

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

## *Finland*

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

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

The public service broadcaster by law has a special duty to take into account the special needs of people with disabilities ( The Act on Yleisradio Oy ).

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

No, there are no legal obligations, but all broadcasters sub-title all foreign language programmes in either Finnish or Swedish.

In addition to this YLE, The Finnish Broadcasting company, offers sub-titling also for Finnish language programmes.

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

In the licence conditions for commercial broadcasters there is an obligation, to the extent possible and within reasonable limits, to take into account the special needs of people with disabilities. Attached, please find a copy of MTV3 Finland's licence for analogue transmission in order to give you an idea of the licence conditions.

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

There aren't any.

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

About 20 % of YLE's Finnish language programming is subtitled and because all foreign programming is subtitled this means that approximately 60 % of all YLE's programming is either subtitled so that it is visible to all viewers or in teletext.

There is no significant provision of subtitling for people with impaired hearing by commercial broadcasters.

### **1.6. Are speech recognition systems used or being developed?**

YLE is planning a system that would transform text to speech (talking text). At the moment the company does not have plans to introduce speech recognition system that would transform speech to text.

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

No, not at the moment.

## **2. Audio Description**

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

No.

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

No.

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

No.

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

No.

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

No.

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

No.

## **3. Sign Language**

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

YLE has by law an obligation to produce services in sign language.

According to the Act on Yleisradio Oy the company has to “treat in its broadcasting Finnish-speaking and Swedish-speaking citizens on equal grounds and produce services in the Sami and Romany languages and in sign language as well as, where applicable, also for other language groups in the country.”

**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.)

See above the answer to the first question concerning sign language.

YLE has news broadcasts on a daily basis in sign language on channels TV1 and YLE 24 (digital channel).

**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.

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

No.

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

No.

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

No.