



**RADIO AND TELEVISION  
COMMISSION OF LITHUANIA  
2022 Annual Report**

Vilnius, 2023

Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania

**RADIO AND TELEVISION COMMISSION OF LITHUANIA**  
**2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

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## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

For the purpose of complying with its obligation set out in the Law on the Provision of Information to the Public (the “LPIP”), the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania (the “RTCL”) presents the annual report for the year 2022, 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 LPIP sets out the composition of the RTCL, i.e., 11 members are elected for a term of four years and can serve a maximum of two terms in a row.

In 2022, the following members worked for the second year at the RTCL: Seimas-appointed Rimantas Bagdzevičius (Chairman), Ričardas Slapšys (Deputy Chairman) and Aurelijus Zykas (on 23 May 2022, following his resignation, the Seimas appointed Agnesta Filatovė to replace him); Lauras Bielinis and Audronė Naugaraitė appointed by the President of the Republic of Lithuania; Ramutis Rimeikis, Edita Utarienė and Arūnas Matelis nominated by the Lithuanian Artists’ Association; Vytautas Kvietkauskas nominated by the Lithuanian Union of Journalists; Darius Chmieliauskas delegated by the Lithuanian Society of Journalists; and Valdas Kilpys delegated by the Lithuanian Bishops’ Conference of the Catholic Church.

2022 was marked by an act of unimaginable cruelty – Russia’s war against Ukraine and the associated large-scale campaign of disinformation and hostile propaganda that flooded the Kremlin-controlled audiovisual media visible and audible in Lithuania.

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, the RTCL, in accordance with the order and procedures laid down in the LPIP, took a number of decisions to suspend the free reception in Lithuania of television programmes engaged in the dissemination of information that threatens national security, incites to war and national hatred, spreads targeted disinformation as well as for reason of other gross violations of international and national laws and regulations. In the first days of the war, the RTCL took decisions to suspend the free reception in Lithuania of 9 Russian-language television programmes, the dissemination of 32 television programmes linked to Gazprom-Media, and 92 websites that publish Kremlin’s propaganda. Moreover, the RTCL contacted video-sharing platform YouTube and Google – the technology giant that controls it – requesting the removal of disinformation content. These requests were granted.

Given the likely needs of the Russian-speaking population in Lithuania to have access to a broader variety of media content in Russian-language television programmes, the RTCL recommended that telecom operators in Lithuania engaged in re-broadcasting activities include Ukrainian programmes as well as Czech programmes and independent Russia media programmes in their programming offer.

In order to ascertain whether the Lithuanian population who used to have access to Russian-language television programmes misses them, the RTCL commissioned a survey from market research company Kantar.

The survey revealed that following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine viewing habits relating to Russian-language programmes (Russian and Belorussian) had changed in Lithuania. After February

24, the Russian-language programmes rebroadcast in Lithuania have lost half of their viewers: 50% of the respondents who used to watch those programmes indicated that they no longer watched the programmes and viewed the information disseminated in the programmes as unreliable, full of propaganda and disinformation. 60% of the respondents said they did not miss the programmes.

Since the outbreak of the war, the RTCL has stepped up its monitoring efforts in relation to the entities it oversees. The RTCL noticed increased levels of disinformation in Lithuania-based media outlets as well. Radio broadcaster UAB PLUNSTA was fined for promoting positive opinions of the Russian Federation's foreign policy and the ongoing war, whereas VšĮ Mūsų TV was fined for spreading disinformation on its website musutv.lt.

At the end of 2022, the RTCL was overseeing 117 (compared to 109 in 2021) entities engaged in both licensed and unlicensed activities.

In the reporting year, as part of its functions, the RTCL held 24 meetings and 25 conference meetings, passed 138 decisions, imposed 17 administrative sanctions (9 warnings and 8 fines), handled 30 complaints and responded to over 200 inquiries, sent 605 official documents, and received 535 official letters.

In 2022, the RTCL worked in a hybrid way, either remotely, when needed and in order to save money, or, alternatively, in the office.

In the reporting year, the RTCL continued its efforts to improve on and implement as best as possible one of the main objectives of its activities, namely, ensuring equal regulatory conditions for all economic operators engaged in similar activities that the RTCL supervises; implementing convenient and efficient tools of consultation and cooperation and providing methodological assistance, collecting feedback, and reducing the administrative burden for the operators.

In the reporting year, the RTCL adopted 4 normative legal acts aimed at improving the services provided by the RTCL in response to the changing audiovisual media market and in an attempt to implement properly the provisions of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (the "AVMSD") transposed into Lithuanian law back in 2021 and provisions of the LPIP.

The drafting of one normative legal act deserves a particular mention – guidelines on the regulation of vlogger activities, which attracted a lot of interest and comments from the people engaged in this type of activity. The guidelines on vloggers, audiovisual media service providers who use video-sharing platforms to provide the service, set out a set of qualification criteria and the requirements that apply to them. In drafting these guidelines, the RTCL was guided by the provisions of the AVMSD and the fact that the content resulting from the new services, namely, videos or user-generated content, is growing in volume and importance and the new market entrants, including on-demand audiovisual media service providers and video sharing platforms, are becoming more and more popular, gaining the ability to strongly influence their content followers.

For reasons of noticeable media outlet convergence, the RTCL seeks to update the legal framework so that it reflects market developments and ensures a balance between online content services, consumer protection and competition.

In 2022, the RTCL participated actively 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 over 20 meetings of the Group.

In 2022, the RTCL actively defended copyright owners online. Once the RTCL became the institution that supervises and protects copyright owners online by virtue of the Law on Copyright of the Republic of Lithuania (the "Copyright Law"), it was also given the mandate to block websites and mirror sites that publish copyrighted content illegally. The enforcement of measures provided for by the Copyright Law, including the right to issue mandatory orders to payment, financial and other

institutions to cease payments and other financial transactions to entities engaged in copyright infringing activities online, has clearly demonstrated that the said measures have been successful – the number of visits to these sites has dropped significantly, and some were forced to shut down. In 2022, the RTCL blocked 89 infringing sites.

Throughout 2022, the RTCL sought to create a more effective mechanism of protecting copyright and related rights online, improve the monitoring and supervision measures and mobilise the stakeholders to combat illegal activities and piracy online as well as to strengthen cooperation with Google in an attempt to remove infringing websites from Google search results.

The reporting year was marked by strengthened international cooperation. Last year, cooperation agreements were signed with the regulators of Armenia, Georgia and Catalonia, a tripartite meeting of the Baltic regulators was held in Vilnius at the invitation of the RTCL. The RTCL also hosted a delegation of the Moldovan Audiovisual Media Council and attended two meetings of the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA) in Antwerp and Antalya, and participated in over 20 international remote meetings on a variety of matters related to audiovisual media regulation.

In 2022, the RTCL held the 20th anniversary 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 2022, 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 2022-2024 Strategic Action Plan.

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

Rimantas Bagdzevičius

Chairman

## MISSION AND PRIORITIES FOR 2022

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

The main objective of the RTCL in the reporting year was to ensure the protection of the state and public morals and the dissemination of reliable and high-quality information to the public in the areas of radio and television broadcasting, re-broadcasting, provision of on-demand audiovisual media services, services of video sharing platforms and services of dissemination of television programmes and/or individual programmes via the Internet, without overburdening economic operators with inspections.

Priorities for 2022 have broadly remained unchanged from previous years:

- Effective oversight of LPIP implementation
- Copyright protection on the Internet
- Protection of minors against the detrimental effects of public information
- Oversight of the implementation of the Action Plan to Improve Information Accessibility to the Disabled
- Provision of consultations and methodological assistance to economic operators

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

In 2022, the RTCL was engaged in the activities of radio and television broadcasting and re-broadcasting licensing; organised competitions to award radio and television broadcasting licences; made changes to licence terms and conditions when requested by the broadcasters and re-broadcasters; cancelled licences and permits; registered notifications by economic operators of the start of unlicensed activities, etc.

Between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022, the RTCL received 20 notifications of the start of unlicensed activities of radio and television broadcasting and provision of on-demand audiovisual media services to viewers in Lithuania.

In the reporting year, the RTCL took 138 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 2022.*

No	Nature of the decision	Number of decisions
1.	Changes to licence terms and conditions	10
2.	Licence cancellations	4
3.	Competition announcements	11
4.	Competition results	13
5.	Consents in relation to share transfers and acquisitions	1

6.	Temporary suspension of activities	2
7.	Mandatory orders to Internet access service providers	68
8.	Mandatory orders to network service providers	11
9.	Mandatory orders to payment, credit or other financial institution	5
10.	Laws and regulations	4
11.	Other	9

## ANNOUNCEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITIONS TO AWARD LICENCES

During the reporting year, the RTCL announced 4 competitions to award radio broadcasting licences, 6 competitions to award re-broadcast television content licence and 2 competitions to award re-broadcast radio content licence, and took 13 decisions relating to competition results (*Table 2*).

*Table 2. Competitions announced in 2022 and their results.*

No	Objective	Station, location, territory covered by the licence	Radio frequency/ TV channel	Applicants
				Winner
1.	Licence for television station broadcasting*	Vilnius, Vilnius reg., Švenčionys reg.	TV channel 37	UAB Bridge media
2.	Licence for re-broadcast content for 5 television programmes*	Klaipėda, Druskininkai, Kaunas, Kalvarija, Mažeikiai, Varėna, Visaginas	AB LRTC II SATT**	TELEWIZJA POLSKA S. A.
3.	Licence for re-broadcast content for 2 television programmes	Vilnius, Šalčininkai, Švenčionys	TV channel 31, TV channel 33	AB Lietuvos radijo ir televizijos centras ( <i>Lithuanian Radio and Television Centre</i> )
4.	Licence for radio station broadcasting	Klaipėda	100.2 MHz	UAB RADIOCENTRAS UAB Solfega UAB ŽINIŲ RADIJAS
				UAB RADIOCENTRAS
5.	Licence for re-broadcast content for radio station	Sitkūnai	1557 kHz	The competition declared invalid in the absence of submissions.
6.	Licence for re-broadcast content for radio station	Sitkūnai	1557 kHz	AB Lietuvos radijo ir televizijos centras
7.	Licence for radio station broadcasting	Klaipėda	93.7 MHz	UAB Solfega UAB ŽINIŲ RADIJAS
				UAB ŽINIŲ RADIJAS



No	Objective	Station, location, territory covered by the licence	Radio frequency/ TV channel	Applicants
				Winner
8.	Licence for re-broadcast content for 3 television programmes	Trakai and Papliauškos Vlg., Elektrėnai Mnc.	TV channel 24	VšĮ Regioninė televizija <i>Aidas</i>
		Vilnius, Šalčininkai, Švenčionys	TV channel 31	
9.	Licence for re-broadcast content for 2 television programmes	Kėdainiai, Panevėžys Ukmergė	TV channel 46	VšĮ Regioninė televizija <i>Aidas</i>
10.	Licence for re-broadcast television content	Vilnius, Šalčininkai, Švenčionys	TV channel 31, TV channel 33	UAB All Media Lithuania
11.	Licence for re-broadcast television content	Vilnius, Šalčininkai, Švenčionys	TV channel 31, TV channel 33	AB Lietuvos radijo ir televizijos centras
12.	Licence for radio station broadcasting	Plungė	104.5 MHz	MB Baltijos žiniasklaidos grupė, UAB Interbanga, UAB Solfega, MB Veiksmo ministerija
				UAB Interbanga
13.	Licence for radio station broadcasting	Vilnius	90.7 MHz	MB Baltijos žiniasklaidos grupė, UAB RADIOCENTRAS, UAB RADIOLA, UAB Solfega, VŠĮ Sostinės media
				UAB RADIOCENTRAS

*\*Competition announced in 2021.*

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

The RTCL received and examined 22 submissions in response to competition announcements. Having calculated the results, the RTCL announced 12 winners in 2022, issuing 5 new licences and supplementing the terms and conditions of 7 licences issued earlier.

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

In 2022, the RTCL passed 10 decisions to modify licence terms and conditions. These decisions were related to changes in the structure and content of television and radio programmes, lists of re-

broadcast television programmes and other licence terms and conditions: 5 decisions were aimed at changing licence terms related to the structure and content of radio programmes; 1 decision dealt with the change in the broadcasting language of a radio programme; 2 decisions were aimed at changing the names of a radio programme; 1 decision was aimed at changing the lists of re-broadcast programmes under a re-broadcast content licence; 1 decision was aimed at changing the list of television stations, defining the map of territorial coverage of TV stations and main terms and conditions of a digital terrestrial television network.

Over the reporting period, the RTCL took 4 decisions to cancel 2 broadcasting and re-broadcast content licences (*Table 3*).

*Table 3. Licence cancellations.*

No	Licence holder	Grounds for licence cancellation	Licensed activities
1.	UAB PLUNSTA	Licence holder decided to give up the licence	Radio programme broadcasting LC-88(R088)
2.	UAB BALTICUM TV	Licence holder decided to give up the licence	Television programme broadcasting LC-456(T456)
3.	UAB Roventa	Licence holder decided to give up the licence	Television programme broadcasting LC-247(T247)
4.	UAB Roventa	Licence holder decided to give up the licence	Television programme broadcasting LC-295(T295)

As of 31 December 2022, the RTCL had issued 132 broadcasting and re-broadcast content licences to radio and/or television broadcasters and re-broadcaster engaged in licensed activities, and 9 permits to VŠĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA.

## RADIO

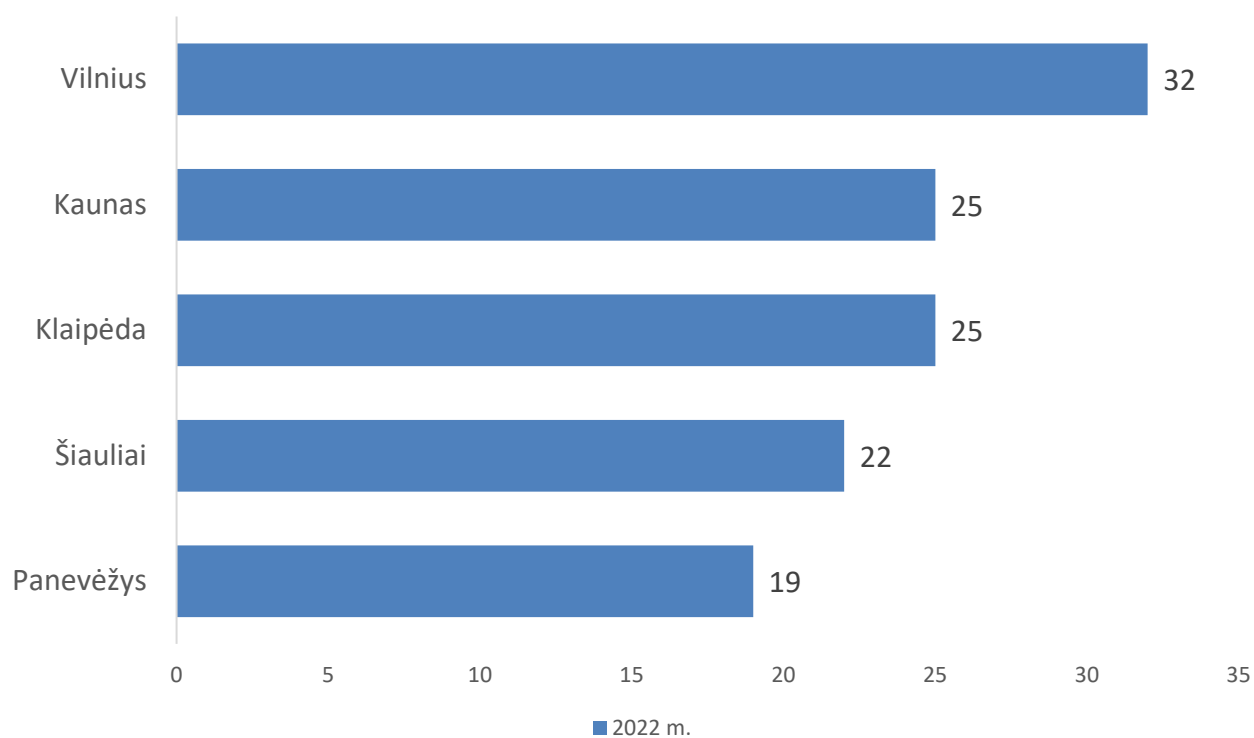
At the end of 2022, there were 40 radio broadcasters in Lithuania broadcasting 52 radio stations. Over the reporting year, the majority of radio stations in Lithuania were transmitting a mix of music and information content.

In 2022, 3 radio broadcasting licence holders won competitions announced by the RTCL and had their licence terms modified, i.e., licence coverage was expanded to include a wider territory; 1 radio broadcaster that won a competition announced by the RTCL was issued a broadcasting licence to transmit a new radio programme using the terrestrial analogue radio transmitter station in Vilnius.

The greatest diversity of radio stations in 2022 was observed in major Lithuanian cities: 32 radio stations in Vilnius, 25 in Kaunas, 25 in Klaipėda, 22 in Šiauliai and 19 radio stations in Panevėžys (*Figure 1*).

In 2022, in terms of radio coverage, there were 14 national radio stations (*Table 4*), 7 regional radio broadcasters (*Table 5*) and 27 broadcasters broadcasting local radio stations (*Table 6*) in Lithuania.

Figure 1. Number of radio stations in major Lithuanian cities in 2022.



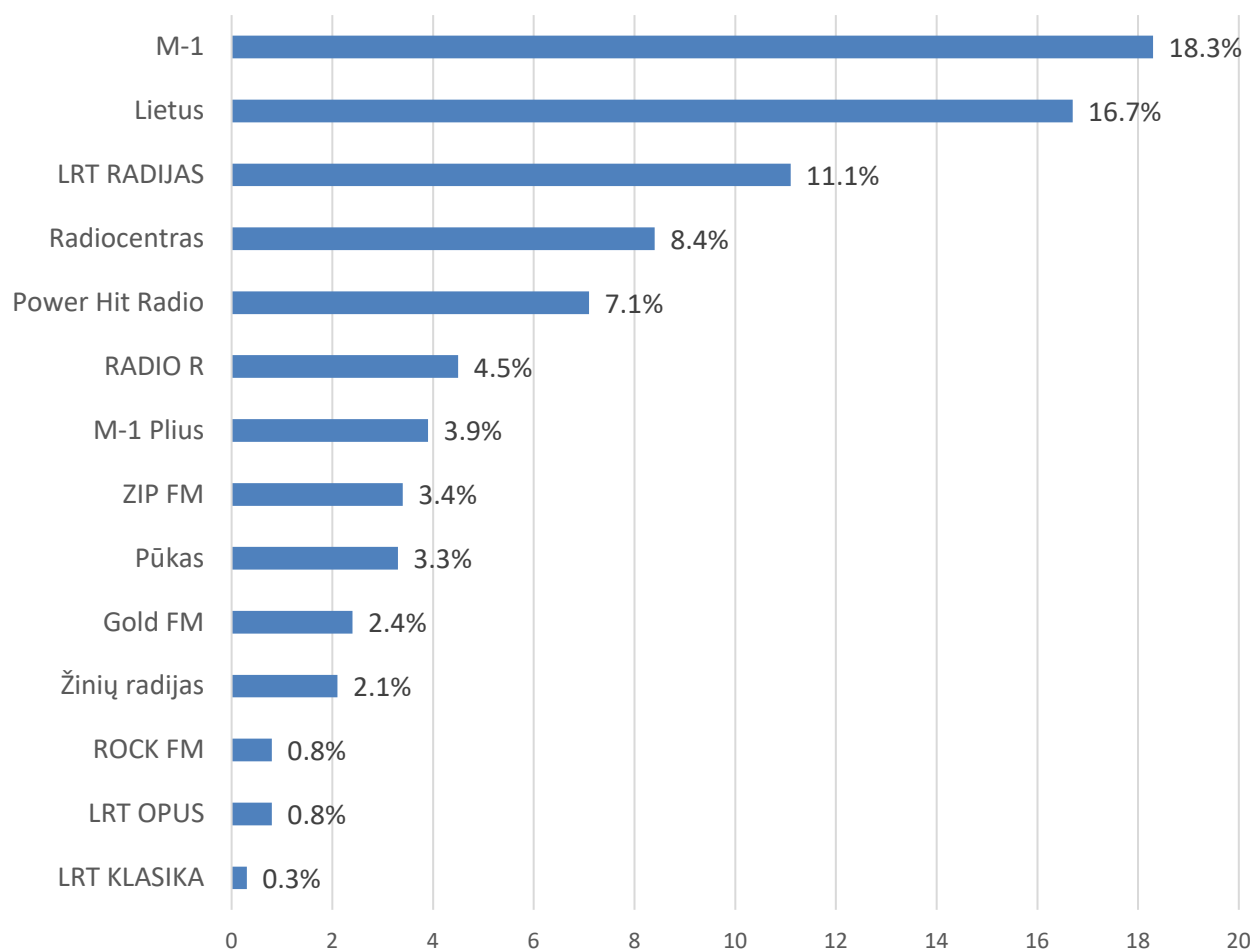
Source: RTCL

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

By time spent listening to radio, the following four national radio stations were leading in the ratings: Lietus, M-1, LRT RADIJAS and Radiocentras. In 2022, they accounted for 54.5% of the respondents' total time spent listening to radio compared to 56.2% in 2021 (*Figure 2*).

Figure 2. Audience share of national radio stations by time listened, summer to fall of 2022.



Source: Kantar

Table 5. Regional radio broadcasters.

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

Table 6. Local radio stations.

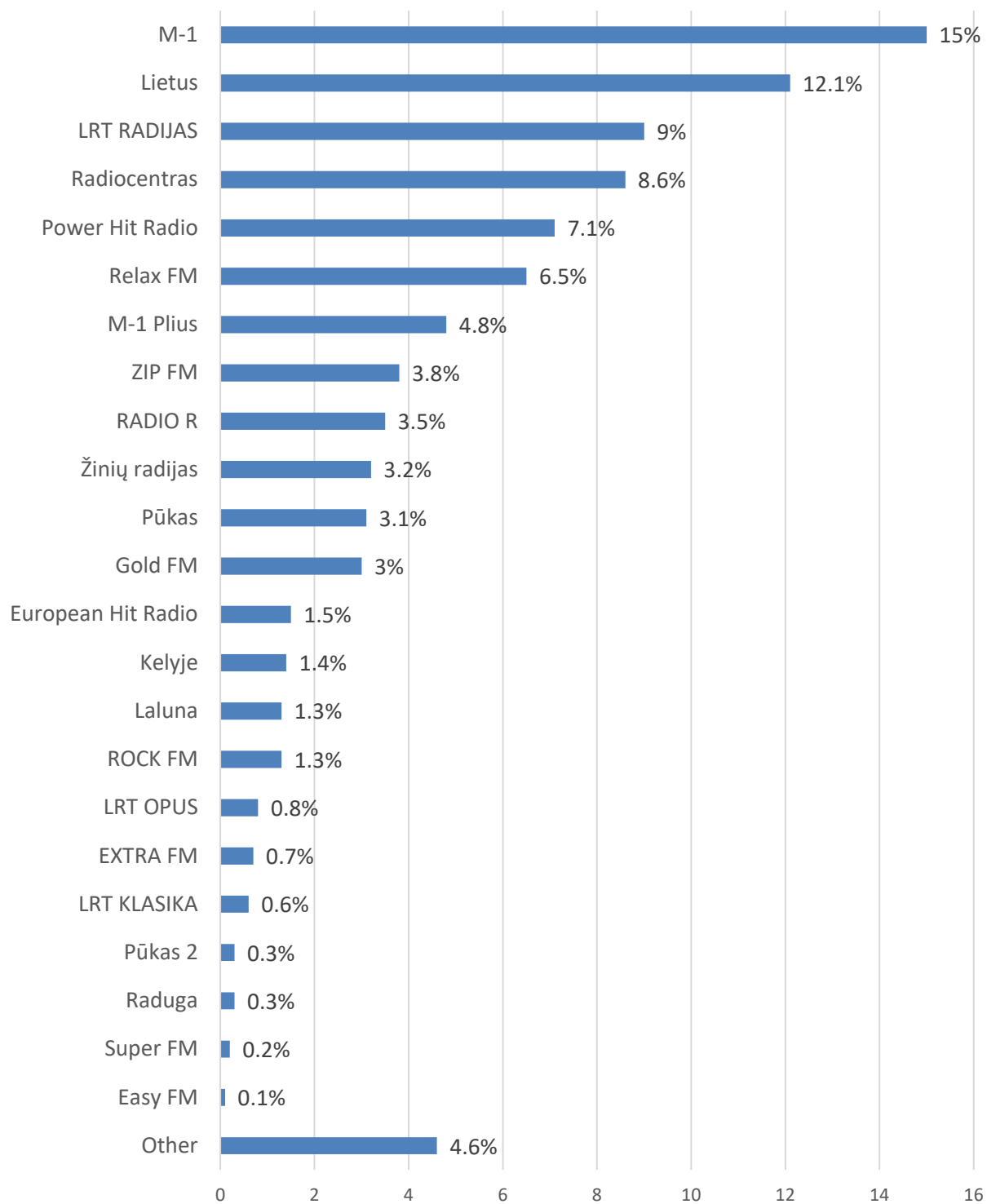
No	Broadcaster	Radio station	Location
1.	UAB Antroji reklamos ateljė	RS 2	Šiauliai
2.	UAB Artvydas	Tau	Kaunas
3.	UAB ATVIRAI	Radijo stotis Nykščiai	Anykščiai
4.	UAB AUKŠTAITIJOS RADIJAS	XFM	Panevėžys
5.	UAB Centro medija	XFM	Kėdainiai
6.	UAB Garso klipai	MANO FM	Kaunas
7.	UAB Interbanga	EXTRA FM	Kaunas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

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

VšĮ Zorza which broadcasts radio station RADIOWILNO, UAB Solfega which broadcasts radio station SOL FM and UAB M-1 which broadcasts radio station M-1 Dance do so online only.

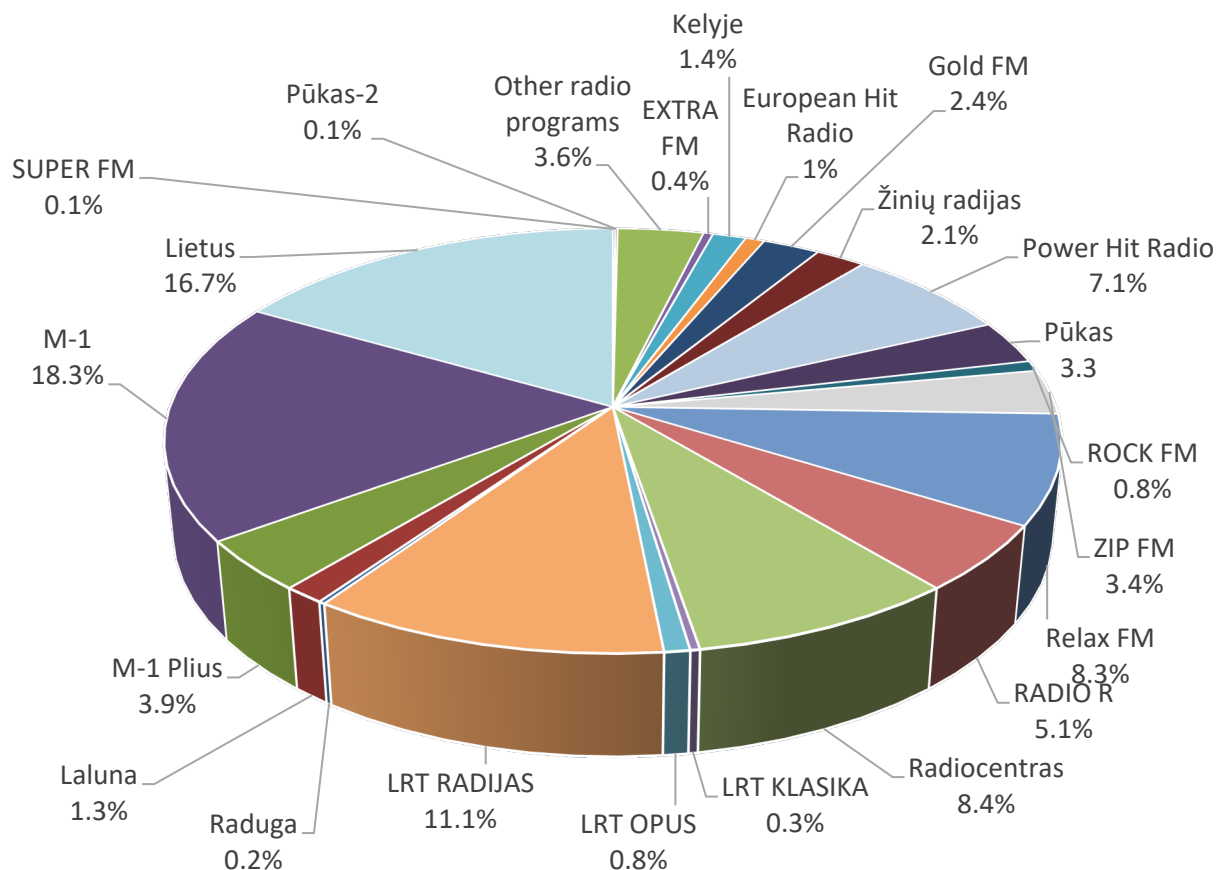
In 2022, M-1 remained the most popular radio station in Lithuania by daily audience reach followed by radio station Lietus. LRT RADIJAS took the third spot in 2022 overtaking Radiocentras in popularity (**Figure 3**). The most popular radio stations by audience share ranked in the same order (**Figure 4**).

Figure 3. Daily audience reach of radio stations, summer to fall of 2022.



Source: Kantar

Figure 4. Share of audience by time spent listening to radio, summer to fall of 2022.



Source: Kantar

## TELEVISION

### Digital Terrestrial Television

Television broadcasting over digital terrestrial TV transmitter stations (networks)

In 2022, 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
4.	UAB All Media Lithuania	TV6	



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

At the end of 2022, there were 7 local television stations available over the digital terrestrial television transmitter stations (**Table 8**).

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

No	Broadcaster	Television station (channel)	Location
1.	UAB Pūkas	Pūkas-TV	Kaunas
2.	UAB Šiaulių apskrities televizija	Šiaulių televizija	Šiauliai
3.	VšĮ Marijampolės televizija	Marijampolės televizija	Marijampolė
4.	UAB Ilora	Ventos regioninė televizija	Venta
5.	UAB TV7	TV7	Jonava
6.	VšĮ Alytaus regioninė televizija	Dzūkijos televizija	Alytus
7.	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 2022, there were 6 re-broadcasters re-broadcasting television stations over 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 over a digital terrestrial network on channel 46 in Kėdainiai, Panevėžys and Ukmergė and 2 television stations broadcast by Ukrainian broadcasters, 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

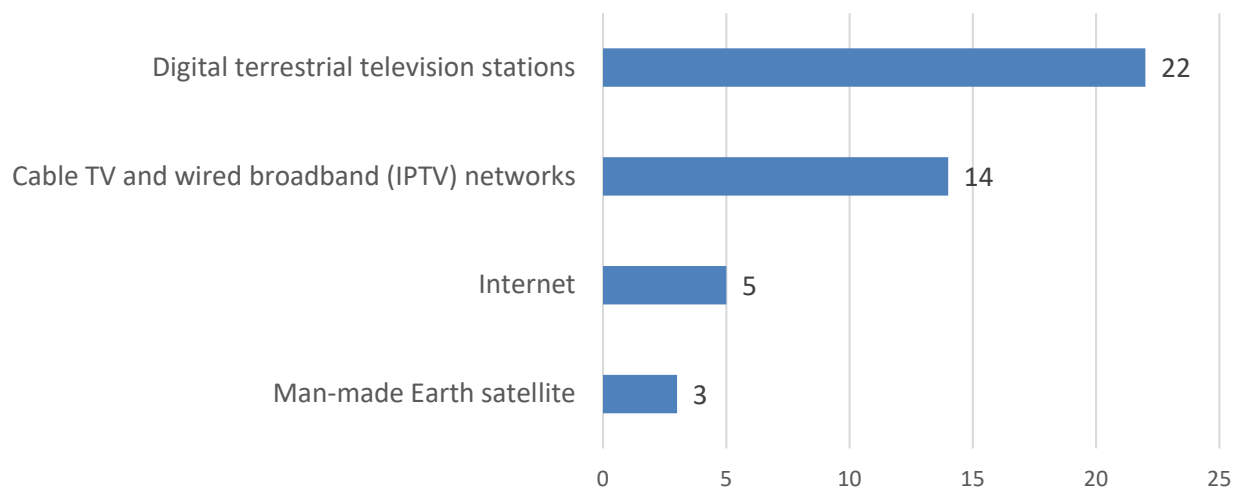
In Lithuania, television stations may be broadcast using these networks of electronic communications:

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

At the end of 2022, there were 28 television broadcasters broadcasting 39 television stations (**Figure 5**):

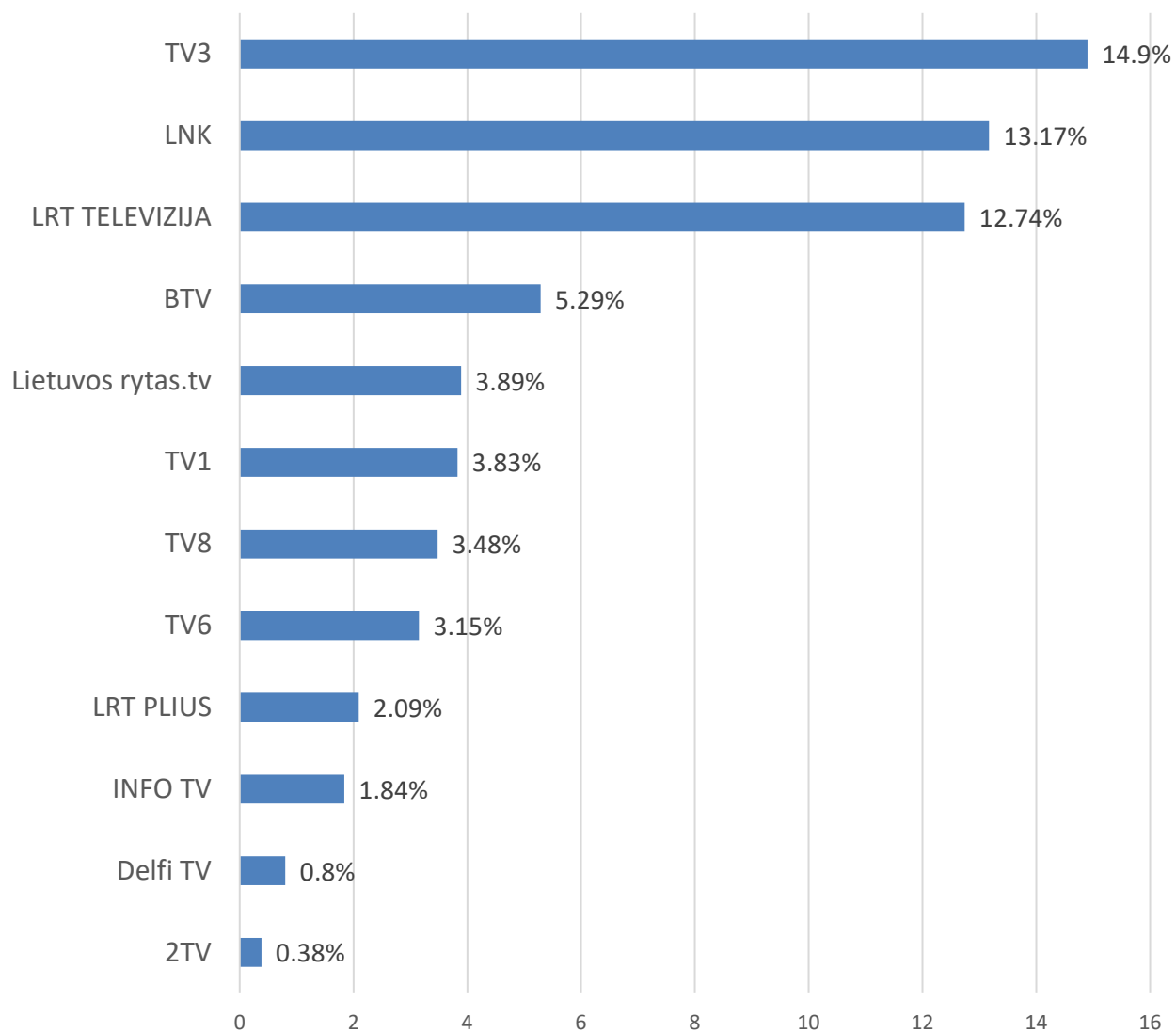
- 22 television stations over digital terrestrial television networks or transmitter stations
- 14 television stations over the cable television and IPTV networks
- 5 television stations on the Internet
- 3 television stations over a man-made Earth satellite

Figure 5. Television broadcasting in 2022 by type of electronic communications used.



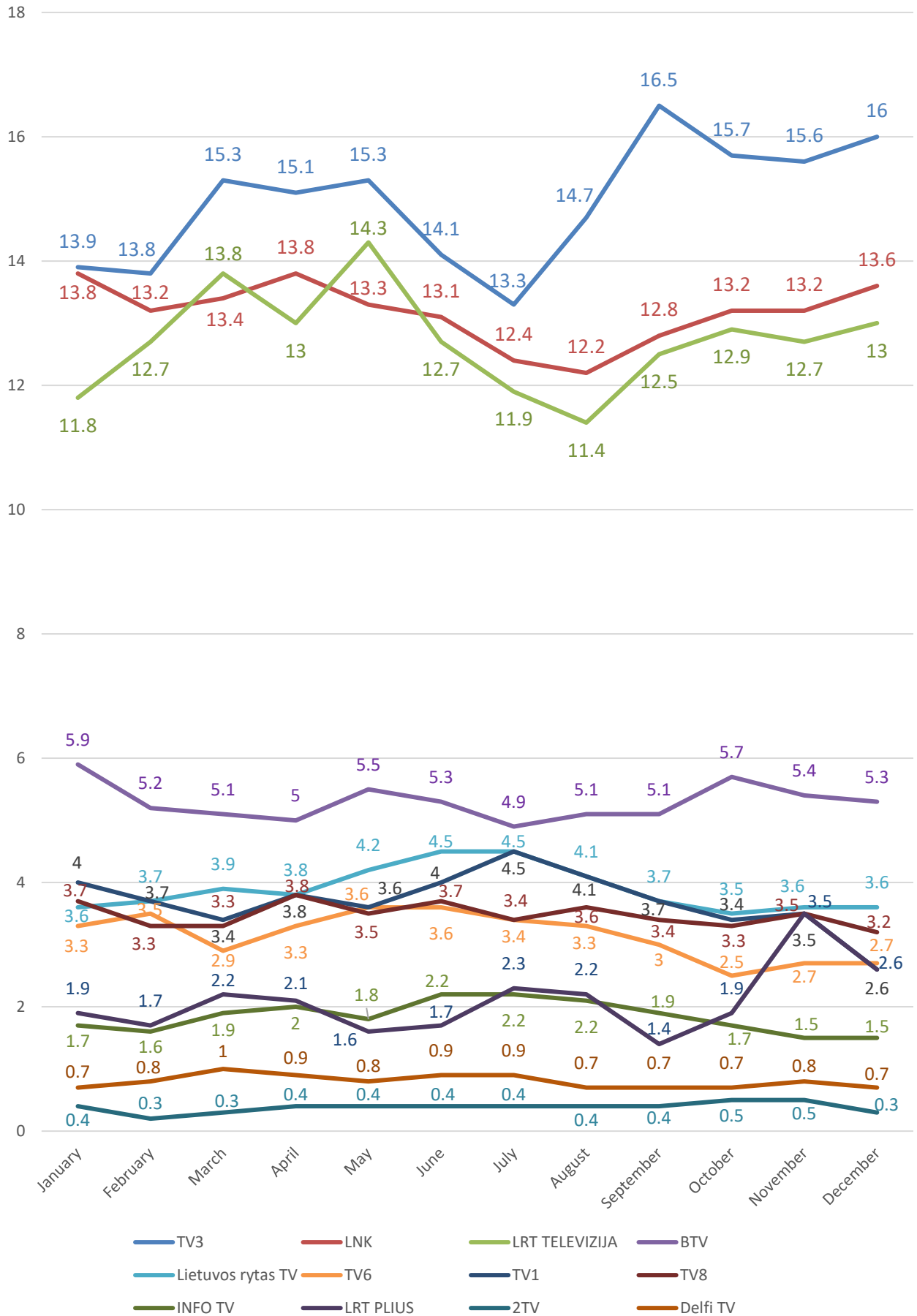
Source: RTCL

Figure 6. Audience share by national TV station in 2022.



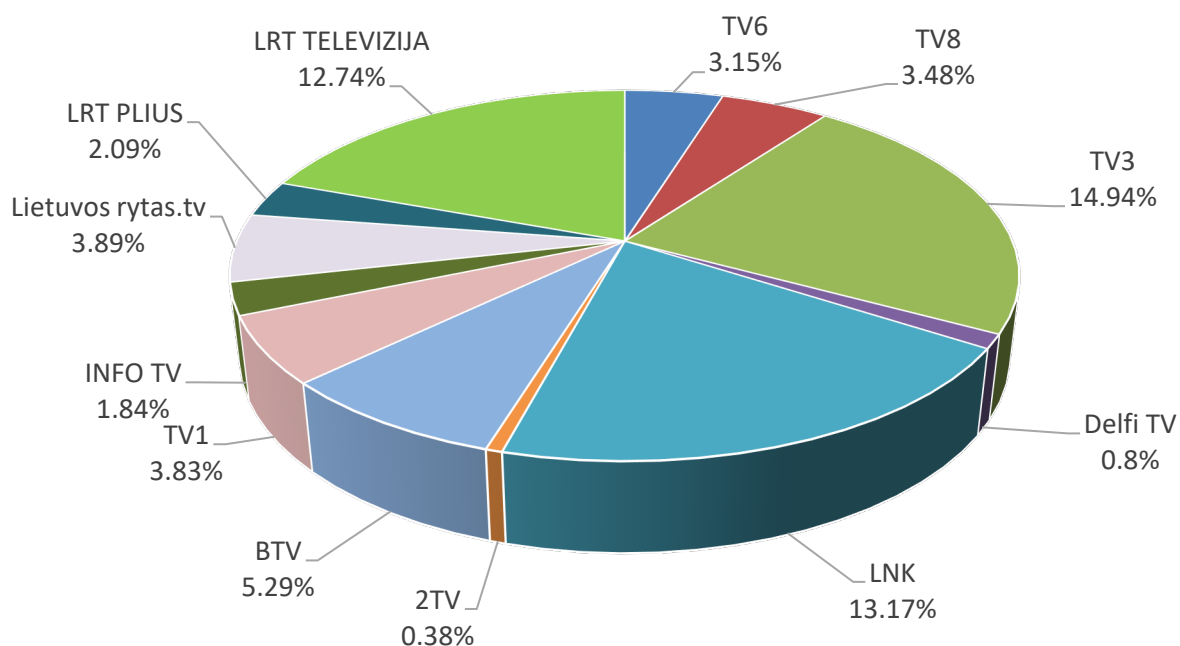
Source: Kantar

Figure 7. Audience share by national TV station by month in 2022.



Source: Kantar

Figure 8. Audience structure of TV stations by time watched in 2022; live viewing data.



Source: Kantar

Figure 8 clearly shows that television stations under the umbrella of LNK Group (24.51%) and All Media Group (21.57%) accounted for 46.08% of all viewership. Viewership of the two television stations broadcast by VšĮ LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS RADIJAS IR TELEVIZIJA was 14.83%.

### 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

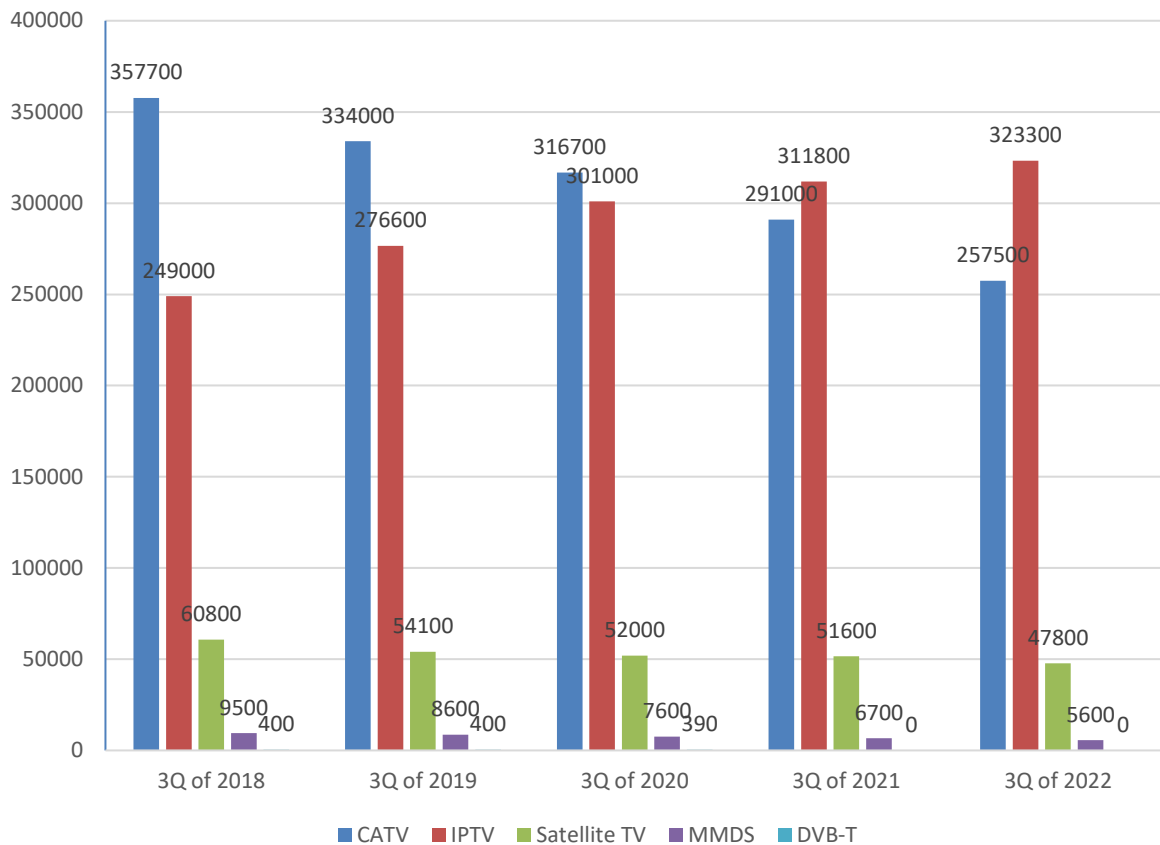
At the end of 2022, there were 47 entities re-broadcasting television stations using a mix of technologies:

- 5 economic operators held 8 licences to re-broadcast television stations over the digital terrestrial transmitter stations or a network of transmitter stations;
- 22 economic operators held 2 licences to re-broadcast television stations over the MMDS networks;
- 14 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;
- 16 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.

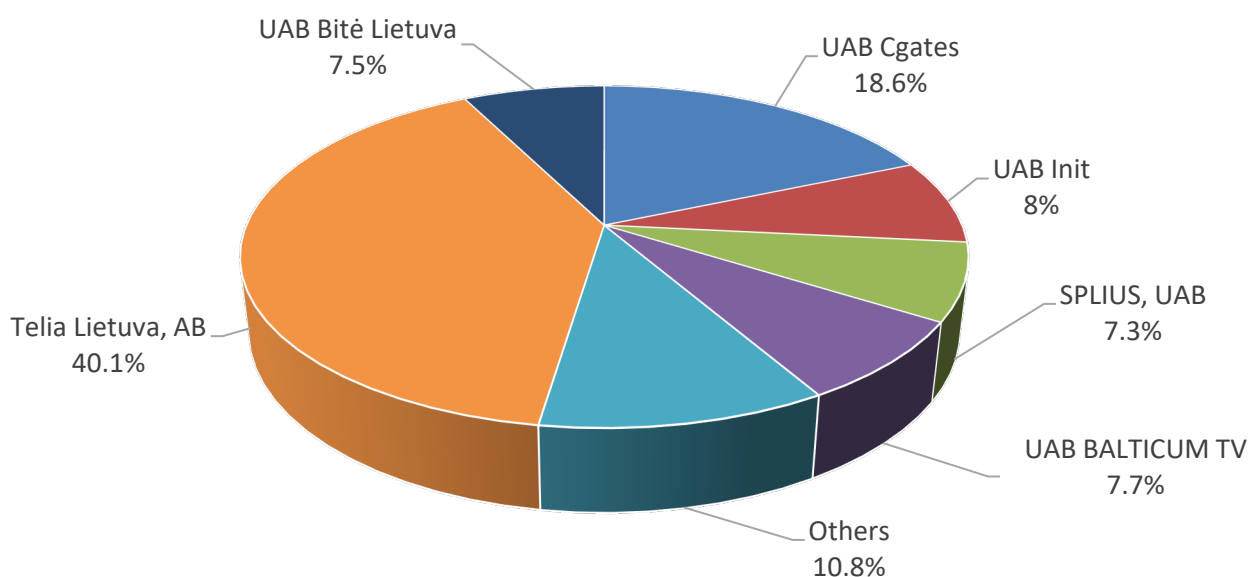
An analysis of television re-broadcasting services reveals that the number of cable television users has been shrinking consistently (11.5% compared to the previous year), as well as the number of satellite television subscribers (7.8% compared to the previous year) while the number of users watching television online kept on growing, increasing by 3.5% over the year. The number of paid TV users decreased by 4.1% compared to the previous year.

Figure 9. Changes in the Paid TV subscribers structure by service provider, Q3 of 2018-2022.



Source: RTCL

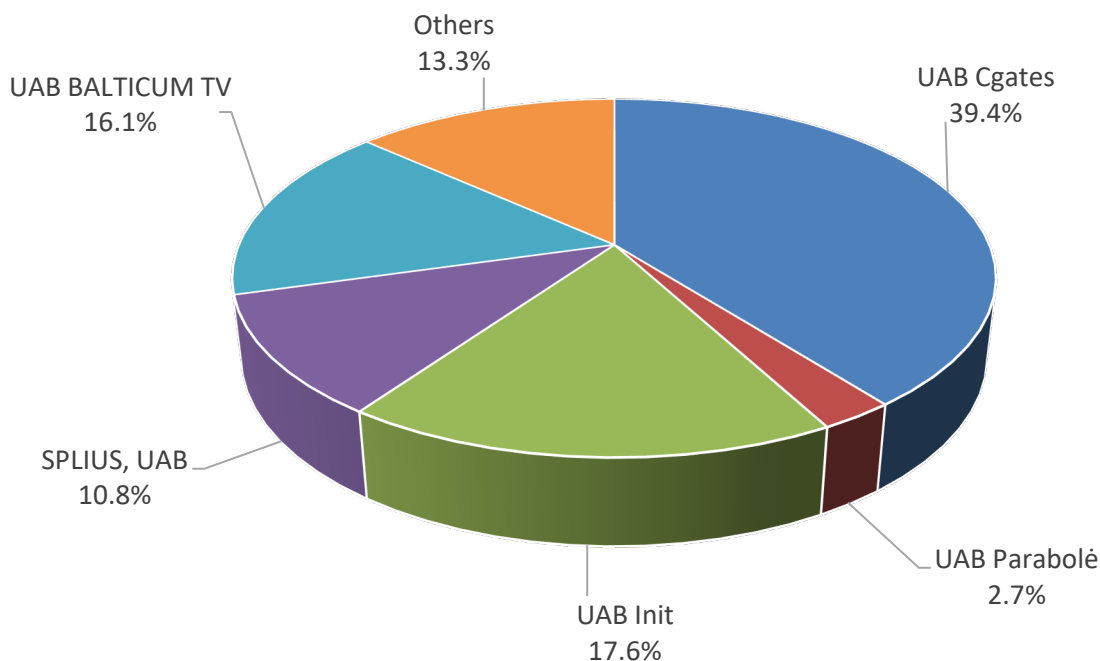
Figure 10. Paid TV subscribers by service provider (total of 634,300), Q3 of 2022.



Source: RTCL

In 2022, the five biggest cable TV providers were: UAB Cgates, UAB Init, UAB BALTICUM TV, UAB SPLIUS, and UAB Parabolè. Their subscribers accounted for 86.4% of all cable TV subscribers in the country (**Figure 11**).

Figure 11. Cable TV subscribers by service provider, %, Q3 of 2022.

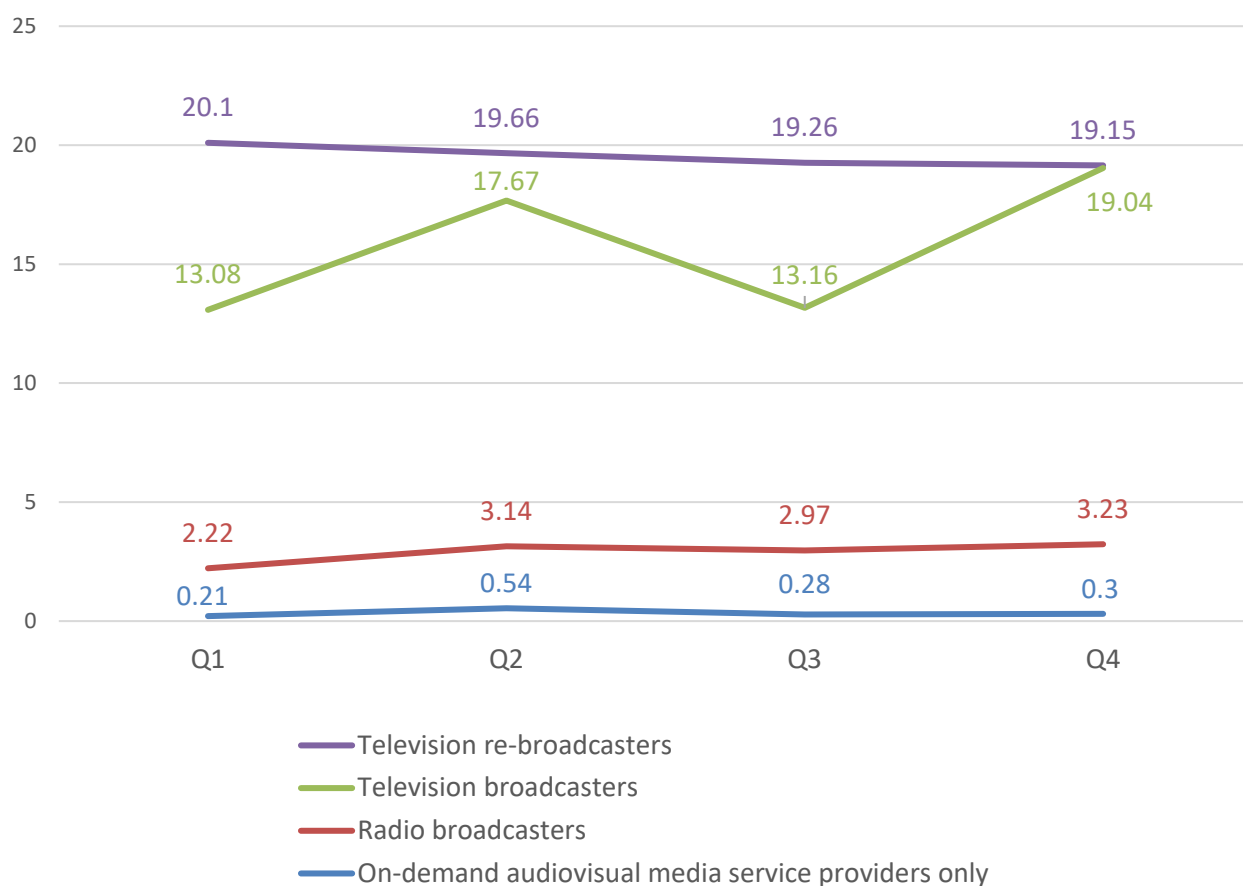


Source: RTCL

## REVENUE DYNAMICS OF RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTERS AND RE-BROADCASTERS

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, 13*).

*Figure 12. Economic operator revenue in 2022 by quarter, million euros.*

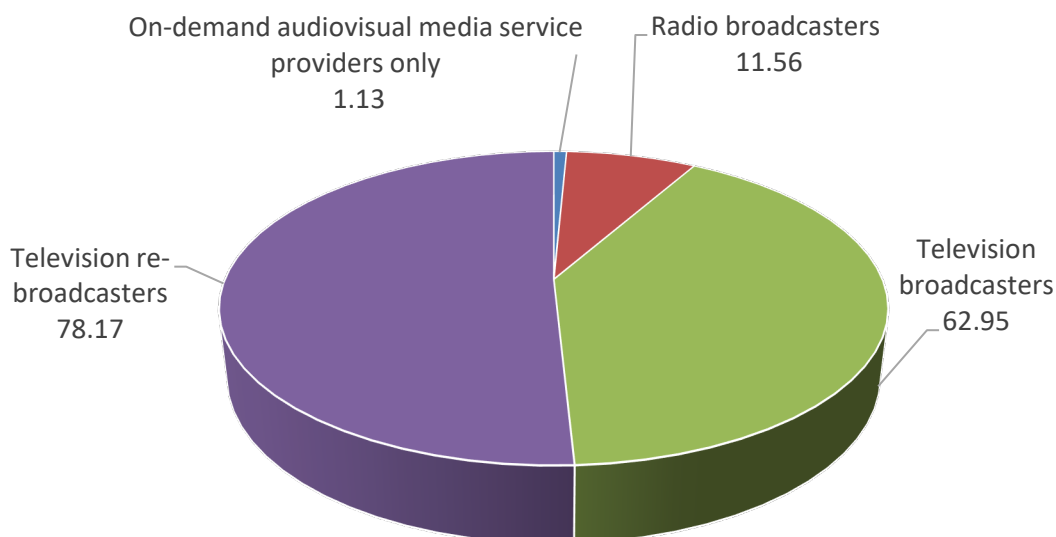


*Source: RTCL*

**Figure 13** shows economic operator revenue in 2022 by service category.

*Figure 13. Economic operator revenue by service category in 2022, million euros.*





Source: RTCL

It is worth mentioning that an analysis of revenue dynamics shows an increase of 10.5% in radio broadcaster revenues, an increase of 5.5% in television broadcaster revenues, and a decrease of 5.5% in television re-broadcaster revenues compared to 2021.

## 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
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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 2022, the RTCL had received 121 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 2022, there were 21 economic operators engaged in the provision of on-demand audiovisual media services; 8 economic operators engaged in the provision of on-demand audiovisual media services using a video sharing platform; and 8 economic operators were disseminating television programmes and/or individual programmes via the Internet.

Over the reporting year, 20 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 2022, 1 economic operator terminated unlicensed activities of television re-broadcasting using a man-made Earth satellite; 1 economic operator terminated television re-broadcasting using cable TV networks; 2 economic operators – of television broadcasting; and 2 economic operators terminated radio broadcasting.

## ANNUAL FEES SET BY ORDERS OF THE MINISTER OF CULTURE ON PROPOSAL BY THE RTCL

In 2022, in accordance with the Descriptor of the procedure for setting the annual fee for radio and/or television broadcasting, re-broadcasting, dissemination of programmes via the Internet and on-demand audiovisual media services approved by Order No IV-318 of 21 April 2011 of the Minister of Culture, the RTCL sent 16 official letters to the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania regarding the annual fee for radio and/or television broadcasting, re-broadcasting, dissemination of programmes via the Internet, on-demand audiovisual media services.

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

In the reporting year, the RTCL took 10 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 €280 to the national budget. In the course of 2022, the RTCL issued 12 licences to competition winners: 4 radio broadcasting licences, 1 television broadcasting licence, 6 re-broadcast content

licences for television programmes, and 1 re-broadcast content licence for a radio programme. Licence holders paid €6,011 to the national budget for the issuance of these licences.

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

In 2022, for the purposes of compliance with the requirements of Article 22 of the LPIP, the RTCL examined requests by the broadcasting and/or re-broadcast content licence holders to approve transfers of shares (stakes, interests) and/or control (management) in the licence holders, taking 1 decision to that effect (*Table 10*).

*Table 10. Sale and other transfers of shares (stakes, interests).*

<b>No</b>	<b>Name of the entity whose shares are being transferred</b>	<b>Name of the entity/person transferring the shares (name, surname)</b>	<b>Name of the entity/person acquiring the shares (name, surname)</b>
1.	UAB Mažeikių aidas	Romualdas Sakalauskas	Alvydas Balčiūnas

## **THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AND ENFORCEMENT**

During 2022, the RTCL adopted 4 pieces of legislation aimed at improving the services provided by the authority in light of the developments in the audiovisual media market.

On 30 March 2022, the RTCL adopted decision No KS-42 *On the approval of the Guidelines of classification of audiovisual media service providers using video sharing platforms and the requirements that apply to them*. This decision laid down the guidelines on the audiovisual media services provided by vloggers (vlog – video blog), classification of service providers engaged in the provision of these services and the requirements that apply to their activities. Following the publication of these guidelines for public consultations, the project has attracted considerable attention and interest from stakeholders. In drafting these guidelines, the RTCL was guided by the provisions of the AVMSD transposed into national law in 2021, and the fact that new types of content, or example videos and user-generated content, are gaining importance and new market players, including on-demand audiovisual media service providers and video sharing platforms, have significant influence on their followers because of their rising popularity. Due to the perceived convergence of media outlets, the RTCL seeks to update the regulatory framework to reflect changes in the market and achieve a balance between online content services, consumer protection and competition.

On 20 April 2022, the RTCL adopted Decision No KS-56 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* designed to implement paragraph 5 of Article 40<sup>4</sup> of the LPIP and lay down a procedure to assess the suitability of measures applied by the service providers who use video sharing platforms. The procedure was necessitated by the introduction of a new type of services, i.e., services of a video sharing platform, in the LPIP as a result of transposition of the AVMSD into national law.

On 7 September 2022, the RTCL adopted Decision No KS-98 amending Decision No KS-167 of 9 September 2015 *On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure for information provision on activities*. The decision amended Annex 18 of the said descriptor as Decision No KS-42 of 30 March 2022 *On the approval of the Guidelines of classification of audiovisual media service providers using video sharing platforms and the requirements that apply to them* had laid down that both a natural person and a legal person may be an audiovisual media service provider – Annex 18 was supplemented accordingly.

On 28 September 2022, the RTCL adopted decision No KS-102 amending Decision No KS-14 of 27 March 2019 *On the approval of the Descriptor for handling copyright owners' requests to issue mandatory orders to Internet service providers*. The decision amended Clause 23 of the said Descriptor clarifying who is to be informed of the fact of acceptance of a request and how, and stipulated that the administrator of an infringing website has a period of 3 working days at most to provide their explanation of the relevant circumstances.

After the outbreak of Russia's war against Ukraine on 24 February 2022, the RTCL immediately took measures within its power. At an urgently convened meeting of 25 February 2022 the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania took two decisions in the matter of suspension of the free reception of television programmes: Decision No KS-30 *On the suspension of free reception in Lithuania of television programmes Planeta RTR, Rossija 24, Pirmais Baltijas Kanals Lithuania (PBK), TV Centre International (TVCI) which are rebroadcast or disseminated on the Internet*, and Decision No KS-31 *On the suspension of free reception in Lithuania of television programmes Belarus 24 and NTV Mir which are rebroadcast or disseminated on the Internet*. The decision was taken to suspend the free reception of Planeta RTR, Rossija 24, NTV Mir and Belarus 24 for a period of 5 years, and Pirmais Baltijas Kanals Lithuani (PBK) and TVCi for a period of 3 years.

Decisions of the same nature were taken by the RTCL regarding other propagandist television programmes: Decision No KS-32 of 28 February 2022 *On the suspension of free reception in Lithuania of television programmes Mir24 and RBK-TV which are rebroadcast or disseminated on the Internet*, suspending their free reception for a period of 5 years. On 9 March 2022, Decision No KS-34 was taken *On the suspension of free reception in Lithuania of television programme MIR which is broadcast or disseminated on the Internet*, suspending its free reception for 5 years.

In all cases where decisions were taken to suspend the free reception of television programmes, the RTCL has found that information disseminated on the programmes was a manifest and gross violation of the requirements of paragraph 1 of Article 19 of the LPIP, i.e., qualified as war propaganda and incitement to war. These conclusions were made after taking into account findings of other authorities, e.g., Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Lithuania and others, which note that the dissemination of disinformation and propaganda was part of hybrid means by which the Russian Federation sought its political goals and that the content of Russian state-owned channels was harmful and a serious threat to public security, including national security.

In suspending the free reception of propaganda disseminating television programmes in Lithuania, the RTCL followed the procedures laid down in the LPIP: applied the urgent procedure in respect of the service providers established in the EU, duly notified the European Commission and the service provider, and performed other necessary actions; for the purpose of suspending the free reception of programmes by providers established outside the EU, the RTCL applied to Vilnius Regional Administrative Court asking to approve the sanctions.

On 20 April 2022, the RTCL took Decision No KS-55 *On the suspension of free reception in Lithuania of television programmes AVTO PLIUS, BOKS TV, HDL, INDIYSKOYE KINO*,

*KINOKOMEDIYA, KINOMIKS, KINOSERIYA, KUKHNYA TV, KVN TV, KTO YEST KTO, LA MINOR TV, KHL TV CHANNEL, M-1 GLOBAL, MUZHSKOYE KINO, NASHE NOVOE KINO, NOSTALGIYA, NTV MIR, NTV PRAVO, NTV SERIAL, NTV STILLJ, PIATNICA, PIATNICA ! INTERNATIONAL, RODNOYE KINO, RUSSKAYA NOCH, TB-3, THT, THT COMEDY, THT INTERNATIONAL, THT MUSIC, ZEE TV, ZHIVI!, MALYSH-TV* which are rebroadcast and/or disseminated on the Internet. These television programmes are controlled by Gazprom-Media. The decision was taken in response to a directive of 24 February 2022 by the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control (the “OFAC”) which introduced restrictive financial measures in respect of Russian GAZPROMBANK. The company owns Gazprom-Media (ОАО Газпром-Медиа), a holding company in the Russian Federation, which controls 32 television programmes that are rebroadcast or disseminated on the Internet in the territory of Lithuania. The owner of television programmes rebroadcast or disseminated on the Internet, either directly or indirectly, in the territory of Lithuania is open company GAZPROMBANK. It is included in the list of organisations subject to OFAC sanctions. Consequently, television re-broadcasters or distributors of these programmes online operating in Lithuania who enter into contracts for the dissemination of programmes or make payments and conclude other transactions surrounding the distribution of these television programmes run the risk of violating OFAC sanctions, directly or indirectly. Moreover, the RTCL judged that re-broadcasting or dissemination on the Internet of the television programmes owned by entities subject to OFAC sanctions is not in the national security interests of Lithuania. In view of the above and in an effort to protect television re-broadcasters and distributors online from possible violations of OFAC sanctions and the associated financial risks, the RTCL decided to suspend the re-broadcasting and dissemination on the Internet of the programmes mentioned in the territory of Lithuania.

After the outbreak of war, there was an increase in the spread of disinformation by media outlets established in Lithuania. On 23 March 2022, the RTCL adopted Decision No KS-37 *On imposition of a fine on UAB PLUNSTA*. The RTCL found that a radio show participant spread information designed to shape a favourable public opinion towards the foreign policy of the Russian Federation. The participant also shared biased comments about events in Donbass and Luhansk, essentially questioning the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. The audience was given the impression that in the military conflict with the Russian Federation it was Ukraine who was the aggressor, using military actions against the civilian population. In light of these circumstances, a fine was imposed on UAB PLUNSTA for the spread of disinformation.

On 19 October 2022, the RTCL adopted Decision No KS-119 *On imposition of a fine on VšĮ Mūsų TV*. The fine on VšĮ Mūsų TV was imposed for the spread of disinformation on its website musutv.lt. The RTCL found that the site published reports where participants shaped a favourable opinion towards the foreign policies of the Russian Federation and Belarus. The reports stand out because of the information narrative widely used in Russia claiming that fascists and Nazis have taken power in Ukraine. In light of these circumstances, a fine was imposed on VšĮ Mūsų TV.

*Table 11. Regulatory decisions by the RTCL.*

No	Title
1.	Decision No KS-42 of 30 March 2022 <i>On the approval of the Guidelines of classification of audiovisual media service providers using video sharing platforms and the requirements that apply to them</i>

2.	Decision No KS-56 of 20 April 2022 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>
3.	Decision No KS-98 of 7 September 2022 amending Decision No KS-167 of 9 September 2015 <i>On the approval of the Descriptor of the procedure for information provision on activities</i>
4.	Decision No KS-102 of 28 September 2022 amending Decision No KS-14 of 27 March 2019 <i>On the approval of the Descriptor for handling copyright owners' requests to issue mandatory orders to Internet service providers</i>

Table 12. Other important decisions by the RTCL.

No	Title
1.	Decision No KS-30 of 25 February 2022 <i>On the suspension of free reception in Lithuania of television programmes Planeta RTR, Rossija 24, Pirmais Baltijas Kanals Lithuania (PBK), TV Centre International (TVCI) which are rebroadcast or disseminated on the Internet</i>
2.	Decision No KS-31 of 25 February 2022 <i>On the suspension of free reception in Lithuania of television programmes Belarus 24 and NTV Mir which are rebroadcast or disseminated on the Internet</i>
3.	Decision No KS-32 of 28 February 2022 <i>On the suspension of free reception in Lithuania of television programmes Mir24 and RBK-TV which are rebroadcast or disseminated on the Internet</i>
4.	Decision No KS-34 of 9 March 2022 <i>On the suspension of free reception in Lithuania of television programme MIR which is broadcast or disseminated on the Internet</i>
5.	Decision No KS-37 of 23 March 2022 <i>On imposition of a fine on UAB PLUNSTA</i>
6.	Decision No KS-55 of 20 April 2022 <i>On the suspension of free reception in Lithuania of television programmes AVTO PLIUS, BOKS TV, HDL, INDIYSKOYE KINO, KINOKOMEDIYA, KINOMIKS, KINOSERIYA, KUKHNYA TV, KVN TV, KTO YEST KTO, LA MINOR TV, KHL TV CHANNEL, M-1 GLOBAL, MUZHSKOYE KINO, NASHE NOVOE KINO, NOSTALGIYA, NTV MIR, NTV PRAVO, NTV SERIAL, NTV STILIJ, PIATNICA, PIATNICA ! INTERNATIONAL, RODNOYE KINO, RUSSKAYA NOCH, TB-3, THT, THT COMEDY, THT INTERNATIONAL, THT MUSIC, ZEE TV, ZHIVI!, MALYSH-TV which are rebroadcast and/or disseminated on the Internet</i>
7.	Decision No KS-119 of 19 October 2022 <i>On imposition of a fine on Vė̄l Mū̄sų TV</i>

## ECONOMIC OPERATOR OVERSIGHT AND CONTENT MONITORING

In 2022, the RTCL carried out 30 routine inspections and 6 special inspections of economic operators. On the basis of consumer complaints and at the initiative of the RTCL, 107 monitoring reports were drafted. Also in 2022, the RTCL focused on the monitoring of potentially illegal activities of television broadcasting online and the dissemination of individual programmes via the Internet, conducting 55 investigations into illegal dissemination of television programmes and individual programmes via the Internet to Lithuanian viewers. The same year the RTCL also conducted 89 investigations into websites that publish copyrighted content illegally.

## Routine inspections of economic operators

In 2022, the RTCL carried out 30 routine (announced) inspections of economic operators (*Table 13*) as provided for in the Plan of planned inspections of economic operators in 2022.<sup>1</sup>

*Table 13. Results of routine inspections of economic operators.*

<b>Nature of violation</b>	<b>Violations</b>
Compliance with the obligations set out in radio and/or television broadcasting and re-broadcast content licences and permits issued by the RTCL	6
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 relating to the protection of minors	4
Compliance with the requirement set out in Article 34 of the LPIP relating to the language public information is disseminated in	1
Compliance with the requirement set out in Article 35 of the LPIP relating to the retention of information published	2
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	5
Compliance with the requirements set out in Article 40 of the LPIP and the Descriptor relating to programme sponsorship	8
Compliance with the requirements of the Descriptor of the procedure for information provision in relation to economic operator activities	13
Compliance with the requirement set out in Decision No KS-12 of 3 February 2021 of the RTCL relating to the publication of information about the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania and Ethics Commission in the Provision of Information to the Public	7

Findings of routine inspections conducted by the RTCL in 2022 reveal that the majority of violations were related to failure to comply with the requirements set out in the Descriptor of the procedure for information provision in relation to economic operator activities approved by Decision No KS-167 of 9 September 2015 of the RTCL – these violations accounted for 28% 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.

<sup>1</sup> Order No V-5 of 20 January 2022 of the Chairman of the RTCL *On the approval of the Plan of planned inspections of economic operators in 2022.*



In 2022, the RTCL imposed 17 administrative sanctions for gross and recurrent violations of law, out of which 9 were warnings and 8 were fines. 14 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), 2 sanctions were imposed for violations of Article 548 of CAO (violations of the retention obligations relating to information published by a media outlet), 1 sanction was imposed for violation of Article 146 of the CAO (violations of the requirements for advertising, product placements, commercial audiovisual communications and sponsorship of audiovisual media services, radio programmes and/or individual programmes).

### Special inspections of economic operators in 2022, and the monitoring of individual radio, television programmes and of provision of on-demand audiovisual media services

In 2022, the RTCL carried out 3 special (unannounced) inspections of economic operators: special inspections were aimed at checking whether the economic operators had rectified the violations ascertained during the earlier routine inspections. No violations have been ascertained after special inspections – economic operators had rectified the violations detected during the earlier routine inspections.

In 2022, 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 9 decisions to block access to 184 websites that made television programmes or individual programmes available online to consumers in Lithuania. On 9 occasions the RTCL filed petitions with Vilnius Regional Administrative Court regarding 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 14*).

*Table 14. 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 who sanctioned mandatory orders to network service providers, date and number of the court order
	Legal person	Internet domain name identifying the website	



1.		televizor.fun; ottglanz.tv; ottg.in; wcast.net; antifriz.tv; antifriztv.com	Court order of 27 January 2022 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI2-2973-463-2022
2.		smotrim.ru; ontvtime.ru; vip.ontivi.net; tv.tivix.co; chas.tv; rustv.cc; tv.domatv.net; seelisten.ru; online-red.online; only-tv.org; tvizor.org; tvonline24.org; teledays.net; onlinetv.one; oneliketv.net; tvonline.live; iedem.tv; b2b.peers.tv; tv-novosti.ru; sweet-tv.net; vinteratv.com; peers.tv; smotret.tv; player.vgtrk.com; rutv.stream; gentv.cc; tvin.online; tvset.cc; rus-tv.com; rutv.one; tvin.su; online.viks.tv; gipnomag.ru; vestinn.ru; tv-radio.online; gtrk.tv; see-me.ru; liveam.tv; on.tvua.biz; glaz.tv; debilizator.tv; telik.top; televizorus.com; limehd.tv; laptitv.org; ovego.tv; vsemtv.top; tvoetv.in.ua; tvlider.net; ottg.mx; ottbill.cc; my.1ott.net; minitv.club; kineskop.club; fox- tv.info; app.greatiptv.cc	Court order of 3 March 2022 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI2-3551-983-2022
3.		online-television.org; fomny.com; externals.streema.com; onair.mir24.tv; tvc.ru; wwitv.com; vipotv.com; totv.org; ruxet.com; ip.ontivi.net; zigfreed.ru; zone-iptv.ru; otttv.smarttv- iptv.ru; iptv-play.ru; zona-iptv.ru; viptv.in.ua; smarttvnews.ru; smarttvapp.ru; lcent.tv; ru- iptv.net; iptvmaster.ru; iptvlist.ru; iptv.luxe; rus-iptv.online; iptv- play.ru; iptvm3u.ru; iptv- russia.ru; prodigtv.ru; webmaster.pp.ua; iptvsensei.ru; giniko.com;	Court order of 15 March 2022 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI2-3708-983-2022

		a-russia.ru; minitv.msk.ru	
4.		installsat.tv; tv-rf.com; doc.rt.com; rtd.rt.com; federal.tv; 5-tv.ru; efir-tv.online; dozatv.org; tv.pokaz.me; debtv.eu; a- russia.ru; tamby.info; glaz- ok.online; mega-mir.net; tv.online24.ru; ottclub.org; free.telecola.tv	Court order of 7 April 2022 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI2-4057-8603/2022
5.		online-red.com; prosto-tv.com; kanaltv.ru; megafon.tv; ntvplus.tv; ltv.ru; seelisten.narod.ru; ottplayer.tv; vintera.tv; tvplusonline.ru; kanaly.tv; tvrf.online; tv54.top; melord.net; jinopro.net; zedom.net; tvoetv.io; cbilling.pw; cbilling.live; cbilling.biz;	Court order of 28 April 2022 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI2-4304-426/2022
6.		tricolor.tv; gs.ru; jitv.ru; telecola.tv; tv-portal.ru; telecolatv.com; yaomtv.ru; getsiptv.ru; xittv.net; krasnovosti.ru; natv.su; tv.spbtv.com	Court order of 13 May 2022 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI2-4533-860/2022
7.		ritsatv.ru; tv.mail.ru; tv.ru.net; inler.ru; kurba-trend.ru; lime-tv.ru; beltandroadtv.ru; spbtv.online; ottg.space; schuriktv.nethouse.ru	Court order of 15 June 2022 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI2-5155-596/2022

8.		tv.rbc.ru; vgtrk.ru; ntvmir.ntv.ru; mir24.tv; 1tv.com; kuhnyatv.ru; kvn.ru; mymusic.tv.ru; khl.ru; m-1global.com; ntvplus.ru; ntv.ru; friday.ru; tnt-online.ru; tntmusic.ru	Court order of 4 August 2022 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI2-5866-426/2022
9.		tvrussialive.com; glaztv.online; 12-kanal.ru; telik.live; persik.by; ok-tv.org; azrotv.com; oxe.by; prosto-tv.net; online-red.tv; 1tv.ru; ontvtime.tv; саки.рyс	Court order of 26 October 2022 of Vilnius Regional Administrative Court in administrative case No eI2-75416-596/2022

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

In 2022, 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 2022, the RTCL conducted a survey of all 12 national television stations: LRT TELEVIZIJA, LRT PLIUS, TV3, TV6, TV8, LNK, Info TV, 2TV, TV1, BTV, Lietuvos rytas.tv and Delfi.TV to assess the share of time (in per cent) that each of the stations dedicated to European works (**Table 15**).

*Table 15. Share of television programming time dedicated to European works in television stations LRT TELEVIZIJA, LRT PLIUS, TV3, TV6, TV8, LNK, Info TV, 2TV, TV1, BTV, Lietuvos rytas.tv and Delfi.TV.*

Television station	Share of European works	Monitoring times
LRT TELEVIZIJA	85%	02/05/2022–08/05/2022
LRT PLIUS	83%	02/05/2022–08/05/2022

TV3	34%	02/05/2022–08/05/2022
TV6	33%	02/05/2022–08/05/2022
TV8	61%	02/05/2022–08/05/2022
LNK	35%	02/05/2022–08/05/2022
Info TV	55%	02/05/2022–08/05/2022
2TV	91%	02/05/2022–08/05/2022
TV1	68%	02/05/2022–08/05/2022
BTV	39%	02/05/2022–08/05/2022
Lietuvos rytas.tv	78%	02/05/2022–08/05/2022
Delfi TV	47%	02/05/2022–08/05/2022

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 2022 either significantly, e.g., TV8 (22%), TV6 (11%), Info TV (10%), TV1 (16%), BTV (21%), or slightly, e.g., LRT TELEVIZIJA (3%), LRT PLIUS (1%), LNK (1%). 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 had significantly decreased on Delfi TV (44%), slightly on TV3 (4%), Lietuvosrytas.tv (%), and 2TV (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 2022, in parallel with the surveys 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 Delfi.TV.

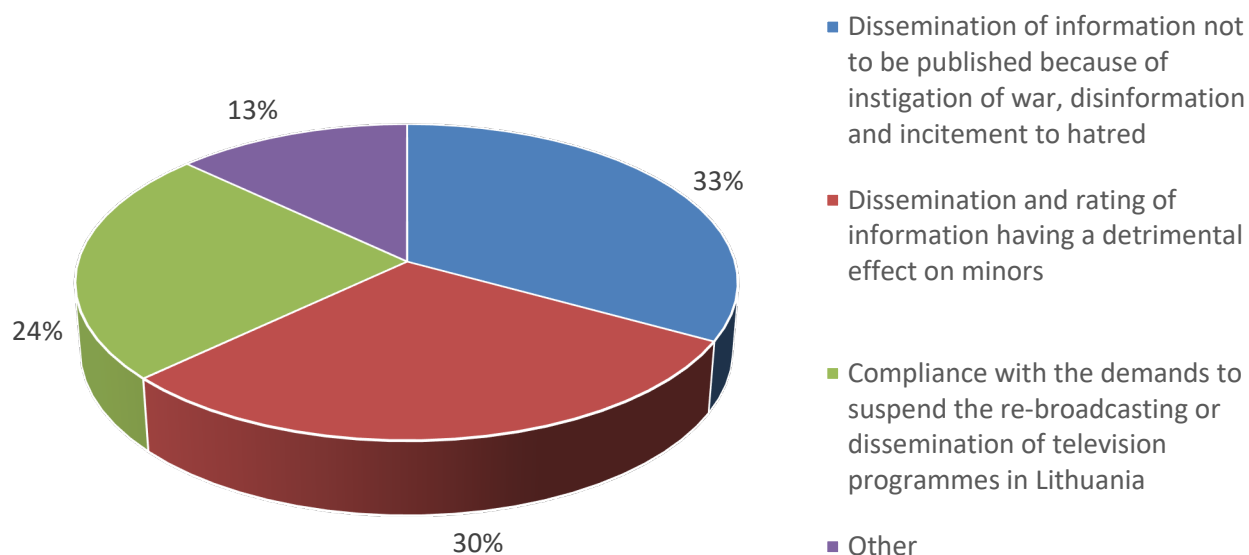
A monitoring exercise done between 2 May 2022 and 8 May 2022 has revealed that all television stations complied with the requirements for the amount of advertising and teleshopping laid down in paragraph 5(4) of Article 39 of the LPIP. The point in question stipulates that the total time of television 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 2022

In 2022, the RTCL received a total of 30 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. After the outbreak of war in Ukraine, there was a marked increase in the number of complaints relating to potential spread of disinformation in the mass media, war propaganda and incitement to hatred. Also, some of the complaints were on the topic of RTCL decisions to suspend the free reception in Lithuania of certain television programmes re-broadcast or disseminated via the Internet and compliance with the prohibition to re-broadcast or disseminated radio and television programmes laid down in paragraph 2<sup>1</sup> of Article 34<sup>1</sup> of the LPIP (**Figure 14**).

*Figure 14. Complaints received in 2022.*

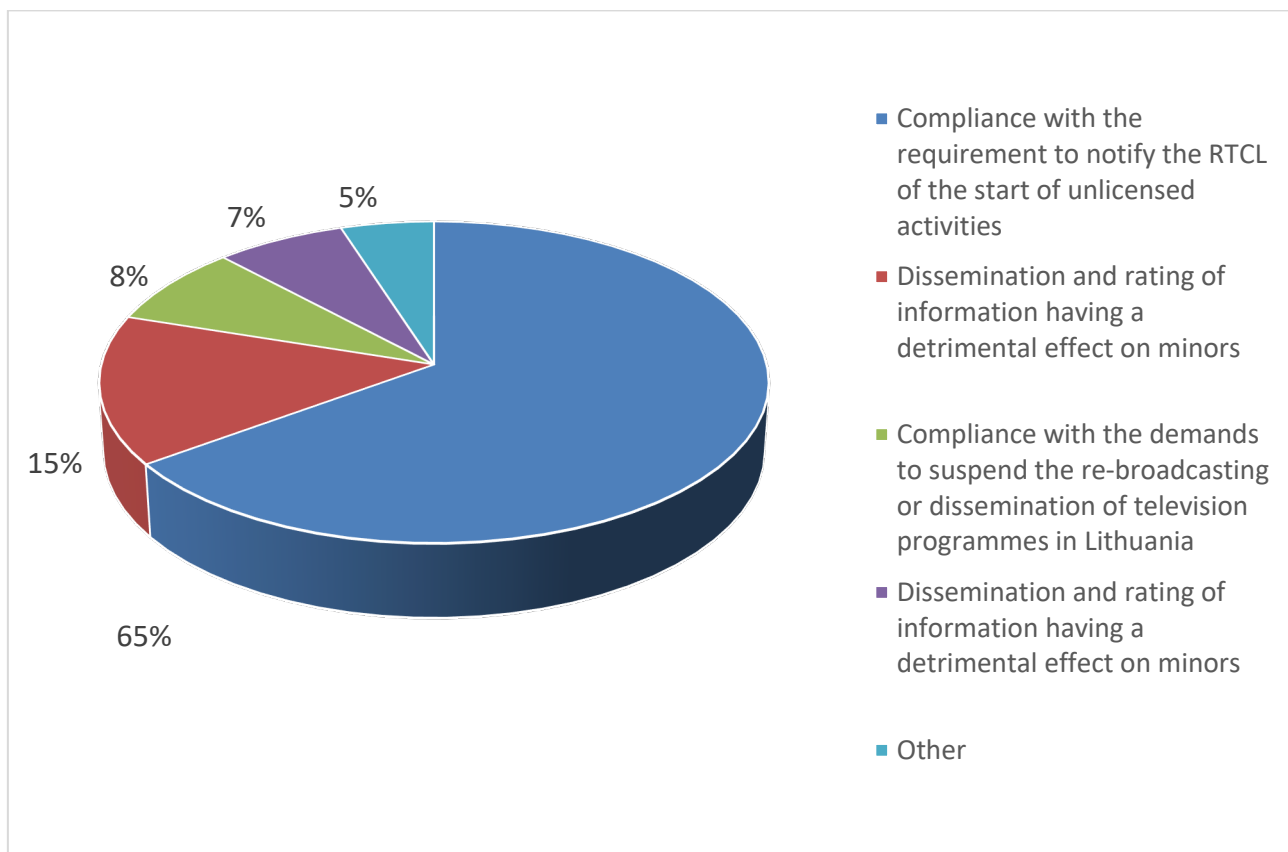


Each complaint was examined for validity, and an investigation was carried out on the basis of the complaint. In accordance with Clause 33 of the Descriptor of the procedure for the handling of applications, complaints and notifications by individuals and customer service approved by Decision No KS-166 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.

In 2022, the RTCL carried out content monitoring on the basis of complaints received and at the initiative of the RTCL, drafting a total of 107 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 (65%) (failure to notify the RTCL of the start of activities) (paragraph 1 of Article 33 of the LPIP), others dealt with disinformation, war propaganda and incitement to hatred in television and radio programmes (paragraph 1 of Article 19 of the LPIP) (**Figure 15**).

<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 15. Monitoring reports in 2022.



### 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 60% of all consultations), dissemination and labelling of public information that might have a detrimental effect on the development of minors, also on compliance with the terms and conditions of broadcasting and/or re-broadcast content licences.

It should be noted that a significant portion of consultations to the economic operators was provided during routine and special inspections of 2022. 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 twelve newly established economic operators in 2022 about the consultancy services available from the RTCL and consultancy seminars thus contributing to the implementation of the Declaration on the First Business Year. 8 out of 12 newly established economic operators started the provision of audiovisual media services using video sharing platform YouTube.

The RTCL supported and provided consultations to the following entities that started operating in 2022:

- UAB Definė
- UAB Eltida
- VšĮ Laisvės TV
- VšĮ Nataiva
- UAB GORUVA
- Klajumas Dominykas Jonas
- Gutauskas Arnas
- MB Negyvas eteris
- VšĮ Mūsų TV
- MB Pasaulis gražus
- VšĮ Tarptautinis pilietinių iniciatyvų centras *Mūsų namai*
- VšĮ Svajoklis ir pramogos

## 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 2022, the RTCL took 66 decisions to block 89 websites,<sup>6</sup> out of which:

- 24 were publishing music works illegally;
- 3 were publishing literary works illegally; and
- 62 were publishing audiovisual works illegally.

In addition to the powers provided for in the Law on Copyright and Related Rights, the RTCL regularly communicated with international financial platforms, including PayPal, Stripe, Selly regarding copyright infringements and termination of services to persons engaged in infringing activities. For the purpose of terminating card payments, the RTCL also notified payment card

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<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>].



providers, e.g., VISA and Mastercard, on financial restrictive measures imposed on payment card holders.

On 24 March 2022, 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 protection of copyright and related rights, improving upon the monitoring and oversight tools and mobilising institutional and other stakeholders in the fight against infringing activities and piracy online. Andrius Katinas, Head of the RTCL's Division of Economic Operator Supervision, shared findings of a survey<sup>7</sup> on the extent of digital piracy in Lithuania between 2019 and 2022, showing that the measures applied to enforce copyright protection online do bear fruit. Beatričė Ceizarienė, Elena Ruikytė and Karolis Vyčius, project leads for *the Project Create for Lithuania*, gave two presentations, i.e., Challenges and Opportunities of Promoting Legal Digital Content Consumption and Antipiracy, and Developing Tools to Manage Threats by Malicious Websites. The presentations described the profile of a Lithuanian 'pirate' and outlined potential technical measures that would provide for more efficient enforcement of RTCL decisions. Other active participants in the discussion were representatives of the Ministry of Culture, LATGA, AGATA, Centre for the Protection of Intellectual Property, and other organisations involved in copyright protection.

On 27 July 2022, the RTCL also hosted a meeting aimed at discussing the technical possibilities of how to prevent the appearance of infringing content online more effectively.

The meeting was attended by Lithuanian Telecom Operator Associations, representatives of Telia Lietuva, Bitė Lietuva, Cgates, BALTICUM TV, and Init. Discussion of the technical options available in combating infringing content distribution online highlighted the desire to have a system of measures that would be more effective in searching for illegal content and addresses of its distributors, also would make finding illegal content more difficult in search engines, and possibly to test the possibility of blocking IP (*Internet Protocol*). Moreover, attention was drawn to the need for closer cooperation between the RTCL and telecom service providers in the legislative process and in the process of developing mechanisms as well as information sharing on identified cases of illegal content distribution.

In November of 2022, in an effort to strengthen cooperation with Google, the RTCL reached an agreement with the said company regarding the removal from Google search results of websites that publish copyrighted content illegally. The RTCL will share court-sanctioned decisions regarding these websites, asking the removal of the websites according to the Google's processes. This means that no domain names of websites blocked by RTCL decisions or of mirror websites will be shown to consumers on the Google search platform. The RTCL stresses that the removal of unique addresses of websites (*URL, Uniform Resource Locator*) that provide access to concrete copyrighted works illegally from Google search results had started even earlier. The RTCL also draws the attention to the fact that the said websites use other Google services to commercialise their illegal activities therefore once they are removed from Google search results, managers and administrators of these websites will have limited options to profit from infringing content.

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<sup>7</sup> Survey of visitor traffic to RTCL-blocked websites between 2019 and 2021  
[[https://www.rtk.lt/uploads/documents/files/2021%2012%2030%20LRTK%20piratiniu%CC%A8%20svetainiu%CC%A8%20tyrimas%202019%20m\\_2021%20m.pdf](https://www.rtk.lt/uploads/documents/files/2021%2012%2030%20LRTK%20piratiniu%CC%A8%20svetainiu%CC%A8%20tyrimas%202019%20m_2021%20m.pdf)].



In December of 2022, the RTCL became part of, in the capacity of an expert, a memorandum of understanding between the Association of Ukrainian Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (ULIE) and the Lithuanian Digital Technology Sector Association aiming to enhance understanding of the value of legal digital content, combat piracy, and enforce the protection of copyright and intellectual property rights.<sup>8</sup>

## PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL WORK

In the reporting year, the RTCL continued international cooperation efforts both in live and virtual meetings.

Representatives of the RTCL participated in two live conferences of **EPRA**.<sup>9</sup> EPRA is the oldest and the biggest network of regulators of audiovisual media services in Europe. EPRA is the ideal platform for information sharing and exchange of best practices in this field in Europe. The European Commission, European Council, European Audiovisual Observatory and OSCE are observers in this organisation. During conferences, their representatives share the latest information, working documents and guidelines on the most relevant matters of regulation.

The 55th EPRA conference in Antwerp, hosted by the Flemish Regulatory Authority for the Media – VRM, was attended by around 160 delegates representing 52 EPRA institutional members (including the National Council of Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine), by permanent observers and invited media experts, who all had gathered to discuss key media regulation matters and topics, i.e., Minors and Advertising; Challenges of Independent Regulators in the Digital Environment; The Problem of Freedom of the Media and Disinformation in Conflicts; Vlogger Regulation, etc.

The 56th EPRA conference took place in Antalya and was hosted by RTÜK – the Turkish Supreme Council of Radio and Television. The conference was attended by around 150 delegates representing 45 institutional members of the organisation, by permanent observers and invited media experts to discuss the topical issues of audiovisual media regulation in Europe, continue discussions on the topics started in Antwerp. The RTCL presented the challenges of regulating vloggers in Lithuania.

In the reporting year, the RTCL participated in over 20 plenary, subgroup and contact network meetings as well as seminars organised by **ERGA**<sup>10</sup> on the topic of consistent implementation and enforcement of the AVMSD system, influence of the third-party controlled media, means to fight propaganda, etc. Almost all work in 2022 carried out by ERGA was done remotely.

At the invitation of the RTCL, the Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian audiovisual media regulators met in Vilnius on 16 September 2022.

During the meeting, the regulators discussed the most relevant topics for the three Baltic regulators, namely, ways to prevent the spread of Russian propaganda and disinformation in the Baltic States, fight against piracy and copyright infringements online, also challenges of regulating new audiovisual media market players, i.e., on-demand video service providers and video sharing platforms, in the context of media convergence, important legislative changes, etc.

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<sup>8</sup> Ukrainian creatives: Fighting for legal digital content means fighting for Ukrainian culture and independence [<https://www.lrytas.lt/it/ismanyk/2022/12/14/news/ukrainos-kurybininkai-kova-uz-legalu-skaitmenini-turini-tai-kova-ir-uz-ukrainos-kultura-bei-salies-nepriklausomybe-25490159>]

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.epra.org/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/european-regulators-group-audiovisual-media-services-erga>

A lot of attention was given to the discussion as to how the three Baltic regulators could cooperate further in support of the Ukrainian media promoting the distribution of Ukrainian television programmes as well as reliable Russian-language media programmes in the three Baltic States and more widely in Europe.

Discussing the most pressing regulatory questions in the audiovisual media sector is highly useful, as the three national regulators face similar challenges in their work which can be addressed easier through sharing knowledge and experience. Moreover, experience has shown that only by working together that the common goals can be achieved, ideas heard, attention drawn to the damage that the authoritarian regime-controlled media can do and the influence it can have, legal measures can be enforced to protect the information space of one's country and to ensure national security. Therefore, these meetings are very meaningful and productive.

Meetings of the three regulators in the Baltic States have traditionally been hosted each year at the initiative of one of the regulators. The next meeting is scheduled to take place in Riga in 2023.

In 2022, the RTCL signed three new cooperation agreements with foreign counterparts, specifically, with the regulators of Armenia, Georgia and Catalonia in Spain, in the area of audiovisual media services regulation.

In the framework of a cooperation agreement signed with the Council for the Coordination of Audiovisual Media Services of Moldova in 2018, the RTCL hosted a visit of the regulator's delegation. The newly formed Audiovisual Media Council of Moldova seeks to follow the example of EU Member States in shaping its operational principles and future legislation to regulate the audiovisual media sector, making the experience of the RTCL valuable for them in improving their foundations of operations. During the meeting, colleagues from Moldova were interested in the principles of formation and competences of the RTCL, procedure of decision making and decision validation, and different aspects of the regulation of audiovisual media service providers.



## **COMPETITION OF THE BEST IN RADIO AND TELEVISION *PRAGIEDRULIAI***

The award ceremony of all winners in the competition of the best in radio and television *Pragiedruliai* took place in Vaidila Theatre on 21 April 2022.

On 11 April 2022, the jury of *Pragiedruliai* chose the nominees and winners of the twentieth competition. The competition awarded the best radio and television shows aired for the first time in 2021.

In 2022, the special prize of the RTCL's Chairman went to Natalia Nagorna, news journalist for Ukrainian television channel Studio 1 + 1 and TSN and a war correspondent for the best reporting on events in Ukraine.

The jury, consisting of members of the RTCL, listened to and watched 154 submissions in the competition.

The jury was composed of the following members of the RTCL: actor and chairman of the jury Ramutis Rimeikis; PR expert Ričardas Slapšys; associated professor at Vytautas Magnus University Aurelijus Zykas; political analyst and professor at Vytautas Magnus University Lauras Bielinis;

strategic communication expert Audronė Nugaraitė; painter Edita Utarienė; director Arūnas Matelis; journalist Vytautas Kvietkauskas; journalist Darius Chmieliauskas; lecturer at Vytautas Magnus University Valdas Kilpys.

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

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

50 radio shows and 104 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 2021:

#### **BEST RADIO PROGRAMME**

***Toks gyvenimas su Zita Kelmickaite. Dainininkė Veronika Povilionienė, author Zita Kelmickaitė;*** aired on LRT RADIJAS.

#### Nominees

***Radijo dokumentika. Negaliu tylėti. Baltarusių istorijos, 1-oji dalis,*** author Vita Ličytė; aired on LRT RADIJAS.

***Radijo gidas „Pajūriais, pamariais...“ 2021-05-29,*** author Sigutis Jačėnas; aired on Žinių radijas.

#### **BEST REGIONAL RADIO SHOW**

***Jaunimo kodas: pornografija – kodėl tai destruktivu?,*** author Lukas Valeika; aired on XFM.

#### Nominees

***Mano vardas meilė 2021-10-13,*** author Akvilė Bašė; aired on XFM.

***„Ekskursas 2.0“ 5 laida,*** authors: Julija Činčytė, Algimantas Grigas, Indrė Urbelytė, Eglė Urmanavičiūtė; aired on Extra FM.

#### **BEST TELEVISION PROGRAMME OF 2021**

***Cycle Triumfo kelias. Jonas Karolis Chodkevičius,*** authors: Edmundas Jakilaitis, dr. Genutė Kirkienė, dr. Kęstutis Kilinskas, prof. Alfredas Bumblauskas, Agnė Verksnytė-Paulauskienė, Robertas Razma, Andrius Lygnugaris, Iveta Baltrušaitytė, Gintautas Vasiliauskas, Karolis Kalvaitis, Vaidas Ažubalis, Mindaugas Strimaitis, Donatas Žvirblis, Kristina Mališauskienė, Tomas Jokūbas Baranauskas, Marijus Stašinskas, Gediminas Orentas, Vytautas Vilimas, aired on LRT TELEVIZIJA.

#### Nominees

***Cycle Bėgliai,*** authors: Paulius Kaupelis, Saulius Bartkus, Laimonas Tranas, Andrius Bartkus, Arnoldas Plepys; aired on LRT TELEVIZIJA.

***Postas aušroje,*** authors: Andrius Lygnugaris, Lina Antanavičiūtė, Valdonė Ovadnevienė, Vaidas Ažubalis, Dalius Kalinauskas, Žilvinas Dobilas, Neringa Keršulytė, Edmundas Jakilaitis; aired on LRT TELEVIZIJA.

#### **BEST REGIONAL TELEVISION PROGRAMME**

***Kai kalba lėlės,*** authors: Asta Liucė, Ignas Žvinakis, Vytas Jankevičius, Tatjana Ponikarčuk; aired on Marijampolės TV.

#### Nominees

**180° kampu. Frančeska**, authors: Marija Martinaitienė, Haroldas Klevinskas, Aleksas Matvejevas; aired on Roventos TV.

**Laisvės keliu**, authors: Daina Čiginskienė and Edvinas Dainauskas; aired on AlytusPlius.lt.

#### **BEST TELEVISION PORTRAIT OF 2021**

Cycle **Nematomos gijos**, authors: **Ingrida Laimutytė, Ginta Liaugminienė, Aleksas Matvejevas, Haroldas Klevinskas**; aired on Lietuvos rytas.tv.

#### Nominees

**Legendos. Šiandien ir visados. Mikrochirurgas Kęstutis Vitkus**, authors: Aistė Stonytė - Budzinauskienė, Česlovas Stonys, Audrius Stonys, Janina Sabeckienė; aired on LRT PLIUS.

**Pupų laukas**, authors: Algimantas Mikutėnas, Juozas Budraitis, Algimantas Armonas; aired on Šiaulių televizija.

#### **BEST TELEVISION PROGRAMME PROMOTING THE LIFE OF ETHNIC COMMUNITIES**

**Ištikimybės žiedas**, authors **Edita Mildažytė and Saulius Pilinkus**; aired on LRT TELEVIZIJA.

#### Nominees

**Menora**, authors: Lilija Kopač, Donatas Valančiauskas, Vincas Kubilius, Anatolijus Tetiušinas, Danielius Karakorskis; aired on LRT PLIUS.

Cycle **Talaka**, authors: Maksimas Milta and Martina Jablonskytė – Gelucevičienė; aired on LRT PLIUS.

**SPECIAL DIPLOMA OF PRAGIEDRULIAI ESTABLISHED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE RTCL RIMANTAS BAGDZEVIČIUS WENT TO Ukrainian television programme *Mariupolis – koks jis buvo ir kokiu jis tapo (Mariupol – the way it was and what it has become)* by Natalia Nagorna, 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 90% of the assessment criteria in 2022.

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.