



4.25. RO - Romania²⁹¹

4.25.1. Key findings

- The Romanian statute encompasses both linear and VOD audiovisual media service providers.
- It recognises a right of access to audiovisual media services.
- It places an obligation on the Romanian cinematographic producers of audiovisual media content to provide subtitling, rather than placing this burden exclusively on the providers of audiovisual media services.
- Under the current legislation action plans are not compulsory, but if they are made and contain information about access for persons with disabilities, that information must be relayed to the national media regulatory authority – the National Audiovisual Council (NAC).
- Further norms are likely to be developed to allow the NAC to effectively monitor and enforce AVMSD Article 7.
- There is a greater focus on accessibility for the D/deaf and hard of hearing communities.

4.25.2. Legal framework: primary and secondary legislation

National legislation	Summary of the measures
Article 7 (1) AVMSD	
Article 10(3)k and n, Law No. 504/2002 of 11 July 2002 (Audiovisual Law) consolidated 3 July 2022 <i>(Legea audiovizualului nr. 504/2002, cu modificările și completările ulterioare consolidată la 3 iulie 2022)</i> ²⁹²	Article 10(3)k The NAC must encourage audiovisual media service providers to ensure the services provided are accessible to persons with hearing or visual disabilities.
41^1 (1); 42^1 (1-5) Audiovisual Act	Article 10(3)n The NAC must encourage audiovisual media service providers to create action plans to make services continuously and progressively more accessible and send these to the NAC. 41^1 (1) Audiovisual media service providers will ensure the services they provide are continuously and progressively more accessible to persons with disabilities, measures to be used including but not limited to sign language, subtitling for the

²⁹¹ The summary on Romania incorporates feedback received from Ruxandra Minea-Cristea, head of the Regulatory and European Union Relations office at the NAC, during the checking round with the national regulatory authorities.

²⁹² <https://www.cna.ro/article12050.12050.html>



	<p>D/deaf or hard of hearing, spoken subtitles and audio description.</p> <p>42¹ (1) This recognises the right of persons with disabilities to have access to audiovisual media services, subject to technological possibilities.</p> <p>42¹ (2) To this end, television programme services with national coverage must provide sign language interpretation and real-time subtitles for a scheduled period of at least 30 minutes a day for news, analysis and debate programming, interpretation into sign language and real-time subtitles for programmes of major importance, and the spoken notice “Attention! This programme is also intended for people who are hard of hearing” accompanied by a written, static, and legible statement of the same. Any programmes of major importance must also be broadcast with a warning sign.</p> <p>42¹ (3) Television programme services with local coverage must provide interpretation into sign language and/or real-time subtitles for a scheduled period of at least 30 minutes a day for news, analysis and debate programmes, interpretation into sign language and/or real-time subtitles for programmes of major importance in full or in summary, and a spoken and written notice of “Attention! This programme is also intended for people who are hard of hearing.” Programmes of major importance must be broadcast with a warning sign.</p> <p>42¹ (4) Television programme services with national coverage broadcast by any means in the form of digital packages must broadcast Romanian feature-length or short cinematographic productions and documentaries produced after 1 January 2019 with Romanian subtitles. The obligation to provide such subtitles rests with the producer of the programme.</p> <p>42¹ (5) Any subtitling provided must be closed rather than open, meaning it can be turned off.</p>
Article 7 (2) AVMSD	



Article 41 ¹ (2) Audiovisual Law	41 ¹ (1)2 Audiovisual media service providers must submit an annual report to NAC on the implementation of accessibility measures. This report should also be published on the provider's website.
Article 10(12) Audiovisual Law	Article 10(12) By 19 December 2022, and every three years thereafter, the NAC shall submit a report to the EU Commission on the applications of Article 41 ¹ (1)
Council Decision No. 320 of 2012 on providing video-on-demand services <i>(Decizia nr. 320/2012 privind furnizarea serviciilor audiovizuale la cerere)</i> ²⁹³	Article 24 of the Council Decision - On-demand providers will ensure the accessibility of their web pages according to international standards for web accessibility.
Article 7 (3) AVMSD	
Article 10 (3)n Audiovisual Law	Article 10 (3)n The NAC will encourage audiovisual media service providers to develop accessibility action plans in order to continuously and progressively make their services more accessible to people with disabilities and send those plans to the NAC.
Article 41 ¹ (3) Audiovisual Law	41 ¹ (3) Audiovisual media service providers must notify the NAC of any action plan that contains measures relating to the accessibility of their services to people with disabilities.
Article 7 (4) AVMSD	
Article 10(8) Audiovisual Law	The NAC is authorised to establish and designate a single, easily accessed (including to persons with disabilities) and publicly available online point of contact for providing information and receiving complaints relating to accessibility.
Article 7 (5) AVMSD	
Note 42 ¹ (6) Audiovisual Law	Emergency information that is made available to the public through audiovisual media services must be provided in a manner which is accessible to persons with disabilities.

4.25.3. Overview of national rules

Types of accessibility measures	Brief overview of existing rules
Accessibility measures (hearing impairments)	Yes. Services with national coverage must provide at least 30 minutes a day of news or current events programming with subtitling or sign language interpretation. They must also provide subtitling or sign language interpretation for programmes of major importance. The subtitling must be of a “closed” variety, meaning it can be turned off. Notifications

²⁹³ <https://www.cna.ro/Decizie-nr-320-din-29-mai-2012,5314.html>



	<p>regarding the accessibility of the programme must be displayed.</p> <p>Any broadcast of Romanian feature-length, or short cinematographic productions or documentaries produced after 2019 by television programme services by means of digital packages must include subtitling provided by the producer of such programmes.</p> <p>Services with local coverage must provide at least 30 minutes of news or current events programming with subtitling or sign language interpretation. They must also provide subtitling or sign language interpretation for programmes of major importance, either in full or in summary. Subtitles must be closed. Notifications regarding the accessibility of the programme must be displayed.</p>
Accessibility measures (visual impairments)	<p>No.</p> <p>Not specifically mentioned by the statute beyond mentioning audio description and spoken subtitling as measures that may be implemented to increase accessibility.</p>
Accessibility measures developed by self- or co-regulatory process	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Audiovisual media service providers are encouraged, but not required, to create action plans and submit these to the NAC.</p>
Reporting to the NRA – frequency	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Yearly reports to the NAC must include information about accessibility if the audiovisual media service provider has created an action plan which includes such measures.</p>
Designated point of contact for information and complaint	<p>The NAC will set up a single, easy to access, online point of contact to publish information and receive complaints relating to accessibility.</p>

4.25.4. Law in practice: selected examples²⁹⁴

4.25.4.1. Public service broadcaster: SRTv

The public broadcaster, the Romanian Television Broadcasting Corporation (SRTv) broadcasts two news programmes with sign language interpretation, the Telejournal at 12 p.m. on TVR 2 and the Telejournal at 2 p.m. on TVR 1, Monday through Friday. The Cultural Journal live broadcast at 9 p.m. Monday through Friday is also broadcast with sign language interpretation. The educational programme TELESKOALA, or Teleschool, is provided with sign language interpretation. SRTv also provides programming promoting the culture of national minorities with sign language interpretation.

²⁹⁴ Examples as provided by the national expert.



SRTv also has a programme entitled “Without Prejudice”, produced by the regional public television station TVR Cluj, which hires reporters with disabilities for on-air reporting. This initiative came from a partnership between Romanian Television and the Hans Spalinger Cluj Association, a civil society group specialising in the education and therapy of persons with disabilities. It has produced more than 350 premier education programmes and presented nearly 1 000 guests and initiatives that promote the rights of persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups. It is provided with sign language translation and as an audio podcast for blind or low vision audience members.²⁹⁵ TVR Cluj was the first television station in Romania to offer sign language interpretation in 2013.²⁹⁶

SRTv recently financed the production of a full-length feature film, *Apostolul Bologa*, with Romanian subtitling for the D/deaf and hard of hearing to be shown in cinemas, and broadcast on television. SRTv is considering setting up access to electronic documents for persons with visual or intellectual disabilities on its news sites.

4.25.4.2. Private broadcaster: Pro TV

The private broadcaster Pro TV introduced sign language interpretation for news programmes starting at 1 p.m. from Monday through Friday, and the morning news at weekends.²⁹⁷

²⁹⁵ http://www.tvr.ro/site-accesibilizat-pentru-persoane-cu-dizabilitati_36517.html#view

²⁹⁶ Duhomnicu, A. and Damian, O. (2022), “Technical and Content Aspects in Sign Language Interpretation in Romanian Television”, *SAECULUM*, Vol. 54, No. 2, 2022, pp. 109-122 online ISSN 2601-1182, DOI: 10.2478/saec-2022-0022

²⁹⁷ <https://stirileprotv.ro/stiri/social/limbajul-international-al-semnelor-legatura-cu-persoanele-hipoacuzice-in-romania-peste-30-de-mii-de-oameni-traiesc-izolati.html>