



Accessibility to programming for people with disabilities

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The French landscape

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Workshop Smart Accessibility on Connected TV

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Wednesday, March 18th, 2015



Broadcast TV

	Accessibility for the deaf and hard of hearing	Accessibility for the blind and visually impaired
Legal framework	Law n° 86-1067 of September 30 th , 1986 relating to the freedom of communication as modified by...	
	...Law n° 2005-102 of February 11 th , 2005 for equal rights and opportunities, participation and citizenship of disabled people.	...Law n° 2009-258 of March 5 th , 2009 relating to the audio-visual communication and the new public service of television.
Obligations for public channels	All programmes must be made accessible, except advertising and specific dispensations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The obligation is set by the contract of objectives and means* between France Télévisions and the French State. • The public service broadcaster had to broadcast 1.5 programme with audio-description per day in 2014 (i.e. 547 during the year) on all the group's channels.
Obligations for DTT private TV channels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yearly average audience share > 2.5%: All programmes must be made accessible, except advertising and specific dispensations (from February 12th, 2010). • Yearly average audience share < 2.5%: Substantial obligations (generally 40% of programming) set by an amendment to the agreement signed between the broadcaster and the CSA. 	
Obligations for non-DTT private TV channels that have signed an agreement with the CSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual revenues < 3 M€, adult channels, foreign-language channels, weather channels, PPV channels, temporary channels: no obligation but a commitment to take accessibility measures provided for in the agreement. • Annual revenues between 3 M€ and 7 M€: channels have to make 10% of their programming accessible (from 2011). • Annual revenues > 7 M€: channels have to make 20% of their programming accessible. 	Channels with a yearly average audience share > 2.5% must broadcast some programmes with audio-description.

About subtitling...



→ **Most broadcasters have gone beyond their obligations in 2013.**

→ **The CSA has also proposed innovative solutions for thematic channels:**

-**DTT news channels** have been asked to offer one news programme in sign language per day, with different hours allocated between them.

-**Kids channels** have been asked to broadcast programmes teaching French sign language (FSL) and one programme interpreted in sign language.

→ **A quality code for subtitling has been signed in December 2011 by the Ministry of Culture and Communication, the Secretary of State for social cohesion and solidarity, the President of the CSA, involved associations, broadcasters and subtitling laboratories.**

- This text aims at harmonizing the practices of the broadcasters regarding the way subtitling appears on screen : colours, place, etc.
- It also provides criteria to limit spelling mistakes and misinterpretations, and preconizes some measures to make understanding easier (especially for live debates).

→ **Currently, there is no legal obligation to present programmes in FSL in France.**

-However, certain broadcasters have committed to offer some of their programmes in FSL (DTT news channels, kids channels, public channels...).

-A quality code has been signed in January 2015 to homogenize the practices of the broadcasters.

-Signatories of this code have also committed to investigate new possibilities offered by connected TV and new technologies.

About audio-description...



- **The CSA has introduced measures in favour of audio-description into private channels agreements and the contract of objectives and means* of France Télévisions. Those provisions have been observed in 2014.**

- **All public and private channels provided 1,400 programmes with audio-description in 2014 (first broadcasts and rebroadcasts included), versus 1,145 in 2013.**

- **A quality code has been adopted by the professionals, under the aegis of the inter-ministerial Delegation for people with disabilities.**
 - The CSA signed this text in December 2008.
 - It provides professionals with a framework of reference with specific quality and ethics rules.



On-demand services and connected TV



- **The legal framework: The CSA's deliberation of December 20th, 2011, relating to the protection of young people, ethics and accessibility of programmes on on-demand audiovisual media services (DAMS).**
 - **The CSA has urged DAMS providers and distributors to make programmes accessible to people with disabilities.**
 - **Several meetings took place in 2014 under the aegis of the CSA to discuss with TV broadcasters and distributors about connected TV accessibility on all devices.**
 - **The CIH (inter-ministerial committee for disability) has entrusted the CSA with a mission about accessibility on connected TV, in order to identify practical steps to improve the current situation but also the future offer.**
 - The CSA organized a meeting with the associations and the sector in April 2014 and sent a questionnaire to the delegates.
 - On the basis of their answers, the CSA made an assessment of the situation.
 - The CSA produced a set of recommendations among which :
 - Expansion of subtitling and audio description to all screens and this for both linear and on-demand programming;
 - Improvement of interface accessibility (one button to activate subtitling and audio-description, voice remote...);
- Addition of obligations regarding subtitling and audio-description to the AMS Directive.