

The Association of Journalists of Kosovo announces Annual Journalism Awards Competition - 2023

The Association of Journalists of Kosovo (AJK), in close partnership with the European Union Office in Kosovo, with the support of the European Fund for Democracy, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Mission in Kosovo, the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society, and the Voice of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians, announces the Annual Journalism Awards competition.

Our aim is to honour journalists who produced stories in 2023, either independently or as employees of different media. Our goal is to appreciate media coverage and inspire journalists to continue covering important issues for the audience.

The winners of the Annual Journalism Awards will be journalists and cameramen/camerawomen/photojournalists, who, often under difficult circumstances, produce news that have a significant impact in Kosovo.

Journalists from all over Kosovo, regardless of their age, gender, or community, are invited to apply if their stories were published from January 1, 2023 to November 19, 2023. Journalists should be nominated by their newsroom or they can be self-nominated. In both cases, a letter justifying the nomination for journalist of the year together with the attached links of the nominated journalist's work must be sent to the AJK e-mail address.

The application form can be downloaded [at this link](#) and submitted to the AJK e-mail address: aplikimet@agk-ks.org by December 4, 2023.

Journalists have the right to compete with only one story or cycle of stories that covers the same topic, and only in one category.

AWARD CATEGORIES:

1. Journalist of the Year

This award is given to a journalist committed to the highest standards of the profession, who throughout the year has produced news that has had a positive impact in Kosovo, and despite the aggravated environment of journalism and personal risks, has provided high quality coverage, thereby also building public discourse. This includes journalists who monitor the spending of public money, serve as observers of events that shape the interactions between the economy, politics, and other areas in Kosovo. The topics can be from any sector and are evaluated based on the following criteria: writing style and skills; the value of writing and the impact on viewers in general; unique approach; degree of difficulty and logistical challenges; story coverage; available resources and tools used in gathering information; impact on society; the effect achieved after the publication of the story; and promotion of public discussion.

The award goes to the most active journalist who in 2023 constantly worked on the publication of exclusive stories which sparked off debate in public opinion. Another very important element is the effect achieved after the publication of the story/stories.



Eligible for this category are:

- TV stories;
- Video stories published in online media;
- Written web stories.

Prize: EUR 1,000

2. Best TV Story of the Year

A story that had the greatest impact during 2023 will be awarded in this category. The topics can be from any sector and are evaluated based on the following criteria: writing style and skills; the value of writing and the impact on viewers in general; unique approach; degree of difficulty and logistical challenges; story coverage; available resources and tools used in gathering information; impact on society; the effect achieved after the publication of the story; and promotion of public discussion.

Eligible for this category are:

- Only stories published on TV channels.

Prize: EUR 700

3. Best Web Story of the Year

Stories, whether written or video stories, that are published on websites and not in traditional media, are alternative approaches to reporting, and their impact is also important considering the orientation of new generations towards information provided on online platforms. For this reason, an annual journalism award will also be given to the story or series of stories focused on a topic based on its importance, the way the topic was handled, and the impact it had.

The topics can be from any sector and are evaluated based on the following criteria: writing style and skills; the value of writing and the impact on readers and listeners in general; unique approach; degree of difficulty and logistical challenges; article comprehensiveness; available resources and tools used in gathering information; impact on society; the effect achieved after the publication of the story; and promotion of public discussion.

Eligible for this category are:

- Video stories published in online media;
- Written stories published in online media.

Prize: EUR 700



4. Best Camera Operator of the Year

The role of cameramen/camerawomen requires specific skills like choosing carefully adapted images and creativity, the ability to choose the appropriate lens for the camera, and the ability to communicate with the reporter when conducting a story. Considering this as an important aspect, AJK will award a cameraman/camerawoman who has demonstrated professionalism in creative and excellent images, mastery of composition and lighting. The topics can be from any sector and are evaluated based on the following criteria: style and skills; the value and the impact on viewers in general; unique approach; degree of difficulty and logistical challenges; story coverage; available resources and tools used in gathering information; impact on society; the effect achieved after the publication of the story; and promotion of public discussion.

The cameraman/camerawoman should select a story or compilation of stories with the best footage they have taken and send the application form to the email address of AJK.

Eligible for this category are:

- The stories published on TV channels or online media.

Prize: EUR 700

5. Journalism award for Women's Empowerment

This award aims to honour reporting on the role of women in peacebuilding, political life, the advancement of human rights, economic and social development, in which case the aim of reporting is to raise awareness of the importance of gender equality, women's empowerment, and participation in democratic and development processes.

For the selection of winners in this category, the following criteria will be considered: relevance to the selected topic, journalistic quality including objectivity, critical analysis, understanding and ethical approach in dealing with the topic, creativity and style, inclusion and respect for diversity, such as efforts to ensure the representation of different communities, and voices and ideas in Kosovo.

Eligible for this category are:

- TV stories;
- Video stories published in online media;
- Written web stories.

Prize: EUR 700

6. Best Sports Journalism story

In this category, which represents an award for sports journalists in Kosovo, a story that demonstrates the highest standards of journalism but also marks an effort to invest in sports journalism, and to protect the integrity of the profession, will be awarded. The stories are evaluated based on the following criteria: writing style and skills; the value of writing and the impact on viewers in general; unique approach; degree of difficulty and logistical challenges; story coverage; available resources and tools used in gathering information; impact on society; the effect achieved



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OSCE

Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Mission in Kosovo



KFOS

Fondacioni i Kosovës për Shoqëri të Hapur
Kosovo Foundation for Open Society
Kosovska Fondacija za Otvoreno Društvo



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AND EGYPTIANS IN KOSOVO**

after the publication of the story; and promotion of public discussion.

Eligible for this category are:

- Television video stories;
- Video stories published in online media;
- Written web stories.

Prize: EUR 700

7. Best story about anti gypsyism

This category represents a new award for journalists who report on anti-gypsyism, which is a movement in Kosovo that fights against racism and discrimination against the Kosovo Roma, Kosovo Egyptian and Kosovo Ashkali communities. The movement recognises the important role of the media in shaping public opinion and influencing policies. In order to encourage accurate and balanced reporting on the elimination of racial discrimination against these communities, this award recognises and promotes balanced and detailed journalism in this field. The stories are evaluated based on the following criteria: writing style and skills; the value of writing and the impact on viewers in general; unique approach; degree of difficulty and logistical challenges; story coverage; available resources and tools used in gathering information; impact on society; the effect achieved after the publication of the story; and promotion of public discussion.

Eligible for this category are:

- TV video stories;
- Video stories published in online media;
- Written web stories.

PRIZE: EUR 700

8. Best health story

This category represents a new award where journalists will be rewarded for their coverage in the field of health, promoting knowledge and awareness about important health issues. This award is an opportunity for journalists to share reporting on improving public awareness of health issues. This category aims to promote quality reporting in this important area, in order to improve healthcare and public health in general. The stories are evaluated based on the following criteria: writing style and skills; the value of writing and the impact on viewers in general; unique approach; degree of difficulty and logistical challenges; story coverage; available resources and tools used in gathering information; impact on society; the effect achieved after the publication of the story; and promotion of public discussion.

Eligible for this category are:

- TV video stories
- Video stories published in online media
- Written web stories.



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PRIZE: EUR 700

EVALUATION

The evaluation and selection process will be assessed by a jury of seven professional members. The selection process will be conducted by scoring under measures of confidentiality and ethical transparency and will be supervised by AJK.

The jury members will be professionals who have in-depth knowledge of developments in Kosovo. The jury will select the final stories that best meet the criteria, based on the above eligibility requirements for each category of journalists.

The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony, which will be held in Hotel Prishtina in Prishtinë/Priština on Tuesday, 12 December 2023.



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