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**Contest for EU award for investigative journalism**

**Turkey/2015**

Instructions for submission of entries/nominations

National Coordinator: P24

Contest publication date: April 12, 2015

Deadline for receipt of entries/nominations: May 12,2015

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**1. Context**

The EU award regional scheme for investigative journalism in Western Balkans and Turkey is established by the European Commission, DG Enlargement, following the EU Enlargement strategy which recognizes strong need for ensuring freedom of expression in the media, and for support to investigative journalism to monitor the reform processes and to keep the historical momentum toward the EU accession.

The EU award for investigative journalism will be given each year in the period of three years in each of seven EU-Enlargement countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo[[1]](#footnote-1)\*, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey, rewarding the investigative journalistic work published in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Investigative stories contributing to transparency and reporting on societal issues related to abuse of power and fundamental rights, corruption and organised crime that otherwise would not have been brought to the public's attention will qualify for the award.

The award fund for seven beneficiary countries for three years in total is 210,000 Euro. Annual award fund for each country is 10,000 Euro; 1-3 journalists shall be awarded in each country each year; 3000- 5000 Euro per individual prize is to be awarded.

The award is administered by the regional partnership of civil society organisations, coordinated by the Peace Institute in Ljubljana, which was selected for that task by the European Commission:

* Albanian Media Institute (AMI), Tirana, Albania
* Media and Civil Society Foundation Mediacentar Sarajevo (MCF), Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
* Kosovo Press Council Kosovo (KPC), Pristina, Kosovo
* Macedonian Institute for Media (MIM), Skopje, Macedonia
* Montenegro Media Institute (MMI), Podgorica, Montenegro
* Novi Sad School of Journalism (NSSJ), Novi Sad, Serbia
* Platform24 (P24), Istanbul, Turkey

Associate partner: The Guardian Foundation, London, United Kingdom.

The European Commission will supervise and approve each important step in the awarding procedures.

**2. Purpose**

The EU award for investigative journalism aims at celebrating and promoting outstanding achievements of investigative journalists and improving the visibility of quality investigative journalism in the Western Balkans countries and Turkey.

**3. Award fund**

The award fund in Turkey in 2015, (for achievements in 2014, ) is **10,000 Euro.**

**Up to three** best entries will be awarded.

The individual award prize ranges between **3,000 and 5,000 Euro**.

In exceptional cases the jury may decide not to award all prizes if the quality of entries is not adequate. Any remaining funds from the current contest shall be transferred to the next year annual fund.

The prize amounts are presented in gross value, from which deductions shall be made in line with the national provisions.

In cooperation with The Guardian Foundation the best investigative story in the region will be selected from the winners of the seven country contests. The author shall be invited to a study visit to The Guardian/Observer.

**4. Rules of the contest**

4.1 What kind of investigative stories are eligible?

P24, as a member of the regional partnership of civil society organisations which is administering the EU award for investigative journalism is seeking for nominations for the award for:

* Investigative stories published between 1 January – 31 December 2014 reporting on societal issues related to abuse of power and fundamental rights, corruption and organised crime in Turkey that otherwise would not have been brought to the public's attention.

It is possible to nominate for the EU award the investigative stories published or broadcasted at any type of media in Turkey: print, radio, TV, online or combination of those.

4.2 Who can participate in the contest?

A journalist or a group of journalists can be nominated for the award for investigative stories published between 1 January – 31 December 2014 reporting on societal issues related to abuse of power and fundamental rights, corruption and organised crime in Turkey that otherwise would not have been brought to the public's attention.

It is possible to nominate for the award the investigative stories published or broadcasted in the media in the Turkey (for the audience of Turkey in official language, minority language(s) or international languages.

Nominations for investigative stories published in the media in Turkey (for the audience of Turkey in languages other than official language of Turkey (minority or ethnic group language, international language) should be complemented with translation in the official language of the country.

Entries/nominations can be submitted by:

1. Journalists/group of journalists who are candidates for the award (self-nominations)
2. Physical persons or organisations (e.g. media associations, trade unions, universities, etc.) provided that nominees give prior consent.

**Self-nominations are particularly welcome**.

The journalist or group of journalists can submit **one or more entries**. Each entry must be submitted separately.

The candidate for the award and the nominator accept the rules and conditions of this contest.

Candidates for the award must be willing to affirm that they are the authors of the work being nominated and if awarded, also willing to present themselves in public.

The candidate for the award must not be in in any of the situations listed Section 2.3.3 of the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EU external actions (available from the following Internet address: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/document.do?chapterId=2.3.3.&id=221)

**5. How to submit the entry/nomination?**

5.1 Entry forms

Entries/nominations must be prepared on the entry forms and in accordance with the instructions. Forms must be completed in Turkish.

The complete entry/nomination includes:

1. **Form A: Presentation of the nominated story and the journalist**

**1.1 Attachment to Form A:** Investigative story.   
In case the investigative story was published or broadcasted in language different from the official language a translation has to be included.

**2. Form B: Declaration by the journalist and the nominator**

5.2 Where to submit the entry/nomination?

The entry/nomination must be submitted **electronically** to the following **e-mail address**: EUAward@platform24.org ; **subject title**: EU award Turkey/2015 - >name of the nominator<

Please follow these guidelines for submission:

* Forms A and B must be sent in PDF format. Requested signatures must be evident.
* The investigative story attached to the Form A has to be submitted as follows:
  1. *Print:* Attach a PDF of your entry or provide URL where your entry can be read.
  2. TV/radio: Provide URL where your entry can be viewed/heard
  3. Online: Provide URL where your entry can be accessed

5.3 Deadline for submission of entries

Deadline for submission of entries **by e-mail**: **May 12, 2015; 17:00 hrs**

**6. Further information**

Send your question to this e-mail address: [EUAward@platform24.org](mailto:EUAward@platform24.org%20)

Answers to questions received 5 days before the deadline for submission of the entries/nominations will be provided on the website: [www.platform24.org](http://www.platform24.org)

**7. Evaluation and selection of entries/nominations**

The entries compliant with the eligibility and administrative requirements will be evaluated by the jury against selection and award criteria:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Criteria | MAX score |
| **1. Relevance of the investigative story**   * How relevant for the society/people in the country are the issues/cases of abuse of power and fundamental rights, corruption and organised crime revealed by the investigative story? * To what extent the story revealed facts of high importance and public interest, previously kept hidden from public scrutiny by important and powerful players? | **30** |
| **2. Quality of the investigative story**   * How strong is the hypothesis and how well is/are the key problem(s) elaborated? * How comprehensive/in-depth/thorough/carefully done with great attention to detail is the research carried out and presented in the story? How well the story covers different angles? To what extent were data verified? * How well is the story written and composed? How good is the presentation style? | **50**  10  20  20 |
| **3. Originality**   * To what extent did the investigative story tackle issues that had not been brought to public attention yet or to a limited scale? * Did the author use any new approaches in presenting the story? | **10** |
| **4. Journalist’s professional commitment and integrity**   * Has the author showed professional commitment and integrity, especially over a longer period of time? * How is this reflected in his/her other work achievements? | **10** |
| **TOTAL** | **100** |

**Additional criteria to be applied in case two or more top entries reach the same score**:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Criteria | MAX score |
| **5. Impact**   * Was the submission picked up by other media and did it have any impact on public opinion? * Did the submission provoke any follow-up action by the responsible persons and/or the judiciary? | **10** |

In case substantial number of entries is received, the jury will make a pre-selection on the basis of relevance and quality of the entry and establish a short list. Short listed entries will be fully assessed using the above criteria.

**8. Notification of award candidates/nominators on the jury decision**

The applicants/nominators will be notified on the results of the contests by a notification letter.

**9. Annexes:**

* Entry forms: Form A and Form B *(attached as a separate file).*

1. \* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence [↑](#footnote-ref-1)