

The Audiovisual Council as a public regulatory authority in audiovisual domain in Republic of Moldova, during its activity from the previous year until May, 2019 exercised its attributions granted by law in favor of the development of a free, pluralist and competitive audiovisual market so as to protect the public interest in public and private television and radio services, while ensuring respect for pluralism of expression, ideas and opinions in the media service providers' programs, the pluralism of information sources and free competition in the audiovisual field, the protection of linguistic and national cultural heritage, including the culture and the languages of national minorities, the protection of minors, the protection of human rights, the protection of national audiovisual area and the access to program services for people with hearing and vision disabilities, the transparency of media audiovisual and of their activities etc.

The Audiovisual Council is constituted from 9 members appointed by a decision of the Parliament, adopted with the vote of the majority of MPs present, for a mandate of 6 years.

In 2018 have expired the mandates of three members of Audiovisual Council: Iurie COLESNIC, Olga BARBALATA and Cristina DUCA. The parliament, by the decision nr.335 from 14 of December 2018, appointed Mrs. Lidia VIZIRU and Mr. Corneliu Mihalache and Mr. Iulian Rosca as members of Audiovisual Council.

In 2018, CA convened in 36 public meetings, where 225 decisions were adopted, which were published in the Official Monitor of Republic of Moldova. For a better communication with media service provider and civil society representatives as well as to ensure transparency in the decision-making process and in the institution's activity all decisions were published on the official website, as well as 34 of press releases regarding the Council's activity during public meetings and others 54 press releases with informative character.

On 08 of November 2018, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova adopted a new audiovisual law, "CODE OF AUDIOVISUAL MEDIA SERVICES OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA". The new law is coming to replace the Audiovisual Code adopted in 2006 and it is transposing the Directive 2010/13/UE of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 March 2010 on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services (Audiovisual Media Services Directive), published in the Official Journal of the European Union no. L 95 of 15 April 2010.

According to new law's provisions the regulatory authority from the audiovisual domain was called The Audiovisual Council considered as the successor to the Audiovisual Coordinating Council.

The Audiovisual Council's activity took place in the following directions:

- Issuing broadcasting licenses and re-broadcasting authorizations

On the 01 of January 2019 on the audiovisual media services market of the Republic of Moldova there were 174 broadcasting licenses and re-broadcasting authorizations : 59 - re-broadcasting authorizations, 60-TV broadcasting licenses and 55- radio licenses.

- The transition to digital television

Throughout 2018, the Audiovisual Council has announced 2 contests to replace the remaining available and redundant capacity of Multiplex A for standard resolution TV services. Regretfully, there were no registered participants in the announced contests.

At present, only 6 of the 15 possible slots are supplemented in MUX. At the same time, a case of exclusion from the Multiplex system of the broadcaster`s own initiative was certified.

Through its decisions, the CA supported the approach taken by the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure of the Republic of Moldova and recommended the free media coverage of two (two) informative spots on the digital switchover, at the radio and television stations under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Moldova.

- Monitoring of program services and control of the activity of audiovisual institutions regarding the compliance of the national legislation.

The CA has as goal the monitoring of the programs` content broadcasted by TV and Radio stations focusing on two priority directions:

- The compliance with the law in the audiovisual domain
- the examination of the complaints addressed to the Council and also by the decision of the Council regarding the audiovisual programs` content

The monitoring of program services took place on the following topics:

- The protection of the linguistic and cultural-national heritage
  - The protection of minors
  - The insurance of equal opportunities and access to program services for people with special needs
  - The compliance of the General Program Service Concept
  - The monitoring of electoral campaigns
  - The insurance of political and social equability and pluralism
  - The protection of national audiovisual area
  - The obligation of broadcasters to correctly reflect information of major public interest.
- The monitoring of media service distributors

To ensure public`s access to program services and for surveillance purposes regarding the compliance of the legislative framework, the Audiovisual Council is monitoring the activity of

the media service distributors. The monitoring results confirmed that there are some media service distributors that are not complying with legal provisions and respectively, they were sanctioned.

- The Protection of national audiovisual area

In order to ensure the Protection of national audiovisual area the Audiovisual Council recommended the media service providers and media service distributors under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Moldova to adjust their audiovisual program services and the offerings of program services retransmitted to the legal provisions, which expressly state that: *“In order to protect the national audiovisual area and to ensure the security of information, media service providers and media service distributors are allowed to broadcast informative, informative and analytical, military and political television and radio programs produced in the Member States of the European Union, the US and Canada, as well as the states that have ratified the European Convention on Transfrontier Television”*. Following this the Audiovisual Council monitored the media service providers and media service distributors under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Moldova and applied sanctions in case of non-compliance with the legal provisions.

- The election campaigns

During the years 2018 and 2019 in the Republic of Moldova took place local elections, Parliamentary elections and republican referendum. In connection with this the Audiovisual Council had a very intense activity:

-approved the Concept of Reflecting the Election Campaign to the new local elections of mayors in some localities on May 20, 2018 by the Moldovan broadcasting institutions and the Concept of Reflecting the Election Campaign for Parliamentary elections and republican referendum from February 24, 2019.

- During these periods, the Audiovisual Council monitored the main newsletters of the television stations that reflected the electoral campaign. The media services providers that did not reflect a balanced and equidistant electoral campaign and did not comply with legal provisions were sanctioned.

- Promoting policies to support broadcasters in producing audiovisual programs

Concerned about the need to develop the audiovisual market and to stimulate local audiovisual production and to support the broadcasters the Audiovisual Council organized for 2018 a new Selection Contest for projects that address issues of public interest whose production will be supported financially from the sources of the Broadcasting Support Fund, to which 10 broadcasters with 11 audiovisual projects (7 - TV and 4 - Radio) were declared as winners.

Also, the Audiovisual Council of the Republic of Moldova approved the Regulation on the procedure and the conditions for organizing and running the tender for the selection of the company that performs the measurement of the audience quotas (Decision No. 25/168 of 09 October 2018).

Bearing in mind that non-uniformity of loudness, within programs, between different programs of the same channel and between different radio-TV channels, is the subject of a large number of complaints of the listeners / viewers, in order to remedy this situation, the Audiovisual Council

has conceptually approved the draft Methodology for monitoring the level of loudness in audiovisual programs (Decision No. 34/204 of 18 December 2018). The Methodology Project was published on the CCA website (cca.md) for public consultations.

At the public hearing on November 9, 2018, by Decision no. 29/180, the Audiovisual Coordination Council approved, in the final version, the Methodology for monitoring the broadcasters under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Moldova. The Monitoring Methodology has been updated by international experts, with the support of the Joint Project of the European Union and the Council of Europe "Promoting Media Freedom and Pluralism in the Republic of Moldova".