

T.C.
RADYO ve TELEVIZYON ÜST KURULU

Uluslararası İlişkiler Dairesi Başkanlığı

Broadcasting

19. Currently, there is no established self-regulation system in terms of protection of minors. Broadcasting Law No 3984, stipulates the broadcasters not to broadcast programmes which may impair social, physical and psychological development of minors during the hours that they may watch (watershed hours),

20. However Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTUK) has noticed that watershed hours application is not enough and started a project to develop a classification system for television programmes in 2001 to protect children and young persons against the harmful content in television programmes. For this reason, a commission composed of academicians from the related departments of the university such as Communication, Psychology, Sociology, Child Psychiatry, and experts from the RTUK has determined the age and content categories suitable for Turkish society.

Accordingly, the Commission has agreed upon four age categories (suitable for all, suitable for ages 7 and up, suitable ages for 13 and up, only for parents) and content of programmes (violence, sexuality, negative behaviours that could be taken as sample). In addition, The Council has assigned four academicians from graphic design departments of universities to develop the icons, which shall be used for classification system. In this process, the Council requested from the designer commission to develop icons, which are easy to learn and remember and also informative.

21. On-screen warning icons shall be applied for potentially harmful television programmes. And these icons will be broadcast together with acoustic and written warnings before such programmes start and also the icons will be placed on the right-bottom part of the screens during the programmes.

Broadcasting Law No. 3984 shall be amended in order to provide harmonisation with the EU Acquis. During the amendment studies, a provision will be added for the application of the system.

22. None of the Turkish broadcasters use technical filtering devices for the protection of minors.

23. Currently, there is no measure to improve media-literacy. However after the classification system and adoption of the icons shall be established, the Council shall commence a campaign to promote the system to end-users, which are parents and guardians. In addition, the Council is aimed to teach the children how to make a responsible use of television by organising conferences and seminars in schools during this campaign.