

4.18. LT - Lithuania²²⁷

4.18.1. Key findings

- Lithuania is in the process of developing an information accessibility system, which is scheduled to be live by the end of 2024.
- All governmental and presidential announcements are accompanied by sign language interpretation.
- Lithuania is using a technology driven subtitling software, as well as other equipment which converts text to synthetic speech, which it implemented in 2022.
- The Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania (RTCL) (*Lietuvos radijo ir televizijos komisija*) has not yet published information on how to file a complaint about accessibility.

4.18.2. Legal framework: primary and secondary legislation

National legislation	Summary of the measures
Article 7 (1) AVMSD	
Article 34(2), Law on the provision of information to the public of the Republic of Lithuania, (Consolidated version 1 June 2023) (LRVI) – (<i>Lietuvos Respublikos visuomenės informavimo įstatymas</i>) ²²⁸	<p>Article 34(2): Producers and Disseminators of public information, including audiovisual media service providers,²²⁹ in cooperation with state and local bodies will ensure that information is released to persons with disabilities in a consistent manner.</p> <p>The Lithuanian Public Broadcaster (LRT) must adapt television programmes for persons with “hearing and visual impairment” in accordance with the provisions of the Lithuanian National Radio and Television Law.</p> <p>Other audiovisual media service providers must adapt the public information disseminated to persons with disabilities in</p>

²²⁷ The summary on Lithuania incorporates feedback received from Nerijus Maliukevičius, market research analyst at the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania, during the checking round with the national regulatory authorities.

²²⁸ <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.065AB8483E1E/asr>

²²⁹ A producer of public information is defined as “a provider of an audiovisual media service, a broadcaster of radio programmes, a publishing house, a film, audio, or video studio, an information advertising or public relations agency, an editorial office, a manager of the information society media, an independent producer, a journalist or any other person producing public information or submitting it for dissemination.” LRVI Article 2(77)



Article 5(10) LRVII	accordance with the action plan approved by the regulatory body approved by the government. Article 5(10): LRT will adapt television programmes to benefit persons with hearing and visual impairments. The quotas appear below in 1.1.3.
Article 7 (2) AVMSD	
Article 34(2), LRVII Article 28(5), Law amending the Law on the Provision of Information to the Public (No. XIV) of 14 January 2021 – (2021 m. sausio 14 d. Visuomenės informavimo įstatymo pakeitimo įstatymas (Nr. XIV)) ²³⁰	Audiovisual media service providers must report to RTCL ²³¹ according to the procedure established by RTCL. RTCL will submit a summary report on the implementation of accessibility measures to the EU Commission every three years starting no later than 19 December 2022.
Article 7 (3) AVMSD	
Article 34(2), LRVII	An action plan has been developed between government actors, civil society groups and the media sector to improve information accessibility for persons with disabilities by private audiovisual media service providers. It will be approved by an institution authorised by the government and submitted to RTCL to monitor implementation.
Article 7 (4) AVMSD	
Articles 34(2) and 48(1)(10) LRVII	34(2) RTCL website will contain publicly available information about how to file a complaint about the accessibility of public information; this information should itself be accessible. 48(1)(10) RTCL will examine viewers' complaints concerning the activities of broadcasters and the suppliers of on-demand audiovisual media services, as well as other providers supplying television broadcasts and/or individual programming online, as well as video-sharing platform services.
Article 7 (5) AVMSD	
Article 20(1) LRVII	In the event of an actual or imminent emergency, producers and/or disseminators of public information must publish warnings on behalf of the state and local authorities free of charge or allow state or local authorities to publish live warnings free of charge. Warnings must be published in such a way that they are accessible to persons with disabilities.

²³⁰ <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/394ba4e25a5911eba1f8b445a2cb2bc7>

²³¹ <https://www.rtk.lt/en/>

4.18.3. Overview of national rules

Types of accessibility measures	Brief overview of existing rules
Accessibility measures (hearing impairments)	Subtitling: at least 50% of total monthly transmission time of LRT. Sign language: at least 20% of total monthly transmission time of LRT. Private broadcasters have no quotas but must abide by the action plan.
Accessibility measures (visual impairments)	No specific adaptation mentioned, but 10% of total monthly transmission time must be accessible to persons with visual impairments.
Accessibility measures developed by self- or co-regulatory process	An action plan has been developed in consultation between governmental institutions, civil society groups and the media sector. It applies to private audiovisual media service providers. It is not presently publicly available.
Reporting to the NRA – frequency	Audiovisual media service providers must report “regularly”.
Designated point of contact for information and complaint	RTCL website will provide information about how to file a complaint. That information will be accessible.

4.18.4. Law in practice: selected examples²³²

4.18.4.1. Public service broadcaster: LRT

In 2021 the public broadcaster LRT provided 610 hours of content with subtitling, 503 hours of content with sign language interpretation and 25 hours of content with audio description. It has also implemented software to convert all displayed text to speech.²³³ In previous years, a goal was set to increase the volume of subtitled content by 5% of total broadcasting time year on year, the volume of signed content by 1% every year and content accessible to visually impaired persons by 1% each year, until the target amount is reached.²³⁴ Its video-on-demand platform allows for video quality and speed adjustments when streaming.²³⁵ Its music content provider LRT (mediatheque) makes some content available with subtitles, sign language translation, or audio description.²³⁶

²³² Examples as provided by the national expert.

²³³ https://apie.lrt.lt/api/uploads/LRT_ataska_ita_2021_web_UPDT_45b6db87e4.pdf

²³⁴ <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/7f522eb294e711eaa51db668f0092944>

²³⁵ <https://epika.lrt.lt/>

²³⁶ <https://www.lrt.lt/paieska>



4.18.4.2. Private broadcasters

The private broadcaster TV3 has subtitles available for video content.²³⁷

The private broadcaster and VOD provider Laisvas ir nepriklausomas kanalas and LNK studija LNK.lt allows videos to be slowed down.²³⁸

4.18.4.3. VOD

Other VOD providers including CinemaClub, VšĮ AVAKADEMIJA and MEGOGO, provide subtitles; MEGOGO also provides other content with audio description and sign language interpretation.

²³⁷ <https://pagalba.go3.lt/article/nustatymu-keitimas/>

²³⁸ www.lnk.lt