



МАКЕДОНСКИ
ИНСТИТУТ
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НОВИНАРСКИ
НАГРАДИ 2023
**НИКОЛА
МЛАДЕНОВ**

COMMISSION'S REPORT ON AWARDING THE JOURNALISM AWARDS "NIKOLA MLADENOV 2023"

Within the framework of the efforts of the Macedonian Institute for Media (MIM) to support professional journalism, the Commission for awarding the NIKOLA MLADENOV 2023 Journalism Awards, constituted of:

- Verica Jordanova, Chairman of the Board of Directors of MIM
- Jasna Bachovska Nedic, Professor at the Faculty of Law "Justinian Prvi"
- German Filkov, President of the Center for Civil Communications
- Toshe Ognjanov, Multimedia journalist
- Biljana Petkovska, Director of MIM

ADOPTED A DECISION, as follows

The first prize for the Best Research Story is awarded to Aleksandar Dimitrievski for the story "From an underwear company to granted oversight of a EUR 1.3 billion project with outsourced experts", which was broadcast on the show "360 Stepeni".

The Commissions is of the opinion that the series of texts and supporting videos by the author Dimitrievski reveal serious irregularities in the tender procedure for the selection of oversight body over the largest and most expensive infrastructure project in the history of the country - construction of highways by the Bechtel-Enka Consortium.

By disclosing the intention for rigging the tender for oversight, which should be deemed as the only existing control level over the "secret" construction of corridors 8 and 10 and the spending





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of EUR 1.3 billion of public money, the journalist showed an exceptional journalistic engagement, thoroughness and systematic approach in analysis and verification of a large number of documents and data related to the contested tender. The Commission found it particularly important that the story, which is of exceptional public interest, is for the most part based on research conducted on publicly available documents. This, in turn, further emphasizes the meaning of transparency and its role in exposing reckless, illegal and corrupt behavior of individuals and institutions.

The publication of the story led to loud reactions of the public and contributed to initiating a whistle-blowing procedure by the Basic Public Prosecutor's Office for Prosecuting Organized Crime and Corruption. A separate case was also opened by the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, which resulted in a report in which a number of controversial moments were noted. Such was recently submitted to the Prosecutor's Office for further processing and action.

The second prize for the Best Research Story is awarded to the journalist Irena Mulacka for the series of texts related to the events of the Oncology Clinic, published in the weekly magazine "Focus".

Through the aforementioned series of texts, the author Mulacka publishes startling data about serious omissions and malpractices in the treatment of patients at the Clinic for Oncology and Radiotherapy. The series of stories expose in full capacity the illegal, unethical and corrupt actions of certain employees of the Clinic, which raises the social alarm and the pressure on the competent institutions to take more decisive steps for prevention of the above actions.

The commission believes that the journalist deals with an extremely important topic of public interest, especially because it relates to health, a sensitive area that citizens constantly point to as a source of corruption. The story caused an avalanche of reactions in the public, and the public prosecution opened an investigation whereat several people were found suspects.

The third prize for the Best investigative story is awarded to the journalist Martin Pushevski for the series of articles about the struggle of the citizens of Strumica Valley against the opening of the "Ilovica" mine, published on the "Doma" portal.

The series of articles on "Ilovica" reveals the ways in which the mine came a step closer to obtaining work permits, despite the concerns and reactions of citizens and the professional public about the damage that can be caused to the environment in the Strumica Valley. By





МАКЕДОНСКИ
ИНСТИТУТ
ЗА МЕДИУМИ

applying exceptional journalistic engagement, the journalist Pushevski conveys the problems and concerns of the citizens of this region, as well as the views of investors and the authorities. But he also presents the views of lawyers and other experts who found clear violations of procedures and abuses of functions in order to "comply with the wishes" of the investor. The investor is believed to be close to some of the structures in the government.

The story led to loud reactions of the public and a mass protest in Strumica, which resulted in the withdrawal of the Government's decision for merging the concessions.

Certificates of commendation for outstanding journalistic engagement in the category for Best Investigative Story are awarded to:

- **Mirjana Mirchevska Jovanovic**, for the story about the need for passing a law on amnesty for convicted and fined social aid recipients in the pandemic, published on TV Kanal 5
- **Slavica Filipovska Ivanova**, for the story "Unlawful construction on state land which is under state's protection", published in the show "360 Stepeni"
- **Jasmina Jakimova**, for the story "Scams committed by obtaining quick loans at someone else's expense", published on the "Prizma" website.

The award for the Most Innovative Journalistic Product is awarded to the team of journalists Sashka Cvetkovska, Elena Mitrevska Cuckovska, Maja Jovanovska and Ivana Nasteska from the editorial office of the Investigative Reporter's Laboratory for the investigative documentary film "Murder in Tetovo", broadcast on MTV1 and on the IRL website.

The investigative documentary film "Murder in Tetovo" redefines journalistic storytelling. It presents in an innovative way the facts and arguments arising from the months-long investigation led by journalists on the causes for one of the biggest accidents in Macedonia, the fire in the modular covid hospital in Tetovo, in which 14 lives were lost. The film unfolds in real time, allowing viewers to witness the research as it happens. The story combines the techniques of investigative journalism and the proven practices of the film industry by using the familiar five-act narrative structure, commonly used in fiction feature films.

The launch of the film resulted in an avalanche of reactions from the public and encouraged great involvement of users on various social networks through a large number of views, comments and shares of the video.





МАКЕДОНСКИ
ИНСТИТУТ
ЗА МЕДИУМИ

Certificates of commendation for outstanding journalistic engagement in the category of Most Innovative Journalistic Product are awarded to:

- **"Vidi Vaka" editorial office, for the stories on "Inaccessibility to public and cultural institutions for persons with disabilities", "Air pollution in Skopje" and "Challenges faced by women farmers", published on the "Vidi Vaka" web platform**
- **Katerina Topalova for the story "What was wrong with Falishe?", published on the "Doma" web platform**

The award for the Best Reporter's Photo is awarded to the photojournalist Tomislav Georgiev for the photo "Church", published in the online edition of the weekly magazine "Focus".

The photograph showcases an exceptional aesthetic expression and has a deep symbolic meaning. This gains in relevance especially at a time when religious organizations are often (publicly or secretly) present in almost all social events, often imposing dogmatic, conservative and quite frequently nationalist discourse in relation to social problems.

This year's competition, announced on January 31 and closed on February 26, 2024, received numerous applications, as follows:

- 39 stories covered in 175 texts/supporting videos for the **Best Research Story category**
- 15 topics covered in 16 texts/supporting videos for the category **Most Innovative Journalistic Product**
- 21 photos for the **Best Reporter Photo category**.

The Commission came to the conclusion that in the course of last year journalists worked dedicatedly and thoroughly and produced quality researches that reveal and analyze topics and issues of high public interest. Such encouraged institutional resolution in cases where irregularities and misuses by individuals and institutions were detected.

The Commission welcomes and encourages the trend of increased use of information and communication technologies and the application of new, creative ways of journalistic expression. This also goes for journalistic stories of a serious investigative format, whereat the Commission encourages the newsrooms to invest even more in this area.





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ИНСТИТУТ
ЗА МЕДИУМИ

The Commission is of the opinion that portals and newspapers lack sufficient investment in the production of authentic journalistic photos and photo stories. Hence, the Commission encourages the above to invest more in this work area, in particular considering that journalistic photos can cover all aspects of social events and increase the attractiveness and visibility of journalistic products, especially in the online environment.

The awards for the best investigative story have been traditionally awarded by MIM since 2001. As of 2013, the award bears the name of the well-known respected journalist and owner of the weekly magazine "Focus", Nikola Mladenov. Two additional special categories were introduced in 2021- the most innovative journalistic product and the best journalistic photo.

Skopje, 19th March, 2024



Јуриј Гагарин 17-1/1
Скопје, Македонија
+389 2 30 90 144
mim@mim.org.mk
www.mim.org.mk



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Links to award-winning journalist stories:

Best Research Story - First Prize

From an underwear company to granted oversight of a EUR 1.3 billion project with outsourced experts

<https://360stepeni.mk/video-vrtoglavi-sumi-za-nadzorot-nad-behtel-i-enka-300-iljadi-evra-po-pregovarach-20-iljadi-evra-mesechno-za-nadzoren-inzhener/>

<https://360stepeni.mk/odgovorot-na-elektra-solushns-za-izborot-na-nadzor-nad-behtel-i-enka/>

<https://360stepeni.mk/video-intervju-so-direktorot-na-jpdp-ejup-rustemi-za-spornite-elementi-od-dogovorot-za-nadzor-nad-behtel-i-enka/>

<https://360stepeni.mk/video-novi-sporni-momenti-vo-nadzorot-nad-behtel-i-enka-falat-kluchni-dokumenti-za-23-eksperti/>

<https://360stepeni.mk/video-firmata-so-27-permanentno-vraboteni-inzheneri-vo-nadzorot-nad-behtel-i-enka-ima-samo-dvajtsa-vraboteni-spored-godishnata-smetka-za-2022-g/>

<https://360stepeni.mk/video-za-kolku-dena-ja-vadele-litsentsa-drugite-ako-firma-od-nadzorot-nad-behtel-i-enka-zavrshi-rabota-za-4-dena/>

<https://360stepeni.mk/video-novinarite-laot-koridorite-si-vrvat/>

<https://360stepeni.mk/avtopatite-ke-chinat-nad-2-milijardi-evra-i-ke-se-gradat-10-godini-tvr-di-vrvot-na-vmro-dpmne/>

<https://360stepeni.mk/video-obvinitelstvoto-pochnuva-so-raspiti-vo-vrska-so-tenderot-za-nadzor-nad-behtel-i-enka/>

Best investigative story - second prize

The "Oncology" scandal

<https://tinyurl.com/yh9ue3am>

Best investigative story - third prize

The struggle of the people of the Strumica Valley against "Ilovica" mine

<https://doma.edu.mk/pod-lupa/nazif-destani-od-ekolog-vlozhil-milioni-vo-euromaks-za-da-kopa-zlato-vo-strumichko/>

<https://doma.edu.mk/pod-lupa/sudot-go-donese-ekolog-na-nazif-destani-na-chekor-od-otvoranje-na-rudnikot-ilovica/>

<https://doma.edu.mk/pod-lupa/nazif-destani-od-ekolog-ja-predomisli-vladata-za-rudnikot-ilovica/>

<https://doma.edu.mk/pod-lupa/sluchaj-ilovica-moralna-odgovornost-za-ministerska-neodgovornost/>

<https://doma.edu.mk/pod-lupa/strumichkata-kotlina-mobilizirana-protiv-rudnikot-ilovica/>

<https://doma.edu.mk/pod-lupa/investicijata-na-nazif-destani-vo-euromaks-e-vrzana-so-koncesiite-za-ilovica/>

<https://doma.edu.mk/pod-lupa/pravoto-se-tegne-kako-testo-koga-treba-da-se-ugodi-za-ilovica/>

<https://doma.edu.mk/pod-lupa/koi-kje-ponese-odgovornost-za-vladinoto-pu-pu-ne-vazhi-za-ilovica/>

<https://doma.edu.mk/pod-lupa/euromaks-povtorno-tuzhi-za-ilovica-aktivisti-baraat-odgovornost-od-bekteshi/>

<https://doma.edu.mk/zagaduvanje/makedonija-se-pretvora-vo-rudarsko-el-dorado/>



Јуриј Гагарин 17-1/1
Скопје, Македонија
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The most innovative journalistic product

Murder in Tetovo

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ElyQKTyc8Q&t=76s&ab_channel=InvestigativeReportingLab

Best photojournalism

Church

https://fokus.mk/vladikata-petar-gi-razbbudi-kritikite-kon-tsrkvata/?fbclid=IwAR03GJHkEBetfBT2a-iPqkswoEWkCCRIFm_KA32XFCLUBD8CAAtA6soJB91U

Commendations for outstanding journalistic engagement in the Best Investigative Story category

The story about the need to pass an amnesty law for the convicted and fined social aid recipients during the pandemics

<https://kanal5.com.mk/videos/565507/limani-ne-e-edinstveniot-shto-e-vo-zatvor-poradi-prekrshuvanje-na-policiskiot-chas>

<https://kanal5.com.mk/narodniot-pravobranitel-kje-im-pomogne-na-onie-koi-nesvesno-go-prekrshile-policiskiot-chas/a565820>

<https://kanal5.com.mk/kanal-5-storija-limani-koj-beshe-osuden-za-prekrshuvanje-policiski-chas-na-sloboda/a568510>

<https://kanal5.com.mk/majka-na-malo-dete-treba-da-odi-za-zatvor-poradi-prekrshuvanje-na-policiski-chas-vo-pandamigata/a568898>

<https://kanal5.com.mk/nevlavdani-so-apel-pratenicite-da-go-donesat-zakonot-za-amnestija-za-kovid-kaznite/a570017>

<https://kanal5.com.mk/katarina-gjorgjevikj-ja-dobi-prvata-bitka-i-se-odlozhuva-zatvorskata-kazna-za-tri-meseци/a570171>

<https://kanal5.com.mk/predlog-zakonot-za-amenstija-za-kovid-prekrshitelite-kje-se-nosi-po-skratena-postapka/a571050>

<https://kanal5.com.mk/donesen-zakonot-za-amnestija-kanal-5-so-serijal-za-potrebata-od-ovoj-zakon/a573752?fbclid=IwAR3jlaAD6UThIFmnE371wRJR1KmNIFZnKmfZrGT3gASnubqNwwWFn-KfI>

https://kanal5.com.mk/zavrshi-golgotata-na-katarina-i-nejziniot-sin-potpishan-ukazot-na-zakonot-za-amnestija/a574255?fbclid=IwAR2I2YZNq_stoMXnzfTUTo8WtOqBLUGFANOHEOshsgYEFhB7rNENDhLSbvA

Illegal constructions on state land which is under state's protection

<https://360stepeni.mk/video-na-povidok-nova-divogradba-vo-kontaktna-zona-na-starata-skopska-charshija/>

<https://360stepeni.mk/video-kako-napredna-divogradbata-blizu-starata-skopska-charshija/>

<https://360stepeni.mk/video-nepobedivi-divogradbi-na-plasticharska-digu-bara-tsentar-da-ja-povtori-postapkata-za-rushene-gerasimovski-ke-gi-tuzhi-na-upraven/>

<https://360stepeni.mk/video-dodeka-se-traga-po-storitelite-divogradbite-na-plasticharska-dobija-i-struja-na-divo/>

<https://360stepeni.mk/video-koj-stoi-zad-divogradbata-shto-im-go-narushi-mirot-na-penzionerite-vo-chair/>

<https://360stepeni.mk/video-na-kurto-dudush-mu-nikna-divogradba-i-pred-opshtina-toj-e-ramnodushen/>



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Скопје, Македонија
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mim@mim.org.mk
www.mim.org.mk



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<https://360stepeni.mk/video-direktorot-na-gradezhniot-inspektorat-za-neprijavenite-standovi-i-kola-anketnot-list-e-moja-obvrska-ama-greshkata-e-kaj-sektorot-za-chovechki-resursi/>

<https://360stepeni.mk/video-divogradbi-na-plasticharska-ojo-skopje-ima-potentsijalni-osomnicheni-no-prodolzhuva-ping-pongot-megu-institutsiite-za-nivno-rushene/>

<https://360stepeni.mk/sluchaj-nepobedlivi-divogradbi-na-plasticharska-inspektoratot-veli-deka-opshtinata-go-sabotirala-rusheneto-za-tsentar-toa-se-neseriozni-tvrdena/>

Scams by obtaining quick loans at someone else's expense

<https://prizma.mk/brzi-krediti-na-tug-grb/>

Commendations for outstanding journalistic engagement in the category of Most Innovative Journalistic Product

Inaccessibility to public and cultural institutions for persons with disabilities

<https://vidivaka.mk/za-okolu-200-000-grag-ani-so-poprechenost-makedoni-ae-nepristapna-drzhava>

Air pollution in Skopje

<https://vidivaka.mk/makedonija-zemja-bez-resenie-za-cist-vozduh/>

The challenges faced by women farmers

<https://vidivaka.mk/kako-e-da-se-bide-zemjodelka/>

What was wrong in Falishe?

<https://doma.edu.mk/zagaduvanje/shto-faleshe-vo-falishe/>



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