**Accessible information television broadcasts**

Indicators on political participation

of persons with disabilities

2014

DISCLAIMER: The background country information reports contain background material for the comparative report on *The right to political participation for persons with disabilities: human rights indicators* by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). The bulk of the information in the background country information reports comes from ad hoc information reports prepared under contract by the FRA’s research network FRANET. The views expressed in the background country information reports do not necessarily reflect the views or the official position of the FRA. These reports are made publicly available for information purposes only and do not constitute legal advice or legal opinion.

**Are television programmes providing instructions for voting and information on candidates accessible?**

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| **EUMS** | **Source and supporting information** |
| AT | The Austrian public broadcasting company ORF provides 63,01% of its political information broadcasts with national language subtitles. Political information broadcasts which are subtitled are daily newscasts and weekly broadcasted political information programs.[[1]](#footnote-1)  The Austrian private television broadcasting company ATV provides no national language subtitles at all. In the private broadcaster’s view, these measures are not affordable and can be seen as duty of the public broadcasting company ORF[[2]](#footnote-2).  0% of the political information broadcasts of the Austrian broadcasting company ORF have audio description. The Department Humanitarian Broadcasting explains that political information broadcasts base on a high density of words. Therefore it would not be possible to include audio description in between. Since the communication of information is based on the spoken word it might be understandable for blind and visually impaired persons.[[3]](#footnote-3)  The Austrian private television broadcasting company ATV provides no audio description at all. According to the information given by a staff member these measures are not affordable and can be seen as duty of the public broadcasting company ORF.[[4]](#footnote-4)  8,38% of the political information broadcasts by the Austrian broadcasting company ORF have national sign language interpretation. The main newscast at 19:30 on ORF 2 can be received via satellite on ORF2-Europe with sign language interpretation as well as the broadcasted meetings of the National Assembly of the Austrian Parliament.[[5]](#footnote-5)  The Austrian private television broadcasting company ATV provides no sign language interpretation at all. [[6]](#footnote-6) |
| BE | No data is available. Instructions for voting are usually provided on paper by mail. Television advertisements from candidates, candidate lists or political parties are prohibited three months before the elections in Belgium (Chapter II of the law of August 12, 2000, amending the law of July 7, 1994, on the limitation and control of electoral expenses, and Article 194 of the Decree of the Flemish Community of 8 July 2011 on local and provincial elections).[[7]](#footnote-7) |
| BG | There is no such information.  Only the news emission at 5 p.m. during the week days on the Bulgarian National TV has sign language for people with hearing problems. There is no other news, nor current affairs programmes that have subtitles.  Furthermore, voting instructions and information on candidates are allowed to be in the national language in the country (Bulgarian).[[8]](#footnote-8) There are no written procedures requiring that the instructions for voting and information on candidates has national language subtitles.  There is no requirement in the legislation that public and/or television broadcasts providing instructions for voting and information on candidates have audio description.  There is no requirement in the legislation that public and/or television broadcasts providing instructions for voting and information on candidates have sign language. The Central Electoral Commission at its own discretion decides on how to create informational videos for deaf people, which are randomly broadcasted in the public TV and radio stations. |
| CY | The only information broadcasted by public and private television accessible to persons with disabilities is the information entailed in the daily news bulletin with subtitles, audio description and sign language as defined by law.[[9]](#footnote-9) |
| CZ | Czech Television (public television) does not have any statistics that specifically concern shows in which election information is given. General statistics show that roughly 70% of all broadcasts (73% of the Czech television news channel ČT24) are shown with subtitles.[[10]](#footnote-10) The main, regular public television news broadcasts in which information on elections *can be* regularly announced are all broadcast with subtitles.  Also, according to the law on election to the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic and the law on the election of President of the Czech Republic, Czech Television (a public institution) is obligated to allot a broadcast time for election advertisements of parties involved in candidacy and individuals running for president. The given political entity, not public television, carries the responsibility for these advertisements. Public television is not allowed to interfere with them in any way.  Audio description has been in a pilot test version in Czech Television since February 1st, 2013.[[11]](#footnote-11)  Czech Television does not keep any statistics that deal specifically with shows in which information strictly on elections is broadcast. General statistics show that roughly 3% of all broadcasts are interpreted into sign language.[[12]](#footnote-12) Also, according to the law on election to the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic and the law on the election of President of the Czech Republic, Czech Television (a public institution) is obligated to allot a broadcast time for election advertisements of parties involved in candidacy and individuals running for president. The given political entity, not public television, carries the responsibility for these advertisements. Public television is not allowed to interfere with them in any way. |
| DE | The information obtained does not differentiate between the content of the broadcast.    According to the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (*Beauftragter der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien*, BKM)[[13]](#footnote-13) depending on the station, up to 62% of the freely receivable broadcastings are subtitled.  The public broadcasting station ARD offers 90 % of its broadcasts on their main channel with subtitles. This includes every new broadcast and most replays. The regional channels of the ARD offer 50-60 % of their content with subtitles. [[14]](#footnote-14)  The other main public broadcasting station in Germany, the ZDF, offers subtitles for selected morning and noon news broadcasts as well as for all broadcasts (not limited to information on elections but all broadcasts) aired between 16:00 pm and 22:15 pm. [[15]](#footnote-15) The station aimed to raise this offer to 65% of its total broadcasting by the end of 2013 and up to 100 % in the medium term.[[16]](#footnote-16)  The public broadcasting station ARD offers 36 % of its main evening broadcast with audio description. Additional content is offered online. According to the ZDF, some selected early evening programmes and movies offer audio description.[[17]](#footnote-17)  Starting in 2014 the ARD aims to offer all of its political report magazines in sign language on their website. ZDF offers its main evening news “Heute Journal” in sign language on its news channel Phoenix as well as online. The Association of private broadcasting stations (*Verband Privater Rundfunk und Telemedien e.V*, VPRT)[[18]](#footnote-18) stated that selected programmes offer sign language. |
| DK | There is no public or accessible data covering all television broadcasts, nor data specifically about voting and information on candidates, nor covering whether the Danish Broadcasting Corporation meets the obligations. The Danish Broadcasting Corporation only mentions the total hours of programs with subtitles, sign language or audio interpretation, which is of 62.6 %, but not specifically in relation to elections. They do mention important programs such as elections.  The data published by the Danish Broadcasting Corporation on their public service activities is[[19]](#footnote-19):  -Number of hours in 2012 with subtitles: 18,227 hours.  -Number of hours in 2012 without subtitles: 10,910 hours.  -Number of hours in total: 29,137 hours.  The Danish Broadcasting Corporation has published data on their public service activities[[20]](#footnote-20):  Number of hours with audio description in 2012: 17.2 hours or 0.06 %  The Danish Broadcasting Corporation has published data on their public service activities[[21]](#footnote-21):  Number of hours with sign language interpretation in 2012: 775 hours, or 2.7%. |
| EE | The Estonian Public Broadcasting did not have subtitled programs in 2009, except bilingual debate series about the current state of affairs (called “The Jury”, “*Vandekohus*”). At the moment, the Estonian Public Broadcasting transmits programs related to politics and elections equipped with subtitles about 10 hours per week (programs discussing current affairs such as "Foorum" (*Forum*) and "Vabariigi kodanikud" (*People of the republic*) are also included).[[22]](#footnote-22)  Starting from June 1st 2013, all broadcasts in foreign language and Estonian broadcasts with foreign language sections are equipped with audio description (subtitles read aloud). This is not stipulated by the law *per se*, but is more of a voluntary development guided by European programmes/guidelines. In the development plans by the Estonian Public Broadcasting the guidelines to be more accessible are generally included. During the last elections in 2009 and in 2011, audio descriptions have not been used.[[23]](#footnote-23) This information relates only to public television.  Once a day, there is a daily news programme (which might include some information about elections during the pre-election period), at 19:20 on the National Television (ETV), which is equipped with a sign language interpretation.[[24]](#footnote-24) |
| EL | No information on this topic was provided by the Ministry of Interior.  Public television (ERT) was shut down in late spring and therefore it was not –and still is not- possible to inquire or collect any information on this topic.  The Instructions issued by the Greek National Council for Radio and Television on the coverage of pre-electoral period before the elections of 17.6.2012 (No 4/29.05.2012) made no reference to subtitled information in public broadcasts.  Private broadcasters Antenna, Skai, Alpha and Star confirmed that there is no practice of use of national language subtitles, except for the news in sign language.  The Instructions issued by the Greek National Council for Radio and Television on the coverage of pre-electoral period before the elections of 17.6.2012 (No 4/29.05.2012) made no reference to audio description in broadcasts providing instructions for voting.  Private broadcasters Antenna, Skai, Alpha and Star confirmed that there is no practice of use of audio description in broadcasts providing instructions on voting, except for the news in sign language.  During the national elections of 2009, the National Confederation of People with Disabilities addressed a letter to the Inter-party Election Committee to support the claim of the Greek Federation of Deaf for availability of sign language interpretation in pre-electoral debates and in the presentation of the party manifestos[[25]](#footnote-25). No measures were adopted in response to this letter.  The Instructions issued by the Greek National Council for Radio and Television on the coverage of pre-electoral period before the elections of 17.6.2012 (No 4/29.05.2012) made no reference to sign language interpretation in broadcasts providing instructions for voting.  Private broadcasters Antenna, Skai, Alpha and Star confirmed that there is no practice of use of sign language in broadcasts providing instructions on voting, except for the news in sign language. |
| ES | The institutional information campaigns elaborated by the public authorities provide voting instructions which are broadcast on the main public and private television channels. This campaign is the only one made to provide instructions for voting and it has language subtitles, audio description and sign language interpretation. For the last 2011 municipal elections six different videos (and radio spots), in Spanish and in the four co-official languages, were prepared including these options.[[26]](#footnote-26)  The specific information on each of the candidates depends on the kind of ad designed by each political party, which in any case should respect the legally established general instructions described below.  A general and complete analysis does not exist regarding the proportion of subtitles . However, a report drafted in 2012 by the Spanish Committee on the Telecommunications Market (CMT) showed the general percentages on the use of subtitles for the main 59 Spanish TV channels (both public and private, both national and regional scopes). [[27]](#footnote-27) 27 channels among them achieved at least the legally established percentages by the 31st of December 2011 (45% for private channels, 50% for public channels). 24 channels did not reach these percentages, and only 8 minor channels did not use subtitles in their entire broadcast programming to this date. More details can be found in the report.    Besides, the Regulation on the basic conditions for the participation of persons with disabilities in political life and electoral processes (Royal Decree 422/2011 of 25 March) establishes with regard to public broadcasting channels:  “Article 7. Electoral propaganda.  2. When using free spaces for electoral propaganda elaborated by candidates, political parties, federations, coalitions and groupings of voters, efforts will be made to attend to the specific accessibility needs of persons with disabilities. Public state television channels and radio stations shall provide these spaces in accordance with the applicable legislation.”  And  “Article 10. Accessibility of institutional electoral information.  1. The institutional campaigns referred to in Article 50.1 of Act 5/1985, of 19 June, which the general state administration disseminates by audiovisual means shall make use of subtitling, audio description, as well as Spanish sign language broadcasting or interpretation, or where applicable, the relevant sign languages of the autonomous communities.  2. The telephone services which the general state administration, where applicable, will make available, shall be accessible for all persons with disabilities; particular attention will be paid to the needs of deaf persons, persons with hearing impairment and deafblind persons”.  Although the Act 7/2010 of the 31st of March on general rules regarding audiovisual communication, [[28]](#footnote-28) provides for the creation of the State Council on Audiovisual Media (CEMA) below itsTitle V, the organ has not been created yet due to the frontal opposition from the owners of major media groups. [[29]](#footnote-29) However, regional councils exist in Andalusia and Catalonia (the council in Navarra was dissolved in 2011).  The institutional information campaigns elaborated by the public authorities provide voting instructions which are broadcast on the main public and private television channels. This campaign is the only one made to provide instructions for voting and it has language subtitles, audio description and sign language interpretation.  A general and complete analysis does not exist regarding the proportion of audio description. However, a Report drafted in 2012 by the Spanish Committee on the Telecommunications Market (CMT) showed the general percentages on the use of audio description for the main 59 Spanish TV channels (both public and private, both national and regional scopes).[[30]](#footnote-30) 19 channels among them achieved at least the percentages foreseen by the legislation by the 31st of December 2011 (1 hour per week for private channels, 3 hours per week for public channels). 8 channels did not reach these percentages, and 32 channels did not use audio description in their whole broadcast programming to this date. More details can be found in the report.  The institutional information campaigns elaborated by the public authorities provide voting instructions which are broadcast on the main public and private television channels. This campaign is the only one made to provide instructions for voting and it has language subtitles, audio description and sign language interpretation.  A general and complete analysis does not exist regarding the proportion of sign language interpretation. However, a Report drafted in 2012 by the Spanish Committee on the Telecommunications Market (CMT) showed the general percentages on the use of sign language interpretation for the main 59 Spanish TV channels (both public and private, both national and regional scopes).[[31]](#footnote-31) 22 channels among them achieved at least the percentages foreseen by the legislation by 31 December 2011 (1 hour per week for private channels, 3 hours per week for public channels). 12 channels did not reach these percentages, and 25 channels did not use sign language interpretation in their whole broadcast programming to this date. More details can be found in the report. |
| FI | There is no official data available about the proportion of election broadcasts with subtitles.  The regulations in place do not stipulate for any data collection on the proportion of television broadcasts providing instructions for voting and information on candidates with national language subtitles.  According to the Finnish Communications Regulatory Authority (*Viestintävirasto, FICORA/Kommunikationsverket, FICORA*), the public administration body under whose mandate it is to follow the implementation of the requirements of the above legislation, in 2012 the proportion of subtitled television programming was 84% in public and 32% (MTV3), 29% (Nelonen) and 47% (Fox) in private broadcasting.[[32]](#footnote-32)  There is no official data available about the proportion of election broadcasts with audio description. According to the Finnish Communications Regulatory Authority (*Viestintävirasto, FICORA/Kommunikationsverket, FICORA*), in 2012 the proportion of audio described programming in public television broadcasting was 89%, and in private broadcasting 90% (MTV3), 100% (Nelonen) and 41% (Fox).[[33]](#footnote-33)  There is no official data available about the proportion of election broadcasts with sign language interpretation. The submission by the Finnish Disability Forum, FDF (*Vammaisfoorumi ry/Handikappforum rf*) on Finland to the Human Rights Committee states that the amount of broadcast programmes in sign language has not increased since 1996.[[34]](#footnote-34) |
| FR | In a report (2011) of the CSA dealing with audio description and subtitles in TV programmes (presented to the Parliament)[[35]](#footnote-35), some data is published concerning the programmes (without specification) provided with subtitles: public channels and private channels TF1, M6 and Canal+ subtitled all their programmes (except for the derogations provided by law: songs performed live, films, etc.) It wasn’t specified whether political information was subtitled; the report only refers to “programmes”.  In addition, channels belonging to the public group France Television (France 2, France 3, France 4, France 5) have a Charter which provides that programs dealing with electoral issues must be subtitled or translated in sign language[[36]](#footnote-36).  The report from the CSA to the Parliament in 2011 describes the low level of involvement of channels in audio description[[37]](#footnote-37). However, there is no specification about the type of programmes.  There is no legal obligation to interpret TV programmes in sign language.  Nevertheless, three public channels (France 2, 3, and 5) provide programmes with sign language interpretation, which are news in the morning for France 2, Parliamentary questions once a week for France 3, and one programme concerning deaf people for France 5.[[38]](#footnote-38)  In the last presidential election, few candidates used interpretation in sign language for their campaign video clips.[[39]](#footnote-39) |
| HR | The Ministry of Public Administration, in collaboration with the Public Relations Service of the Government of the Republic of Croatia (*Služba za odnose s javnošću Vlade Republike Hrvatske*) and the NEC created an informational video on the European parliament elections and an additional video on voter lists. These two videos did not have national language subtitles.[[40]](#footnote-40)  In terms of main public and/or television broadcasts providing instructions for voting and information on candidates, official information is not available.[[41]](#footnote-41)  Election information in the context of news was not adapted to be made accessible to persons with disabilities, nor were the special election programs on the 4th channel. However, four news shows every day have national language subtitles through teletext service.[[42]](#footnote-42)  Following NOVA TV, a private television broadcast, their news programs are not subtitled, but they provide news information through so-called “crawls”, which is moving text at the bottom of the screen that is unrelated to the current content of the program.[[43]](#footnote-43)  In terms of the First program of the Croatian radio, there were programs providing election information, as follows:  European elections: On the 21st of March, summary lists of candidates were read. The program lasted 50 minutes (3.57% of the daily program). From the 25th of March to the 12th of April, party lists and candidates were presented for 55 minutes each day (3.81%), with an additional 30 minute program on the 25th of March.  In the election night, programs totalling 185 minutes were broadcasted on the 14th of April (12.8%), and 60 minutes were broadcasted after midnight, on the 15th of April (4.16%).  Local elections: In the election night, programs totalling 240 minutes were broadcasted on the 19th of May (16.6%), and 60 minutes were broadcasted after midnight, on the 20th of May (4.16%).[[44]](#footnote-44)  Public TV programs devoted to election information were not made accessible to persons with hearing impairments, that is, programs were not subtitled or translated to sign language.  Furthermore, following Nova TV, a private television broadcast, all their news shows provide full audio description.[[45]](#footnote-45)  Election information in the context of news was not adapted to make it accessible to persons with disabilities, nor were the special election programs on the 4th channel.[[46]](#footnote-46)  Furthermore, NOVA TV, a private television broadcast, does not provide sign language interpretation of any of their programs.[[47]](#footnote-47) |
| HU | According to the information provided by the National Election Office, television spots prepared by the National Election Office for the European Parliament, national and local elections in 2009 and 2010 had Hungarian subtitles.[[48]](#footnote-48)  The National Media and Infocommunications Authority (*Nemzeti Média- és Hírközlési Hatóság*) submitted that it was not in the position to provide any information in this regard due to the recent changes in the legislation and in the institutional system of media supervision.[[49]](#footnote-49)  However, according to the assessment of the National Media and Infocommunications Authority as mentioned above, the vast majority of the accessible programs (as identified by Article 39 of the Media Act)[[50]](#footnote-50) on the six largest television channels are subtitled (in the first quarter of 2013 97.7% of the accessible programmes were subtitled, and the remaining 2.3% of the programmes were made accessible through sign language interpretation)[[51]](#footnote-51)  Finally, following the SINOSZ, for the most recent European Parliament and municipal elections in 2009 and 2010, no general information materials on voting were prepared in an accessible way for deaf and hearing impaired persons.[[52]](#footnote-52)  The Media Act requires accessibility only for deaf and hearing impaired persons, thus, there is no legal obligation to provide audio description to any television programmes. As stated by the National Media and Infocommunications Authority, currently there is no available, adequate technical solution which could be used widely and which would ensure full accessibility to television broadcasts for visually impaired persons.[[53]](#footnote-53)  As currently provided by the Media Act,[[54]](#footnote-54) accessibility of announcements of public interest, political advertisements and political programmes for hearing impaired can be ensured either by subtitling or by providing sign language interpretation upon the decision of the media service provider.  According to the assessment of the National Media and Infocommunications Authority, the vast majority of the accessible programs (as identified by Article 39 of the Media Act)[[55]](#footnote-55) on the six largest television channels are subtitled (in the first quarter of 2013 97.7% of the accessible programmes were subtitled, and the remaining 2.3% of the programmes were made accessible through sign language interpretation)[[56]](#footnote-56)Commercial media does not provide sign interpretation at all.  The National Media and Infocommunications Authority monitored the programmes of the six largest TV channels (Duna TV, Duna World, M1, M2, RTL Klub, TV2). The monitoring period lasted for three months. During this period the experts of the Authority analysed altogether 1617 hours of programs. According to their report,[[57]](#footnote-57) 56% of the programs were accessible for deaf and hearing impaired, compared to 45 % in 2012.  Primarily news programs, the parliament broadcast, religious and sport programs and programmes targeting disabled persons has sign language interpretation, and this solely on the public television channels.[[58]](#footnote-58)  As to the latest European Parliament and municipal elections in 2009 and 2010 , following SINOSZ, that upon their request live election television programmes – “primarily regarding the national elections” – had sign language interpretations.[[59]](#footnote-59) |
| IE | The Broadcasting Act 2009 requires the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland to draw up rules which require broadcasters to promote the understanding and enjoyment of programmes by people who are deaf, hard of hearing or blind or visually impaired.  The Broadcasting Authority of Ireland Access Rules 2012 determine the levels of subtitling, sign language and audio description that public and private television broadcasters in Ireland must provide. The BAI Access Rules 2012 specify targets for each broadcast service, specifying individual targets for individual broadcasters.  Targets are specified as a range of percentages and targets are based on an 18 hour broadcast day from 7am to 1am. The main public television broadcasters in Ireland are RTE1 and RTE2.  RTE1 has a specified subtitling access target of 80-85% for 2013, 82-87% for 2014, 84-89% for 2015 and 85-90% for 2016.  RTE2 has a specified access target of 56-62% for 2013, 60-66% for 2014, 63-69% for 2015 and 67-73% for 2016.  The main private television broadcaster in Ireland is TV3, which has a specified subtitling access target of 41-45% for 2013, 43-47% for 2014, 45-49% for 2015 and 47-51% for 2016.[[60]](#footnote-60)  The Broadcasting Authority of Ireland Access Rules 2012 set specific audio description targets for the main public television broadcasters in Ireland only, namely RTE1 and RTE2.  The Access Rules 2012 state that “there are no Irish sign language or audio description requirements in respect of other broadcast services at this time”.  The specified audio description targets for RTE1 and RTE2 are 1.25% for 2013, 1.5% for 2014, 1.75% for 2015 and 2% for 2016.[[61]](#footnote-61)  The Broadcasting Authority of Ireland Access Rules 2012 set specific Irish Sign Language targets for the main public television broadcasters in Ireland only, namely RTE1 and RTE2.  As noted above, the Access Rules 2012 state that “there are no Irish sign language or audio description requirements in respect of other broadcast services at this time”.  The specified Irish Sign Language targets for RTE1 and RTE2 are 1.25% for 2013, 1.5% for 2014, 1.75% for 2015 and 2% for 2016.[[62]](#footnote-62) |
| IT | Laws and provisions regulating the election campaigns provide that all videos offering information and instructions on how to vote broadcast by public and main private television are accompanied by subtitles. About 70% of Rai daytime broadcast are subtitled (also see indicator 11), a figure confirmed by a DPO[[63]](#footnote-63).  RAI is committed to entirely subtitle news and most followed political talk show. Accordingly, political information in public television is almost entirely subtitled. In case of live broadcasting, subtitles are provided using the stenotype method[[64]](#footnote-64).  The proportion of subtitles provided by private television is lower (no data are available and requests for information were not answered). The most important private provider (Mediaset) provides subtitles for the main news and political talk show broadcasts, adopting the live subtitling.  No audio description is provided in Italian public and private television broadcasts providing instructions for voting and information on candidates.  Audio description services in Italian television were reduced in 2012, following the introduction of new digital broadcasting system as reported in a official complaint made by the Italian Union of Blinds and visual impaired (*Unione Italiana Ciechi e Ipovedenti*).[[65]](#footnote-65)  Public television (RAI) broadcasts daily TV news with sign language interpretation. Laws and provisions regulating electoral campaigns provide that public television and radio broadcast videos providing information and instructions on how to vote, shall be translated into LIS (Italian Sign Language). Short clip providing instructions for voting broadcasted by public television are entirely translated into LIS (Italian sign language)[[66]](#footnote-66)  Both Rai and Mediaset (the most important private broadcasting) provide at least a daily edition of news traduced in LIS[[67]](#footnote-67). |
| LT | According to the answers provided by the public and private televisions, as well as CEC, no broadcasts providing instructions for voting and information on candidates have national language subtitles.  National language subtitles are available during one news broadcast.  According to the answers provided by the public and private televisions, as well as CEC, no broadcasts providing instructions for voting and information on candidates are audio-described.[[68]](#footnote-68)  The CEC cooperates closely with the public agency Braille Printing (*Všį “Brailio spauda“*) and the Lithuanian Union of the Blind and Partially Sighted (*Lietuvos aklųjų ir silpnaregių sąjunga*), and provides basic information in braille for each election and also for the Seimas election in 2012. This information is distributed in Lithuanian libraries and published in the magazine Our Word („Mūsų žodis“). Before the Seimas election in 2012 there were 200 copies with 120.000 signs printed in Braille, providing the central information on election procedures and introducing candidates. It was also distributed through the regional branches of the Lithuanian Association of the Blind and Visually Handicapped.  According to the answers provided by the public television and CEC, during the elections 10-12 percent of all elction broadcasts had sign language interpretation. For instance, during the national 2012 elections there were two brodcasts with sign language interpretation, each of 120 minutes duration: „Seimas elections-2012“ initial and final broadcasts, information broadcasts „Today“ („Šiandien“), „News“ (“Žinios“).[[69]](#footnote-69) |
| LU | RTL Luxembourg (private broadcasting business) provides news with subtitles in German once per day[[70]](#footnote-70)  News programmes in Luxembourgish language have sub-titles for the second edition: for Luxembourgish no software exists which translates automatically the spoken texts into subtitles as this is the case for other languages. Thus after the first edition (live emission), a translator produces the subtitles for the second edition.34  To include translation into sign language, two problems should be mentioned: the technical problem (live stream) and the availability of the unique Luxembourgish translator.  Additionally, translation of all the meetings of the municipality council of the City of Luxembourg into sign language (German) is provided systematically since May 2012. All session of the council are broadcast on TV with sign language interpretation. |
| LV | According to information provided by the Latvian Television (LTV), none of the LTV programmes which informed about the candidates and explained the voting procedures had subtitles. However, the LTV broadcast informative videoclips prepared by the Central Election Commission about the voting time, the work of electoral districts, possibilities to apply for voting at home, as well as other information used infographics and typed text.[[71]](#footnote-71)  -Videoclips about the municipal elections are available at <http://cvk.lv/pub/public/30584.html>  -Videoclips about elections to the 10th Saeima (Parliament) are available at <http://cvk.lv/pub/public/29689.html>  According to information provided by the Latvian Television (LTV), the LTV does not have the practice of preparing and broadcasting programmes with audio descriptions.  For the persons with visual impairments, the CEC records in the audio format information about the candidate lists and election programmes. The audiofiles, starting from the 9th Saeima (Parliament) elections are available on the homepage of CEC[[72]](#footnote-72):  -http://cvk.lv/pub/public/29690.html  -http://cvk.lv/pub/public/28712.html  -http://cvk.lv/pub/public/30158.html  -http://cvk.lv/pub/public/29378.html  According to the information provided by the Latvian Television (LTV), the LTV broadcasts all main programmes which provide information about the election candidates and analyse pre-election programmes of the candidate lists with sign language.[[73]](#footnote-73) LTV also prepared and broadcast a series of pre-election discussions "Choose the Future!" live with surdotranslation.  Furthermore, for the Parliament elections in 2010, the Central Election Commission implemented a special project for the hearing impaired voters: information about the candidate lists and election programmes was translated into Latvian sign language.[[74]](#footnote-74)  Links to the videos about the candidate lists and programmes for the 10th Parliament election and election to the European Parliament with sign language interpretation are available on the homepage of CEC:  -http://cvk.lv/pub/public/29699.html  -http://cvk.lv/pub/public/29402.html |
| MT | All voting instruction and candidate information featured on Maltese television programmes in general made use of captions and subtitles including the graphical representation of the party’s emblem, the graphical depiction of the candidate concerned, and the name of the candidate.[[75]](#footnote-75) Such representation by the different political parties concerned was in general made in proportion to parliamentary representation, the exception being for those parties who did not have any parliamentary representation but who were also contesting the general election being given an equal air-time.[[76]](#footnote-76) [  Information slots providing voting instructions on certain political party television stations, such as One TV, did not have sign language interpretation[[77]](#footnote-77).  There is not data regarding the proportion of airtime instructions for voting and information on candidates as compared to total broadcasting schedules for the election campaign period.[[78]](#footnote-78)  The use of subtitling in television news and current affairs programmes is not the norm in Malta; as such broadcasts generally are direct broadcasts. However, crawls (text inserts) and captions are always present at the bottom of the screen in main news bulletins depicting the main news items[[79]](#footnote-79).  News and current affairs programmes do not use audio description.  Broadcasts and rallies by the two major political parties (the only parties represented in Parliament) included Maltese sign language interpretation during the last general election held in 2013.  Election related programmes produced by the Broadcasting Authority on the national television station also included this interpretation. [[80]](#footnote-80) Other political programmes aired on political-party stations [ONE, and Net TV] - with the approval of the Broadcasting Authority] were broadcast with and without sign language interpretation at the discretion of each station [see <http://www.ba-malta.org/prdetails?id=247>]. [[81]](#footnote-81)  The programmes included Maltese sign language and not subtitles.  There is no data relating to proportionality ratings of total sign-language interpretation airtime as compared to total broadcasting airtime[[82]](#footnote-82). |
| NL | According to the Electoral Council, there are hardly any television broadcasts providing instruction for voting, apart from party political broadcasts. Parties can decide for themselves whether they wish to provide subtitles for their election broadcasts.[[83]](#footnote-83) There is however no information on which party political broadcasts for recent elections had subtitles. The three political parties that provided information for this report did not use national language subtitles in their television broadcasts.[[84]](#footnote-84)  Pursuant to the Media Decision 2008, public television stations have the obligation to provide subtitles to 95% of their broadcasts.[[85]](#footnote-85) Private television stations have the obligation to provide subtitles to 50% of their broadcasts.[[86]](#footnote-86)  According to the Dutch Media Authority (*Commissariaat voor de Media*), the public television stations generally comply with the requirements. The private television stations differ in their compliance. Those who provide general broadcasts (Net5 and SBS6) do comply with the requirements.This compliance would include broadcasts providing instructions for voting, but not advertisements or party-political broadcasts. There is however no information available on which types of broadcasts are subtitled. However, considering the high percentage of subtitled programmes, the probability that news and current affairs programmes, including election-related programmes, are subtitled, is very high, especially in the case of public providers. [[87]](#footnote-87)  The editors of the website for persons with hearing impairments (Doof.nl) and the Cooperation Subtitling of all Programmes (*Samenwerkingsverband Ondertitel Alle Programma's,* SOAP) were also consulted. No additional information was provided.[[88]](#footnote-88)  There is very little information available on the use of audio description on Dutch television.[[89]](#footnote-89)  As mentioned above, according to the Electoral Council, there are hardly any television broadcasts providing instruction for voting, apart from party political broadcasts. Parties can decide for themselves whether they wish to provide audio description for their election broadcasts.[[90]](#footnote-90) The three political parties that provided information for this report did not use audio description in their television broadcasts.[[91]](#footnote-91)  There is very little information available on the use of sign language interpretation on Dutch television.[[92]](#footnote-92) According to the Dutch Media Authority (*Commissariaat voor de Media*), there are no rules pertaining to sign language interpretation and this instrument is only used very sporadically, especially in the context of short news bulletins.[[93]](#footnote-93)  As mentioned above, according to the Electoral Council, there are hardly any television broadcasts providing instruction for voting, apart from party political broadcasts. Parties can decide for themselves whether they wish to provide sign language interpretation for their election broadcasts.[[94]](#footnote-94) |
| PL | The NFP submitted a request for relevant statistics to the National Council of Radio and Television, whichreferred to the Polish Television for information. The answer obtained from Polish Television did not include information relevant for this section.  In accordance with the information provided by the President of the Board of the Polish Television during the election campaign before the Elections to the European Parliament (25 May – 5 June 2009) 18 election committees’ (which represent candidates), broadcasted information programmes between 25 May and 5 June 2009 including subtitles for deaf persons.[[95]](#footnote-95) |
| PT | Following an ad-hoc request for information, the public television broadcast Radio and Television of Portugal (*Rádio e Televisão de Portugal*, RTP) replied that the Electoral Campaign broadcasted is the responsibility of the political parties or movements,and is validated by the CNE. Still according to information provided in writing by the RTP, *the Bloco de Esquerda* [BE, Left Block] *usually sends its campaign texts in separate to be sub-titled in the RTP’s pages used for that purpose.*  The [webpage of RTP](http://www.rtp.pt/homepage) includes information on the use of national language subtitles in its multimedia content and programmes. It does not indicate, however, which programmes are subtitled.  Similar information was not identified on the webpages of the private television broadcasts SIC and TVI.  The [webpage of RTP](http://www.rtp.pt/homepage) includes information on the use of audio description in its multimedia content and programmes.  Similar information was not identified on the webpages of the private television broadcasts SIC and TVI.  The RTP replied that the Electoral Campaign broadcasted is the responsibility of the political parties or movements, and is validated by the CNE. According to information provided in writing by the RTP, *only some of the political parties use sign language interpretation in their broadcasting time, e.g. PCP/CDU* *and PSD. The Bloco de Esquerda usually sends its campaign texts in separate to be sub-titled in the RTP’s pages used for that purpose.*  The webpage of RTP includes information on the use of sign language interpretation in its multimedia content and programmes.  On the webpages of the private television broadcasts SIC and TVI, similar information could not be identified. |
| RO | In general, in Romania, programmes in Romanian do not have subtitles. As noted above under 11 the National Council of the Audio-Visual (*Consiliul Naţional al Audiovizualului, CNA)* stated that the subtitle service does not cover the needs of persons with hearing impairments, and noted that it currently only serves a translation purpose for programmes in other languages than Romanian.[[96]](#footnote-96)  The CNA mentioned that, once Romania passes from analogue to digital television services (the deadline being June 2015[[97]](#footnote-97)), subtitling services will be included for those who want the service on a permanent basis.  It is difficult to estimate what proportion have audio description in general, let alone on electoral topics.While not directly replying to this question, in its response to the NFP’s request for public information, the National Council of the Audio-Visual (*Consiliul Naţional al Audiovizualului, CNA*) implies that audio description does not exist at this point. The CNA expressed its wish to organize a public consultation with stakeholders in order to increase access to audio-visual programmes through subtitles or sign language audio description, according to the possibilities of each supplier.[[98]](#footnote-98)  In 2009, the public television had a night news programme where national sign language was used. Currently, the programme grid no longer has this night news programme, and, upon checking recordings of news programmes in general, no sign language could be identified.[[99]](#footnote-99)  The Romanian Television Society (Romanian public television service) in 2008 was sanctioned by the CNCD regarding general provision of sign language interpretation, , based on the monitoring reports of CNA, which, in its turn had summoned the Romanian public television to ensure that public interest information is also accessible to persons with hearing impairments.  At the time, there was only a programme dedicated to persons with disabilities once a week, and the 2 p.m. news programme which had sign language interpretation.[[100]](#footnote-100)  A specific request for information was sent to the public television as well, asking about subtitles, sign language and audio description in general and in the context of electoral campaigns in order to offer instructions for voting and information on candidates, in particular.[[101]](#footnote-101)  Programmes destined to ethnic minorities have Romanian subtitles, according to the Romanian Public Television[[102]](#footnote-102).In its answer to a second request for information on accessibility, the broadcaster added that a programme destined to persons with disabilities called *Oameni ca noi (People like us)* has sign language interpretation.[[103]](#footnote-103)  A news story of the public television from 2013 mentioned as good practice the fact that a territorial branch of the public television is working with two volunteer sign-language translators to translate the week-end news. The practice is presented as unique.[[104]](#footnote-104) The broadcaster does not seem to be aware of the practice of its local branch. |
| SE | All programs about voting made for television have national language subtitles. The programs are broadcast on television in advance of the elections. For example recently a debate between the political parties about the general Elections 2014 was broadcasted live on The Swedish National Televison SVT (*Sveriges Television*)[[105]](#footnote-105). The broadcasts providing information on candidates also have subtitles.[[106]](#footnote-106)  Information on Political candidates and parties are broadcasted on public and private television. The Swedish National Televison SVT (*Sveriges Television*) has made their programs accessible to people with disabilities. SVT offers subtitles, spoken text, sign language interpretation and audio description of their programs. SVT in autumn 2013 launched symbols for each service. Swedish subtitles are also available via teletext.[[107]](#footnote-107) Broadcasts providing information on candidates also have subtitles.[[108]](#footnote-108) SVT collaborates with the private television TV 4, both with regards to symbols and text services.[[109]](#footnote-109)  The proportion of subtitled programs on Swedish National Televison SVT (*Sveriges Television* ) has increased to 71 percent compared to 59 percent in 2011.[[110]](#footnote-110) SVT in its action plan for accessibility for the years 2013-2014 set a target of 80 percent. 92 percent of the programs that are aired between the hours of 18:00 and 23:00 were subtitled.[[111]](#footnote-111)  TV4, which is a private provider, now has subtitles on all pre-recorded programs, and subtitles in live coverage are increasing.[[112]](#footnote-112)  The Swedish National Televison SVT (*Sveriges Television* ) has made its programs accessible to people with disabilities. SVT offers audio description of their programs.[[113]](#footnote-113)  The Election Authority (*Valmyndigheten*) does not provide audio description in its television broadcasts providing instructions for voting. On its web site audio files with information about the elections are published.[[114]](#footnote-114)  SVT offers sign language interpretation their programs.[[115]](#footnote-115) In 2012, SVT broadcast a total of 143 hours of programs in sign language. This has remained almost unchanged since last year.[[116]](#footnote-116)  The private and public TV channels are using their play-channels on the web to provide broadcastings with sign language interpretation.[[117]](#footnote-117)  The Government considers it reasonable that SVT and UR increase the percentage of programs with sign language interpretation compared to current levels, reaching a minimum of 3 percent of the broadcast time of the programs in Swedish until the end of the licence period in 2016.[[118]](#footnote-118)  The Election Authority (*Valmyndigheten*) does not produce or publish films with sign language interpretation for television but provides videos on its webpage.[[119]](#footnote-119) |
| SI | No studies on this issue were identified in desk research.  The major national commercial broadcaster failed to provide reply to our request for data.  The national public broadcaster informed the NFP that persons qualified to respond to our request for data were out of office, but also doubted the existence of this type of data.[[120]](#footnote-120) |
| SK | In Slovakia, providing instructions for voting and information on candidates to persons with disability is not regulated by a special provision, in general it is governed by Law No. 308/2000 Coll. on Broadcasting and Retransmission and on amendment to Law No. [195/2000](aspi://module='ASPI'&link='195/2000%20Z.z.'&ucin-k-dni='31.12.2013') Coll. on Telecommunications (*Zákon č. 308/2000 o vysielaní a retransmisii a o zmene zákona č.* [*195/2000*](aspi://module='ASPI'&link='195/2000%20Z.z.'&ucin-k-dni='31.12.2013') *o telekomunikáciách*). Under these legal regulations, the broadcaster shall ensure that certain part of broadcast programmes is also available to persons with disabilities (e.g. hidden or open titles, sign language, etc.).  Pursuant to Article 18 of Law No. 308/2000 Coll. on Broadcasting and Retransmission and on amendment to Law No. [195/2000](aspi://module='ASPI'&link='195/2000%20Z.z.'&ucin-k-dni='31.12.2013') Coll. on Telecommunications (*Zákon č. 308/2000 o vysielaní a retransmisii a o zmene zákona č.* [*195/2000*](aspi://module='ASPI'&link='195/2000%20Z.z.'&ucin-k-dni='31.12.2013') *o telekomunikáciách*), *(3) A public service broadcaster shall have the duty to ensure multimodal access to its television programme service, such that in every television programme service that it broadcasts digitally, are at least a) 50% of all programmes broadcast accompanied by hidden or displayed subtitles that correspond to the plot of broadcast programmes; b) 3% of all broadcast programmes accompanied by translation into deaf sign language or broadcast in deaf sign language;* *c) 20% of all broadcast programmes accompanied by a voice commentary for the blind.*  Pursuant to Article § 18a *A licensed broadcaster shall have the duty to ensure multimodal access to its programme service such that in every television programme service that it broadcasts digitally, are at least: a) 10% of all broadcast programmes accompanied by hidden or displayed subtitles that correspond to the plot of broadcast programmes or by translation into deaf sign language or broadcast in deaf sign language; b) 3% of all broadcast programmes accompanied by a voice commentary for the blind.*    The Council for Broadcasting and Retransmission keeps statistics on the program broadcast by television program services. The statistics spells out the number of broadcasts with multimodal access that should be broadcast by public service broadcaster and licensed broadcasters in compliance with Law No. 308/2000 on Broadcasting and Retransmission. It also features figures on the actual number of broadcasts with multimodal access.  The public service broadcaster in Slovak republic is RTVS. It has two organizational units STV 1 and STV 2. As of April 2012, 61.66% of the STV 1 programme services were broadcasted with subtitles while it was 59.31% in the case of STV 2. In the case of private broadcasters Markiza, Doma, JOJ and JOJ Plus subtitles and sign language are monitored together; it is therefore impossible to separately assess the share of programme services broadcasted with subtitles and with sign language. As of June 2012, the highest share of programme services in multimodal access was broadcasted by TV JOJ (17.9%). TV JOJ Plus did not meet the criteria for a minimum standard for broadcasting in multimodal access - only 8.3% as of June 2012. TV Doma and TV Markiza met the criteria of the minimum standard.[[121]](#footnote-121)  As of May 2012 STV 1 broadcasted 21.87% of its programme services with a voice commentary while it was 24.36% in the case of STV 2 in April. Licensed broadcasters Markize, Doma, JOJ and JOJ Plus met the minimum standard of broadcasting with a voice commentary. As of May 2012, TV JOJ broadcasted 15.5% of its programme services with a voice commentary.  As of May 2012 STV 1 broadcasted 4.53% of its programme services in sign language while it was 11.31% in the case of STV 2 in April. In the case of licensed broadcasters (Markiza, Doma, Joj, Joj Plus) subtitles and sign language are monitored as a whole; it is therefore impossible to separately assess the share of programme services broadcasted with subtitles and in sign language. |
| UK | A Freedom of information Request was submitted to the BBC on 23 July 2013.  The response from the BBC Freedom of information Request is as follows:  *“For your information, the BBC does not provide “instructions for voting”. We do provide information about candidates at the time of elections as part of our comprehensive coverage to politics on the BBC Democracy Live website: http://www.bbc.co.uk/democracylive//*  *In addition much of the BBC’s output is accessible in a variety of ways whether through subtitles, signed as live or on catch up via the iplayer. Here is a guide to access support for web and iplayer content: http://www.bbc.co.uk/accessibility/guides/”*  As part of the Polls Apart Campaign, Disability Action Northern Ireland evaluated a Party Election Broadcast (PEB) from each Political Party; feedback was also received from focus groups. None of the PEBs considered had subtitles or used sign language and not all had contact details so that people could contact the party for further information.[[122]](#footnote-122) |

1. Information provided by the Austrian Broadcasting Company ORF – Department Humanitarian Broadcasting *(Österreichischer Rundfunk ORF-Abteilung Humanitarian Broadcasting)* on 8 July 2013 in a response to an information request. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Information provided by a staff member of the private television company ATV on 4 July 2013 via telephone as response to an information request. Information request on this topic remained unanswered by the private broadcaster Puls 4. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Information provided by the Austrian Broadcasting Company ORF – Department Humanitarian Broadcasting *(Österreichischer Rundfunk ORF-Abteilung Humanitarian Broadcasting)* on 8 July 2013 in a response to an information request. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Information provided by a staff member of the private television company ATV on 4 July 2013 via telephone as response to an information request. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Information provided by the Austrian Broadcasting Company ORF – Department Humanitarian Broadcasting *(Österreichischer Rundfunk ORF-Abteilung Humanitarian Broadcasting)* on 8 July 2013 in a response to an information request. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Information provided by a staff member of the private television company ATV on 4 July 2013 via telephone as response to an information request. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Belgium, Chapter II of the Law of August 12, 2000, amending the law of July 7, 1994, on the limitation and control of electoral expenses (Chapitre. II : [*Modifications de la loi relative à la limitation et au contrôle des dépenses électorales engagées pour les élections des conseils [provinciaux, communaux et de districts*](http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/cgi_loi/change_lg.pl?language=fr&la=F&table_name=loi&cn=2000081240)*] et pour l'élection directe des conseils de l'aide sociale - Wet betreffende de beperking en de controle van de verkiezingsuitgaven voor de verkiezing van de provincieraden en de gemeenteraden [de districtsraden] en voor de rechtstreekse verkiezing van de raden voor maatschappelijk welzijn*), and Article 194 of the Decree of the Flemish Community of 8 July 2011 on local and provincial elections (*het Lokaal en Provinciaal Kiesdecreet van 8 juli 2011*), available at footnote 6.. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Bulgaria, Electoral Code, Art.133, para 2, available in Bulgarian at: <http://www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135715515>. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Information obtained by national and public TV channels: CYBC, SIGMA TV, MEGA CHANNEL, ANT1. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Sources: Czech Television, personal email communication, statistics for the first month of 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. See <http://www.ceskatelevize.cz/ct24/media-it/213031-ct-spousti-pilotni-vysilani-zvukovych-popisu-poradu-pro-nevidome/> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Sources: Czech Television, personal email communication, statistics for the first month of 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Information obtained from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (*Beauftragter der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien*, BKM). [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Epd medien Nr. 49, 6 December 2013, p. 18. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. http://www.zdf.de/Barrierefreiheit-26740882.html [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Information obtained from ZDF. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Information obtained from ZDF. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Information obtained from the Association of private broadcasting stations (*Verband Privater Rundfunk und Telemedien e.V*, VPRT). [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Denmark, Danish Broadcasting Corporation *(DR)* (2013), *DRs public service-redegørelse 2012,* DR pp. 45-46. Hyperlink accessed 25 July 2013: http://www.dr.dk/NR/rdonlyres/D0F84992-F0E6-4107-A2B2-72B6F35B42D4/5077132/DRsPublicServiceRedegoerelse2012.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Denmark, Danish Broadcasting Corporation *(DR)* (2013), *DRs public service-redegørelse 2012,* DR p. 48. Hyperlink accessed 25 July 2013: http://www.dr.dk/NR/rdonlyres/D0F84992-F0E6-4107-A2B2-72B6F35B42D4/5077132/DRsPublicServiceRedegoerelse2012.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Denmark, Danish Broadcasting Corporation *(DR)* (2013), *DRs public service-redegørelse 2012,* DR p. 47. Hyperlink accessed 25 July 2013: http://www.dr.dk/NR/rdonlyres/D0F84992-F0E6-4107-A2B2-72B6F35B42D4/5077132/DRsPublicServiceRedegoerelse2012.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Information obtained from the Estonian Public Broadcasting [Rahvusringhääling]. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Information obtained from the Estonian Public Broadcasting [Rahvusringhääling]. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. Information obtained from the Estonian Public Broadcasting [Rahvusringhääling]. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. GR, National Confederation of People with Disabilities (2009), Press Release 11.09.2009, accessible at: <http://www.esaea.gr/index.php?module=announce&ANN_id=2601&ANN_user_op=view&ns_news=1&MMN_position=20:20>) [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Please see: <http://elecciones.mir.es/locales2011/Campanas_institucionales/Campanas_institucionales.htm> (accessed on 04/09/2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. Report of the Spanish Committee on the Telecommunications Market [*Comisión del Mercado de las Telecomunicaciones (CMT)*]: Accessibility indicators to the non-encoded television contents [*Indicadores de accesibilidad a los contenidos de televisión en abierto*]: [www.cmt.es/c/document\_library/get\_file?uuid=54c7312a-dd0c-4546-bc7f-4b42f0191495&groupId=10138](http://www.cmt.es/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=54c7312a-dd0c-4546-bc7f-4b42f0191495&groupId=10138) (accessed on 05/09/2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. Act 7/2010, of 31 March, on general rules regarding audiovisual communication [*Ley 7/2010, de 31 de marzo, General de la Comunicación Audiovisual*]. Consolidated version in Spanish: [www.boe.es/buscar/pdf/2010/BOE-A-2010-5292-consolidado.pdf](http://www.boe.es/buscar/pdf/2010/BOE-A-2010-5292-consolidado.pdf) (accessed on 09/07/2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. See: <http://fesp.org/index.php/noticias/item/2848-> (accessed on 04/09/2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. Report of the Spanish Committee on the Telecommunications Market [*Comisión del Mercado de las Telecomunicaciones (CMT)*]: Accessibility indicators to the non-encoded television contents [*Indicadores de accesibilidad a los contenidos de televisión en abierto*] (p.11-13): [www.cmt.es/c/document\_library/get\_file?uuid=54c7312a-dd0c-4546-bc7f-4b42f0191495&groupId=10138](http://www.cmt.es/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=54c7312a-dd0c-4546-bc7f-4b42f0191495&groupId=10138) (accessed on 05/09/2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. Report of the Spanish Committee on the Telecommunications Market [*Comisión del Mercado de las Telecomunicaciones (CMT)*]: Accessibility indicators to the non-encoded television contents [*Indicadores de accesibilidad a los contenidos de televisión en abierto*] (p.11-13): [www.cmt.es/c/document\_library/get\_file?uuid=54c7312a-dd0c-4546-bc7f-4b42f0191495&groupId=10138](http://www.cmt.es/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=54c7312a-dd0c-4546-bc7f-4b42f0191495&groupId=10138) (accessed on 05/09/2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. Finnish Communications Regulatory Authority (Viestintävirasto/Kommunikationsverket, FICORA): Requirements for audio and subtitle services in television programming (Ääni- ja tekstitysvelvoite televisio-ohjelmissa), 8.5.2013, available at (accessed 29.7.2013): <https://www.viestintavirasto.fi/tvradio/ohjelmisto/aani-jatekstityspalvelut.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. Finnish Communications Regulatory Authority (Viestintävirasto/Kommunikationsverket, FICORA): Requirements for audio and subtitle services in television programming (Ääni- ja tekstitysvelvoite televisio-ohjelmissa), 8.5.2013, available at (accessed 29.7.2013): <https://www.viestintavirasto.fi/tvradio/ohjelmisto/aani-jatekstityspalvelut.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. The Finnish Disability Forum, FDF (Vammaisfoorumi ry/Handikappforum rf) 2012: Joint DPO submission on Finland, Human Rights Committee 108th Session. Available at (accessed on 5.8.2013): <http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCCPR%2fNGO%2fFIN%2f14401&Lang=en> [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. The report is available at [www.csa.fr/Etudes-et-publications/Les-autres-rapports/Rapport-au-Parlement-relatif-a-l-audiodescription-et-au-sous-titrage-des-programmes-decembre-2011](http://www.csa.fr/Etudes-et-publications/Les-autres-rapports/Rapport-au-Parlement-relatif-a-l-audiodescription-et-au-sous-titrage-des-programmes-decembre-2011) [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. The Charter is available at [www.francetelevisions.fr/downloads/charte\_des\_antennes\_web.pdf](http://www.francetelevisions.fr/downloads/charte_des_antennes_web.pdf), p. 72 [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. There are no figures. The report only refers to three channels (TF1, France 2, M6) which broadcast with audio description each month one movie or one TV program with large audience. [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. [www.csa.fr/Television/Le-suivi-des-programmes/L-accessibilite-des-programmes/Pour-les-personnes-sourdes-ou-malentendantes-la-langue-des-signes](http://www.csa.fr/Television/Le-suivi-des-programmes/L-accessibilite-des-programmes/Pour-les-personnes-sourdes-ou-malentendantes-la-langue-des-signes) [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. « Pour les sourds, la champagne manque de sous-titres » (« For deaf people, the campaign lacks of sub-titles »), *Libération*, 10 April 2012. Available at: [www.liberation.fr/politiques/2012/04/10/pour-les-sourds-la-campagne-manque-de-sous-titres\_810775](http://www.liberation.fr/politiques/2012/04/10/pour-les-sourds-la-campagne-manque-de-sous-titres_810775) [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. Information obtained from the Ministry of Public Administration (*Ministarstvo javne uprave*) (2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. Information obtained from the Croatian Radio-Television (*Hrvatska radiotelevizija*) (2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
42. Information obtained from the Croatian Radio-Television (*Hrvatska radiotelevizija*) (2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. Information obtained from NOVA TV (2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
44. Information obtained from the Croatian Radio-Television (*Hrvatska radiotelevizija*) (2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
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46. Information obtained from the Croatian Radio-Television (*Hrvatska radiotelevizija*) (2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-46)
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48. Information provided by the National Election Office (12 July 2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-48)
49. Information provided by the National Media and Infocommunications Authority (12 July 2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-49)
50. Hungary, Act CLXXXV of 2010 on Media Services and Mass Media (*a médiaszolgáltatásokról és a tömegkommunikációról szóló 2010. évi CLXXXV. törvény*), Article 39, available in Hungarian at: <http://njt.hu/cgi_bin/njt_doc.cgi?docid=133252.244087>. [↑](#footnote-ref-50)
51. Hungary, National Media and Infocommunications Authority (*Nemzeti Média és Hírközlési Hatóság*) (2013) Supervision of the accessibility requirements supporting the inclusion of persons living with hearing impairment, First quarter of 2013 (*A hallási fogyatékkal élők befogadását segítő feliratozással kapcsolatos kívánalmak ellenőrzése, 2013. I. negyedév*), available at: <http://mediatanacs.hu/dokumentum/159227/akadalymentesitett_musorok_negyedeves_2013.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-51)
52. Information provided by the SINOSZ (19 July 2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-52)
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54. Hungary, Act 185 of 2010 on Media Services and Mass Media (*a médiaszolgáltatásokról és a tömegkommunikációról szóló 2010. évi CLXXXV. törvény*), Article 39. [↑](#footnote-ref-54)
55. Hungary, Act CLXXXV of 2010 on Media Services and Mass Media (*a médiaszolgáltatásokról és a tömegkommunikációról szóló 2010. évi CLXXXV. törvény*), Article 39, available in Hungarian at: <http://njt.hu/cgi_bin/njt_doc.cgi?docid=133252.244087>. [↑](#footnote-ref-55)
56. Hungary, National Media and Infocommunications Authority (*Nemzeti Média és Hírközlési Hatóság*) (2013) Supervision of the accessibility requirements supporting the inclusion of persons living with hearing impairment, First quarter of 2013 (*A hallási fogyatékkal élők befogadását segítő feliratozással kapcsolatos kívánalmak ellenőrzése, 2013. I. negyedév*), available at: <http://mediatanacs.hu/dokumentum/159227/akadalymentesitett_musorok_negyedeves_2013.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-56)
57. Hungary, National Media and Infocommunications Authority (*Nemzeti Média és Hírközlési Hatóság*) (2013) Supervision of the accessibility requirements supporting the inclusion of persons living with hearing impairment, First quarter of 2013 (*A hallási fogyatékkal élők befogadását segítő feliratozással kapcsolatos kívánalmak ellenőrzése, 2013. I. negyedév*), available at: <http://mediatanacs.hu/dokumentum/159227/akadalymentesitett_musorok_negyedeves_2013.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-57)
58. Hungary, National Media and Infocommunications Authority (*Nemzeti Média és Hírközlési Hatóság*) (2013) Supervision of the accessibility requirements supporting the inclusion of persons living with hearing impairment, First quarter of 2013 (*A hallási fogyatékkal élők befogadását segítő feliratozással kapcsolatos kívánalmak ellenőrzése, 2013. I. negyedév*), p. 5, available at: <http://mediatanacs.hu/dokumentum/159227/akadalymentesitett_musorok_negyedeves_2013.pdf>. According to this study, only 2.3% of the accessible programmes were provided with sign language interpretation. [↑](#footnote-ref-58)
59. Information provided by the SINOSZ(19 July 2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-59)
60. See Ireland, (2012) Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, BAI Access Rules 2012, Dublin: BAI, [12], available at [www.bai.ie/?page\_id=2419](http://www.bai.ie/?page_id=2419) (accessed on 13 September 2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-60)
61. See Ireland, (2012) Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, BAI Access Rules 2012, Dublin: BAI, [12], available at [www.bai.ie/?page\_id=2419](http://www.bai.ie/?page_id=2419) (accessed on 13 September 2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-61)
62. See Ireland, (2012) Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, BAI Access Rules 2012, Dublin: BAI, [12], available at [www.bai.ie/?page\_id=2419](http://www.bai.ie/?page_id=2419) (accessed on 13 September 2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-62)
63. Source, FIADDA – Italian Association of families in defence of rights of persons with hearing disorders (*Famiglie Italiane Associate in Difesa dei Diritti degli Audiolesi*), available at: www.fiadda.it/notizia/142-Sottotitoli\_audiovisivi,\_%E2%80%9Cle\_tv\_italiane\_non\_hanno/. Data were presented in a seminar on “Accessibility in Italian television”, held in Florence in May 2012. Data available at: [www.intoscana.it/intoscana2/opencms/intoscana/sito-intoscana/Contenuti\_intoscana/Canali/Societa/visualizza\_asset.html?id=1144823](http://www.intoscana.it/intoscana2/opencms/intoscana/sito-intoscana/Contenuti_intoscana/Canali/Societa/visualizza_asset.html?id=1144823) [↑](#footnote-ref-63)
64. De Seriis L. (2016), *Il servizio sottolitoli Rai*, available at: [www.intralinea.org/specials/article/Il\_Servizio\_Sottotitoli\_RAI](http://www.intralinea.org/specials/article/Il_Servizio_Sottotitoli_RAI) [↑](#footnote-ref-64)
65. Source: <http://giornale.uici.it/audiodescrizioni/> [↑](#footnote-ref-65)
66. Instructions for voting (*Come si vota*), spot broadcasted by Rai – Italian Public Television for the 2013 political election: available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQ0z5iGXkm8 [↑](#footnote-ref-66)
67. The trend is toward the improvement of subtitling methods and the reduction of LIS, as this language is known by a low percentage of people with hearing impairment.. Source: Criba, available at [www.criba-er.it/assets/upload/news/tg5sottotitoli.pdf](http://www.criba-er.it/assets/upload/news/tg5sottotitoli.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-67)
68. Written answers provided by the private television TELE3 and public Lithuanian radio television to the request of NFP-Lithuania. [↑](#footnote-ref-68)
69. Written answer provided by the public Lithuanian radio television to the request of NFP-Lithuania. Central Electoral Commission, written answer of the 10 July, 2013 (No. 2-517 (1.5) to the request of NFP-Lithuania. [↑](#footnote-ref-69)
70. Information obtained from Info-handicap and Only with us (*Nemme mat eis),*on 17 and 23 July 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-70)
71. Information obtained from Latvian Television (LTV) on 6 August 2013 (Information Letter No.419/1-5) and the Central Election Commission on 31 July 2013 (Information Letter No.02-017/171). [↑](#footnote-ref-71)
72. Information obtained from Latvian Television (LTV) on 6 August 2013 (Information Letter No.419/1-5) and the Central Election Commission on 31 July 2013 (Information Letter No.02-017/171). [↑](#footnote-ref-72)
73. Information obtained from Latvian Television (LTV) on 6 August 2013 (Information Letter No.419/1-5). [↑](#footnote-ref-73)
74. Information obtained from the Central Election Commission on 31 July 2013 (Information Letter No.02-017/171). [↑](#footnote-ref-74)
75. The NFP contacted the Broadcasting Authority and 3 TV stations: only the BA and one TV station answered to date. [↑](#footnote-ref-75)
76. Reply received in writing from the Broadcasting Authority in Malta, 27 September 2013. Also see <http://www.ba-malta.org/prdetails?id=239> and <http://www.ba-malta.org/file.aspx?f=1344> [↑](#footnote-ref-76)
77. Reply received in writing from One Productions Ltd, 23 September 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-77)
78. Reply received in writing from Broadcasting Authority in Malta, 27 September 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-78)
79. Reply received in writing from Broadcasting Authority in Malta, 27 September 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-79)
80. Reply received in writing from the National Commission Persons with Disability, 29 July 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-80)
81. Reply received in writing from the Broadcasting Authority in Malta, 27 September 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-81)
82. Reply received in writing from the Broadcasting Authority in Malta, 27 September 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-82)
83. Information obtained from the Electoral Council, 18 July 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-83)
84. Information obtained from political parties, 23/24/25 September 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-84)
85. The Netherlands, Media Decision 2008 (*Mediabesluit 2008*), article 15. [↑](#footnote-ref-85)
86. The Netherlands, Media Decision 2008 (*Mediabesluit 2008*), article 17. [↑](#footnote-ref-86)
87. Information obtained from the Dutch Media Authority (*Commissariaat voor de Media*). [↑](#footnote-ref-87)
88. Information obtained from Doof.nl, 3 July 2013 and from the Cooperation Subtitling of all Programmes (*Samenwerkingsverband Ondertitel Alle Programma's*, SOAP), 17 July, 31 July, 5 August 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-88)
89. Information obtained from Doof.nl, 3 July 2013 and from the Cooperation Subtitling of all Programmes (*Samenwerkingsverband Ondertitel Alle Programma's*, SOAP), 17 July, 31 July, 5 August 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-89)
90. Information obtained from the Electoral Council, 18 July 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-90)
91. Information obtained from political parties, 23/24/25 September 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-91)
92. Information obtained from Doof.nl, 3 July 2013 and from the Cooperation Subtitling of all Programmes (*Samenwerkingsverband Ondertitel Alle Programma's*, SOAP), 17 July, 31 July, 5 August 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-92)
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96. Letter No. 8848/26.08.2013 from the National Council of the Audio-Visual (*Consiliul Naţional al Audiovizualului*) to the Centre for Legal Resources, . [↑](#footnote-ref-96)
97. Letter No. 8848/26.08.2013 from the National Council of the Audio-Visual (*Consiliul Naţional al Audiovizualului*) to the Centre for Legal Resources, , mentions this dead-line as set by Government Decision No. 403/2013 for the approval of the Strategy on the transition from analogue television to terrestrial digital television and the implementation of digital multi-media services at national level (*H.G. Nr. 403 din 19 iunie 2013 pentru aprobarea Strategiei privind tranziţia de la televiziunea analogică terestră la cea digitală terestră şi implementarea serviciilor multimedia digitale la nivel naţional*). [↑](#footnote-ref-97)
98. Letter No. 8848/26.08.2013 from the National Council of the Audio-Visual (*Consiliul Naţional al Audiovizualului*) to the Centre for Legal Resources, . [↑](#footnote-ref-98)
99. Website of the public television available at: http://www.tvrplus.ro/ [↑](#footnote-ref-99)
100. CNCD Decision 353/2008 [↑](#footnote-ref-100)
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111. Swedish Agency for Disability Policy Co-ordination (*Handisam*) Monitoring disability policy in Sweden 2012 (*Hur är läget? Uppföljning av funktionshinderspolitiken 2012),* p. 81, available at: [www.handisam.se/Publikationer-och-press/Rapporter/Handikappolitisk-utveckling/Hur-ar-laget-2013/](http://www.handisam.se/Publikationer-och-press/Rapporter/Handikappolitisk-utveckling/Hur-ar-laget-2013/) [↑](#footnote-ref-111)
112. Swedish Agency for Disability Policy Co-ordination (*Handisam*) Monitoring disability policy in Sweden 2012 (*Hur är läget? Uppföljning av funktionshinderspolitiken 2012),* p. 81, available at: [www.handisam.se/Publikationer-och-press/Rapporter/Handikappolitisk-utveckling/Hur-ar-laget-2013/](http://www.handisam.se/Publikationer-och-press/Rapporter/Handikappolitisk-utveckling/Hur-ar-laget-2013/) [↑](#footnote-ref-112)
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