**Application Guidelines**

**EU Award for Investigative Journalism in 2019**

National Coordinator: BIRN Hub, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Deadline for application: 17/07/2019, 12:00 PM (CET)

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**1. Background**

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 recognises a strong need for ensuring freedom of expression in the media, and for support to investigative journalism to monitor the reform processes and to keep momentum towards EU accession.

Through the Award scheme, 63 prizes will be awarded for investigative work published in 2018, 2019 and 2020, nine from each project country (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey).

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

Fund for the awards will be 210,000 EUR, with a total of 10,000 EUR per country annually.

The award is administered by BIRN Hub and project partners within the EU funded project: “Strengthening Quality News and Independent Journalism in the Western Balkans and Turkey”. Project partners responsible for the implementation of the activity are as follows:

* BIRN Albania, Tirana, Albania
* Center for Investigative Journalism of Montenegro CIN-CG, Podgorica Montenegro
* BIRN Hub, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
* BIRN Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia
* Independent Union of Journalists and Media Workers (SSNM), Skopje, North Macedonia

Investigative stories contributing to freedom of expression, rule of law, transparency and reporting on 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.

**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 Balkan countries and Turkey.

**3. Award fund**

The award fund in each country in 2019 (for achievements in 2018) is **10,000 EUR.** The first prize will be 5,000 EUR, the second 3,000 EUR, and the third prize will be 2,000 EUR.In exceptional cases the jury may decide not to award all prizes if the quality of entries is not adequate.

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

**4. Eligibility criteria**

**Who can participate?**

Individuals or group of journalists are eligible to apply with all journalism forms (print, online, radio and TV) published or broadcasted in the media in each country in official, minority or international languages.

Articles eligible for submission must appear in print, online, radio and TV media outlets during the 2018 calendar year.

Investigative stories published in languages other than official language(s) of the country should submit translation in the official languages of the country or English.

Nominations can be submitted by:

* Individuals or groups of journalists who are the authors of the nominated investigative piece;
* Other individuals and organisations with prior written consent of the author(s)

Individuals or groups of journalists are allowed to submit one investigative piece or a series of articles with the same thematic focus.

The candidate for the award and the nominator accept the rules and conditions of this contest, it also needs to be willing to present themselves in public.

The journalist may not participate in the contest or be awarded a prize if he or she is in any of the situations listed in 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?nodeNumber=2.3.3>

**Eligibility of the investigative stories**

Investigative stories contributing to freedom of expression, rule of law, transparency and reporting on 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 submitted application must demonstrate an original approach to researching and reporting an important aspect of the topic. Appropriate research should be conducted in order to produce in-depth investigation. The investigation should feature fresh information and interviews, and be analytical and investigative in nature.

Investigative stories need to be published between January 1 and December 31, 2018.

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

5.1 Entry forms

Entries must be prepared on the entry forms and in accordance with the instructions. Only complete entry forms will be accepted for the prize.

5.2. Nominating story

* 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 or submit the entry in an easily accessible electronic format.
	3. Online: Provide URL where your entry can be accessed or submit the entry in an easily accessible electronic format.

5.2 Where to submit the entry/nomination?

The entry/nomination must be submitted **electronically** to the following **email address**: euawards@birn.eu.com; **subject title**: EU award >name of the nominator<

5.3 Deadline for submission of entries

Deadline for submission of entries **by email**: 17/07/2019, 12:00 PM

**6. Further information**

Send your question to this email address: euawards@birn.eu.com

**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** | **20** |
| **2. Quality of the investigative story and its elements**  | **30** |
| **3. Impartiality** | **20** |
| **4. Originality**  | **10** |
| **5. Journalist’s commitment and integrity**  | **10** |
| **6. Impact**  | **10** |
| **TOTAL** | **100** |

In a case where two or more top entries reach the same score, the advantage will be given to the applicant that has more points in the section related to quality of investigation.

**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 form