

# MEASURES CONCERNING ACCESS OF VISUALLY AND HEARING-IMPAIRED PEOPLE TO TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

## POLAND

### 1. Subtitling for deaf and hearing-impaired viewers

1.1. Are there legal provisions on the use of subtitling?

*In Polish broadcasting law there are no explicit legal provisions on the use of subtitling.*

1.2. Are there obligations on Public Service Broadcasters concerning subtitling? If so, what are these? (types of programmes, percentage of programming, etc.)

*There are no specified rules for Public Service Broadcasters regarding subtitling, however some obligations arise from the definition of public service remit. Public radio and television shall carry out their public mission by “providing the entire society and its individual groups with diversified programme services and other services in the area of information, journalism, culture, entertainment, education and sports which shall be pluralistic, impartial, well balanced, independent and innovative, marked by high quality and integrity of broadcast”. Taking into account such model of public service remit, it is reasonably considered that tasks arising from these obligations include, among all, providing services for people with disabilities.*

*Selected programmes are broadcasted with subtitles, which can be found at teletext services. Presently, hearing-impaired viewers are able to watch over 30 hours each month of new programmes with subtitles. Subtitling, which plays an important role in rehabilitation of these viewers, is being added mainly to films, the most popular series, educational programmes, documentaries, current affairs programmes and reportages. It is planned to subtitle sport and news programmes, which are broadcasted live.*

*It should also be mentioned, that subtitles in programmes for children play very important role not only in rehabilitation of young viewers with hearing disabilities, but also as a helpful tool in learning how to read, which is more difficult for them than for their hearing colleagues.*

*The subtitles in Polish public service television are being prepared in cooperation with Polish Association of the Deaf.*

1.3. Are there obligations on commercial broadcasters concerning subtitling? If so, what are these? (types of programmes, percentage of programming, etc.)

*There are no specific legal provisions concerning such obligations.*

1.4. Are there other arrangements concerning the use of subtitling? If so, what are these?

*Some broadcasting licences granted by the National Broadcasting Council of Poland contain provisions concerning broadcaster’s commitments in respect of facilitating access to television programmes by deaf and hearing impaired. On that basis, some broadcasters (in particular movie channels) are required to provide subtitling.*

1.5. Do broadcasters, who are not under any obligation to provide subtitling, provide subtitling on a voluntary basis?

*As mentioned above, there is no general legal obligations in this respect, but some broadcasters provide subtitles. Also some other programme services, especially those available in digital format, provide more and more often such facilities.*

1.6. Are speech recognition systems used or being developed?

*According to our knowledge, broadcasters do not provide any speech recognition system.*

1.7. Are provisions on subtitling envisaged in particular in the context of the digital switchover?

*No provisions on subtitling are envisaged at this time. The national strategy for digital switchover is presently at early stage of elaboration, so it is not possible to forecast its final scope.*

## **2. Audio Description**

2.1. Are there legal provisions on the use of audio description?

*There are no legal provisions on audio description.*

2.2. Are there obligations on Public Service Broadcasters concerning audio description? If so, what are these? (types of programmes, percentage of programming, etc.)

*According to our knowledge, public service broadcasters do not undertake any activities in this matter.*

2.3. Are there obligations on commercial broadcasters concerning audio description? If so, what are these? (types of programmes, percentage of programming, etc.)

*There are no obligations on commercial broadcasters in this matter.*

2.4. Are there other arrangements concerning the use of audio description? If so, what are these?

*No arrangements concerning the use of audio description have been made.*

2.5. Do broadcasters, who are not under any obligation to provide audio description, provide audio description on a voluntary basis?

*According to our knowledge, these broadcasters do not undertake any activities in this matter.*

2.6. Are provisions on audio description envisaged in particular in the context of the digital switchover?

*No provisions on audio description are envisaged at this time. In regard to digital switchover, remarks made in the “Subtitling” section apply.*

### **3. Sign Language**

3.1. Are there legal provisions on translation into sign language?

*There are no legal provisions on translation into sign language.*

3.2. Are there obligations on Public Service Broadcasters concerning translation into sign language? If so, what are these? (types of programmes, percentage of programming, etc.)

*Above remarks concerning obligation of providing subtitles, arising from the public service remit, apply to translation into sign language. Some chosen programmes, including news, are being translated into sign language.*

3.3. Are there obligations on commercial broadcasters concerning translation into sign language? If so, what are these? (types of programmes, percentage of programming, etc.)

*No such obligations on commercial broadcasters are provided for.*

3.4. Are there other arrangements concerning translation into sign language? If so, what are these?

*There are no other arrangements in this matter.*

3.5. Do broadcasters, who are not under any obligation to provide sign language, provide translation into sign language on a voluntary basis?

*These broadcasters do not undertake any activities in this matter.*

3.6. Are provisions on sign language envisaged in particular in the context of the digital switchover?

*No provisions on sign language are envisaged at this time. In regard to digital switchover, remarks made in the “Subtitling” section apply.*