

Marrakesh Treaty Questionnaire – Republic of Belarus

1. Please indicate the relevant provisions in your national legislation providing for or regulating the limitations and exceptions to facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print disabled.

Article 14 of the Law of the Republic of Belarus dated May 17, 2017, No.262-3 “On Copyright and Related Rights” (hereinafter - Copyright Law) provides the further restriction: in order to provide access for persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled to the legally published works such works can be converted into a special format (bump dots, embossed graphics, tactile editions, special audio formats etc.) intended for clear perception by the mentioned category of people, and thereafter reproduced and also published in the specified format. While the works are converted into special formats they can also be translated into different languages.

While reproducing works in special formats each copy should contain an indication that the copy is oriented to the blind, visually impaired and other persons having disabilities to perceive visual information. Copies of works converted into special formats can be introduced into civil circulation on the territory of the Republic of Belarus, also distributed, imported into the territory of the Republic of Belarus, provided for free use, and leased in ways that exclude unlimited access to them by persons for whom these copies are not intended.

The legislation of the Republic of Belarus does not contain other provisions related to restrictions and exceptions regarding access to published works for the blind and persons with visual impairments or other disabilities.

2. Does your national legislation permit the cross-border exchange (i.e. exportation) of “accessible format copies”, as defined in Article 2 b)1 MVT? If yes, under which conditions?

Yes, it does. Thus, only authorized bodies can carry out a cross-border exchange (export) of documents in an accessible format (Article 2 of the Law of the Republic of Belarus dated May 20, 2020 No. 19-Z “On the Accession of the Republic of Belarus to the Marrakesh Treaty on Facilitating Access for the Blind and Persons with Visually Impaired or Other Disabilities” (hereinafter - Law of Accession)). In addition, cross-border exchange should be carried out in order to ensure access of the blind, visually impaired and other persons with visual disabilities to the legally published works of such works (paragraph 1 of Article 34 of the Copyright Law).

3. Does your national legislation allow the importation of “accessible format copies”, as defined in Article 2 b)² MVT? If yes, under which conditions?

Yes, it does. The adapted copies can be imported to the territory of the Republic of Belarus in ways that exclude unrestricted access to them by persons for whom these copies are not intended (Paragraph 3 of the Copyright Law).

4. Does your national legislation provide a definition of “authorized entity”, as defined in Article 2 c)³ MVT? If yes, please provide the reference.

Yes, it does. In accordance with Article 2 of the Law on Accession libraries, educational institutions and public associations of people with disabilities are identified as authorized bodies that can carry out cross-border exchange of copies of works converted into a special format (copies in an accessible format), which provide services on a non-commercial basis in the field of education or providing access to information for persons with visual disabilities.

5. Please provide a list with contact details of entities that can operate as authorized entities in your territory, and any further information that you can provide, such as number of accessible titles in the catalogue of the authorized entity and the languages covered.

Public associations:

Public Association “Belarusian Association of Visually Impaired”
(cp@beltiz.by);

Public Association “Belarusian Association for Assistance to Children and Young People with Disabilities” (info@lifeguide.by);

Public Association “Belarusian society of Disabled People” (beloi@tut.by).

Libraries:

The National Library of Belarus has 308 adapted work copies in audio format. There is also an opportunity, at the request of readers, to adapt flat-print literature into an accessible format(inbox@nlb.by);

Special City Library for blind persons of the State Institution “Centralized System of State Public Libraries of Minsk” has 5648 works in raised dots format, 14112 works in audio format (sgbs@publib.by);

City Specialized Library No.5 for Visually Impaired Persons of the State Cultural Establishment “Borisov Central Regional Library named after I.Kolodeev” has 186 works in raised dots format and 3328 works in audio format (lib5@borlib.by);

City Specialized Library-Branch No.18 of the State Cultural Establishment “Molodechno Central Regional Library named after M.Bogdanovich” has 54 works in raised dots format and 382 works in audio format (molodechno.library@gmail.com);

Specialized City Library Library-Branch No.27 of the State Institution “Slutsk Regional Central Library” has 110 works in raised dots format and 1742 works in audio format (biblio_slutsk_f27@mail.ru);

City Specialized Library-Branch of the State Cultural Establishment “Cherven Central Regional Library” has 1297 works in audio format (lib_cherven@tut.by);

Special Library-Branch No.12 of the State Cultural Establishment “Brest Central City Library named after A.Pushkin” has 997 works in raised dots format and 3465 works in audio format (filial12.gcbs.brest@gmail.com);

Central City Library of the State Cultural Establishment “Pinsk City Centralized Library” has 132 works in raised dots format and 1684 works in audio format (pinsk-gcb.director@yandex.ru);

Special Library for Visually Impaired Persons of the State Cultural Establishment “Centralized Library System of Hrodno has 424 works in raised dots format, 905 works in audio format and 11 works printed in larger font (cbs-filial12@rambler.ru);

Novogrudok City Special Library has 405 works in raised dots format and 2643 works in audio format (grnvnccsm@mail.grodno.by);

City Library-Branch No.12 of the State Cultural Establishment “Orsha Centralized Library System” has 3832 works in audio format (orsha.cbs@mail.ru);
and others.

Structural units of libraries:

Central City Library named after M.Gorkiy of the Cultural Institution “Centralized Library System of Bobruisk” has 229 works in raised dots format, 4818 works in audio format and 2902 works printed in larger font (cgb-gorkogo@bobruisk-library.by);

Library-Branch No.5 named after Y.Kupala of the State Institution “Gomel Public Libraries Network” has 680 works in raised dots format and 3863 works in audio format (filial5@gorbibl.gomel.by);

Central City Library named after M.Gorkiy of the State Institution “Vitebsk Centralized Library System” has 2834 works in audio format (cgb_vit@tut.by);

Central Library named after A.Pushkin of the State Cultural Establishment “Orsha Centralized Library System” has 535 works in audio format (orsha.cbs@mail.ru);
and others.

Educational institutions:

Institute of Inclusive Education of the Educational Establishment “Belarusian State Pedagogical University named after M.Tank” has 516 works in raised dots format (jio@bspu.by);

Educational Institution “Special school No.188 for visually impaired children of Minsk” has 22000 works in raised dots format (sch188@minsk.edu.by);

State Educational Institution “Hrodno Special Residential School for Visually Impaired Children has 5000 works in raised dots format and 200 works in audio format (school_internat@mail.grodno.by);
and others.