



Funded by
the European Union

BIRN
BALKAN INVESTIGATIVE
REPORTING NETWORK

MEDIA MEDIA MEDIA
WEDIA MEDIA MEDIA
AIDEM MEDIA AIDEM
**EU INVESTIGATIVE
JOURNALISM AWARDS**
FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS & TÜRKIYE
MEDIA MEDIA MEDIA
AIDEM MEDIA AIDEM

2022

The European Commission is not liable for any consequence stemming from the reuse of this publication.
Brussels: Directorate of Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, 2022

© European Union, 2022



The reuse policy of European Commission documents is implemented by the Commission Decision 2011/833/EU of 12 December 2011 on the reuse of Commission documents (OJ L 330, 14.12.2011, p. 39). Except otherwise noted, the reuse of this document is authorised under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC-BY 4.0) licence (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>). This means that reuse is allowed provided appropriate credit is given and any changes are indicated. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the European Union, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective rightholders.

CONTENT

CONTENT

CONTENT

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Introduction | 4 |
| Winners' profiles | 6 |
| ALBANIA | 6 |
| Dorian Kodra | 7 |
| Klodiana Lala | 8 |
| Ola Mitre | 9 |
| BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA | 10 |
| Mubarek Asani & Jelena Jevtić | 11 |
| Amarildo Gutić | 12 |
| Adna Zilić | 13 |
| KOSOVO | 14 |
| Besnik Boletini & Xhavit Drenori | 15 |
| Kreshnik Gashi, Bahar Mustafa & Visar Prebreza | 16 |
| Besnik Krasniqi | 18 |
| MONTENEGRO | 20 |
| Mihailo Jovović | 21 |
| Đurđa Radulović | 22 |
| Marko Vešović & Vladimir Otašević | 23 |
| NORTH MACEDONIA | 24 |
| Miroslava Byrns | 25 |
| Irena Karevska | 26 |
| Snežana Lupevska Sozen, Miomir Serafinović, Biljana Nikolovska & Emilija Misirlievski | 27 |
| SERBIA | 28 |
| Stevan Dojčinović, Milica Vojinović, Bojana Pavlović & Bojana Jovanović | 29 |
| Saša Dragojlo | 31 |
| Aleksandar Đorđević | 32 |
| Jovana Gligorijević | 33 |
| TÜRKİYE | 34 |
| Can Özçelik | 35 |
| Çiğdem Toker | 36 |
| Pelin Ünker & Serdar Vardar | 37 |

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM EU AWARDS FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM EU AWARDS FOR

The EU award for Investigative Journalism was established in 2015, with the aim of celebrating and promoting outstanding achievements of investigative journalists as well as to financially support their labour-intensive work in the worsening conditions of the media economy globally and in the enlargement region in particular. By rewarding the best achievements, the prize also helps to improve the visibility of quality journalism in the Western Balkans and Türkiye and it fosters the young generation of investigative journalists. Investigative stories tackling issues such as abuse of power and fundamental rights, corruption and organised crime have been in focus ever since it was first launched.

The EU regional award for investigative journalism in the Western Balkans and Türkiye was established by the European Commission, DG Enlargement, following a series of *Speak-up!* conferences as a dialogue between the media communities in the enlargement region and the European Commission.

In the context of the EU Enlargement strategy, it recognises the strong need for ensuring freedom of expression in the media. The support to investigative journalism is concretely relevant also for monitoring the reform processes and to keep the historical momentum towards the EU accession.

Within the regional scheme, seven separate award contests are being organised in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye.



During the three-year period, respectively from 2015 to 2017, the EU Award for Investigative Journalism was implemented by the Peace Institute from Slovenia, as well as the following partners: Albanian Media Institute from Tirana – Albania, Media and Civil Society Foundation Mediacentar from Sarajevo – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo Press Council, from Pristina – Kosovo, Montenegro Media Institute from Podgorica – Montenegro, Macedonian Institute for Media from Skopje – North Macedonia, Novi Sad School of Journalism from Novi Sad – Serbia, and Platform24 from Istanbul – Türkiye.

With one-year gap, in 2018, the EU Award scheme continued for four year period from 2019 to 2022 through the activity “Strengthening Quality News and Independent Journalism in the Western Balkans and Türkiye” administered by BIRN Hub and its partners. The Partners responsible for the organisation and implementation of the EU Award are Independent Trade Union of Journalists and Media Workers in the North Macedonia, Center for Investigative Journalism in Montenegro, MASE, BIRN Albania, BIRN Serbia and Association of Journalists from Ankara, Türkiye.

The EU Award is implemented annually in all six Western Balkan partners and Türkiye. Project partners involved in the administration of the EU Award have an extensive expertise in the field of media freedom, and have been recognised locally as strong independent media organisations.

Every year three best investigative stories are awarded and promoted through public ceremony followed by monetary awards: first prize €5,000, the second €3,000, and the third prize €2,000. The Jury comprises a mix of media experts – some coming from the project consortia while others drawn from an extensive network of media workers, editors, academia members, and journalists.

Since its launch, including this year, a total of **147 prizes were awarded to outstanding journalistic efforts in the six Western Balkan partners and Türkiye**, promoting media freedom and importance of investigative work, and exposing the wrongdoings in countries where independent media is more important than ever.

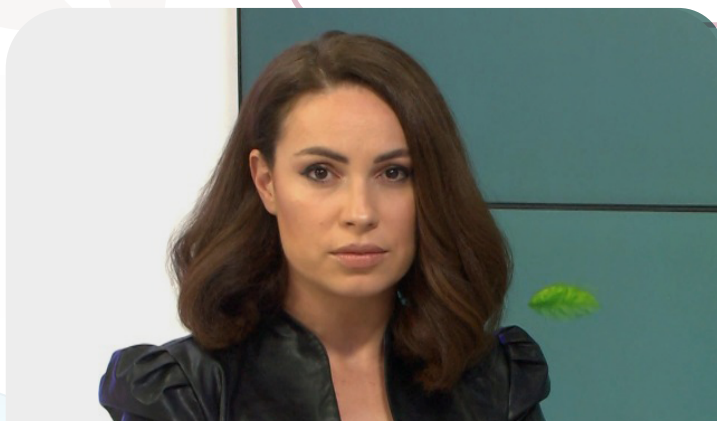
ALBANIA
ALBANIA
ALBANIA



Dorian Kodra



Klodiana Lala



Ola Mitre



Dorian
Kodra

Lapsi,
Albania

BIO

Dorian Kodra, born in 1981, is a reporter with 21 years of experience. He started working for TV Koha in Tirana. After studying journalism, he developed his professional experience in Alsat TV, ABC TV, TV Klan, and A2 TV as a reporter and editor. For the award-winning article, he was employed with Lapsi.al.

STORY

How is Rilindja monitoring phone and ID numbers, workplaces and other confidential data of 910,000 voters of Tirana
Si na monitoron Rilindja nr e telefonit, nr ID, vendet e punës, të dhënat konfidenciale për 910 mijë votues të Tiranës

SUMMARY

During the campaign for the April 25, 2021 parliamentary elections in Albania, the ruling Socialist Party (SP) compiled and used a database with personal information on 910,000 citizens aged 19 to 99. The database contained phone numbers, addresses, jobs, political preferences etc. The information was used by the so-called “patronizers”, the members of the SP, to monitor the political beliefs of the citizens. According to numerous testimonies, the data were obtained from E-Albania, the state portal used by citizens for state services, particularly during the quarantine. The Special Prosecution launched an investigation. The court ordered the seizure of computers and mobile phones of journalists of Lapsi.al. The editors-in-chief were summoned to the Prosecutor’s Office to indicate the source of the information. It was only overturned by the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Investigations by the Tirana Prosecutor’s Office are still ongoing.



→ lapsi.al

Klodiana
Lala

Balkan
Insight,
Albania

BIO

Klodiana Lala is an investigative journalist for Albania's News 24 television, where she authors and moderates the investigative TV show *Shënjestër* (Target). She is a veteran award-winning crime beat journalist. After graduating from the Department of Journalism at the University of Tirana, she began her career as a reporter for the daily newspaper *Ballkan*. For many years, she covered crimes and courts for the daily newspaper *Gazeta Shqiptare* and for News 24 TV. She is a former fellow of the Reporting Democracy Fellowship and a 2021 winner of the EU Award for Investigative Journalism in Albania.

STORY

Albanian crime story: Hostage to the cocaine supply chain
Historia e krimit shqiptar: Peng në zinxhirin e kokainës

SUMMARY

The investigative piece *Albanian Crime Story: Hostage to the Cocaine Supply Chain*, looks into the gruesome kidnap and murder of a furniture store owner from Tirana, combining it with a broader picture of the growing cocaine market in Europe. The investigation offers an insight into the operation of Albanian organised crime groups through the tragedy of a family. The reporting is based on court documents and interviews, while it avoids clichés, narrating events and facts with a clear style and a logical structure.



→ balkaninsight.com

Ola Mitre

SCAN
Television,
Albania

BIO

Ola Mitre is a journalist at SCAN Television, where the first cycle of investigative shows dedicated to environmental issues in the country has been aired. Earlier, for about seven years, she worked for the daily Gazeta Shqiptare and TV News 24. At the same time, she was continuously engaged with the Balkan Network of Investigative Journalism (BIRN).

STORY

Chromium in Bulqiza is extracted without an environmental permit
Kromi në Bulqizë nxirret pa leje mjedisore

SUMMARY

The investigation focuses on the exercise of mining activity for the extraction of chromium in one of the richest areas with this mineral in the country, Bulqiza. According to the legislation in force, having an environmental permit is a condition for all companies that use natural resources, but the data processed and published in this investigation showed that one in four companies exercise the activity illegally, without an environmental permit. Meanwhile, the institutions responsible for their control do not react, leaving the holders of mineral exploitation contracts unconcerned. In the same manner, the article also exposes a possible corruption scheme. The prior obtaining of an environmental permit is the only way to keep under control the huge negative impact that mining activity has on the environment. As agreed by the experts. On the other hand, the absence of any kind of environmental control and water and land pollution it causes, turns the activity into a risk for the health of the citizens, causing very serious and even deadly diseases.



→ youtube.com

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA



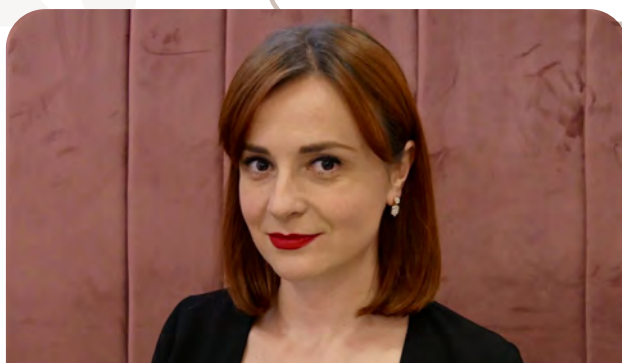
Mubarek Asani



Jelena Jevtić



Amarildo Gutić



Adna Zilić

Mubarek
Asani &
Jelena Jevtić

Center for
Investigative
Reporting (CIN),
Bosnia & Herzegovina

BIO

Mubarek Asani is an investigative journalist, producer, and the first VJ in the Balkans. In 2003, he was awarded an EU journalism scholarship. During his long career, Asani worked on the most difficult journalistic tasks such as those related to drug trafficking, tobacco smuggling, terrorism, prostitution, judicial crime, election vote-trading, and illegal exploitation of natural resources. He has been working for the Center for Investigative Reporting (CIN) since 2007. / **Jelena Jevtić** is an investigative journalist. She started her professional career in 2004, working as a journalist in the newsrooms of several daily newspapers and television stations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She joined the Center for Investigative Reporting in Sarajevo in 2017. Since then, she has been working on stories about corruption and abuses by politicians and civil servants, illegal privatization, and illegal exploitation of natural resources. In the last few years, she mostly worked on stories about corruption and crime in the field of indirect taxation and customs, tax evasion, and money laundering.

STORY

The Boss and her 'Black Shirt' mob
Šefica i njeni „crnokošuljaši“ za iznude



→ cin.ba

SUMMARY

The boss and her 'Black shirt' mob is a story about a display of power by civil servants over blackmailed shopkeepers. Instead of legally sanctioning shopkeepers who were found in wrongdoing, the inspectors of the Indirect Taxation Authority Anti-Smuggling Group were racketeering them. They were openly and shamelessly extorting money from them, and then letting them run their affairs the same way they did before. When the CIN journalists embarked on this investigation, the state investigative bodies had already been trying to prove racketeering for two years. Since not much evidence in writing was left behind these events, we obtained as many relevant testimonies as possible, and compared them against the available documentation. The level of deeply rooted corruption in BiH society made it extremely important to bring on camera people who were ready to admit that they made a mistake and paid a bribe. There were some sporadic accounts of the illegal conduct of the Administration inspectors, but this is the first story with so many authentic witnesses, direct participants of the events most of whom do not know each other, consistently describing the corrupt conduct of the inspectors. After the story was published, the investigation run by the State Prosecutor's Office finally came to an end. Reaching out to the people we identified, the investigators managed to collect sufficient evidence for the prosecutor to file an indictment.

Amarildo Gutić

Zurnal.info,
Bosnia &
Herzegovina

BIO

Amarildo Gutić has been with the online magazine Žurnal since 2015, preceded by previous 20 years at NTV Zetel, as well as RTV BiH as a journalist and editor. He was chosen by the Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina Journalists as the 2020 journalist of the year for TV journalism. He has been awarded three times by the EU for investigative journalism in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

STORY

Battle for the political commissioner *Bitka za političkog komesara*

SUMMARY

The film *Battle for the Political Commissioner* shows the system of rule of nationalist parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its foundations in corruption, nepotism and connections with the criminal milieu are exposed on the example of the election of a police commissioner. Within the Ministry of Internal Affairs of one of the cantons, Zenica-Doboj, a kind of parapolice structure was formed and legalized after the appointment of the new commissioner. It had the support of the senior department officials, appointed party-loyal cadres who essentially protected the mafia. For the purposes of the film, one of the witnesses told in detail how he was blackmailed and extorted by them. Just before the film was broadcasted, he received serious threats directed at his family, so he withdrew his testimony. Subsequently, the so-called 'Molotov cocktail' was thrown into his yard.



→ zurnal.info

Adna Zilić

Center for
Investigative
Journalism (CIN),
Bosnia & Herzegovina

BIO

Adna Zilić has been working as a journalist for more than ten years. She holds a BA degree in Journalism and a MA degree in Communication Science from the Faculty of Political Sciences in Sarajevo. She has experience in television journalism, but she mostly worked on web portals as a journalist and editor. The Police Uniforms Requirements Tailored For Private Businessmen is her first story at CIN, with which she has been working since February 2021.

STORY

Police uniforms requirements tailored for private businessmen
Policijske uniforme skrojene po mjeri privatnika

SUMMARY

Police uniforms requirements tailored for private businessmen is the story of four police agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina, whose rulebooks for the procurement of uniforms enabled only one company to win the tenders. These documents stipulate specific brands for uniforms and shoes provided only by the company KM Trade from Visoko. Thanks to that, the company has earned at least BAM 17.5 million through public procurement since 2013. By giving a monopoly to one firm, the four police agencies violated the law and made it impossible for other firms to get work. It was difficult, but important, to prove that those who are supposed to enforce the laws are actually the ones who break them. After CIN's investigation, the Prosecutor's Office in Sarajevo began to check the procurement of police uniforms. The investigation is still ongoing.



→ cin.ba

KOSOVO
KOSOVO
KOSOVO



Besnik Boletini



Xhavit Drenori



Bahar Mustafa



Kreshnik Gashi



Besnik Krasniqi



Visar Prebreza

Besnik Boletini & Xhavit Drenori

Preportr
ÇOHU,
Kosovo

BIO

Besnik Boletini has worked for several media in Kosovo. Since 2011, he became part of NGO ÇOHU/Preportr, where he worked as an investigative journalist. During these past years, he has conducted investigations with special focus on topics related to corruption, public procurement, human rights, environment, and higher education. He has been awarded with 16 different prizes from local and regional juries. He also holds trainings for young journalists focused mainly on the methods of investigative journalism. / **Xhavit Drenori** is the author of the TV show GREEN talk, which deals with environmental issues. During the period from October 2020 to March 2021, in cooperation with ÇOHU, he carried out the research “Kontaminimi i përditshëm” in co-authorship with Besnik Boletini. During the 2013-2017 period, he exercised the mandate of the Council of the Municipal Assembly in Drenas and the focus of his commitment was the protection of the environment, considering the operation of the Feronikeli factory in this municipality.

STORY

Daily contamination *Kontaminimi i përditshëm*



→ cohu.org

SUMMARY

This investigation deals with a special type of pollution, slag, that is caused by the Ferronikeli company. Slag is a by-product of the ore smelting process and is currently being sent to a location close to the houses in the village of Old Cikatovo in Drenas. The report tells about the health and environmental consequences of air, water and soil pollution caused by dumping slag in that landfill. After analysing the data, it is evident that over the years the Ferronikeli company has continuously violated the environmental permit granted by the Ministry of Environment. The research shows in detail the consequences caused by non-compliance with the environmental permit. A documentary was made to visualize this investigation article.



→ facebook.com



→ youtube.com

Kreshnik Gashi,
Bahar Mustafa
& Visar Prebreza

Kallxo,
Kosovo

BIO

Kreshnik Gashi is the Managing Editor of the Kallxo.com platform and Kosovo correspondent with 'Reporters Without Borders'. During his 15-year career, he has worked as a journalist and editor. He is also the author of the Drejtësia në Kosovë and Kallxo Përnime TV programmes. He won a number of local and regional awards for investigative journalism. / **Behar Mustafa** has been part of BIRN Kosovo since 2014. He works as a journalist and researcher for the Drejtësia në Kosovë and KALLXO Përnime TV programmes. Behar is the author of award-winning reports and investigations in journalism, mainly focusing on anti-corruption reporting. / **Visar Prebreza** is the Editor Responsible for all investigations at Kallxo.com, with which he has been since 2015. He has worked as an investigative journalist in the newspaper Koha Ditore for seven years. He is the winner of awards in journalism for anti-corruption and economics, as well as the winner of the first EU prize that was awarded in 2021.

STORY

The justice on the market
Pazaret me Drejtësinë

'The North File': The link between the company which is on USA's
blacklist and the investments in Ulcinj
*'Dosja e Veriut' lidhjet e kompanisë së future në listën e zezë dhe
ndërttimeve në Ulqin*

Racketeers File: The judge negotiates the case
Dosja e Fajdeve: Gjykatësi negocion lëndën

SUMMARY

The above-mentioned authors have published a series of investigations through which they revealed the weakness of the chain of the justice system, money laundering, and the phenomenon of usury in Kosovo. The investigation *The Justice on the Market* documents the involvement in corruption affairs of the family members of Ervehe Gashi, the Serious Crimes Prosecutor in Prizren. Through the film footage, the research reveals the prosecutor's husband demanding five thousand euros in bribes to complete a case, investigated by his wife, namely the Prosecutor. The *The North File* investigation uncovers the affiliations of the company from the US 'Black List', tenders it won in Kosovo and high-rise constructions in Ulcinj. It is one of the model investigations of the 'follow-the-money', which includes their dubious profit ending up with investments in another country: money laundering. *Racketeers File* is a model research, which sheds light on one of the most problematic activities in Kosovo and exposes the organization of one of the largest criminal groups in the Dukagjini area. The investigation is based on a citizen report and has resulted in great impacts, including the arrest of a large group of loan sharks and the confiscation of assets worth over €1 million that belonged to the criminal group.



→ youtube.com



→ gjirafa.com



→ kallxo.com



→ youtube.com

Besnik Krasniqi

Koha Ditore,
Kosovo

BIO

Besnik Krasniqi is a senior journalist. He has been working in the KOHA Group (Koha Ditore, KTV, and Koha.Net) for more than 15 years. Krasniqi is currently the Editor and author/moderator of the DESKU show, broadcasted on KTV. Recently he has been certified by the EBU as a trainer for investigative journalism. Throughout his career as a journalist, he has exposed abuses of various forms. Among other awards for his investigative work, in 2016 he received an award from the European Union for investigative journalism. He is a three-time winner of the Rexhai Surroi award for distinguished journalism, whereas his investigative stories were named as the best several times, by the Association of Journalists of Kosovo, UNDP, Anti-Corruption Agency, GIZ, and other organizations. Krasniqi was also awarded various scholarships and grants for investigative journalism by the European Union.

STORY

Let's 'clean' the budget
Ta fshijmë buxhetin

'Cleaning' of hundreds and thousands of euros with gloves and masks
'Pastrimi' i qindra e mijëra eurove me dorëza e maska

Garbage in Kosovo, wages in pockets
Bërlloku në Kosovë, mëditjet në xhep

SUMMARY

The story titled *Let's clean the budget* and its two follow-ups, reveal the abuse of around €1 million of Kosovo's budget. Towards the end of 2018, the Government of Kosovo supported with €815,000 a three-month action called 'Let's Clean Kosova', on the reasoning that it would thus finance actions for the removal of illegal landfills. The research found that by neglecting procedures, the Government gave this budget to a non-governmental organization. The invoices for the services, that the research proved mostly fraudulent, were taken for granted by the Prime Minister's Office and the National Audit Office. It also revealed the connections between the government officials and the organization that implemented the project. The research argued that despite the budget provided, the waste was not removed. It proved that before the action, there were 1,572 illegal landfills in Kosovo, while three months after the end of the action, their number was 2,529.



→ koha.net



→ koha.net



→ koha.net

MONTENEGRO MONTENEGRO MONTENEGRO



Mihailo Jovović



Đurđa Radulović



Marko Vešović



Vladimir Otašević

Mihailo Jovović

Online
Vijesti,
Montenegro

BIO

Mihailo Jovović is an experienced journalist and editor, currently Editor-at-large at the newspaper Vijesti. He was the Daily's Editor-in-Chief from 2011 to 2018. He writes about politics, crime, intelligence and justice affairs. He is the President of the Montenegrin Government Commission for Monitoring Investigations of Attacks on Journalist. He led numerous investigative journalism projects.

STORY

A series of stories on secret flights of the President of Montenegro, Milo Djukanovic
Serijal tekstova o tajnim letovima predsjednika CG Mila Đukanović

SUMMARY

This is a series of stories on secret flights of the President of Montenegro, Milo Djukanovic, to Geneva on the state owned plane as well as non-transparent and illegal conduct of two Montenegrin government officials, who refused/delayed providing information to Vijesti on these flights, even after the final court decisions. Stories published in the Vijesti newspaper and portal used information from electronic database of the Government plane flights from 2016 to 2020, documents partially released by the Government after journalistic and legal battle lasting two and a half years, and extensive research of the activities of the top government officials when 15 mysterious flights took place. What Mr Djukanovic was doing in Geneva and whether tax payers money was illegally spent for his private business in a foreign country is still unknown. For certain flights, the relevant documents were allegedly not found or destroyed, and the relevant state bodies are not investigating it.



→ vijesti.me



→ vijesti.me



→ vijesti.me



→ vijesti.me



→ vijesti.me

Đurđa
Radulović

Online
Vijesti,
Montenegro

BIO

Đurđa Radulović works as a journalist at the Centre for Investigative Journalism of Montenegro. Her work deals mostly with environmental and human rights themes. Prior to that, she wrote for the British magazine The Calvert Journal, analysing social phenomena in the Western Balkans. She completed her internship at Investigative Centre MANS in 2021. She was part of one of three winning teams in the Young Journalists Competition in 2021 organized by Media for All.

STORY

A series of stories on wildfire season in Montenegro
Serijal priča o požarima u Crnoj Gori

SUMMARY

The series investigates how Montenegro became the champion in Europe in damage caused by wildfires – burned territory and forests. Montenegro is among the top five countries in terms of forest area in Europe, but simultaneously has the highest percentages of burned areas per year. The first part, *If it rains - all will be well*, investigated the situation before the wildfires season and, based on the detailed analysis, predicted a grim outlook. The second part, *Wildfires in Montenegro: Causes and consequences*, deals with the terrifying consequences of the wildfires season of 2021, including the decision of authorities to send one of the few firefighting airplanes as a form of international help to North Macedonia to combat wildfires there. The investigation proved that, at that moment, Montenegro had twice as many active wildfires and burned areas than North Macedonia. Unlike North Macedonia, Montenegro did not ask for any international help. The story also addressed millions of euros worth of programmes and equipment brought by the government that produced no results. It raised the question of measures that can change the current practice, which, if continued, can permanently damage Montenegro's forests and other natural resources.



→ vijesti.me



→ youtube.com

Marko Vešović
& Vladimir
Otašević

Crime & corruption
reporting network
LUPA, Montenegro

BIO

Marko Vešović is the Editor in news portal service of national public broadcaster in Montenegro. He participated in numerous journalistic investigations into organized crime in the Balkans. He follows the political situation in the region and issues of criminal activity, including drug and cigarette trade. / **Vladimir Otašević** is one of the founders, CEO and Editor of the Crime and corruption reporting network – LUPA, a non-profit association for promotion and development of investigative journalism in Montenegro. He is an award-winning investigative journalist and author of numerous expert reports on organized crime and corruption.

STORY

Secrets of crime - The murder of Duško Jovanović
Tajna zločina – Ubistvo Duška Jovanovića

SUMMARY

The investigative documentary *Secrets of crime - The murder of Duško Jovanović* reveals new details related to the investigation of the most serious crime among the attacks on journalists in Montenegro. It reveals how the crime was committed, the main actors, including those behind the obstruction of the investigation, the main failures in the investigation, and who is responsible for lack of any information 17 years after the murder of Jovanović.



→ lupa.co.me



→ youtube.com

NORTH MACEDONIA
NORTH MACEDONIA
NORTH MACEDONIA



Miroslava Byrns



Irena Karevska



Snežana Lupevska Sozen



Miomir Serafinović



Biljana Nikolovska



Emilija Misirlievski

Miroslava Byrns

Sloboden
Pečat, North
Macedonia

BIO

Miroslava Byrns is a journalist of Sloboden Pechat Daily, writing stories that cover the health system. She has worked in multiple publications in the country including Fokus weekly. For a short period of time she was writing for the USA based newspaper The Crittenden Press in Kentucky. She is also a regular contributor to the Media fact-checking service in North Macedonia, Vistinomer.

STORY

Case of Jaldz Veaposka, woman in labour that lost her uterus, ovary and kidney in Struga hospital

Случајот Јалдз Веапоска, родилка што загуби матка, јајник и бубрег во струшката болница, каде отиде само за да се породи со царски рез

SUMMARY

The story of Jaldz Veaposka is one about a nurse who went to give birth in the Struga hospital with a C-section after regular pregnancy. Following the procedure, she got out of the hospital without three organs – an ovary, uterus, and kidney. The main doctor who performed the C-section was the Director of the public hospital Struga at the time. He was later removed from his position due to public pressure and the scandal. It was additionally revealed that the gynecologist who participated in it had an illegal office in his house in which he practiced for years before it being closed by the health inspectorate. Veaposka continues fighting for justice by filing criminal charges against several doctors who performed the C-section in the public hospital Struga. The case is currently waiting for trial in Struga. In the meantime, doctors from the Institute for Forensic Medicine wrote a report expressing their expert opinion that the worsening of Veaposka`s health after the surgery was a result of an injury of the adrenal gland during the C-section.



→ slobodenpechat.mk

Irena
Karevska

360 Stepeni,
North
Macedonia

BIO

Irena Karevska is a she is a producer/presenter at Bloomberg Adria prior to which she was a reporter at 360 degrees. She started her journalistic career in weekly political magazine "Focus". From 2017 to 2020, she worked as a reporter in the news programme of Television 24. She has worked for several media of different formats, from online-journalism to TV reporter, investigative journalism, and preparation and presentation of daily informative TV news. She is the winner of the Messenger of the Invisible 2021 award. The same year she won the first place in the competition for journalistic stories for inclusive reporting in the time of Covid-19, organized by the Council for Ethics in the Media in cooperation with the OSCE Mission in Skopje. Also, in 2021 she won the award Nikola Mladenov for the best investigative story.

STORY

Rashkovski bought software for traffic fines, and the ministry of the interior does not know about the purchase and ministry of interior does not know about the purchase and does not plan to use it
Рашковски купил софтвер за сообраќајни казни, а МВР не знае за набавката и не планира да ја користи

SUMMARY

In this series of stories a possible abuse of power and public funds by a holder of a high position in the Government is revealed. The Secretary General of the Government at the time, Dragi Raskovski, bought software for imposing fines for traffic violations through video surveillance worth € 81,000, despite the Ministry of Internal Affairs neither requesting nor using it. Furthermore, it was disclosed that the patent of the system behind the software was a patent registered in Raskovski's own name. The journalistic investigation caused a reaction from the competent institutions, leading to opening a case which filed charges against seven people, among whom Raskovski was the first defendant. The trial is still ongoing.



→ 360stepeni.mk

Snežana Lupevska
Sozen, Mimir
Serafinović, Biljana
Nikolovska &
Emilija Misirlijevski

Telma TV,
North
Macedonia



BIO

Snežana Lupevska Sozen is the Manager/Editor-in-Chief of TV Telma. She is the producer and journalist on investigative weekly show KOD, in charge of creating the concept of the program, topics to be addressed in the show, and coordinating the team work for the show. She is also the producer of several TV magazines and news shows, as well as the documentary movie 'Last Macedonian'. / **Mimir Serafinović** is the Editor of the web medium of Telma TV. He is the original member of the investigative journalism team in KOD from the very beginning of TV magazine, since 2007. He started working at A1 TV in 1999, and was a reporter in the military conflict in 2001 in North Macedonia. He was awarded five times for investigative journalism. He was the TV correspondent for domestic TV media in all Macedonian elections held from 1999 until now. During his career, he worked on internal affairs topics. / **Biljana Nikolovska** has been working as a news reporter and researcher for the KOD show. She has won several awards throughout her career, among them: 2020 Award from the EU for an investigative story with the KOD show team about the case of the serial murders of women in Kicevo and 2019 Award from the EU for the best investigative story with the KOD. / **Emilija Misirlijevski** has been a correspondent for TV Telma in the Information Editorial Office for almost 20 years. She started her career in local media in Bitola and within a short period started working in several national printed and online media.

STORY

Penalties for traffic accidents with fatal consequences by necessity, not by law
Казни за сообраќајни незгоди со смртни последици по потреба, а не по закон



→ youtube.com

SUMMARY

The investigative story reveals how traffic accidents with fatalities end without prison sentences for perpetrators in many cases in North Macedonia. Three different cases and three almost same pictures of slow and ineffective Macedonian judiciary, and strange justice for people who decided to kill. KOD published post-investigation that the main problem is in the prosecution system, which freely evaluates whether to prosecute the perpetrators for causing traffic with intent or not, and most often chooses the latter, despite the differing circumstances. It is important to point out that after the airing of the first part of the investigation and attention it got, several key court decisions were made. The government also decided to propose changing the law in the section on traffic accidents.

SERBIA
SERBIA
SERBIA



Milica Vojinović



Stevan Dojčinović



Bojana Pavlović



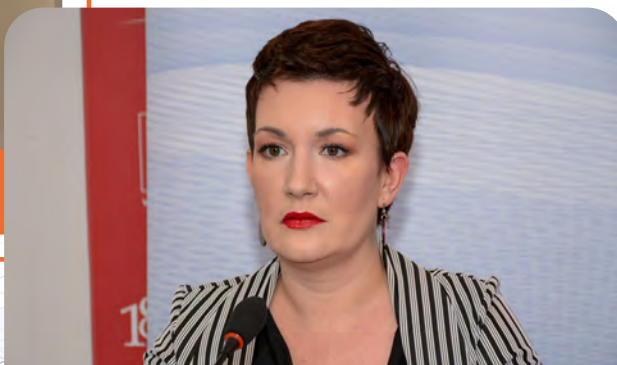
Bojana Jovanović



Saša Dragojlo



Aleksandar Đorđević



Jovana Gligorijević

Stevan Dojčinović,
Milica Vojinović,
Bojana Pavlović &
Bojana Jovanović

KRIK,
Serbia



BIO

Stevan Dojčinović is an investigative reporter and Editor-in-Chief of portal KRIK, prior to taking the same position at CINS Serbia. He also works for the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) as a regional editor. He has specialized in investigating organized crime groups, state corruption and money laundering. He does journalist trainings on collection and analysis of business data and protection of information sources. In the recent years, he won numerous international awards such as Knight International Journalism Award (2019), CEI SEEMO Award for Outstanding Merits in Investigative Journalism (2018), as well as EU Award for the best investigative story in Serbia (2018). He was awarded three times with the Serbian National (IJAS) Award for investigative reporting. / **Milica Vojinović** is daily and investigative reporter at KRIK. She works on investigative stories, but also covers day-to-day matters regarding crime and corruption in Serbia and reports from the most important organized crime trials in the country. Together with KRIK team, Milica has won global Sigma Award in 2021 for creating investigative online Database about Serbian judiciary titled “Judge who judges”. In 2021, Milica also received international CEI SEEMO Award for Outstanding Merits in Investigative Journalism within the category Best Young Professional Journalist. / **Bojana Pavlović** works as an investigative reporter at portal KRIK. She began her career as a journalist in Belgrade-based daily newspaper Politika. Later on, as part of KRIK’s investigative team, she won global GEN Data Journalism Award in 2017 and SIGMA recognition in 2021. She has also received National Award for Investigative Journalism in 2017 for now famous investigation about Serbian minister Vulin and the “aunt from Canada”. / **Bojana Jovanović** is an investigative reporter and Deputy Editor of portal KRIK. For five years, she was an investigator for the Center for Investigative Reporting in Serbia (CINS). Since 2010 she has worked as a contributing investigative journalist for the international non-profit organization Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP). As part of KRIK investigative team, Bojana has won global GEN Data Journalism Award in 2017 as well as international SIGMA recognition in 2021. She also received two Serbian National (IJAS) Awards for investigative journalism. Bojana is now an active media trainer on investigative and security skills for journalists.



STORY

Series of articles on Serbian gang led by Veljko Belivuk *Serijal o klanu Veljka Belivuka*

SUMMARY

During 2021 KRIK's journalistic team deeply investigated how one of the most dangerous Belgrade crime groups, known as 'Belivuk gang', has operated and KRIK exposed some of the group's ties with several Serbian state officials. One of them was Novak Nedic, current Secretary of the Government, his links to Belivuk group were revealed in KRIK's exclusive interview with Vladimir Vuletic, who, during years in the management of the football club Partizan, has witnessed the cooperation between Belivuk's hooligans and high-ranking statesman such as Nedic is. After that, KRIK was the first to publish Belivuk's testimony given to the prosecutor in 2021, when he spoke about his alleged relationship with the President of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić and top senior members of the Serbian Progressive Party, as well as the numerous illegal 'services' that he claims he had performed for them. According to the indictment the clan has carried out several vicious murders, KRIK also revealed that the prosecutors did not investigate the political connections of Belivuk's group. Besides this, KRIK showed to the public the victims of the drug war, ongoing in the Balkan underworld, which has taken over 50 lives so far. Our journalists have talked to the family members of several kidnaped young man (some of them are believed to be killed by Belivuk group) and revealed the still ongoing struggle of their parents, while the Serbian police keep them in the dark and harassed them by searching their apartments and bringing them in for questioning. We succeeded to get their voices heard and even managed to have the police take appropriate actions.

This is a 3-part series: *Missing young men and devastated families - a tribute to the belated war against the mafia*, the *interview* with the former president of the football club Partizan revealing details on relations, and the story *Indictment against Belivuk: "Mexico in the middle of Belgrade"*.



→ kirk.rs



→ kirk.rs



→ kirk.rs

Saša
Dragojlo

BIRN,
Serbia

BIO

Saša Dragojlo is a journalist at Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN), known for his stories of corruption, crime, labour rights, people trafficking, migration, and arms trade. Prior to BIRN, he worked for Insajder, the first investigative journalism TV show in the Balkans, on numerous investigative documentaries such as '(Non)humans', dealing with the cover-up of the deaths of workers in arms industry, and 'The State against the Workers' about financial crimes in Serbia's privatized railway factory Goša, and many others. He was the winner of the most prestigious investigative journalist awards in Serbia, including the award of the Independent Journalistic Association of Serbia (NUNS), and the EU Award for Investigative Journalism.

STORY

People smuggling: money, violence, and ties to the security services
Krijumčarenje ljudi: Štekovi novca, nasilje i veze sa bezbednosnim službama

SUMMARY

The story lifts the lid on a lucrative smuggling operation that keeps migrants and refugees moving across the Balkans, lining the pockets of state security agents along the way. Based on numerous statements of insider sources, secret notes of the informant of the Serbia's Military Security Agency, videos and photo materials, the author reveals not only the modus operandi of smuggling networks, their routes up north and cash transfer system, but also the apparent complicity of the members of the Serbian security services. Despite dealing with the criminal underworld, the author is not losing sight of the real people and the empathy for the victims – the refugees who escaped war-torn homelands on a dangerous journey, squeezed between the unscrupulous people smugglers and police brutality.



→ birn.rs

Aleksandar
Đorđević

BIRN,
Serbia

BIO

Aleksandar Đorđević has been working as an investigative journalist for BIRN for more than ten years, previously coming from local media Kragujevac portal Šumadijapress.

STORY

A series of stories on corrupt mechanism in the Electric Power Industry of Serbia (EPS)

EPS Serijal: Zlatna koka za SNS firme; Zvonko Veselinović plovi jahtom Svezozara Marovića

SUMMARY

The series of two texts shows the corruption mechanism in the largest public company in Serbia, Electric power industry of Serbia (EPS). After initially obtained data on all public procurements of EPS for a period of ten years, BIRN journalists established that the largest part of that money went into the hands of companies controlled by people close to the ruling Serbian Progressive Party (SNS). The corruption was completely exposed with the help of documents that showed that the leader of the largest organized criminal group in Serbia was directly connected to the company that profited the most in dealings with EPS. BIRN journalists, in the story *EPS - The golden hen for SNS companies* managed to collect data on all public procurements of this public company using scraping technologies and showing how the largest part of the annual budget for public procurement of €1 billion ends up in the hands of companies controlled by the ruling party. The second story of the series, which follows the fate of a luxury yacht worth almost €10 million, is a paradigm of political mechanisms in Serbia and Montenegro dominated by corruption. The special value of the story is that it is based on documents that are not public and that cannot be obtained with the help of the Law on Access to Information of Public Importance.



→ birn.rs



→ birn.rs

Jovana
Gligorijević

Vreme,
Serbia

BIO

Jovana Gligorijević is a journalist for the weekly Vreme and the Editor and host of the TV show Taboo on Insider TV. She has 20 years of experience in journalism in numerous media outlets in Serbia and the region as an associate and correspondent. She is the co-founder of the 'Female journalists against violence towards women' group, the co-author of the Guidelines for Ethical Reporting on Gender-based Violence and the media literacy manual for teachers published by the Media Association of Serbia.

STORY

Conspiracy of silence lasted for a long time – sexual harassment at the Petnica Science Centre
Zavera ćutanja koja je dugo trajala – Seksualno nasilje u Istraživačkoj stanici Petnica

SUMMARY

In June 2021 five women, former students at the Petnica Science Centre, western Serbia, claimed an employee subjected them to sexual harassment. The Petnica Science Center is an independent not-profit organisation, established in 1982, and mostly intended to serve gifted high school students, aged 15 to 19. The first such case happened in 2003 and, according to the magazine, over 20 women had similar experiences. Former director of Petnica Vigor Majić said he first heard about participants being photographed in 2014 but was 'convinced that it was an isolated incident that had no sexual connotation'. In 2017, one of girls reported what happened to the Petnica management, including Majić and current director Nikola Božić. A controversial employee was then removed from his position but continued to work at Petnica part-time at least until the end of 2019.



→ vreme.com

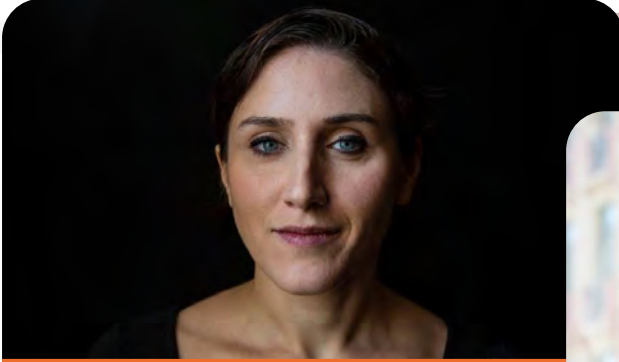
TÜRKİYE
TÜRKİYE
TÜRKİYE



Can Özçelik



Çiğdem Toker



Pelin Ünker



Serdar Vardar

Can
Özçelik

ODA TV,
Türkiye

BIO

Özçelik is the Editor-in-Chief of OdaTV. He began his career in 2004. He covered politics for various magazines and TV channels and authored three books.

STORY

Minister sold merchandise to her ministry
Kendi bakanlığına mal satan bakan

SUMMARY

Özçelik's investigative piece revealed that the then Minister of Trade Ruhsar Pekcan had a disinfectant company and sold its products to the Ministry as well as its affiliated institutions. Ruhsar Pekcan was fired following the publication of the story, making her the first Minister to get fired for misconduct during the 20-year AKP-rule.



→ odatv4.com

Çiğdem
Toker

Sözcü,
Türkiye

BIO

Toker has been writing a column for Sözcü newspaper since 2018. She began her career in journalism at Anka News Agency in 1986. She has worked for both print and broadcast media ever since.

STORY

The Canal Istanbul Project
Kanal İstanbul Dosyası

SUMMARY

Feasibility report of *Canal Istanbul*, a controversial project which has been on the agenda for the past decade, has been hidden from the public. The report in question had vital information on the financial resources of the project as well its legality. Çiğdem Toker's research unearths the highlights from the 500-page report for the first time.



→ sozcu.com.tr

**Pelin Ünker
& Serdar
Vardar**

**Deutsche
Welle Akademie
Türkiye**

BIO

Pelin Ünker is currently working for Deutsche Welle Akademie/Turkish. She covered economics and finance for Cumhuriyet newspaper from 2008 to 2018. She has been awarded for her work on Paradise Papers, Panama Papers and Pandora Papers. / **Serdar Vardar** is working for Deutsche Welle Akademie where he covers Latin America, Türkiye and contributes to analysis. He organized the first Turkish Film Festivals in Argentina and Chile. Türkiye.

STORY

Pandora Papers

SUMMARY

Ünker and Vardar examined the Pandora Papers uncovering the information related to Türkiye, they revealed the offshore accounts of many businesspeople.



→ dw.com



