



**L-Awtorità tax-Xandir**  
**MALTA**  
**Broadcasting Authority**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## 2018

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The Hon. Dr Joseph Muscat KUOM, Ph.D., M.P  
Prime Minister  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Auberge De Castille  
Valletta

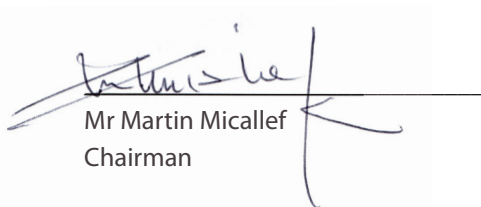
June 2019

Honourable Prime Minister,

Broadcasting Authority Annual Report 2017

In accordance with sub-article (1) of article 30 of the Broadcasting Act, Chapter 350 of the Laws of Malta, we have pleasure in forwarding the Broadcasting Authority's Annual Report for 2017.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Martin Micallef  
Chairman



Dr Joanna Spiteri  
Chief Executive Officer

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## 01

## REVIEW OF THE YEAR

**1.1 The Broadcasting Authority**

During this year under review the Authority was composed of the same board members who were already in their term of office the previous year. The table below shows the composition of the Broadcasting Authority during the year in review (2018). During the year in review the Authority held a total of 20 meetings.

**1.2 Sponsorship**

The yearly financial sponsorships which the Authority is involved in are mainly the Sponsorship of media people for the Certificate Course in Proof Reading and the Malta Journalism Awards.

**1.2.1 Certificate Course in Proof Reading**

In order to promote the correct use of Maltese language in broadcasting, the Authority sponsors a number of media personnel who would be interested to sit for the Certificate course in Proof Reading. During 2018 the Authority sponsored media personnel occupying different roles in the industry to follow this course in proof reading of the Maltese language. The course, organised by the University of Malta, is of a year's duration. This course leads to a formal qualification whilst raising standards of the local language, both written and spoken, on radio and television. The beneficiaries sign in an agreement binding them to attend all the sessions and for the first year this

time, they were also asked to provide a report on a theme in broadcasting which would help other media colleagues on the use of Maltese language during the programmes. The following benefitted from the sponsorship:

Jean Claude Micallef (Impel Communications, TVM)

Norman Vella (NET)

Renato Vella (ONE)

Neil Azzopardi Ferriggi (ONE) did not complete the course.

**1.2.2 28th edition of Malta Journalism Awards**

The Authority is also pivotal in supporting the event of the Malta Journalism Awards. Such an event serves as a platform wherein Maltese journalists are awarded for their sterling work in broadcast and print journalism. The Authority supports such initiatives as this would help quality in TV broadcasting particularly in journalism. While in the previous years, the Authority sponsored specific categories related to broadcast journalism; in 2018 the Authority agreed to partly sponsor the whole event and initiative rather than specific categories. The Broadcasting Authority needs to see that the concept of this annual event is encouraged to better the quality in journalism and given that journalists are using different platforms, then the Authority aptly considered not to sponsor specific categories but the whole event.

**The Authority was thus composed of:****Chair**

Chev. Martin Micallef M.A.

(appointed on 24/04/2017)

**Members**

Dr Alessandro Lia LL.D.

Mr Frans Ghirxi

Dr Peter Fenech M.A., LL.D.

Mr Charlo Bonnici, B.A., Dip. Ger, M.A. (Leicester)

(appointed on 01/01/2018)

**Chief Executive**

Dr Joanna Spiteri, B.A. Hons. (Communication Studies), M.A., Ph.D

**Secretary**

Dr Simon Manicolo B.A., LL.D.



**Certificate Course in Proof Reading**  
**7<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

### 1.3 Thematic Reports compiled by the Monitoring Department

The work of the Monitoring Department is not limited to the daily monitoring of nationwide transmissions of radio and television channels. The Department also compiles a number of thematic reports which focus on particular issues, stations or programmes in order to provide an indepth analysis of trends and developments in the broadcasting sector. These are based on risk assessment reports which are carried out in tandem with each season's change of schedules.

As in previous years, 2018 started off with the analysis of the two most significant fundraising telethons on local

1.	Rapport dwar il-Maratona L-Istrina 2018
2.	Rapport Tematiku dwar Festa Ġenerosità (Dar tal-Providenza)
3.	Rapport dwar it-Trażmissjoni ta' XFM
4.	Rapport dwar it-Trażmissjoni ta' All Rock
5.	Rapport dwar it-Trażmissjoni ta' Bay Easy
6.	Rapport dwar it-Trażmissjoni ta' DeeJays Radio
7.	Rapport dwar it-Trażmissjoni ta' Lehen il-Belt Victoria
8.	Rapport dwar it-Trażmissjoni ta' Radju Hompesch
9.	Rapport dwar it-Trażmissjoni ta' Radju Katidral
10.	Rapport dwar it-Trażmissjoni ta' Radio Messiah
11.	Rapport dwar it-Trażmissjoni ta' Radju Luminarja
12.	Rapport dwar it-Trażmissjoni ta' Mics FM
13.	Rapport dwar it-Trażmissjoni ta' Radju Sacro Cuor
14.	Rapport dwar it-Trażmissjoni ta' Radju Trinitarji
15.	Rapport dwar it-Trażmissjoni ta' Radju Viżitazzjoni
16.	Rapport dwar it-Trażmissjoni ta' Radio Galaxy
17.	Rapport dwar it-Trażmissjoni ta' iTV Shopping Channel
18.	Rapport dwar it-Trażmissjoni ta' Nollywood TV
19.	Rapport dwar Tendenzi fil-Programm TVAM 2018
20.	Rapport dwar l-Iskeda tas-Sajf tal-PBS 2018
21.	Rapport dwar l-Iskeda tal-Ħarifa tal-PBS 2018

television i.e. *L-Istrina 2017* and *Festa ta' Ġenerosità 2018*. Whilst acknowledging the need and importance of such fundraising events, the Broadcasting Authority's role is to safeguard the preservation and portrayal of minors and vulnerable people during these telethons as per Subsidiary Legislation 350.15. This complex and sensitive issue is dealt with through careful coordination and cooperation with various entities, amongst which Agenzija Appoġġ, producers and television stations.

2018 was a particular year for community radios given that 10 of these re-applied for licences for a further 3-year term. In view of these, the Monitoring Department compiled a number of transmission reports highlighting a wide range of aspects that characterise their transmissions. The identified issues were addressed on a one-to-one level through guidance and communication. Whilst keeping in mind that many of these stations operate on a voluntary basis, the Authority made sure to strike the right balance between flexibility and compliance with the provisions set out in the Broadcasting Act.

Apart from local content, the Monitoring Department also monitors the content of foreign channels which fall under Maltese jurisdiction. These channels target third country audiences and are primarily thematic channels which broadcast content over satellite networks.

The table shows all the thematic reports and Promise of Performance reports conducted during the year in review.

### 1.4 Reach-Outs

During 2018, the Broadcasting Authority stepped-up its efforts in reaching out to its stakeholders through the organisation of a number of events aimed at a wide spectrum of media people from different backgrounds. Amongst the aforementioned, the Broadcasting Authority organised a stakeholders' meeting for community radio stations in which all aspects of legislation related to community licences was thoroughly explained. Community radios representatives also had the chance to participate in a Q&A session in which they were given the possibility to discuss specific and pertinent issues.

In line with its ethos on the protection of minors, the Broadcasting Authority organised a bi-lateral discussion session with Agenzija Appoġġ on the various aspects of Subsidiary Legislation 350.15, Requirements as to Standards and Practice Applicable to Participation in Media Programmes of Vulnerable Persons. During this session the Authority underlined the importance for cooperation between the



entities as well as the need to ensure a harmonised approach for the implementation of this particular legislation.

The Pre-Schedule Training Seminar organised on the 23rd of July was another major event which contributed to closer relations between the Authority and stakeholders. In this seminar, which was organised in collaboration with PBS, Authority officials explained the salient provisions of the Broadcasting Act and gave the opportunity to more than 70 people connected to the public service broadcaster to discuss the best ways for implementation and cooperation on the said aspects. Another seminar was held in August for all the media people working for the private television stations, and the feedback and participation was overwhelming. During both training seminars, the participants were reminded of a number of salient provisions of the legislation and the Authority's officials explained these provisions so that the stations and media producers would be well informed before the start of the October schedule. Both seminars were addressed by the Authority's Chief Executive, Dr Joanna Spiteri, and Head of Monitoring, Randolph Micallef. All participants were given a certificate of attendance.

Such reach-out seminars and training programmes were some of the initiatives taken by the Broadcasting Authority as part of the training for broadcasters which the Authority is envisaging to organise in the coming years.

### 1.5 IRF Project (International Radio Festival)

The Broadcasting Authority for the first time licensed IRF Project and was essential to make this project happen and gave its full support. Whilst recognising that the Festival is a great promoter of the medium, the Authority was pleased to contribute its input in licensing IRF, thereby joining other national organisations like the Malta Tourism Authority, Air Malta and Valletta 18 in supporting this event. The 9th edition of the International Radio Festival (IRF) which is the world's largest on-air festival took place in Malta and the Broadcasting Authority licensed this international event which brought together global leaders from the radio industry and broadcast the festival to millions of listeners around the world. For the first time this took place in the Europe's City of Culture – Valletta. Local radio personalities from three nationwide local stations also contributed in this project and were on air amongst other live shows from around the world. Such a project gave an opportunity to incorporate radio broadcasting and entertainment while promoting Valletta as a the city of history and culture.

### 1.6 New Collective Agreement

By the end of July 2018, the Authority and UHM Voice of the Workers have concluded negotiations and signed a new Collective Agreement for the Broadcasting Authority employees. The Collective Agreement provides for an improved remuneration package and continued support on family friendly measures.



**Dr Joanna Spiteri, CEO Broadcasting Authority  
at the International Radio Festival, 2018  
Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2018**



**28th Edition of Malta Journalism Awards  
Dr Joanna Spiteri, CEO Broadcasting Authority  
(right) and Ms Norma Saliba, President of the  
Institute of Maltese Journalists (left) at the  
sponsorship presentation.  
18th April 2018**





Stakeholders' meeting for community radio stations  
3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018.



Bi-lateral discussion session with *Agenzija Appogg*  
28<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

**Pre-Schedule Training Seminar organised in collaboration with PBS.**  
23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018



Dr Joanna Spiteri (far left), CEO and  
Randolph Micallef, (left) Head Monitoring  
Department, Broadcasting Authority





## BROADCASTING AUTHORITY MALTA

### Pre-Schedule Training Seminar for independent producers Old University Building, Valletta 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018



### Signing of a new Collective Agreement Dr Joanna Spiteri with UHM Voice of the Workers officials and staff representatives 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018



## 02

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFENCES

In terms of the Article 41 of the Broadcasting Act, the offences listed in the Fifth Schedule to the Act are considered to be administrative offences and punishable by the Authority. In determining whether a person is guilty or otherwise of an administrative offence, it is the duty on the part of the Authority to ensure that the principles of a fair and public hearing are observed and guaranteed.

In the event that the Authority is satisfied that the person has committed an offence as listed in the First Column of the Fifth Schedule under the Act, it may:

- (a) issue a warning in writing; or
- (b) direct the offender not to broadcast for a period of time; or
- (c) impose an administrative penalty as established in the second column of the Fifth Schedule to the Broadcasting Act, including applying a suspended penalty.

The Authority may choose to apply separately or concurrently the measures listed in (b) and (c).

During the year in review, the Chief Executive issued a total of 36 charges against broadcasting stations. The issuing of charges and the procedures related to the hearing thereof are regulated under Article 41 of the Broadcasting Act and Subsidiary Legislation 350.07.

During these proceedings the Authority acts as a quasi-judicial body where the Chief Executive acts as a prosecutor, which role is completely distinct from the other functions pertaining to her office.

The table hereunder represents the total number of charges heard and decided upon by the Authority in 2018 according to station.

2018	Station	Charges
Radio	Trinitarji FM (community radio)	1
	Radio Galaxy (community radio)	2
	XFM	3
Television	F Living	3
	ONE	4
	NET TV	1
	Smash TV	1
	TVM	19
	TVM2	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>36</b>

Station	Programme	Broadcast	Legislative Provision	Infringement
<b>Trinitarji FM</b>				
	<i>Galactic Time Robert Music Sport Show</i>	05 Mar 2018 10 Mar 2018	Para. 2(a)(ii) of First Schedule, Cap 350.	Advertising by commercial entities falling outside the confines of the locality.
	<i>Radio Galaxy Transmission</i>	12 Jun 2018	Para. 2(a)(ii) of First Schedule, Cap 350.	Advertising by commercial entities established outside the confines of the locality.
	<i>Transmission</i>	05 Jul 2018		
<b>XFM</b>				
	<i>XFM Breakfast</i>	03 Sep 2018	Para. 4 of the Third Schedule, Cap 350.	Lack of separation between editorial content and advertising
		03 Sep 2018	Para. 5.3 of S. L. 350.25 - Requirements as to Advertisements, Methods of Advertising and Directions applicable to Gambling Advertisements	Reference to sponsorship by a gaming company <i>The Betsson</i> during the prohibited times
		04 Sepv2018	Para. 5.3 of S.L. 350.25 - Requirements as to Advertisements, Methods of Advertising and Directions applicable to Gambling Advertisements	Reference to sponsorship by a gaming company <i>Tumas Gaming</i> during the prohibited times
<b>F Living</b>				
	<i>Propjetà minn Wara l-Kwinti</i>	06 Nov 2017	Article 16K(a) of Cap. 350	Association between editorial content and advertising
	<i>F Living Show</i>	11 Jan 2018	Para. 20, 23, 28 and 31 of Third Schedule, Cap 350	Irregular presentation of teleshopping windows
	<i>Maratona Puttinu</i>	18, 19, 20 May 2018	Article 23(5) of Cap. 350	The station changed the programme schedule without informing the Authority.
<b>ONE</b>				
	<i>Dak li Jghodd</i>	21 Nov 2018	Article 16K(a), Cap 350	Association between editorial content and advertising/sponsorship
	<i>Flimkien ma' Nancy</i>	15 Jan 2018	Para. 20, 23, and 33 of Third Schedule, Cap 350	Irregular presentation of teleshopping windows
	<i>HOPE#Missionfest</i>	19 Mar 2018	Article 23(5), Cap 350	The station changed the programme schedule without informing the Authority.
	<i>On D Road</i>	26 May 2018	Article 16M(2)(b) and Article 16K(a), Cap 350	Irregular presentation of product placement; Association between editorial content and advertising/sponsorship
<b>Net TV</b>				
	<i>HOPE#Missionfest</i>	19 Mar 2018	Article 23(5), Cap 350	The station changed the programme schedule without informing the Authority.
<b>Smash TV</b>				
	<i>HOPE#Missionfest</i>	19 Mar 2018	Article 23(5), Cap 350	The station changed the programme schedule without informing the Authority.
<b>TVM</b>				
	<i>Benjamin</i>	1, 8 Nov 2017	Article 16 M(3)(b) and (c), Cap 350	Irregular presentation of product placement
	<i>Skjetti</i>	22 Nov 2017	Article 13(2)(a), Cap 350	Content deemed offensive to good taste and decency
	<i>Skjetti</i>	16 Feb 2018	Article 16 K (a), Cap 350	Lack of separation between editorial content and advertising
	<i>Madagascar</i>	10 Feb 2018	Article 16 K (a), Cap 350	Lack of separation between editorial content and advertising
	<i>Illum ma' Steph</i>	21 Mar 2018	Para. 3.2 of S.L. 350.22 - Requirements as to standards and practice applicable to the Conduct of Competitions and the Award of Prizes	Lack of separation between editorial content and advertising during a competition.
	<i>Hbieb u Ghedewwa</i>	29 May 2018	Article 16M(3)(c) of the Broadcasting Act	Irregular presentation of product placement
	<i>Manwela</i>	28 May 2018	Article 16M(3)(c) of the Broadcasting Act	Irregular presentation of product placement

Station Programme	Broadcast	Legislative Provision	Infringement
<i>Leo Vegas</i>	02 Jul 2018	Para. 5.1 of S.L. 350.25 - Requirements as to Advertisements, Methods of Advertising and Directions applicable to Gambling Advertisements	Reference to sponsorship by a gaming company during the prohibited times
<i>TVM Road Show</i>	28 Jun 2018	Para. 5.1 of S.L. 350.25 - Requirements as to Advertisements, Methods of Advertising and Directions applicable to Gambling Advertisements	Reference to sponsorship by a gaming company during the prohibited times
<i>TVM Road Show</i>	2 Jul 2018	Article 16K(a) and Article 16M(4)(c), Cap 350	Lack of separation between editorial content and advertising. Also irregular presentation of product placement
Advert UBET	15 Jun 2018	Para.5.1 of S.L. 350.25 - Requirements as to Advertisements, Methods of Advertising and Directions applicable to Gambling Advertisements	Reference to sponsorship/advertising by a gaming company during the prohibited times
Advert UBET	16 Jun 2018	Paragraph 5.1 of S.L. 350.25	Reference to sponsorship/advertising by a gaming company during the prohibited times
Advert UBET	17 Jun 2018	Paragraph 5.1 of S.L. 350.25	Reference to sponsorship/advertising by a gaming company during the prohibited times
Advert UBET	18 Jun 2018	Paragraph 5.1 of S.L. 350.25	Reference to sponsorship/advertising by a gaming company during the prohibited times
Advert UBET	19 Jun 2018	Paragraph 5.1 of S.L. 350.25	Reference to sponsorship/advertising by a gaming company during the prohibited times
Advert UBET –	20 Jun 2018	Paragraph 5.1 of S.L. 350.25	Reference to sponsorship/advertising by a gaming company during the prohibited times
Advert UBET –	21 Jun 2018	Paragraph 5.1 of S.L. 350.25	Reference to sponsorship/advertising by a gaming company during the prohibited times
Advert UET –	22 Jun 2018	Paragraph 5.1 of S.L. 350.25	Reference to sponsorship/advertising by a gaming company during the prohibited times
<i>Waranofsinhar</i>	28 Nov 2018	Para. 4.1.10 (i) and Para. 4.1.10 (ii) of S.L. 350.15 - Requirements as to Standards and Practice applicable to Participation in Media Programmes of Vulnerable Persons	Irregular representation of guests deemed vulnerable
<i>Xift</i>	08 Mar 2018	Article 16K(a), Cap 350	Lack of separation between editorial content and advertising
<b>TVM 2</b> <i>Hope#Missionfest</i>	19 Mar 2018	Article 23(5), Cap 350	The station changed the programme schedule without informing the Authority.



# BROADCASTING LICENCES

## 3.1 Television Licences

### 3.1.1 GIO Licences: Generalist and Niche

In January, the generalist General Interest Objective licence for Smash TV and the niche General Interest Objective Licences for Xejk, F Living and Parliament TV were issued, valid for 5 years from 1st February 2018.

On 28th February 2018 a generalist General Interest Objective licence for NET Television was issued to Media.Link Communications Co. Ltd. for 5 years from 1st March and another generalist General Interest Objective licence for ONE was issued to One Productions Ltd. for the same duration.

### 3.1.2 Commercial TV Licences

In May, GO plc's and Melita plc's own broadcast licences were issued for a further five years. GO's own broadcast distribution service comprises three genres: the Weather and Information Channel; GO Sports 1 – 8HD – eight sports oriented channels; and GO Stars HD, a movie channel.

Melita too broadcasts three genres of channels: Melita More and Melita More HD which is a simulcast of Melita More – movie channels; Melita Sports 1, 2, 3, 4, Melita Sports 1 HD, Melita Sports 2 HD and Malta Stars – sports oriented channels; Promotion Channel and Weather and Information Channel – information stations.

In June GO applied for a change in name of all its eight sports channels, GO Sports 1 HD to GO Sports 8 HD becoming Total Sports Network 1 HD to Total Sports Network 8 HD. Melita plc also explained its plans in June in connection to this, saying that its existing sports channels (Melita Sports 1, Melita Sports 1 HD, Melita Sports 2, Melita Sports 2 HD, Melita Sports 3 and Melita Sports 4) would be replaced by the Total Sports Network channels which would be produced by GO, wholesaled to Melita and carried by both operators simultaneously. As a result of sub-licensing and wholesaling of transmission rights acquired by both operators, viewers can enjoy an unprecedented range of sports content. Malta Stars is the only own broadcast sports channel operated by Melita.

Ambriel Media Solutions Ltd which operates ITV Teleshopping Channel applied for a further licence to continue transmitting as its licence expired in 2018. The

company was granted a licence until 2022 to broadcast purely teleshopping programmes and is currently the only teleshopping station licensed in Malta.

Owners Best Network, a teleshopping service on Melita dedicated to teleshopping of immovable property, closed down on 29th December 2018. It had been licensed to operate until 29th December 2019.

### 3.1.3 Satellite TV Stations

The Broadcasting Authority also licenses foreign satellite television stations which opt to be licensed under Maltese jurisdiction. Motowizja TV and Zest TV, which started operating in January 2014, were renewed for 4 years starting from 10th January 2018. Motowizja TV is a pay tv channel dedicated to automotive enthusiasts whereas Zest TV, also a pay tv channel, targets the male lifestyle and consists of entertainment programmes, including fiction, documentaries and movies. Both stations are directed at Polish-speaking viewers in Europe.

Thema Television Malta Ltd's licence to operate the satellite television station Nollywood TV expired in July and the company re-applied for another licence which was granted until 2022. The station broadcasts African entertainment content for European TV viewers. Many of the programmes are dubbed into French, and for this reason monitoring was outsourced to confirm that the station is adhering to the application and regulations.

Three satellite television stations stopped transmitting in 2018. Thema Television Malta Ltd. informed the Authority that it was terminating broadcasts of Gospel Music TV on 14th April 2018. The station, which transmitted gospel music primarily from Africa, had been licensed by the Authority to operate until 2019. The licence for the station EbonyLife TV issued to Ebony Life International Ltd. expired on 30th June. The company did not re-apply for a further licence. DOG TV's licence expired on 31st October, following which the station closed down. It had been transmitting for four years broadcasting programmes targeting dogs and their owners.

By the end of the year, the number of satellite television stations transmitting under Maltese broadcasting legislation added up to six.

### 3.2 Radio Broadcasting Licences

#### 3.2.1 Nationwide Analogue Radio (FM)

The number of nationwide analogue radio stations transmitting in 2018 remained thirteen, three of these being stations run by the public broadcaster.

The licence of XFM 100.2 was due to expire during the year in review, and following an application by Valentina Communications Ltd., the station was granted a further licence for six years. This is predominantly a music station.

In July, the Authority approved Media.link Communications Ltd.'s request for Radio 101 to change its name to NET FM. The content of this station remained the same.

#### 3.2.2 Digital Radio

Eden Entertainment Ltd., which operates the digital radio service Bay Easy, re-applied for a further licence for this station as its licence expired in July. The station's output is mainly music aimed at 14 to 49-year-olds with brief news slots. A new licence was issued valid until 2022.

Digi B Network Ltd. re-applied for the digital radio licence to operate the music station All Rock as its licence expired in October. The station, which started transmitting in 2010, is, as the name implies, completely dedicated to rock music, without even featuring any advertising content. The station was granted a licence until 2022.

In December, the Authority approved a request from Digi B Network Ltd to change the names of two digital radio stations. Radio Christian Music changed its name to Ignited Christian Radio while BKR Digital became BKR National Digital Radio.

At the end of December there were only four stations operating on the digital radio platform.

#### 3.2.3 Community Radio Stations

Community radio stations all populate the FM dial together with the nationwide services; however their power is low enough not to cause any interference and their reach is limited to a particular locality. The Broadcasting Authority engages technical personnel from the Malta Communications Authority to control these features by performing the necessary tests so that licences are issued accordingly.

#### 3.2.4 Long Term Community Radio Stations

Community radio stations are often run by volunteers. This requires great dedication. In spite of certain obvious constraints this might impose, some stations manage to produce programmes which listeners of their particular town or village clearly favour over the fare offered by the well known nationwide stations. The

listeners these stations attract are often the sick and elderly who have the chance to follow certain events like the village festa from their homes, in particular the church services.

The licences of a number of long-term community radio stations – radio stations licensed for three years – expired in 2018 and all the stations re-applied for a further 3-year licence. These were Radju Hompesch, Trinitarji FM, Radio Galaxy, Mics FM, Leĥen il-Belt Victoria, Radio Sacro Cuor, Radju Katidral, Radju Viżitazzjoni, Radju Luminaria and Radju Bambina.

Radio Messiah, a long-term community radio station that transmitted from Qormi on 97.8MHz, closed down in May.

#### 3.2.5 Simulcasting of Community Radio Stations

As per Subsidiary Legislation 350.29 to the Broadcasting Act – Digital Radio Broadcasting Regulations – the long term stations are offered the opportunity to simulcast on the digital platform for a period of two years, following which these stations may choose to migrate to the digital platform and completely leave analogue. The output of community radio stations during the simulcasting period must still be of a community nature, however. This means that advertising would be limited to events taking place and business and services conducted in the specified area. The Authority monitors the content of these stations regularly to ensure licence conditions are adhered to in this highly competitive market. During the year in review, only one community radio station took up this offer – Galaxy Radio started simulcasting on 1st October.

#### 3.2.6 Location of Long Term Community Radio Stations

The following list specifies the location (in alphabetical order) and frequency of the long term community radios on the FM dial:

##### Malta:

BKR Radio	94.5	Birkirkara
Radju Vilhena	96.1	Floriana
Radio Galaxy	105	Hamrun
Trinitarji FM	89.3	Marsa
Bastjanizi FM	95	Qormi
Leĥen il-Belt Ġorġjana	105.6	Qormi
Mics FM	93.3	Rabat
Deejays Radio	95.6	San Ġwann
Radju Xeb-er-ras	90.8	Valletta
Radio City	107.6	Valletta
La Salle Radio	99.4	Vittoriosa
Radju Hompesch	90	Zabbar
Radju Każin Banda San Filep	106.3	Żebbuġ
Radju Santa Katarina	90.6	Żurrieq



**Gozo:**

Radju Sacro Cuor	105.2	Fontana
Radju Viżitazzjoni	92.4	Għarb
Radju Sokkors	95.1	Kerċem
Radju Luminaria	106.9	Nadur
Radju Lehen il-Qala	106.3	Qala
Radju Katidral	90.9	Victoria
Lehen il-Belt Victoria	104	Victoria
Radju Bambina	98.3	Xagħra
Radju Prekursur	99.3	Xewkija

A total of 23 long term community radio stations were broadcasting in the Maltese Islands at the end of the year.

**3.2.7 Short Term Community Radio Stations**

Easter and Christmas periods as well as the time of the summer festa are the most popular times of the year when the short-term stations choose to broadcast. The following table presents the various short-term community radio licences issued by the Authority during 2018, some stations being granted licences to transmit during various times of the year. These short-term licences cannot exceed one month.

**Short Term Community Radio Stations broadcasting during 2018:**

Lic. No.	Station	Transmitting from	Duration	Valid From	Freq MHz	2018											
						Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
744	Radju Lauretan	Għajnsielem	17 days	17/3/18	89.3			X									
754	Radju Lauretana	Għajnsielem	9 days	2/6/18	89.3						X						
759	Radju Lauretana	Għajnsielem	23 days	4/8/18	89.3								X				
769	Radju Lauretana	Għajnsielem	30 days	8/12/18	89.3												X
748	Radio 12th May	Żebbuġ	29 days	13/5/18	96.5					X							
749	Lehen il-Gużeppini	Għaxaq	1 month	10/5/18	89.1					X							
770	Lehen il-Gużeppini	Għaxaq	22 days	16/12/18	89.1												X
750	Radju Sant'Andrija	Luqa	1 month	2/6/18	88.4						X						
751	Radju Margerita	Sannat	1 month	1/7/18	96.1							X					
753	Lehen il-Karmelitani	Żurrieq	1 month	1/7/18	101.4							X					
768	Lehen il-Karmelitani	Żurrieq	1 month	1/12/18	101.4												X
755	Tal-Gilju FM	Mqabba	10 days	8/6/18	95.4						X						
767	Tal-Gilju	Mqabba	10 days	7/12/18	95.4												X
757	Radju 15 t'Awwissu,	Qrendi	25 days	23/7/18	98.3							X					
764	Radju 15 t'Awwissu		26 days	8/12/18	98.3												X
760	Radju Leonardo	Kirkop	10 days	10/8/18									X				

## 04

## PROGRAMME COMPLAINTS

**4.1 Women for Women vs F Living (Overcomer's Voice)***The Case:*

On 2nd October 2017, the Group complained about what it called sexist comments by the presenters during the programme Overcomer's Voice which was broadcast on F Living.

*The Submissions:*

Ms Fenech Conti for the organisation underlined the objection to what she termed as sexist comments by the presenter and for which the organisation was requesting a right of reply during another edition of the programme so that it could rebut the alleged incorrect comments.

On the other hand, the station argued that, in full respect of the fundamental right to freedom of expression, it had no objection to have a representative of the group participate in an edition of the said programme in order to communicate/present its position on the arguments dealt with during the said programme. In actual fact, a formal invitation was made to the Group.

*The Decision:*

The Authority, after having taken note of the submissions by both parties, decided that in view of the offer by the station, it would give more time and the opportunity for both sides to agree on an amicable settlement of the issue through the participation of the Group in an edition of the programme. The Authority afforded the parties three weeks to settle the matter. During the following weeks the station had offered the Group a slot in another programme in its schedule but not Overcomer's Voice. The complainant expressed its disappointment with this offer but at the same time failed to follow up its initial complaint with the Authority who, at a later stage on the 10th January 2018, in the absence of a reaction by the same, declared the complaint by the Group Women for Women deserted.

# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

## 5.1 EU Contact Committee

Following Malta's Presidency of the European Council in 2017, during which the Broadcasting Authority chaired the discussions at working party level for the revision of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive, in 2018 this Directive entered into force. It was signed by the EU's co-legislators on the 14th of November 2018 and published on the EU's Official Journal of the 28th November 2018. Owing to the relatively short transposition period (21 months) set by the Directive, the Broadcasting Authority, together with NRAs and legislators from the other 27 Member States, stepped-up cooperation with the European Commission to ensure a harmonised and smooth transposition. In so doing, the Broadcasting Authority attended the 48th and 49th Contact Committee Meetings organised by the Commission in order to discuss and shadow the drafting of guidelines on a couple of crucial aspects of implementation of the Directive. In view of this process, the Broadcasting Authority and the Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government also strengthened their cooperation so as to ensure that the transposition of the Directive takes place both punctually as well as in line with the needs and realities of the local market.

## 5.2 Media Literacy Expert Group 2018

On the 15th June and 11th December 2018, the Media Literacy Expert Group, under the Directorate-General for Communication Networks, Content and Technology held its bi-annual one-day symposium. The Broadcasting Authority was represented by George Dorian Sultana, a Programme Monitor. The moderator was the Head of the Unit 'Audiovisual and Media Services Policy' within the European Commission/DG Cnect. The seminars took place in Brussels and were divided in different sessions. As usual, in attendance were representatives from the twenty eight Member States; from the four candidate countries; representatives from Unesco and the Council of Europe; representatives of media organisations; and representatives from civil society networks. The first meeting was an extraordinary meeting in view of the upcoming European Parliament Elections and the 2019 European Media Literacy Week, whereas the second meeting focused more on the latter. During the June meeting, apart from the usual

presentations and discussions, much of the time was dedicated to workshops in which the participants had to suggest new possible subversive ideas to combat disinformation and pool ideas with regards to questions like:

*With regards to the European Media Literacy Week,  
what could you do in your own country?  
what could be shared, scaled up or copied?  
what could we do together at EU Level?*

During the afternoon session the first speaker focused on how to know your audience, on psycho-targeting and the resultant future of democracy. Afterwards, a representative from Norway presented results of a study which analysed fake news in the region.

The December meeting was basically divided in 4 sessions, that is, an introduction to the media literacy week, media literacy initiatives from the Member States, projects to enhance media literacy, and tackling disinformation and the presentation of a study on media literacy. Anna Herold from the DG Connect stressed the fact that change in the AVMSD has brought about change in this working group, and media literacy fully fledged countries were encouraged to combine events and initiatives at both EU and National Level and to map the respective events on a common interactive map.

## 5.3 ERGA - European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services

The Broadcasting Authority regularly attends ERGA meetings and participates in a number of sub groups. The European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services consists of national regulatory authorities in the field of audiovisual media services. ERGA advises the European Commission and facilitates cooperation between the regulatory bodies in the EU. During ERGA meetings, major discussions are held on the implementation of the AVMS given that such legislation has to be transposed by the member states.

A series of meetings were held during 2018 for the three main subgroups which were formed within ERGA. Out these subgroups a number of task forces were also formed to analyse further the implementation of the AVMS Directive and how European broadcasting regulators will facilitate its implementation.

One of the subgroups which the Broadcasting Authority (Malta) regularly attends and gives feedback upon is the subgroup focusing on the extension of the material scope of the AVMSD – Preparing for new tasks for NRAs and ERGA and challenge of law enforcement online. This subgroup is divided into 3 taskforces which focus on law enforcement online and what needs to be done by regulators mainly with regard to video sharing platform. During such meetings, discussions focus on procedures of how to apply specific Articles of the AVMS. The work among these three taskforces revolves around practical examples of online services and discusses problems when dealing with these services. One of the task force aims to identify best practices and try to find common approach and measures that broadcasting regulators can apply to. The second taskforce analyses new obligations of Article 13 of the Directive in respect of non-linear services. The taskforce reflects on how these new provisions could be implemented. Taskforce 3 discusses the provisions on territorial jurisdiction and ERGA's role. In a nutshell, Taskforce 1 discusses the enforcement of relevant rules in the online environment regarding audiovisual media services and video sharing platforms. Taskforce 2 focuses on the promotion of European works and Taskforce 3 on territorial jurisdiction/ERGA's role and identifies common principles of cooperation in the framework of the new Directive.

Another subgroup discusses the extension of the material scope of the AVMSD and how regulators prepare for law enforcement online. A third subgroup within the ERGA discusses internal and external plurality being one of the most important topics since they focus on rules of high quality public interest content and rules on transparency and concentration. The purpose of the sub group is to compare practices on actual measures on media plurality available and the effectivity of used measure.

ERGA also discusses protection of minors, human dignity, advertising and regulations particularly incitement to commit terrorist offences are amongst the topics discussed during these task forces. Discussion on safeguarding the country of origin principle and the procedures when there are infringements is also raised during ERGA meetings

#### 5.4 EPRA - European Platform of Regulatory Authorities

The first EPRA meeting for 2018 was held in Luxembourg between 23 -25th May 2018 and was hosted by ALIA – the Luxembourg Broadcasting Authority. The meeting was attended by the Chief Executive and the first plenary session discussed the **Public and public interest content in the digital age: taking stock of stakeholders' views**. The discussion brought together discussion on the challenges media stakeholders face in the provision, distribution and delivery of public service and public interest content.

The second plenary session focused on the **Political communication and the challenges of social media: recent cases studies and initiatives**. During this session it was examined the ability of social media to influence and a number of case studies of how social media has been used to shape the outcome of recent elections and referenda. It also looked on how political parties and political movements have used online media to influence political outcomes both positively and negatively.

The working groups discussed the commercial communications and mapping changes, achieving greater diversity in broadcasting: special focus on gender, and new challenges for privacy. Malta attended the focus group which discussed the gender diversity in broadcasting since work is underway to enhance better gender diversity in local broadcasting.

During this meeting the Media Literacy Task Force met and discussed emerging media literacy issues which were relevant to the broadcasting regulators, best practice activities for reaching different audience groups and best practises activities concerning disinformation, hate speech, advertising, data protection and online safety.

The Broadcasting Authority also attended the October EPRA meeting held in Bratislava between 10 – 12th October 2018 and was hosted by the Broadcasting Authority in Slovakia – CBR. This EPRA meeting was attended by the Chief Executive Dr Joanna Spiteri. The focus of the plenary themes during this EPRA meeting was **Public service and public interest content in the digital age: the role of regulators**. The issue of the regulation of the public service media (PSM) has featured prominently on the agenda of many meeting ever since the establishment of EPRA network. The discussion focused on the interconnected challenges relating to the legitimacy of PSM in a changed media landscape, the production of public value, reaching the public and financing PSM and public interest content.

The second plenary theme was **Political communication and the challenges of social media: What role of regulators?**. During this session a number of issues were raised concerning the regulation of the social media particularly with regards to the political communication content. In view of the AVMS Directive, this session was important to highlight the difficulties and the limitations but also the way forward of how social media can be regulated and the challenges which regulators face when tapping the social media content.

The working groups during this EPRA meeting discussed commercial communications and the respective roles of regulators; achieving greater diversity in broadcasting and another working group highlighted implications for cooperation between regulatory authorities as a result of the AVMS Directive. The Broadcasting Authority participated in the workshop

which discussed commercial communications since this theme is highly topical within the national broadcasters.

Since Malta is a member of the Media Literacy Task Force, during this EPRA meeting Malta participated in this task force and was keen to develop a network on Media Literacy. This network discusses the concept of media literacy particularly on access, use, understanding, and critical evaluation of the media as a cornerstone of media literacy. The network within the Media Literacy Task Force is a key source in assisting the regulators in meeting its duties and responsibilities across the spectrum of regulatory activities under its remit.

### 5.5 MNRA - Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities

Being a member of the MNRA, (Mediterranean Network Regulatory Authority) the Broadcasting Authority attended the 20th Plenary Assembly of the MNRA held on 22nd and 23rd November 2018 in Barcelona and hosted by the *Consell de l'Audiovisual de Catalunya*. This was attended by the Chairman, Mr Martin Micallef and the Chief Executive, Dr Joanna Spiteri. During this plenary assembly a number of topics were discussed. The key note speech of this plenary assembly focused upon the **Trends in the Audiovisual environment** and focused on the changes and challenges within the fast changing media industry. Another topic was **User protection in new audiovisual media services - Regulation and Media Literacy** wherein a number of case studies by different members were presented with regard to media literacy. The topic of fake news and disinformation was the main element within the discussion. The subject of **Gender and the Media** was discussed and a study of the media treatment of gender violence in the Mediterranean broadcasting area was put forward. Another topic was related to the **Treatment of the migrant and refugee crisis in audiovisual media** and a number of media examples were discussed.

During this plenary session another keynote speech given by a representative of the European Broadcasting Union dealt on The Future of Public Service Media and the challenges which exist to preserve the public interest remit.

### 5.6 MoU with Cyprus Radio Television Authority (CRTA)

In August 2018, a delegation from the Cyprus Radio Television Authority (CRTA) met the Chairman and other officials of the Broadcasting Authority Malta to sign a new Memorandum of Understanding enhancing cooperation between the two entities. At this meeting, held at the offices of the Broadcasting Authority last month, the Authorities discussed key issues that they can collaborate on owing to similarities between the two countries. Dr Rona Petri Kassapi, President and

Mr Neophytos Epaminondas, Director of the Cypriot Radio Television Authority were welcomed and present for the meeting.

Dr. Rona Petri Kassapi and Mr Neophytos Epaminondas, the President and the Director of the Cyprus Broadcasting Authority respectively, met with the Chairman, Mr Martin Micallef, Chief Executive, Dr Joanna Spiteri, Secretary of the Board of the Broadcasting Authority, Dr Simon Manicolo and the Head of Monitoring, Mr. Randolph Micallef.

A number of regulations that the two authorities are concerned with were discussed. Amongst these were advertising to minors, regulations on alcoholic beverages, and gambling advertising. The Broadcasting Authority Malta will be assisting the Cypriot regulatory authority on these issues.

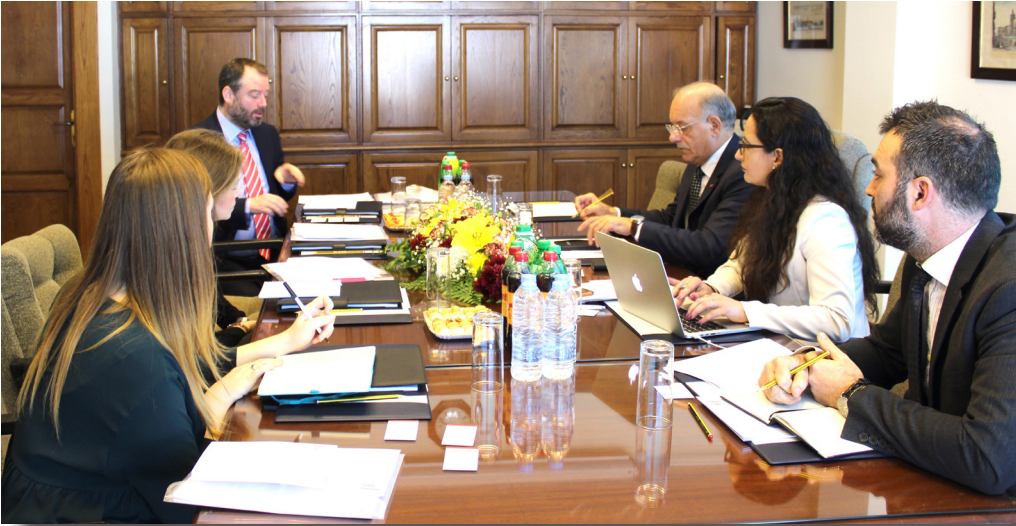
Other issues which small regulatory authorities are concerned, about involve due diligence and enforcement procedures, particularly when licensing television stations and processing applications for satellite television licences. The Cyprus Radio Television Authority will be assisting the Malta Broadcasting Authority on these topics. It was also agreed that the two Authorities will be assisting each other in other areas especially in the implementation of the new broadcasting Directive of the European Union in the near future.

### 5.7 Post Brexit

Expert Media Partners a consultancy firm which delivers strategic and commercial consultancy to television and digital businesses worldwide, was invited by the Broadcasting Authority after it requested several queries about its clients which had their stations presently licensed by OFCOM. The Managing Partners, Ed Hall and Fergus Lawson wanted to explore the opportunities on offer which Malta was ready to offer in a post Brexit environment for the broadcasting sector. The Broadcasting Authority discussed the issue of the country of origin principle and the licensing regulatory structures. For their clients, the post Brexit scenario meant that they had to venture new pastures for licensing and Malta was an attractive member state where they could seek to apply for a satellite station license.

The discussion focused on the national legislative structures which are present and the regulatory framework which the Authority adopts when licensing satellite TV stations. Expert Media Partners had other bilateral talks with Minister of Justice and Culture and Malta Enterprise to explore further any other possibilities for their clients once they were interested in obtaining a license to broadcast from Malta and perhaps also the setting up of the production department in Malta.





**Post Brexit - Meeting with managing partners of Expert Media Partners**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018**



**MoU with Cyprus Radio Television Authority**  
**16<sup>th</sup> June 2018**



**Dr Joanna Spiteri with IRF (International Radio Festival) organisers**  
**10<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

06

# RADIO AND TELEVISION AUDIENCE ASSESSMENT

IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 30(2) OF THE BROADCASTING ACT, CAP. 350 OF THE LAWS OF MALTA, THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY COMMISSIONED THE NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE (N.S.O.) TO COMPILE THE RELEVANT DATA ON AUDIENCES.

Data was collected through the telephone and respondents were asked about their listenership and viewership choices; what reception platforms are used; and what programme genres are followed. The N.S.O. selected the sample, administered the survey, and collected the data by means of telephone interviews between 04:00pm and 08:00pm on weekdays and between 09:00am and 1:00pm on weekends. Interviewers were instructed to callback individuals up to 3 times before interviewing the next person in their list to reduce any bias that could be introduced between the actual demographics of the people interviewed and the desired sample.

For this year data was collected daily (40 interviewees) for one month during February, July, and October. The stratified sample based on national demographics was weighted to represent all those living in households aged 12 years and over. The following is the estimated population living in households, the sample taken, the response rates, and the margin of error for each assessment:

**Population, Sample, Response Rate, and Margin of Error**

During the year under review Radio 101 changed its name to Net FM in July. This change is reflected in all the tables and graphs below.

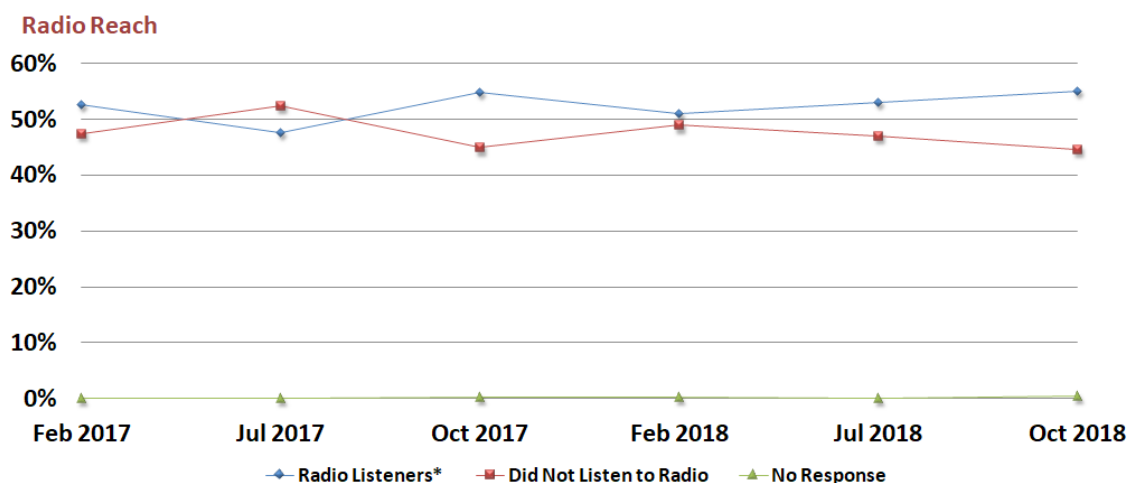
		Feb 2018	Jul 2018	Oct 2018
Population (12 years plus)	[N]	416,685	425,082	432,523
Sample	[n]	1,240	1,240	1,240
Response Rate	[%]	33.77%	29.00%	30.20%
Margin of error (95% confidence)	[±]	2.63%	2.52%	2.78%

## 6.1 Radio

Respondents were given the possibility of identifying three radio stations they had followed the previous day and three different time periods for each station named. They were also asked whether they had a DAB+ radio-set to follow programmes and if so, whether they follow local and/or foreign programmes on these sets.

### How many people listened to Radio?

About half the population regularly listens to radio and the number of radio listeners was highest during October [55.0%] while radio listening during the summer months was 2% lower [July 2018: 53.0%]. However, radio listening during the summer months of 2018 [July 2018: 53.0%] was 5.4% higher than that of the previous year [July 2017: 47.6%].





	Feb 2017	Jul 2017	Oct 2017	Feb 2018	Jul 2018	Oct 2018
Radio Listeners *	52.6%	47.6%	54.8%	50.9%	53.0%	55.0%
Do not Listen to Radio	47.4%	52.4%	44.9%	48.9%	47.0%	44.7%
No response	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.4%
Radio Listeners [N]	197,800	178,400	206,700	212,000	225,100	236,600

\* Includes those who "did not remember which station was followed" and those who "Followed No Particular Radio Station".

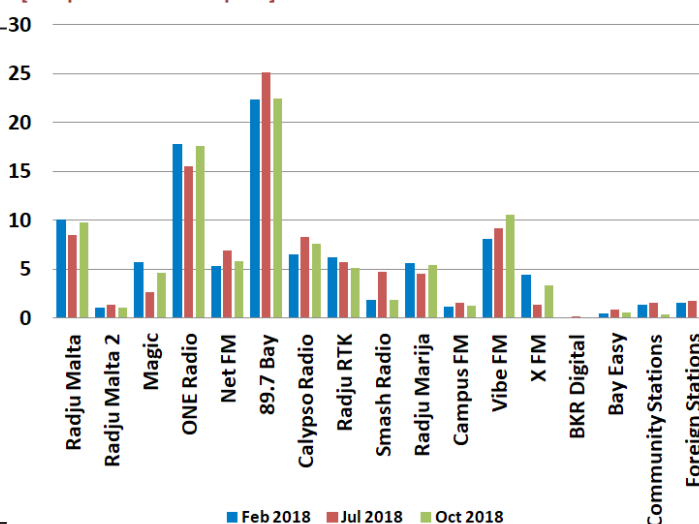
### Which Radio Station had the highest number of listeners?

Bay Radio has constantly attracted the highest audiences reaching up to a quarter of all radio listeners in July 2018. This station was regularly followed by ONE Radio and Vibe FM. Bay Radio was the most followed station by all those under fifty while ONE Radio was the most followed station by all those over fifty years old.

#### Radio Reach by Station

	Feb 2018	Jul 2018	Oct 2018
	%	%	%
Radju Malta	[3] 10.13	[4] 8.50	[4] 9.82
Radju Malta 2	[15] 1.07	[15] 1.40	[14] 1.04
Magic	[7] 5.73	[10] 2.62	[9] 4.69
ONE Radio	[2] 17.75	[2] 15.48	[2] 17.61
Net FM	[9] 5.34	[6] 6.94	[6] 5.79
89.7 Bay	[1] 22.31	[1] 25.09	[1] 22.39
Calypso Radio	[5] 6.49	[5] 8.29	[5] 7.56
Radju RTK	[6] 6.18	[7] 5.77	[8] 5.11
Smash Radio	[11] 1.90	[8] 4.72	[12] 1.85
Radju Marija	[8] 5.68	[9] 4.54	[7] 5.39
Campus FM	[14] 1.19	[12] 1.61	[13] 1.25
Vibe FM	[4] 8.08	[3] 9.20	[3] 10.60
X FM	[10] 4.46	[14] 1.42	[10] 3.36
BKR Digital	[17] 0.13	[17] 0.23	
Bay Easy	[16] 0.52	[16] 0.87	[15] 0.56
Community Stations	[13] 1.41	[13] 1.53	[16] 0.38
Foreign Station	[12] 1.62	[11] 1.77	[11] 2.59
	100%	100%	100%

#### Radio Reach by Station [irrespective of time spent]



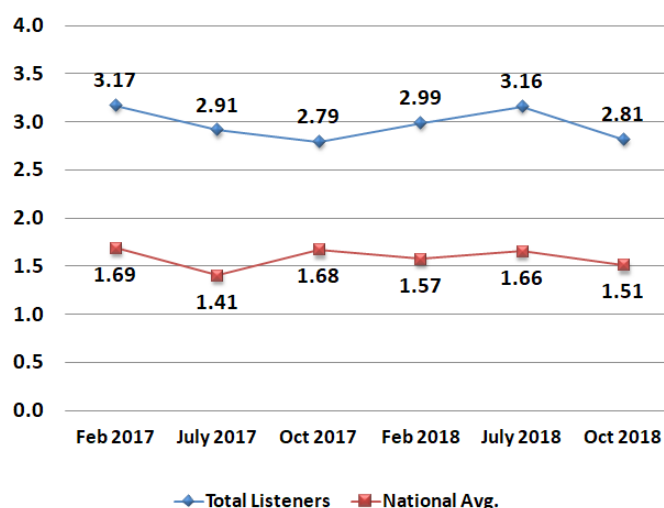
### How long did listeners tune in?

Not all listeners spend the same amount of time listening to their radio-sets. Taking the total length of time that radio was listened to divided by the number of radio listeners gives the average length of time spent.

For the whole year the average number of hours spent by radio listeners [2.99hrs] was slightly higher than that registered for the previous year [2.96hrs] by 1min 46sec. On a national average radio listening has decreased by 32sec from a national average of 1.59hrs in 2017 to 1.58hrs in 2018.

When considering the data of each station this average is susceptible to outliers especially where stations have registered a small number of listeners who logged on to that particular stations for long time spans.

#### Daily Average Hours of Radio Listening

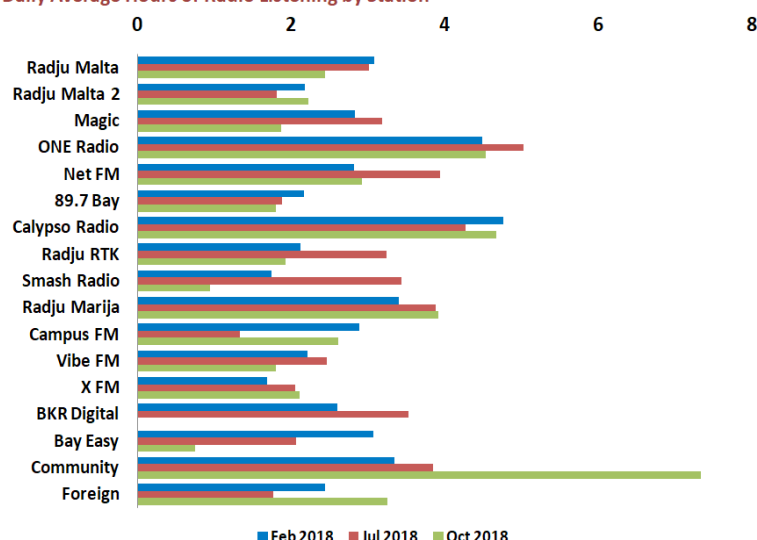


Although 89.7 Bay attracted the highest number of radio listeners, the station which has retained its listeners most was ONE Radio with an average of 4.69hrs [Feb:4.49hrs; Jul:5.03hrs; Oct:4.54hrs]. This station was followed by Calypso Radio with an average of 4.57hrs [Feb:4.46hrs; Jul:4.27hrs; Oct:4.67hrs].

## Daily Average Hours by Station

	Feb	Jul	Oct	Avg.
	(Hrs)	(Hrs)	(Hrs)	(Hrs)
Radju Malta	3.09	3.02	2.44	2.85
Radju Malta 2	2.18	1.81	2.23	2.07
Magic	2.83	3.18	1.87	2.62
ONE Radio	4.49	5.03	4.54	4.69
Net FM	2.81	3.94	2.92	3.23
89.7 Bay	2.17	1.89	1.80	1.95
Calypso Radio	4.76	4.27	4.67	4.57
Radju RTK	2.12	3.24	1.93	2.43
Smash Radio	1.75	3.44	0.94	2.04
Radju Marija	3.40	3.88	3.91	3.73
Campus FM	2.88	1.33	2.61	2.28
Vibe FM	2.21	2.46	1.80	2.16
X FM	1.69	2.05	2.12	1.95
BKR Digital	2.60	3.52	3.06	3.06
Bay Easy	3.07	2.06	0.75	1.96
Community Stations	3.34	3.85	7.34	4.84
Foreign Station	2.44	1.77	3.25	2.49
Total	2.99	3.16	2.81	2.99
National Average	1.57	1.66	1.51	1.58

## Daily Average Hours of Radio Listening by Station



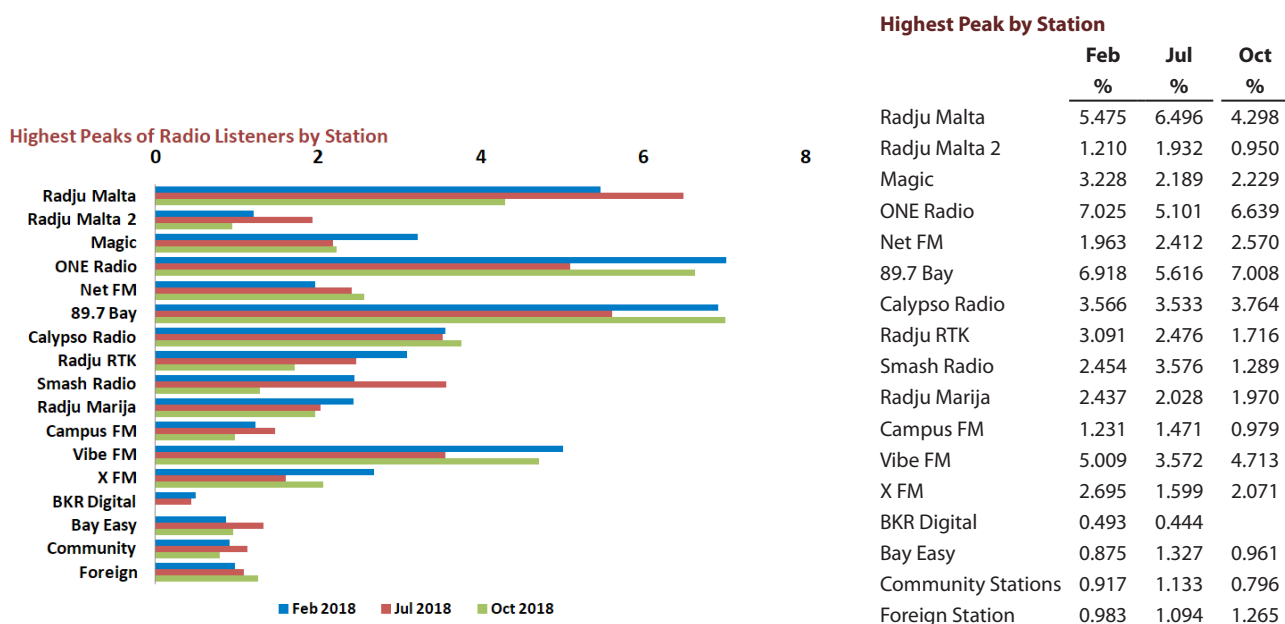
## What was the largest number of listeners at any one time?

Another indication of a radio station's popularity with its audiences is its highest number of listeners obtained at any particular half-hour slot of each weekday.

In February, ONE Radio reached the highest peak amongst all stations on Sundays with 7.025%; 89.7 Bay Radio had the highest peak amongst all stations on Mondays [6.918%], Tuesdays [4.359%], Fridays [6.414%] and Saturdays [5.277%] with that of Mondays being its highest; Radju Malta did so on Thursdays [5.475%], while Vibe FM peaked the highest amongst all stations on Wednesdays with 5.009%.

In July, Radju Malta had the highest peak amongst all stations on Mondays [6.496%]. The next highest peak was that of 89.7 Bay [5.616%] on Wednesdays. ONE Radio had the third highest peak amongst all stations on Fridays with 5.101% and had the highest peak amongst all stations on Tuesdays [4.994%]; Thursdays [5.016%]; Saturdays [4.675%]; and Sundays [3.445%].

In October, the highest peak amongst all stations on Tuesdays was that of 89.7 Bay [7.008%]. The next highest peak was for ONE Radio [6.639%] on Mondays which also had the highest peak amongst all stations on three other weekdays – Wednesdays: 6.090%; Fridays: 5.840%; and Sundays: 5.256%. 89.7 Bay also had the highest peak amongst all stations on two weekdays – Tuesdays: 7.008%; and Saturdays: 6.230%, while Vibe FM peaked highest on Thursdays: 4.713%.



## Highest Peak by Station

	Feb	Jul	Oct
	%	%	%
Radju Malta	5.475	6.496	4.298
Radju Malta 2	1.210	1.932	0.950
Magic	3.228	2.189	2.229
ONE Radio	7.025	5.101	6.639
Net FM	1.963	2.412	2.570
89.7 Bay	6.918	5.616	7.008
Calypso Radio	3.566	3.533	3.764
Radju RTK	3.091	2.476	1.716
Smash Radio	2.454	3.576	1.289
Radju Marija	2.437	2.028	1.970
Campus FM	1.231	1.471	0.979
Vibe FM	5.009	3.572	4.713
X FM	2.695	1.599	2.071
BKR Digital	0.493	0.444	
Bay Easy	0.875	1.327	0.961
Community Stations	0.917	1.133	0.796
Foreign Station	0.983	1.094	1.265

### What were the audiences throughout the day?

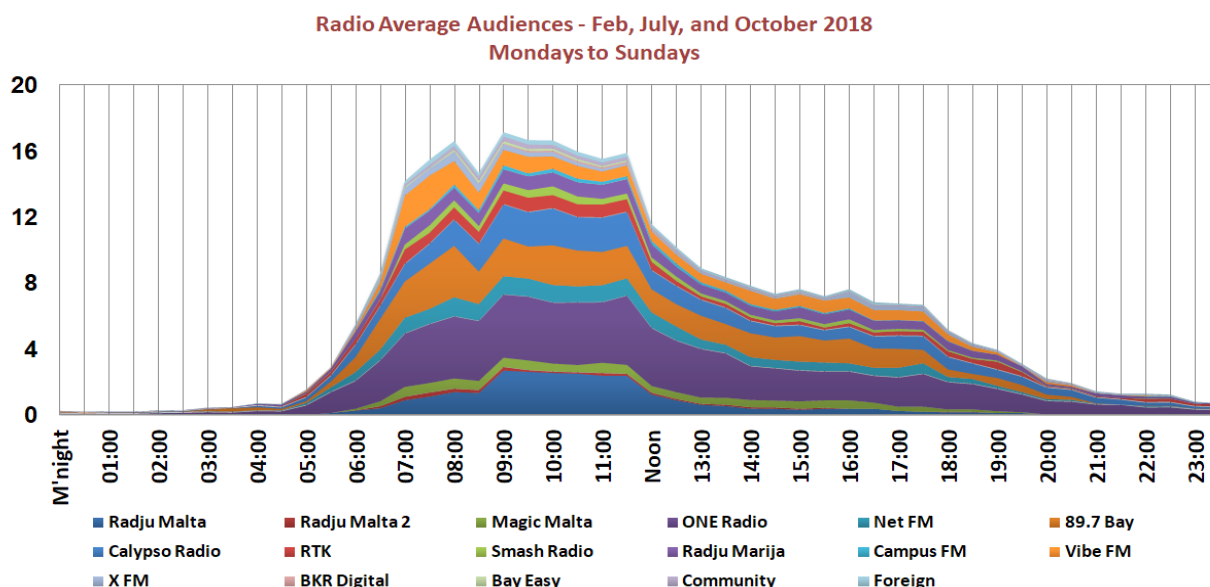
Audiences were not registered for all the half-hour slots and before 06:00 audiences were minimal throughout with less than 1.0% of the population. They sharply increased between 06:00 and 07:00 – 5.4% to 14.5% in February; 5.2% to 13.3% in July; and 5.7% to 14.8% in October. Audiences peaked at 08:00 in February with 16.7%; (17.4% in July and 15.8% in October) and at 09:00 – 17.4% in February; 18.9% in July; and 16.0% in October. This level of radio listening was maintained till 11:30 with 16.5% in February and 16.6% in July and 14.6% in October.

In February, audiences rapidly decreased to 9.2% at 13:00 and then gradually decreased while slightly peaking to 6.9% at 15:30. Audiences then gradually decreased to 1.8% at 20:00pm. Night-time radio audiences after 23:00 were less than 1.0% of the total population.

In July, audiences rapidly decreased to 8.9% at 13:00 and then gradually decreased after 13:00 while slightly peaking to 8.3% at 15:00. Audiences then gradually decreased to 2.1% at 20:00. Night-time radio audiences after 23:00 were less than 1.0% of the total population.

In October, audiences rapidly decreased to 8.6% at 13:00 and gradually decreased after 13:00 while slightly peaking to 7.9% at 15:00. Audiences then gradually decreased to 2.6% at 20:00. Night-time radio audiences after 22:30pm were less than 1.0% of the total population.

The following figure maps radio listening patterns based on the averaged daily audience shares cumulative at half-hour slots:



### Which Radio Station had the largest percentage of audiences?

This percentage computes the number of listeners multiplied by the length of time spent and compares each station to all available broadcasting time. This calculates what portion of the broadcasting pie each station managed to attain.

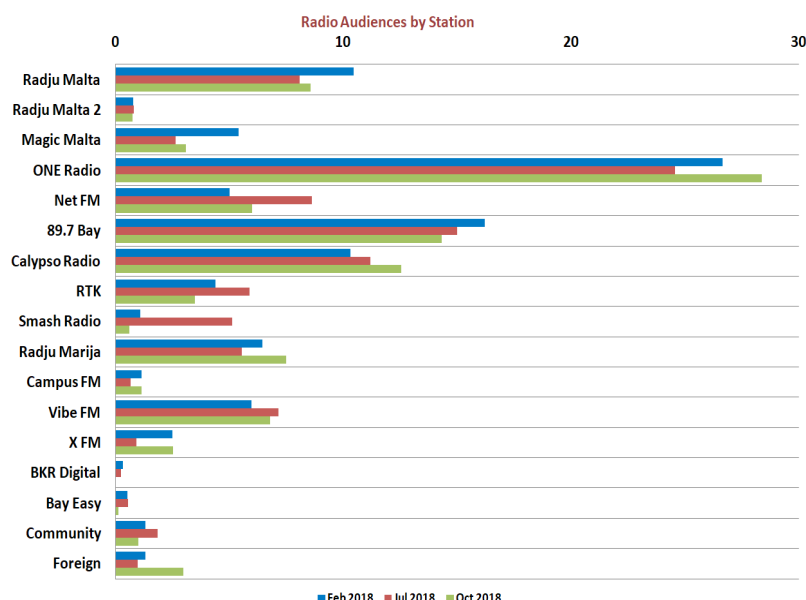
In February, ONE Radio ranked first with 26.66% of all audiences, followed by 89.7 Bay [16.22%]; Radju Malta [10.46%]; Calypso Radio [10.31%]; Radju Marija [6.46%]; Vibe FM [5.99%]; Magic [5.42%]; Net FM [5.03%]; Radju RTK [4.39%]; XFM [2.52%]; Campus FM [1.15%]; and Smash Radio [1.11%].

In July, ONE Radio ranked first with 24.6% of all audiences, followed by 89.7 Bay [15.0%]; Calypso Radio [11.2%]; NET FM [8.6%]; Radju Malta [8.1%]; Vibe FM [7.2%]; RTK [5.9%]; Radju Marija [5.6%]; Smash Radio [5.1%]; Magic Malta [2.6%]; Community Stations [1.9%]; the rest had less than 1% of the audiences.

In October, ONE Radio ranked first with 28.4% of all audiences, followed by 89.7 Bay [14.3%]; Calypso Radio [12.6%]; Radju Malta [8.6%]; Radju Marija [7.5%]; Vibe FM [6.8%]; NET FM [6.0%]; RTK [3.5%]; Magic Malta [3.1%]; XFM [2.5%]; Campus FM [1.0%]; the rest had less than 1% of the audiences.

## Audiences by Station

	Feb	Jul	Oct
	%	%	%
Radju Malta	10.5	8.1	8.6
Radju Malta 2	0.8	0.8	0.8
Magic	5.4	2.6	3.1
ONE Radio	26.7	24.6	28.4
Net FM	5.0	8.6	6.0
89.7 Bay	16.2	15.0	14.3
Calypso Radio	10.3	11.2	12.6
Radju RTK	4.4	5.9	3.5
Smash Radio	1.1	5.1	0.6
Radju Marija	6.5	5.6	7.5
Campus FM	1.2	0.7	1.2
Vibe FM	6.0	7.2	6.8
X FM	2.5	0.9	2.5
BKR Digital	0.3	0.3	
Bay Easy	0.5	0.6	0.1
Community Stations	1.3	1.9	1.0
Foreign Station	1.3	1.0	3.0
	100%	100%	100%



## How often do people listen to radio?

Respondents were asked how many times they listened to radio during a typical week – everyday or nearly everyday (5-7 times per week); at least once a week (1-4 times per week); or never.

As much as 72.7% of the population are regular radio listeners – **How often do you listen to Radio?**

	Feb	Jul	Oct	Avg.
Every day	51.4%	57.8%	57.2%	55.5%
Once a Week	20.4%	15.4%	15.7%	17.2%
Never	8.1%	8.7%	10.8%	9.2%
Do not listen to radio	18.9%	16.2%	14.7%	16.6%
No Radio-set	1.0%	1.7%	1.5%	1.4%
No Reply	.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

55.5% listen to radio nearly/everyday while another 17.2% do so at least once a week. On average only 9.2% of the respondents stated that they never listen to radio while 16.6% stated that they are not regular radio listeners. There was little gender difference – males tend to listen more regularly to radio (72.7% in February; 72.4% in July; and 74.2% in October) than females (71.0% in February; 74.0% in July; 71.6% in October). Radio listening increases with age from half/two-thirds of all 12-20 year olds to more than three-quarters of those over 50 years old. The lowest percentage of radio listening was amongst those registered in Gozo & Comino (64.9% in February; 57.9% in July; and 61.5% in October); those living in the South Eastern region registered the highest amount in February (73.6%); while those living in the Western district did so in July (79.2%) and in October (77.0%).

## What type of Radio-set do people use?

Radio listeners were asked whether they have a DAB+ radio-set to listen to radio and, if so, what kind of stations they tune in to: local stations only; foreign only; or both local and foreign stations.

Overall, 1.8% of the population do not have a radio-set while another 5.3% do not know what kind of radio-set they have. While 11.8% of the population do have a DAB+ radio-set, as much as 71.7% replied that they do not have one.

## Do you have a DAB+ radio-set?

	Feb	Jul	Oct	Avg.
No Radio-set	1.1%	2.0%	2.3%	1.8%
YES	11.0%	11.0%	13.3%	11.8%
NO	68.4%	76.2%	70.6%	71.7%
Did not know	6.3%	4.7%	4.9%	5.3%
No Reply	13.1%	6.1%	8.9%	9.4%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Of those who stated that they do have a DAB+ radio-set, the majority **"YES" for:**

	Feb	Jul	Oct	Avg.
Local only	71.0%	55.5%	69.4%	65.3%
Foreign only	2.5%	5.4%	4.5%	4.1%
Both Local & Foreign	21.8%	33.8%	22.1%	25.9%
Does not use	4.7%	5.3%	4.1%	4.7%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

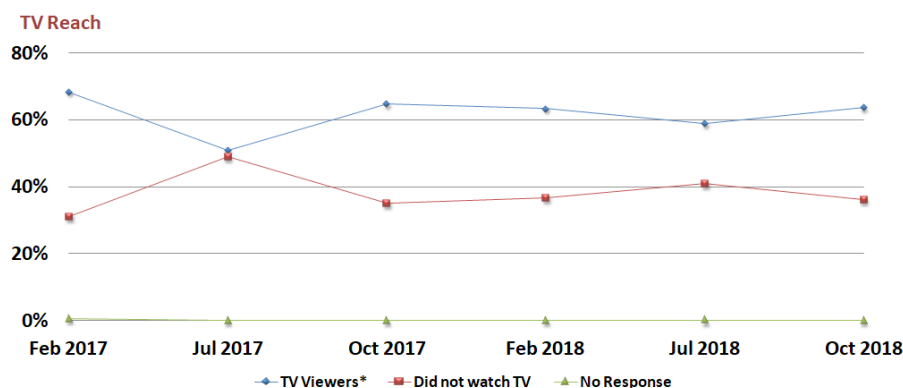
65.3% stated that they only listen to local stations; another 4.1% stated that they use their DAB+ radio-set to listen to only foreign stations; while another 25.9% stated that they listen to both local and foreign radio broadcasts. Another 4.7% stated that although they do have a DAB+ radio-set, they do not use this set to listen to radio programmes.

## 6.2 Television

Similar to radio, interviewees were given the possibility of identifying three television stations that they had followed the previous day; they could identify three different time periods for each station named. Respondents were also asked what type of TV-service they use to watch television and what types of programmes they like to watch on local television stations.

### How many people watch TV?

About two-thirds of the population regularly watch TV; however the number drops to about half the population during the summer months. There were slight changes in the percentage of TV viewers in all the three assessment periods when compared to those of the previous year – a decrease of 5.0% from February 2017 (68.3%) to that of February 2018 (63.3%); an increase of 7.8% from July 2017 (51.0%) to July 2018 (58.8%); and a 1.0% decrease for that of October from 64.7% in 2017 to 63.7% in October 2018.



	Feb 2017	Jul 2017	Oct 2017	Feb 2018	Jul 2018	Oct 2018
TV Viewers	68.3%	51.0%	64.7%	63.3%	58.8%	63.7%
Did not watch TV	31.2%	49.0%	35.2%	36.7%	41.0%	36.3%
No response	0.5%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
TV Viewers [N]	257,000	191,200	243,900	263,800	250,100	247,300

\* Includes those who "did not remember which station was followed" and those who "Followed No Particular TV Station"

### Which TV Station had the highest number of viewers?

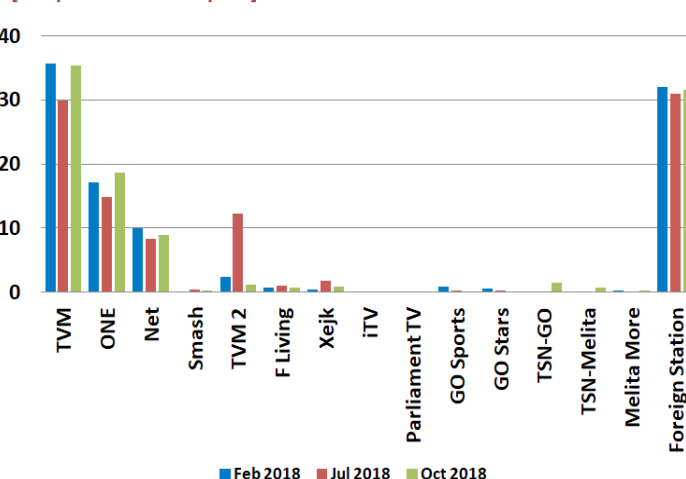
TVM has constantly attracted more than a third of all television viewers followed by ONE and Net TV. All the three stations have constantly attracted audiences from all the demographical groups by gender, age, and district. The viewing of foreign stations is also high and averages a third of the population [31.54%]. The viewing of foreign stations is higher with those under the age of 50 while the viewing of local TV stations is higher with those over this age benchmark.

#### TV Reach by Station

	Feb 2018	Jul 2018	Oct 2018
	%	%	%
TVM	[1] 35.63	[1] 29.91	[1] 35.41
ONE	[2] 17.18	[2] 14.85	[2] 18.69
Net TV	[3] 9.97	[4] 8.24	[3] 8.86
Smash	[9] 0.12	[7] 0.43	[10] 0.22
TVM 2	[4] 2.36	[3] 12.21	[5] 1.20
F Living	[6] 0.73	[6] 1.07	[7] 0.74
Xejk	[8] 0.38	[5] 1.75	[6] 0.81
iTV		[10] 0.06	
Parliament TV	[10] 0.05		[11] 0.12
GO Sports	[5] 0.78	[8] 0.22	
GO Stars	[7] 0.48	[9] 0.21	
TSN-GO			[9] 0.24
TSN-Melita			[4] 1.51
TSN-Melita			[8] 0.63
Foreign Station	35.63	31.04	31.57
	100%	100%	100%

#### TV Reach by Station

[irrespective of time spent]



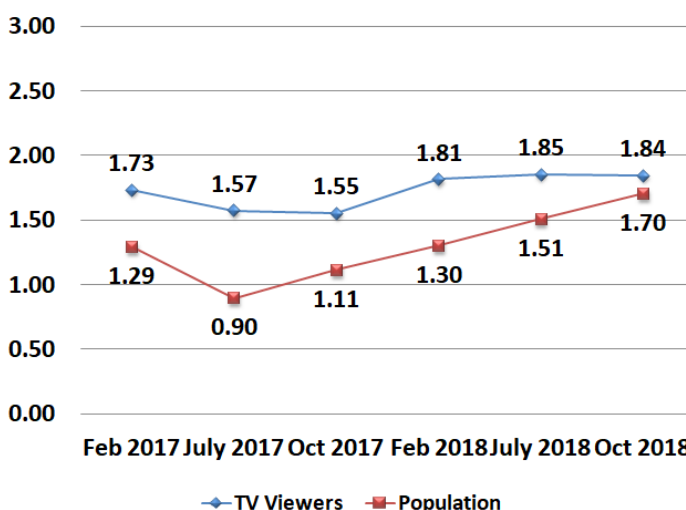
### How much time did TV viewers spend watching television?

This average gives the length of time that each viewer has spent following each TV station. This is derived from the total number of hours that consumers watched television divided by the total number of viewers of each broadcasting station.

For the whole year the average number of hours over the three quarters [1.84hrs] was higher than the average of the previous year [1.62hrs] by 12min 58sec. And on a national average, TV viewing has increased by 24min 16sec from a national average of 1.1hrs in 2017 to 1.50hrs in 2018

When considering the average of each station, the data becomes susceptible to outliers. Where a broadcasting station registered a small number of viewers who logged on to that particular station for a very long time their average would be far higher than that station which logged a large number of viewers who followed that station for a reasonable time.

Daily Average Hours of TV Viewing

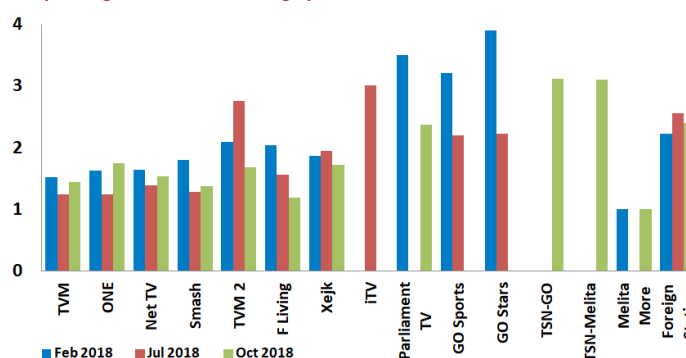


Analysed by broadcasting station, while TVM constantly attracted the highest percentage of viewers the time spent on average by ONE viewers [1.54hrs] is 10.0% higher than those of TVM [1.40hrs].

Daily Average Hours by Station

	Feb (hrs.)	Jul (hrs.)	Oct (hrs.)	Avg. (hrs.)
TVM	1.51	1.24	1.44	1.40
ONE	1.63	1.24	1.74	1.54
Net TV	1.63	1.39	1.52	1.52
Smash	1.79	1.28	1.37	1.48
TVM 2	2.09	2.75	1.68	2.17
F Living	2.04	1.55	1.19	1.59
Xejk	1.86	1.95	1.72	1.84
iTV		3.00		3.00
Parliament TV	3.50		2.37	2.94
GO Sports	3.21	2.20		2.70
GO Stars	3.89	2.22		3.06
TSN-GO			3.11	3.11
TSN-Melita			3.10	3.10
Melita More	1.00		1.00	1.00
Foreign Stations	2.22	2.56	2.40	2.39

Daily Average Hours of TV Viewing by Station



### What was the largest number of TV viewers at any one time?

Another indication of a station's popularity with its audiences is its highest number of viewers obtained at any particular half-hour slot of each weekday.

Excluding foreign stations, in February TVM had the highest peaks amongst all stations for all the weekdays from Monday to Sunday. The highest peak attained by TVM was on Mondays [20.615%] followed by that of ONE on Sundays with 13.039%; and that of Net TV on Wednesdays [6.835%].

In July, TVM had the highest peaks amongst all stations for all the weekdays from Monday to Sunday and exceeded those of foreign stations. The highest peak attained by TVM was on Thursdays [20.783%] followed by that on Mondays [19.071%]; and that on Wednesdays [14.866%]. TVM2 had its highest peak on Wednesdays with 12.854%, while the highest peak of ONE was on Thursdays with 10.540%, followed by that of NET TV on Wednesdays with 6.176%.

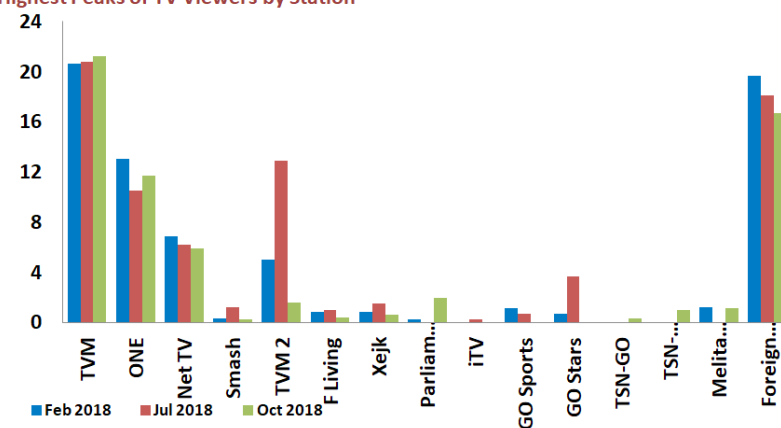
In October, TVM had the highest peaks amongst all stations for all the weekdays from Monday to Sunday and again exceeded foreign stations except for Saturdays. The highest peak attained by TVM was on Tuesdays [20.207%] followed by that on Wednesdays [19.472%] and Fridays [19.415%]; while its lowest was that for Thursdays with 12.928%. ONE had its highest peak on Thursdays [11.704%], while the highest peak of Net TV was on Fridays [5.860%].



## Daily Average Hours by Station

	Feb %	Jul %	Oct %
TVM	20.615	20.783	21.207
ONE	13.039	10.540	11.704
Net TV	6.835	6.176	5.860
Smash	0.316	1.213	0.252
TVM 2	4.964	12.854	1.562
F Living	0.840	0.949	0.373
Xejk	0.841	1.469	0.599
Parliament TV	0.261		1.975
iTV		0.252	
GO Sports	1.144	0.676	
GO Stars	0.668	3.645	
TSN-GO			0.331
TSN-Melita			0.957
Melita More	1.170		1.104
Foreign Stations	19.636	18.073	16.651

## Highest Peaks of TV Viewers by Station



## What were television audiences throughout the day?

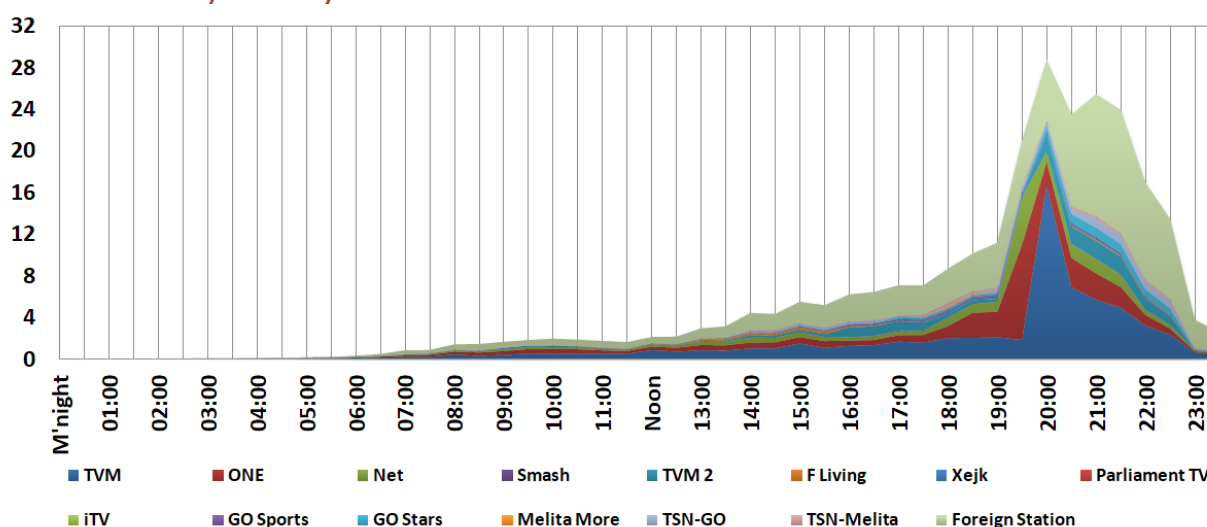
This percentage computes the number of listeners multiplied by the amount of time spent and compares each station to all available broadcasting time.

Throughout the assessments audiences were not registered for all the half-hour spots especially those for after midnight and early morning. Audiences throughout the day started picking up slowly by 08:00 (February: 1.4%; July: 1.3%; October: 1.3%). Audiences gradually rose by noon - to 2.9% in February; 1.8% in July; and to 1.5% in October. These continued rising and peaked in the early afternoon at 3:00pm (February: 6.7%; July: 3.4%; October: 5.7%). Another peak was registered at 18:00 (8.994%) in February; and at 17:00 in July at 9.8%; and in October at 7.9% at 18:00. Audiences sharply rose at 20:00 where the highest audiences were reached (February: 28.2%; July: 27.8%; October: 28.7%). Audiences were generally maintained and peaked at 21:00 (February: 23.6%; July: 21.6%; October: 28.2%) falling to just more than 10%-15% at 22:00 (February: 13.7%; July: 12.5% at 22:30pm; October: 18.4%). Midnight audiences were less than 5% (February: 2.2%; July: 2.6%; October: 3.7% at 23:00pm).

## Audiences by Time-bracket

Time	Feb %	Jul %	Oct %
08:00	1.4	1.3	1.3
12:00	2.9	1.8	1.5
15:00	6.7	3.4	5.7
17:00		9.8	
18:00	9.0		7.9
20:00	28.2	27.8	28.7
21:00	23.6		28.2
21:30		21.6	
22:00	13.7		18.4
22:30		12.5	
23:00			3.7
24:00	2.2	2.6	

The following figure maps in detail television viewing patterns based on the averaged daily audience shares cumulative by half-hour slots:

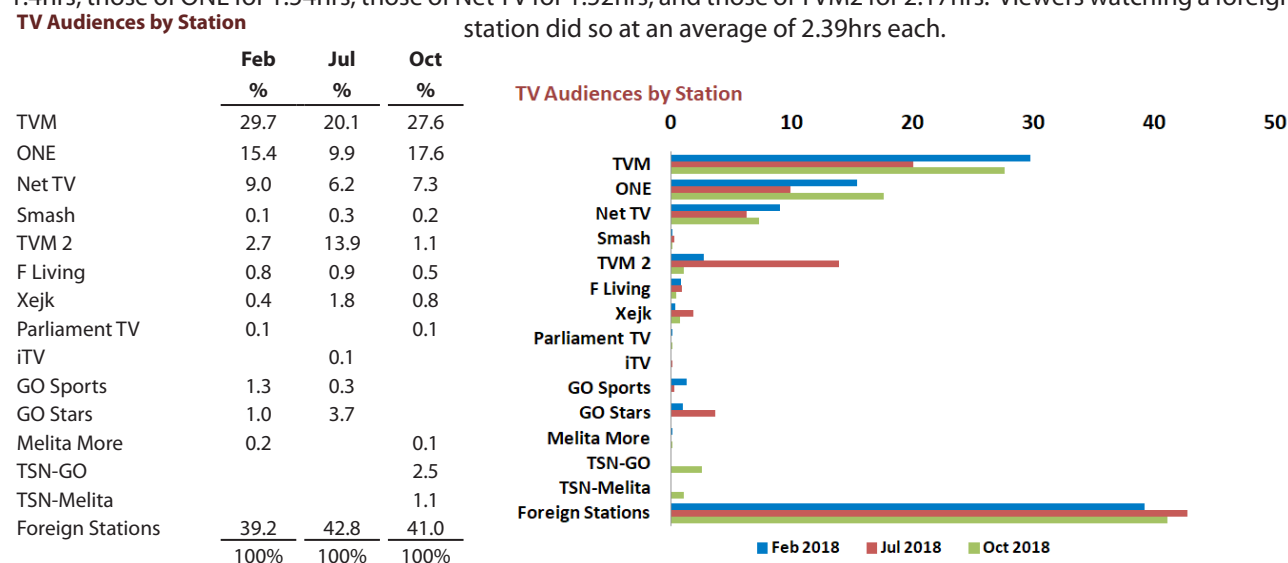
TV Average Audiences - Feb, July, and October 2018  
Mondays to Sundays



### Which TV Station had the largest percentage of audiences?

In all instances, excluding foreign stations from the local broadcasting stations TVM ranked first with an average of 25.8%; followed by ONE [Avg.: 14.3%]; Net TV [Avg.: 7.5%]; and TVM2 [Avg.: 5.9%]. Those watching a foreign station averaged 41% of all viewing time.

Computing the average viewing time of each viewer, on average those who watched TVM did so for an average of 1.4hrs; those of ONE for 1.54hrs; those of Net TV for 1.52hrs; and those of TVM2 for 2.17hrs. Viewers watching a foreign station did so at an average of 2.39hrs each.



### What are the favourite programme genres?

Respondents were asked what type of programme they like to watch on local television. A list of eleven categories were read out by the interviewer and respondents chose which they preferred.

Local & Foreign News were the most favourite programme genre [an average of 64.8%].

Local Drama ranked second [34.8%] while

Discussion & Current Affairs programmes ranked third [33.3%].

Cultural/Educational programmes ranked fourth [22.3%], followed

by Sport [21.7%]; Documentaries [17.5%]

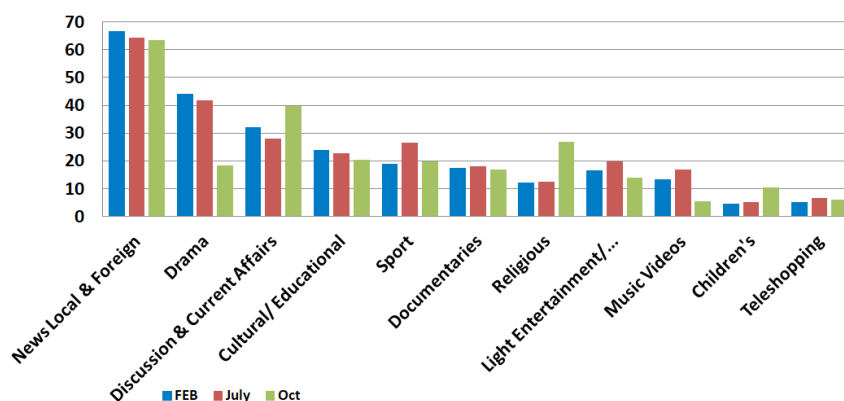
and Religious programmes [17.1%] closely

followed each other.

**Preferred TV Programme Genres**

	Feb %	Jul %	Oct %	Avg. %
News Local & Foreign	66.7	64.3	63.4	64.8
Drama	44.2	41.8	18.4	34.8
Discussion & Current Affairs	32.2	28.1	39.6	33.3
Cultural/ Educational	23.8	22.7	20.3	22.3
Sport	18.8	26.6	19.8	21.7
Documentaries	17.5	18.1	16.9	17.5
Religious	12.1	12.6	26.7	17.1
Light Entertainment/Comedy/Games	16.7	19.7	14.0	16.8
Music Videos	13.3	16.9	5.5	11.9
Children's	4.5	5.2	10.4	6.7
Teleshopping	5.2	6.6	6.0	6.0
	255.0	262.7	241.0	252.9

Preferred TV Programme Genres



Analysed by gender, male preferences exceeded those of females in two categories: Sports [+23.7%] and Documentaries [+2.2%]. Female preferences exceed highest those of males in Drama [+22.2%]; Religious programmes [+6.3%], and Teleshopping [+6.1%]. There were very little gender preference differences for the most favourite programme genre of Local & Foreign News [0.3%] and Discussion & Current Affairs programmes [0.3%].

#### Preferred TV Programme Genres by Gender

	Males				Females				+/- %
	Feb	Jul	Oct	Avg	Feb	Jul	Oct	Avg	
News Local & Foreign	65.9	62.9	65.2	64.7	67.5	65.7	61.6	64.9	0.3
Drama	33.5	30.9	28.1	30.9	54.9	52.9	51.4	53.1	22.2
Discussion & Current Affairs	32.2	28.2	26.1	28.8	32.2	27.9	27.4	29.2	0.3
Cultural/ Educational	20.4	20.2	18.8	19.8	27.3	25.3	21.8	24.8	5.0
Sport	29.7	39.0	31.7	33.5	7.8	14.0	7.6	9.8	23.7
Documentaries	17.8	21.2	18.3	19.1	17.3	15.0	18.5	16.9	2.2
Religious	9.4	9.6	6.8	8.6	14.8	15.7	14.2	14.9	6.3
Light Entertainment/Comedy/Games	13.7	17.1	13.5	14.8	19.6	22.4	20.3	20.8	6.0
Music Videos	12.4	17.5	14.0	14.7	14.1	16.3	13.9	14.8	0.1
Children's	4.1	3.5	4.1	3.9	5.0	6.9	7.0	6.3	2.4
Teleshopping	3.1	3.0	2.7	2.9	7.4	10.3	9.3	9.0	6.1
	242.4	253.1	229.4	241.6	267.8	272.5	253.0	264.4	

Analysed by age-groups, the highest three programme genres still had the same ranking throughout for all the age groups above 30 years old. The first preference of 12-20 years old was that for Drama programmes [40.0%] followed by Local & Foreign News [39.3%], Sport [29.5%] and Music Videos [24.6%]. On the other hand, Cultural/Education programmes [18.8%] was the third preference for 21-30 year olds, followed by Sport programmes [17.9%].

#### Preferred TV Programme Genres by Gender

	12-20				21-30				31-50				51-70				70+			
	Feb	Jul	Oct	Avg	Feb	Jul	Oct	Avg	Feb	Jul	Oct	Avg	Feb	Jul	Oct	Avg	Feb	Jul	Oct	Avg
News Local & Foreign	38.8	39.9	39.1	39.3	46.9	43.6	51.0	47.2	67.3	62.9	57.5	62.6	79.5	77.3	78.1	78.3	83.2	82.8	82.3	82.8
Drama	38.7	36.5	44.7	40.0	43.4	27.8	38.6	36.6	43.3	40.5	33.2	39.0	44.6	46.5	40.7	43.9	50.2	51.2	46.4	49.3
Discussion & Current Affairs	18.1	13.5	10.0	13.8	15.4	12.5	19.9	15.9	30.9	27.9	22.4	27.1	40.9	35.3	38.5	38.2	44.4	40.6	37.0	40.7
Cultural/ Educational	16.6	20.0	14.7	17.1	18.8	19.6	17.8	18.8	22.9	20.0	18.4	20.5	30.0	25.9	25.7	27.2	25.7	27.8	22.9	25.5
Sport	24.7	35.4	28.4	29.5	17.5	21.8	14.4	17.9	15.6	21.9	18.0	18.5	17.2	29.6	20.6	22.5	22.8	27.2	18.9	23.0
Documentaries	13.1	17.7	11.6	14.1	11.4	11.3	12.9	11.8	18.9	16.0	15.5	16.8	19.7	21.8	22.9	21.5	19.5	22.1	26.6	22.7
Religious	8.7	6.4	3.1	6.0	7.2	2.2	1.7	3.7	8.9	7.5	4.8	7.1	12.3	15.8	15.5	14.5	23.9	29.0	25.3	26.1
Light Entertainment/...	16.2	25.0	18.7	20.0	12.9	11.9	11.5	12.1	18.6	18.5	15.4	17.5	16.5	20.2	17.9	18.2	16.1	21.9	20.2	19.4
Music Videos	18.7	30.9	24.4	24.6	15.5	13.2	10.7	13.2	12.0	16.2	10.6	12.9	10.1	12.9	15.8	12.9	14.1	14.4	11.9	13.5
Children's	8.1	12.7	11.7	10.8	2.7	3.7	3.0	3.2	4.3	4.6	4.4	4.4	3.1	3.3	5.4	3.9	5.1	3.7	4.4	4.4
Teleshopping	2.1	3.1	3.3	2.8	5.2	3.4	2.6	3.7	2.6	6.1	3.7	4.1	6.1	8.0	8.6	7.6	11.6	10.8	10.9	11.1
	203.7	241.0	209.5	218.1	197.0	171.0	184.1	184.0	245.4	242.2	204.0	230.5	280.0	296.4	289.8	288.7	316.6	331.4	306.8	318.3

Overall, programme genre preferences increase with age. The highest noticeable increase was that for Local & Foreign News which increased by 43.5% from 39.3% of 12-21 year olds to 82.8% of all 71+ year olds. The next highest increase was that for Discussion & Current Affairs programmes [26.8% from 13.8% to 40.7%] and for Religious programmes [20.1% from 6.0% to 26.1%]. On the other hand, the largest decrease was that for Music Videos [-11.1%] from 24.6% for all 12-20 year olds to 13.5% for all 71+ year olds; followed by Sport programmes [-6.6%] and Children's programmes [-6.4%].

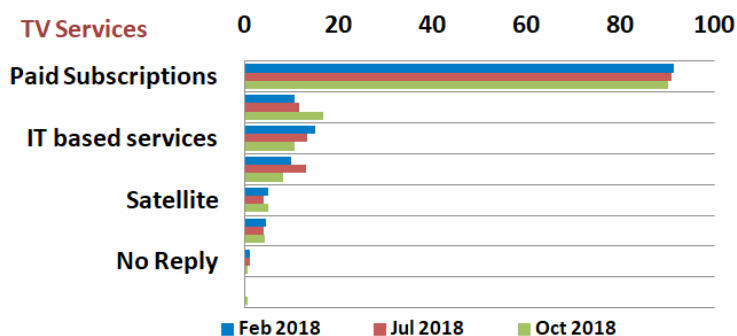
#### What type of reception service is used?

Respondents were asked what type of service they used to watch television. Six options were read out and service users had the option of identifying one or more service that they make use of. Taking all the responses, on average the most common service for watching television is that of a paid subscription [90.8%]; followed by IPTV streaming (e.g. Netflix) [13.1%] and Internet based services (e.g.. Android box) [13.1%]; Others (e.g. through laptop, mobile, or tablet streaming) [10.5%].

## BROADCASTING AUTHORITY MALTA

### Type of TV service

	Feb %	Jul %	Oct %	Avg. %
Paid Subscriptions	91.5	91.0	90.1	90.8
IPTV	10.8	11.7	16.8	13.1
IT based services	15.0	13.4	10.8	13.1
Others	10.1	13.2	8.2	10.5
Satellite	5.2	4.2	5.0	4.8
Free to air	4.6	4.1	4.3	4.3
No Reply	1.1	1.2	0.7	1.0
No TV-set	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.4
	138.6	139.0	136.6	138.0



The data for free-to-air services is not exclusive as there is a tendency to exclude this service once other paid services are used to follow television programmes. However analysing further the data, out of all those who stated that they make use of such services an average of 12,100 only make use of the free-to-air service while the rest of this category make use of other services.

### Free to Air service

		Feb	Jul	Oct
Free to air	N	≈19,400	≈17,500	≈18,400
	%	4.6%	4.1%	4.3%
Only Free-to-Air	N	≈12,100	≈14,000	≈10,200
	%	62.4%	80.0%	55.4%
Other Services	N	≈7,300	≈3,500	≈8,200
	%	37.6%	20.0%	44.5%

More data is available for download through the Authority's website at <http://ba-malta.org/archives>.



BROADCASTING AUTHORITY  
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2017

## Index

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## Statement of the Authority's Responsibilities

The Broadcasting Act, 1991 requires the board members to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Authority and of the income and expenditure of the Authority for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the board members are required to:-

- adopt the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Authority will continue in the business;
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- account for income and charges relative to the accounting period on the accruals basis;
- value separately the components of assets and liability items; and
- report comparative figures corresponding to those of the preceding accounting period.

The Authority is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position of the Authority and to enable the board members to ensure that the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Broadcasting Act, 1991. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining such internal control as the Authority determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The Authority is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## Auditors' Report

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Broadcasting Authority (the "Authority") set out on pages 36 to 42 which comprise the balance sheet as of 31 December 2017, the income statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

## Board Members' Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Authority's Board Members are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with GAPSME, and for such internal control as the Board Members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

## Auditor's Responsibility

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements, as a whole, are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board Members.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board Members' use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements

or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Authority to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Board Members regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Maltese Broadcasting Act (Cap. 350), enacted in Malta, which permits compliance with the Accountancy Profession (General Accounting Principles for Small and Medium-sized Entities) Regulations, 2015 and the Schedule accompanying and forming an integral part of those Regulations (GAPSME), for qualifying entities as prescribed in those regulations.

*John Abela (Partner) for and on behalf of*

**Horwath Malta**

*Member of Crowe Horwath International*

La Provvida  
Karm Zerafa Street  
Birkirkara BKR1713  
Malta

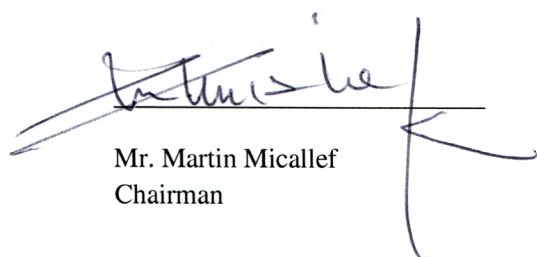
## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Notes	2018 €	2017 €
Income	3	1,066,603	1,076,644
Expenditure		<u>(968,161)</u>	<u>(1,012,435)</u>
Surplus for the year	4	<u>98,442</u>	<u>64,209</u>


## BALANCE SHEET 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Notes	2018 €	2017 €
ASSETS			
Non-current Assets			
Property, Plant and equipment	5	<u>1,942,394</u>	<u>1,976,514</u>
Current Assets			
Trade and other receivables	6	273,030	325,573
Cash and bank balances		<u>635,189</u>	<u>461,605</u>
		<u>908,219</u>	<u>787,178</u>
Total Assets		<u><u>2,850,613</u></u>	<u><u>2,763,692</u></u>
CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES			
Capital and Reserves			
Capital fund	7	2,572,737	2,572,737
Reserve Fund	7	37,270	37,270
Revaluation reserve	8	293,699	293,699
Accumulated reserve	9	<u>(233,673)</u>	<u>(332,115)</u>
		<u>2,670,033</u>	<u>2,571,591</u>
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	10	<u>180,580</u>	<u>192,101</u>
Total Capital and Liabilities		<u><u>2,850,613</u></u>	<u><u>2,763,692</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 36 to 42 were approved and authorised for issue by the Board Members on 14 March 2018 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr. Martin Micallef  
Chairman



Dr. Joanna Spiteri  
Chief Executive Officer

7, Mile End Road  
Hamrun  
HMR 1719



# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

## 1. Basis of Preparation

### Basis of measurement and statement of compliance

The financial statements of Broadcasting Authority ("the Authority") have been prepared in accordance with the Accountancy Profession (General Accounting Principles for Small and Medium-Sized Entities) Regulations, 2015 and the Schedule accompanying and forming an integral part of those Regulations ("GAPSME"). The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis, except for freehold land and buildings which are stated at revalued amounts.

### Functional and presentation currency

The financial statements are presented in Euro, which is the Authority's functional currency.

## 2. Significant Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the periods presented, unless otherwise stated.

### Property, plant and equipment

#### Recognition and measurement

The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment is recognised as an asset when it is probable that the future economic benefits that are associated with the asset will flow to the entity and the cost can be measured reliably. Property, plant and equipment are initially measured at cost comprising the purchase price, any costs directly attributable to bringing the assets to a working condition for their intended use, and the costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located. Subsequent expenditure is capitalised as part of the cost of property, plant and equipment only if it enhances the economic benefits of an asset in excess of the previously assessed standard of performance, or it replaces or restores a component that has been separately depreciated over its useful life.

After initial recognition, property, plant and equipment may be carried under the cost model, that is at cost less any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses, or under the revaluation model, that is at their fair value at the date of the revaluation less any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

After initial recognition land and buildings are carried under the revaluation model. Other property, plant and equipment are carried under the cost model. Revaluations are made for the entire class of land and buildings with sufficient regularity such that the carrying amount does not differ materially from that which would be determined using fair value at the reporting date. Any accumulated depreciation at the date of revaluation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount is restated to the revalued amount of the asset.

#### Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the carrying amount of the asset on a systematic straight line basis over its expected useful life. Depreciation of an asset begins when it is available for use and ceases at the earlier of the date that the asset is classified as held for sale (or included in a disposal group that is classified as held for sale) or the date that the asset is derecognised. The depreciation charge for each period is recognised in the profit or loss.

The depreciation rates charged are as follows:

	%
Buildings	1 per annum straight line
Motor vehicles	20 per annum straight line
Studio equipment	20 per annum straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	10 – 20 per annum straight line
Technical equipment	25 per annum straight line
Transmitting antenna	4 – 12 per annum straight line

*Land is not depreciated.*

#### *Depreciation method, useful life and residual value*

The depreciation method applied, residual value and the useful life are reviewed on a regular basis and when necessary, revised with the effect of any changes in estimate being accounted for prospectively.

#### *Derecognition of property, plant and equipment*

Property, plant and equipment are derecognised on disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected from their use or disposal. Gains and losses arising from derecognition represent the difference between the net proceeds (if any) and the carrying amount and are included in profit or loss in the period of derecognition.

#### *Financial assets, financial liabilities and capital equity*

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised on the Authority's balance sheet when the Authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and financial liabilities are initially recognised at their fair value plus in the case of financial assets and financial liabilities not classified as held for trading and subsequently measured at fair value, transaction costs attributable to the acquisition or issue of the financial assets and financial liabilities.

Financial assets and financial liabilities are derecognised if and to the extent that, it is no longer probable that any future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to or from the entity.

An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the Authority after deducting all of its liabilities. Equity instruments are recorded at the proceeds received, net of direct issue costs.

A financial instrument, or its component parts, is classified as a financial liability, financial asset or an equity instrument in accordance with the substance of the contractual arrangement rather than its legal form.

##### *i. Trade and other receivables*

Trade and other receivables are stated at their nominal value unless the effect of discounting is material in which case trade and other receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Appropriate allowances for estimated irrecoverable amounts are recognised in profit or loss when there is objective evidence of impairment.

##### *ii. Trade and other payables*

Trade and other payables are stated at their nominal value unless the effect of discounting is material, in which case trade and other payables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

#### *Impairment*

The Authority's property, plant and equipment and financial assets are tested for impairment.

##### *i. Property, plant and equipment*

The carrying amounts of the Authority's property, plant and equipment are reviewed at each balance sheet date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated. The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use.

Whenever the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised and the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless they relate to an asset which is carried at revalued amount, in which case they are treated as a revaluation decrease to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that asset.

The carrying amounts of the Authority's assets are also reviewed at each balance sheet date to determine whether there is any indication that an impairment loss recognised in prior periods may no longer exist or may have decreased. If any such indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated. An impairment loss previously recognised is reversed only if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the asset's recoverable amount since the last impairment loss was recognised. When an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, to the extent that it does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. Impairment reversals are recognised immediately in the profit or loss, unless they relate to an asset which is carried at revalued amount,

in which case they are treated as a revaluation increase unless an impairment loss on the same asset was previously recognised in profit or loss.

ii. Financial assets

A financial asset or a group of financial assets is impaired and impairment losses are incurred if, and only if, there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the asset (a 'loss event') and that loss event (or events) has an impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset or group of financial assets that can be reliably estimated.

If there is objective evidence that an impairment loss on financial assets carried at amortised cost or cost has been incurred, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows (excluding future credit losses that have not been incurred) discounted at the financial asset's original effective interest rate. The amount of the loss is recognised in profit or loss. If, in a subsequent period, the amount of the impairment loss decreases and the decrease can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the previously recognised impairment loss is reversed. The reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the amortised cost/cost would have been had the impairment not been recognised at the date the impairment is reversed. The amount of the reversal is recognised in profit or loss.

*Cash and cash equivalents*

Cash comprises cash on hand and demand deposits. Cash equivalents are short-term investments that are held to meet short-term cash commitments rather than for investment or other purposes.

Income recognition

- a. Income from Government is recognised on an accrual basis.
- b. Income from the provision of services is recognised in proportion to the stage of completion at the balance sheet date.
- c. Interest income from investments is accrued on a time basis, by reference to the principal outstanding and at the interest rate applicable.

*Employee benefits*

The Authority contributes towards the state pension in accordance with local legislation. The only obligation of the Authority is to make the required contributions. Costs are expected in the period in which they are incurred.

### 3. Income

Income represents amount receivable from the Government of Malta as subvention, licences from broadcasting organisations, investment and other income as follows

	2018	2017
	€	€
Government of Malta subvention	<b>583,000</b>	583,000
Licences from broadcasting organisations and application fees	<b>457,252</b>	475,116
Investment income	<b>863</b>	878
Other income	<b>25,488</b>	17,650
	<b><u>1,066,603</u></b>	<u>1,076,644</u>

#### 4. Surplus for the Year

This is stated after charging the following:

	2018	2017
		€
Board members' and board secretary's compensation	100,445	103,695
Wages and salaries	562,389	588,559
Depreciation	82,787	75,368
Audit fees	1,600	1,600

Staff costs incurred during the year are analysed as follows:

	2018	2017
	€	€
Board members' honoraria	63,359	63,604
Board secretary's salary	37,086	40,091
Wages and salaries	519,631	546,264
	620,076	649,959
Social security contributions	42,758	42,295
	662,834	692,254

The average number of persons employed during the year, including board members, was made up as follows:

	2018	2017
	No.	No
Board members	5	5
Operations	23	26
	28	31

#### 5. Property, Plant and Equipment

	Freehold Land	Building & Improvements	Transmitting Antenna	Fixtures Fittings & Equipment	Technical Equipment	Studio Equipment	Motor Vehicles	Total
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
At 01 January 2017								
Cost/revalued amount	160,270	1,862,680	778,619	495,663	123,278	161,057	32,750	3,614,317
Accumulated depreciation	-	(412,101)	(475,113)	(449,952)	(122,670)	(161,057)	(16,910)	(1,637,803)
Net book amount	160,270	1,450,579	303,506	45,711	608	-	15,840	1,976,514
Year ended 31 December 2017								
Opening net book amount	160,270	1,450,579	303,506	45,711	608	-	15,840	1,976,514
Additions	-	-	-	11,820	13,233	-	24,100	49,153
Disposals	-	-	-	(1,283)	(988)	-	-	(2,271)
Depreciation charge	-	(18,627)	(20,679)	(31,119)	(3,583)	-	(8,780)	(82,788)
Depreciation release on disposal	-	-	-	798	988	-	-	1,786
Closing net book amount	160,270	1,431,952	282,827	25,927	10,258	-	31,160	1,942,394
At 31 December 2017								
Cost/revalued amount	160,270	1,862,680	778,619	506,200	135,523	161,057	56,850	3,661,199
Accumulated depreciation	-	(430,729)	(495,792)	(480,273)	(125,265)	(161,057)	(25,690)	(1,718,805)
Net book amount	160,270	1,431,952	282,827	25,927	10,258	-	31,160	1,942,394

## 5. Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)

### Land and buildings

Land and the transmitting antenna were revalued by an independent valuer on 25 March 1991 and 28 August 1991 respectively on an open market existing use basis.

The carrying amount of land and transmitting antenna that would have been included in the financial statements had these assets been carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses is €1,525 (2016: €1,525).

### Revaluation reserve

The revaluation reserve has arisen from a valuation carried out on the Authority's land and transmitting antenna in 1991.

	2018	2017
	€	€
As at 1 January	<u>293,699</u>	<u>293,699</u>
As at 31 December	<u>293,699</u>	<u>293,699</u>

### Commitments

The Authority has no capital commitments as year end.

### Fully depreciated fixed assets

Fully depreciated fixed assets still in use at the balance sheet date amounted to:

	2018	2017
	€	€
Motor vehicles	12,950	12,950
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	342,383	342,383
Studio equipment	161,059	161,059
Technical equipment	122,192	122,180
Transmitting Antenna	<u>169,407</u>	<u>169,407</u>
	<u>806,991</u>	<u>807,979</u>

## 6. Trade and other Receivables

	2018	2017
	€	€
Licences receivable	190,987	235,556
Other debtors	8,016	10,322
Prepayments and accrued income	71,670	77,338
Advance payments	<u>2,357</u>	<u>2,357</u>
	<u>273,030</u>	<u>325,573</u>

Licences receivable and other receivables are stated net of a provision for bad debts amounting to €44,475 (2017: €57,622) and €7,226 (2017: €7,982) respectively.



## 7. Capital Fund and Reserve Fund

These funds have been set up in accordance with Section 26 of the Broadcasting Act, 1991. <sup>1</sup>

## 8. Accumulated Reserve

The accumulated reserve represents net accumulated deficit

## 9. Trade and Other Payables

	2018	2017
	€	€
Capital creditor		-
Accruals and deferred income	<u>180,580</u>	<u>192,101</u>
	<u>180,580</u>	<u>192,101</u>

## 10. Related party transactions

	Transaction value for the year ended 31 December		Balance outstanding as at 31 December	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
			€	€
<b>Revenue</b>				
Government subvention	<u>583,000</u>	<u>583,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

## SCHEDULES TO THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

### Schedule 1

#### Income and Expenditure Account Year ended 31 December 2017

	2018 €	2017 €
<b>Income</b>		
Government contributions	583,000	583,000
Application fees	48,880	44,769
Licences	300,467	320,650
Rental fees receivable	47,351	49,143
Master Antenna facilities fees	60,554	60,554
Investment income	863	878
Other income	25,488	17,650
	<b>1,066,603</b>	<b>1,076,644</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Administrative (schedule 2)	536,354	598,031
Research and communications (schedule 2)	98,283	94,928
Production (schedule 3)	-	4,837
Monitoring (schedule 3)	290,552	279,267
Technical (schedule 3)	42,972	35,372
	<b>968,161</b>	<b>1,012,435</b>

### Schedule 2

#### Administrative, Research and Communications Expenses Year ended 31 December 2017

	2018 €	2017 €
<b>Administrative Expenses</b>		
Members' honoraria	63,359	63,604
Legal and consultancy advisors honoraria	5,823	16,376
Wages & Salaries	276,251	286,107
Local programme awards	-	6,038
Staff training	1,303	1,369
Telecommunications	11,112	11,409
Water and electricity	16,771	21,038
Insurance	5,348	5,561
Stationery	10,031	7,773
Subscriptions and publications	2,114	1,795
International organisations membership fees	3,069	2,400
Repairs and maintenance	9,376	4,407
IT maintenance and support	6,719	8,124
Duty visits abroad	12,051	16,424
Transport	8,453	13,284
Cable TV rentals	5,570	5,751
Staff health scheme	18,939	19,670
Sundry expenses	5,516	3,817
Auditors' remuneration	1,600	1,600
Legal and professional fees	2,640	11,674
Depreciation	79,205	74,713
Increase/(Decrease) in provision for bad debts	(13,905)	738
Secretarial services	1,692	-
Material archiving	2,832	11,154
Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	485	3,205
	<b>536,354</b>	<b>598,031</b>

	2018 €	2017 €
<b>Research and Communications Expenses</b>		
Wages and salaries	58,792	55,248
Audience and qualitative research study	23,565	25,099
Seminars and conferences	2,308	-
Public relations	4,129	3,691
Advertising	1,139	691
IGM awards sponsorship	5,200	5,200
Broadcasters' training and support	3,150	3,600
BA reports and publications	-	1,399
	<u>98,283</u>	<u>94,928</u>

### Schedule 3

#### Departmental Expenses Year ended 31 December 2017

	2018 €	2017 €
<b>Production Department</b>		
TV political broadcasts	<u>-</u>	<u>4,837</u>
<b>Monitoring Department</b>		
Wages and salaries	286,138	277,049
Purchase of recording media	417	193
Depreciation	3,583	655
Staff training	414	1,370
	<u>290,552</u>	<u>279,267</u>
<b>Technical Department</b>		
Gharghur site running costs	42,142	35,130
Technical assistance	426	150
Sundry expenses	404	92
	<u>42,972</u>	<u>35,372</u>