



4.21. MT - Malta²⁵³

4.21.1. Key findings

- Malta imposes a progressive realisation obligation on media service providers, both linear and non-linear services which provide the same content as linear services, limiting it to proportionate measures.
- Malta has a very detailed complaints procedure along with a timeline, and the national media regulatory authority (Malta Broadcasting Authority) has the ability to adjudicate complaints and order audiovisual media service providers to comply within a time limit.
- Audiovisual media service providers in the Maltese jurisdiction are primarily linear television providers.
- In practice, Malta has provided access to a daily news bulletin and progress remains to be made to improve access to other content.

4.21.2. Legal framework: primary and secondary legislation

National legislation	Summary of the measures
Article 7 (1) AVMSD	
16JB (1) Broadcasting Act, amended in 2020 (<i>Att Dwar Ix-Xandir</i>) ²⁵⁴	Audiovisual media service providers must ensure that content is made progressively and continuously more accessible by means of proportionate measures.
Article 7 (2) AVMSD	
16JB (2) Broadcasting Act	Audiovisual media service providers must submit annual reports to the Broadcasting Authority on the progress made in implementing measures to increase accessibility.
Article 7 (3) AVMSD	
16JB (1) Broadcasting Act	Audiovisual media service providers must submit an action plan detailing measures adopted to increase accessibility to the Broadcasting Authority. The action plan must be updated at least once every two years. The Broadcasting Authority may request the media service provider to make changes to both the action plan and the updates if the authority is of the opinion that the media service provider is not effectively meeting its obligations.

²⁵³ The summary on Malta incorporates feedback received from Dr Joanna Spiteri, chief executive of the Maltese Broadcasting Authority, during the checking round with the national regulatory authorities.

²⁵⁴ <https://legislation.mt/eli/cap/350/eng/pdf>



Article 7 (4) AVMSD	
16JB (3) Broadcasting Act	The Broadcasting Authority must designate a single easily accessible publicly available online point of contact for providing information and receiving complaints.
Article 7 (5) AVMSD	
16JB (4) Broadcasting Act	Audiovisual media service providers must ensure that emergency information, including public communication and announcements in natural disaster situations will be made available in an accessible manner.

4.21.3. Overview of national rules

Types of accessibility measures	Brief overview of existing rules
Accessibility measures (hearing impairments)	No specific measures or quotas contained in the text. Secondary legislation imposes an obligation that a general interest objective television service shall broadcast at least 30 minutes of programming per week accessible to people with a hearing disability. ²⁵⁵
Accessibility measures (visual impairments)	No specific measures or quotas contained in the text.
Accessibility measures developed by self- or co-regulatory process	Yes. Action plans must be submitted to the Broadcasting Authority, which can respond and ask for amendments to the plan.
Reporting to NRA - Frequency	Yes. Audiovisual media service providers must report annually to the Broadcasting Authority.
Designated point of contact for information and complaint	Yes. The Broadcasting Authority provides information and a mechanism for complaints on its website. This mechanism allows for complaints to be submitted in written or electronic form to the main Authority email address.

²⁵⁵ Subsidiary legislation 350.32 – General Interest Objectives (Television Services) (Selection Criteria) Regulations (*Regolamenti dwar il-kriterji tal-għaġla ta' servizzi tat-televiżjoni b'oāāettivi ta' interess āeneralī*): <https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/350.32/eng>



4.21.4. Law in practice: selected examples²⁵⁶

4.21.4.1. Public service broadcaster: PBS Malta

For news bulletins: the public service broadcaster in Malta provides a daily news programme with sign language interpretation and the main news bulletin of the public service broadcaster use a news crawl as well at the bottom of the screen.

4.21.4.2. Private broadcasters

Private broadcasters have a text-based “news crawl” at the bottom of the screen during the main news bulletin.

²⁵⁶ Examples as provided by the national expert.