**TELEVISION AND RADIO BROADCASTING LICENSES**

**WHAT IS THE MANNER OF AND PROCEDURE FOR ISSUING A TELEVISION OR RADIO BROADCASTING LICENSE?**

Radio or television broadcasting may be performed only on the basis of a license, which is issued by the Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services. The license is granted: (1) by way of a public competition and (2) without public competition.

**If broadcasting is performed via technical means that constitute a limited resource – radiofrequencies (only for the radio) – or a transmission capacity of a digital terrestrial multiplex (radio and television), the license is granted following a previously conducted public competition.**

The Agency makes a decision to announce a public competition as its official duty or upon receiving a written request from an interested party. Making the decision is preceded by several steps: first, it should be determined if, based on the Plan for Allocation and Use of the Radiofrequencies or the Plan for Allocation and Assignment of Digital Terrestrial Transmission Capacities, there are free radiofrequencies or capacities, and, if there are any, the Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services prepares a study to establish the justification for announcing a public competition. Should the study find it justified, the Agency adopts a decision to announce a competition.

Both domestic and foreign legal and physical entities have the right to take part in the competition. The candidates in the competition submit special application forms as prescribed by the Agency. Then, they are evaluated based on criteria defined by law. The competition is considered successful if there is at least one received application that meets the conditions stated in the competition.

**If broadcasting is performed via technical means that do not represent a limited resource – a public electronic communication network that does not use a limited resource – or via satellite, the license is granted without public competition.**

Such a license is granted upon the request of an interested party (the relevant application form is prepared by the Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services). Along with the application and the documentation specified in Article 73, Paragraph 3 of the Law, the interested party also submits a preliminary contract for broadcasting the programme service it has concluded with the operator of public communication network that does not use a limited resource or the satellite operator. If the applicant meets the conditions and obligations established by law and the regulations adopted thereof, and if no television or radio broadcasting license has been revoked from the applicant in the past five years, the Agency adopts a decision, within three months from the day of receiving the complete application documentation, to grant a license.

**The validity period of the television or radio broadcasting licenses** is **nine years,** with the possibility to renew the same.