTCL adopted 4 decisions of this nature, the first of which was adopted on 8 March 2023 No KS-24 *On the enforcement of restrictive measures adopted by the European Union in response to Russia's actions to destabilise the situation in Ukraine*. This decision served as a basis to block 12 IP addresses. Decisions of the same nature were adopted on 10 May 2023, No KS-39, that facilitate the blocking of 264 IP addresses, on 21 June 2023, No KS-51, whereby 38 IP addresses have been blocked, and on 13 September 2023, No KS-76, facilitating the blocking of 53 IP addresses (*Table 11*).

New amendments to the Code of Administrative Offences (the “CAO”) came into force on 1 July 2023 whereby the RTCL was given the mandate to enforce copyright and related rights online through administrative sanctions. In accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 122 of the CAO, unauthorised public performance of a copyrighted work or a work protected by related rights, in whole or in part, reproduction, publication, including making works available via computer networks (Internet) or other uses in any other way and means for non-commercial purposes is subject to a fine between two hundred and eighty and six hundred euros. Since the entry into force of this amendment, the RTCL passed the first decision ever, which was on 30 August 2023, to impose financial sanctions, i.e., fines, on three individuals who downloaded and distributed illegally movies from an infringing website linkomanija.net. In 2023, the RTCL passed decisions fining over 40 individuals for copyright violations.

In 2023, the RTCL carried out the oversight and registration of on-demand audiovisual media services provided by vloggers (*vlog – video blog*). At the end of 2023, there were 18 entities registered as providers of on-demand audiovisual media services using a video sharing platform. In registering vloggers, however, the RTCL has encountered problems, namely, communication with certain service providers was particularly difficult as they were unwilling to reply to the letters sent by the RTCL in order to avoid registration as providers of the services mentioned. For this reason, the registration process would often become stuck because of the service provider’s failure to provide the information requested. Against this backdrop, on proposal by the RTCL, the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania approved an amendment to the Rules for the licensing of broadcasting activities and re-broadcast content (the “Rules”) supplementing these Rules with clause 58<sup>1</sup> and stipulating that those providers of on-demand audiovisual media services who use a video sharing platform to provide the services have to notify the RTCL of such service provision. Failing to notify of the provision of these services, the RTCL has the right to include the service provider in the list of providers of these services at its own initiative with subsequent proper notification to the relevant service provider giving them a term of 10 working days to comment. The amendment came into force on 5 September 2023 and created preconditions for the RTCL to perform its functions more efficiently. Since the entry into force of the amendment, the RTCL included, on its own initiative, 6 entities in the list of service providers who use a video sharing platform to provide on-demand audiovisual media services.

The RTCL also took important decisions to impose fines on economic operators for illegal dissemination of banned television programmes controlled and/or financed from the Russian Federation. On 11 January 2023, the RTCL adopted decision No KS-1 *On the imposition of a fine to UAB Definë LT*. The RTCL determined that the said economic operator was disseminating Russian television programmes the free reception of which had been suspended within the territory of Lithuania as well as programmes controlled by entities originating in the Russian Federation which is prohibited under paragraph 2<sup>1</sup> of Article 34<sup>1</sup> of the LPIP. In light of this information, the RTCL fined the operator €5,000. Similarly, on 22 February 2023, the RTCL adopted decision No KS-19 *On the imposition of a fine to UAB Stokeris*. The RTCL determined that UAB Stokeris was disseminating 523 radio and television programmes on the Internet, including content of pornographic nature and Russian television programmes the free reception of which had been suspended within the territory of Lithuania by decisions of the RTCL, thus violating the relevant provisions of the LPIP. The operator was fined €600 for these violations (**Table 11**).

It is important to note that in 2023 the RTCL had disputes that ended up in court. One of such disputes was with Mr A.Orlauskas whom the RTCL considered to be a provider of on-demand audiovisual media services who uses a video sharing platform to deliver his content (i.e., a vlogger). When he refused to register, the RTCL applied an administrative penalty and issued a warning which Mr Orlauskas challenged in the District Court of Vilnius City. On 21 March 2023, the court upheld Mr Orlauskas' appeal, overturned the RTCL's decision and closed the administrative offence proceedings. On 5 April 2023, the RTCL appealed this ruling to Vilnius Regional Court. Having examined the facts available, the objective data supplied by the RTCL and legislation, the court ruled that Mr Orlauskas was indeed a provider of on-demand audiovisual media services and consequently overturned the ruling by the District Court of Vilnius City.

Similarly, on 7 December 2023, the Administrative Court of Vilnius County rejected a complaint by VšĮ Mūsų TV asking to overturn decision No KS-119 *On the imposition of a fine to VšĮ Mūsų TV* of 19 October 2022 by the RTCL whereby the operator was fined €2,200 for the spread of prohibited information within the meaning of paragraph 1 of Article 19 of the LPIP. In the RTCL's judgement, musutv.lt published reports that contained disinformation, information intended to shape a favourable opinion of the Russian and Belarusian foreign policies. The court ruled that the RTCL's decision was taken in compliance with the existing statutory provisions and therefore there were no legal grounds to overturn the decision.

Table 10. Regulatory decisions by the RTCL.

No	Title
1.	Decision No KS-4 of 11 January 2023 amending Decision No KS-72 of 30 October 2019 <i>On the approval of the Rules for audits of economic operator activities conducted by the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania</i>
2.	Decision No KS-27 of 29 March 2023 <i>On the amendment of the Descriptor of the procedure for personal data processing and the exercise of the rights of data subjects at the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania</i>
3.	Decision No KS-66 of 30 August 2023 <i>On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure for setting the annual fees for radio and/or television broadcasting, re-broadcasting, dissemination via the Internet and provision of on-demand audiovisual media services</i>

Table 11. Other important decisions by the RTCL.

No	Title
1.	Decision No KS-24 of 8 March 2023 <i>On the enforcement of restrictive measures adopted by the European Union in response to Russia's actions to destabilise the situation in Ukraine</i>
2.	Decision No KS-39 of 10 May 2023 <i>On the enforcement of restrictive measures adopted by the European Union in response to Russia's actions to destabilise the situation in Ukraine</i>
3.	Decision No KS-51 of 21 June 2023 <i>On the enforcement of restrictive measures adopted by the European Union in response to Russia's actions to destabilise the situation in Ukraine</i>
4.	Decision No KS-76 of 13 September 2023 <i>On the enforcement of restrictive measures adopted by the European Union in response to Russia's actions to destabilise the situation in Ukraine</i>
5.	Decision No KS-1 of 11 January 2023 <i>On the imposition of a fine to UAB Definè LT</i>
6.	Decision No KS-19 of 22 February 2023 <i>On the imposition of a fine to UAB Stokeris</i>

## ECONOMIC OPERATOR OVERSIGHT AND CONTENT MONITORING

In 2023, the RTCL carried out 18 routine (announced) inspections and 6 special (unannounced) inspections of economic operators. On the basis of consumer complaints and at the initiative of the RTCL, 98 monitoring reports were drafted. Throughout 2023, 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. The same year the RTCL conducted 125 investigations into websites that publish copyrighted content illegally.

### Routine inspections of economic operators

In 2023, the RTCL carried out 18 routine inspections of economic operators (*Table 12*) as provided for in the Plan of planned inspections of economic operators in 2023.<sup>1</sup>

*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	3
Compliance with the requirements of the Law on the protection of minors against the detrimental effect of public information and the Descriptor of the procedure for rating and disseminating public information having a detrimental effect on minors approved by Resolution No 1121 of 21 July 2010 of the Lithuanian Government	1
Compliance with the requirement set out in Article 34 of the LPIP relating to the language public information is disseminated in	3
Compliance with the requirements for advertising, audiovisual commercial communications and teleshopping set out in Article 39 of the LPIP and the Descriptor of the procedure for implementing the requirements for audiovisual commercial communications and advertising transmission, sponsorship of audiovisual media services, radio programmes and individual programmes in radio and/or television stations (the “Descriptor”) approved by Decision No KS-58 of 11 April 2012 of the RTCL	2
Compliance with the requirements set out in Article 40 of the LPIP and the Descriptor relating to programme sponsorship	6
Compliance with the requirements set out in the Descriptor relating to product placement	1

<sup>1</sup> Order No V-4 of 12 January 2023 of the Chairman of the RTCL *On the approval of the Plan of planned inspections of economic operators in 2023.*

Compliance with the requirements set out in the Descriptor of the procedure for information provision in relation to economic operator activities approved by Decision No KS-167 of 9 September 2015 of the RTCL (the “Descriptor of the procedure for information provision in relation to economic operator activities”)	9
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Findings of routine inspections conducted by the RTCL in 2023 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 in relation to economic operator activities – these violations accounted for 36% 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 2023, the RTCL imposed 60 administrative sanctions for gross and recurrent violations of law, out of which 9 were warnings and 51 were fines. 12 sanctions were related to violations of Article 477 of the Lithuanian Code of Administrative Offences (the “CAO”) (violations of the terms and conditions of broadcast content licences and permits, unlicensed activities of radio and/or television broadcasting and/or re-broadcasting, provision of on-demand audiovisual media services, video sharing platform services or television programme and/or individual programme dissemination via the Internet without the required notification of the start of activities or service provision), 47 sanctions were imposed for violations of paragraph 1 of Article 122 of CAO (unauthorised public performance of a copyrighted work or a work protected by related rights, in whole or in part, reproduction, publication, including making works available via computer networks (Internet) or other uses in any other way and means for non-commercial purposes), 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).

### Special inspections of economic operators in 2023, and the monitoring of individual radio, television programmes and of provision of on-demand audiovisual media services

In 2023, the RTCL carried out 6 special inspections of economic operators: special inspections were aimed at checking whether the economic operators had rectified the violations ascertained during the earlier routine inspections. 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 2023, the RTCL paid particular attention to the monitoring of dissemination of television programmes and individual programmes via the Internet. The majority of persons making television programmes and individual programmes available online were engaged in these activities without prior notification to the RTCL of the start of these activities. The RTCL took 6 decisions to block access to 135 websites that made television programmes or individual programmes available online to consumers in Lithuania. Also in 2023, the RTCL filed 6 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**).

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

No	Details of the person engaged in the illegal activities of television programme and/or individual programme dissemination via the Internet to Lithuanian viewers		Name of the court that sanctioned mandatory orders to network service providers, date and number of the court order
	Legal person	Internet domain name identifying the website	
1.		rus24.net; 1tv.live; rus-tv.net; russisches-tv-fernsehen.de; tv38.top; icanlive.tv; tv-nasha.ru; sharavoz.net; sharavoz.xyz; ref.clubtv.pro; bcumedia.pro; filmax-tv.ru; info.fox-tv.fun; proiptv.ru; ottclub.tv; iptv-online.me; new.strah.tv; ott-iptvconnect.com; cbilling.eu; edemtv.me; cardshare.cc; ipstream.one; uz-tv.net; prostotele.vision; y666.tv; topiptv.in; 2tv.biz; crdtv.net; ip-tv.best; iptv-home.net; ilooktv.com; iptv-online.in.ua; csharing.ru; cardshara.ru; skysharing.ru	Court order of 12 January 2023 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI2-3009-596/2023
2.		sputnik24.tv; gamak.tv; tv124.top; go.teledays.live; tas-ix.tv; viplime.fun; 545-tv.com; strah.tv; bobor.pm; lightiptv.cc; bil.sahara.tv; mymagic.tv; satbiling.com; nlstream.ru	Court order of 22 February 2023 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI2-5127-1066/2023



3.		yaom.ru; tv-pult.com; ru-tv.net; rutuner.ru; domatv.net; viks.tv; 78.ru; ren.tv; arabic.rt.com; actualidad.rt.com; rt.com; de.rt.com; francais.rt.com; russian.rt.com; ctc.ru; ctclove.ru; domkino.tv; domkino-premium.tv; telecafe.ru; bober.ru; kanal-o.ru; poehali.tv; pobeda.tv; karusel-tv.ru; vremya.tv; rutube.ru; chetv.ru; rusvesna.su; belarus24.by; motri-vip.net; kinoshka.tv; onlinetv.link	Court order of 30 March 2023 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI2-7775-596/2023
4.		katyusha.tv; tokshow.online; teleon.tv; sezon.tv; tv-only.online; on24tv.ru; televizorus.online; muz1.tv; livehdtv.net; serialrus.tv; live-tv-channels.org; awtv.ru; galam-tv.com; smotreshka.tv; bgrk.ru; tv159.top; kino24.online; serial2go.com; allmake.net; ficus.tv; livetvcentral.com; tv96.top; tvrf.city; glaz-tv.net; tv2free.ru; federalnoe.tv; mediabay.tv; ontvtime.online; tv-100.com; smotret-tv.live; naoblake.com; kinorai.org; rus24tv.net; uztv.top; uzbektv.net; ru1.su	Court order of 3 May 2023 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI2-9294-860/2023
5.		telek.top; more.tv; okteve.com; ontvtime.me; movix.ru; arm-tv.com; volotv.com; olweb.tv; radiosputnik.ria.ru	Court order of 7 June 2023 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI2-10096-860/2023
6.		webcamonline.ru; etvnet.com; pokaz.me; Online.tv; 1tv.com.ru; ottv.xyz; russkoetv.top; smotrite.only-tv.org; lttv.lt	Court order of 4 October 2023 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI2-11935-596/2023

### Implementation of European works quotas and the amount of advertising on national television programmes

In 2023, 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 2023, 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	86%	08/05/2023–14/05/2022
LRT PLIUS	91%	08/05/2023–14/05/2022
TV3	32%	08/05/2023–14/05/2022
TV6	23%	08/05/2023–14/05/2022
TV8	61%	08/05/2023–14/05/2022
LNK	33%	08/05/2023–14/05/2022
Info TV	54%	08/05/2023–14/05/2022
2TV	87%	08/05/2023–14/05/2022
TV1	63%	08/05/2023–14/05/2022
BTV	37%	08/05/2023–14/05/2022
Lietuvos rytas.tv	78%	08/05/2023–14/05/2022
Delfi TV	81%	08/05/2023–14/05/2022

Results of the survey have shown that not all television stations complied with the requirement of the LPIP to allocate at least half of the programming time to European works. Compared to the results of the previous year, however, some stations did increase the share of European works in their programming time in 2023 either significantly, e.g., Delfi TV (34%), or slightly, e.g., LRT TELEVIZIJA (1%), LRT PLIUS (8%). This was mostly related to the fact that television broadcasters withdrew Russian-language programmes from their offer replacing them with Ukrainian content or content produced in other countries. The share of European works decreased in TV6 (10%), slightly in TV3 (2%), LNK (2%), TV1 (5%), 2TV (4%) and Info TV (1%).

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



In 2023, in parallel with the survey on the implementation of European works quotas, the RTCL checked the amount of advertising and teleshopping in all 12 national television stations, i.e., LRT TELEVIZIJA, LRT PLIUS, TV3, TV6, TV8, LNK, Info TV, 2TV, TV1, BTV, Lietuvos rytas.tv and DelfiTV.

A monitoring exercise done between 8 May 2023 and 14 May 2023 has revealed that all television stations complied with the requirements for the amount of advertising and teleshopping laid down in paragraph 5(4) of Article 39 of the LPIP. The point in question stipulates that the total time of television advertising spots and teleshopping spots within a given clock hour must not exceed 20% within a period from 06:00 to 18:00 hours and must not exceed 20% within a period from 18:00 to 24:00 hours. This point shall not apply to the programmes broadcast by the broadcaster of television programmes or entities within the same broadcaster group and announcements of the ancillary products directly related to those programmes, trailers of audiovisual media services, sponsorship announcements, product placements, and neutral frames used in-between the editorial content and a television ad or teleshopping spots and individual inserts.

### Complaints handled in 2023

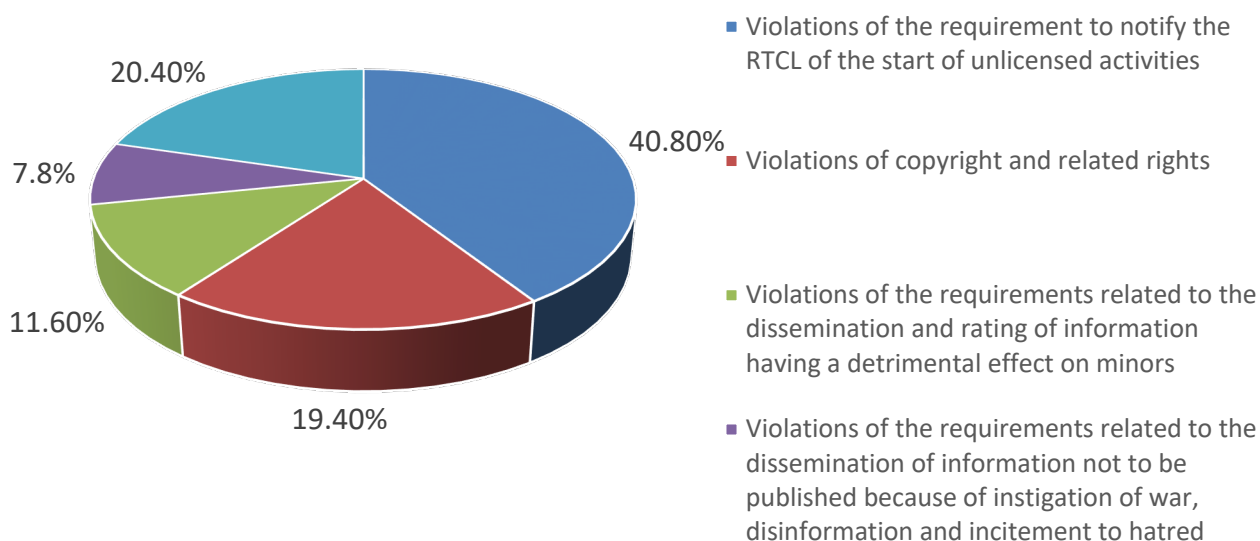
In 2023, the RTCL received a total of 28 complaints. Complaints received were related to the content broadcast in radio and television stations possibly spreading information not to be published or restricted public information that has a detrimental effect on the development of minors, improper rating 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 Descriptor of the procedure for the handling of applications, complaints and notifications by individuals and customer service approved by Decision No KS-166 of 9 September of 2015 of the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania,<sup>2</sup> complaints have to be examined within 20 working days after their recorded receipt at the RTCL. Once the investigation has been completed, the individual who filed the complaint and/or the economic operator(s) involved are informed of the findings of the investigation, decision taken by the RTCL regarding sanctions, or the invalidity of the complaint. Some complaints were forwarded to the Commission for Ethics in Information Provision to the Public.

In 2023, the RTCL carried out content monitoring on the basis of complaints received and at the initiative of the RTCL, drafting a total of 98 monitoring reports. Reports in relation to violations of unlicensed activities of radio and television programme broadcasting and re-broadcasting accounted for the majority of these monitoring reports (40.8%) (failure to notify the RTCL of the start of activities) (paragraph 1 of Article 33 of the LPIP), many were related to violations of copyright and related rights (19.4%) (violations listed in Article 122 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Lithuania) (**Figure 14**).

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

*Figure 14. Monitoring reports in 2023.*

### Consultations

The RTCL sees consultations as an essential part of its oversight activities and therefore consultations were available to all economic operators in the form of virtual meetings with the RTCL, in writing, by phone and by e-mail. Most often, economic operators received consultations on the requirements for audiovisual commercial communications (this type of consultations accounted for over 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 of 2023. 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 2023 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 2023:

- VšĮ TvEteris
- MB Veiksmo ministerija

- MB Olegas ir storas
- VšĮ KiTaip TV
- Artūras Orlauskas
- MB Unikalios paslaugos
- Vaidoto Grincevičiaus II
- Mantas Bartuševičius
- VšĮ Televizijos produkcija
- VšĮ Ekspertai.eu
- Skirmantas Malinauskas

## COPYRIGHT PROTECTION ON THE INTERNET

Amendments to Article 78 of the Law on Copyright that came into effect on 1 April 2019 provide for the possibility for the owners of these rights to apply to the RTCL asking that the RTCL issues mandatory orders to Internet service providers servicing the third parties that use the services for the illegal publication of audiovisual works, works protected by way of related rights or *sui generis* rights (copyrighted content) through public computer networks (Internet). The RTCL also has the mandate to issue mandatory orders to Internet service providers instructing them to block access to illegally published copyrighted content by blocking the domain name associated with the site until a copyright infringement is remedied (“website blocking”).<sup>3</sup> As of 27 November 2019, the RTCL has the authority to block mirror sites at its own discretion where the mirror sites provide access to the same activity as the original website.<sup>4</sup> The existence of a mirror site is established against 5 criteria: domain name, publicly available content, visualisation, similarity of user interface and website manager or administrator identity.<sup>5</sup>

In 2023, the RTCL took 57 decisions to block 112 websites,<sup>6</sup> out of which:

- 61 were publishing music works illegally;
- 1 was publishing informational articles illegally;
- 50 were publishing audiovisual works illegally.

On 25 May 2023, the RTCL hosted a round table discussion to discuss the challenges of enforcing copyright protection on the Internet. Since the new wording of the Law on Copyright came into effect on 1 April 2019 whereby the RTCL was mandated to protect copyright and related rights in the digital environment, the RTCL has been continuously concerned about how to carry out this function as effectively as possible, creating a more efficient mechanism of protecting copyright and related rights, improving upon the monitoring and oversight tools and mobilising institutional and other stakeholders in the fight against the infringing activities and piracy online. Andrius Katinas, Head of the RTCL’s Division of Economic Operator Supervision, shared findings of a survey on the

<sup>3</sup> Paragraph 3 of Article 78 of the Law on Copyright and Related Rights of the Republic of Lithuania.

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

<sup>5</sup> Point 5 of Order No IV-771 of 25 November 2019 of the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania *On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure of mandatory orders to Internet service providers*.

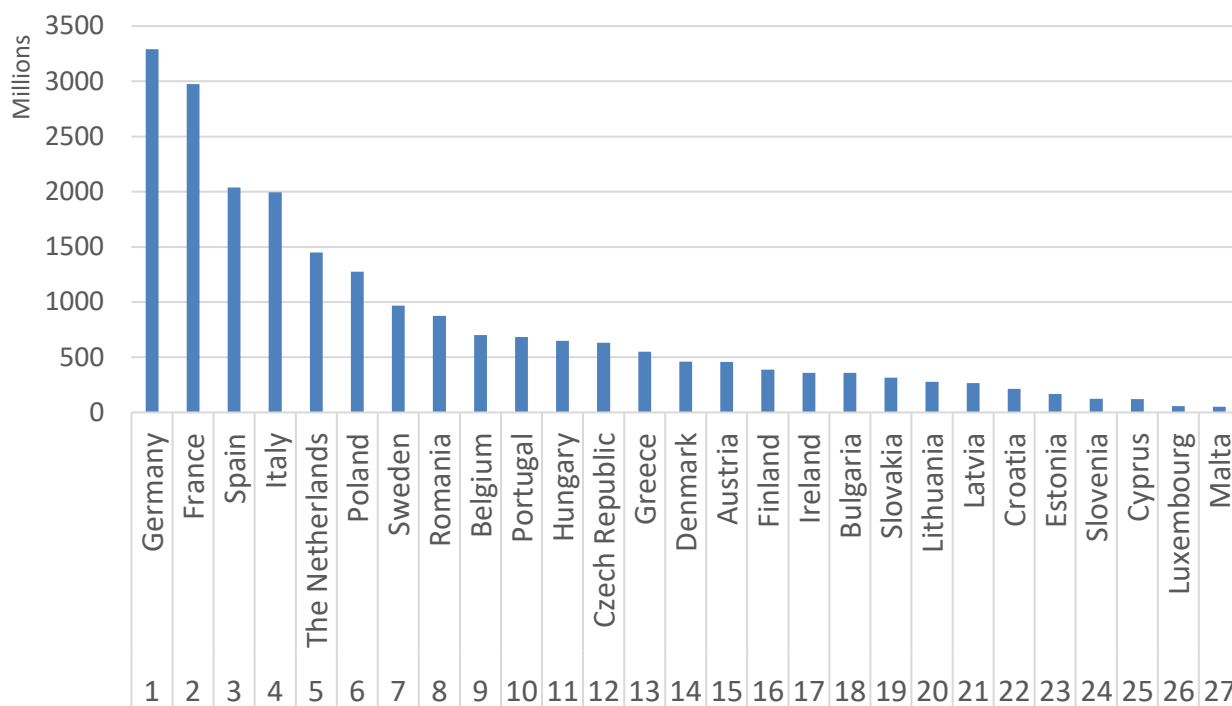
<sup>6</sup> List of websites that publish copyrighted content illegally [<https://www.rtk.lt/lt/atviri-duomenys/interneto-svetaines-kuriose-pazeidziamos-autoriu-teises>].

extent of digital piracy in Lithuania between 2019 and 2023, showing that the measures applied to enforce copyright protection online do bear fruit. During the conference, a presentation was given on the prospects of IP (*Internet Protocol*) blocking in Lithuania to prevent the illegal dissemination of television programmes and copyright violations. The discussion was also attended by the Ministry of Culture, LATGA, AGATA, Centre for the Protection of Intellectual Property, and other organisations involved in copyright protection.

On 9 October 2023, the RTCL participated in a conference organised by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (“EUIPO”) *Stepping up the fight against online piracy of sport and other live events*, during which it introduced the measures implemented by Lithuania combating piracy and provided its comments on some inaccuracies and lack of consistency in measuring the scope of piracy in the EU. For the purpose of the event, the main objective was to discuss the latest changes and the prospects of online piracy after the adoption of the Commission recommendation on combating online piracy of sports and other live events of 4 May 2023.<sup>7</sup> During the meeting, an interinstitutional cooperation network was established to facilitate the exchange of information on the measures used to combat piracy, the effectiveness of these measures, challenges faced by states and individual authorities as well as best practices. The EUIPO highlighted Lithuania along France and Greece as one of the countries that applies the said recommendations appropriately in practice.

According to MUSO,<sup>8</sup> a data company monitoring global digital piracy, in 2023 Lithuania ranked 20th among EU countries by the total visitor traffic to piracy sites (**Figure 15**). By average of unique visitor visits to piracy sites, Lithuania ranked fifth among EU countries in 2023 (**Figure 16**).

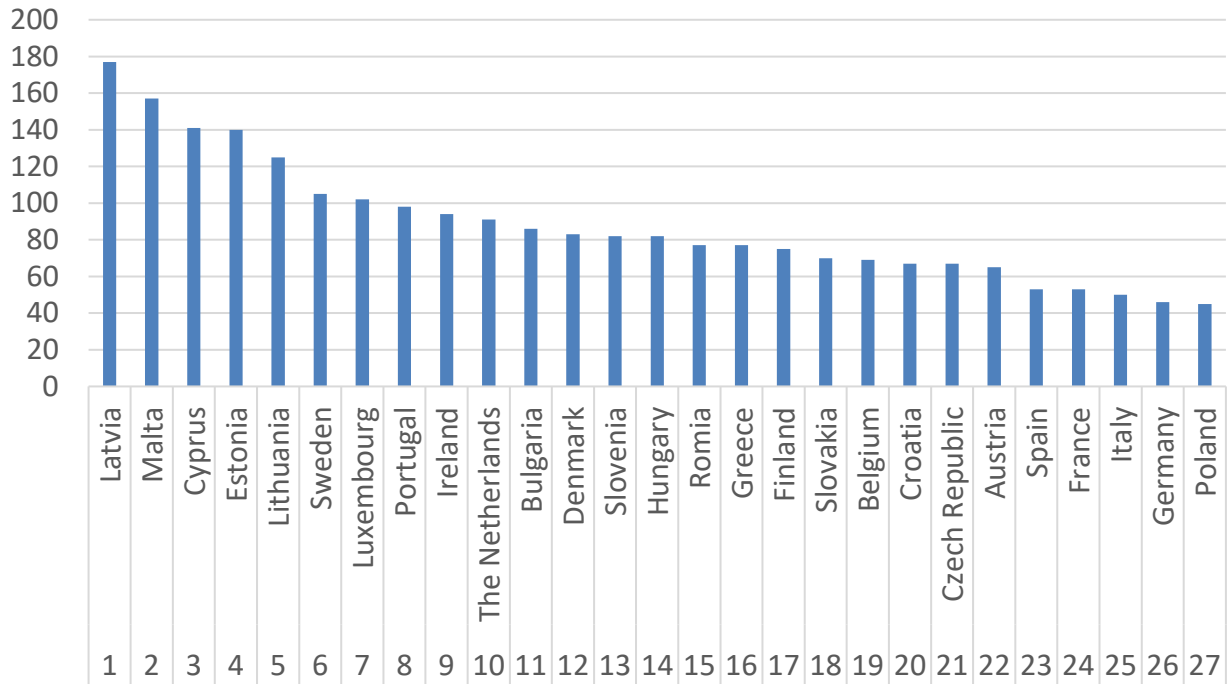
Figure 15. Scale of digital piracy in the EU by total visitor traffic in 2023.



<sup>7</sup> 4 May 2023 Commission recommendation on combating online piracy of sports and other live events [<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/recommendation-combating-online-piracy-sports-and-other-live-events>].

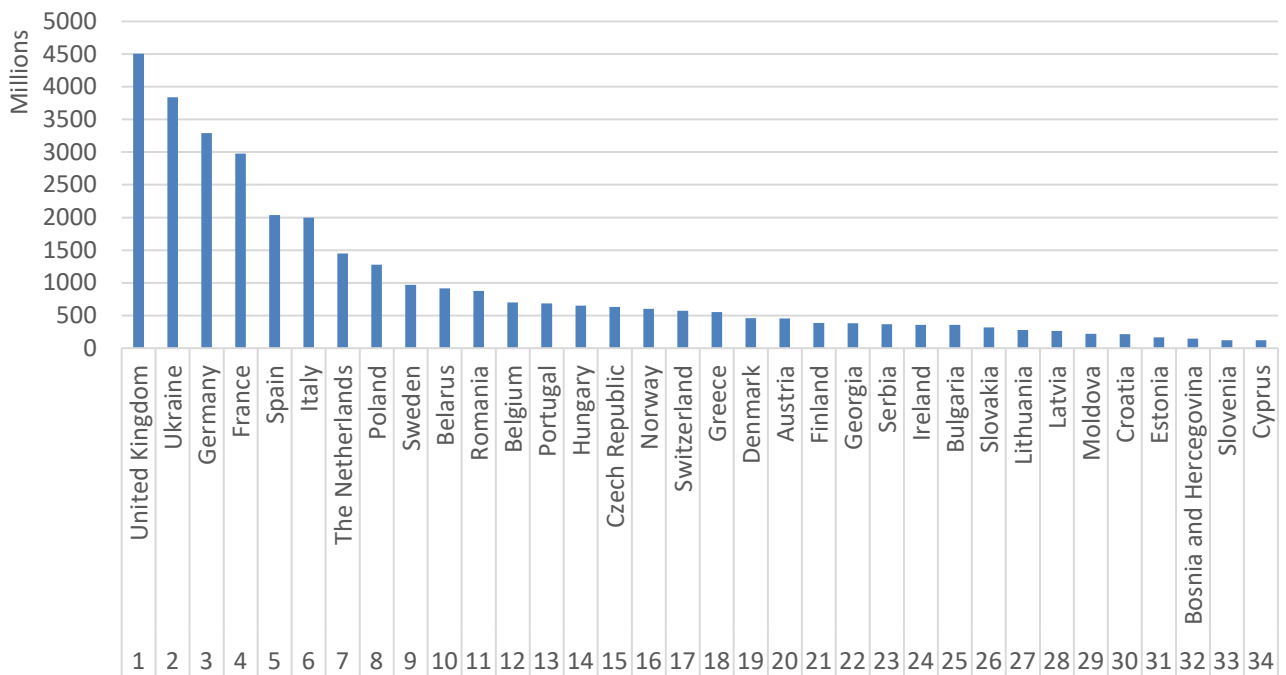
<sup>8</sup> <https://www.muso.com/>

Figure 16. Scale of digital piracy in the EU by unique visitor visits (per capita) in 2023.



According to figures from MUSO,<sup>9</sup> in 2023, Lithuania ranked 27th among European countries by total number of visits to piracy sites (**Figure 17**). In terms of the average number of unique visits to piracy sites, Lithuania ranked tenth on the European continent in 2023.

Figure 17. Scale of digital piracy in Europe by total visitor traffic in 2023.



<sup>9</sup> <https://www.muso.com/>

## PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL WORK

In 2023, the RTCL continued international cooperation efforts on matters of regulation of audiovisual media services in the framework of cooperation agreements signed with the regulatory authorities of the Baltic States, Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Catalonia.

Meetings and conferences were mostly organised live, also remotely, or in a hybrid format.

On 28 September 2023, Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian audiovisual media regulators met in Riga at the invitation of the National Electronic Mass Media Council of Latvia. These meetings have become an annual tradition aimed at discussing the most relevant issues of the year and exchanging experience in a variety of regulatory areas of the sector. These meetings have been held since 2005 at the invitation of one of the regulators.

The purpose of the latest meeting between the regulatory authorities was to discuss the issues of the moment, namely, the latest regulatory developments, challenges with vlogger regulation, challenges and opportunities of copyright enforcement, and achievements. Particular attention was given to the topics of countering Russian propaganda and disinformation, implementation of European sanctions, defending the national information space and ensuring national security in the Baltic States.

Discussions revealed that each state would often face different challenges in implementing international and national laws and regulations and therefore had different achievements to report. Consequently, the experiences and achievements of peers in the neighbouring countries are invaluable in enhancing the regulation of the sector in all three Baltic States.

The next meeting of the three Baltic regulators is expected to take place next year in Tallinn.

In October of 2023 the RTCL organised a visit of the National Council on Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine to the RTCL. Cooperation with Ukrainian colleagues grew even closer and more active since the outbreak of Russia's war against Ukraine and continues to strengthen as Ukraine continues on the path of becoming part of the EU.

In an effort to strengthen the partnership in the area of audiovisual media regulation, both authorities seek to engage in consultations and exchange information about specific issues in the sector.

During the meeting, colleagues from the National Council of Ukraine talked about the realities of their work, achievements and challenges against the backdrop of the difficult war, whereas members of the RTCL shared their experience on the matters of most interest to the guests, such as combating disinformation and hostile propaganda, results of copyright enforcement on the Internet, challenges of vlogger regulation, equipment used by and activities of the Monitoring Division, etc.

Also in October, the RTCL leadership attended a summit in Warsaw "Stop Disinformation and Russian Propaganda" to discuss ways of combating disinformation. The event was hosted by the National Broadcasting Council of Poland ("KRRiT") and was attended by representatives of the audiovisual media regulators from Poland, Ukraine, Romania, Hungary, Estonia and Latvia. The high-level conference was conceived because of the ongoing war in Ukraine and the ever increasing Russian threat as well as the need to decisively further the processes targeting Russia's lies and seek unity in the defence of freedom of speech built on credible and truthful news, educate and protect citizens against organised disinformation and the dissemination of all kinds of propaganda.



The highlight of this meeting was the signature of the Warsaw Declaration on combating disinformation. The Declaration provides for the framework of cooperation of the signatories in restricting and unveiling propaganda of the Kremlin.

One of the main mechanisms of the Warsaw Declaration is solidarity between the regulatory authorities in defending the interests and reputation of each of the signatories of the document.

In the course of the year, the RTCL participated in two conferences hosted by the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities<sup>10</sup> (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 57th conference took place in Oslo, Norway, between 31 May and 2 June 2023, and the 58th conference was held in Bucharest, Romania, on 18-20 October 2023.

The 57th EPRA conference hosted by the Norwegian Media Authority was attended by 160 delegates representing authorities of 52 member countries, permanent observers and invited media experts who were discussing the relevant matters of audiovisual media regulation in Europe. The meeting was also attended by guest delegations from the Ibero-American Platform for Regulators of the Audiovisual Sector.

This time around, the main discussion focus was securing public interest content in the digital age. There were two thematic sessions, discussing the topics of “The future of content delivery” and “Public service media for the public good”. The meeting was organised in a way as to encourage interactive discussions among the regulatory authorities and allow for the sharing of the latest achievements by EPRA members.

During the 57th conference, EPRA members elected a new Executive Board.

The 58th EPRA meeting was hosted by the Romanian National Audiovisual Council and gathered 130 delegates representing 50 member authorities, including, like always, permanent observers and invited media experts to share information and their experiences on matters of audiovisual media regulation in Europe. The meeting was also attended by guest delegation from the Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities.

Strengthening the media environment and adapting to the future were key discussion topics of the conference, elaborated on by the participants in two thematic sessions “A media market for the public good” and “The future of content delivery”, the topic continued from the last meeting. The event was also interactive.

In the reporting year, the RTCL attended 22 plenary, subgroup and contact network meetings and workshops organised by ERGA<sup>11</sup> on the consistent implementation and enforcement of the AVMSD, influences of third party-controlled media, measures of countering propaganda, etc.

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.epra.org/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/european-regulators-group-audiovisual-media-services-erga>



## COMPETITION OF THE BEST IN RADIO AND TELEVISION

### PRAGIEDRULIAI

On 22 March 2023, the jury of *Pragiedruliai* announced the nominees and winners of the traditional, 21st competition this year. The competition awarded the best radio and television shows aired for the first time in 2022.

Among the winners, a programme by a Ukrainian journalist. As was the case with the last competition, the 2023 special prize of the RTCL's Chairman went to a Ukrainian creator, war correspondent Juliia Kyriienko-Merinova at Ukrainian television channel Studio 1+1 and TSN for the best reporting on events in Ukraine.

The jury, consisting of members of the RTCL, listened to and watched 182 submissions in the competition.

The jury was composed of the following members of the RTCL: artist and chairwoman of the jury Edita Utarienė; actor Ramutis Rimeikis; ArtTech Factory co-founder and Baltic Film and Creative Tech cluster board member Agnesta Filatovė; PER expert Ričardas Slapšys; political analyst and professor at Vytautas Magnus University Lauras Bielinis; strategic communication expert Audronė Nugaraitė; director Arūnas Matelis; journalist Vytautas Kvietkauskas; journalist Darius Chmieliauskas; lecturer at Vytautas Magnus University Valdas Kilpys.

By organising this competition, the RTCL aims at promoting better quality and more varied radio and television content production.

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

In 2023, 51 radio shows and 131 television shows were submitted for the competition.

Out of all submissions, the following were judged to be the best radio and television shows aired for the first time in 2022:

#### BEST RADIO PROGRAMME

*Laikas kultūrai*, author Jolanta Kryževičienė, aired on LRT KLASIKA.

#### Nominees

*Garso ekspedicija. Bronius Kutavičius*, author Rasa Murauskaitė; aired on LRT KLASIKA.

*Už Vilniaus. Paukštis*, author Edvardas Kubilius; aired on LRT RADIJAS.

#### BEST REGIONAL RADIO PROGRAMME

*Pilietiškumo dėlionė. Ukrainos kultūra*, author Vilija Ramanauskienė; aired on FM 99.

#### Nominees

*Socio: tirpstanti lietuviška tapatybė Baltarusijoje*, author Rokas Simanavičius; aired on XFM.

*Žydų kultūros paveldas Dzūkijoje. Valkininkai*, author Vilija Ramanauskienė; aired on FM 99.

#### BEST RADIO PROGRAMME REVEALING SOUND VISUALITY

*Cycle of radio programmes Šiaurės miestelis*, authors: Birutė Kapustinskaitė, Teklė Kavtaradzė, Ričardas Matačius, Ignas Juzokas, Kristijonas Ribaitis, Rasa Kregždaitė, Gelminė Glemžaitė, Laurynas Jurgelis, Jūratė Vilūnaitė, (Audioteatras "Bilietų nėra"); aired on Start FM.



### BEST TELEVISION PROGRAMME

***Kartu iki pergalės. Karas Ukrainoje***, author Dominykas Kubilius; aired on LRT TELEVIZIJA.

#### Nominees

***RAIDA. Autizmas***, author Silvija Burkauskienė; aired on LRT Mediateka.

***Matau tave***, authors: Laura Žalimienė, Nida Tamošiūnaitė, Adomas Jablonskis, Ričardas Matačius; aired on LRT TELEVIZIJA.

**Cycle of television programmes *Karas Ukrainoje***, authors: Mindaugas Aušra, Benas Gerdžiūnas, Augustinas Šulija; aired on LRT TELEVIZIJA.

### BEST REGIONAL TELEVISION PROGRAMME

**Cycle of television programmes *Ūkininkas Jurgis***, authors: Irmantas Jankaitis, Darius Auželis, Ignas Žvinakis, Ieva Žvinakienė (VŠĮ TV Europa); aired on Marijampolės televizija.

#### Nominees

***Švento Jono vaikai. Vilties keliu***, authors: Česlovas Rulevičius, Aušra Kalinauskienė, Rasa Kalinauskaitė; aired on Regioninė televizija "Aidas".

***(Ne)nukirsta istorija***, authors: Zita Anužienė, Jonas Skupeika, Algirdas Dilinskis; aired on Šiaulių TV.

### BEST TELEVISION DOCUMENTARY PROGRAMME

***Krepšinio namai***, authors: Arvydas Rimas, Rolandas Skaisgirys; aired on TV3.

#### Nominees

***NUOŠALĖJE, parts I and II***, authors: Domininkas Ramonas, Saulius Bartkus; aired on LRT TELEVIZIJA.

**Cycle of television programmes *Dėmesio! Ieškome meno***, authors: Julija Ciurupa, Robertas Razma, Algirdas Vaičaitis, Renata Pečiūraitė; aired on LRT PLIUS.

**Cycle of television programmes *Stop juosta***, authors: Svetlana Gužauskienė, Jurgė Pridotkaitė; aired on LRT PLIUS.

### BEST HISTORICAL MEMORY TELEVISION PROGRAMME

***PASKUTINĖ STOTIS. Aušvicas – Birkenau***, author Rimas Bružas; aired on LRT TELEVIZIJA.

#### Nominees

***Byla Nr. 345 Lietuvos katalikų bažnyčios kronika***, authors: Marius Zaremba, Osvaldas Bručas, Rasa Tumaševičiūtė, Arnoldas Plepys, Marius Nemanis; aired on LRT TELEVIZIJA.

**Cycle of television programmes *Miesto kino teatrų istorijos. Vilnius***, author Saulius Pučinskas; aired on INIT TV.

### SPECIAL DIPLOMA OF PRAGIEDRULIAI ESTABLISHED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE RTCL RIMANTAS BAGDZEVIČIUS was awarded to

Ukrainian television programme ***Pragariškasis Bachmutas (The hellish Bakhmut)***, author Yuliia Kyriienko-Merinova, aired on Ukrainian television station 1+1 for the best coverage of events in Ukraine.

## **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](http://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 2023.

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.