



4.5. CY - Cyprus¹²²

4.5.1. Key findings

- The only obligation fully implemented by media service providers before 2019 was the broadcast of news bulletins in sign language. Therefore, in 2019, the national media regulatory authority (Cyprus Radio-Television Authority – CRTA) required audiovisual media service providers to comply with the law providing for accessibility measures.
- All providers were forced to submit to the CRTA detailed timetables that defined specific actions, with the aim of making as many of their programmes accessible to people with visual and hearing impairments as possible. In 2021, the CRTA evaluated the measures put in place by AVMS providers and considered they were satisfactory.
- In mid-2022 as well as in mid-2023 the CRTA asked providers to submit a new report on their recent relevant actions.
- Most AVMS providers are implementing accessibility measures.
- However, no specific actions have yet been taken regarding accessibility for people with visual impairments (e.g. verbal subtitling/audio description).

4.5.2. Legal framework: primary and secondary legislation

National legislation	Summary of the measures
Article 7(1) AVMSD	
The Radio and Television Broadcasters Law 7(I)/1998 as amended by Law 197(I)/2021, section 30B <i>(Ο περί Ραδιοφωνικών και Τηλεοπτικών Οργανισμών Νόμος του)</i> ¹²³ Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation Law Cap. 300A, as	Instructs service providers to make programmes continuously and progressively more accessible for persons with disabilities. Audiovisual media service providers will aim to progressively increase their programming by at least 5% year on year in addition to short news reports. Measures include subtitling, use of sign language, audio description and spoken subtitling.

¹²² The summary on Cyprus incorporates the feedback received from Ms Chryso Pantopiou, Radio Television Officer at the Cyprus Radio Television Authority, during the checking round with the national regulatory authorities.

¹²³ The Radio and Television Broadcasters Law is available in the original language at: http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/enop/ind/1998_1_7/section-scaafea67e-4c5a-8b26-6da0-2fd14599bf01.html and in English (unofficial version) at: [https://cрта.org.cy/en/assets/uploads/pdfs/FINAL%20CONSOLIDATED%20LAW%20up%20to%20Amendment%20197\(I\).2021.pdf](https://cрта.org.cy/en/assets/uploads/pdfs/FINAL%20CONSOLIDATED%20LAW%20up%20to%20Amendment%20197(I).2021.pdf)



amended by Law 196(I)/21, section 18C <i>(Ο περί Ραδιοφωνικού Ιδρύματος Κύπρου Νόμος)¹²⁴</i>	Every television broadcaster must provide a news programme which is accessible to D/deaf consumers between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. every day.
Article 7(2) AVMSD	
Law 7(I)/1998), section 30B Law 196(I)/21, section 18C	Audiovisual media service providers, and the public service broadcaster (Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation – CBC) must submit a report regularly to the CRTA. The CRTA will submit reports every three years to the European Commission.
Article 7(3) AVMSD	
Law 7(I)/1998), section 30B Law 196(I)/21, section 18C	The CRTA encourages audiovisual media service providers, and the CBC to develop action plans, and these plans should be communicated to the CRTA. Audiovisual media service providers must submit schedules detailing how they plan to progressively increase the percentage by at least 5% year on year for persons with visual or hearing disabilities.
Article 7(4) AVMSD	
Law 7(I)/1998), section 30B Law 196(I)/21, section 18C	The CRTA shall set up a publicly available online point of contact for providing public information about accessibility and receiving complaints relating to accessibility.
Article 7(5) AVMSD	
Law 7(I)/1998), section 30B Law 196(I)/21, section 18C	Media service providers and the CBC will provide emergency information which is made available to the public in an accessible manner.

4.5.3. Overview of national rules

Types of accessibility measures	Brief overview of existing rules
Accessibility measures (hearing impairments)	No specific obligations of this type but media service providers have an obligation to increase the volume of accessible content by 5% year on year on top of pre-existing short news segments.
Accessibility measures (visual impairments)	No specific obligations of this type but media service providers have an obligation to increase the volume of accessible content by 5% year on year on top of pre-existing short news segments.

¹²⁴ http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/enop/ind/0_300A/section-scbc02374e-d128-18d4-5123-9996c1de546e.html



Accessibility measures developed by self- or co-regulatory process	AVMS providers inform the CRTA of their accessibility measures.
Reporting to the NRA – frequency	Yes, on an annual basis.
Designated point of contact for information and complaint	Yes. The CRTA has a general point of contact for dissemination of information and receiving complaints. The Ombudsman for the National Human Rights Institution is also empowered to receive complaints regarding persons with disabilities, including accessibility issues.

4.5.4. Law in practice: selected examples¹²⁵

4.5.4.1. Public service broadcaster: CBC

The Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation provides daily news reports with sign language on its online platform.¹²⁶

4.5.4.2. Private broadcaster: Omega TV

Omega TV provides daily news reports with sign language on its online platform.¹²⁷

¹²⁵ Examples as provided by the national expert.

¹²⁶ See CyBC's on-demand platform at: <https://cybc.com.cy/video-on-demand/%CF%81%CE%B9%CE%BA-2/%CE%B5%CE%B9%CE%B4%CE%AE%CF%83%CE%B5%CE%B9%CF%82-%CF%83%CF%84%CE%B9%CF%82-8-%CF%83%CF%84%CE%B7-%CE%BD%CE%BF%CE%B7%CE%BC%CE%B1%CF%84%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%AE-%CE%B3%CE%BB%CF%8E%CF%83%CF%83%CE%B1/>

¹²⁷ See Omega TV platform at: <https://www.omegatv.com.cy/cgibin/hweb?-A=199244&-V=vod>