



PRESS RELEASE

15 December 2017

«Suitcase 2017» annual journalism contest on migration and border management awards 13 journalists for journalistic excellence

The Award Ceremony of «Suitcase 2017», an annual journalistic contest, was held on 15 December in Moscow Cinema in Yerevan. The contest was organized by ICMPD within the framework of the EU-funded project “Support to Migration and Border Management in Armenia” (MIBMA), together with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Armenia, RepatArmenia Foundation and «Public Diplomacy» NGO.

The aim of the contest is to encourage and motivate journalists to raise awareness and report on challenges and opportunities in the field of migration and border management. It covers areas such as asylum, labour migration and return of RA citizens to Armenia, broadcasted on TV and radio and published in press and online media outlets during 2017.

Welcoming remarks were delivered by Mr. Gagik Yeganyan, Head of State Migration Service, Mr. Christoph Bierwirth, Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Armenia and Mr. Carel Hofstra, MIBMA Team Leader.

The jury panel consisting of 7 members representing ICMPD, sponsoring organisations, State Migration Service and two independent experts evaluated 117 contributions; 69 for printed and online media, 35 TV reports and 13 radio reports. The prizes were awarded based on the evaluation criteria of originality, writing style, reporting standards, newsworthiness and public impact. The winning entries will be featured on MIBMA website and widely promoted as an example of good journalism.

After careful review of all materials the jury panel decided to award the following journalists for the following materials:

Printed media

1st place: Suren Deheryan, Astghik Gevorgyan and Gagik Aghbalyan team work, www.ampop.am data information portal, «Migration in Armenia: uninterrupted emigration with the same justification». <http://ampop.am/migration-in-armenia/>

2nd place: Armine Avetisyan, www.mediamax.am, «Sarnaghbyur. Cold sun of the village of the labour migrants», <http://www.mediamax.am/am/news/society/25676/>

3rd place: Ani Hovhannisyan, “Hetq” online newspaper, “90% of Armenians requesting asylum in Europe have been rejected”, <http://hetq.am/arm/news/75419/evropayum-apastan-khndrats-hayastancineri-90-y-merzhvel-e.html>

TV

1st place: Armine Oleyan, AR TV, “I came, saw and stayed”, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PulkqA3rpss&t=2s>

2nd place: Arev Avakyan, Yerkir Media TV, “Observation post. From Syria to Armenia. Strong will and clear aim”, https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=5&v=LYw42hhtJlo

3rd place: Tigran Hovakimyan, Kyavar TV, “Syrian Armenians in Gavar”, <https://youtu.be/7Tobqsmg3uo>

Radio

1st place: Satik Isahakyan, Public Radio, “They would not have a home if it’s not for seasonal work”, <http://www.armradio.am/hy/2017/10/30/%D5%AD%D5%B8%D5%BA%D5%A1%D5%B6%D5%A8-%D5%B9%D5%AC%D5%AB%D5%B6%D5%A5%D6%80-%D5%BF%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%B6-%D5%B9%D5%A7%D5%AB%D5%B6-%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%B6%D5%A5%D5%B6%D5%A1/>

2nd place: Hasmik Dilanyan, Public Radio, «Radiolur» information program, «Border community Choratan. Inbound migration versus outbound migration», <http://www.armradio.am/hy/2017/09/12/%D5%BD%D5%A1%D5%B0%D5%B4%D5%A1%D5%B6%D5%A1%D5%B4%D5%A5%D6%80%D5%B1-%D5%B9%D5%B8%D6%80%D5%A1%D5%A9%D5%A1%D5%B6-%D5%B6%D5%A5%D6%80%D5%A3%D5%A1%D5%B2%D5%A9%D5%9D-%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%BF%D5%A1%D5%A3%D5%A1/>

3rd place: Sona Hakobyan, Public Radio, «Radiolur» information program, “Outbound migration and ruined destinies”, <http://www.armradio.am/hy/2017/02/27/%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%BF%D5%A1%D5%A3%D5%A1%D5%B2%D5%A9%D5%B6-%D5%B8%D6%82-%D5%AD%D5%A5%D5%B2%D5%BE%D5%A1%D5%AE-%D5%B3%D5%A1%D5%AF%D5%A1%D5%BF%D5%A1%D5%A3%D6%80%D5%A5%D6%80%D5%A8/>

Special prizes were awarded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Armenia, RepatArmenia Foundation and «Public Diplomacy» NGO for the best works in the following special categories.

1. **Challenges and opportunities of displaced Syrians in Armenia**, Anush Nersisyan, womannet.am, «I am not a refugee in my homeland», <http://womannet.am/%D5%A5%D5%BD-%D5%AB%D5%B4-%D5%B0%D5%A1%D5%B5%D6%80%D5%A5%D5%B6%D5%AB%D6%84%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%B4-%D6%83%D5%A1%D5%AD%D5%BD%D5%BF%D5%A1%D5%AF%D5%A1%D5%B6-%D5%B9%D5%A5%D5%B4/>
2. **Integration prospects of refugees in Armenia**, Gayane Mkrtchyan, jam-news.am, «Armenia is the shelter for foreigners», <https://jam-news.net/?p=66846&lang=hy>
3. **The best material on Repatriation**, Ani Gasparyan, “Ankakh” weekly newspaper, www.ankakh.com, A series of articles about diaspora
4. **The best photo reportage on migration**, Nazik Armenakyan, www.chai-khana.org, “Half life”, <https://chai-khana.org/en/armenian-womens-half-life>

For further information, please contact:

Ms. Inna Galoyan
Communication/Administrative Officer
International Centre for Migration Policy Development
Tel: +374 (0) 10 520 388
Mobile: +374 (0) 93 401 016
E-mail: Inna.Galoyan@icmpd.org

The overall objective of the MIBMA project is to enhance approximation of the migration and border management in Armenia to European standards of governance, in order to increase security, facilitate trade, and support the possible visa liberalization dialogue between the European Union and Armenia. The project activities target Armenian migration and border management authorities with the final benefit to the general public and citizens of Armenia.



The project is implemented by the ICMPD

26/1 Vazgen Sargsyan Street
Erebuni Plaza BusinessCentre
Office 711
Yerevan 0010, Armenia
Tel: +374 10 520388
Email: mibma@icmpd.org
Website: www.mibma.eu

This project is funded by the European Union

Delegation of the European Union to Armenia
21 Frik Street
Yerevan 0002, Armenia
Tel: +374 (10) 54 64 94
Fax: +374 (10) 54 64 95
Email: Delegation-Armenia@eeas.europa.eu

The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

“The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 60 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders”.