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WARSZAWSKI

# Warsaw 2030: Public debate accessible to the blind and visually-impaired

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# Warsaw 2030

- Project to define strategies of development of Warsaw within the next 15 years
- 3 main themes approached by working groups: society, economy, space
- Series of debates open to the citizens of Warsaw
- Main goal: citizens exchanging ideas concerning the future of their city

# Accessibility

- Live audio description in the venue
- Sign language interpreting (also accessible through live streaming)
- On-line broadcast (also available after the event)
- Audio induction loop

# Five audio described events

23.09 – 28.10.2015

- The opening debate with the Mayor of Warsaw
- Debates: *Warsaw 2030. Society*  
*Warsaw 2030. Space*  
*Warsaw 2030. Economy*
- Conference: *Warsaw 2030. City of the Future*

# Venues

- Palace of Culture and Science
- University of Warsaw Library
- Culture Promotion Centre in the Praga-Południe district
- Copernicus Science Centre

# Structure of the events

- Duration approx. 2 hours
- 2 parts: presentation & discussion
- Coffee break
- Collection of questionnaires

# Challenges

- Tight time constraints for audio description
- Audio describer's location
- Identification of speakers
- Written agenda
- Limited time for the description of PP presentations

# Audio describer's location

- Wireless microphone
- Coffee table at the back of the hall
- Interpreter's booth



- Time constraints
- Identification of speakers
- Written agenda
- PP presentations

**SOLUTION: AD structure**

# AD structure

- Introduction (5-10 min. before the event)
- Summary of the first part of the discussion (during the coffee break)
- Summary of the second part of the discussion + final remarks (after the event)

# Building blocks

- **Introduction** – welcome; agenda; information of previous and future events; accessibility; introduction of speakers; description of the building; description of the venue space + AD scenario
- **Coffee break** – summary of the Introduction; description of speakers' appearance, age, gender, and behaviour during the first part of the event; description of props and audiovisual materials
- **Final summary** – description of speakers' appearance, age, gender, and behaviour during the second part of the event; description of props and audiovisual materials; farewell + invitation to approach the audio describer

# Main functions

- Radio broadcast
- Simultaneous interpreting
- Guidance through the event

# Attendance ☹️

- The opening debate
- *Warsaw 2030. Society*
- *Warsaw 2030. Space*
- *Warsaw 2030. Economy*
- *Warsaw 2030. City of the Future*

# Social role

- Debates → not particularly suitable for AD, but socially relevant
- Inclusion of the visually-impaired into the social life of Warsaw
- Visually-impaired citizens' right to influence on political decisions
  
- Scarce publicity
  
- Low attendance
  
- Lack of volunteers' support

# Future of live AD in Poland



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Thank you!

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