



# ABOUT AUDIO-DESCRIPTIVE COMMENTARY

## RESPECT INCLUSION - FOOTBALL WITH NO LIMITS

Most partially sighted and blind people do not travel to football matches or live events where there is no audio-described commentary service. As such, they may be excluded from many cultural activities that most of society would take for granted.

To ensure better inclusion within football stadia, an audio-described commentary service should be provided for match-going partially sighted and blind fans. This may also assist hard of hearing and deaf fans.

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Live commentary can be provided in a number of different formats and by using various mediums. An easy way to consider audio-commentary is to think about how a commentator usually delivers information via the radio and TV.

Both are different in that the listener of a radio programme relies completely on the description of an event or match whereas a TV viewer will usually pick up much of the information in a visual context alongside a commentary or dialogue.

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**The key to a good audio-description service is to ensure a good commentator.**

**At a live event, an audio-described commentator will provide a dedicated commentary with additional information for people without a visual view of the match or stadium activities.**

The specially trained commentator provides additional narration that describes all significant visual information such as body language, facial expression, scenery, action, clothing, colours and anything else that is important to conveying the image, venue, match, event or surrounding ambience. During the match, the commentator should describe the on-pitch action rather than talking about statistics or tactics or providing lengthy summaries of previous action.

Their training should include an introduction to visual awareness followed by sessions on voice, technique, preparation and language.

In the context of a live football match, audio-descriptive commentary ensures that the partially sighted or blind fan (listener) has a complete understanding of the match he or she is attending and is able to more fully enjoy the match day experience alongside fellow fans. To receive this dedicated service, a partially sighted or blind fan simply picks-up or tunes into the match day audio-described commentary via a headset (receiver) and the commentary is transmitted by the commentator (to the listener) via a transmitter that operates within the stadium bowl. The football club, stadium or venue should be prepared to provide this service. If you wish to consider this service at your venue please do contact CAFE for further advice.

The UEFA EURO 2012 Respect Inclusion - Football with No Limits project will train local volunteers as audio-descriptive commentators so that partially sighted and blind fans can enjoy the match day and stadium ambience alongside their fellow fans during EURO 2012.

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**For more details please contact the Centre for Access to Football in Europe (CAFE)**  
E: [info@cafefootball.eu](mailto:info@cafefootball.eu) T: +44 (0)1244 893585 Skype: cafe-football

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