AD4TV – Voluntary audio description for Interactive Television (iTV)

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In a world with increasingly visual activities, it is crucial to promote and implement alternative strategies to allow visually impaired people to access all visual contents with no limitations.

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Audio description is a translation technique targeted to visually impaired people, enabling them to fully access and enjoy audio-visual content in a more satisfactory way, namely television programs. Currently, audio description is an expensive process as it is performed by qualified professionals, using specific technical resources. Additionally, the Portuguese offer of accessible TV content is restricted, since citizens with visual impairment can only view few programs with audio description in public TV channels (RTP1 and RTP2). To overcome this problem, the AD4TV system allows volunteers to create audio descriptions using an interface that automatically informs the volunteer of the required segments to audio descript (scenes without dialogues or other audio hints). The volunteer can perform the audio description in a web-based platform and upload the audio file to a repository of audio descriptions. The AD4TV system also includes an Interactive Television (iTV) application so that visually impaired viewers can access, through the television set, the audio descriptions generated by the volunteers. In this way, AD4TV intends to widespread the offer of audio description and it also aims to improve the process of accessing audio description by viewers with visual impairment.

Therefore, this solution can reduce social inequalities by proposing new strategies for the inclusion of people with visual impairment in the Portuguese television panorama.