



## PRESS RELEASE

18 December 2018

### **Annual journalism award «Suitcase 2018» announced: 9 journalists rewarded for journalistic excellence on migration reporting**

On 17 December 2018, during the Award Ceremony of the annual journalism contest «Suitcase» 9 journalists were awarded for their journalistic excellence on migration issues. On the initiative of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) office in Armenia, the Award was a collaboration of ICMPD office in Armenia, UNHCR office in Armenia and RepatArmenia Foundation. The winners featured fact-based and impartial reporting on the complexity of migration, its challenges and opportunities.

The contest covers migration related materials, including on asylum, labour migration and return of RA citizens to Armenia, broadcasted on TV and radio and published in press and online media during 2018. 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.

Opening remarks were delivered by the Head of ICMPD office in Armenia Mr Carel Hofstra, Head of Migration Service Mr. Armen Ghazaryan and Representative of UNHCR office in Armenia Ms Anna-Carin Öst. Jury panel, chaired by Mediamax news agency Editor in Chief Davit Alaverdyan and composed of experienced editors and journalists Gegham Vardanyan, Vakhtang Margaryan and Anna Satian evaluated around 60 applications. After careful review of all materials and based on the evaluation criteria of originality, writing style, reporting standards, newsworthiness and public impact, it was decided to award six winners in the categories of print/online, radio, multimedia, photo, the best integration and the best re-integration story. No winner in the category of «The best TV reportage on migration issues» was identified this year. A special prize was awarded for the most positive integration success story.

**The best radio reportage on migration issues, Anna Nazaryan, Public Radio**

<http://www.armradio.am/hy/2018/10/27/siria-14/>

**The best print article on migration issues, Armine Avetisyan, OC Media**

<http://oc-media.org/hayastani-sezonayin-erekhanery/>

**The best multimedia reportage on migration issues, Ani Hovhannisyan, Hetq online newspaper**

<https://hetq.am/static/richmedia/khopanchi/index.html>

**The best photo reportage on migration issues, Vaghinak Ghazaryan, 4plus**

<http://www.4plus.org/hy/%D5%A1%D5%BC%D5%A1%D5%B6%D6%81-%D5%B0%D5%A5%D5%B6%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%A1%D5%B6/>

**The best reintegration success story, Ani Gasparyan, [www.ankakh.com](http://www.ankakh.com)**

<http://ankakh.com/article/92137/%E2%80%8Btsaghkin-hvogh-e-pyetq--vyeradardz-shvyeytsariayits-25-tariants>

**The best integration success story, Nazik Armeniakyan, [chai-khana.org](http://chai-khana.org)**

<https://www.chai-khana.org/hy/dzyownashogh-hishoghowtyan-bekorner-adrbejanits>

Special prize was awarded to **Anahit Harutyunyan from Mediamax agency** for her story about successful case of integration (<https://mediamax.am/am/news/special-report/30059/>).

In addition, RepatArmenia Foundation and UNHCR office in Armenia awarded the best reporting in the categories «**Repatriation**» and «**Challenges and opportunities of displaced Syrians in Armenia**». Special awards were received by **Piruzza Musaelyan from Ararat TV** for the series of reportages about Syrians in Armenia (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3Flf5V3JfE>) and **Kristine Boyajyan, impoqrik.am**, for the article about problems and opportunities of repatriate children at schools (<https://goo.gl/7kBs2u>).

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*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.*



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The project is implemented by the ICMPD

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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”.