# UNIT 3B. EASY TO UNDERSTAND (E2U) AND AUDIO DESCRIPTION (AD)

## ELEMENT 3. TECHNICAL ASPECTS

## INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSIONALS: BERND BENECKE

## Transcript

Unit 3B, Easy to understand (E2U) and audio description (AD); Element 3. Technical aspects; "Interview with professionals: Bernd Benecke".

Overview. In this video interview, the German AD professional Bernd Benecke will discuss some technical aspects regarding audio description, and he will share his ideas on the way these can contribute to making this form of audiovisual translation easier to understand.

**Bernd Benecke**: Hi, I am Bernd Benecke, the head of audio description at Bayerischer Rundfunk Bavarian Broadcasting in Munich, Germany, and here are my answers to the questions from the EASIT project.

**Question number one: are there specific technical aspect adjustments that could improve the listenability of audio description?**

Well, I can talk about the project that we actually have. Normally, of course, we arrow the description as a mix, as a premix through the usual channels, to the broadcasting and this now is the idea of using HBB TV and an app, which looks like this, to transmit the what we call the "Pure

AD", the second one here, so that blind and visually impaired people can listen to just the description like in the cinema, whereas the soundtrack from the film comes from your TV set and your sighted family members can watch the film without AD and you are able to get the AD on your headset and of course you can adjust the volume and you can maybe make it louder so it is easier to listen for you. That is done in this app, it is still in the testing model so we just kind of have to Android phones and you have to have TV via satellite, so this would be one technical aspect that could help making things easier to understand and easier to listen to.

**Question number two, do you think that extended AD could be a good solution for people with cognitive, intellectual or learning disabilities?**

Well, everybody would love extended AD, of course, when you do not have to put all of your stuff into the small gaps in between the dialogue gaps, but where do you put your extended AD? It is not possible, for example, because you cannot stop the film, so if you like to put some extended AD somewhere you have to, well, go to the internet, maybe to have something like an audio introduction and put your extended AD there or if you have a DVD or a blue ray you can have an additional audio track where you put this extended AD, but especially with things that have to do with getting the story told, you have to put your description in between the gaps.

**Question three, according to you, would TTS AD work better than human voice AD for people with cognitive, intellectual or learning disabilities?**
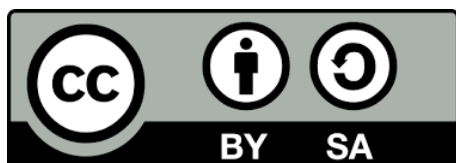
I have to admit I am not a fan of text-to-speech voices. I prefer human voices and therefore I do not see any idea why TTS should be better to understand for the special audience.

This video was prepared by Elisa Perego and produced by Angelika De Marchis, Laura Marini and Annalisa Navetta from Università degli Studi di Trieste, Italy. The narrator was Annalisa Navetta.

**Partners:**