



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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## **AUDIOVISUAL MEDIA AUTHORITY CHAIRPERSON MESSAGE**

**Honorable Mr. Speaker of Albanian Parliament,**

**Honorable members of the Parliamentary Committee for Education and Means of Public Information,**

**Honorable Members of the Albanian Parliament,**

Everyone and everything, including audio and audiovisual broadcasting in our country, had a very unusual year in 2020. The global COVID-19 pandemic has had an effect on the output of audiovisual media service providers (AMSPs), broadcast content structure and catalog, human resources, and economic and financial indicators, with a substantial drop in revenue from advertising and promotion, among other things.

The Audiovisual Media Authority (AMA) was active in sensitive issues directly related to COVID-19 implications, such as promoting and educating AMSPs to work with the public health authority in broadcasting information to citizens and institutions about coronavirus prevention, protection measures and protocols, and infection case care. AMSP's response was timely and effective, in compliance with legal requirements, by broadcasting information prepared by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection several times a day, in addition to engaging editorial offices in intensive information on the country's epidemiological situation and clarification of never-before-seen phenomena.

Not only did AMA interrupt or minimize its institutional engagement in this extraordinary situation, but it also focused its decision-making on the social dimension. The Audiovisual Media Authority continued to work on projects with media partners, institutions, and organizations and signed agreements with the Ministry of Culture to help joint audiovisual projects and young creators in promoting our cultural heritage. AMA also formed ties with the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination in order to improve interinstitutional cooperation in the field of audio and audiovisual services. In addition, in response to the harmful effects of COVID -19, AMA chose not to collect late payment penalties for obligations paid by AMSPs. In 2021, the Authority will assess how it can further alleviate financial obligations in the audio and audiovisual market's most impacted sectors.

AMSP's editorial offices took responsible and thorough measures to protect the health of their staff both within and outside the workplace, as well as to adhere to rules regarding the number and distance of guests in various audiovisual programs, with a focus on remote communication through live or recorded virtual meetings.

2020 will be remembered as the year when analog broadcasting was terminated across the country. Despite the extraordinary circumstances resulting from COVID-19's rapid spread, the strategic process of digitalizing audiovisual broadcasting was completed. Citizens in 12 regions of the country benefited the most from the switchover from analog to numeric broadcasting: they now have access to high-quality services, diverse content, and a plethora of free channels. In comparison to other countries in the region, the supply, which ranges from 28 to 39 free channels, has a significant positive effect.

By alternating face-to-face and online meetings, AMA was able to keep up with its decision-making, responding to audio and audiovisual market demands, reviewing and approving licenses and authorizations, amending and improving sublegal acts, communicating and cooperating with public and private institutions to handle and resolve joint issues, and reporting to the Parliament of the Republic of Albania on a regular basis.

COVID-19 did not prohibit AMA from working on projects with partners, concentrating on synergy to research the audiovisual market in Albania and other countries' models; translate the best publications in the sector into Albanian; and train AMSPs staff, among other things. In light of these circumstances, AMA convened a series of virtual panels with AMSPs' representatives, experts in the field, and other stakeholders to share their perspectives, evaluations, and recommendations for reporting on child protection, media education, and the prevention of hate speech and discrimination, among other topics.

By presenting specific aspects, examples, and data, this annual report provides systematic and comprehensive information on the dynamic of AMA's commitments during 2020. The report is focused on institutional objectives and roles, as well as issues and challenges faced by the Authority in its position and mission as a regulator of audio and audiovisual broadcasting in our country, in line with the legal framework in place.

Thank you for taking the time to read this!

## INTRODUCTION

In accordance with AMA's duties and functions set out under Law No. 97/2013, the Strategy of Analog to Numeric Broadcasting Switchover, and under the recommendations of the European Union and the Albanian Parliament, over the course of 2020, AMA worked to the fullest on the regulation, support, and promotion of a responsible and high-quality audiovisual market in the interest of Albanian society.

The COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc on the audio and audiovisual broadcasting market. Since the beginning of March 2020 and onwards, following the Council of Ministers' Decision (No. 243, dated 24.03.2020 “On Declaring the Natural Disaster State”), AMA has focused on the following two areas:

- AMSPs' implementation of Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania,” as amended, in particular, Article 34 on information broadcast without compensation, as well as provisions of the Regulation authorized by AMA Decision No. 76, dated 04.04.2016, in particular, Article 6, paragraph 4 on the same subject;
- implementation of Ministry of Health measures and protocols to prevent COVID-19 from spreading to staff working in editorial offices and recording and broadcasting studios, as well as limiting public participation in live or recorded audiovisual programs.

Under unprecedented circumstances, all AMSPs have shown their ability to broadcast health authority announcements for free as part of a public information and awareness raising campaign, directly affecting how COVID-19 consequences are dealt with. Throughout the pandemic, the reporters, editors, and moderators of AMSP's editorial offices have consistently given updates on the country's epidemiological situation, as well as discussed and reviewed various aspects of the current situation and challenges raised by COVID-19.

AMSPs demonstrated their awareness and timely response to the health authority's instructions by implementing measures and protocols such as maintaining a safe distance, using protective masks and sanitizers within and outside editorial offices, and limiting the number of participants inside broadcasting or recording studios.

AMA drew the attention of the subjects in three situations where health authorities' requests for the number of participants in a TV studio were not followed.

In order to assist the audiovisual market, whose operation was particularly and directly disrupted and impacted by the natural disaster (earthquake) on November 26, 2019, AMA considered the aggravated situation and the implications experienced by authorized subjects in Durrës regions in providing services and continuing their business operations, and ruled Decision No. 13, dated 20.02.2020 “*On Approving the Payment in Installments of the 2020 Financial Obligations of the*

*Subjects Authorized to Relay Audiovisual Program Services supported by the Cable Network and IPTV in the Durrës Region”.*

With this decision, AMA has allowed the subjects that it authorized for IPTV repeaters and relay of audiovisual program services supported by the cable network to pay their 2020 financial obligations in 4 (four) instalments, with a deadline extension from March 31 to December 21, 2020, without incurring late payment penalties.

Further, AMA decided to alleviate/financially support AMSPs (its authorized/licensed subjects) by ruling Decision No. 32, dated 04.05.2020 *“On extending the late payment penalties application deadline on annual payments for license/authorization for 2020 until June 30, 2020”*, by deferring the annual license/authorization payment deadline from March 31 to June 30, 2020, without incurring late payment penalties. (without prejudice to the authorized subjects of Decision No. 13, dated 20.02.2020).

COVID-19 had an effect on the digitalization of audiovisual broadcasting as well. Due to restrictions imposed by the pandemic, the need to prevent crowding in decoder sales points, and other factors, AMA extended the deadlines set for 2020. Regardless, the digitalization process was successfully completed by December 30, 2020.

The digitalization of audiovisual broadcasting is regarded as one of the most significant accomplishments in the field of media, with multiple and tangible benefits for the Albanian public. Some of these benefits include an increase in the number of free TV channels, improved service quality, enhanced interoperability, and a wider variety of new services. This accomplishment is primarily attributed to the regulatory authority, which played a critical role in overseeing the process and maintaining the continuity of television broadcasting during this challenging transition time, as well as ensuring terrestrial numeric signal coverage and broadcasting quality that met international standards.

AMA continued to coordinate its work with audiovisual operators in the market during 2020, conducting on-site monitoring, a citizens' information campaign, assisting citizens and conducting surveys via its call center to determine if they had received decoders. Albanian citizens can now watch over 30 free television channels in every region of the country.

The sole technology that ensures a wider coverage of the territory by allowing people to receive continuous updates on pandemic preventive measures, by going “door to door”, during 2020, was digital terrestrial broadcasting technology.

Concerning administrative tasks, AMA continued, notwithstanding the pandemic, the exercise of its competences and functions in compliance with the organic law in relation to matters within its scope

of activity, and the evaluation of requests for license/authorization, such as rulings, the review of requests to the Authority, and continuity of various administrative procedures.

In January 2020, AMA adopted the Regulation “On Criteria and Procedures for Granting Audiovisual Program Service Licenses”, which defines the criteria and procedures for granting local or regional audiovisual program service licenses. In line with this act, AMA conducted procedures and provided licenses for local or regional audiovisual program service for the first time in 2020, following the entry into force of the organic legislation.

AMA held remote online meetings during the emergency state, following the provisions of Normative Act No. 3 of the Council of Ministers, dated 15.03.2020 “On extraordinary administrative measures during the infection period caused by COVID - 19”.

Moreover, following the initiative of the Albanian Parliament, announced through a letter dated April 4, 2020, administered by AMA with Protocol No. 1035, dated 06.04.2020, joined the initiative of providing financial contribution in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, by halving the monthly salary of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson for three months, starting from April 2020.

Following the work organization to ensure functioning, continuity, and adequate conditions to reduce COVID-19 spread, the Audiovisual Media Authority (AMA) approved “Regulation on taking organizational measures for the operations of the Audiovisual Media Authority during the COVID-19 pandemic” on June 1, 2020. This regulation established guidelines and basic operating procedures in line with the Public Health Institute and the World Health Organization's pandemic instructions.

Topical reviews and monitoring of AMSP-broadcast audiovisual content in 2020 centered on child protection from harmful content, advertising on carbonated beverages with added sugar, and COVID-19 protective measures for audiovisual editorial staff, as well as programs dedicated to the pandemic dynamic, hate speech, and discrimination. Ten cases were found to have violated the legal framework, and the AMSPs involved were reprimanded. Under the provisions of Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania,” as amended, and the requirements of the Public Broadcaster Service Contract, in 2020, AMA conducted two assessments and reviews on the performance of RTSH in developing the programming package for its channels, submitting findings and conclusions in both cases to management and Steering Council of the institution.

In addition, AMA hosted two virtual discussion panels on child protection. The panels on “Advertisements with Children for Children” and “Children and Media Literacy” enabled AMSPs members, experts in the field, public institutions, and civil society to share their perspectives and ideas on minors' protection from harmful content, as well as child and youth participation in the media education process by including it in school curricula.



Science conferences on the audiovisual market dynamics in our country were also held in 2020. In collaboration with the Department of Journalism and Communication at the University of Tirana's Faculty of History and Philology, AMA held a science conference titled “News Quality of Albanian Television Broadcasters,” presenting a wealth of monitoring and evaluation material on the product of national and regional AMSPs' newscasts, based on news spread, relevance, geographical distribution, diversity, multimediality, objectiveness, reporting genre, and duration, among other things. Furthermore, the library has been enriched as a result of the collaboration and synergy between AMA and subjects working in the field of media and communication, with the publication of Carole Rich's “Writing and Reporting News – A Coaching Method” in Albanian for AMSP's editorial offices, students and lecturers of journalism, and other interested parties. The 6<sup>th</sup> Edition of AMA Periodic Bulletin was published in 2020, with a compilation of economic and financial, substantive, technical and technological, as well as human resource indicators for 2019.

In view of the frequency planning and management, AMA performs periodic monitoring of the audio/audiovisual spectrum use. On-site monitoring increased in 2020, owing in part to the digitalization process adoption.

In terms of observing the right to broadcasting, on-site inspections at cable subjects/IPTV and OTT were reduced in 2020 in comparison to previous years. However, we have professionally handled all complaints received from audiovisual service production subjects. All required on-site inspections have been completed, and where breaches have been detected, all necessary actions have been taken per applicable legislation.

In 2020, AMA entered into three cooperation agreements, the operating facets of which were relevant to the Authority's scope of action, intending to build spaces and alleviate work coordination forms, as recommended by the Parliament of the Republic of Albania.

Cooperation with Kosovo's audio and audiovisual broadcasting regulatory authority (Independent Media Commission, IMC) in 2020 focused on opportunities for sharing of information between the two regulatory authorities, as well as timely and competent management and resolution of problems and complaints raised by citizens and institutions in both countries. As a tangible step toward virtual communication and public promotion of their operations, in both countries, the two regulatory authorities published each other's links on their respective websites in 2020.

AMA and IMC have the energy and space to intensify knowledge and experience sharing, based on the practices of regulatory authorities in EU member states, as they switch from analog to numeric broadcasting and develop new technological applications. Albania's legal and sublegal framework on the digitalization of audiovisual broadcasting serves as a model for legal experts from AMA and IMC to respond to the specific circumstances of the procedure in the Republic of Kosovo.

In 2020, AMA maintained contact with its counterpart in the framework of participating in European or regional audiovisual media organizations such as EPRA, ERGA, BRAF, MNRA, REFRAM, and others. In 2020, AMA representatives attended 38 conferences, meetings and workshops, the majority of which were held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

AMA's human resource management policy for the reporting year stressed professionalism, outcomes, and transparent services, laying the groundwork for a dynamic administration of everyday work and future goal achievement.

Despite the pandemic, the Audiovisual Media Authority's (AMA) Complaint Council reflected on its priorities in 2020, which included child protection from inappropriate audiovisual broadcasting, in addition to its regular operational duties.

Individuals, civil society organizations, public and private institutions, and others filed over 120 complaints with AMA last year. A large number of them were sent to AMA via e-mail, especially after March 2020, when the country was subjected to strict restrictions in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

When comparing complaints since the establishment of the Complaints Council in April 2016, it was found that the largest number of complaints were handled in 2020. The growing number of complaints, according to AMA, illustrates the fact that individuals, numerous civil society organizations, public and private institutions, and others now have an open and integrated window to express and resolve their concerns about audiovisual content. On the other hand, audiovisual broadcasting for and involving children has massively enhanced, and AMSPs have positively and quickly responded when minors have been the focus of their broadcasting.

## 1. AUTHORITY STRATEGY

AMA began working on the institution's new Strategy 2020-2022 at the beginning of 2020.

The Authority considered it appropriate to expand the institution's Strategy execution for 2021-2023 due to the unprecedented difficulties and challenges faced by the audiovisual sector as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A thorough review of recent progress, as well as planning for future challenges, was associated with the development of this plan. In all areas, positive progress has been made in recent years, but there is always room for growth. One of AMA's key priorities remains the regulation of audiovisual media activities.

The effect and implications of the pandemic's obstacles and concerns are expressed in AMA's Strategy for 2021-2023.

Activities that, above all, ensure sustainable development, have been conceived, planned, and adapted in this unprecedented situation. As a result, we have revised our action plan in light of the COVID-19 pandemic following the public consultation.

The Authority Council endorsed the Authority's Strategy and Action Plan through Decision No. 94, dated 14.10.2020.

The Authority's Action Plan is focused on the status of achieving 2017-2019 objectives, and it further defines strategic objectives for 2021-2023, taking into account the fact that certain objectives are extended when they align with the Authority's ongoing operating processes as a result of new changes or legal framework amendments and addenda.

The Authority's strategic goals, which will span the Strategy's three-year term, include some specific strategic objectives related to:

1. Ensuring and fostering diversity and pluralism;
2. Increasing the effectiveness and quality of oversight and regulation;
3. Proactive approach to responsible audiovisual broadcasting; *and*
4. Capacity building and good governance.

## **2. IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED IN THE PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION FOR THE ANNUAL AUTHORITY REPORT 2019**

- 1) Due diligence should be given to the process of terminating analog broadcasting with the current AMA deadline of June 30, 2020, for Elbasan, Shkodra, Lezha, and Vlora regions, so that the citizens of these regions are prepared and well-informed. Moreover, the citizens' information campaign should be continued in the relevant regions before the digitalization process is fully completed. This campaign should provide practical information, simple language, concrete examples and photographs of the technology to be used, and it should be stressed that the DVB-T2 decoder market is open, and decoders can be purchased at any electronic device sales point.***

The following operations were carried out in accordance with AMA Decision No. 23, dated 26.03.2020, on the termination of analog broadcasting in the Elbasan, Shkodra, Lezha, and Vlora regions on June 30, 2020:

- Local/regional and national operators have been in contact on a regular basis, requiring them to take measures to meet this obligation by the deadline (Letters with Protocol No. 1454/1455/1456/1457/1458/1459, dated 09.06.2020, Protocol No. 1465, dated 10.06.2020);
- The monitoring team was established to check the situation on-site regarding the installation of the national private numeric operators infrastructure, as well as whether local/regional operators are supported in national networks.
- Advertising spots were used to carry out the public information campaign.

AMA issued Decision No. 40, dated 13.05.2020, amending/reallocating funds of Decision No. 183, dated 19.12.2019, “On the Adoption of the 2020 Draft Budget,” as amended, in order to continue the campaign. A campaign was held on national and local television and radio stations (Shkodra, Lezha, Elbasan, and Vlora regions) for 35 days, from May 26 to June 29, 2020, following DCM No. 292, dated 02.05.2012, “On Approving the Strategy of Analog to Numeric Broadcasting Switchover.” AMA’s official website [www.ama.gov.al](http://www.ama.gov.al), and Facebook page also featured advertisements about the digitalization process.

In response to our letters to national operators, “TV Klan” JSC. company stressed in a letter with Protocol No. 1471 dated 11.06.2020 that the termination of analog broadcasting in four regions has been intensified and is unlikely because not all national numeric operators have installed digital infrastructure. Furthermore, monitoring in the four regions revealed that national private operators have yet to complete numeric infrastructure.

Local/regional operators in the four regions had not supported their program on the RTSH network or any other national private numeric network, according to the monitoring.

Citizens submitted complaints to AMA about people gathering at post offices or other sales points to purchase decoders. They demanded that the switch-off of analog signals be postponed until a more suitable period.

In conclusion, taking into account the COVID-19 situation, the fact that not all subjects had fully installed numeric infrastructure, people gatherings that could lead to COVID-19 spread had to be avoided, and the fact that television subjects played an important role in informing and bringing awareness to the population, and measures needed to be taken to prevent infection, AMA's Council issued Decision No. 51, dated 29.06.2020, extending analog broadcasting termination until September 30, 2020 in Shkodra, Lezha, Vlora and Elbasan regions.

AMA increased its operations, coordination with local/regional and national operators in the four regions, on-site monitoring, and it continued the public information campaign by airing spots on national and local television and radio stations in the Shkodra, Lezha, Elbasan, and Vlora regions from June 30 to September 30, 2020.

On September 15, 2020, a meeting with local operators from Shkodra and Lezha regions was held, followed by a meeting with local operators from the Elbasan region on September 17, 2020, and another meeting with operators from Vlora region on September 22, 2020. The meetings focused on discussing the analog broadcasting termination date and informing operators on financial incentives for the first 6.46 months of parting in one of the national networks, as outlined in Law No. 34/2017.

Furthermore, on September 14, 2020, a letter with Protocol No. 2577 was sent to all major commercial subjects selling DVB-T2 decoders around the country, requesting that proper measures be taken to supply decoders to sales points in regions where the digitalization process was to be completed by September 30, 2020.

AMA has undertaken a call center survey by making telephone calls to landline numbers to find out if the decoders had been delivered to the regions of Shkodra, Lezha, Elbasan and Vlora. The survey began on September 1st, and a total of 900 telephone calls were made (300 to Elbasan, 200 to Lezha, 200 to Shkodra, and 200 to Vlora). The phone calls showed that people were briefed on the digitalization process, and the majority of them had been provided with decoders.

Concerning the public information campaign, under the Parliament's recommendation to continue the campaign in the four regions until the complete termination of the digitalization process, and in compliance with the Strategy on Analog to Numeric Broadcasting Switchover, AMA issued Decision No. 54, dated 05.08.2020, amending/reallocating funds from Decision No. 183, dated 19.12.2019, "On the Adoption of the 2020 Draft Budget," as amended, to extend the campaign for 35 days, from

August 26 to September 29, 2020. AMA's official website [www.ama.gov.al](http://www.ama.gov.al) and Facebook page also featured advertisements about the digitalization process.

As a result of AMA activities, analog broadcasting in the Shkodra, Lezha, Vlora, and Elbasan regions was terminated on September 30, 2020, bringing the total number of regions where the digitalization process is complete to nine. The process went off without a hitch.

AMA tracked analog broadcasting termination in the above regions on-site in order to assess the situation and prevent future problems. Checks revealed that all local/regional and national operators in these regions switched off analog broadcasting on time. Furthermore, multiple decoder sale points were inspected to see whether people were standing in queues or if the market was in need of decoders, and it was revealed that the situation was orderly and that all major sales points had decoders in store.

AMA continued to financially compensate existing local/regional analog operators supported by the RTSH numeric network or other numeric networks licensed according to the law on audiovisual media in 2020 for allotments in Berat, Korça, Fier, Tirana (Tirana - Durrës regions), Shkodra, Lezha, Elbasan, and Vlora, which met legal requirements up to 53,87 percent of payments made.

***2) Cooperation with market audiovisual operators and relevant institutions should continue for the purpose of terminating analog broadcasting in the remaining regions of the country, with the Albanian Parliament being kept up to date on deadlines, actions taken, and the progress of this critical process until it is completed.***

In order to complete the digitalization process, AMA proceeded to terminate analog broadcasting in the three remaining regions, namely Kukës, Dibra, and Gjirokastra, immediately after terminating analog broadcasting in Shkodra, Lezha, Elbasan, and Vlora on September 30, 2020.

The following activities were carried out by AMA under this framework:

- Coordination/collaboration with national numeric operators to complete infrastructure installation in the three regions;
- Coordination of regional/local service providers in order to support their program on one of the national networks;
- Continuation of the information campaign in Kukës, Dibra and Gjirokastra regions;
- Continuous monitoring to ensure that all regions have enough numeric signal coverage;
- Public information campaign for 35 days.

AMA formally notified audiovisual operators with a national and local license in Kukës, Dibra, and Gjirokastra regions regarding the analog broadcasting termination in these regions via letters with

Protocol No. 3458 and 3460, dated 03.12.2020 and called for the appropriate steps to meet the deadline. AMA requested that national operators take measures to support local/regional operators in these regions in their networks through two second reminder letters with Protocol No. 3592 and 3597, dated 17.12.2020 and reminded them of the requirement to send to AMA the contract signed with one of the national numeric operators.

All local/regional and national operators that currently offer analog broadcasting will continue to broadcast television in the four regions in this manner. In addition to official letters, AMA held special meetings with local operators in these regions to discuss the switchover from analog to numeric broadcasting and AMA's financial compensation under Law No. 34/2017, "On Vacating the Digital-Dividend Frequency," as amended, and AMA's Decision No. 38, "On Determining Local/Regional Analog Audiovisual list Eligible for Financial Compensation," dated 07.03.2019. Subjects have been informed that they will only be compensated for 6.46 months provided they meet their legal requirements. Furthermore, AMA maintained on-site monitoring to confirm the numeric signal coverage of these regions, as well as the switchover of local/regional operators to national networks.

Concerning the public information campaign, in accordance with the Parliament's recommendation to continue the campaign until the digitalization process is fully completed, and AMA's Council Decision No. 82, dated 08.10.2020, for terminating analog broadcasting in Dibra, Gjirokastra and Kukës by December 30, 2020, the Strategy on Analog to Numeric Broadcasting Switchover, and Decision No. 83, dated 08.10.2020 "On an amendment of AMA's Decision No. 183, dated 19.12.2019, "On the Adoption of the 2020 Draft Budget," as amended, AMA conducted a 35-day public information campaign (November 25 - December 29, 2020) by airing advertising spots on televisions and radio stations. Moreover, the campaign also was promoted on AMA official website [www.ama.gov.al](http://www.ama.gov.al) and Facebook page.

In order to identify the three regions' citizens needs for DVB-T2 decoders and for information regarding the impact of the AMA public information campaign on the digitalization process, the call center carried out a 2 months survey, making phone calls to citizens in the regions of Kukës, Dibra and Gjirokastra, asking them about the digitalization process, the technology they use to access audiovisual broadcasting, and whether or not they have been equipped with decoders.

300 phone calls were made to Gjirokastra, 188 phone call to Dibra, and 226 phone calls to Kukës. IPTV and cable were the most common technologies in these regions, according to the survey (Gjirokastra 65% of the respondents; Dibra 68% of the respondents and Kukës 75% of the respondents).

The Albanian Parliament was briefed on the deadline, the actions taken, and the status of this critical process by AMA. We informed the Albanian Parliament via letter with Protocol No. 2864, dated

12.10.2020, following AMA's Council Decision No. 82, dated 08.10.2020, on terminating analog broadcasting in the Kukës, Dibra and Gjirokastra regions.

As a result of AMA's activities, analog broadcasting in Kukës, Dibra, and Gjirokastra regions were terminated on December 30, 2020, signaling the successful completion of the Republic of Albania's digitalization process.

- 3) The Albanian Parliament encouraged AMA to be proactive in creating a regulatory framework for online media and reviewing normative acts on media, whether or not they would be relevant, including for online media, in light of the emerging reality in which Internet-based media are rapidly evolving and having a significant impact on the media industry.***

The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy launched a legal initiative on some addenda and amendments to Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania,” as amended, which requires electronic publication service providers to apply our organic law, as stated in the AMA 2019 annual report.

The Audiovisual Media Authority (AMA) is the regulatory authority in the field of audio and audiovisual services, as well as other support services, and it operates under the provisions of Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania” as amended, as well as applicable legislation. The draft law “On some Addenda and Amendments to Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania,” as amended, is currently being revised, and AMA, in its capacity as the authority responsible for enforcing this law and its subsequent amendments, will be following its revision phases in order to take further administrative measures to ensure its full implementation.

Meanwhile, AMA has actively engaged in forums hosted by the OSCE and the Embassy of Hungary in Albania in collaboration with BIRN during this period.

These meetings included topics such as media law amendments and the Venice Commission's opinion on the draft law, journalists' protection and media freedom during the COVID-19 pandemic, violation of digital rights and their effect on freedom of expression and media, right to information during the COVID-19 pandemic, media self-regulation during the pandemic, and so on.

- 4) A proactive role should be taken in collaboration with related actors and factors, allowing for required legal changes in favor of improved working conditions for journalists on the one hand, and promoting a self-regulation process on the other. Both of these processes will provide positive outcomes for protecting and improving the work and social rights of Albanian journalists, a topic that has been highlighted in a number of international***



*publications (EU recommendations, Freedom House Report 2018, Reporters Without Borders, and others) as an issue that directly affects media freedom.*

In response to this recommendation, AMA convened a technical level meeting with representatives of journalist associations and the State Labor and Social Services Inspectorate (SLSSI). Representatives of journalist associations and journalism departments of public and private universities joined the meeting.

AMA sent invitations to all journalist associations, but due to the pandemic, attendance was low. The participants commended the progress made in the media market while still expressing reservations over a variety of problems that are yet to be resolved. The participants addressed existing media market issues, such as minimum wages, working conditions for all media staff, interest contracts that take precedence over work relations and result in conflicts, temporary staff, and student internships.

SLSSI representatives noted that more indications should be provided by associations and journalists. According to them, the Inspectorate recorded only 4 complaints in 2019, which is a higher number than previous years but still a small proportion as applied to media issues in general.

The need for a mechanism that brings together state institutions, the media, and journalist representatives (associations) was discussed. It was found that there is no actual trade union that represents and defends the rights of journalists.

Attendees asked AMA and SLSSI to create an incentive mechanism for drafting and entering into a collective agreement. This agreement, according to the attendees, would serve all sides as a good platform for sharing issues and avoiding personal initiatives.

Based on the agreement signed between AMA and SLSSI, both institutions are sharing information and looking for incentive mechanisms to help resolve this problem in the Albanian media market as much as possible.

Following its commitment to strengthen journalist work relations in the audio and audiovisual sector and to support the self-regulation process, AMA issued a Call for Projects in November 2020 on its official website, which included the following project: “Audiovisual Journalists' Work Relations and the Presentation of Contemporary Models,” which entailed market research on work relations in the audio and audiovisual sectors, including major issues in applying employment contracts, salaries, proposals to encourage the self-regulation process in building standardized contractual relations, and proposals on employment contract models based on EU countries, among other things.

The Call found two applicants who submitted project proposals that were not successful (failed to meet required criteria).

- 5) In addition to engaging with relevant institutions, AMA should inform and cooperate with the responsible committee of the Albanian Parliament in order to resolve pending issues and problems related to consumer protection, as well as other issues and recommendations affecting the audiovisual media area.***

In compliance with the above-mentioned recommendation, AMA has sent information about complaints they received regarding consumer rights to the Committee of Economy and Finance and the Committee for Education and Public Information Means, through Letter with Protocol No. 2590, dated 15.09.2020.

AMA entered into a cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Finance and Economy on the protection of the general interest of consumers in the audiovisual media field during the commercial practices of service provision by operators. According to the legal obligations and provisions outlined in the agreement, AMA has accordingly forwarded complaints that fall under the competence of the Consumer Protection Committee (CPC) to the latter.

One of the cases forwarded to this body is related to complaints regarding lack of signal from the national television “TV Klan” and “TV Klan Plus” on the private satellite platform “Digit-Alb”. This case was initiated in August 2019.

Despite AMA's continuous letter correspondence and exceeding deadlines about handling complaints (CPC provided a response where did not address the case but requested information and additional data in December 2019 once again), AMA reviewed that contract signed by “Digit-Alb” with its subscribers.

Upon reviewing the contract signed with subscribers, it was found that contracting terms stipulated that “Digit-Alb” may change the content of the programs during the duration of the subscription contract, according to the policies and programming defined by the latter. The contract submitted by “Digit-Alb” sh. a company was forwarded to the Consumer Protection Committee.

In the meantime, following our requests, the Consumer Protection Committee forwarded to AMA letters, administered by AMA with Protocol No. 2760, dated 02.10.2020 and Protocol No. 3285, dated 18.11.2020. By means of these letters, CPC, in the framework of the administrative review of the case on consumer rights, requested information and paperwork from “Digit-Alb” JSC. company, regarding the amendment of the subscription contract terms.

Administrative proceedings are ongoing and a final decision on the complaint is yet to be ruled.

- 6) *Encouraging AMA to organize activities and provide opportunities to discuss with stakeholders about advertisements covering child-related issues; at the same time, AMA is required to cooperate with all actors regarding proposals related to improving the regulatory framework in the field.***

Following interinstitutional communication between AMA and RTSH in February 2020, RTSH filed an official request (No. 388, dated 05.02.2020), presenting the proposal of the public broadcaster to remove the channel RTSH FËMIJË 2 and to substitute in the platform with RTSH PLUS. In its official response to RTSH, AMA stated, inter alia, that it was and is clear about the continuous proposal of RTSH and extended its appreciation to the two children channels in the RTSH package. AMA considers this as a very positive and useful space to fulfill commitments of the public broadcaster pursuant to the Service Contract, a document that was designed, drafted and approved by RTSH, and then approved by the Authority in 2017.

Following the response, AMA emphasized that the Contract must be implementing, considering that both channels, RTSH FËMIJË 1 and RTSH FËMIJË 2, are a guarantee for their age, addressing contents that meet conditions of psychosocial development of their followers, in favor of their information, education and entertainment by professional media standards, with quality and diverse programs.

The argument of RTSH on the high costs of starting and maintaining a new children's channel, or transferring programs to another channel, was not deemed reasonable by AMA to remove RTSH FËMIJË 2 from the program package. Any new channel requires a budget, human resources, creativity, rights purchasing abilities, etc., but the management and organizational modalities cannot remove a space that is dedicated to children and remain a priority to public audiovisual broadcasters in particular. AMA's response emphasized that RTSH may modify, improve or requalify the content of the program package, by proposing amendments based on the legal framework in force, rather than reducing broadcasting for children. AMA expected and expects proposals by RTSH to increase the number of children channels, as defined by the practice and standards of public broadcasters in many European countries, but not only.

Following this communication, the public broadcaster, given the circumstances and effects of the pandemic in our country's educational system, submitted to AMA a request for the RTSH SHKOLLË channel, as an urgent and mandatory need to apply remote learning of pre-university system as a result of restrictions and interruption of school-based classes due to COVID-19. As a result of the program content and the target age group, RTSH SHKOLLË has the characteristics of a second children's channel, as was rightfully argued by RTSH management. This channel is already part of the program package, based on the addendum of the Service Contract.

In monitoring the content broadcasted by the AMSPs, pursuant to Law No. 97/2013 "On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania", as amended, AMA conducted two monitorings (in February 2020

and July 2020) focusing on the implementation of legislation requirements on advertising carbonated drinks with added sugar.

The monitorings aimed at the observance of the requirements of Law No. 74/2018 “On Some Addenda and Amendments to Law No. 9518, dated 18.04.2006, “On the Protection of Minors from Alcohol”, as amended, more specifically Article 9: “it shall be prohibited to advertise alcohol, energy drinks and carbonated beverages that contain added sugar in programs targeting minors, as well as 60 minutes before and after the program”, and “it shall be prohibited to produce and broadcast advertisements involving minors consuming alcohol, energy drinks and carbonated beverages that contain added sugar”.

No violations were identified in neither monitoring of national AMSPs and local/regional AMSPs. However, AMA will continue monitoring the observance of law requirements regarding content broadcast by AMSPs.

Afterwards, during the monitoring of AMSPs broadcasting in September 2020, pursuant to the requirements of Law No. 97/2012 “On Audiovisual Broadcasting in the Republic of Albania”, as amended, AMA identified that some musical channels violated the law and the Broadcasting Code. More specifically, their musical programs involved inappropriate and unethical content, mainly lyrics or shots that incite violence and the use of alcohol, narcotic substances, etc.

AMA sent an official letter to BBF, Melodi TV, Supersonic and My Music subjects, bringing to their attention that they should stop broadcasting problematic content at times when children are supposed to watch television, as defined by Law No. 97/2003, as amended, and the Broadcasting Code, by especially observing moral and legal rights, interests and requirements on child protection.

Audiovisual broadcasting activity, as defined by the above-cited law, Article 4, Paragraph 1, subparagraph b, observes “in particular moral and legal rights, interests and requirements on child protection”, while Article 33, Paragraph 1, Subparagraph d, defines that “audiovisual media service providers shall respect public moral and ethics rules...”. These law requirements are specified in AMA’s Broadcasting Code, Articles of section 5, dedicated to children.

On October 6, 2020, the Audiovisual Media Authority organized a virtual discussion panel, titled “*Advertisements for children, with children*”. The virtual discussion panel was attended by representatives of national and local AMSPs, public institutions and non-profit organizations focusing on child protection, as well as media and communications experts among others. During the discussion, they referred to the legal framework in force, such as Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Broadcasting”, as amended, AMA Broadcasting Code, Regulation on Advertisements, and law on protecting minors from alcohol use.

The discussants raised the issue of promoting children's online activity, on various electronic devices that made them addicted to Internet use. Moreover, they discussed avoiding various food products audiovisual advertisements that involve children.

The panel consisted of proposals from various representatives of non-profit organizations, AMSPs, and especially RTSH, regarding the broadcast of free advertisements related to respecting child's rights. In this regard, AMA's representatives emphasized that Law No. 97/2013 stipulates circumstances where AMSPs should broadcast free information, and NPOs proposal should ensure amendments and addenda to the existing law. Another proposal was related to banning children's images use in audiovisual broadcasting for purposes of electoral campaigns.

The panel reiterated cooperation among stakeholders engaged with child rights protection, professionally identifying and addressing cases of inappropriate audiovisual content, which harms children's physical, mental and moral development.

Following AMA's activities focusing on child protection from harmful audio and audiovisual content, on December 17, 2020, AMA hosted a virtual round-table titled "*Children and Media Literacy*".

AMA included this commitment in the field of media education and the 2021 - 2023 Action Strategy of the institution, which was commended by participants. The round-table was attended by officials and experts from public education agencies and institutions, University of Tirana, civil society subjects and field researchers, who addressed issues related to media education inclusion in students curricula, a combination of theoretical knowledge with technological capacitation, the need for self-regulating initiatives of editorial offices in order to avoid fake and false news.

The discussants emphasized that media education should not focus on children only, but the media as a whole as well. The media mostly broadcasts reports about problematic children, and very few positive reports on this category which in turn, discourages the young generation.

Another topic was youth platforms used by young people to communicate and not fall prey to bullying in social media.

Representatives of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth and the Sector of Curricula Development at the Agency for Quality Assurance in Pre-University Education also mentioned that teachers training will include a media education module, borrowed from the UNESCO manual. The expected impact is that media educated students will call for high-quality media.

- 7) Considering the public interest importance of continuing local television broadcasting, which is fundamental for democracy development and different community's representation in a country's public sphere, even after switching to numeric broadcasting, in order to resolve issues, AMA will communicate with relevant institutions and inform and cooperate with the responsible committee in the Parliament of Albania.***

Following this recommendation, on September 16, 2020, a meeting was organized at AMA premises with representatives of several local and regional analog television subjects and the Local and Cable Televisions Network (LCTN), aiming at identifying issues encountered by these operators in the audiovisual market, as well as evaluating the impact of the audiovisual broadcasting digitalization process on these operators.

Some of the main issues and concerns raised by them are as follows:

*RTSH network support fees*

LCTN representatives claimed that the approved fees are not based on the real RTSH costs and requested their total lifting, by arguing that analog technology costs are currently 350 - 400 euros, while RTSH fees are too high.

Subjects were informed that AMA requested their review from RTSH and the latter, through letters, informed that the fees review process would be carried out after the end of analog broadcasting across the territory of the Republic of Albania, based on the real costs of the RTSH network operationalization.

Moreover, subjects were also made aware that pursuant to Law No. 34/2017, "On Vacating the Digital-Dividend Frequency," as amended, and AMA Decision, No. 38, dated 07.03.2019 "On Determining the List of Local/Regional Analog Audiovisual Subjects that benefit from Financial Compensation", that if they provide their services supported by the numeric technology, they will benefit a financial compensation to cover the support fee of existing local/regional analog operators in the numeric network for 6.46 months, but in order for that to happen, they will have to support on the numeric network.

For this process too, subjects raised the concern of administrative impediments, because they first have to pay to RTSH and then they are compensated by AMA, while there could be other easier ways, according to them. Moreover, the 6.46 months compensation period is insufficient and neither helps nor supports this category of subjects, which, due to numeric broadcasting switchover, have additional financial costs, making it impossible to continue their audiovisual activity in their relevant areas.

For this issue too, subjects were informed that the compensation procedure and amount are defined by Law No. 34/2017.

### State advertisements

LCTN representatives stated that as local broadcasters, they had not broadcast any state advertisement, because the latter is only broadcast by a certain category of subjects.

The association was informed that Law No. 97/ 2013, as amended, does not provide for rules or criteria on their procurement methods for state advertisements. State advertisements procurement procedures are carried out by each public institution.

The procurement process is based on the Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 1195, dated 05.08.2008, “On Purchasing, Developing, Producing and Co-Producing programs and advertisements to be broadcast by radio and television operators or to be published by the written press, and contracts and airtime, by State Administration Bodies”, and LCTN is entitled to presenting concrete proposals for the amendment of this sublegal act.

As per the above, AMA presented to the Parliament the chance to review that legal basis in force on state advertisements, aiming at including all audiovisual subjects in the benefits from these advertisements.

### Broadcasting standard provided by RTSH

Subjects requested the review of RTSH porting capacities, by enabling them not to have only Standard Definition broadcasting, but also High Definition one.

Subjects were informed that according to the Strategy on Numeric Broadcasting Switchover, the broadcasting standard in the first phase (termination of analog broadcasting) will be Standard Definition, in order to ensure the support of all existing analog programs in the RTSH network.

### Requests for equipping local televisions with local frequency for each allotment

The above request has been repeated several times and it was brought to the attention of the subjects again that, referring to the current frequency plan, it is found that for numeric broadcasting, the frequency for building local networks are part of the DD2 frequency band, which referring to decisions of European bodies, will be used in mobile technology and no longer for audiovisual broadcasting. Under these circumstances, their alternative for switching to numeric broadcasting is currently only supported by numeric networks of the public operator or private operators.

Subjects were informed that, in planning the audiovisual frequency band, in the framework of vacating the DD2 band, AMA will consider the request of local/regional operators.

In conclusion, subjects were informed that AMA will follow up their concerns, proposing joint meetings with representatives of AMA, RTSH, and the Committee for Education and Public Information Means, in order to find the proper solutions.

As per the above, AMA, considering the concerns of these subjects and aiming at finding proper solutions, submitted a letter dated 25.09.2020 to RTSH, proposing a meeting on October 12, 2020, with representatives of the public operator, AMA and local private analog subjects. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the Parliamentary Committee for Education and Public Information Means.

In line with this recommendation, on October 12, 2020, a meeting was held at AMA premises with representatives of the Albanian public operator (RTSH), local/regional analog television operators, and the association of Local and Cable Television Networks (LCTN). The meeting was also attended by representatives of the Committee for Education and Public Information Means.

Some of the main issues and concerns raised by them are as follows:

*RTSH network support fees*

LCTN representatives claimed that the approved fees are not based on the real RTSH costs and requested their total lifting, by arguing that analog technology costs are currently 350 - 400 euros, while RTSH fees are too high.

Regarding the claim of the LCTN association that this fee is high and not based on real costs, RTSH representatives clarified that compared to the fee stipulated on the Strategy for the switchover from analog to numeric broadcasting, this fee has significantly reduced, and on the fee approval process by AMA, RTSH argued with the relevant paperwork on the defined amount. However, RTSH was open to discuss fees with all operators after the conclusion of the digitalization process across the allotments in the country.

Moreover, during the meeting subjects were also made aware that pursuant to Law No. 34/2017, “On Vacating the Digital-Dividend Frequency,” as amended and AMA Decision, No. 38, dated 07.03.2019 “On Determining the List of Local/Regional Analog Audiovisual Subjects that benefit from Financial Compensation”, that if they provide their services supported by the numeric technology, subjects will benefit a financial compensation to cover the support fee of existing local/regional analog operators in the numeric network for 6.46 months, but for that to happen, they will have to support on the numeric network.



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Subjects were informed that, in planning the audiovisual frequency band, in the framework of vacating the DD2 band, AMA will consider the request of local/regional operators.

In conclusion, subjects were informed that, after the termination of the digitalization process at the national level, AMA will follow up their concerns, proposing joint meetings with representatives of AMA, RTSH, and the Committee for Education and Public Information Means, in order to find the proper solutions to issues raised by local operators.

***8) Taking concrete steps in compliance with the law for the complete implementation of the legal obligation of audiovisual operators with a national license for sign language broadcasting, in order to guarantee the information right of each citizen in the country through audiovisual media.***

The AMA Complaints Council, since October 2017, initiated a letter communication, but not only, with audiovisual operators holding a national license, regarding the legal obligation that these operators guarantee sign language broadcasting. Thus, pursuant to the provision of Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania”, as amended, “for communities with special sensory needs”.

According to the definition of the above-cited law (paragraph 10) and the Broadcasting Code (paragraph 3, Chapter “Definitions”), “Community with special sensory needs” shall be a community with partial or full visual or hearing shortcomings, the ability to perceive audio or audiovisual signals of which is limited to the extent that renders the exercise of the right to information impossible”.

Currently, only the public operator, RTSH, is broadcasting one newscast with sign language interpretation.

In February and March 2020, AMA sent the required information to the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination, Mr. Robert Gajda, attaching letters with Protocol No. 4646, 2555 and 3258, dated 22.11.2018, 25.06.2019 and 11.09.2019, to audiovisual operator “Top Channel”, “Tv Klan” and

“Vizion Plus”, with the same request: Fulfilling the legal framework for broadcasting in sign language.

More specifically, the three above-mentioned operators received letters with Protocol No. 4646, 2555 and 3258, dated 22.11.2018, 25.06.2019 and 11.09.2019. Moreover, through a joint letter, the three national operators (letter with Protocol No. 2650, dated 21.09.2020, CC to the Parliament), received a request for fulfilling the legal obligation for broadcasting in sign language, and were informed that “lack of sign language broadcasting is of concern to the Parliament of Albania, which included this issue in its main recommendations for AMA”.

In the letter submitted, AMA brought to the attention of audiovisual operators holding a national license once again the legal basis for broadcasting in sign language. It must be noted that Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania”, as amended, does not stipulate sanctions against audiovisual operators in this regard.

However, considering sign language broadcasting as highly important and sensitive, and finding the national audiovisual operators failed to respond, AMA discussed this issue at the Authority Council meeting on November 12, 2020. At the end of the meeting, AMA’s Council called for operators holding a national license to implement this important obligation.

Following further communication with the operators, the latter informed AMA about the concern of lacking sign language interpreters. The audiovisual operator “Tv Klan” requested cooperation with the National Albanian Association of People with Hearing Impairments in order to provide sign language interpretation. However, the Association responded to the request and informed the audiovisual operator that “there is no-one who can provide this service on a daily basis...”, i.e. sign language interpretation.

Under these circumstances, pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers, No. 1074, dated 23.12.2015, which stipulates: The Ministry responsible for educational matters shall apply policies to start a university study program (Bachelor/Master's) to prepare Albanian sign language interpreters, as well as the scientific staff in this field (paragraph 15, Chapter II); and the Ministry responsible for disability issues, in cooperation with organizations of and for people with hearing disabilities, shall identify, every two years, needs for sign language interpreters and instructors (paragraph 16, chapter II); The Audiovisual Media Authority suggested the two relevant ministries (the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection) to encourage and take further measures for materializing audiovisual broadcasting for persons with special sensory needs, by preparing sign language interpreters.

The above-mentioned ministries have yet to respond.

**9) *Taking the necessary measures to implement recommendations of the Supreme State Audit (SSA) for preventing attacks or unauthorized access to the institution's ICT systems; managing risks related to the ICT infrastructure; these recommendations are of special importance to the well-functioning and security of the AMA Information and Communication system.***

Under recommendations of the Supreme State Audit, AMA took the required measures for their accomplishment.

Currently, there are filters in place to block access to adult sites and other harmful websites that can harm and endanger the ICT devices and network at AMA. The ICT sector, conducts weekly, monitoring of firewall logs to identify attempts to access such sites. Moreover, the log management regulation has been drafted and approved.

AMA drafted and approved the risk register on ICT infrastructure and ICT devices register in the institution, identifying the Article code, name, price, amount remaining by applying the 25% depreciation rate, in order to foresee any type of possible risk and guarantee the institution work continuity.

AMA continues monitoring the Internet used in the institution in order to define needs to add or reduce capacities.

One of these recommendations was to set up a backup server with optimal parameters as the first server. Following this recommendation, AMA purchased the backup server which is a replica of the main server.

Another recommendation from the Supreme State Audit was the evaluation and analysis of needs regarding Help Desk service provision, with every department having access to their issues and requests, and the IT department proceeding by entering the configuration in the system. Considering the April 2021 elections, applications/software managed by AMA for this purpose, and aiming at ensuring information security and avoiding potential problems, AMA included the Help Desk service purchase in the 2021 draft budget.

The Supreme State Audit , through a letter with Protocol No. 702/38, dated 27.11.2020, administered by AMA with Protocol No. 3444, dated 02.12.2020, presented the final audit report and requested AMA that within 20 days it reports on the measures taken for the full implementation of recommendations, and within 6 months it reports on the progress with implementing recommendations.

In response to this request, on 22.12.2020, AMA provided official information to SSA regarding the measures taken and the status of recommendations implementation.

***10) Cooperating with EPCA and MoIE to define steps and needs for legal amendments for vacating and handing over the 700 MHz band (DD2 band) to mobile networks, which is one of the European Union requirements. The DD2 band vacating process will have a significant impact on the audiovisual market, as this band is currently being used by national private numeric operators licensed by AMA.***

With Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 636, dated 29.7.2020, spectrum policy was approved, accompanied by the approval of the action plan for its implementation, which, inter alia, includes the DD2 band vacating process. According to this plan, institutions in charge of following this process are the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy (MoIE), AMA and EPCA.

The process will start with consultation meetings among all stakeholders (audiovisual operators, media associations, regulatory authorities, etc.), and by the end of the consultations, a detailed plan will be drafted for the DD2 band vacating measures (legal amendments if necessary, financial compensation, technical solutions, etc.).

Meanwhile, MoIE has requested technical assistance from the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) to find effective technical solutions, which will enable the reduction of the operators' number in the market and their broadcasting capacities following the DD2 band vacating. The working group cooperating and participating in meetings with ITU consultant consists of MoIE, AMA and EPCA representatives.

ITU consultant has submitted the preliminary draft report of the document, which presented two theoretical alternatives for vacating the DD2 band, but no specific solution has been found. The working group representatives reflected on their comments, in order to improve and finalize this document.

As per the above, regarding the DD2 band vacating process, AMA continued cooperating with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy (MoIE) and EPCA, in the framework of the technical assistance provided by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), as well as the twinning project with the Hungarian regulatory authority for this purpose. The working group consisting of MoIE, AMA and EPCA representatives, carries out online meetings with consultants, and exchanges the necessary legal and technical information to reach the objective of this assistance, which is defining effective technical solutions by retaining the number of numeric operators in the market and their broadcasting capacities.

Consultants presented the draft report with recommendations for the DD2 band vacating process in our country, and they are working on drafting an effective frequency plan.

Meanwhile, based on DCM No. 636, dated 29.07.2020, more specifically, the action plan for implementing this political document, consultation with numeric operators in the market, who are directly affected by this process, should have started in September this year.

AMA has repeatedly requested the MoIE to start this important process, and AMA's Chairperson has carried out a meeting with the deputy minister, Mr. Etjen Xhafaj, for this purpose, on 11.11.2020. During the meeting, it was agreed that a high-level round-table would be organized with national audiovisual operators, which has yet to happen.

AMA considers the consultation with all stakeholders as a legal obligation and an important process, to avoid issues emerging during its implementation. Based on previous experiences, such as the DD2 band vacating process or other relevant processes that suffered significant delay due to the court proceedings initiated by national audiovisual operators, we believe that the public consultation process should start promptly.

***11) The Parliament of Albania encourages AMA's cooperation with other law-enforcing institutions, whose working aspects are related to the Authority's scope of activity, and, it concurrently emphasizes that despite the coordination of the thus far actions between AMA and EPCA, their cooperation agreement has yet to be finalized. This cooperation agreement will give a new dimension not only to the prevention and/or prohibition of online audiovisual piracy following legal provisions, but also cooperation in other joint directions related to the work of both institutions.***

For purposes of the effective coordination of AMA and EPCA activities, pursuant to and in accordance with the recommendation of the Albanian Parliament resolution, following our efforts to finalize the agreement between the two institutions, the Authority, through letters with Protocol No. 767, dated 25.02.2020, and Protocol No. 767/2, dated 19.08.2010, and Protocol No. 2602, dated 11.09.2020, reforwarded to EPCA the cooperation agreement which was agreed upon last year. Thus far, there has been no response from the institution.

Considering continuous technological changes and the emergence of new forms of online piracy, through portals, websites or applications, AMA deems that informality is troublesome in the field of audiovisual media, which is carried out by ISPs across the country.

Nowadays, television piracy is carried out through the Internet, provision of audiovisual services via Over the Top (OTT) platforms, therefore cooperation with EPCA and its role are indispensable.

These subjects in addition to causing economic damage to the State Budget, also damage the economic and commercial interests of subjects licensed to conduct the audiovisual activity, thus leading to fair competition thwarting and lack of equilibrium in the media market.

As was reported, AMA has repeatedly called for the finalization and signature of the cooperation agreement between AMA and EPCA. Despite our repeated requests, lack of response from this authority fails to serve our joint purpose to guarantee fair market competition and to prevent television piracy and informality in the field.

According to our evaluation, the signature of this agreement will increase efficiency and work coordination to strengthening the fight against piracy in the field of audiovisual media in the Republic of Albania.

Following the recommendation of the Albanian Parliament, AMA continued working on the following:

On September 25, 2020, a work meeting took place in AMA's premises between regulatory authorities of Albania (AMA) and Kosovo (IMC), aiming at the systematic cooperation and communication of institutions in order to consolidate institutional performance and regulate the audiovisual market. AMA and IMC have the energy and space to intensify knowledge and experience sharing, based on the practices of regulatory authorities in EU member states, as they switch from analog to numeric broadcasting and develop new technological applications.

The meeting consisted of discussions regarding the role and impact of transboundary broadcasting, with audiovisual broadcasting from Albania being provided in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo, and vice versa. For purposes of addressing emerging issues, complaints from citizens in both countries, it was deemed reasonable for both institutions to exchange information so that they can find prompt and professional solutions.

Virtual communication exchange between the two institutions was another crossing point, which was commended as a mechanism in favor of intensifying cooperation and coverage of mutual interest commitments. This will be materialized very soon with the installation of links in AMA and IMC relevant websites.

On October 8, 2020, the Audiovisual Media Authority (AMA) and the Ministry of Culture signed a cooperation agreement on carrying out joint audiovisual projects for promoting cultural heritage. AMA approved a fund for the Ministry of Culture concerning audiovisual productions focusing on media education regarding art and culture on the media. AMA supports the following projects: *The New Film Museum*, one of the Ministry of Culture projects; *virtual tours for "Fishta Itinerary"*, narrating the life and creative journey of Father Gjergj Fishta, and *Via Egnatia*, one of the thousand-year-old road connecting East and West. As a consequence of the novel COVID-19 pandemic

context, cultural institutions are faced with a new reality, which requires a new approach towards the public, especially youth. In this light, they are considering all forms of cooperation that provide products, which bring people closer to cultural heritage and art. Under this agreement, the parties commit to creating support spaces for protecting artistic creativity and promoting art and culture in the audiovisual area. AMA has full membership to the European Audiovisual Observatory, which is a body covering audiovisual and cinematographic activities and monitoring the cinematography market within the European Union and candidate countries to the EU and signed the said agreement with the goodwill to consolidate interinstitutional cooperation in concrete aspects.

On November 23, 2020, the Audiovisual Media Authority and the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination signed a Memorandum of Understanding aiming at strengthening inter-institutional cooperation, focusing on the importance of guaranteeing protection from discrimination in the field of audiovisual services.

This Memorandum of Understanding aims at institutionalizing cooperation and defining rules and ways for the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination and the Audiovisual Media Authority to develop their institutional relations, in the framework of their joint work to promote and protect the fundamental human rights, for joint interest issues related to the implementation of the legislation in force on protection from discrimination in the field of audio and/or audiovisual media. Based on this memorandum, the parties are engaged to carry out joint activities to respect, strengthen and advance the protection of the fundamental human rights, especially rights related to the protection of marginalized groups; increasing cooperation to strengthen the implementation of the legislation in force, transparency and accountability; preventing and prohibiting cases of illegal activity and calling for different interventions from media subject in the country, when required.

On December 30, 2020, the Audiovisual Media Authority and the State Agency for Child Rights and Protection signed a Memorandum of Understanding. For purposes of respecting and promoting child rights, and especially protecting children in the field of audio and/or audiovisual services, and aiming at defining fields and other forms of cooperation among the parties, for matters of joint interest related to the implementation of the legislation in force on child rights protection in the field of audio and/or audiovisual media, the parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The parties will cooperate to implement tasks stipulated in the legislation in force according to the area of competence. This cooperation will focus on protecting child rights and freedoms in audiovisual broadcasting; exchange of expertise for purposes of improving existing legislation whenever areas of competence are combined; joint commitment in cases of audiovisual content, focusing on child protection from inappropriate audiovisual broadcasting and advertisements with and for children, which may harm their moral, mental and physical development; encouraging, supporting and conducting joint activities for purposes of child right protection and child's best interest; exchanging information and recommendations for matters related to child rights and protection; organizing joint activities for promoting minor rights; cooperating to identify child rights violation and problematic

situations in audiovisual media broadcasting that violate child confidentiality and privacy in any circumstance; mutual reporting on cases of interviewing or identifying children victims of abuse, which may harm or revictimize the child victim; referring concrete cases and taking relevant measures in cases when legal violations are found; organizing joint trainings with actors in the field of media, journalists and students, regarding the knowledge and observance of children rights and freedoms in the media.

In the same framework, AMA, through letters with Protocol No. 2955, dated 20.10.2020, and Protocol No. 2956, dated 20.10.2020, requested the signature of cooperation agreements between the General Tax Directorate and the Department of Electronics and Telecommunication, the Faculty of Information Technology at the Tirana Polytechnic University. The cooperation agreements between these institutions are yet to be finalized.

An AMA delegation met with the Parliamentary Committee on Local Governance, Public Administration, Regional Development, and Media on October 12 at the Parliament of the Republic of Kosovo, in the presence of Speaker Mr. Mërgim Lushtaku, two deputy speakers Mr. Valon Ramadani and Mr. Albert Kinolli, and other MPs of the committee.

During the meeting, Mr. Sala and Mr. Lushtaku, the delegation chairs, shared their gratitude for the two countries' cooperation in regulating audiovisual broadcasting and increasing and diversifying TV programs from Albania to Kosovo and vice versa.

The discussion was primarily based on digitalization in a similar vanity to the first meeting held in Tirana last year.

The process advancement in the Albanian audiovisual market was described as a new experience to Kosovo as well, in terms of legal framework enhancement, and technical and technological progress. The MPs said that the opportunity offered to 30% of Albanian citizens to watch 39 free channels was the most significant effect of digitalization on people who could not afford to pay audiovisual services due to insufficient revenue.

The Kosovo delegation expressed their willingness to hold a work visit at the AMA offices in Tirana to explore the best approach to legislation and adequate technological infrastructure for the Republic of Kosovo's digitalization development.

Mr. Sala also mentioned the Parliament of Albania's recommendation that AMA works more closely with its counterpart in Kosovo, the Independent Media Commission (IMC). He told members of the Parliamentary Committee on Local Governance, Public Administration, Regional Development, and Media of the Republic of Kosovo's Parliament about an agreement reached between the two institutions in Tirana and Pristina about the prompt and professional handling of citizen and subject complaints about broadcast audiovisual content.



The MPs who attended the meeting expressed their gratitude for the agreement and urged AMA and IMC to further their cooperation in the future in the interest of the public of Albania and Kosovo.

On October 29 and 30, 2020, AMA representatives held working meetings with counterparts of the Independent Media Committee, as the regulatory authority of audio and audiovisual broadcasting in Kosovo. Meetings were held after the election of the new Chairperson of IMC, Mr. Xhevat Latifi.

Child protection from harmful audiovisual content, digitalization of audiovisual broadcasting, media education, and prompt and efficient addressing of issues encountered by audiovisual media service providers or the audience in both countries have been the main topics of the meetings. As regards exchanging experiences on the procedures of digitalization in Kosovo, representatives of the two regulatory authorities have identified a lot of room for cooperation, at the bilateral level and in the framework of their participation in European platforms, such as EPRA and ERGA, or other regional and global structures, which AMA and IMC are members of.

***12) Following up any complaint from citizens or stakeholders, by professionally handling them. The fact that the complaints number at the Complaints Council since its establishment in April 2016 has had a progressive increase from year to year shows that the trust in the Authority to the service of the public interest has increased.***

All complaints made to the Authority about violations of Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania,” as amended, and the Broadcasting Code are followed and reviewed by the AMA's Complaints Council.

The complaint review procedure, from start to finish, is a complex process that is carried out and continues to be carried out within the legal time frames. During the reporting period, the Complaints Council reviewed 123 complaints, and, at the end of their review, it reprimanded AMSPs in 36 cases.

More specifically:

- 12 on infringement of child rights;
- 10 on infringement of identity, ethics, and vocabulary misuse;
- 5 on postponing the broadcasting time of certain content, according to the Broadcasting Code;
- 4 on setting warning signs, aiming at protecting children from harmful audiovisual content;
- 3 on human rights and privacy violation;
- 1 case on failing to comply with anti-Covid measures in the framework of the Normative Act;
- 1 case on discontinuing the broadcasting of an unethical series.

Regarding their subject, complaints are presented as follows:

- 39 on child rights and privacy violation;
- 41 on infringement of human rights, ethics and public moral;
- 19 were found to be outside AMA's scope, as defined by Law No. 97/2013 "On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania", as amended;
- 2 on the right to response;
- 2 on information verification;
- 20 complaints had a different subject.

### **3. MEASURES TAKEN PURSUANT TO RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED BY OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL OR INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS TO THE AUTHORITY**

#### ***Audit by the Supreme State Audit "On Internet Performance in Public Administration"***

In November 2019, AMA was audited by the Supreme State Audit "On Internet Performance in Public Administration", and at the end of the audit it was recommended that several organizational measures be taken in relation to preventing attacks or unauthorized access to institution devices; managing IT infrastructure-related risks, and managing Help Desk services.

Following recommendations by SSA, AMA took measures to accomplish them in 2020. More specifically, during this year a secondary replica server was procured (purchased) aiming at increasing information security, in case the primary server is damaged. Filters that block adult and other dangerous websites, which harm or risk ICT devices and network at AMA, were configured. Following the improvement and standardization of regulatory acts on the administration of ICT systems and processes, AMA drafted and approved regulatory acts related to storing and analyzing logs and designed the ICT infrastructure-related risks register to foresee any type of potential risk and guarantee smooth work in the institution.

Another recommendation from the Supreme State Audit was the evaluation and analysis of needs regarding Help Desk service provision, with every department having access to their issues and requests, and the IT department proceeding by entering the configuration in the system. Considering the April 2021 elections, applications/software managed by AMA for this purpose, and aiming at ensuring information security and avoiding potential problems, AMA included the Help Desk service purchase in the 2021 draft budget.

The Supreme State Audit, through a letter with Protocol No. 702/38, dated 27.11.2020, administered by AMA with Protocol No. 3444, dated 02.12.2020, presented the final audit report on recommendations accomplishment and requested AMA that within 20 days it reports on the measures taken for the full implementation of recommendations, and within 6 months it reports on the progress with implementing recommendations.

In response to this request, on 22.12.2020, AMA provided official information to SSA regarding the measures taken and the status of recommendations implementation.

### ***Recommendations of the Right to Information and Personal Data Protection Commissioner***

Following recommendation No. 43, dated 14.10.2019, of the Right to Information and Personal Data Protection Commissioner regarding AMA's transparency program, submitted through their letter with Protocol No. 1603/1, dated 14.10.2019, during 2020, the Transparency Program was amended as follows:

The public information on the official website is now crosslinked in the model transparency program.

- ✓ The Authority's public service information, such as service quality standards, is published on the website and crosslinked in the model transparency program.
- ✓ All mechanisms and procedures – enabling those interested to provide their opinions or make any other impact in the drafting of laws, public policy or the public authority's functions performance – are found on the information published on the menu Legislation/Opinions.
- ✓ The publication of AMA Council decisions is found on a special submenu.
- ✓ A simple description of the system employed by the Public authority on documentation storage, document types and formats, and categories of information made public on no-request-basis – Information is published on the Transparency Program.

Any of the above amendments are under Law No. 119/2014, “On the Right to Information”. This is regarded as a real way for the Authority to improve transparency by delivering regular changes and additions to the Transparency Programs, in line with paragraph 2 of Article 5 of the aforementioned law.

### ***Recommendations of the Ombudsperson***

The Ombudsperson, through letters with Protocol No. K5/S1-5, dated 29.05.2020 and Protocol No. K5/IU-2, dated 01.06.2020, respectively “*Recommendation on taking measures for the violence exercised on the minor S.Ç., by several State Police employees*” and “*Recommendations to improve work towards child protection from any form of violence*”, presented a series of recommendations for several institutions, including AMA.

Inter alia, the Ombudsperson institutions recommended the following: “*Taking measures to change legislation regulating audiovisual media activity, in defining more detailed rules regarding abuse/violence against minors*”.

AMA, through a letter with Protocol No. 1390/1, dated 09.06.2020, informed the Ombudsperson of its two recommendations, as follows:

AMA is the regulatory authority in the field of audiovisual media, pursuant to Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania”, as amended. According to Article 2 of the above-cited law (“Scope of activity”), *this law shall apply to linear audiovisual broadcasting, non-linear audiovisual broadcasting and their supporting services.*

In more details, principles, rules, requirements and practices in audiovisual broadcasting are defined on the Broadcasting Code, an important sublegal act designed and approved by AMA.

The organic Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania,” as amended, is fully aligned with Directive 2010/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 March 2010 on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in the Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services (Audiovisual Media Services Directive, codified version), CELEX number: 32010L0013, Official Journal of the European Union, Series L 95, dated 15. 4. 2010). The law was thus drafted per international acts on the protection and observance of human rights.

On the other hand, the Broadcasting Code has been drafted and approved by AMA, according to the obligation foreseen in Article 46 of Law No. 97/2013, above-cited. This Code defines rules, standards and practices of broadcasting, in compliance with the following legal and sublegal acts:

- Constitution of the Republic of Albania.
- Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania”, as amended.
- Law No. 18/2017 “On Child Rights and Protection”.
- Law No. 9887, dated 10.03.2008, “On Personal Data Protection”, as amended
- Law No. 8096, dated 21.03.1996 “On Cinematography”, as amended.
- Law No. 10221, dated 04.02.2010 “On Protection from Discrimination”.
- Instruction No. 9, dated 15.09.2010 of the Commissioner for the Protection of Personal Data “On Fundamental Rules for the Protection of Personal Data in Print, Visual and Audiovisual Media”, as amended.

Moreover, as provided for in EU Directive 2010/13 (the Audiovisual Media Services Directive), in compliance with international acts on the protection and observance of human rights, the Broadcasting Code was established based on the requirements for audiovisual activity in the European Union. International acts include: “The European Convention on Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms” (in 1998) and the UN Convention “On Child Rights Protection” (in 1989).

In 2017, the Broadcasting Code was significantly improved after several months of consultation with different media stakeholders, actors and factors, the civil society, etc. However, its potential review has been included in the Authority's 2021 - 2023 Strategy, as shown by fast technological development.

On the other hand, Directive 2010/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 March 2010 on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in the Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services, was amended in late 2018 (Directive 2018/1808), dated 14.11.2018)

AMA has started preparatory work on the amendments made to European legislation in the audiovisual field in the context of the alignment of legislation to these amendments. About provisions of the amended Directive, Member States are responsible for approving legal and sublegal amendments to be aligned with the Act in September 2020.

As per the above, although AMA deems that the current legal basis on audiovisual media activity, for the issue you address, is complete and aligned with the best European standards and practices, the adaptation with international legislation amendments process continues.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED TO THE AUTHORITY IN THE EU PROGRESS REPORT AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS**

##### **4.1 EU Progress Report**

In the 2020 EU Albania Progress Report, chapter 10 "Information Society and Media", provides the following recommendations:

*No progress was made on finalizing the switchover to digital audiovisual broadcasting, which is yet to be finalized, alongside the review of the national plan on broadband, with clear objectives and goals, as well as in implementing the European number of emergency 112, as was recommended by the 2018 report.*

Meanwhile, Chapter 23 "Freedom of Expression", inter alia, recommends:

1. *Ensuring the implementation of the Labor Code and strengthening Albanian journalists social and labor rights;*
2. *The legislation should be in line with the best international practices for public advertisements on transparency increase".*

As regards the recommendation of Chapter 10, AMA reports as follows:

*Pursuant to Law No. 97/2013, dated 04.03.2013 “On Audiovisual media in the Republic of Albania”, as amended, and in fulfilling its duties, defined in Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 292, dated 02.05.2012, “On Approving the Strategy of Analog to Numeric Broadcasting Switchover”, AMA undertook several activities regarding the digitalization process of audiovisual broadcasting.*

*AMA continued coordinating with local/regional and national analog operators in the framework of fulfilling this obligation. AMA continued the information campaign through different media channels (internal and external campaign), conducted continuous on-site inspections to check the territory coverage with digital signal and monitored the local/regional operators support process in national numeric networks.*

*As a result of activities carried out by AMA, the digitalization process was finalized on December 30, 2020.*

*Digital broadcasting that provides high quality and a greater number of free television programs is accessible to the entire population.*

As regards the first recommendation of chapter 23, AMA reports as follows:

*Although it is not part of its scope of activity, the Audiovisual Media Authority, based on the Albanian Parliament recommendations, has initiated different platforms to discuss this issue with stakeholders. AMA convened a technical level meeting with representatives of journalist associations and the State Labor and Social Services Inspectorate. Representatives of journalist associations and journalism departments of public and private universities joined the meeting. The participants commended the progress made in the media market while still expressing reservations over a variety of problems that are yet to be resolved. The participants addressed existing media market issues, such as minimum wages, working conditions for all media staff, interest contracts that take precedence over work relations and result in conflicts, temporary staff, and student internships. The need for a mechanism that brings together state institutions, the media, and journalist representatives (associations) was discussed. It was found that there is no actual trade union that represents and defends the rights of journalists. Attendees asked AMA and SLSSI to create an incentive mechanism for drafting and entering into a collective agreement. This agreement, according to the attendees, would serve all sides as a good platform for sharing issues and avoiding personal initiatives.*

As regards the second recommendation of chapter 23, AMA reports as follows:

*AMA has repeatedly reported that its activity is based on Law No. 97/2013, which regulates the activity and support services of audiovisual media. The legislation defines political and institutional advertisements but there are no rules or criteria for the procurement of such advertisements. In the light of the organic law's competences, AMA regulates the entirety of content broadcast by audiovisual media service providers, although conducting state advertising procurement procedures is not part of AMA's operation, and advertisement is actually procured separately by public institutions. AMA reports on the amount of airtime occupied by advertising, including institutional advertisement (in time and number), in the capacity of the monitoring authority of content broadcast by audio and audiovisual subjects.*

## **4.2 Other Reports**

AMA has periodically reported to the Stabilization and Association Committee, the “Innovation, Information Society, and Social Policy” Subcommittee, “Justice, Freedom, and Security” Subcommittee, as well as “Freedom of Expression” Subcommittee.

The Stabilization Association Committee, convened in November 2019, recommended the following measures: *“Albania is invited to reflect on the EU and international bodies comments for drafting amendments to the law on media”*.

The Freedom, Justice and Security Subcommittee, convened in July 2020, recommends: *“Albania is invited to implement the recommendations of the Venice Commission on the drafting amendments to Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania” as amended.*

In response to these two recommendations, AMA said that the draft law “On certain Amendments and Addenda to Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania”, as amended,” is currently being considered by the Albanian Parliament, and that AMA does not report on this legal initiative.

## **5. DATA RELATED TO AUTHORITY'S ACTIVITY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE INSPECTIONS OR INVESTIGATIONS, CITATION DECISIONS IN RELATION TO THE LAST YEARS**

Programming, financial, technical, and organizational activities management of licensees and/or authorized parties, as specified by law, as well as oversight of license/authorization conditions observance are some of AMA's responsibilities.

In 2020, AMA imposed 6 citations, as follows:

- Supervision Directorate: 5 decisions for citation;
- Legal and Licensing Directorate: 1 decision for citation.

### **Directorate of Surveillance**

In 2018-2019, the Authority conducted a large number of on-site inspections to prevent piracy by cable subjects in the country. As regards 2020, the inspections number has decreased as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the decreasing requests of subjects for us to intervene.

Nonetheless, all operators' complaints/requests for interventions against the violation of the broadcasting right by cable subject have received responses and measures by AMA.

Our checks found that television piracy has reduced from year to year, owing to Authority's work. The number of complaints filed with the institution reflects this situation.

Data from the previous four years is included below:

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Digitalb	19 complaints against 45 subjects	11 complaints against 28 subjects	6 complaints against 10 subjects	-
Tring	11 complaints against 36 subjects	5 complaints against 12 subjects	2 complaints against 2 subjects	18 complaints against 23 subjects
Klan	-	-	-	5 complaints against 5 subjects



In terms of inspections, the Supervision Directorate inspection teams conducted 55 checks of the AMSP's audiovisual activity in 2020.

The following actions were taken after the checks were completed and the related administrative procedures were reviewed:

**5** citation decisions against AMSP subjects for violating Law No. 97/2013, including:

- **5** citations against third-party relay subjects (cable, IPTV, and OTT), with **2** of them being canceled by the AMA Council due to complaints.
- **13** cases of reprimand to AMSP subjects.

As a result of the above, AMA seized broadcasting equipment from **3** subjects who were engaging in audiovisual activity without AMA's authorization or license.

Illegal audiovisual activity that is not licensed or authorized by AMA has seen a downward trend in recent years.

Data from the previous four years is included below:

YEAR	INSPECTIONS	TOTAL CITATIONS (REPEALED)	REPRIMANDS	SEIZURES
2017	488	64 (29)	25	19
2018	224	27 (10)	49	11
2019	162	19 (5)	22	9
2020	55	5 (2)	13	3

In terms of monitoring activities, the Supervision Directorate focused on program topics, adherence to legal provisions on advertisement broadcasting and identification of advertising volume on national televisions, as well as monitoring vacant programs on terrestrial numeric platforms during 2020.

#### **Legal and Licensing Directorate**

Following checks carried out on the subjects' data reflected on the extract on subjects data on the official website of the National Business Center, during 2020, the Legal and Licensing Directorate imposed a citation on 1 subject with No. 6<sup>1</sup> dated 23.12.2020, at the amount of ALL 120.000. Upon the administrative complaint, this citation was invalidated by AMA through Decision No. 8, dated 18.01.2021.

### Financial progress of citations during 2020

ALL

<b>Opening at the beginning of 2020</b>	<b>307,751,388</b>
+ Citation decisions in 2020	5,160,000
+ Late payment penalties accrued in 2020	0
- Paid obligations after citation decisions and accrued late payment penalties	2,008,191
- Citation decisions subject to cancellation/reduction/cessation of executive title by the bailiff	4,000,000
<b>Obligation by late 2020</b>	<b>306,903,197</b>

In 2020, the obligations incurred as a result of 6 citations totaled ALL 5.160.000.

The reduction amount of ALL 4,000,000 for “*Citation Decisions Annulment/Reduction/Cessation of Executive Title by the Bailiff*”, stems from:

- AMA decision invalidated 2 decisions for citation in 2020: citation No. 2, dated 21.07.2020, invalidated with Decision No. 81, dated 03.09.2020 and citation No. 4 dated 21.07.2020 invalidated with Decision No. 71, dated 21.08.2020.
- 2 decisions for citation have been invalidated through court decision: citation No. 49 dated 24.11.2015, invalidated through DAC No. 682, dated 29.06.2020 and citation No. 55 dated 07.12.2015, invalidated through DAC No. 130, dated 29.01.2020.

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<sup>1</sup> Citation No. 6 dated 23.12.2020, at the amount of ALL 120.000, since it was invalidated through Decision No. 8, dated 18.01.2021, its financial effects have become part of the financial progress of citations during 2021.

## **6. AUTHORITY'S GOVERNANCE**

### **6.1 License/authorization decision-making**

License/authorization granting is one of AMA's main function and it is carried out based on subjects requests, frequency availability, broadcasting capacities, and pursuant to the relevant legal and sublegal framework. AMA continued to perform its collegial operations in 2020 in compliance with organic law No. 97/2013 "On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania," as amended, the Administrative Procedure Code, and the applicable legal and sublegal framework.

AMA's decision-making has mostly focused on reviewing audio/audiovisual license/authorization applications, various subjects' AMSP license/authorization renewal applications, license/authorization renunciation requests, various notifications of changes to data submitted in license and/or authorization applications, and administrative complaints.

Following its regulatory functions, AMA has approved several sublegal acts that ensure audiovisual services provision.

Since the sublegal framework on issuing audio broadcasting licenses is complete, in 2020, AMA, upon reviewing the radio frequencies used for the audio broadcasting plan, upon the request of interested subjects, opened 7 (seven) competitions for issuing analog audio broadcasting licenses, including an audio broadcasting license with national coverage. Broadcasting frequency assignment by AMA, in any case, has respected law provisions, such as objectiveness, transparency, non-discrimination, and availability of vacant frequencies. In the framework of transparency and in order to provide chances to any interested party to partake in the competition process, the competition was announced on AMA's website and several press releases.

After reviewing applications submitted for the public announcement, AMA:

- Upon Decision No. 45, dated 25.06.2020, decided to grant a national private license for analog audio broadcasting to "Radio Klan" Ltd. company, for the audio subject "Radio Klan".
- Upon Decision No. 96, dated 14.10.2020, decided to grant a local analog audio broadcasting license to "Radio Televizioni Saranda" Ltd. company, for the audio subject "Saranda Ime Radio", to provide signal to Saranda municipality.
- Upon Decision No. 140, dated 10.12.2020, decided to broaden the service area of "Radio Logos" Ltd. company, for the audio subject "Radio Logos", in Elbasan, Cërrik, Belsh and Gramsh municipalities.
- Upon Decision No. 146, dated 17.12.2020, decided to broaden the service area of "Tema Tv" Ltd. company, for the audio subject "MCN Radio", in Elbasan, Fier and Vlora regions.

In January 2020, AMA adopted the Regulation “On Criteria and Procedures for Granting an Audiovisual Program Service License”, which defines the criteria and procedures for granting local or regional audiovisual program service licenses. Pursuant to this act, in 2020, AMA continues starting procedures for issuing local and regional audiovisual program service licenses by starting 5 (five) public competitions for issuing audiovisual program service licenses, more specifically in Tirana, Fier, Berat, and Korça allotments.

After reviewing applications submitted for the public announcement, AMA:

- Upon Decision No. 132, dated 04.12.2020, decided to accept an application and to grant a license to “ABEG” Ltd. company, for providing audiovisual program services “ABEG TV” in Tirana - Durrës regions.
- Upon Decision No. 46, dated 25.06.2020, decided to accept an application and to grant a license to “Tema Tv” Ltd. company, for providing audiovisual program services in Fier, Berat and Korça regions.
- Upon Decision No. 28, dated 22.04.2020, decided to accept an application and to grant a license to “3DS&AF Entertainment” Ltd. company, for providing audiovisual program services in Fier and Korça regions.

In the framework of the digitalization process, and pursuant to transitory provisions of Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania”, as amended, following the termination of analog broadcasting in different regions, AMA, aiming at aligning rights and obligations of licensed subjects for analog broadcasting with provisions of Law No. 97/2013, proceeded with substituting licenses for analog broadcasting with licenses for audiovisual program services. In 2020, AMA granted audiovisual program service licenses to [the regions where analog broadcasting had been terminated, more specifically *Elbasan, Vlora, Lezha and Shkodra regions* (analog broadcasting was terminated on September 30, 2020), **18 subjects licensed for analog broadcasting**], after they submitted a contract for supporting on one of the public or private numeric networks.

Following the termination of analog broadcasting across the country, the switchover to numeric broadcasting was enriched with the substitution of the license of 35 analog audiovisual subjects, who had submitted a contract for being supported by one of the public (29 subjects) or private numeric networks.

Of the full list of analog television subjects, 2 existing subjects were interested in substituting their license with authorization, by being supported by other networks of electronic communication, such as cable, Internet, etc., on the reasoning that they could not afford to be supported by a numeric network.

In the meantime, some existing subjects have had their analog television broadcasting revoked or invalidate, as defined by law regarding financial obligations, failure to renew the license due to missing paperwork, lack of interest, etc.

Whereas, 2 subjects licensed for analog broadcasting in the Elbasan region, founded a joint venture based on legal provisions and were equipped with a local numeric broadcasting license, by building the network themselves. As regards Vlora, Kukës, and Dibra regions subjects, which have yet to submit support contracts, AMA is sending and receiving letters with them.

AMA also delivered decisions rejecting license/authorization granting and renewal applications, as well as revoked the licenses/authorizations of some subjects who failed to fulfill the terms and requirements set out in the legislation and the license/authorization, during the reporting year, in compliance with legal provisions.

Regarding applications to obtain authorizations, which are reviewed on-a-request-basis, in 2020, 20 subjects have shown their interest, of which, 9 have received authorization as relayers/providers on a cable network/Internet IPTV/OTT, whilst 1 subject has had their application overturned.

Moreover, in 2020, 10 existing subjects authorized for cable services, have requested to broaden the service provision area. Furthermore, in the last two years, a trend has arisen of transferring authorization rights to other cable subjects, allowing for the extension of cable service coverage for those whose rights have expired.

Pursuant to Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania,” as amended, the licensed/authorized subjects are required to inform AMA within 30 days of any modifications made to the request for license and/or authorization, transfer of rights, or changes to the ownership arrangement under the same commercial subject.

AMA has periodically checked data on changes made by audio/audiovisual media service providers on the National Business Center's official website, of which the regulatory authority was not aware, in order to ensure adherence to legal provisions on AMSPs ownership structure. AMA introduced administrative procedures, following the inspections carried out on AMSPs, by requesting information and legal paperwork concerning amendments made to license/authorization data, and by applying respective sanctions on a case-by-case basis.

In 2020, AMA launched an administrative investigation for 1 subject, changed with AMA approval. Likewise, 8 subjects have announced the changes to their ownership structure, which have been approved by the Authority. Meanwhile, AMA approved the transfer of license/authorization rights for 6 subjects.

In most cases, modifications have been made within the arrangement of the partners themselves, but there are also cases in which rights have been transferred from the natural person to a legal person initiated by AMA.

Since, during the reporting period, the majority of subjects informed the Authority on changes in the ownership structure within the specified deadline in the legal framework, 30 days from their performance, AMA observes a greater awareness of audio/audiovisual subjects about the observance of the legal framework in place on changes notification.

In 2020, as regards applications for license/authorization, the Authority decided:

- Granting of analog audio broadcasting license for 1 subject, expansion of the service coverage area for 3 subjects;
- Granting of local audiovisual broadcasting license for 1 subject and expansion of the service coverage area for 2 subjects;
- Granting of authorizations for 9 subjects, of which 6 subjects for service relay, for 3 subjects on providing audio/audiovisual program services or expansion of the service coverage area for 10 authorized subjects;
- Renewing authorization for 20 subjects (relayers/providers in cable/Internet IPTV and OTT/satellite);
- Renewing a license for 13 audio subjects;
- Granting an audiovisual program service license to 18 subjects;
- Revoking a license for television and radio broadcasting for 1 subjects, not granting a license for 1 subject; not renewing a license/authorization for 4 subjects and invalidating a license/authorization for 7 subjects;
- Extending the authorization area for 9 subjects, extending the licensing area for 2 radio subjects and rejecting the application of 4 subjects for extending their area;
- Approving changes to the data provided on the request for obtaining a license/authorization for 15 subjects including the transfer of license/authorization rights (6 subjects);
- Changes made to the name/logo of 6 subjects.

### **Judicial proceedings**

The right to the administrative and judicial complaint is recognized to any subject affected by AMA decision-making as a collegial body, and Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania”, as amended, the Administrative Procedure Code and the material and procedural legislation in force.

During 2020, AMA has been a defendant in judicial proceedings for resolving different conflicts, mainly with audio/audiovisual subjects. In the majority of cases, AMA decisions are appealed at court related to non-granting of license/authorization, non-renewal of license/authorization, administrative sanctions (citation), etc. As a legal person, AMA has invested in several judicial

bodies thus judicially requesting the settlement of financial obligations of subjects that are debtors to AMA or state budget. The progress of judicial proceedings in all adjudication instances, during the reporting period, has been impacted by the COVID-19 situation, because for 3 months adjudication in all courts of the country was suspended.

Similar to previous years, this year featured the execution of AMA decisions, turned into executive titles pursuant to Article 132 under the organic law, through the private bailiff service. AMA has entered into several service agreements during 2020 for the enforcement of 79 executive titles, while the procedures for the enforcement of executive titles under agreements entered into previously have been ongoing.

During this period, the close follow-up of proceedings initiated during the reporting period, AMA has continued monitoring trials the Court of Appeal or High Court.

The detailed information on judicial proceedings where AMA is a party is provided in Annex No. 1, attached to this Report.

## 7. THE AUTHORITY AS A REGULATOR FOR A RESPONSIBLE AUDIOVISUAL MARKET

### 7.1 Topical assessment of broadcast content

In 2020, topical monitoring and reviews of audiovisual content broadcast by AMSPs took place. They focused on:

- child protection from harmful content;
- advertisements on carbonated beverages with added sugar;
- implementing measures to protect the audiovisual editorial offices staff from COVID-19;
- programs dedicated to the pandemic dynamic;
- hate speech and discrimination.

As regards cases found to violate requirements of Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania”, as amended, AMA’s Broadcasting Code and other sublegal acts, respective AMSPs have been reprimanded.

More specifically, topical monitoring and reviews have identified 10 cases when the legal framework requirements have been violated:

- 4 cases (40%) for violation of child protection requirements;
- 3 cases (30%) for failure to implement instructions of the health authority regarding the number of people in the studio;
- 2 cases (20%) for unethical stances in addressing COVID-19 pandemic issues;
- 1 case (10%) for use of hate speech and discrimination against refugees from the Middle East.

No.	Violation category	AMSPs	Program
1	Violation of child protection requirements	BBF	Musical parts broadcasting
		Melodi Tv	
		Supersonic	
		My Music	
2	Failure to implement instructions of the health authority regarding the number of people in the studio	Klan	“Klanifornia”
		Top Channel	“Portokalli”
		Ora News	“360 Gradë”
3	Unethical stances in addressing COVID-19 pandemic issues	Top Channel	“E diell”
		ABC News	“ABC e mëngjesit”
4	Use of hate speech and discrimination against refugees from the Middle East	ABC News	“Newscast”



## 7.2 Content Monitoring

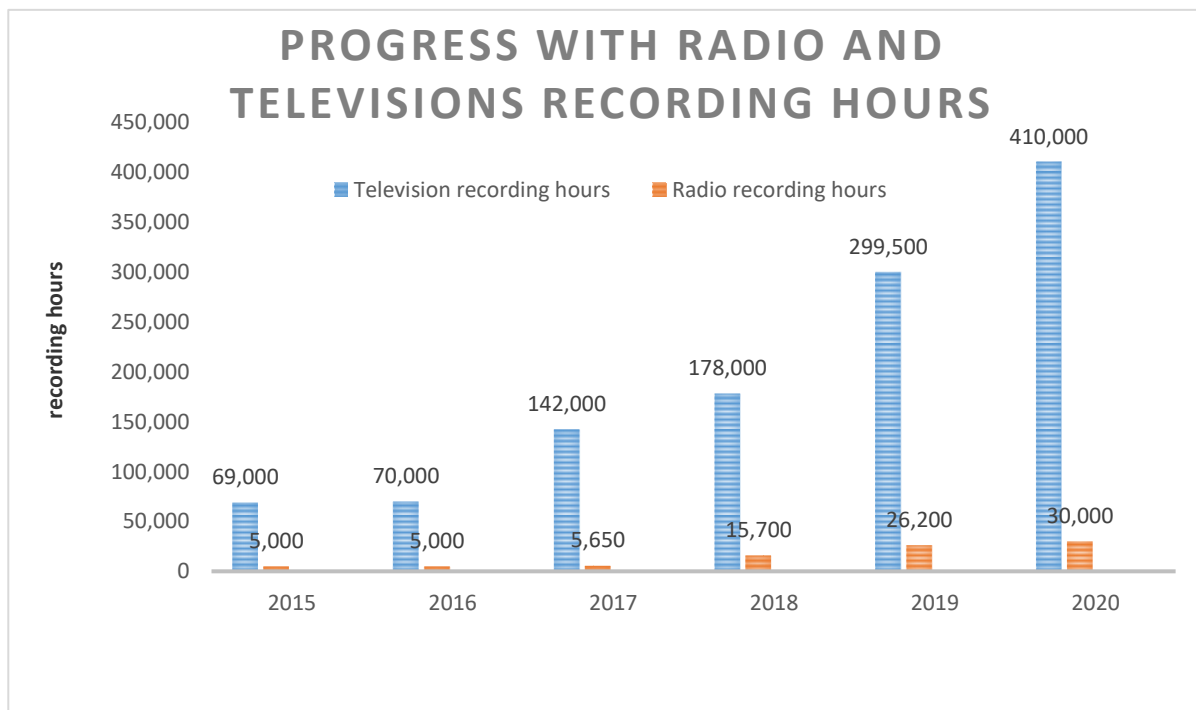
With regards to the digital broadcasting monitoring in AMA's Monitoring and Archive Studio, during January-May, 48 recording units have been operational, where, apart from audio and audiovisual subjects, recording was also performed for the Digitalb Satelitor, Digitalb Tokësor, Tring Satelitor, Tring Tokësor and Abcom platforms.

*From the statistical point of view, the following were recorded during this year:*

- *approximately **410,000** hours of audiovisual broadcasting in total and **30,000** hours of audio broadcasting in digital broadcasting*

which, compared to previous years, are as follows:

Years	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Television recorded hours	69,000	70,000	142,000	178,000	299,500	410,000
Radio recorded hours	5,000	5,000	5,650	15,700	26,200	30,000



*Apart from recording audio and audiovisual broadcasting, which are part of the Audiovisual Media Authority's Archive, the work of Monitoring Studio is focused on monitoring:*

**A. Newscasts;**

*A total of **2,600 newscasts** (1,500 newscasts of national audiovisual subjects and 1,100 newscasts of national audio subjects) by national audio and audiovisual subjects were monitored.*

**B. Advertisements;**

*There is a total of **25,500 hours** of advertisements monitoring in national audiovisual subjects*

*As for the monitoring of the main newscasts by national AMSPs, AMA evaluates one newscast per day considered to represent the editorial line. The quantitative data on time proportionality in the main newscasts are regularly, published every month on the institution's website, in a separate section.*

Addressing of public and operators' complaints;

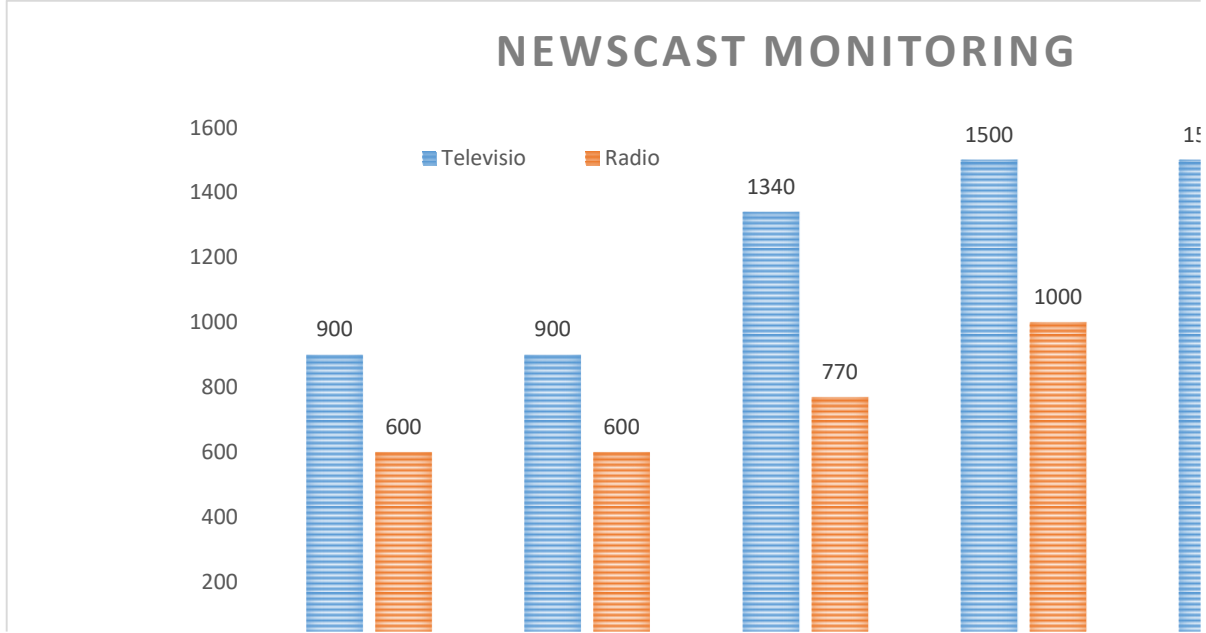
*11 requests/complaints by the public have been submitted to the Monitoring and Archive Studio for obtaining information on the recordings, in 2020.*

*200 hours of recording have been performed in the Monitoring and Archive Studio for audio AMSP subjects in 2020, for purposes of reviewing the programs' content.*

In comparison with the previous years, data are as follows:

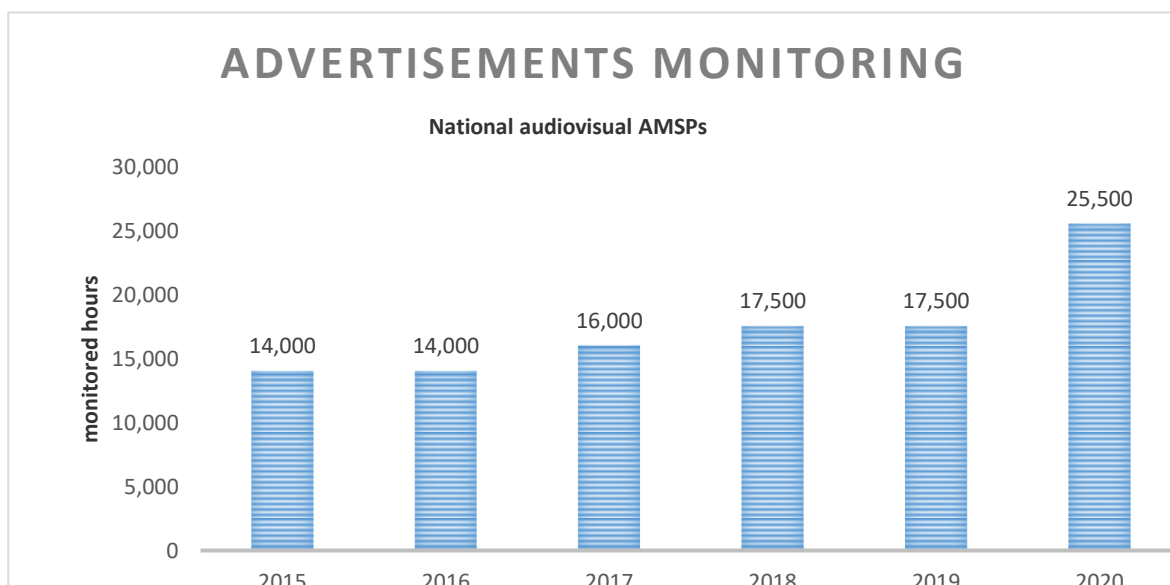
**A. Newscasts monitoring**

<b>AMSPs category</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Televisions	900	900	1,340	1,500	1,500	1,500
Radio	600	600	770	1,000	1,100	1,100



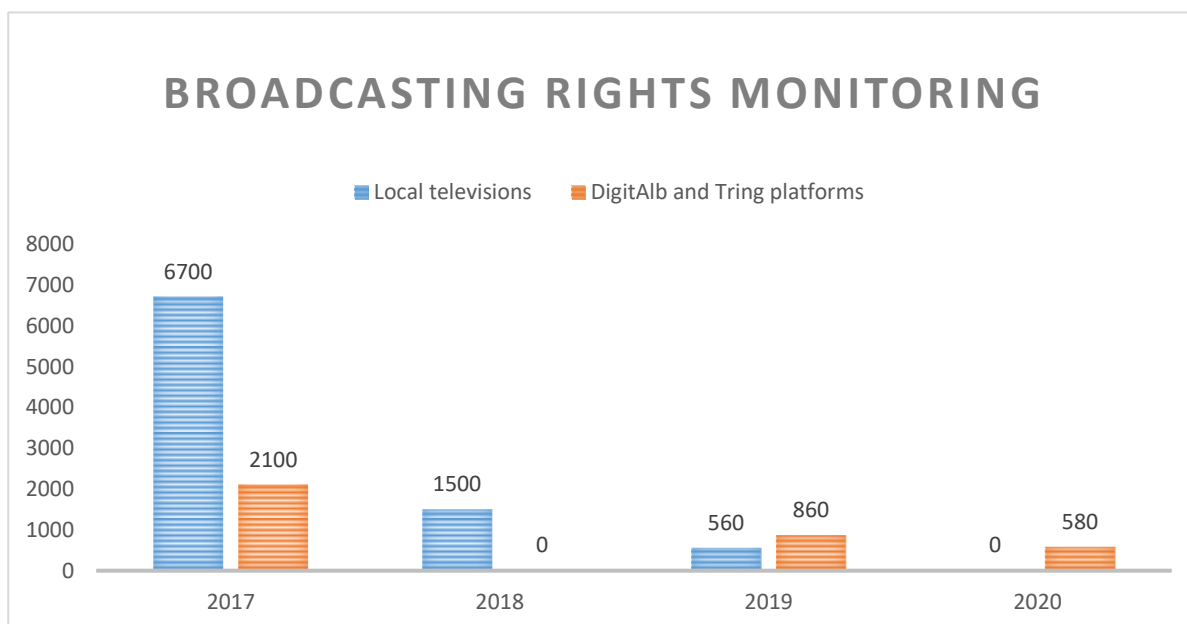
***B. Advertisement monitoring***

AMSPs category	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
National audiovisual subjects	14,000	14,000	16,000	17,500	17,500	25,500



#### *C. Broadcasting rights monitoring*

AMSPs category	2017	2018	2019	2020
Local televisions	6,700	1,500	560	-
DigitAlb and Tring platforms	2,100	-	860	580



In 2020, quantitative indicators of the monitoring of the main newscasts from national AMSPs, such as RTSH1, Top Channel, Klan and Vizion Plus, Radio Tirana, Top Albania Radio and Club FM, have

been published every month by AMA, in an electronic form, in a special section of its official website, and they will be included in the annual Periodic Bulletin. Annex 2 presents a summary of 2020 data.

### **7.3 Approach to the piracy phenomenon in audiovisual broadcasting**

Another important dimension of our work in 2020 was online piracy. This is a new challenge for the Authority, since this technology used by ISPs (Internet Service Providers) is highly sophisticated and demands investments in technology and qualified human resources. In order to fight online piracy, AMA has stipulated a special objective in its strategy to increase technical capacities and train human resources, so that they can identify and reduce the number of online piracy cases. However, cooperation with other institutions such as EPCA, the State Police, etc., is indispensable to providing a different approach against this phenomenon. Even though there is no cooperation agreement with EPCA, AMA has carried out on-site verifications through its inspection teams to identify illegal activities carried out online by ISPs.

As was reported, AMA has repeatedly called for the finalization and signature of the cooperation agreement between AMA and EPCA. Despite our repeated requests, lack of response from this authority fails to serve to our joint purpose to guarantee fair market competition and to prevent television piracy and informality in the field.

## 8. COUNCIL OF COMPLAINTS

### *Complaints review*

Following duties and objectives, commitments and recommendations by the Albanian Parliament, the AMA Complaints Council in 2020 continued overseeing the observance of the Broadcasting Code and regulations approved by AMA.

The Complaints Council attentively and professionally reviewed complaints submitted by AMA, and added contact (online contact due to COVID-19) with Complaints Review Boards at AMSPs, and child protection organizations and agencies: - especially with the State Agency for Child Rights and Protection at the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, as an agency that directly follows problems related to children, by referring cases identified in the audiovisual media to the Complaint Council; - as well as important actors and factors in the field of audiovisual media.

The Complaints Council has handled and proposed appropriate measures for dozens of complaints addressed to AMA by citizens, institutions and organizations over problems with audiovisual content.

The majority of concerns and complaints addressed to AMA through official mail, e-mail or the website, concerned, including the violation of human rights, legal and ethical norms, child rights violation, dignity infringement, as well as several added complaints towards social networks, portals and newspapers.

The Complaints Council has ensured that, in any case, complainants received a preliminary response before the conclusions, within the legal time frames.

However, during this reporting period, the Complaints Council has reviewed 123 complaints, the majority of which have been submitted by individuals and civil society associations and organizations.

In conclusion of complaints review, the Complaints Council has reprimanded operators in 36 cases; in 2 cases the Council requested the change of the broadcasting time of two film series, according to the provisions of the Broadcasting Code. Operators promptly responded by taking into consideration the observance of the ethical and legal requirements and norms of the Broadcasting Code.

Regarding their subject, complaints are presented as follows:

- 39 on child rights and privacy violation;
- 41 on infringement of human rights, ethics and public moral;
- 19 were found to be outside AMA's scope, as defined by Law No. 97/2013 "On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania", as amended;
- 2 on the right to response;

- 2 on information verification;
- 20 complaints had a different subject.

### *Activities*

Following the objectives and priorities set by AMA's Council and tasks assigned by the Albanian Parliament, in addition to daily processes of receiving and handling complaints, the Complaints Council has partaken and contributed to several joint activities with institutional and international partners.

- In February 2020, the Complaints Council took part in the event titled: "Gender Equality and EU Integration - Media Role in Gender Equality Promotion and Gender Sensitive Reporting".

The event was carried out in the framework of the project "Technical Assistance to Gender Equality Agenda in Albania in the process of accession to EU", financed by the European Union, and it aimed at supporting the work of the Albanian Government on gender equality, by increasing institutional support at the central and local level, and by promoting a joint platform to encourage actions on gender equality priorities.

- In June 2020, the Complaints Council participated in the webinar organized by the European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services (ERGA) on the "Code of Practice and Disinformation". This virtual meeting consisted of discussions about the phenomenon of fake news and way to fact-check information before it is published, as well as the help provided to journalists by the Code of Practice in this regard.

- In July 2020, the Complaints Council participated in another webinar titled "Elections, Pandemic and Disinformation", where AMA reported on the work that they had done under the COVID-19 isolation and the situation in audiovisual media after COVID-19 restrictions.

- In September 2020, the Complaints Council took part in a training organized in Tirana by UNICRI (with a limited number of participants) on the "Nexus between International Organized Crime and Terrorism". This training entailed discussions about best practices, community security and access to basic services, and strengthening of employment schemes and development through economic initiatives, assisted by information provided by audiovisual operators on such matters.

- In September 2020, the Complaints Council participates in EPRA's webinar, titled: "EU Digital Policies and TV". The future of audiovisual media in the framework of Digital Services, the European Democracy Action Plan, impact of technological innovations on the media industry, regulatory platforms and the legal framework were some of the issues discussed by the panelists. The

conditioned access and filtration of information through digital services were some of the alternatives discussed improving online information.

- During 2020, the Complaints Council represented the Audiovisual Media Authority in all meetings organized by in the framework of the Public Legal Education Strategy (PLES), where AMA played the main role in introducing the broader public to the legal framework on audiovisual broadcasting, especially with the Broadcasting Code. We informed the PLES network that during this year (2021) a survey on audiovisual media Broadcasting Code has been planned, the conclusions of which will serve to feed into this important document.

### ***Complaints Bulletin***

During the reporting period, the Complaints Council drafted and published Periodic Bulletin No. 6, comprising complaints received and handled for January - June 2019, until June 2019, while we are about to conclude the process of drafting and publishing Periodic Bulletin No. 7, which reflects all cases reviewed during July - December 2019.

Assessments and relevant measures on complaints addressed to AMA, mainly for dignity infringement, children's rights violations and banned advertisements, etc., are published in Periodic Bulletin No. 6, which is available on AMA's website. We believe that this Periodic Bulletin, as well as others, serves as a guide for any future AMSP that may face similar cases in the future.

### ***Sign language in audiovisual broadcasting***

The Complaints Council, since October 2017, initiated a letter communication, but not only, with audiovisual operators holding a national license, regarding the legal obligation that these operators guarantee sign language broadcasting. Thus, pursuant to provision of Law No. 97/2013 "On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania", as amended, "for communities with special sensory needs".

Considering broadcasting for persons with special sensory needs of utmost importance, the Authority had frequent letter communication with 3 of the 4 operators holding a national license: "Top Channel", "Klan" and "Vizion +", but unfortunately, no positive reply or response was provided on their side, even though deadlines have been imposed several times "to take measures for fulfilling this legal obligation".

Currently, only the public operator, RTSH, broadcasting one newscast with sign language interpretation.



More specifically, the three above-mentioned operators have received letters several times – CC to the Parliament – where they were requested to fulfill the legal obligation for broadcasting in sign language, and were informed that “lack of sign language broadcasting is of concern to the Parliament of Albania, which included this issue in its main recommendations for AMA”.

Even during 2020, the Complaints Council at AMA continued communicating with national audiovisual operators regarding the fulfillment of this obligation. During the same year, AMA held correspondence with the Commissioner for the Protection from Discrimination, who was provided with the information they requested. It must be noted that Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania”, as amended, does not stipulate sanctions against audiovisual operators in this regard.

AMA included this issue in the agenda of the discussions during the Authority Council meeting on November 12, 2020. At the end of the meeting, AMA Council called for operators holding a national license to implement this important obligation. Following further communication with the operators, the latter informed AMA about the concern of lacking sign language interpreters. The audiovisual operator “Tv Klan” requested cooperation with the National Albanian Association of People with Hearing Impairments in order to provide sign language interpretation. However, the Association responded to the request and informed the audiovisual operator that “there is no-one who can provide this service on a daily basis.”, i.e. sign language interpretation.

Under these circumstances, pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers, No. 1074, dated 23.12.2015, according to which the Ministry responsible for educational matters shall apply policies to start a university study program (Bachelor/Master's) to prepare Albanian sign language interpreters, as well as the scientific staff in this field (paragraph 15, Chapter II); and the Ministry responsible for disability issues, in cooperation with organizations of and for people with hearing disabilities, shall identify, every two years, needs for sign language interpreters and instructors (paragraph 16, chapter II); The Audiovisual Media Authority suggested the two relevant ministries (the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection) to encourage and take further measures for materializing audiovisual broadcasting for persons with special sensory needs, by preparing sign language interpreters. The above-mentioned ministries have yet to respond.

## **9. THE AUTHORITY AND COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LEGISLATION**

### **9.1 Legal references on which the activity of the institution is based on**

AMA is the regulatory authority in the Republic of Albania for audio and audiovisual broadcasting services and other supporting services, and it is responsible for overseeing the regulatory framework established by the law on audio/audiovisual broadcasting.

The role, functions and competencies of the regulatory authority are defined in the special legislation, Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania”, as amended.

AMA's activities are also regulated by a set of legal and sublegal acts that govern the audiovisual sector's development policies, Parliamentary recommendations, AMA sublegal acts, and so on.

### **9.2 Completing the necessary sublegal framework for the exercise of ASMP activity**

During the reporting year, administrative work on drafting sublegal acts was continued in accordance with and as specified by Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania”, as amended, AMA Strategy and Action Plan, to be certain that the Authority's objectives are met.

Pursuant to Article 24 under Law No. 97/2013, according to which “*1. AMA, in the process of developing regulatory documents, as required by this law, and before making any decisions that have a significant impact on the provision of audio and audiovisual services, is obliged to obtain and evaluate the opinion of interested parties through public consultation*”, stakeholders were given the opportunity to offer specific feedback and proposals during the course of drafting regulatory sublegal acts, which included robust public consultation.

Two sublegal acts were adopted in 2020, while the public consultation exercise was concluded and two further sublegal acts are awaiting adoption by the Authority.

Pursuant to Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania”, AMA has approved the following sublegal acts:

- AMA Decision No. 1, dated 16.01.2020 “On Granting Broadcasting Licenses for an Interim Period and Institutional Needs”. This sublegal act meets the legal obligation set out in Articles 77 and 78 of the organic law and paves the way for fulfilling the needs for a temporary audio broadcasting license for cultural, social, or other uses, as well as for educational or health institutions.
- AMA Decision No. 2, dated 16.01.2020 “On the Criteria and Procedures for Granting the Audiovisual Program Service License”. The requirements, criteria, and procedures for granting the audiovisual program service license are detailed in this sublegal act. With the approval of this sublegal act, the legal framework for granting program service licenses has been completed, allowing new actors to enter the audiovisual market.

Meanwhile, the following sublegal acts are being approved by AMA:

- Regulation “On the Criteria and Measures regulating the Co-use of the Broadcasting Infrastructure of the Public Broadcaster”, that seeks to reach the objectives of public service broadcasters while also broadening the range of audiovisual services available.
- Guidelines (regulations) for resolving disputes between audio and/or audiovisual media operators, including disputes with the public broadcaster, setting down rules, criteria, and procedures for resolving disputes between holders of national, regional, and local numeric audio licenses, as well as national numeric licenses for audiovisual broadcasting and AMSPs, regarding the use of the multiplex, according to Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania”, as amended.

In addition, following requests from RTSH, AMA has approved the following:

- Decision No. 25, dated 15.04.2020, “On Approving the Annex to the Public Broadcaster Service Contract for starting the Tirana Jazz Program Service”.
- Decision No. 97, dated 14.10.2020, “On providing 90.5 Mhz and 91.5 Mhz frequencies to the Albanian radio and television for the coverage with the audio signal of the service area of the municipalities of Himara (for radio Tirana 1) and Pogradec (for radio Korça)”.
- Decision No. 98, dated 14.10.2020, “On Approving the Annex to the Public Broadcaster Service Contract for starting the audio service of the public broadcaster “Radio Tirana Fëmijë”.
- Decision No. 99, dated 14.10.2020, “On Approving the Annex to the Public Broadcaster Service Contract for starting the public broadcaster service “RTSH Kukësi”.
- Decision No. 100, dated 14.10.2020 “On Approving the Annex to the Public Broadcaster Service Contract for changing the name of the program service from “RTSH Fëmijë 2” to “RTSH Shkollë”.
- Decision No. 44, dated 25.06.2020, “On Approving the Annex to the Public Broadcaster Service Contract (technical characteristics of numeric networks and FM radio stations)”.

### **9.3 The need for changes in the legal framework regulating the activity of the institution**

Directive 2010/13/EU of the European Parliament and Council, dated 10 March 2010 “On the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in the Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services”, was completely transposed to Law No. 97/2013, has been subject to some changes at the end of 2018. (Directive 2018/1808), dated 14.11.2018). Among the changes are some new regulations aimed at enhancing minors' protection; changes to commercial communications rules, new rules for online platforms, promotion of European works, and so on.

The harmonization of audiovisual legislation with the “*acquis communautaire*” is an obligation for Albania under the Stabilization and Association Agreement, and the main actors in the process of

transposing the EU legislation in the field of audiovisual media in the Republic of Albania are the Parliament and the line minister, who is responsible for electronic communications. AMA will also assist with the transposition of changes into the national legislation.

#### **9.4 Supervision of the frequency spectrum**

On-site monitoring related to the laying of numeric infrastructure by national private audiovisual operators, identification of numeric audiovisual signal coverage of the country, and verification of the support of local/regional operators in the national numeric networks has been the main focus of the supervision of the frequency spectrum use during 2020, as part of the digitalization process finalization.

RTSH and national private numeric operators do not cover the following areas of the country with numeric signal, according to the monitoring carried out in all regions of the country at the end of the digitalization process:

##### ***1. PUBLIC ALBANIAN OPERATOR, RTSH***

###### ***BERAT REGION***

- Quarters behind Berat Castle
- Roshnik administrative unit
- Sinja administrative unit
- Potom administrative unit
- Çepan administrative unit.

*Around 5% of the population in this region is not provided services.*

###### ***KORÇA REGION***

- Voskopoja administrative unit
- Dardha administrative unit
- Çërrava (center)
- Mokërr administrative unit (partially)
- Gora administrative unit
- Barmash administrative unit

*Around 6 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

###### ***TIRANA - Durrës REGIONS***

- Shëngjergj administrative unit
- Baldushk administrative unit (partially)

- Kruja administrative unit
- Cudhi administrative unit

*Around 2 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

#### *ELBASAN REGION*

- Labinot commune (Fushë - Xibrakë)
- Qukës administrative unit (partially)
- Lunik administrative unit (Kostenja, Dranovica, Orenja, Strebleva).

*Around 1 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

#### *VLORA REGION*

- Borsh administrative unit (partially)
- Himara administrative unit (partially)
- Villages of Vlora River (Drashovica, Kota, Brataj, Tërbaç, Velça, Vranisht, Kuç).

*Around 3 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

#### *SHKODRA REGION*

- Ana e Malit administrative unit
- Vau i Dejës administrative unit (partially)
- Kelmend administrative unit

*Around 4 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

#### *GJIROKASTRA REGION*

- Picar administrative unit
- Zagore administrative unit
- Kurvelesh administrative unit
- Krahës administrative unit
- Qesarat administrative unit
- Dropull i Sipërm administrative unit
- Pogon administrative unit

*Around 19 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

#### *DIBRA REGION*

- Maqellara administrative unit (partially)
- Slllova, Kala e Dodës administrative unit

*Around 6 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

***KUKËS REGION***

- Lek Bibaj administrative unit

*Around 2 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

**2. “MEDIA VIZION” COMPANY**

***BERAT REGION***

- Kuçova administrative unit
- Poliçan administrative unit
- Çorovoda administrative unit

*Around 19 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

***KORÇA REGION***

- Voskopoja administrative unit
- Dardha administrative unit
- Çërrava administrative unit
- Mokër administrative unit

*Around 4 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

***TIRANA REGION***

- Zall Bastar administrative unit
- Shëngjergj administrative unit
- Baldushk administrative unit (partially)
- Krraba administrative unit
- Ndroq administrative unit

*Around 2 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

***DURRËS REGION***

- Kruja administrative unit
- Cudhi administrative unit

*Around 4 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

**SHKODRA REGION**

- Malësi e Madhe administrative unit
- Puka administrative unit
- Vau i Dejës administrative unit
- Fushë - Arrëz administrative unit
- Ana e Malit administrative unit

*Around 8 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

**KUKËS REGION**

- Bajram Curr administrative unit
- Has administrative unit

*Around 12 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

**PESHKOPI REGION**

- Peshkopi administrative unit
- Bulqiza administrative unit
- Klos administrative unit
- Maqellara administrative unit
- Burrel administrative unit

*Around 41 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

**LEZHA REGION**

- Rrëshen administrative unit

*Around 4 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

**ELBASAN REGION**

- Përrenjas administrative unit
- Librazhd administrative unit
- Qukës administrative unit
- Peqin administrative unit
- Gramsh administrative unit

*Around 8 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

**GJIROKASTRA REGION**

- Tepelena administrative unit
- Përmet administrative unit
- Këlcyra administrative unit
- Krahës administrative unit
- Picar administrative unit
- Zagorie administrative unit
- Kurvelesh administrative unit
- Qesarat administrative unit
- Dropull administrative unit
- Pogon administrative unit

*Around 40 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

#### *VLORA REGION*

- Delvina administrative unit
- Dhërmi administrative unit
- Borsh administrative unit
- Konispol administrative unit
- Villages of Vlora River (Drashovica, Kota, Brataj, Tërbaç, Velca, Vranisht, Kuç, etc.).

*Around 7 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

### **3. TV “KLAN” SUBJECT**

#### *KORÇA REGION*

- Voskopoja administrative unit
- Dardha administrative unit
- Çërrava administrative unit
- Mokër administrative unit

*Around 4 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

#### *TIRANA REGION*

- Zall Bastar administrative unit
- Shëngjergj administrative unit
- Baldushk administrative unit (partially)
- Krraba administrative unit
- Ndroq administrative unit

*Around 2 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*



#### *DURRËS REGION*

- Kruja administrative unit
- Cudhi administrative unit

*Around 4 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

#### *SHKODRA REGION*

- Malësi e Madhe administrative unit
- Puka administrative unit
- Vau i Dejës administrative unit
- Fushë - Arrëz administrative unit
- Ana e Malit administrative unit

*Around 8 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

#### *GJIROKASTRA REGION*

- Krahës administrative unit
- Picar administrative unit
- Zagorie administrative unit
- Kurvelesh administrative unit
- Qesarat administrative unit
- Dropull administrative unit
- Pogon administrative unit

*Around 25 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

#### *VLORA REGION*

- Borsh administrative unit
- Konispol administrative unit
- Villages of Vlorë River (Drashovica, Kota, Brataj, Tërbaç, Velca, Vranisht, Kuç, etc.).

*Around 3 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

### **4. TV “TOP – CHANNEL”, “DIGITALB” AND “ADTN” SUBJECT**

#### *BERAT REGION*

- Kuçova administrative unit
- Poliçan (DIGITALB AND ADTN) administrative unit

- Çorovoda administrative unit

*Around 19 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

#### **KORÇA REGION**

- Erseka administrative unit
- Leskovik administrative unit
- Voskopoja administrative unit
- Dardha administrative unit
- Çërrava administrative unit
- Mokër administrative unit

*Around 6 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

#### **FIER REGION**

- Divjaka Municipality partially

*Around 0.3 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

#### **TIRANA REGION**

- Kavaja Municipality
- Zall Bastar administrative unit
- Shëngjergj administrative unit
- Baldushk administrative unit (partially)
- Krraba administrative unit
- Ndroq administrative unit
- Vora Municipality partially

*Around 6 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

#### **DURRËS REGION**

- Kruja administrative unit
- Cudhi administrative unit

*Around 4 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

#### **SHKODRA REGION**

- Malësia e Madhe administrative unit
- Puka administrative unit
- Vau i Dejës administrative unit

- Fushë - Arrëz administrative unit
- Ana e Malit administrative unit

*Around 8 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

#### *KUKËS REGION*

- Bajram Curr administrative unit
- Kukës Municipality
- Has administrative unit

*Around 75 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

#### *PESHKOPI REGION*

- Bulqiza administrative unit
- Peshkopi administrative unit (DIGITALB AND ADTN)
- Klos administrative unit
- Maqellara administrative unit
- Burrel administrative unit

*Around 41% of the population in this region is not provided services.*

#### *LEZHA REGION*

- Rrëshen administrative unit

*Around 4 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

#### *ELBASAN REGION*

- Përrenjas administrative unit
- Librazhd (DIGITALB AND ADTN)
- Qukës administrative unit
- Peqin administrative unit
- Gramsh administrative unit

*Around 8 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

#### *GJIROKASTRA REGION*

- Tepelena administrative unit
- Përmet administrative unit
- Këlcyra administrative unit
- Krahës administrative unit

- Picar administrative unit
- Zagorie administrative unit
- Kurvelesh administrative unit
- Qesarat administrative unit
- Dropull administrative unit
- Pogon administrative unit

*Around 40 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

#### **VLORA REGION**

- Borsh administrative unit
- Selenica administrative unit
- Himara administrative unit (DIGITALB AND ADTN)
- Dhërmi administrative unit (DIGITALB AND ADTN)
- Konispol administrative unit
- Delvina administrative unit (DIGITALB AND ADTN)
- Villages of Vlora River (Drashovica, Kota, Brataj, Tërbaç, Velca, Vranisht, Kuç, etc.)

*Around 16 % of the population in this region is not provided services.*

The rate of the population not covered by a numeric audiovisual service is shown in the table below for each operator at the national level.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Rate of the population not covered by a numeric audiovisual service</b>
1	RTSH	2.8%
2	TV Klan	3%
3	Top Channel	11%
4	Digitalb	11%
5	Media Vizion	7.5%
6	ADTN	11%

In addition, during 2020, audio spectrum use was monitored in the centralized monitoring system as well as on-site, in the context of complaints filed with AMA for interference, as well as the start of FM audio frequency competitions, to determine if the proposed frequencies for starting competitions are free of various interference from neighboring countries or internal interference.

## **10. THE AUTHORITY AS AUDIOVISUAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROMOTER**

### **10.1 Engagement of the Authority in the audiovisual market technological development**

In line with the objectives of AMA activities, which, among other things, enable and promote technological development use in the broadcasting sector, the Authority's Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2023 stipulate the regulation of new technologies in audio broadcasting services, in order to provide a regulatory framework that will regulate the new T-DAB (Terrestrial Digital Audio Broadcasting) technology. Using this technology will improve service quality, diversify audio service programming and bring economic growth to the country.

The radio has an important social, cultural and democratic role in the development of a society. This sector's development would lead to technological challenges response and enable the necessary changes for users.

When compared to FM audio broadcasting, digital radio provides users with more options, increases frequency spectrum efficiency (up to 18 services on a single frequency), and extends the availability of new services such as data delivery.

Meanwhile, AMA rules have liberalized the market for new services, making it easier for those involved in offering new services, such as the OTT service, to enter the market. As a result, the number of operators in the audiovisual content market has grown and become more diverse.

We already have two OTT broadcasting platforms, "RTSH Tani" and "KLANI IM," which enable users to view terrestrial television channels not only on TV, but also on any other electronic device screen, such as smartphones with Android or iOS systems, tablets, laptops, or computers, which are used by people of all ages and groups, but particularly by young people.

### **10.2 Authority contribution in support of scientific research**

On October 26, 2020, the Journalism and Communications Department organized an academic conference, titled "Quality of Albanian TV Broadcasters News", at the Faculty of History and Philology, University of Tirana. The scientific study project was supported by AMA, as part of these two public institutions cooperation since 2015.

During the conference, they presented components of data collected through 4-week monitoring of newscasts by national, regional and local subjects, expressing their appreciation to the news speed, relevance, geographical distribution, diversity, multimediality, objectivity, and reports genre and duration.

Among the other topics discussed by the speakers during the conference were: “Quality of information on RTSH”; “New forms of presenting information in a newscast”; “Generation Z and television news”; “Dominance of information from press offices in newscast: The case of Vizion Plus TV”; “ABC News - Politics as news, the journalist as a spokesperson and the lack of access to new technologies”; “Quality of informative content and the relationship with audiences: The case of TV Klan “; “Information as an indicator of the value disconnection of audiences from the model of conventional media in Albania”; “The impact of the socio-political context on mass information on Albanian television”; “Representation and character of social issues in A2CNN newscasts”; “Economic news in audiovisual media”, etc.

Posits and issues identified during the academic conference have been abstracted on a special publication, which will be distributed to AMSPs representatives, researchers, scholars, students and everyone, who takes an interest in audiovisual market dynamics and performance, and newscasts content in particular.

### **10.3 Cooperation in audiovisual market regulation**

Following collaboration with partners, AMA has supported Carole Rich's publication “Writing and Reporting News - A Coaching Method” to be translated into Albanian. The original publication is part of a series of republications (editions), and the version that was made available to Albanian readers was Edition 8, (2016), which is a combination of principles that have remained unchanged in the media market, as well as customized sections based on recent developments. It is important for the library of audio and audiovisual editorial offices, students and professors of journalism and communication, as well as researchers and experts in the field of media and others who enjoy this field because it represents diversity in the media industry - from classic to contemporary, what is referred to as convergence and multimedia in editorial office performance - the product in virtual spaces, the flow of information and entertainment from social networks, etc. The feature of media interactivity is added, which broadens the product's range and makes the product's audience more involved in terms of content and form.

As part of the Authority's efforts to enrich the library's media collection, a project to translate the publication “Post Truth: The New War of Truth and How to Fight Back,” (2017) into Albanian began in November 2020. The original text was published by Ebury Press of Penguin Random House, UK.

The publication contains appealing elements that need a thorough discussion from the media, institutions, decision-makers, citizens, and stakeholders. Despite the experience and practice of a number of Western nations, the rise in content from conventional media, new media, and social networks is not matched by an increase in quality, resulting in factors that have distorted democracy and made it less functional in many cases. The post-truth has thrown off the information system by causing citizens and institutions to shape erroneous opinions and judgments. In democratic societies,

autocratic signals in country governance, pressure on newsrooms, and misdirection by public relations departments have left and are leaving marks.

This project is still ongoing, and it is intended to culminate in the organization of round-table in Tirana, Durrës, Shkodra, Vlora and Korça regions.

In October 2020, a process for a project supported by AMA titled “Information and Addressing of Topics on Health and Use of Audiovisual Screens” was launched, based on the COVID-19 pandemic reality.

The project will examine the performance of five AMSPs, as well as the content they broadcast, conduct a citizen survey in two regions of the country, host two round-tables, and publish a report summarizing findings and conclusions. The project is ongoing.

## 11. SWITCHOVER TO NUMERIC BROADCASTING

### *Digitalization of audiovisual broadcasting*

The digitalization of audiovisual broadcasting was completed in 2020, marking the end of a complicated, lengthy process fraught with challenges, but necessary to meet a national and international obligation as well as citizens' rising demands.

The digitalization of audiovisual broadcasting is regarded as one of the most significant accomplishments in the field of media, with multiple and tangible benefits for the Albanian public. Some of these benefits include an increase in the number of free TV channels, improved service quality, enhanced interoperability, and a wider variety of new services. This accomplishment is primarily attributed to the regulatory authority, which played a critical role in overseeing the process and maintaining the continuity of television broadcasting during this challenging transition time, as well as ensuring terrestrial numeric signal coverage and broadcasting quality that met international standards.

In 2020, AMA continued to coordinate its work with audiovisual operators in the market in 2020, conducting on-site monitoring, a citizens' information campaign, assisting citizens and conducting surveys via its call center to determine if they had received decoders.

The process came to a close this year with the termination of analog broadcasting in the regions of Shkodra, Lezha, Elbasan and Vlorë on 30.09.2020, and in the regions of Kukës, Dibrë and Gjirokastra on 30.12.2020.

The number of national channels available to the Albanian public has increased significantly since the switchover to numeric broadcasting. Compared to the three television channels available at the national level, where one was provided by the Albanian public operator (RTSH) and the other two by private operators, only RTSH now broadcasts 15 TV channels for free, three of which are general and ten of which are topical, for various social groups, such as RTSH Fëmijë, RTSH Sport, RTSH Muzikë, RTSH Film, RTSH Kuvend, etc.

With the additional channels provided by national private operators and local operators, Albanian citizens have access to over 30 free television channels in every region of the country.

The Albanian public operator's two numeric networks, as well as five private numeric networks, now have a variety of content at the national level (in SD and HD standards), a wide range of new services, and very rich and competitive options when opposed to other platforms.

Currently, 38 channels are available for free in Tirana and Durrës regions, 37 channels in Korça region, 35 channels in Berat region, 33 channels in Fier region, 36 channels in Vlorë region, 40



channels in Shkodra region, 34 channels in Lezha region, 38 channels in Elbasan region, 26 channels in Kukës region, 28 channels in Dibra region, and 36 vacant, free channels in Gjirokastra region.

People were skeptical and judgmental of what would happen at the start of this process because it was a complex technical process to comprehend, similar to any technological breakthrough. People have consistently demanded that the process be completed over time and after the introduction of digital broadcasting. This is because digital broadcasting has superior quality to analogue broadcasting, and the vast number of free TV channels provides a wide range of TV programs.

It is worth noting that most European countries have completed the switchover to digital broadcasting, and Albania is one of the countries that has been delayed in this process. But, unlike most European countries, where the switchover from DVB-T to DVB-T2 technology is currently underway, our country made the right choice by implementing the latest DVB-T2/MPEG-4 technology from the start, in order to provide high-quality broadcasting services.

Meanwhile, another significant challenge threatens our country's audiovisual media field. The vacating of the 700 MHz frequency band, which is presently utilized national private numeric operators (over 30 percent of this band), is needed for the rollout of 5G technology, which delivers high-speed Internet. This implies that diligent and efficient planning of the remaining spectrum for audiovisual broadcasting is needed in order to sustain the existing number of national numeric networks on the market, as well as their broadcasting capacity.

This challenge, including the digitalization of audiovisual broadcasting, would be addressed by working closely with all parties involved in the process, such as institutions, audiovisual operators, television broadcasting associations, and others.

#### ***DSO completion in the regions of Elbasan, Shkodra, Lezha, Vlora, Kukës, Dibra and Gjirokastra***

Through Decision No. 179, dated 25.11.2019, determined March 31, 2020, as the deadline for terminating analog broadcasting in Elbasan, Shkodra, Lezha and Vlora regions.

Pursuant to the above-cited decision and Decision No. 183, dated 19.12.2019, “On the Adoption of the 2020 Draft Budget”, AMA initiated a public information campaign for a span of 30 days (March 1 - March 30, 2020) by broadcasting advertisement spots on (national and local) television and radio, as well as by broadcasting through 14 portals for a period of 2 months (1 February - 30 March 2020).

It was impossible to continue coordination with operators, on-site monitoring, and inspection of citizens' equipment with decoders due to the pandemic situation. Restrictions enforced by the government to protect citizens from the spread of the virus, such as restrictions on car traffic, citizen movement, the number of people in common areas, and the suspension of businesses that sold decoders, made it impossible to reach the objective within the deadline.

In these circumstances, and because television subjects play a crucial role in informing and raising public awareness about the virus's spread, AMA, with Decision No. 23, dated 26.03.2020 extended the deadline for terminating analogue broadcasting in the regions of Elbasan, Shkodra, Lezha and Vlora, until June 30, 2020.

Pursuant to this decision, the following activities were carried out:

- Local/regional and national operators have been in contact on a regular basis, requiring them to take measures to meet this obligation by the deadline (Letters with Protocol No. 1454/1455/1456/1457/1458/1459, dated 09.06.2020, No. 1465, dated 10.06.2020);
- The monitoring team was established to check the situation on the ground regarding the installation of the national private numeric operators infrastructure, as well as whether local/regional operators are supported in national networks.
- Advertising spots were used to carry out the public information campaign.

AMA , issued Decision No. 40, dated 13.05.2020, amending/reallocating funds of Decision No. 183, dated 19.12.2019 “On the Adoption of the 2020 Draft Budget,” as amended, in order to continue the campaign. A campaign was held on national and local television and radio stations (Shkodra, Lezha, Elbasan, and Vlora regions) for 35 days, from May 26 to June 29, 2020, in compliance with DCM No. 292, dated 02.05.2012, “On Approving the Strategy of Analog to Numeric Broadcasting Switchover.”

In response to our letters to national operators, “TV Klan” JSC. company stressed in a letter with Protocol No. 1471 dated 11.06.2020 that the termination of analog broadcasting in 4 regions has been intensified and is unlikely because not all national numeric operators have installed digital infrastructure. Furthermore, monitoring in the four regions revealed that national private operators have yet to complete numeric infrastructure.

Local/regional operators in the four regions had not supported their program on the RTSH network or any other national private numeric network, according to the monitoring.

Citizens submitted complaints to AMA about people gathering at post offices or other sales points to purchase decoders, and they requested that the switch-off of analog signals be postponed until a more suitable period.

AMA, taking into account the COVID-19 situation, the fact that not all subjects had fully installed numeric infrastructure, people gatherings that could lead to COVID-19 spread had to be avoided, and the fact that television subjects played an important role in informing and bringing awareness to the population, and measures needed to be taken to prevent infection, AMA Council issued Decision No.

51 dated 29.06.2020 extending analog broadcasting termination until September 30, 2020, in Shkodra, Lezha, Vlora and Elbasan regions.

AMA increased its operations, coordination with local/regional and national operators in the four regions, on-site monitoring, and it continued the public information campaign by airing spots on national and local television and radio stations in the Shkodra, Lezha, Elbasan, and Vlora regions from June 30 to September 30, 2020.

On September 15, 2020, a meeting with local operators from Shkodra and Lezha regions was held, followed by a meeting with local operators from Elbasan region on September 17, 2020, and another meeting with operators from Vlora region on September 22, 2020. The meetings focused on discussing the analog broadcasting termination date and informing operators on financial incentives for the first 6 months of parting in one of the national networks, as outlined in Law No. 34/2017.

Furthermore, on September 14, 2020, a letter with Protocol No. 2577 was sent to all major commercial subjects selling DVB-T2 decoders around the country, requesting that proper measures be taken to supply decoders to sales points in regions where the process was to be, September 30, 2020.

AMA has undertaken a call center survey by making telephone calls to landline numbers to find out if the decoders had been delivered to the regions of Shkodra, Lezha, Elbasan and Vlora. The survey began on September 1st, and a total of 900 telephone calls were made (300 to Elbasan, 200 to Lezha, 200 to Shkodra, and 200 to Vlora). The phone calls showed that people were briefed on the digitalization process, and the majority of them had been provided decoders.

Regarding the public information campaign, AMA, with Decision No. 54, dated 05.08.2020, amended/reallocated funds from Decision No. 183, dated 19.12.2019, "On the Adoption of the 2020 Draft Budget," as amended, to extend the campaign for 35 days, from August 26 to September 29, 2020. AMA's official website [www.ama.gov.al](http://www.ama.gov.al) and Facebook page also feature advertisements about the digitalization process.

As a result of AMA activities, analog broadcasting in the Shkodra, Lezha, Vlora, and Elbasan regions was terminated on September 30, 2020. The process went off without a hitch.

Upon Decision No. 82, dated 08.10.2020, AMA approved the continuation of the digitalization process in the remaining three regions, namely Kukës, Dibra, and Gjirokastra, where analogue broadcasting had not yet been terminated, but citizens had the opportunity to use analogue or digital broadcasting in the meantime, as the numeric infrastructure of the Albanian public operator and partly the infrastructure of national private operators had been installed in these regions as well.

AMA coordinated and cooperated with audiovisual operators in the market, regularly checked the on-site situation to validate coverage of numeric signal, monitored the process of local/regional operators support in the national numeric networks, and undertook a 35-day public information campaign in the context of terminating analogue broadcasting in the above three regions.

Through letters with Protocol No. 3458 and No. 3460, dated 03.12.2020, AMA formally notified audiovisual operators with a national and local license in Kukës, Dibra, and Gjirokastra regions regarding the analog broadcasting termination in these regions via letters with Protocol No. 3458 and 3460, dated 03.12.2020 and called for the appropriate steps to meet the deadline. In a second reminding letter, with Protocol No. 3592 and 3597, dated 17.12.2020, AMA requested that national operators take measures to support local/regional operators in these regions in their networks through two second reminder letters with Protocol No. 3592 and 3597, dated 17.12.2020 and reminded them of the requirement to send to AMA the contract signed with one of the national numeric operators. All local/regional and national operators that currently offer analog broadcasting will continue to broadcast television in the four regions in this manner

In addition to official letters, AMA held special meetings with local operators in these regions to discuss the switchover from analog to numeric broadcasting and AMA's financial compensation under Law No. 34/2017, "On Vacating the Digital-Dividend Frequency," as amended and AMA Decision No. 38, "On Determining Local/Regional Analog Audiovisual list Eligible for Financial Compensation," dated 07.03.2019. Subjects have been informed that they will only be compensated for 6.46 months provided they meet their legal requirements. Furthermore, AMA maintained on-site monitoring to confirm the numeric signal coverage of these regions, as well as the switchover of local/regional operators to national networks.

Concerning the public information campaign, until the digitalization process is fully completed, pursuant to AMA Decision No. 82, dated 08.10.2020, on terminating analog broadcasting in Dibra, Gjirokastra and Kukës regions by December 30, 2020, the Strategy on Analog to Numeric Broadcasting Switchover, and Decision No. 83, dated 08.10.2020 "On an amendment of AMA Decision No. 183, dated 19.12.2019, "On the Adoption of the 2020 Draft Budget," as amended, AMA conducted a 35-day public information campaign (November 25 - December 29, 2020) by airing advertising spots, on televisions and radio stations. Moreover, the campaign was also promoted on AMA official website [www.ama.gov.al](http://www.ama.gov.al) and Facebook page.

In order to identify the three regions' citizens needs for DVB-T2 decoders and information regarding the impact of the AMA public information campaign on the digitalization process, the call center carried out a 2 months survey, making phone calls to citizens in the regions of Kukës, Dibra and Gjirokastra, asking them about the digitalization process, the technology they use to access audiovisual broadcasting, and whether or not they have been equipped with decoders.

Referring to this survey, 300 phone calls were made to Gjirokastra, 199 phone calls to Dibra and 226 phone calls to Kukës, which found the IPTV and cable television were the most common technologies in these regions, according to the survey (Gjirokastra 65% of the respondents; Dibra 68% of the respondents and Kukës 75% of the respondents).

As a result of AMA's activities, analog broadcasting in the Kukës, Dibra, and Gjirokastra region were terminated on December 30, 2020, signaling the successful completion of the digitalization process across the country.

### **11.1 Vacating the Digital Dividend II band**

With Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 636, dated 29.7.2020, spectrum policy was approved, accompanied by the approval of the action plan for its implementation, which, inter alia, includes the DD2 band vacating process. According to this plan, institutions in charge of following this process are the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy (MoIE), AMA and EPCA. Moreover, the plan defines that the process will start with consultation meetings among all stakeholders (audiovisual operators, media associations, regulatory authorities, etc.), and by the end of the consultations, a detailed plan will be drafted for the DD2 band vacating measures (legal amendments if necessary, financial compensation, technical solutions, etc.).

In this framework, considering the consultation with all stakeholders as a legal obligation and an important process to avoid issues emerging during its implementation, AMA has repeatedly requested MoIE to start the process. AMA has requested the organization of a high-level management meeting with all parties concerned, especially national audiovisual operators who have invested in digital broadcasting and whose investments would be directly impacted by the DD2 band's vacating.

Technical assistance was received from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) at the request of the MoIE, through a twinning project with the Hungarian regulatory authority to find effective technical solutions that did not include the DD2 band. The working group cooperating and participating in meetings with ITU consultant consists of MoIE, AMA and EPCA representatives. Since we are amid a global pandemic, the meetings with the experts were held online, where the requisite legal and technical knowledge was shared in order to fulfill the goal of this assistance.

Thus far, consultants presented the draft report with recommendations for the DD2 band vacating process in our country, and they are working on drafting an effective frequency plan, considering AMA requests. Sustaining the number of operators in the market, maintaining the broadcasting capacity of national numeric networks, and taking into account international agreements for the coordination of the UHF frequency band, such as the Adriatic and Ionian agreement and the SEDDIF agreement (South- East Digital Divide Initiative Forum), were the most relevant requirements.

In light of the above, the consultant has produced five numeric frequency plan alternatives. On January 20, 2021, AMA arranged a technical meeting with representatives from MoIE, EPCA, RTSH, and national private audiovisual operators to discuss these five alternatives of UHF band reallocation (excluding DD2 band) suggested by the ITU consultant, as well as other technical issues relevant to this process. At this meeting, AMA announced that its experts had developed another numeric plan alternative, which would be made available to all participants.

During this meeting, the operators requested more time to evaluate the expert's five alternatives as well as AMA experts' alternative (about 1 month). Operators also raised other claims, such as financial compensation for changes in the numeric infrastructure, stating that the financial impact on national numeric operators would be too high. They also requested that financial compensation be implemented prior to the frequency band being vacated, rather than at the end of the process.

Since these issues were beyond the scope of the technical meeting, AMA emphasized the necessity of organizing a high-level management meeting for all parties concerned.

As previously stated, a meeting between Deputy Minister Etjen Xhafaj (MoEI) and the Chairperson of AMA took place on November 11, 2020, where it was agreed to hold a high-level round-table with national audiovisual operators and, in the meantime, to proceed in parallel with ITU consultation on technical solutions.

After the first phase of the ITU consultancy, which is concerned with the selection of the most effective alternative for using the UHF band for audiovisual broadcasting (following comments/proposals from national audiovisual operators), the second phase, in which network configurations and broadcasting capacities will be technically evaluated, thus determining the technical solution for the vacating of the DD2 band.

AMA considers the consultation with all stakeholders a legal obligation and an important process, in order to avoid issues emerging during its implementation. Based on previous experience, such as the DD2 band vacating process or other relevant processes that suffered significant delay due to the court proceedings initiated by national audiovisual operators, we believe that the public consultation process should start promptly.

## **11.2 Financial compensation in the framework of the digitalization process**

In 2020, AMA, pursuant to Law No. 34/2017 “On Vacating the Digital-Dividend Frequency”, as amended, and Decision No. 38, dated 07.03.2019, continued to financially compensate existing local/regional analog operators supported by the RTSH numeric network or other numeric networks licensed according to the law on audiovisual media in 2020 for allotments in Berat, Korça, Fier,

Tirana (Tirana - Durrës regions), Shkodra, Lezha, Elbasan, and Vlora, which met legal requirements up to 53,87 percent of payments made in 1 year.

The following is the progress of financial compensation in the Euro 1,000,000 fund (the sum specified and made available to AMA for this group of operators):

The financial compensation for this group of subjects was 280,693 euros for the period of July 2019 to December 31, 2020.

Company/natural person	Trade name/local television	Berat	Korça	Fier	Tirana	Shkodra
“Scan” JSC. company	“Tv Scan”			12.916		
“Multiscreen” Ltd. company	“Report TV”	6.012	9.029	12.916	16.647	
“M.R.M.” Ltd. company	“TV Lobi”		3.785			
Alban Shehu, natural person	“TV Berati”	6.012				
“U.T.V. Education” company	“TV UTV Education”		9.029			
“Egnatia Televizion” JSC. company	“CLUB TV”		9.029		12.876	
“F.K.T.” Ltd. company	“TV Apollon”			12.915		
“G2 Media” Ltd. company	TV “A2”	-			16.647	
“SOT 7” Ltd. company	“TV SOT 7”		9.029			
“Focus Media News” Ltd. company	“News 24 TV”			12.916	5.150	
“Fax Media News” JSC. company	“Fax News”				15.451	
“Ora” JSC. company	“TV Ora News”			12.916	16.647	
“Channel One” Ltd. company	“TV Channel One”			12.916	16.647	
“BBF” company	“TV BBF”				16.647	
“Media Plus” company	“TV Shijak”				12.779	
“3DS&AF ENTERTAINMENT” company	“Tv Syri”				16.647	
“4 plus Media Grup” company	TV “4+”			2.464		
Zenel Hoxhaj, natural person	TV “Kopliku”					2.671
<b>Total in Euro/allotment</b>		<b>12.024</b>	<b>39.901</b>	<b>79.959</b>	<b>146.138</b>	<b>2.671</b>

### 11.3 AMA – RTSH Contract

Based on the requirements of Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania,” as amended, specifically Articles 18 and 19, which reflect the objectives and functions of AMA; Article 33 on the obligations of AMSPs; Chapter 12, which regulates the operation of RTSH,

including Articles 90 - 126, etc., AMA conducted two evaluation monitorings of RTSH performance in two aspects: first, the development of the programming package in the channels of the public broadcaster, and second, the coverage with broadcasting signal of the territory of our country, in 2020.

After the signature of the Public Broadcaster Service Contract (with Decision No. 18, dated January 31, 2017), AMA has performed 7 such assessments every 6 months. The Authority has praised and commended RTSH's implementation of the Contract as a responsibility and obligation to the citizens, in order for them to access high-quality and diverse audiovisual products and services, in addition to the requirements and needs for information, education, and entertainment.

Concerning the issues found and presented to the RTSH and Steering Council chairs, we mention:

### *1. Programming package*

- RTSH SHKOLLË is one of the latest channels of the programming package that has emerged as an immediate and mandatory requirement for the implementation of remote learning for pre-university education, as a result of the restrictions and discontinuation of curriculum application in classrooms and other school premises as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of the program content and the target age group, RTSH SHKOLLË has the characteristics of a second children's channel, as was rightfully argued by RTSH management in the request submitted to AMA for formalizing the start of the channel, as part of the Service Contract. AMA welcomes and promotes the required and effective organizational and content interventions for the RTSH SHKOLLË channel, based on the public broadcaster's commitments, so that, in addition to the teaching and educational part, with lessons on various subjects, the program continues to be enriched with hand-picked documentaries for these age groups, as well as with more entertaining rubrics, especially during Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

One of the newest channels in the public broadcaster's programming package is RTSH AGRO. AMA appreciates the increased variety of topics available to viewers via this channel but has found during its monitoring that some of the documentaries broadcast are not translated into Albanian (neither with subtitles nor with dubbing). Even though these documentaries are part of the RTSH AGRO line and style, and although they are high-quality content from well-known television stations, they lose a lot of viewers' attention due to the lack of translation into Albanian. AMA advises RTSH to take steps to stop broadcasting audiovisual content that is not translated into Albanian (either with subtitles or dubbing), as it is done on the other channels in the public broadcaster's programming package.

As stated in previous reviews, AMA recommends that the topical channel in the programming package, RTSH KUVENDI, creates information and explanation spaces for draft laws that are under consideration through conversations, interviews, or professional analysis with experts in the field, in addition, to broadcasting full parliamentary sessions and covering the activity of parliamentary



committees. This approach, we believe, would have a stronger effect on the promotion and revitalization of public consultation on legal acts before they are discussed and voted on by MPs in plenary session. It should be noted that the RTSH KUVENDI channel was also discussed by the Committee on Education and Public Means Information at its meeting on June 26, 2020, where it was emphasized that “there should be more space, becoming more active and coming to the aid of the MPs and the Parliament, reflecting not just the sessions, but also documentaries, interviews, reports, drawing a parallelism with neighboring countries”, according to the official announcement of the Albanian Parliament.

The Service Contract's (referred to in Article 7) provision for the use of sign language must be completely met by RTSH. Pursuant to the Contract, the two generalist channels of the RTSH programming package, should broadcast at least one newscast within 24 hours, providing explanations in sign language in a small window on the screen. During previous monitoring, we found that this request functions properly on the generalist channel RTSH 1, but only one newscast per week is broadcast in sign language on the other generalist channel, RTSH 2.

The efforts in the RTSH programming package to completely comply with the provisions of Law No. 76/2014, on some addenda and changes to Law No. 9636, dated 06.11.2006, “On Health Protection from Tobacco Products”, as amended. Article 1 of this law states that RTSH “shall broadcast educational programs on health protection from tobacco products every month, in line with the law on audiovisual media in the Republic of Albania. These educational programs have a total duration of 90 minutes and are broadcasted from 8 am to 10 pm. One of these programs, with a duration of 30 minutes, is obligatorily broadcasting from 5 pm to 10 pm”.

AMA accepts the request for the RTSH PLUS channel, as it has done with the extensions to RTSH SHKOLLË, RTSH AGRO, and other channels, in order to meet RTSH's obligations for the execution of the Service Contract and to observe the institutional procedures for amendments that may be made to it.

## *2. Territory coverage by signal*

- Areas that are not covered with digital signal:

### **BERAT ALLOTMENT**

Quarters behind Berat Castle

Roshnik administrative unit

Sinja administrative unit

Potom administrative unit

Çëpan administrative unit.

### **KORÇA ALLOTMENT**

Voskopoja administrative unit

Dardha administrative unit  
Çërrava administrative unit (center)  
Mokër (partially)  
Gora  
Barmash

#### TIRANA - DURRËS ALLOTMENT

Shëngjergj administrative unit  
Baldushk administrative unit (partially)  
Kruja administrative unit (partially)  
Cudhi administrative unit  
Kruja administrative unit (partially).

#### ELBASAN ALLOTMENT

Labinot administrative unit (Fushë Xibrakë)  
Qukës administrative unit (partially)  
Lunik administrative unit

#### VLORA ALLOTMENT

Villages of Vlorë River administrative unit (Drashovica, Kota, Brataj, Tërbaç, Velça, Vranisht, Kuç, etc.)  
Borsh administrative unit (partially)  
Himara administrative unit (partially).

#### SHKODRA ALLOTMENT

Vau i Dejës Administrative Unit (partially)  
Ana e Malit Administrative Unit (partially)  
Kelmend Administrative Unit (partially).

#### LEZHA ALLOTMENT

Rrëshen Administrative Unit (partially)  
Rubik Administrative Unit (partially).

#### GJIROKASTRA ALLOTMENT

Picar administrative unit  
Zagorie administrative unit  
Kurvelesh administrative unit  
Krahës administrative unit  
Qesarat administrative unit (partially)  
Dropull i Sipërm administrative unit (partially)

Pogon administrative unit

#### DIBRA ALLOTMENT

Maqellara administrative unit (partially)

Sllova administrative unit (Kala e Dodës)

#### KUKËS ALLOTMENT

Lekbibaj administrative unit

Based on the information provided above about numeric signal coverage of the territories, RTSH must take all necessary steps to achieve this indicator in regions where the digitalization process has been terminated. Based on monitoring processes, we have identified the lack of numeric signal, in certain areas of these regions. There is no television signal coverage in the areas we have mentioned above. We have discussed these areas in previous reports, but RTSH has yet to take any action to provide them with signal, as seen above.

We would like to emphasize that the number of complaints filed with AMA by residents of these areas has risen. Complaints have been filed by residents of the Xibrakë region and nearby areas (part of the Elbasan allotment), residents of the riverbank area (part of the Vlora allotment), the Kelmend area (part of the Shkodra allotment), the Maliq area (part of the Korça allotment), and others. Furthermore, we have received numerous complaints from residents of the administrative units Lekbibaj and Strava, who have sent letters to the Ombudsperson to express their concerns that we have forwarded to the Parliament for details.

With the completion of the digitalization process, AMA has asked RTSH to take steps to ensure the best possible coverage of these areas and to keep us updated on the current state of the territory numeric signal coverage, especially in the areas listed above.

### **11.4 Frequency spectrum planning and administration**

The provisions of Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania,” as amended, and its related national and international regulatory sublegal acts govern the planning and administration of the audio/audiovisual frequencies spectrum.

Effective management of the audio/audiovisual spectrum provides opportunities for new operators to receive their license and enter the industry, ensures the prevention of harmful interferences both within and outside the country, and guarantees that end users have high-quality service.

#### **11.4.1 Audiovisual service frequency planning**

The frequency band designated for numeric terrestrial broadcasting DTT is the UHF and VHF band, according to national and international legal and sublegal acts. According to the National Numeric Plan (NNP), audiovisual operators are currently using the UHF band to allow numeric broadcasting across the country. The Albanian public operator RTSH is assigned frequencies for two numeric networks, and 5 private national numeric operators are assigned frequencies for 1 numeric network each. Meanwhile, a local network has been licensed to provide services to the Elbasan allotment. NNP also allows certain vacant frequencies for the licensing of local/regional operators.

The following is the Numeric Frequency Plan:

***Numeric Frequency Plan for 2 national public networks of RTSH (approved by AMA's Decision No. 27, dated 01.02.2013)***

Networks Albania	AL- 001D	AL- 002D	AL- 003D	AL- 004D	AL- 005D	AL- 006D	AL- 007D	AL- 008D	AL- 009D	AL- 010D	AL- 011D
	Shkodra	Kukës	Dibra	Lezha	Tirana	Elbasan	Fier	Berat	Korça	Gjirokastra	Vlora
RTSH (MUX-1)	28	26	38	43	34	23	27	25	43	26	23
RTSH (MUX-2)	41	32	24	23	21	33	31	30	45	37	39

***Numeric Frequency Plan for 5 national private networks in UHF band in the Republic of Albania***

National Private Networks	AL- 001D	AL- 002D	AL- 003D	AL- 004D	AL- 005D	AL- 006D	AL- 007D	AL- 008D	AL- 009D	AL- 010D	AL- 011D
	Shkodra	Kukës	Dibra	Lezha	Tirana	Elbasan	Fier	Berat	Korça	Gjirokastra	Vlora
KLAN (MUX-3)	34	50	55	33	41	42	35	32	51	44	46
DIGITALB (MUX-4)	59	40	30	46	53	48	28	36	55	29	57
TOP CHANNEL (MUX-5)	45	42	25	29	59	49	22	54	57	50	43

MEDIA VIZION (MUX-6)	22	36	54	-----	57	46	29	24	21	48	53
ADTN (MUX-7)	51	52	60	-----	39	40	45	47	27	35	51

The “Era Digital” Ltd. company, with decision of AMA No. 186, dated 19.12.2019, was licensed to provide numeric audiovisual broadcasting to the region of Elbasan.

The Ch37 frequency channel has been assigned for use.

***Vacant frequency channels in VHF and UHF bands:***

	AL- 001D	AL- 002D	AL- 003D	AL- 004D	AL- 005D	AL- 006D	AL- 007D	AL- 008D	AL- 009D	AL- 010D	AL- 011D	AL- 012D Sub.
	Shkodra	Kukës	Dibra	Lezha	Tirana	Elbasan	Fier	Berat	Korça	Gjirokastra	Vlora	Tirana
Vacant channels in VHF	9	9	8	9	10	7	10	5	6	8	8	6
		56				56		52	28	38		26
						58			59	56		44
Vacant channels in UHF										58		50
										60		60

Referring to the table above, the VHF Band III has 6 vacant channels. As regards the UHF band, the number of vacant channels is reduced taking into account the vacating of 694-790 MHz band, known as DD2 band. More specifically, the following frequencies, remain: 1 frequency in Korça region (Ch28), 1 frequency in Gjirokastra region (Ch38) and 2 frequencies in Tirana sub-allotment (Ch 26 and Ch44).

Based on the National Numeric Plan, it is found that approximately 30.9% of frequency channels designated by AMA, for 5 national private UHF networks fall under DD2 band.

#### **11.4.2 Audio service frequency planning**

Regarding the FM 87.5 - 108 MHz audio spectrum planning and administration, AMA has periodically assessed the vacant audio frequency capacities, and has updated the Frequency Use Plan for these services. The availability of vacant frequencies of the FM audio band, remains another challenge for the regulator, given that in the regions where there is more demand for this service, such as Tirana, Durrës, Fier and Vlora, shortcomings in end sources are identified, while there are resources for other regions in the country.

AMA has undertaken technical research in order to license interested subjects to provide audio broadcasting in different regions of the country during 2020. The licensing of a national audio network (a private network) is of significant importance, based on the decision of AMA No. 45, dated 25.06.2020. In addition, technical studies were conducted in preparation for the launch of local/regional competitions for the granting of analog audio broadcasting licenses (a total of 6 competitions).

In addition to AMA's current tasks, it has also conducted studies on requirements introduced by audio subjects on changing technical characteristics of broadcasting. Studies consist of performing technical calculations on the service area signal coverage and avoiding various interferences domestically and across the border.

With Decision No. 97, dated 14.10.2020, AMA approved "The granting of the right to use the 90.5 MHz and 91.3 MHz frequencies to RTSH for the Municipality of Himara (for Radio Tirana 1) and the Municipality of Pogradec (for Radio Korça) service areas" in order to improve the public broadcaster's signal coverage.

#### **11.4.3 Audio/audiovisual band frequency coordination**

In 2020, AMA coordinated with the signatories of the GE06 Agreement on the frequency rearrangement of the respective frequency plans to identify room for optimization and increase of broadcasting capacities.

Based on the requests for coordination from neighboring countries, AMA has carried out technical studies and verified the compliance of the proposals submitted by the countries of the region with the definitions in the GE06 Plan. The administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina has requested AMA's approval for frequency allocations, according to which Albania has been considered affected by the changes to this Plan.

During 2020, the coordination procedures have been followed in line with:

- The final acts of the GE-75 Regional Conference "On audio broadcasting on LF/MF (Region 1 and 3) frequency bands", pursuant to incoming notifications from the administration of Italy.
- Final acts of the GE-84 Regional Conference "On the planning audio broadcasting in the VHF band (Region 1 and some parts of Region 3)", based on notifications received from the administrations of Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Slovenia and Hungary.

Several meetings were held in 2020 as part of the Italian administration's initiative to reallocate and use the VHF Band III for digital audio/audiovisual broadcasting efficiently, proportionately and without harmful interference (in DVB-T2 and T-DAB technology) with the countries bordering the

Adriatic and Ionian seas (Italy, Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, and Albania). This process began in October 2019 and continued with the next meetings on February 17-19, 2020 (held in Rome), with the final meetings being held online using the Webex platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic (on July 2 - 3, 2020, November 10, 2020 and December 7, 2020). Albania was represented at these meetings by AMA and, at the last two meetings, by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy (MoIE).

The VHF Band III coordination procedure will continue in 2021, to agree on the use of frequency channels for each administration and finalize proposals with the signing of a multilateral agreement between the participating countries.

## **11.5 Addressing interference caused by audio/audiovisual operators**

### *Avoidance of harmful interferences*

In the framework of improving the identification of interferences coming from neighboring countries and those caused by broadcasting points in the territory of Albania, and taking measures for their avoidance, in 2020 AMA paid a special focus to the monitoring of audio FM spectrum, in the entire territory of the country. The monitoring was aimed at detecting and resolving interference generated by signals broadcast by broadcasters from neighboring countries promptly.

In this framework, in 2020, AMA expanded the FM audio spectrum's centralized monitoring system by adding four new broadcasting stations. This system ensures online monitoring of audio FM spectrum in the cities of Kukës, Shkodra, Lezha, Durrës, Fier, Vlora, Berat, Gjirokastra, Korça, Pogradec, Librazhd and Saranda. In addition to immediate identification of interferences, the system ensures:

- a. Immediate identification of cases when market operators change frequencies;
- b. Immediate identification of illegal audio spectrum uses;
- c. Control of real broadcasting status of licensed audio subjects (are they broadcasting or not);
- d. Control of technical parameters of audio broadcasting subjects.

In other cities, the audio spectrum monitoring was conducted periodically by the Mobile Frequency Monitoring Center (MFMC).

### *Interferences caused within the country*

In terms of domestic interferences in 2020, the subject Radio One was confirmed to have caused only one interference against the audio signal of the Albanian public operator (RTSH). Following on-site inspection and the conclusion of the observations, the need to adjust the frequency and

location of the subject Radio One's broadcasting point emerged. The request for interference was submitted on September 25, 2020, and AMA made a decision on the subject Radio One's technical changes on October 8, 2020, giving a quick response to the interference.

*Interferences caused in neighboring countries*

Concerning the interference caused in neighboring countries, AMA handled complaints from the Montenegrin administration in 2020, requesting that harmful interference caused by audio subjects from our country, respectively Radio One and Radio Motiv, be eliminated.

In order to prevent harmful interferences and address issues, AMA has been in regular communication with the Montenegrin regulatory authority regarding the interference caused by Radio One to Radio Elita in Montenegro. Continuous monitoring was also carried out, which revealed that the interferences were not constant but only occurred on certain occasions. In these circumstances, AMA has determined that changing the frequency of the Radio One issue is necessary. The latter has submitted to AMA request with Protocol No. 462, dated 25.01.2021 (protocol of AMA) for a frequency change, which is under review. Following the review, AMA will decide on the change of the frequency to eliminate the interference.

Meanwhile, in regards to the interference caused by Radio Motiv in the city of Podgorica (Montenegro), provided that AMA, through Decision No. 73, dated 03.09.2020, ruled not to renew the subject Radio Motiv's license due to a lack of paperwork in accordance with regulatory acts and failure to pay financial obligations, the subject has ceased audio broadcasting as a result of this decision.

Meanwhile, no audiovisual broadcasting interferences to our country or neighboring countries have been detected or reported in 2020.



## **12. THE AUTHORITY'S COMPLIANCE WITH TRANSPARENCY PRINCIPLES AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE INSTITUTIONAL IMAGE**

### **12.1 Internal organization of the institution**

During 2020, the Audiovisual Media Authority ensured the institution's normal operation and the timely completion of all institutional activities, as well as the enforcement of safety precautions and guidelines suggested by the Institute of Public Health.

In order to organize and run AMA's activities, to ensure continuity and appropriate conditions for reducing the spread of COVID-19, according to Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 243, dated 24.03.2020 "On Declaring the Natural Disaster State," for reducing the spread of the virus among employees and creating a healthy work environment, AMA approved Order No. 65, dated 24.04.2020, "On the development of AMA functions in terms of facilitating measures taken to restrict the spread of COVID-19". This order defined the institution's basic rules, which had to be followed without fail.

Following the situation, AMA approved the "Regulation on taking organizational measures for the exercise of the Audiovisual Media Authority's function during the COVID-19 pandemic situation" through Order No. 93, dated 01.06.2020. This regulation established guidelines and standard operating procedures in line with the Public Health Institute and the World Health Organization's pandemic instructions.

AMA adopted the "Manual for emergencies in AMA's building" in 2020, as part of the institution's internal organization, focused on new and comprehensive internal regulations, as well as relating to circumstances and recent events.

This manual aimed to ensure the safety of employees and visitors who worked or entered the AMA building by knowing how to prevent emergencies and how to respond quickly and accurately in the event of an emergency, including the effective and secure evacuation of any person from the building.

This manual provides the most important basic information that will aid in the prevention of emergencies and the best possible response if they arise in the building.

The use of online communication, as well as part-time work, has been determined by the very precise circumstances of each employee's practice and realization of functional tasks in order to achieve institutional objectives. Nevertheless, the Directorate of Human Resources and Foreign Relations has continued the legal recruitment process on a case-by-case basis in compliance with the annual recruitment plan.

Following letter with Protocol No. 1270, dated 12.05.2020, "Request for information to the Parliament of Albania," AMA has sent weekly updates to the Albanian Parliament on the institution's key activities, which have lasted until the natural disaster ended in late June 2020.

During 2020, the AMA Council meetings went on as usual, despite the pandemic, and were mostly held by electronic means of distance communication due to the state of emergency, in complete accordance with the provisions of Normative Act No. 3 dated 15.03.2020 "On extraordinary administrative measures during the infection period caused by COVID -19". During this year, 24 meetings have been organized. Since October 2019, the Council meetings are held with 5 members.

Moreover, following the initiative of the Albanian Parliament, announced through letter dated April 4, 2020, administered by AMA with Protocol No. 1035, dated 06.04.2020, joined the initiative of providing financial contribution in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, by halving the monthly salary of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson for three months, starting from April 2020.

## **12.2 Transparency program**

As an independent public institution, AMA operates in conformity with the transparency standard, by ensuring that the performance of its activity rigorously complies with the obligations provided for in Law No. 119/2014 and relevant sublegal acts. Pursuant to Article 5 of Law No. 119, dated 18.09.2014 "On the Right to Information", AMA has conducted the Review of the Transparency Program, approved by Order No. 131, dated 24.04.2015, updating it with the necessary changes.

The best public interest has been taken into consideration when planning the review of the transparency program, in order to minimize the need for individual requests for information, particularly:

- Ensuring the maximum provision of information;
- Providing as much information as possible without request, in order to minimize the need for individual requests for information;
- The models approved for the categories of the public authority by the Commissioner for the Right to Information and Personal Data Protection.

Digital forms for complaints/applications, which allow the simplification of procedures for the

provision of public services, are also part of the transparency to the benefit of the public and the enhancement of administrative procedures.

AMA received approximately 122 requests for information during the reporting year, which are also presented in the log of requests and replies on its official website.

### **12.3 Authority's activities**

#### ***Presentation of two publications in cooperation with the Department of Journalism and Communication***

- On January 31, 2020, two new publications of the Department of Journalism and Communications were presented in the framework of projects supported by the Audiovisual Media Authority (AMA), at the Faculty of History and Philology, University of Tirana.

*“Audiovisual Media Market, Audience Behavior and Regulatory Framework”* and *“Program Supply of Albanian Television Broadcasters”* are two factual and analytical files, as part of researches that have been conducted in the last two years by members of the Department of Journalism and Communications.

Cooperation between a public university and a public institution should be more frequent in the country because it has a very positive impact on both the institutions and the society. Given the value of the database obtained from this voluminous and professional work, the 5-year collaboration between AMA and the Department was identified as a model, with the real effect that study and analysis projects had on topicality and perspective.

The department comes to the aid of audio and audiovisual operators for them to better understand the dynamics of technological developments and broadcast content. AMSPs are introduced to competent analyses and facts on future trends, as well as examples and models of international audiovisual media.

#### ***Radio Challenges in the Digital Era***

- On World Radio Day, February 13, 2020, AMA organized the event *“Radio Challenges in the Digital Era”*, with the attendance of representatives of radio, public and commercial editorial offices, media associations, Journalism and Communications Department at the University of Tirana, various public institutions, and the civil society as well.

The discussion, which took place at the “Retro” visual exhibition, aimed at bringing attention to the role and impact of this medium on society, encouraging the adaptation of editorial offices performance with multimedia and convergence circumstances, which have radically changed the behavior and involvement of audiences with media products.

AMA's institutional commitment to simplifying licensing procedures, expanding their term, reorganizing the structure of programming, law, and technology, among other things, were

discussed during the event. The radio is experiencing difficult times, technology is blocking its way, especially in rural areas. There are numerous suburban areas where there is one or no radio station. In order to encourage opening radio stations in these areas, AMA has started competitions for licensing without requirements.” - participants noted during the event.

### ***Copyright in Audio and Audiovisual Broadcasting***

On March 4, 2020, AMA organized a round-table on “*Copyright in Audio and Audiovisual Broadcasting*”, with the participation of representatives of the Ministry of Culture, SUADA, agencies ALBAUTOR, FMAA, AKDIE, Gramm-A, State Inspectorate for Market Supervision, National Cinematography Center, Central State Film Archive, Albatrade Plus, local and national audiovisual subjects, experts, etc.

The participants deemed that this round-table was of major importance as a definite effort to initiate discussion and provide expertise, because only through open and direct communication can issues be realistically assessed and stakeholders overcome challenges and obstacles, through better coordination and cooperation.

It was also noted that copyright was included in the AMA's three-year strategy, with the goal that copyright and broadcasting issues will be resolved by the end of the next three years. This will be achieved, first and foremost, by coordinating and arranging our engagement and contribution, as well as enhancing the legal framework, practices and methodologies.

The attendees set forth various issues, which require intervention. They also noted cases when users of audiovisual content failed to understand the obligations they had to pay, lack of communication among stakeholders, unclarities with obligations estimation methodology for using copyright, lack of specialized prosecutors and judges in this area, the transformation of law-protected content by some audiovisual operators, etc.

### ***Advertisements for children and with children***

On October 6, 2020, AMA organized a virtual discussion panel, titled “Advertisements for children, with children”. Child protection from harmful audiovisual content has been and continues to be a top priority for AMA. Advertisements and commercial communications take up some of this content. The virtual discussion panel was attended by representatives of national and local AMSPs, public institutions and non-profit organizations focusing on child protection, as well as media and communications experts among others. The discussants raised the issue of promoting children’s online activity, on various electronic devices that made them addicted to Internet use. Moreover, they discussed avoiding various food products audiovisual advertisements that involve children.

## *Media Literacy and Children*

On December 17, 2020, AMA organized a virtual round-table titled: “Children and Media Literacy”, following activities carried out by the Authority focusing on child protection from harmful audio and audiovisual content. The round-table was attended by officials and experts from public education agencies and institutions, University of Tirana, civil society subjects and field researchers, who addressed issues related to media education inclusion in students curricula, a combination of theoretical knowledge with technological capacitation, the need for self-regulating initiatives of editorial offices in order to avoid fake and false news.

The discussants emphasized that media education should not focus on children only, but the media as a whole as well. The media mostly broadcasts reports about problematic children, and very few positive reports on this category which in turn, discourages the young generation. Another topic was youth platforms used by young people to communicate and not fall prey to bullying in social media. Representatives of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth and the Sector of Curricula Development at the Agency for Quality Assurance in Pre-University Education also mentioned that teachers training will include a media education module, borrowed from the UNESCO manual. The expected impact is that media educated students will call for high-quality media.

AMA has continued to organize numerous face-to-face or virtual round-tables, with the participation of representatives from AMSPs, institutions, or agencies whose scope is related to that of AMA, whose commitment appears to be an added value, although the world is in the grip of a global pandemic.

In 2020, AMA has established and sustained excellent bilateral relationships with regional regulatory authorities. The Kosovo Authority, IMC, paid a visit to Tirana in September, where they discussed how to improve systematic institutional cooperation and communication to consolidate institutional performance and regulate the audiovisual market. AMA and IMC have the energy and space to intensify knowledge and experience sharing, based on the practices of regulatory authorities in EU member states, as they switch from analog to numeric broadcasting and develop new technological applications.

On November 2, 2020, the Chairperson of AMA, Mr. Gentian Sala, held a meeting with the Minister of Informatics and Administration of North Macedonia, Mr. Jeton Shaqiri. The need for increased collaboration between the two regulatory institutions of Albania and North Macedonia was addressed at this meeting, which was held at AMA premises, as well as any problems that AMA might have at the central level in North Macedonia.

AMA maintained contact with its counterparties in the framework of participation in European or

regional audiovisual media organizations such as EPRA, ERGA, BRAF, MNRA, REFRAM and others.

AMA's representatives attended approximately 38 conferences, meetings, or workshops, often online, in 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, where AMA was invited to engage in or contribute to European or regional audiovisual media organizations and platforms. The main topics of the meetings held by the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA) were "Adoption of the three-year EPRA Strategy"; "Regulators and citizens"; "Media Literacy"; and "Competition law and ex ante market intervention".

At the invitation of the European Audiovisual Observatory, AMA participated in the 63<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the Executive Council of the European Audiovisual Observatory, in the event "Challenges facing the European media industry in the coming years", 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of EFARN "European Film Agencies Research Network", "Addressing the challenges posed by disinformation in the Western Balkans" and "Diversity and inclusion in the European audiovisual industries: both on and off-screen".

Among the events carried out by the European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services (ERGA), AMA participated in the "13<sup>th</sup> ERGA Plenary Meeting"; workshop on "Audiovisual Operators Regulation and Service in Video Sharing Platforms", as well as in the "14<sup>th</sup> ERGA Plenary Meeting".

#### **12.4 Authority's publications**

In 2020, AMA continued with the next publication of the Periodic Bulletin, specifically No. 6 with data from the dynamics of the audiovisual market in the Republic of Albania<sup>2</sup>.

During 2020, Complaints Bulletin No. 6 was also published. For January - June 2019, this document represents a summary of complaints submitted to AMA related to audiovisual content.

The periodic AMA publications are available on the official AMA website [www.ama.gov.al](http://www.ama.gov.al) in electronic format.

#### **12.5 AMA in cooperation with partners**

- AMA in partnership with the company "Ura" enabled the execution of the project with the topic: *"Domestic audiovisual market research regarding the coverage of the territory with signal based on different technologies (cable, terrestrial, IPTV, satellites, etc.) as well as the impact of the*

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<sup>2</sup> For complete information about AMA Periodic Bulletin No. 6, please refer to paragraph 12.7.

*digitalization of audiovisual broadcasting.”*

This project was created to determine the current state of the audiovisual market in our country, as well as to ensure its long-term viability in light of technical advancements and convergence.

This research has presented possible scenarios for future market development, taking into account the following technological advancements and convergence:

- Use of traditional television;
- Access to video format by different age groups;
- The trend of TV viewing in the future.

The survey's key findings revealed that traditional television viewing has been declining in recent years. The Internet is the primary source of information for young people. Film programs, as well as informative programs, are in high demand.

Technological advancements occur at a rapid rate, making further changes to the watching pattern in the future. The research shed light on the effect of technological advances such as signal switchover from analog to digital on citizens by improving service quality and increasing the number of channels available. In the last two decades, the use of IPTV and OTT technology has gained momentum, and it seems that the trend of using IPTV to watch television and videos will soon dominate the media market.

- AMA, in cooperation with the Non-Profit Organization “Institute for Consulting in Marketing and Management”, has started the implementation of the project: *“Media as a delicate instrument for health education”*. The project will examine the performance of five AMSPs, as well as the content they broadcast, conduct a citizen survey in two regions of the country, host two round-tables, and publish a report summarizing findings and conclusions. The project is ongoing.

- AMA in cooperation with the association “Institute of Albanian Broadcasting Engineers” has started the realization of a project titled:

*“Technology and infrastructure of audiovisual broadcasting in the digital age.”* The project will concentrate on updating knowledge of DVB-T2 digital technologies, T-DAB technology, and advanced digital technologies for audio broadcasting, as well as monitoring the frequency and tracking equipment used for digital technologies, and knowledge of EU member states' experiences with digital technology adoption, among other things.

## **12.6 Cooperation Agreements**

Concerning cooperation with other institutions, AMA has undertaken some initiatives on cooperation agreements signature, aiming at creating spaces and facilitating work coordination forms. These agreements are signed in the framework of the Albanian Parliament request to establish a space and enhance cooperation among institutions. Taking into consideration that the cooperation and coordination of the activities among AMA and these institutions will improve the standards and conditions for a free and efficient audiovisual market in compliance with European standards, within the reporting period, AMA proposed entering into cooperation agreements, by preparing a draft agreement focused on setting out the cooperation areas and forms to make a decision on and guarantee the implementation of Law 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania”, as amended. Specifically, AMA has proposed and signed cooperation agreements with the following institutions in 2020:

### ***AMA - the State Agency for Child Rights and Protection***

Pursuant to Law No. 18/2017 “On Child Rights and Protection” and Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania”, recognizing the importance of minors’ protection, guaranteeing the rights, interests and moral and legal requirements for minors’ protection in the field of audio and/or audiovisual services; aiming at observing and promoting child rights as well as the special child protection in the field of audio and/or audiovisual services; increasing cooperation among the parties for minors’ protection in the field of audiovisual media in the Republic of Albania, AMA and the State Agency for Child Rights and Protection, on December 30, 2020, signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

This Memorandum aimed to identify areas and other forms of cooperation among the parties on matters of mutual concern relating to the enforcement of legislation in force on minors' protection in the field of audio and/or audiovisual media.

### ***AMA - Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination Cooperation***

Pursuant to Law No. 10221, dated 04.02.2010 “On Protection from Discrimination”, and Law No. 97/2013 “On Audiovisual Media in the Republic of Albania”, as amended, AMA and the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination, on 23.11.2020, signed a Memorandum of Understanding, in order to promote human rights and freedoms, to advance their cooperation in the realization of their operations in the framework of implementing the applicable legislation in this field. The Memorandum acknowledges and highlights the importance of protection from discrimination in the field of audio and/or audiovisual services, and it also aims to improve collaboration among the parties in the context of protection from discrimination in the field of audiovisual media in the Republic of Albania.



The purpose of this Memorandum is to institutionalize cooperation and define the rules and manners whereby the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination and the Audiovisual Media Authority will develop their cooperation, in the framework of joint work for the promotion and protection of fundamental human rights, on issues of common concern related to the implementation of the applicable legislation on protection from discrimination in the field of audio and/or audiovisual media, in line with internationally recognized standards and national legislation, as well as the lawful interests of Albanian citizens.

### ***AMA - Ministry of Culture Cooperation***

The Audiovisual Media Authority (AMA) and the Ministry of Culture signed a cooperation agreement on October 8, 2020, on carrying out joint audiovisual projects for promoting cultural heritage. AMA supports the following projects: *The New Film Museum*, one of the Ministry of Culture projects; *virtual tours for “Fishta Itinerary”*, narrating the life and creative journey of Father Gjergj Fishta, and *Via Egnatia*, one of the thousand-year-old road connecting East and West.

As a consequence of the novel COVID-19 pandemic context, cultural institutions are faced with a new reality, which requires a new approach towards the public, especially youth. In this light, they are considering all forms of cooperation that provide products, which bring people closer to cultural heritage and art.

Under this agreement, the parties commit to creating supporting spaces for protecting artistic creativity and promoting art and culture in the audiovisual area. AMA has full membership to the European Audiovisual Observatory, which is a body covering cinematographic activities and monitoring the cinematography market within the European Union and candidate countries to the EU and signed the said agreement with the goodwill to consolidate interinstitutional cooperation in concrete aspects.

### **12.7 Publishing of AMA’ Periodic Bulletin**

For the first time, the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Periodic Bulletin, designed in 2020, contained an evaluation of gender participation in audiovisual broadcasting. Quantitative indicators of the gender ratio of show moderators, as well as the guests (male and female), were reported for the major AMSPs, based on the same time sampling. The findings revealed that, for any of the audiovisual subjects, but even as a whole, the television receives contributions from all genders, without being a barrier or bias for those tasked with moderating a show, or for guests who are asked to express their thoughts and perspectives on various issues and aspects that the audiovisual subject highlights.

The Periodic Bulletin is a set of annual economic, financial, technical, and technological, property, content, and human resources indicators, intended for representatives of AMSPs, audiovisual market researchers and analysts, journalism students, and domestic and foreign institutions that track and support projects and programs in the media sector, among others.

The economic aspects of the audiovisual market include indicators such as AMSP rating based on key economic indicators, total annual revenue, economic outcomes, fixed asset level, and so on. Indicators are presented in graphs and tables based on the dynamics of each of the audio and audiovisual market's components (televisions, radios, cables and other services). The ownership in the audiovisual operation has its section, which reflects the ownership structuring as well as the concentration of AMSP contributors and various divisions of industry.

The Bulletin contains factual information on staffing by the level of education, age, seniority, gender, and occupation for human resources working in the audio and audiovisual market. This covers indicators such as how employees are treated in terms of revenue and expenses, gross salary ratios by profession, the ratio of gross salaries to revenue and overall annual expenses of AMSPs, and so on.

Aside from the dynamics of the digitalization process, the section of technical broadcasting indicators also provides a presentation of geographical maps of the extent of signal coverage for AMSPs, as well as data on the number of subscribers for IPTV and OTT cable broadcasting.

The Bulletin also summarizes annual indicators on the content broadcast by AMSPs, including the number of editions, the volume of advertisements and commercial communications, and the ranking of the top airtime buyers and their distribution by industry type. The Bulletin now contains new general data from media service providers.

## **12.8 Management of human resources performance**

One of AMA's objectives has been to improve the organization, with the aim, of making it as effective as possible as a public service body.

AMA adopted the annual recruitment plan during the reporting year, strictly enforcing civil service law, driven by the principles of merit recruitment, career continuity within the civil service, and staff training activities.

The Directorate of Human Resources and Foreign Relations, as at the start of each year, has drafted the Annual Training Needs Analysis Calendar, which refers to the advancement of the Audiovisual Media Authority's organizational and institutional work, as well as the objectives set for 2020 and the new possibilities and circumstances posed by the pandemic situation. This calendar is based on information about specific requirements and needs detailed by each organizational unit, in terms of employees' individual training. These trainings, which are planned for the reporting year, will allow for the continued implementation of public administration training standards and best practices.

Even though over the years, trainings were provided in several forms, AMA, in collaboration with ASPA, offered online trainings for all groups of civil servants this reporting year, including obligatory, continuing, and in-depth trainings, career development and professional adaptation, in cases of changing work requirements, and special training to fulfill special tasks for public administration servants. AMA has practiced, with each organizational unit of the institution, providing relevant assistance and information to employees about changes and developments in the area of civil service legislation, Labor Code, as well as the induction of new employees, in order to serve functional roles and increase performance at work.

Considering it to be an important training tool that aids in the development of skills and experience, the production and exchange of information, educating others while learning at the same time, one staff retreat training was held this year. The topic of the training was “Introduction to the Directive 2010/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 March 2010 on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in the Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services (amended by Directive 2018/1808, dated 14.11.2018)

Throughout the reporting year, efforts were made to ensure the earnest fulfillment of obligations arising from Law No. 9367, dated 07.04.2005, “On the prevention of conflict of interest in the exercise of public functions,” as amended, and Law No. 9049, dated 10.04.2003, “On the declaration and control of assets, financial obligations of elected officials, and some public servants “, as amended.

The annual report on the work carried out by the Audiovisual Media Authority for 2019 was submitted to the High Inspectorate of Declaration and Audit of Assets and Conflict of Interests in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 4 of Law No. 9367, dated 07.04.2005, “On the prevention of conflict of interest in the exercise of public functions,” as amended.

This report summarized the institution's activities for the year, focusing on declarations made by officials that were required to declare assets, the provision of information on any amendments to the declaring subjects, and instances of conflict of interest, among other aspects.

AMA adopted the Code of Conduct for AMA’s Members in Decision No. 56, dated 04.04.2016, which represents a collection of norms and principles that apply and govern the activity of AMA membership, Deputy Chairperson, and Chairperson when performing duties and functions recognized by the law. At the request of HIDAACI, AMA is drafting a Regulation on Conflict of Interest Prevention and Asset Declaration in the Exercise of Public Functions in the Authority of Audiovisual Media based on the content and general regulation that the Code of Conduct offers on conflict of interest. In cases of conflict of interest, this regulation will specify the rules, processes, ways, procedures, responsibilities, and competencies for identification, declaration, registration, treatment, settlement, and punitive measures.

### **13. FINANCIAL INDICATORS AND RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

Thanks to the realization of the expected revenues, AMA managed to cover with its funds, in addition to the expenses foreseen for the performance of functional duties, also expenses for the continuation of the public information campaign according to the Strategy for Switching from Analogue to Numeric Broadcasting, for their termination in the regions of Shkodra, Lezha, Elbasan and Vlora by September 30, 2020, as well as for their termination in the regions of Dibra, Kukës and Gjirokastra by December 30, 2020.

#### **13.1 Financial resources management**

The Audiovisual Media Authority as a self-funding institution ensures the fulfillment of its functions through its financial resources. In this framework, the improvement of the Authority's financial activity indicators and the increased efficiency of using these resources was one of the objectives realized.

Pursuant to Article 24 under the Law No. 97/2013, AMA's financial resources are as follows:

- a)* revenue from the payments on the receiving and renewing of licenses and/or authorizations;
- b)* revenue from annual payments on licenses and/or authorizations;
- c)* revenue from the administrative processing of requests for application;
- ç)* revenue from broadcast service fees set forth by fiscal legislation, in the role of the tax agent;
- d)* funding by state budget;
- dh)* other legal sources.

AMA, through Decision No. 183, dated 19.12.2019, has approved the 2020 draft budget for “**Total Revenues**” (Expected current revenues; Revenues from debtors of the previous year; Revenues

carried forward from the previous year; and “**Total expenses**” (Salaries, contributions and remunerations; Goods and services; Current investments).

In 2020, Decision No. 183, dated 19.12.2019, was amended, mostly due to the need to continue the public information campaign for the termination of analogue broadcasting in all regions.

### 13.2 Realization of sources of funding in 2020

*Progress of collection rate from self-funding sources on “Current revenue during the period” and “Revenue from previous year debtors”*

000 ALL

N o.	Title	2020 revenue forecast	Financial obligations of licensed/authorized ASMPs in 2020 (invoicing for 2020)	Revoked/invalidated licenses/authorizations/invoicing systems during 2020	Total revenue realized for 2020	Realization in % (according to the draft budget)	Realization in % (according to the fact)
		1	2	3	4	$5=4/(1-3)*100\%$	$5=4/(2-3)*100\%$
<b>A</b>	<b>Current revenue for the period (1+2+3+4+5+6)</b>	<b>232,379</b>	<b>207,614</b>	<b>2,789</b>	<b>209,449</b>		
<b>1</b>	Revenue from licenses/authorization + payments for renewals	<b>198,620</b>	<b>203,141</b>	<b>1,337</b>	<b>190,573</b>	97	94
	a) Settlement of payments by local private television subjects		16,127	54	13,258		
	b) Settlement of payments by national and local terrestrial and satellite numeric networks		56,683		56,683		
	c) Settlement of payments by subjects granted an authorization by AMA on OTT, IPTV, Internet TV		49,798	350	46,500		
	d) Settlement of payments by local private analog radio subjects		19,888	305	18,138		

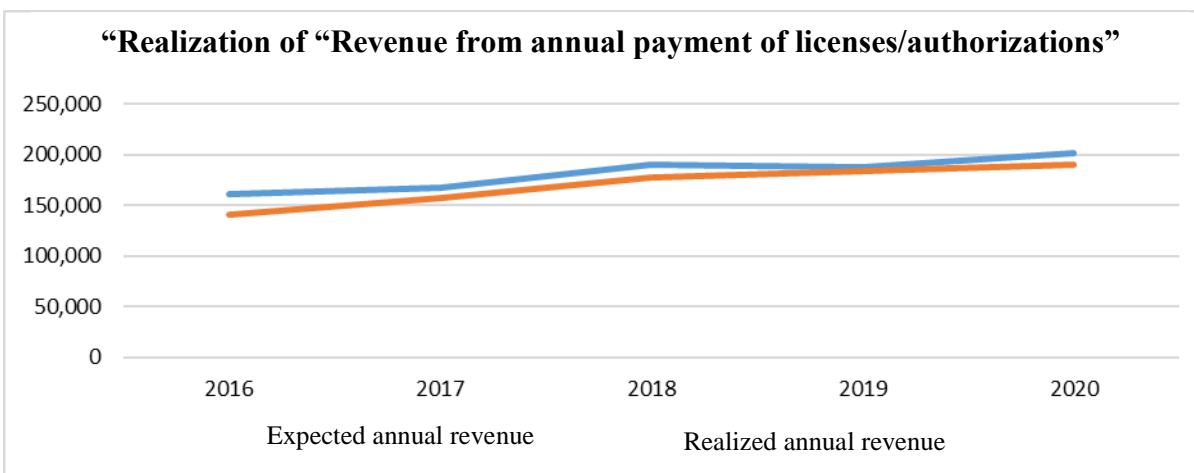
	<i>e) Settlement of payments by subjects granted an authorization by AMA (cable)</i>		60,645	629	55,994		
<b>2</b>	Revenue as a tax agent	<b>713</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>696</b>	98	93
	- From licensed/authorized subjects		752	3	696		
	- From subjects whose license/authorization has been revoked				0		
<b>3</b>	Revenue from administrative processing	<b>1,940</b>	<b>3,660</b>		<b>3,559</b>	183	97
<b>4</b>	Interest rate revenue	<b>150</b>			<b>23</b>	16	
<b>5</b>	Other revenue (DVD release, photocopies)	<b>160</b>			<b>43</b>	27	
<b>6</b>	Other revenue:	<b>30,797</b>		<b>1,371</b>	<b>14,554</b>	50	
	- From late payment penalties	5,933		242	7,570	135	
	- From citations	2,157		0	402	19	
	- From previous years debtors (license/authorization + 5% RTV fee)	21,707		1,129	6,217	30	
	- Revenue from debtors whose license/authorization has been revoked	1,000		0	365	36	
<b>B</b>	Revenue from salaries returned from AMA former employees				408		
	<b>Total revenue (A+B)</b>	<b>232,379</b>	<b>207,553</b>	<b>2,552</b>	<b>209,857</b>	91	102

In the framework of meeting one of its, AMA saw an increase of revenue collection rate by closely monitoring the settlement of financial obligations accrued in 2019, to licensed/authorized subjects, through written letters, email or over-the-phone communication. During the reporting period, AMA has relied on judicial bodies to collect the financial obligations accrued towards AMA and the State Budget from subjects whose licenses/authorizations have been revoked/invalidated during 2016-2020.

AMA main self-funding source is **“Revenue from the annual license/authorization fee”** In 2020, AMA made its increasing funding sources collection rate go higher, mainly the **“Revenue from obligation for annual license/authorization fees”** line for the 2016-2020 period, as follows:

000 ALL

Years	Expected annual revenue	Realized annual revenue	Realization in %
2016	160.610	140.242	87%
2017	166.773	156.661	94%
2018	190.052	177.352	93%
2019	188.192	183.229	95%
2020	201.973	190.573	94%



Sub-item **“Revenue from citations”**, pursuant to paragraph 13, Article 133 under the Law No. 97/2013 providing the following: *“Citation shall be an executive title enforced by the bailiff service and transferred to the State Budget at the amount of 80% and the AMA budget at the amount of 20%”*, stipulates that AMA revenue for 2020 stood at ALL 2,156,847 (ALL 10,784,235 x 20% = ALL 2,156,847).

By the end of 2020, given the settlement of payments by the subjects or the agreements entered into with court private bailiffs, AMA collected ALL 2,008,191, of which ALL 401,638 make up the institutional revenue.

The progress of executive titles enforcement for citations, during 2016-2020 based, on collections and revenues belonging to the institution is as follows:

000 ALL

<b>Executive titles consisting of citations/years</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Total collections (100%)	4,085	11,326	12,977	8,832	2,008
AMA revenue (20%)	817	2,265	2,595	1,766	402

It should be remembered that, as a result of the economic situation caused by COVID-19, the collection rate of citation payments decreased in 2020.

### 13.3 ASMPs financial obligations

#### a) Licensed/authorized ASMPs during 2020

The summary overview for the licensed/authorized AMSPs, which have due financial obligations to AMA and state budget, until the end of 2020, is as follows:

000 ALL

<b>Categories of subjects</b>	<b>License/authorization</b>	<b>Radio and television broadcasting services fees RTV</b>	<b>Late payment penalties</b>	<b>Total</b>
Analog television	2,701	660	686	<b>4,047</b>
National and local terrestrial and satellite networks	0	0	915	<b>915</b>
Internet-based (IPTV/OTT) program provider/ program repeater	2,949	0	692	<b>3,641</b>
Analog radio	1,461	494	362	<b>2,317</b>



Cable-network-based program repeater	3,678	0	1,406	5,084
<b>Total sum</b>	<b>10,789</b>	<b>1,154</b>	<b>4,061</b>	<b>16,004</b>

AMA, pursuant to Decision No. 220, dated 01.12.2017 “*On defining license/authorization and service fees for services provided by the Audiovisual Media Authority*”, Decision No. 13, dated 20.02.2020 “*On Approving the Payment in Installments of the 2020 Financial Obligations of the Subjects Authorized to Relay Audiovisual Program Services supported by the Cable Network and IPTV in the Durrës Region*” and Decision No. 32, dated 04.05.2020 “*On extending the late payment penalties application deadline on annual payments for license/authorization for 2020 until June 30, 2020*”, for subjects that have not liquidated payments for licenses/authorizations as per the deadlines, has calculated the relevant late payment penalties. The year-end accrued amount of late payment penalties in 2020 stands at ALL 4,061.

#### **b) ASMPs having their license/authorization revoked/invalidated during 2015-2020**

AMA has decided to revoke/invalidate licenses/authorizations for 8 (eight) AMSPs in 2020, with 4 (four) AMSPs having ALL 821,707 in financial obligations by the end of the year. This amount consists of:

- 1 (one) subject authorized to provide relay of third-party services supported by the cable network;
- 2 (two) subjects licensed for local private television; and
- 1 (one) subject licensed for local private audio.

Through a court decision, in 2020, the amount of an obligation incurred by a former subject authorized to provide relay the service of a third-party program supported by the cable network was reduced to ALL 19,282.

AMA has continued investing in judicial bodies during 2020 to collect financial obligations from subjects that have had their license/authorization revoked or invalidated during 2015-2020. The overview of financial obligations in late 2020 is as follows:

000 ALL

Categories of subjects/years	Analog television		Program repeaters		Program providers		Analog radio	
	Subject No.	Financial obligation	Subject No.	Financial obligation	Subject No.	Financial obligation	Subject No.	Financial obligation
2015	-	-	5	10,405	-	-	-	-

2016	4	5,388	14	59,077	2	25,042	4	1,939
2017	3	415	7	2,754	1	162	3	1,105
2018	6	3,179	7	670	-	-	1	106
2019	2	199	3	2,186			1	105
2020	2	621	1	87	-	-	1	114
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>113,554</b>							

### 13.4 Use of financial resources for 2020

AMA managed financial resources during the reporting year using the 2020 draft budget, as amended, and the Register of Public Procurement Forecasts, as amended.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, AMA has made several amendments to the Register of Public Procurement Forecasts for 2020 in order to keep the virus from spreading.

#### 13.4.1 Expense and investments in 2020

000 ALL

No.	Title of expenses/investments	Plan	Addition/reduction in 2020	Fact	Realization %
		1	2	3	=3/(1+2)*100
I	<b>Current expenses (a+b)</b>	<b>215,807</b>	<b>7,334</b>	<b>166,216</b>	<b>74</b>
	<i>a) Salaries, social and health care insurance contribution, remuneration</i>	<i>84,129</i>	<i>4,723</i>	<i>82,236</i>	<i>93</i>
	<i>b) Expenses on goods and other services</i>	<i>131,678</i>	<i>2,611</i>	<i>84,073</i>	<i>64</i>
II	<b>Investment expenses (a+b+c)</b>	<b>39,245</b>	<b>-9,276</b>	<b>21,216</b>	<b>71</b>
	<i>a) Intangible fixed assets</i>	<i>7,500</i>	<i>4,800</i>	<i>8,009</i>	<i>75</i>
	<i>- Studies, researches, surveys</i>	<i>7,500</i>	<i>4,800</i>	<i>8,009</i>	<i>75</i>
	<i>b) Tangible fixed assets</i>	<i>31,439</i>	<i>-14,066</i>	<i>13,034</i>	<i>75</i>
	<i>- Electronic devices purchase</i>	<i>700</i>	<i>260</i>	<i>840</i>	<i>88</i>

- Other office supplies/technical tools	19,302	-8,883	6,837	66
- Programs/applications	5,984	-5,444	0	0
- Expected investments (procedures under procurement in 2019) for "Equipment for the Frequency Spectrum"	5,454		5,357	98
<b>c) Expenses for increasing fixed assets</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>-10</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>58</b>
- Projects	120		0	0
- Own fund for server room water leak detection system; Own fund for water pump	186	-10	173	98

1. AMA has covered through **its own funds**:

- Expenses for *salaries and rewards, contributions for social and health insurance* according to its organizational chart, as well expenses necessary for goods and services requested by its directorates/units.

- Based on the 2020 draft budget, as approved by Decision No. 183, dated 19.12.2019, AMA entered into an agreement with Protocol No. 23, dated 06.01.2020 with "Media +" JSC. company, to prevent the bailiff company from freezing its bank account and the immediate obligation enforcement. The agreement extended the deadline up to 01.01.2021, AMA lowered the obligation amount to ALL 25,305,036 (ALL 25,000.000 settled from AMA revenue and the mutual refunding of ALL 305,036 for the annual license fee and radio and television broadcasting service fee in 2020). By the end of 2020, AMA obligation to "Media +" JSC. company stood at ALL 11,191,369.

Following the signing of a Cooperation Agreement with the Ministry of Culture on October 5, 2020, AMA contributed ALL 7,200,000 to the Ministry of Culture for the projects "Education by Culture" and "Film Digitalization".

AMA, using its funds, carried out a public information campaign in 2020, airing spots on national and local televisions and radios, announcing the termination of analog broadcasting in the Shkodra,

Lezha, Elbasan, and Vlora regions by September 30, 2020, as well as in the Dibra, Kukës, and Gjirokastra regions by December 30, 2020.

## 2. Investment Progress

Under the item “*Intangible fixed assets*” (part of Current Investments), the following were realized:

- The item “Studies and research,” as amended, was realized for ALL 8,009,243 to fund projects on the following topics: “News writing and reporting - theory and practice”; “Quality of television news of Albanian television broadcasters”; “Domestic audiovisual market research regarding the coverage of the territory with signal based on different technologies (cable, terrestrial, IPTV, satellites, etc.) as well as the impact of the digitalization of audiovisual broadcasting”; Conclusions of the project “Conducting a performance study and analysis in the audiovisual market, users’ evaluation of broadcast content, including publication (with ISBN), focused on avoiding gender-based discrimination and violence of all forms against women and girls” and the project “Creating conditions for an egalitarian and non-discriminatory media in Albania and raising awareness of gender equality in the media.”

Under the “*Tangible fixed assets*”, the following expenses were made:

- “Purchase of electronic/computer devices”, specifically for “Purchase of server for directory asset replication system”.
- “Tools/other office/technical equipment”, specifically external HDD; DVB-T2 43 TV, LTO tapes; purchase of professional headphones for monitoring; working tools, WEB camera, humidity absorbing device; holiday decorations; equipment for monitoring and recording the FM audio spectrum in Elbasan, Pogradec, Lezha and Saranda, Infrared thermometer; new radio monitoring system.

Moreover, following the Public Procurement Commission, the expected investments item (procedures under procurement in 2019) for “Equipment for the Frequency Spectrum” was realized.

In the item “*Expenses for the increase of fixed assets*” expenses were made for “Own fund, server room water leak detection system “and “Own fund, water pump”.

### 13.5 Financial Statements

#### *Statement of revenues and expenses dated 31 December 2019 and 31 December 2020*

ALL

N o.	Title	2020	2019
<b>A</b>	<b>Current revenue for the period</b>	<b>216,208,795</b>	<b>211,169,731</b>
1	Revenue from license/authorization	202,589,141	192,235,625
2	Revenue as a tax agent	750,256	893,933
4	Revenue from administrative processing	3,610,000	3,243,700
5	Interest rate revenue	38,803	99,870
6	Other from fines, late payment penalties for licenses/authorizations/fines	9,220,595	11,069,447
7	Recovery of amounts classified as expenses over the previous years	0	3,627,156
<b>B</b>	<b>Operating expense</b>	<b>107,261,936</b>	<b>108,510,431</b>
1	Office supplies	2,777,518	2,829,080
2	Salaries, rewards and other staff expenses	87,837,125	86,261,767
3	Maintenance expenses	1,409,428	1,159,408
4	Supply service expenses	8,643,783	15,138,416
5	Transport and car maintenance expenses	2,397,292	3,105,760
6	Local taxes	15,000	15,000
7	Judicial, legal expenses	4,181,790	1,000
<b>C</b>	<b>Expenses for AMA's functional activity</b>	<b>44,427,521</b>	<b>49,800,952</b>
1	Consultancy, training, market survey	994,280	822,008
2	Representation expenses	2,293,641	8,730,608
3	Digitalization expenses	41,139,600	40,248,336
<b>D</b>	<b>Expenses from the fund allocated by the MoF for the Public Information Campaign</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39,950,997</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>Expenses for the cash aid for the damages caused by the November 26, 2019 earthquake</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>Year losses</b>	<b>1,153,962</b>	<b>4,252,212</b>
	Citation revocation	424,720	3,860,000

	License/authorization removal, granting	729,242	392,212
<b>G</b>	<b>Amortization and depreciation of tangible assets</b>	<b>-61,277</b>	<b>-917,907</b>
<b>Economic outcome (A-B-C-D-E-F-G)</b>		<b>63,426,653</b>	<b>4,573,046</b>

*Assets and obligations statement for 2019- 2020*

ALL

No.	Title	2020	2019
<b>A.</b>	<b><i>Current assets (I - V)</i></b>	<b>617,804,863</b>	<b>614,067,805</b>
<b>I.</b>	<b>MRO Inventory</b>	<b>5,165,902</b>	<b>5,104,625</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Request for collection addressing third parties (1 - 4)</b>	<b>440,095,135</b>	<b>438,522,979</b>
1	-Client per license (Collectible clients) (Clients whose license has been revoked)	121,708,368 13,912,683 107,795,685	118,772,468 11,504,089 107,268,379
2	-Client for RTV service fee (Collectible clients) (Clients whose license has been revoked)	7,981,265 2,222,272 5,758,993	9,227,917 3,744,043 5,483,874
3	-Client per fine	284,466,822	285,098,916
4	-Client per late fee (Client per late payment penalty for authorization/licenses) (Client per late payment penalty for citations)	25,938,680 3,502,305 22,436,375	25,423,678 2,771,206 22,652,472
<b>III</b>	<b>Other requests to third parties</b>	<b>5,709,452</b>	<b>6,213,452</b>
	- Obligation to hand back amounts from former employees - Difference from the state for taxes and dues - Advance payments to third parties, personal citations, etc.	3,117,156 6,283 2,586,013	3,525,156 6,283 2,682,013
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Project financial support of the following year</b>	<b>7,200,000</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>V.</b>	<b>Petty cash and Bank</b>	<b>159,634,374</b>	<b>164,226,749</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b><i>Fixed assets (I - II)</i></b>	<b>164,700,148</b>	<b>172,633,146</b>
<b>I.</b>	<b>Net studies and research</b>	<b>32,768,791</b>	<b>30,649,264</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Net fixed assets</b>	<b>131,931,357</b>	<b>141,983,882</b>
	- Economic inventory - Technical installations, equipment, work tools - Transport vehicles - Expenses for administrative facilities	6,877,491 30,784,179 6,858,255 87,411,432	11,433,880 29,596,202 8,604,282 92,349,518

<b>C.</b>	<b><i>Obligations (I-IV)</i></b>	<b>782,505,011</b>	<b>786,700,952</b>
<b>I.</b>	<b>Own funds</b>	<b>198,253,306</b>	<b>222,179,641</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Transfers from the MoF for the Public Information on Digitalization Campaign</b>	<b>105.000.000</b>	<b>105.000.000</b>
<b>III</b>	<b>Exercise result of the year</b>	<b>63,426,653</b>	<b>4,573,046</b>
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Short-term obligations to third parties (1 - 5)</b>	<b>415,825,052</b>	<b>454,948,265</b>
1	- Obligations of clients to the state in terms of taxes, citations and late payment penalties	300,862,783	303,851,043
2	- Obligations to suppliers	10,312,396	408,134
3	- Obligations to the state in terms of taxes and contributions	1,350,599	848,080
4	- Previous years creditors (judicial processes with bailiffs)	103,023,975	149,841,008
5	- Creditors for means in storage (in the form of warranty)	275,300	0
<b>ASSETS - LIABILITIES ((A+B)-C)</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

## ANNEX 1

### JUDICIAL CASES WITH THE AUDIOVISUAL MEDIA AUTHORITY STANDING AS LITIGANT

<b>JUDICIAL CASES UNDER FIRST INSTANCE COURT REVIEW</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Plaintiff/Defendant</b>	<b>Subject matter</b>	<b>Trial stage</b>	<b>Won/lost in the current stage</b>
1	Plaintiff: AMA  Defendant: TV Kabllor Saranda	Financial obligations	Tirana Administrative Court of First Instance	Ongoing
2	Plaintiff: AMA  Defendant: Tv Kabllor Devi-E.R.I.	Financial obligations	Tirana Administrative Court of First Instance	Ongoing
3	Plaintiff: PRENG DODA  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of AMA decision on citation	Tirana Administrative Court of First Instance	Ongoing
4	Plaintiff: AMA  Defendant: Radio Motiv	Financial obligations	Tirana Administrative Court of First Instance (Within complaint time frames for the Administrative Court of Appeal)	Won



5	Plaintiff: Dritan Memushi  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of AMA Inspection Team Decision No. 03, dated 21.07.2020, upheld by AMA Decision No. 70, dated 21.08.2020	Tirana Administrative Court of First Instance (Within complaint time frames for the Administrative Court of Appeal)	Won
6	Plaintiff: AMA  Defendant: “Alba_Tra_Net Scu” Ltd. company	Obligation of the defendant to settle the financial obligations to AMA at the amount of ALL 1,000,000	Shkodra Administrative Court of First Instance	Ongoing
7	Plaintiff: Edi Tanushi  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of AMA Decision No. 111, dated 11.07.2019, for upholding Citation No. 09, dated 24.04.2019, at the amount of ALL 1,000,000 (one million),	Shkodra Administrative Court of First Instance	Ongoing
8	Plaintiff: AMA  Defendant: Vlora Channel Ltd.	Obligation of the defendant to settle the financial obligations to AMA at the amount of ALL 419,027	Tirana Administrative Court of First Instance	Ongoing
9	Plaintiff: Gëzim Ismaili (Media+)  Defendant: AMA	Obligation of the defendant to prescribe the administrative penalty execution for: Citation No. 387, dated 01.06.2011, at the amount of ALL 200,000; Citation No. 433, dated 16.11.2011, at the amount of ALL 400,000;	Tirana Administrative Court of First Instance	Ongoing

		Citation No. 616, dated 11.04.2013, at the amount of ALL 2,000,000;		
10	Plaintiff: AMA  Defendant: “Teknomedia” Ltd. company (Nesër TV)	Obligation of the defendant to settle the financial obligations to AMA at the amount of ALL 1,825,600	Tirana Administrative Court of First Instance	Suspended (until on the merits adjudication comes to conclusion)
<b>JUDICIAL CASES UNDER COURT OF APPEAL REVIEW</b>				
1	Plaintiff: “IN TV Albania” Ltd.  Defendant: AMA	Finding the absolute nullity of letter with Protocol No. 1259/1, dated 28.05.2020 and No. 1217, dated 13.05.2020, and obligation of AMA to transfer license from “Kombi Tv” to “IN TV”.	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
2	Plaintiff: Ismet Drishti  Defendant: AMA	Complete revocation of AMA Decision No. 27, dated 22.04.2020 “On reviewing application of the natural person, Ismet Drishti, for obtaining audiovisual program service license “Zjarr TV”	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by both litigants)	Lost/Ongoing

3	Plaintiff: Sevi Mediu (TV Kabllor Anfab)  Defendant: AMA	- Cancellation of AMA Inspection Team Decision No. 7, dated 17.04.2019 on citation amounting to ALL 1.000.000. - Cancellation of AMA Inspection Team Decision No. 8, dated 19.04.2019 on citation amounting to ALL 1.000.000.	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
4	Plaintiff: Gerantina Zylo  Defendant: AMA	- Revocation of AMA Decision No. 156, dated 11.10.2019 “On the review of the administrative complaint against Decision No. 14, dated 10.05.2019 on provision of Internet-based (IPTV/OTT) audiovisual programs service without prior approval” as ungrounded in law and evidence.	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by AMA)	Lost/Ongoing
5	Plaintiff: Albi Kreci (TV Kabllor Alb Vito Peqin)  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of administrative act, AMA Decision No. 157, dated 11.10.2019, upholding Decision No. 16, dated 07.08.2019	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by AMA)	Lost/Ongoing

6	Plaintiff: “Beqaj Kabllor 2014” Ltd. company (TV Kabllor Beqaj)  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of AMA administrative acts:  - Record on audiovisual activity inspection, dated 28.09.2019;  - AMA Decision No. 19, dated 15.10.2019 on citation.	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by AMA)	Lost/Ongoing
7	Plaintiff: Altin Sharka, (TV Kabllor Hysgjokaj)  Defendant: AMA	Complete revocation of AMA Decision No. 114, dated 11.07.2019 and AMA Decision No. 4, dated 15.04.2019	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by AMA)	Partially lost/Ongoing
8	Plaintiff: “Teknomedia” Ltd. company (Nesër TV)  Defendant: AMA	Complete revocation of AMA Decision No. 91, dated 16.05.2018, on the non-renewal of the subject license. Obligation of the defendant to compensate the plaintiff: Moral and mental harm as a consequence of the defendant’s actions, at the amount of ALL 5.000.000. Financial damage at the form of missing profits at the amount of ALL 5.316.186.	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
9	Plaintiff: “G NET” Ltd. company  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of AMA Decision No. 83, dated 16.5.2019 and revocation of Decision No. 2, dated 11.04.2019	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by AMA)	Lost/Ongoing

10	Plaintiff: Gëzim Cake, (TV Kabllor Zargoçan)  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of administrative act, Decision No. 10, dated 25.04.2019 and administrative act, AMA Decision No. 115, dated 11.07.2019.	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
11	Plaintiff: Elion Boriçi (TV Kabllor Brado)  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of administrative act, Decision No. 3, dated 12.04.2019 administrative act, AMA Decision No. 95, dated 07.06.2019	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
12	Plaintiff: “DEVI-E.R.I.” Ltd. company (TV Kabllor Devi-Eri)  Defendant: AMA	Finding the nullity of the executive title, decision on citation No. 47, dated 18.11.2015 subject to execution order No. 2233/3/2, Act dated 20.06.2018 by Tirana First Instance Administrative Court, given the cease of obligation.	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
13	Plaintiff: Sevi Mediu (TV Kabllor Anfab)  Defendant: AMA	Cancellation of AMA Decision No. 16, dated 08.06.2018, on imposing a citation on the subject at the amount of ALL 1.000.000.	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by AMA)	Lost/Ongoing

14	Plaintiff: Ismail Buçpapaj, (TV Bajram Curri)  Defendant: AMA	Objection and invalidation of the decision dated 31.01.2019 “On the exercise of the activity of audio and/or audiovisual broadcasting and record “On the inspection of the audiovisual activity as of 31.01.2019 issued by AMA”.	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
15	Plaintiff: Guri Meko (TV Kabllor Delta)  Defendant: AMA	Finding the prescription of citation No. 303, dated 16.12.2010 upheld by Decision No. 26, dated 20.01.2011 of NRTC, citation No. 449, dated 29.02.2012 and citation No. 479, dated 19.07.2012 upheld by Decision No. 119, dated 31.08.2012 of NRTC	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by AMA)	Lost/Ongoing
16	Plaintiff: Guri Meko (TV Kabllor Aral)  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of AMA Inspection Team Decision No. 181, dated 05.11.2018	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
17	Plaintiff: Ermal Marinaj, unauthorized  Defendant: AMA	Invalidation of the executive title, AMA Inspection Team Decision No. 22, dated 06.07.2018.	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing

18	Plaintiff: Private subject Dritan Memushi, for the subject “TV Kabllor Tepelena Sat”  Defendant: AMA	Cancellation of the final Decision No. 186 dated 05.11.2018, for the “TV Kabllor Tepelena” subject ASMP, which has partially upheld AMA Inspection Team Decision No. 20, dated 03.07.2018.	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
19	Plaintiff: “AVN” Ltd. company  Defendant: AMA	Complete revocation of AMA Decision No. 169, dated 12.09.2018	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
20	Plaintiff: “Tring Tv” JSC. company  Defendant: AMA	Objection of bailiff actions and cancellation of the Seizure Order with Protocol No. 215/2, Register No. 215, dated 26.11.2018, of the Bailiff Company “Tirana Execution Office” (TEO) Ltd.	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by AMA)	Lost/Ongoing
21	Plaintiff: “New Media Vizion” Ltd. company  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of AMA Decision No. 160, dated 12.09.2018 on overturning the request of “Radio 1” to broaden the licensing area.	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by AMA)	Lost/Ongoing

22	Plaintiff: Spiro Zguri, (TV Magic Channel)  Defendant: AMA	Invalidation of title, for AMA Decision No. 104, dated 12.07.2017 on payment of financial obligations.	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
23	Plaintiff: Lartment Mato, unauthorized  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of AMA Decision No. 10, dated 29.05.2018 on citation at the amount of ALL 5,000,000	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
24	Plaintiff: “Fokus TV” Ltd. company  Defendant: AMA	Objection of bailiff actions: - AMA Inspection Team (former NRTC) Citation No. 509, dated 23.10.2012 - AMA Inspection Team (former NRTC) Citation No. 509, dated 22.05.2015	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
25	Plaintiff: Dritan Memushi, (TV Kabllor Tepelena Sat)  Defendant: AMA	Cancellation of the final Decision No. 117, dated 16.05.2018 upholding AMA Inspection Team Decision No. 4, dated 20.02.2018.	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing



26	Plaintiff: “4+ Media Group” Ltd. company (TV 4+)  Defendant: AMA	Revocation (cancellation) of AMA administrative act, Decision No. 122, dated 08.06.2018	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
27	Plaintiff: “Capital Radio” Ltd. company  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of AMA Decision No. 73, dated 20.04.2018 “On re-establishment of deadline for the “Capital Radio” company complaint against AMA Decision No. 90, dated 19.05.2016	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by AMA)	Partially lost/Ongoing
28	Plaintiff: “Media Nord” JSC. company  Defendant: AMA	Objection of bailiff actions, for the executive title of citation No. 41, dated 27.4.2017	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
29	Plaintiff: “Media +” JSC. company  Defendant: AMA	Objection of bailiff actions notified through letter No. 405/1, dated 24.04.2013.	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
30	Plaintiff: “Media Nord” JSC. company  Defendant: AMA	Invalidation of the executive title because the obligation is inexistent, for the executive title citation No. 41, dated 27.04.2017	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing

31	Plaintiff: Abedin Fraholli, (TV Kabllor Fraholli)  Defendant: TRING Third party: AMA	Infliction of contractual damage based on the agreement dated 01.01.2016 entered into between Tring TV and TV Kabllor Fraholli. Settlement of the obligation pursuant to AMA Decision No. 51, dated 24.10.2016.	Tirana Civil Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
32	Plaintiff: Sevi Mediu private subject, (TV Kabllor Anfab)  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of the administrative act, (AMA Decision No. 74, dated 02.08.2017 on citation)	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
33	Plaintiff: “4 Plus Media Group” Ltd. company , (TV 4+)  Defendant: AMA	Invalidation of the executive title, AMA citation Decision No. 44, dated 27.04.2017, imposed against “4 Plus Media Group” Ltd. company	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
34	Plaintiff: Private person Fred Hasa, for the subject “TV Kabllor Pirg”  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of the administrative act, Decision No. 63, dated 19.07.2017 and revocation of Decision No. 171, dated 04.09.2017	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won
35	Plaintiff: “Radio Link” Ltd. company (Radio DJ 96.1)  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of AMA Decision No. 83, dated 09.08.2017 and revocation of Decision No. 210, dated 25.10.2017	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing

36	Plaintiff: AMA  Defendant: AMA: “Epiri-2011” Ltd. company	Obligation of the defendant to settle financial obligations to AMA at the amount of ALL 3,050,000	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by AMA)	Partially lost/Ongoing
37	Plaintiff: AMA  Defendant: “Radio Albania News” company	Obligation of the defendant to settle the financial obligations to AMA at the amount of ALL 911,500	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by AMA)	Partially lost/Ongoing
38	Plaintiff: Sevada Guço  Defendant: AMA	Finding the absolute nullity of the Disciplinary Commission evaluation No. 7, dated 12.06.2017 on adopting the disciplinary action “Dismissal from Civil service”;	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Lost/Ongoing
39	Plaintiff: Dritan Memushi, (TV Kabllor Tepelena Sat)  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of AMA Decision No. 115, dated 09.12.2015 on the citation No. 15/1, dated 22.09.2015	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
40	Plaintiff: TV Kabllor Apollon  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of NRTC Decision No. 63/2011 on citation	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
41	Plaintiff: Dritan Xhaçi private subject, (TV Kabllor Xhaçi)  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of citation Decision No. 6, dated 10.02.2016. Revocation of Decision No. 69, dated 04.04.2016.	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Lost/Ongoing

42	Plaintiff: Dritan Xhaçi private subject, (TV Kabllor Xhaçi)  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of AMA Decision No. 234, dated 03.11.2016.	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
43	Plaintiff: “Tring TV” JSC. company  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of administrative acts, Decision No. 65 dated 01.12.2016 and Decision No. 114, dated 12.07.2017	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Lost/Ongoing
44	Plaintiff: “Intel Media” Ltd. company  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of AMA Inspection Team Decision No. 7, dated 27.01.2017 and citation Decision No. 58, dated 22.11.2016	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
45	Plaintiff: “Beqaj Kabllor 2014” Ltd. company  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of AMA Decision No. 169, dated 04.09.2017 and citation Decision No. 60, dated 14.06.2017	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
46	Plaintiff: Fred Stakaj private subject, (TV Lezha Kabëll)  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of citation No. 09, dated 17.03.2016	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Lost/Ongoing
47	Plaintiff: Edmond Sulejmani, (TV Kabllor Jug)  Defendant: AMA	Objection of bailiff actions; Suspension of bailiff actions	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
48	Plaintiff: “Reçi KGM” Ltd.	Revocation of administrative act No. 62, dated 15.12.2015	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing

	company (TV Kabllor Lissus)  Defendant: AMA	and AMA Decision No. 26, dated 27.01.2016		
49	Plaintiff: Dritan Xhaçi private subject, “TV Kabllor Xhaçi”  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of citation Decision No. 6, dated 10.02.2016; Revocation of Decision No. 69, dated 04.04.2016.	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Lost/Ongoing
50	Plaintiff: Dritan Xhaçi private subject, “TV Kabllor Xhaçi”  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of citation Decision No. 18, dated 03.06.2016. Revocation of Decision No. 180, dated 23.07.2016.	Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
51	Plaintiff: Abidin Fraholli, (TV kabllor Fraholli)  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of administrative act, Decision No. 51, dated 24.10.2016	Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
52	Plaintiff: “Elbasan Cable” Ltd. Company, (TV Elbasan Cable)  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of administrative acts, Decision No. 34, dated 22.09.2016 and Decision No. 271, dated 22.12.2016	Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
53	Plaintiff: “Kombi” Ltd. company (TV Kombi)  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of administrative act, Decision No. 13, dated 27.01.2017 upheld by AMA Decision No. 53, dated 12.04.2017.	Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing

54	Plaintiff: Besnik Deliu private subject, “TV Kabllor K.A.M.”  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of the administrative acts No. Decision No. 27, dated 23.02.2017, and Decision No. 56, dated 12.04.2017 of AMA	Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
55	Plaintiff: “Kombi” Ltd. company on behalf of “TV Kombi” subject  Defendant: AMA	Finding the unlawfulness of the administrative act, Decision No. 264, dated 21.12.2016, citation No. 40, as absolutely null and void, its revocation.	Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
56	Plaintiff: “Envo-Company” Ltd. company on behalf of “TV Kabllor Envo Company” subject  Defendant: AMA	Revocation and amendment of administrative acts In 2020, 34/2017 and Decision No. 118/2017	Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
57	Plaintiff: “Envo-Company” Ltd. company (TV Kabllor Envo Company)  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of administrative acts, citation No. 55 and 56 dated 2017	Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
58	Plaintiff: Gazmir Mango (New Planet Radio)  Defendant: AMA	Objecting bailiff actions	Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing

59	Plaintiff: Gazmir Mango (New Planet Radio)  Defendant: AMA	Finding the prescription of Citation No. 0237, dated 03.03.2010	Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Lost/Ongoing
60	Plaintiff: “Cable Vlora” Ltd. company (TV Kabllor Vlora Cable)  Defendant: AMA	Lawsuit injunction and suspension of AMA Inspection Team Decision No. 57, dated 14.06.2017, Decision No. 167, dated 04.09.2017, along with the revocation of these decisions	Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Lost/Ongoing
61	Plaintiff: “Arlibon” Ltd. company (TV Kabllor Fieri)  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of administrative acts, Decision No. 106, No. 107, No. 108, No. 109, No. 110, No. 111 and No. 115 dated 12.07.2017 of AMA	Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
62	Plaintiff: “Radio Link” Ltd. company (Radio Dj 96.1)  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of administrative acts, more specifically Decision No. 130, dated 12.07.2017, Decision No. 81, dated 29.05.2017	Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
63	Plaintiff: Aristotel Petro, TV Alpo  Defendant: AMA	Cancellation of administrative acts: 1. Record dated 08.02. 2018; 2. Decision dated 08.02.2018. Obligation of the defendant to return seized equipment.	Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing

64	Plaintiff: “Sky Gjirokastra” Ltd. company  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of administrative act, Decision No. 140, dated 12.07.2017 on non-granting authorization	Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Lost/Ongoing
65	Plaintiff: AMA  Defendant: Private subject Ruzhdi Bajrami, (TV Kabllor Bajram Net”	Obligation of the defendant to settle the financial obligations at the amount of ALL 2.641,000	Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
66	Plaintiff: AMA  Defendant: “Media 99” JSC. company, (TV Koha)	Obligation of the defendant to settle financial obligations	Under trial at Civil Court of Appeal, as complained by the plaintiff	Won at both instances by AMA
67	Plaintiff: Aqif Haveriku private subject, TV 6  Third party AMA	Objection of bailiff actions for citation No. 61, dated 22.11.2016	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
68	Plaintiff: Aqif Haveriku private subject, TV 6 Third party AMA	Objection of bailiff actions for citation No. 43, dated 27.04.2017	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
69	Plaintiff: Josif Shegani private subject, TV Kabllor Lin  Defendant: AMA	Invalidation of the executive title, citation Decision No. 1, dated 07.03.2014.	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Lost/Ongoing



70	Plaintiff: Ledio Shameti private subject, TV Kabllor Kamza Defendant: AMA	Invalidation of the executive title "Citation Decision No. 506, dated 23.10.2012. Suspension of the executive title enforcement	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
71	Plaintiff: "Beqaj Kabllor 2014" Ltd. company  Defendant: AMA	Invalidation of the executive title citation Decision No. 60, dated 14.06.2017. Suspension of the executive title enforcement	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
72	Plaintiff: Fatjon Latifi private subject, "ENT-Kabllor TV"  Defendant: AMA	Prescription of the executive title, citation Decision No. 392, dated 01.07.2011 and its revocation	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Lost/Ongoing
73	Plaintiff: "Adria-Med" Ltd. company  Defendant: AMA	Finding the absolute nullity of the administrative act, citation Decision No. 88, dated 10.10.2017 and Decision No. 233, dated 11.12.2017	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won
74	Plaintiff: Fred Stakaj private subject  Defendant: AMA	Objection and repeal of the obligation at the amount of ALL 312.490	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
75	Plaintiff: AMA  Defendant: Tirana Regional Tax Directorate	Revocation of administrative act, decision with Protocol No. 30945/3, dated 15.11.2016 of the Tax Appeal Directorate at the General Tax Directorate in Tirana; Refunding of the amount of	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing

		ALL 586.019.		
76	Plaintiff: AMA  Defendant: Elona Shaha private subject on behalf of “TV Stream” subject	Obligation of the defendant to settle financial obligations	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
77	Plaintiff: AMA  Plaintiff: “Cable Albania Shkodra” Ltd. company	Obligation of the defendant to settle financial obligations	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Lost/Ongoing
78	Plaintiff: AMA  Plaintiff: “Reci KGM” Ltd. company	Obligation of the defendant to settle the financial obligations to AMA at the amount of ALL 733,630, “TV Kabllor Mirdita, and ALL 392,200 for “TV Kabllor Lissus”.	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
79	Plaintiff: AMA  Defendant: “Veleçiku” Ltd. company on behalf of TV Veleçiku subject	Obligation of the defendant to settle the financial obligations to AMA at the amount of ALL 513,400.	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
80	Plaintiff: AMA  Defendant: Shpëtim Plaku private subject on behalf of “TV Alb Pajove” subject	Obligation of the defendant to settle the financial obligations to AMA at the amount of ALL 962,510.	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Partially lost/Ongoing
81	Plaintiff: AMA	Obligation of the defendant to	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal	Against

	Defendant: “ACN” Ltd. company	settle the financial obligations to AMA at the amount of ALL 472,800	(Complaint filed by the Ombudsperson)	revocation of acts
82	Plaintiff: AMA  Defendant: Ardjan Sulovari private subject on behalf of “TV Kabllor Dire” subject	Obligation of the defendant to settle the financial obligations to AMA at the amount of ALL 545.280	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
83	Plaintiff: AMA  Plaintiff: “Egnatia-Radio TV Kabëll” Ltd. company	Obligation of the defendant to settle the financial obligations to AMA at the amount of ALL 4,055,000	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Lost/Ongoing
84	Plaintiff: AMA  Plaintiff: “Vraniger Communication” Ltd. company	Obligation of the defendant to settle the financial obligations to AMA at the amount of ALL 62,500	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Lost/Ongoing
85	Plaintiff: AMA  Defendant: Sulejman Leshi natural person	Obligation of the defendant to settle the financial obligations to AMA at the amount of ALL 396,000	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
86	Plaintiff: AMA  Defendant: Klodjan Shqau Edmond Kristo	Obligation of the defendant to settle the financial obligations to AMA at the amount of ALL 4,055,000	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Dismissed by the Court/Ongoing

	Former administrator and former partner of the “Egnatia - Radio TV Kabëll” Ltd.			
87	Plaintiff: Zylyftar Bregu  Defendant: AMA and the Parliament	1. Cancellation of Decision No. 82/2019, dated 04.07.2019 on dismissal of the AMA member, the plaintiff 2. Reinstatement of the plaintiff in his former position as AMA member 3. Remuneration as AMA member until being reinstated.	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Won/Ongoing
88	“Tv Kabllor Vlora Cable” Ltd. company  Defendant: AMA	1. Revocation of Decision No. 21, dated 17.12.2019 of AMA Inspection Team and Decision No. 05, dated 16.01.2020 of AMA  2. Obtaining lawsuit security amount	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Lost/Ongoing
89	Plaintiff: Masa Grup” Ltd.  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of administrative act, Decision No. 15, dated 08.06.2018 “On Citation”, at the amount of ALL 1.000.000	Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal (Complaint filed by the plaintiff)	Lost
<b>JUDICIAL CASES UNDER HIGH COURT REVIEW</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Plaintiff</b>	<b>Subject matter</b>	<b>Recourse</b>	<b>Won/lost in the current stage</b>
1	Plaintiff: Endrit Kopliku	Declaring the termination of employment agreement dated 02.12.2013 as immediate and	AMA	Lost

	Defendant: AMA	unjustified		
2	Plaintiff: “Focus Media News” Ltd. company on behalf of “TV News 24” subject  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of administrative act, Decision No. 10, dated 27.01.2016 on citation No. 53, dated 07.12.2015	AMA	Lost
3	Plaintiff: “Fibernet” Ltd. company  Defendant: AMA	Cancellation on administrative act on relative nullity: Order No. 283, dated 03.09.2015 and Decision No. 1, dated 03.09.2015	Plaintiff	Won
4	Plaintiff: “Fibernet” Ltd. company  Defendant: AMA	Cancellation of the administrative act, AMA Decision No. 85, dated 26.10.2015 on relative nullity	Plaintiff	Won
5	Plaintiff: “Intel-Media” Ltd. company on behalf of “TV Kabllor Jug” subject  Defendant: AMA	Complete revocation of Decision No. 93, dated 26.10.2015 against citation No. 39, dated 15.09.2015 of AMA Inspection Team	AMA	Lost
6	Plaintiff: Televizioni Kabllor “AVN”  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of administrative act, NRTC decision 62, dated 11.02.2011 and citation No. 339, dated 11.01.2011	AMA	Lost
7	Plaintiff: Televizioni Kabllor “AVN”	Revocation of NRTC Decision No. 72/2010 (citation)	AMA	Lost

	Defendant: AMA			
8	Plaintiff: “Digit-Alb” JSC. company  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of AMA Decision No. 65, dated 04.04.2016; revocation of administrative act, AMA citation record No. 3, dated 26.01.2016 on imposing a citation to “Digitalb” JSC. company	Plaintiff	Won
9	Plaintiff: Sevada Guço  Defendant: AMA	Resolution of employment-related dispute, by invalidating the direct superior decision with Protocol No. 1010/2, dated 28.12.2015 and invalidating the disciplinary action “Reprimand	Recourse: AMA and Counter-recourse: Plaintiff	Lost/Ongoing
10	Plaintiff: Fitnete Hajdari  Defendant: AMA	Reinstating the plaintiff Fitnete Hajdari (Xhajku) in her previous job position given that the termination of the indefinite-term employment agreement was ungrounded and unilateral, therefore invalid.	AMA	Partially lost/Ongoing
11	Plaintiff: “Tv. Ca. Ura Vjagurore”  Defendant: AMA	Invalidation of the executive title, citation Decision No. 9, dated 07.03.2014, given the lapse of prescription time frame	Recourse: Plaintiff and Counter-recourse: AMA	Won/Ongoing

12	Plaintiff: Fred Stakaj, (TV Lezha Kabëll) Defendant: AMA	Invalidation of the executive title citation Decision No. 9, dated 17.03.2016 ...Objection of bailiff actions; ....Suspension of bailiff actions	Plaintiff	Won/Ongoing
13	Plaintiff: Geront Dervishi private subject Defendant: AMA	Cancellation of citation through Decision No. 1, dated 13.01.2015 of AMA inspectors, revocation of AMA Decision No. 31, dated 16.04.2015	Plaintiff	Won
14	Plaintiff: Geront Dervishi private subject Defendant: AMA	Cancellation of citation through Decision No. 2, dated 11.03.2015 of AMA inspectors, revocation of AMA Decision No. 65, dated 10.05.2015	Plaintiff	Won
15	Plaintiff: "Elbasan Cable" Ltd. company Defendant: AMA	Revocation of administrative acts, Decision No. 4, dated 10.02.2016 and Decision No. 67, dated 04.04.2016	Plaintiff	Won
16	Plaintiff: "Devi-E.R.I" Ltd. company Defendant: AMA	Complete revocation of AMA administrative act, "Citation No. 47", upheld by AMA with Decision No. 19 dated 27.01.2016.	Plaintiff	Won
17	Plaintiff: Eneritan Pupa private subject on behalf of "TV Kabllor Pupa" subject	Finding the nullity of AMA Decision No. 270, dated 22.12.2016, upholding Decision No. 53, dated 04.11.2016	Plaintiff	Won

	Defendant: AMA			
18	Plaintiff: “TV kabllor Shijaku” Ltd. company on behalf of “TV Kabllor Shijaku” subject  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of administrative act, citation No. 7, dated 04.03.2016  Revocation of the administrative act, AMA Decision No. 106, dated 19.05.2016	Plaintiff	Won
19	Plaintiff: “Media +” JSC. company  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of NRTC Decision No. 95 , dated 03.04.2013, and Decision No. 09, dated 22.05.2013 of AMA	Ombudsperson	Lost
20	Plaintiff: “Tring TV” JSC. company  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of the administrative acts, AMA Decision No. 67 and AMA Decision No. 112, dated 12.07.2017	Plaintiff	Won
21	Plaintiff: Blerta Boriçi  Defendant: AMA	Work relations	AMA	Lost
22	Plaintiff: Engjëllushe Ibrahim  Defendant: AMA	Work relations	Plaintiff	Won
23	Plaintiff: “Albanian Mobile Communications” JSC. company  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of AMA Decision No. 177/1, dated 02.02.2012; Cancellation of the above administrative act as ungrounded and allowing the broadcasting of the 3G Internet commercial of AMC JSC.	Recourse: Plaintiff and Counter-recourse: AMA	Won



		company;		
24	Plaintiff: “Tring TV” JSC. company  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of administrative acts, Decision No. 3, dated 13.03.2015 and Decision No. 40, dated 11.05.2015.	AMA	Lost
25	Plaintiff: “Media Vizion” JSC. company  Defendant: AMA	Obligation of the defendant to stop the competition procedure on national numeric networks licensing, initiated by Decision No. 29, dated 16.04.2015 of AMA.	Plaintiff	Won
26	Plaintiff: “TRING TV” JSC. company  Defendant: AMA	Obligation of the defendant to perform the administrative action of dividing into installments the obligation carried over for years that has been refused with its letter with Protocol No. 1525/1, dated 31.12.2014.	Plaintiff	Won
27	Plaintiff: “Shoqëria Media +” JSC.  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of Decision No. 34, dated 01.02.2013, as null;	AMA	Lost/Ongoing
28	Plaintiff: Milika Nito private subject on behalf of “TV Ura Vajgurore subject  Defendant: AMA	Finding the absolute nullity of citation No. 9/2014	Recourse: Plaintiff and Counter-recourse: AMA	Ongoing
29	Plaintiff: Luljeta	Cancellation of Decision No.	AMA	Lost/Ongoing

	Mërkuri Defendant: AMA	175, dated 01.08.2012 for the temporary transfer and real implementation of SQC Decision No. 135, dated 19.05.2011		
30	Plaintiff: “George” Ltd. company on behalf of “TV ARV” subject  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of NRTC Decision No. 115, dated 03.04.2013 on the validity of the license granted to the local TV ARV	Plaintiff	Won/Ongoing
31	Plaintiff: “ABCom” Ltd. subject  Defendant: AMA	Complete revocation of the administrative act, notification with Protocol No. 740/1, dated 10.03.2016 addressing “ABCom” Ltd. company	Plaintiff	Won/Ongoing
32	Plaintiff: “ABC News” JSC. company; TV KLAN” JSC. company; “DIGIT-ALB” JSC. company; “TOP CHANNEL” JSC. company  Defendant: AMA	Revocation of Article 6.5 under AMA Regulation, as approved by AMA Decision No. 76, dated 04.04.2016.	AMA	Lost/Ongoing
33	Plaintiff: “Media 99” JSC. company Defendant: AMA	Revocation and cancellation of administrative act; Decision No. 77, dated 19.05.2016	Plaintiff	Won
36	Plaintiff: Roland	Work relations	AMA	Lost/Ongoing

	Canaj Defendant: AMA			
34	Plaintiff: Pandi Kasapi Defendant: AMA	Indemnification (product of the monthly salary falling under category III-a/1 from 21.07.2009 until an order from NRTC)	Plaintiff	Ongoing
35	Plaintiff: "Intel-Media" Ltd. company Defendant: AMA	Cancellation of the citation at the amount of ALL 300,000 imposed by a decision on the private cable television subject "TV Jug"	Ombudsperson	Ongoing
36	Applicant: AMA	Request for issuing the execution order in relation to the citation No. 49, dated 24.11.2015 on the Inspection Team, imposed on the natural person Dritan Xhaçi, for the cable TV station TV Xhaçi"	AMA	Ongoing
37	Plaintiff: "Top Channel" JSC. company, "TV Klan" JSC. company Defendant: AMA	Revocation of AMA Decision No. 4, dated 26.03.2014 "On imposing the obligation to port national programs from the electronic cable communications networks of subjects authorized to relay audio and audiovisual programs in these networks"	AMA	Lost/Ongoing
38	Plaintiff: "ACN" Ltd. company Defendant: AMA	Revocation of the administrative act (relative nullity) AMA Decision No. 103, dated 12.07.2017	Plaintiff	Won
39	Plaintiff:	Revocation of citation No. 13,	Plaintiff	Won at both

	<p>“Elbasan Cable” Ltd. company on behalf of “TV Elbasan Cable” cable subject</p> <p>Defendant: AMA</p>	dated 11.04.2016 and Decision No. 147, dated 13.06.2016		instances
40	<p>Plaintiff: “Tring TV” JSC. company</p> <p>Defendant: AMA</p>	Revocation of the administrative acts, citation Decision No. 10, dated 23.03.2016 and Decision No. 105, dated 19.05.2016 of AMA	Plaintiff	Won
41	<p>Plaintiff: “Masa Grup” Ltd. company</p> <p>Defendant: AMA</p>	Lawsuit injunction through the suspension of the implementation of the administrative act, Decision No. 15, dated 18.06.2018	AMA and the State Attorney	Lost
42	<p>Plaintiff: “Media +” JSC. company</p> <p>Defendant: AMA</p>	Revocation of AMA Decision No. 09, dated 22.05.2013 as null and void	State Attorney's Office	Lost
43	<p>Plaintiff: Fred Hasa private subject on behalf of “TV Kabllor Pirg subject</p> <p>Defendant: AMA</p>	Complete revocation of the administrative act, Decision No. 178, dated 04.09.2017 of AMA	Plaintiff	Won
44	<p>Plaintiff: “TV Alsat” JSC. company</p>	Obligation of the defendant to settle financial obligations	State Attorney's Office (against retrial decision)	Won

	Defendant: AMA			
45	Plaintiff: AMA Defendant: Alfred Bej	Obligation of the defendant to refund the amount of ALL 1.995.656	Defendant	Won
46	Plaintiff: AMA Defendant: Anila Hajnaj	Obligation of the defendant to refund the amount of ALL 1.631.500	Defendant	Won
47	Plaintiff: Endirë Bushati Defendant: AMA	Revocation of Decision No. 94/2014 “On selection of the Audiovisual Media Authority”. Regulation of financial relationships between the plaintiff and Audiovisual Media Authority, by obliging AMA to pay the plaintiff from dismissal until 21.07.2016.	AMA	Lost
48	Plaintiff: “Tring TV” JSC. company Defendant: AMA	Revocation of the administrative acts, AMA Decision No. 12, dated 11.04.2016 and Decision No. 150, dated 13.06.2016 of AMA	Plaintiff	Won
49	Plaintiff: “Tring TV” JSC. company Defendant: AMA	Amendment of administrative act, AMA Decision No. 285, dated 29.12.2016, ruling on the qualification and granting of the national private audiovisual license to the “Tring Tv” JSC. company.	Under trial at High Court. The Administrative Court of Appeals has decided to overturn the decision of the First Instance Court and remand a new trial by another judicial body. (Recourse by AMA)	Won

**ANNEX 2**  
**DATA ON MONITORING MAIN EDITIONS OF NATIONAL AMSPs**

**Audiovisual Media Authority**

**Full time for political subjects and central institutions**

**JANUARY 2020**

<b>Subjects</b>	<b>TCH</b>		<b>KLAN</b>		<b>RTSH1</b>		<b>R.TIRANA</b>		<b>TAR</b>		<b>Vizion +</b>		<b>CLUB FM</b>	
	timing/m in	timing/ %	timing/m in	timing/ %	timing/m in	timing/ %	timing/m in	timing/ %	timing/m in	timing/ %	timing/m in	timing/ %	timing/m in	timing/ %
<b>Government</b>	13.12	13.44%	40.25	20.15%	34.22	18.71%	51.40	30.59%	11.92	23.69%	109.37	33.81%	1.03	7.63%
<b>Democratic Party</b>	24.55	25.16%	69.83	34.97%	36.00	19.69%	28.90	17.20%	13.07	25.98%	83.77	25.90%	3.12	23.00%
<b>Prime Minister's Office</b>	41.53	42.57%	47.47	23.77%	54.32	29.70%	32.38	19.27%	17.00	33.80%	36.10	11.16%	2.75	20.30%
<b>Socialist Party</b>	5.78	5.93%	10.60	5.31%	9.85	5.39%	16.27	9.68%	0.38	0.76%	28.95	8.95%	1.25	9.23%
<b>President's Office</b>	1.53	1.57%	7.90	3.96%	9.67	5.29%	21.37	12.72%	2.60	5.17%	8.92	2.76%	3.28	24.23%
<b>Parliament</b>	3.08	3.16%	14.10	7.06%	19.97	10.92%	7.18	4.28%	2.23	4.44%	11.10	3.43%	1.27	9.35%
<b>Independent MP</b>	5.10	5.23%	1.95	0.98%	6.18	3.38%	3.90	2.32%	0.72	1.42%	12.78	3.95%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Socialist Movement for Integration</b>	0.90	0.92%	0.63	0.32%	8.38	4.58%	4.93	2.94%	2.38	4.74%	12.27	3.79%	0.38	2.83%
<b>Republican Party</b>	0.00	0.00%	2.23	1.12%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	8.58	2.65%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Democratic Affiliation Party</b>	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	5.02	1.55%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Union for Human Rights Party</b>	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	1.68	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	2.33	0.72%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Other deputy ministers</b>	0.00	0.00%	2.07	1.03%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Movement for National Development Party</b>	0.98	1.01%	1.73	0.87%	1.53	0.84%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	1.10	0.34%	0.00	0.00%

<b>Party for Justice, Integration and Unity</b>	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	1.08	0.59%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Agrarian Environmental Party</b>	0.98	1.01%	0.95	0.48%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.73	0.23%	0.00	0.00%

## Audiovisual Media Authority

Full time for political subjects and central institutions

FEBRUARY 2020

Subjects	TCH		KLAN		RTSH1		R.TIRANA		TAR		VIZION +		CLUB FM	
	timing/min	timing/%	timing/min	timing/%	timing/min	timing/%	timing/min	timing/%	timing/min	timing/%	timing/min	timing/%	timing/min	timing/%
<b>Government</b>	14.62	14.00%	43.52	20.00%	58.25	24.00%	122.80	45.00%	13.07	19.00%	91.13	30.00%	3.30	19.00%
<b>Prime Minister's Office</b>	32.87	32.00%	55.28	26.00%	70.92	29.00%	53.40	19.00%	23.65	35.00%	39.42	13.00%	1.33	8.00%
<b>Democratic Party</b>	19.13	19.00%	46.97	22.00%	28.02	11.00%	34.00	12.00%	11.73	17.00%	68.47	23.00%	4.58	27.00%
<b>Socialist Party</b>	11.47	11.00%	19.27	9.00%	27.97	11.00%	29.75	11.00%	2.38	3.00%	54.68	18.00%	2.05	12.00%
<b>Presidential Office</b>	15.92	16.00%	29.40	14.00%	28.07	11.00%	19.47	7.00%	10.10	15.00%	23.75	8.00%	3.05	18.00%
<b>Parliament</b>	5.00	5.00%	8.78	4.00%	21.60	9.00%	8.47	3.00%	5.13	8.00%	5.52	2.00%	1.75	10.00%
<b>Socialist Movement for Integration</b>	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	2.10	1.00%	4.27	2.00%	1.98	3.00%	6.97	2.00%	1.18	7.00%
<b>Other deputy ministers</b>	0.00	0.00%	1.77	1.00%	6.62	3.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	2.08	1.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Independent MP</b>	0.63	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	1.15	0.00%	3.28	1.00%	0.40	1.00%	3.35	1.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Republican Party</b>	0.00	0.00%	1.92	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	2.45	1.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Movement for National Development Party</b>	0.88	1.00%	1.85	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	2.02	1.00%	0.00	0.00%

<b>Agrarian Environmental ist Party</b>	1.15	1.00%	1.95	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.63	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Christian Democratic Party of Albania</b>	0.00	0.00%	1.88	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.77	0.00%	0.00	0.00%

## Audiovisual Media Authority

Full time for political subjects and central institutions

MARCH 2020

Subjects	TCH		KLAN		RTSH1		R.TIRANA		TAR		Vizion +		CLUB FM	
	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %
<b>Government</b>	19.40	11.06%	78.68	10.51%	54.18	23.93%	71.40	8.74%	2.22	11.06%	54.63	18.93%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Prime Minister's Office</b>	70.58	29.87%	49.23	6.58%	62.92	27.78%	77.08	9.44%	5.98	29.87%	69.08	23.93%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Democratic Party</b>	20.53	13.39%	32.88	4.39%	31.22	13.79%	33.83	4.14%	2.68	13.39%	49.00	16.98%	1.50	50.85%
<b>Other deputy ministers</b>	9.05	0.00%	23.58	3.15%	25.23	11.14%	26.10	3.20%	0.00	0.00%	40.93	14.18%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Presidential Office</b>	22.93	20.05%	23.95	3.20%	25.70	11.35%	18.60	2.28%	4.02	20.05%	33.52	11.61%	1.45	49.15%
<b>Socialist Party</b>	17.23	15.72%	17.75	2.37%	6.48	2.86%	10.47	1.28%	3.15	15.72%	14.05	4.87%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Parliament</b>	3.42	7.65%	3.65	0.49%	16.43	7.26%	0.25	0.03%	1.53	7.65%	2.98	1.03%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Socialist Movement for Integration</b>	0.57	0.00%	1.03	0.14%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	15.18	5.26%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Agrarian Environmental ist Party</b>	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	8.68	3.01%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Central Election Commission</b>	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	2.78	1.23%	3.48	0.43%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Independent MP</b>	1.43	2.25%	0.00	0.00%	1.50	0.66%	0.00	0.00%	0.45	2.25%	0.58	0.20%	0.00	0.00%



# Audiovisual Media Authority

## Full time for political subjects and central institutions

APRIL 2020

Subjects	TCH		KLAN		RTSH1		R.TIRANA		TAR		VIZION +		CLUB FM	
	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %
<b>Government</b>	27.78	23.00%	88.83	10.00%	34.68	22.00%	65.82	9.00%	5.13	3.00%	123.60	61.00%	2.32	7.00%
<b>Prime Minister's Office</b>	42.40	36.00%	33.60	4.00%	45.50	29.00%	42.23	6.00%	11.63	8.00%	37.87	19.00%	2.93	9.00%
<b>Democratic Party</b>	26.07	22.00%	34.80	4.00%	22.83	15.00%	25.78	3.00%	4.15	3.00%	15.57	8.00%	2.63	8.00%
<b>Other deputy ministers</b>	0.00	0.00%	21.78	3.00%	25.63	16.00%	18.23	2.00%	12.63	8.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Presidential Office</b>	8.08	7.00%	6.10	1.00%	9.25	6.00%	12.12	2.00%	3.05	2.00%	4.83	2.00%	0.80	2.00%
<b>Parliament</b>	6.77	6.00%	4.50	1.00%	9.55	6.00%	2.63	0.00%	0.78	1.00%	6.03	3.00%	0.50	1.00%
<b>Socialist Party</b>	3.12	3.00%	7.50	1.00%	5.68	4.00%	0.62	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	7.57	4.00%	0.28	1.00%
<b>Agrarian Environmentalist Party</b>	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	7.35	4.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Socialist Movement for Integration</b>	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	5.80	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Independent MP</b>	4.52	4.00%	0.00	0.00%	2.63	2.00%	2.45	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.45	0.00%	0.00	0.00%

# Audiovisual Media Authority

Full time for political subjects and central institutions

MAY 2020

Subjects	TCH		KLAN		RTSH1		R.TIRANA		TAR		VIZION +		CLUB FM	
	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %
<b>Prime Minister's Office</b>	37.57	26.00%	48.95	6.00%	37.57	22.00%	44.62	6.00%	19.03	18.00%	34.05	4.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Government</b>	21.35	15.00%	36.82	5.00%	21.63	13.00%	47.92	6.00%	9.22	9.00%	37.17	4.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Democratic Party</b>	35.45	24.00%	46.58	6.00%	36.72	22.00%	40.32	5.00%	15.92	15.00%	44.67	5.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Presidential Office</b>	22.60	16.00%	26.08	3.00%	30.62	18.00%	23.53	3.00%	11.25	11.00%	33.70	4.00%		0.00%
<b>Socialist Party</b>	8.83	6.00%	15.57	2.00%	11.25	7.00%	13.93	2.00%	4.37	4.00%	28.97	3.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Independent MP</b>	8.72	6.00%	4.62	1.00%	6.88	4.00%	7.52	1.00%	4.72	5.00%	14.07	2.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Other deputy ministers</b>	2.33	2.00%	4.53	1.00%	6.00	4.00%	5.38	1.00%	2.00	2.00%	11.28	1.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Socialist Movement for Integration</b>	1.35	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	8.92	5.00%	3.78	1.00%	0.88	1.00%	5.92	1.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Parliament</b>	5.32	4.00%	6.12	1.00%	8.73	5.00%	7.08	1.00%	5.12	5.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Republican Party</b>	0.25	0.00%	3.42	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	8.60	1.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Movement for National Development Party</b>	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	8.00	1.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Christian Democratic Party of Albania</b>	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	3.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Agrarian Environmentalist Party</b>	1.93	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.68	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%

# Audiovisual Media Authority

## Full time for political subjects and central institutions

JUNE 2020

Subjects	TCH		KLAN		RTSH1		R.TIRANA		TAR		VIZION +		CLUB FM	
	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %
<b>Government</b>	8.82	10.00%	47.00	6.00%	54.27	27.00%	52.85	26.00%	5.00	2.00%	53.58	7.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Democratic Party</b>	10.70	12.00%	48.38	6.00%	38.22	19.00%	34.27	17.00%	8.67	4.00%	42.65	6.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Prime Minister's Office</b>	31.28	34.00%	46.73	6.00%	31.88	16.00%	48.37	24.00%	14.38	7.00%	42.27	6.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Presidential Office</b>	10.23	11.00%	19.28	2.00%	22.42	11.00%	20.82	10.00%	6.10	3.00%	24.35	3.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Parliament</b>	6.75	7.00%	3.25	0.00%	18.98	9.00%	9.77	5.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Socialist Party</b>	5.40	6.00%	8.08	1.00%	13.28	7.00%	16.67	8.00%	1.23	1.00%	16.00	2.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Independent MP</b>	15.15	16.00%	7.87	1.00%	12.12	6.00%	9.33	5.00%	3.33	2.00%	14.82	2.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Other deputy ministers</b>	2.58	3.00%	2.77	0.00%	13.18	6.00%	8.77	4.00%	0.98	0.00%	2.05	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Agrarian Environmentalist Party</b>	0.00	0.00%	2.07	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	3.03	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Republican Party</b>	0.00	0.00%	2.70	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	2.30	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Other parties</b>	1.87	2.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%

# Audiovisual Media Authority

## Full time for political subjects and central institutions

JULY 2020

Subjects	TCH		KLAN		RTSH1		R.TIRANA		TAR		VIZION PLUS		CLUB FM	
	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %
<b>Democratic Party</b>	28.33	22.00%	53.92	6.00%	74.15	31.00%	40.87	6.00%	19.33	8.00%	83.82	9.00%	4.40	10.00%
<b>Government</b>	7.02	5.00%	58.73	7.00%	44.23	19.00%	46.30	6.00%	7.82	3.00%	70.02	7.00%	1.25	3.00%
<b>Prime Minister's Office</b>	23.78	18.00%	49.87	6.00%	38.67	16.00%	38.37	5.00%	20.12	9.00%	61.18	6.00%	2.58	6.00%
<b>Socialist Party</b>	18.12	14.00%	12.10	1.00%	22.22	9.00%	15.63	2.00%	4.62	2.00%	46.37	5.00%	0.67	2.00%
<b>Presidential Office</b>	17.95	14.00%	11.72	1.00%	19.47	8.00%	15.95	2.00%	7.42	3.00%	19.93	2.00%	3.22	7.00%
<b>Parliament</b>	18.85	14.00%	11.22	1.00%	18.80	8.00%	1.47	0.00%	1.95	1.00%	14.27	1.00%	2.68	6.00%
<b>Independent MP</b>	13.10	10.00%	9.67	1.00%	17.82	8.00%	13.00	2.00%	8.58	4.00%	13.72	1.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Christian Democratic Party of Albania</b>	0.93	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	10.70	1.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Democratic Conviction Party</b>	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	8.00	1.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Union for Human Rights Party</b>	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	6.10	1.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Socialist Movement for Integration</b>	0.95	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	1.77	1.00%	3.78	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	2.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Other deputy ministers</b>	0.00	0.00%	1.85	0.00%	0.43	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	3.55	0.00%	0.00	0.00%

# Audiovisual Media Authority

## Full time for political subjects and central institutions

AUGUST 2020

Subjects	TCH		KLAN		RTSH1		R.TIRANA		TAR		VIZION +		CLUB FM	
	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %
<b>Government</b>	10.40	13.00%	43.62	5.00%	24.87	27.00%	42.00	6.00%	9.50	6.00%	46.18	5.00%	1.72	5.00%
<b>Democratic Party</b>	21.88	26.00%	39.93	5.00%	25.73	28.00%	38.38	6.00%	9.33	6.00%	37.35	4.00%	3.52	11.00%
<b>Prime Minister's Office</b>	30.00	36.00%	37.77	4.00%	15.87	17.00%	14.98	2.00%	10.75	7.00%	27.42	3.00%	1.58	5.00%
<b>Presidential Office</b>	11.60	14.00%	15.23	2.00%	13.53	15.00%	12.03	2.00%	2.53	2.00%	18.93	2.00%	1.98	6.00%
<b>Independent MP</b>	4.37	5.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	1.18	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	1.63	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Parliament</b>	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	4.05	4.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	1.10	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Movement for National Development Party</b>	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	3.07	3.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Socialist Party</b>	2.62	3.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	1.20	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.33	1.00%
<b>Other deputy ministers</b>	0.68	1.00%	1.78	0.00%	1.33	1.00%	2.55	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	2.12	0.00%	0.50	2.00%
<b>Socialist Democratic Party</b>	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	1.48	2.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Socialist Movement for Integration</b>	1.30	2.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%

# Audiovisual Media Authority

## Full time for political subjects and central institutions

SEPTEMBER 2020

Subjects	TCH		KLAN		RTSH1		R.TIRANA		TAR		VIZION +		CLUB FM	
	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %
<b>Democratic Party</b>	12.00	14.00%	87.37	39.00%	29.20	15.00%	38.37	9.00%	9.52	14.00%	101.80	10.00%	4.20	11.00%
<b>Government</b>	10.75	13.00%	31.63	14.00%	45.18	23.00%	69.32	16.00%	9.02	14.00%	42.80	4.00%	3.33	9.00%
<b>Prime Minister's Office</b>	26.58	31.00%	45.98	21.00%	53.50	27.00%	51.10	11.00%	15.95	24.00%	68.33	7.00%	2.18	6.00%
<b>Socialist Party</b>	15.52	18.00%	23.63	11.00%	29.40	15.00%	13.93	3.00%	8.75	13.00%	65.17	7.00%	0.78	2.00%
<b>Presidential Office</b>	6.05	7.00%	18.20	8.00%	11.03	6.00%	16.82	4.00%	7.57	11.00%	20.73	2.00%	3.07	8.00%
<b>Independent MP</b>	3.97	5.00%	1.13	1.00%	4.43	2.00%	6.00	1.00%	4.97	8.00%	11.67	1.00%	0.67	2.00%
<b>Parliament</b>	6.58	8.00%	7.18	3.00%	10.68	5.00%	7.22	2.00%	5.60	8.00%	2.62	0.00%	1.50	4.00%
<b>Other Deputy Ministers</b>	0.00	0.00%	2.90	1.00%	5.58	3.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	10.45	1.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Agrarian Environmentalist Party</b>	0.73	1.00%	1.77	1.00%	0.58	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	8.37	1.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Christian Democratic Party of Albania</b>	0.47	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	7.42	1.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Republican Party</b>	1.17	1.00%	3.45	2.00%	3.17	2.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	6.87	1.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Democratic Conviction Party</b>	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	6.58	1.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Socialist Movement for Integration</b>	0.32	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	1.83	1.00%	3.63	1.00%	0.73	1.00%	4.95	1.00%	0.38	1.00%
<b>Movement for National Development Party</b>	1.37	2.00%	0.00	0.00%	2.55	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	1.68	0.00%	0.00	0.00%

# Audiovisual Media Authority

## Full time for political subjects and central institutions

OCTOBER 2020

Subjects	TCH		KLAN		RTSH1		R.TIRANA		TAR		VIZION +		CLUB FM	
	timing/m in	timing/ %	timing/m in	timing/ %	timing/m in	timing/ %	timing/m in	timing/ %	timing/m in	timing/ %	timing/m in	timing/ %	timing/m in	timing/ %
<b>Socialist Party</b>	1,897	95.00%	42.38	15.00%	35.45	15.00%	13.73	2.00%	7.42	9.00%	46.20	5.00%	1.53	4.00%
<b>Democratic Party</b>	27.38	1.00%	97.98	34.00%	56.70	24.00%	60.88	10.00%	16.78	20.00%	128.23	13.00%	2.65	7.00%
<b>Prime Minister's Office</b>	41.77	2.00%	75.50	26.00%	56.28	24.00%	86.72	15.00%	31.45	37.00%	95.17	10.00%	3.02	8.00%
<b>Government</b>	15.12	1.00%	25.58	9.00%	35.27	15.00%	50.77	9.00%	6.27	7.00%	42.68	4.00%	4.42	12.00%
<b>Presidential Office</b>	9.57	0.00%	23.80	8.00%	23.38	10.00%	20.27	3.00%	14.15	17.00%	23.38	2.00%	1.65	5.00%
<b>Parliament</b>	6.15	0.00%	10.02	3.00%	20.85	9.00%	6.93	1.00%	4.40	5.00%	0.00	0.00%	1.97	6.00%
<b>Socialist Movement for Integration</b>	2.90	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	3.60	2.00%	7.40	1.00%	0.87	1.00%	19.95	2.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Other deputy ministers</b>	0.00	0.00%	2.70	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	3.60	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	13.25	1.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Independent MP</b>	2.33	0.00%	1.57	1.00%	3.97	2.00%	4.52	1.00%	2.52	3.00%	10.53	1.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Democratic Conviction Party</b>	1.50	0.00%	3.00	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	7.78	1.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Agrarian Environmental Party</b>	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	1.42	2.00%	4.05	0.00%	0.33	1.00%
<b>Movement for National Development Party</b>	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	2.72	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Other parties</b>	0.00	0.00%	2.43	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Justice Integration and Unity Party</b>	0.00	0.00%	0.62	0.00%	2.18	1.00%	1.85	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.40	1.00%

# Audiovisual Media Authority

## Full time for political subjects and central institutions

NOVEMBER 2020

Subjects	TCH		KLAN		RTSH1		R.TIRANA		TAR		VIZION +		Club Fm	
	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %
<b>Democratic Party</b>	15.33	15.00%	64.90	37.00%	49.20	28.00%	39.58	13.00%	9.15	18.00%	79.73	29.00%	4.13	12.00%
<b>Prime Minister's Office</b>	24.47	23.00%	51.47	29.00%	40.70	23.00%	52.27	17.00%	19.70	40.00%	43.30	16.00%	0.70	2.00%
<b>Government</b>	13.40	13.00%	37.50	21.00%	36.52	21.00%	41.93	13.00%	8.70	18.00%	41.97	15.00%	1.12	3.00%
<b>Socialist Party</b>	30.28	29.00%	6.07	3.00%	17.98	10.00%	5.25	2.00%	3.62	7.00%	14.40	5.00%	0.97	3.00%
<b>Presidential Office</b>	6.33	6.00%	9.28	5.00%	14.05	8.00%	16.97	5.00%	4.40	9.00%	16.37	6.00%	1.47	4.00%
<b>Socialist Movement for Integration</b>	8.50	8.00%	0.00	0.00%	5.42	3.00%	8.15	3.00%	1.00	2.00%	15.80	6.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Independent MP</b>	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	1.15	1.00%	2.38	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	5.88	2.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Parliament</b>	5.57	5.00%	3.53	2.00%	5.65	3.00%	4.37	1.00%	2.92	6.00%	5.12	2.00%	1.73	5.00%
<b>Other deputy ministers</b>	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	3.25	2.00%	4.63	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Democratic Conviction Party</b>	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	2.88	2.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Agrarian Environmentalist Party</b>	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	1.73	1.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Republican Party</b>	0.72	1.00%	1.13	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	1.43	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Movement for National Development Party</b>	0.55	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%



# Audiovisual Media Authority

## Full time for political subjects and central institutions

DECEMBER 2020

Subjects	TCH		KLAN		RTSH1		R.TIRANA		TAR		VIZION+		Club Fm	
	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %	timing/mi n	timing/ %
<b>Prime Minister's Office</b>	42.53	48.00%	67.83	34.00%	46.65	27.00%	45.90	16.00%	17.93	42.00%	42.32	18.00%	7.70	42.00%
<b>Government</b>	19.63	22.00%	43.23	21.00%	42.58	25.00%	67.62	23.00%	9.70	22.00%	49.40	21.00%	4.28	23.00%
<b>Democratic Party</b>	5.98	7.00%	56.83	28.00%	45.30	27.00%	49.12	17.00%	6.52	15.00%	56.33	24.00%	3.02	16.00%
<b>Socialist Party</b>	5.47	6.00%	6.63	3.00%	5.67	3.00%	5.10	2.00%	2.52	6.00%	40.23	17.00%	0.48	3.00%
<b>Presidential Office</b>	2.10	2.00%	13.85	7.00%	10.88	6.00%	15.30	5.00%	2.58	6.00%	13.60	6.00%	1.87	10.00%
<b>Parliament</b>	7.30	8.00%	7.13	4.00%	9.52	6.00%	6.27	2.00%	3.38	8.00%	12.33	5.00%	0.70	4.00%
<b>Socialist Movement for Integration</b>	1.73	2.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.98	1.00%	2.75	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	9.23	4.00%	0.27	1.00%
<b>Republican Party</b>	0.00	0.00%	3.38	2.00%	2.03	1.00%	1.23	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	5.28	2.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Independent MP</b>	3.62	4.00%	0.00	0.00%	1.58	1.00%	2.55	1.00%	0.58	1.00%	2.00	1.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Other deputy ministers</b>	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	1.42	1.00%	2.50	1.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
<b>Movement for National Development Party</b>	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	1.12	1.00%	1.27	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%