



ADAMI Award Winners Announced in Chisinau:

Glittering Gala Awarding Cultural Diversity in Eastern Europe

It was a big evening in Chisinau, the capital of the Republic of Moldova last Thursday as The ADAMI Media Prize for Cultural Diversity in Eastern Europe held its gala award ceremony.

Directors from Moldova took two of the six awards, each endowed with an EUR 2,000 cash prize. Valeriu Andriuta received an ADAMI Media Prize for his short film *Dear Friends* in the "TV Entertainment" category. Eugeniu Popovichi won with his documentary film *Soroca's Bolshoi Theatre* in the "TV Information" category. Two of the winning filmmakers came from Georgia: In the "TV News/Short Non-Fiction" category, Salome Jashi prevailed with *The Tower*, while Anastasia Slovinskaya's *Goran's Rules of Life* won the prize for best "Online Video".

Belarus and Ukraine did not go home empty-handed. Mykola Homanyuk won the Best Website award with *Way Through Culture: Ethnic Tours of Kherson and Southern Ukraine*. Nella Vasilevskaya's short film *Penpals* claimed the YOUNG ADAMI Media Prize for Belarus.

The ADAMI Media Prize is the most significant award for TV journalists, filmmakers and online media producers from the EU Eastern Partnership countries. The Federal Foreign Office and Pro Credit Holding (Frankfurt) finance the prize as part of their support for civil society expansion in these countries.

More than **300 submissions** were received for this year's ADAMI Media Prize competition, from which an international jury **selected 16 nominees** who were invited to the Chisinau gala.

In his welcome speech at the award ceremony, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media **Harlem Désir** said that he was impressed by the variety of subjects covered at this year's ADAMI Media Prize.

Rebecca Harms, co-chair of the EuroNest Parliamentary Assembly, was among the notable political and media figures who attended the ADAMI Gala at Chisinau's prestigious Organ Hall. In her welcome address, Harms, who works with Eastern Partnership Parliamentarians in the European Parliament's MEP, spoke of the importance of respecting cultural diversity; she cited the slogan of the European Parliament - "we are all united by diversity".

ADAMI Media Prize for Cultural Diversity in Eastern Europe

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In addition to the ADAMI Media Prizes, three young women journalists were awarded fellowships to continue their professional media education in Germany: **Mariam Shelia** (Ukraine) and **Anna Glushko** (Moldova) will spend four weeks working together at the Ukrainian and Russian editorial desks of Deutsche Welle in Bonn. **Olesya Yaremchuk** (Ukraine) will spend her fellowship working in MDR's editorial office "Window to the East" in Leipzig.

The gala was hosted by Octav Tarlapan of Tele Radio Moldova, Kseniya Stuzhuk of Ukraine's Public Television and Lika Evgenidze, a Georgian TV presenter. Musical highlights included the Lidia Isac, known as the Moldavan "Edith Piaf," as well as organist Ana Strezeva.

During the ADAMI TALKS Symposium in the Republic of Moldova Parliament held on the morning of the gala ceremony, Harms spoke about the dangers of propaganda, fake news and hate speech for democracy. Moldovan students attended the symposium which was live streamed to other Eastern Partnership countries. Speakers included DW Moscow correspondent Miodrag Soric, media expert Zurab Kodlashvili from London, and ARD Moscow Director Ina Ruck.

The day after the award ceremony, "Moldova 1" public television invited ADAMI prize winners, jury members and ADAMI TALKS presenters to appear on the talk show "Buna Seara". Together with ADAMI Programme Director Stefan Tolz, guests discussed how ADAMI opens up networking with international broadcasters and other new opportunities for Moldovan journalists and filmmakers.

The ADAMI Media Prize competition takes place every two years, honouring outstanding television and Internet productions that address cultural diversity or national, ethnic or religious minorities. ADAMI also facilitates communication and networking for media professionals from Eastern and Western Europe through workshops and dialogue formats.

This year's award ceremony was held under the auspices of Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe and under the patronage of Chairperson of the Moldovan Parliament, Andrian Candu and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Mr. Harlem Désir.

The next ADAMI Media Prize gala ceremony will take place in autumn 2020 in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi.

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