



4.6. CZ - Czechia¹²⁸

4.6.1. Key findings

- Broadcasters and on-demand audiovisual media service providers must consult with civil society groups representing persons with auditory or visual-based disabilities to draw up an annual action plan in order to increase the overall share of programmes made accessible.
- Prior to the 2022 amendment, private broadcasters had quotas to meet regarding captioning and audio description, but the amended statute no longer contains this language, as noted by the Council for Radio and Television Broadcasting (RRTV): "The Broadcasting Act will no longer contain a specific commitment in the scope of service availability but sets a system that aims to achieve compliance with accessibility requirements through a gradual and continuous process of making services permanently accessible to persons with disabilities. This objective will be achieved through action plans which broadcasters will be required to prepare for three-year periods."¹²⁹
- Prior to the amendment, RRTV had warned private broadcasters on three occasions about violations, mostly in connection with failure to comply with the obligation to provide access for visually impaired persons to at least 2% of the programmes broadcast in the year 2022.
- Private broadcasters and VOD audiovisual media service providers provide only limited information about accessibility, but awareness appears to be increasing and new policies are being implemented.
- The online complaints procedure is optimised for access by persons with visual impairments using a screen reader.

¹²⁸ The summary on Czechia incorporates the feedback received from the Czech Council for Radio and Television Broadcasting (RRTV).

¹²⁹ The Annual Report of the Council for Radio and Television Broadcasting 2022 (online). Available from: <https://www.rtv.cz/cz/files/zpravy/VZ2022.pdf>



4.6.2. Legal framework: primary and secondary legislation

National legislation	Summary of the measures
Article 7(1) AVMSD	
<p>Act No. 231/2001 on the operation of radio and television broadcasting and amending other laws – consolidated 15 September 2022 (Act 231/2001) – Article 32l, 32(4) – (<i>Zákon č. 231/2001 o provozování rozhlasového a televizního vysílání a o změně dalších zákonů – Konsolidovaný 15. září 2022</i>)¹³⁰</p> <p>Act No. 483/1991 on Czech Television Article 3 (1) j) – (<i>Zákon č. 483/1991 o České televizi Article 3 (1) j)</i>)¹³¹</p> <p>Act No. 132/2010 on on-demand audiovisual media services and amending certain acts – consolidated 15 September 2022 – Article 6b (1) and (4) – (<i>Zákon č. 132/2010 Sb. o audiovizuálních mediálních službách na vyžádání a o změně některých zákonů – Konsolidovaný 15. září 2022</i>)¹³²</p>	<p>Act No. 231/2001:</p> <p>Making programmes accessible for persons with visual or hearing impairments.</p> <p>Exceptions are created for channels that are not made up of individual programmes, music television channels, channels aimed at promoting one’s own products, channels consisting solely of television graphics or video text without spoken language and local broadcasting channels.</p> <p>Act No. 483/1991:</p> <p>Public service broadcaster: 70% of programming with closed or open captioning or simultaneous interpretation into Czech sign language. 2% of programming with Czech sign language. 10% of programming audio described.</p> <p>Act No. 132/2010:</p> <p>On-demand audiovisual media service providers will provide programmes, where practicable, with open or closed captioning, or with sign language interpretation, or audio description, or otherwise provide accommodations for persons with hearing or visual impairments.</p> <p>Exceptions are created for programmes which by their nature cannot be made accessible to a person with hearing or visual impairment, like music shows, promotional materials and programmes consisting solely of graphics or video text without spoken language.</p>
Article 7(2) AVMSD	
<p>Act No. 231/2001 Articles 5(3) and 32 (3)</p>	<p>Act No. 231/2001:</p> <p>RRTV will monitor and evaluate the performance of the commitments of television broadcasters and on-demand</p>

¹³⁰ <https://avmsd.obs.coe.int/sharedSearch/eyJmdWxsVGV4dCI6bnVsbCwiZGlyZWNOaXZlcyI6WzMyNV0slmRpcmVjdGJ2ZXMyIjpbXSwiY291bnRyaWVzIjpbMjdlLjJ2ZXJzaW9uIjo1LjJ2ZXJzaW9uMil6MiwIYmVnaW5EYXRlljpuclWxsLjIjbmREYXRlljpuclWxsLjIjkaXNwbGF5TW9kZSI6MSwibGFuZ3VhZ2UiOjEsInR5cGVpZkxhdyl6Il9hbGxfliwIjW5hYmxlO29tcGFyaXNvbil6ZmFsc2V9>

¹³¹ <https://www.zakonyprolidi.cz/cs/1991-483#p3-1-j>

¹³² <https://avmsd.obs.coe.int/sharedSearch/eyJmdWxsVGV4dCI6bnVsbCwiZGlyZWNOaXZlcyI6WzMyNV0slmRpcmVjdGJ2ZXMyIjpbXSwiY291bnRyaWVzIjpbMjdlLjJ2ZXJzaW9uIjo1LjJ2ZXJzaW9uMil6MiwIYmVnaW5EYXRlljpuclWxsLjIjbmREYXRlljpuclWxsLjIjkaXNwbGF5TW9kZSI6MSwibGFuZ3VhZ2UiOjEsInR5cGVpZkxhdyl6Il9hbGxfliwIjW5hYmxlO29tcGFyaXNvbil6ZmFsc2V9>



<p>Act No. 132/2010 Article 6b (3)</p>	<p>audiovisual media service providers and submit reports to the European Commission once every three years. Each television broadcaster must submit to RRTV an annual evaluation of the implementation of the action plan by 30 September of the year in which the action plan was carried out.</p> <p>Act No. 132/2010:</p> <p>Each on-demand audiovisual media service provider must submit to RRTV an annual evaluation of the implementation of the action plan by 30 September of the year in which the action plan was carried out.</p>
<p>Article 7(3) AVMSD</p>	
<p>Act No. 231/2001 Article 32 (2)</p> <p>Act No.132/2010 Article 6b (2)</p>	<p>Act No. 231/2001:</p> <p>Broadcasters must consult with disabled persons' organisations representing persons with visual or hearing impairment in order to develop an annual action plan to increase the overall share of accessible programming. The action plan is broken down into goals for specific channels and assessed from 1 July to 30 June each year based on total transmission time.</p> <p>Act No. 132/2010:</p> <p>On-demand audiovisual media service providers are subject to the same obligations to consult with disabled persons' organisations to create action plans as television broadcasters.</p>
<p>Article 7(4) AVMSD</p>	
<p>Act No. 231/2001 Article 5 (2) b)</p>	<p>RRTV will act as a publicly available contact point to provide information and receive complaints related to accessibility.</p>
<p>Article 7(5) AVMSD</p>	
<p>Act No. 231/2001 Article 32 (1) k)</p>	<p>Broadcasters are obliged to provide the necessary transmission time for making important and urgent announcements, and to ensure that those announcements are accessible to persons with visual or hearing impairments.</p>

4.6.3. Overview of national rules

Types of accessibility measures	Brief overview of existing rules
Accessibility measures (hearing impairments)	Yes, open and closed captioning, sign language interpretation.



	Public service broadcaster: 70% of programming with closed or open captioning or simultaneous interpretation into Czech sign language. 2% of programming with Czech sign language. Licensed private broadcasters: no specific quotas in most recent act.
Accessibility measures (visual impairments)	Yes, audio description. Public service broadcaster: 10% of programming audio described. Licensed private broadcasters: no specific quotas in most recent act.
Accessibility measures developed by self- or co-regulatory process	Yes, for public service broadcasters and for on-demand audiovisual media service providers. They are obliged to develop action plans in conjunction with disabled persons' organisations.
Reporting to the NRA – frequency	Yes, annual basis.
Designated point of contact for information and complaint	RRTV Broadcasting serves as the online contact point for provision of information and receiving complaints relating to accessibility. Complaints can be made online, by post or via the telephone.

4.6.4. Law in practice: selected examples¹³³

4.6.4.1. Public service broadcaster

Czech television (public service broadcaster) meets its goal of 70% compliance and is approaching 100% subtitled content.¹³⁴

4.6.4.2. Private broadcaster: FTV

FTV (private television broadcaster) offers selected programmes with an additional track of audio description and has established a set of labels to designate programming with accessible functionality.¹³⁵ No information is provided regarding the state of subtitling.

¹³³ Examples as provided by the national expert.

¹³⁴ Hidden subtitles on TV – What's the problem? – SILENT NEWS. SILENT NEWS – News is broadcast in Czech sign language with text in Czech language (online). Available from: <https://www.tichezpravny.cz/skryte-titulky-v-televizi-v-cem-je-problem/>

¹³⁵ <https://podpora.iprima.cz/hc/cs/articles/6258976566428-Labeling-oznacovan%C3%AD-vys%C3%ADlaných-pořadů>



4.6.4.3. VOD: VOYO

VOD VOYO launched a subtitling initiative in 2021 and commits to further subtitles of its own creation being more accessible. Additionally, it provides foreign titles in their original versions with subtitles.