Malta Journalism Awards 2026

Jury Report

This report presents a general comment on the overall quality of the reviewed submissions. The jury agreed that submissions in a number of categories were of a high level, notably in the categories of 'Scoop of the Year', 'Specialist Journalism', 'Political Journalism', and 'Environment and Planning Journalism'.

The presence of highly detailed and deeply researched pieces in the 'Crime and Legal Affairs' and 'Best Investigation' categories is also to be acknowledged.

On the other hand, entries in other categories struggled to effectively communicate stories or make best use of the medium. This includes the categories of 'Best Use of Video', 'Best Cartoon' and 'Comment Journalism'. In fact, in the latter two categories, the jury has agreed that the award is not to be given.

Below are the results agreed upon by the jury, followed by specific comments on each category.

Kind regards,



Kurt Borg

On behalf of the jury

Ranking	**Best Feature/Human Interest Story**	**Scoop of the Year**	**Best Use of Video**
1	**FEA-09**	**SCO-10**	**VID-02**
2	**FEA-22**	**SCO-05**	**VID-01 & VID-04**
3	**FEA-16**	**SCO-03**	
	The winning entry was well-produced and highlights the links between personal accounts and broader systemic barriers. The second-place entry was well-researched and effectively combines investigative work with a documentary while following up with interviews with survivors, eliciting the contemporary implications of the case. The third-place entry is a deeply emotional story that is well-written, although not overly impactful beyond the specific story and did not entail much research.	The winning entry was highly relevant and of national importance. The feature was clearly communicated through the use of explainers. It had implications on judicial and political matters, and implicated the reactions of cabinet members and key political figures. The runner up presents an internationally relevant scoop that elicited a reaction from the subject covered. The third-place entry effectively combined visuals and reactions from a number of varied sources, contextualising a local phenomenon within a broader European context.	The winning entry was well-produced, demonstrating clear and detailed communication of a complex case while contextualising the story within the broader political context. The runners-up, which share the second-place, are being recognised for two different reasons: one, for presenting a first take on a matter of international relevance, and the other for being an impactful use of video despite its limitations as an interview.

Ranking	Specialist Journalism	Political Journalism	Best Cartoon	Photojournalism	Sports Photojournalism
1	**SPE-17**	**POL-02**	**/**	**PHO-09**	**SPH-06**
2	**SPE-06**	**POL-05**	**/**	**PHO-02**	**SPH-02**
3	**SPE-02**	**POL-04**	**/**	**PHO-01**	**SPH-01**
	The winning entry is a story that arguably defined the journalistic year in Malta, presenting information in great detail and through constant updates, communicating with the nation the key moments in this high-stakes trial. The runner-up entry deserves recognition for the exhaustive and important work it is doing, utilising loads of data to produce long-reads that are deeply analytical and well-researched. The entry in the third place is to be commended for combining evidence with accounts of lived experience, conveying a complex issue to the public.	The winning entry presents exhaustive and well-researched long-reads, conveying complex data through balanced pieces that are highly relevant in a national context. The runner-up entry is being recognised as a great piece of political journalism for its immediate impact and effectiveness. The third place entry is being commended for situating a local story within a current debate in European political contexts.	For this category, the jury has decided not to recommend any of the entries for the award. CAR-01 cannot be classified as a cartoon given its subject matter. The quality of the commentary in CAR-02 does not meet the standard expected of a cartoon that merits such an award and, moreover, the entry presents a dossier with cartoons that have been published over a number of years, including in book form, with some dating back 3 years.	The winning entry is being recognised for being a well-composed photo that captures the essence of Maltese festa fireworks. The runner up entry is to be commended for its effective communication and visual impact. The third place entry contains significant visual impact despite it raising ethical issues concerning the subject being portrayed.	The winning entry is a noteworthy photo that highlights the action and drama of victory. The runner up entry is being recognised for its composition and the way it captures the atmosphere. The third place entry is being recognised for the way it blends sports with a human story.

Ranking	**Art & Culture Journalism**	**Crime & Legal Affairs**	**Sports Journalism**
1	**ART-12**	**CRI-03**	**SPO-10**
2	**ART-06**	**CRI-07**	**SPO-05**
3	**ART-15**	**CRI-13**	**SPO-06**
	The winning entry is being chosen for its intergenerational portrayal of the subject in an accessible way intended for diverse audiences. The runner-up is to be commended for casting light on an important issue that calls for follow-up. The third place entry is to be recognised for its detailed historical research.	The winning entry is being recognised for being highly detailed and for demonstrating great investigative depth, with huge significance to the public interest. The runner up is to be commended for its detailed investigation that makes good use of multi-media. The third place entry outlines the implications of a past story that deserves attention.	The winning entry presents a good investigation that has implications on a variety of sports, connecting the issue with institutional shortcomings. The runner up entry presents a detailed account of the case and its effects on the sports scene. The third place entry is well-written and researched, and adds nuance to a public conversation.

Ranking	Environment and Planning Journalism	Comment Journalism	Best Investigation	Upcoming Journalist
1	**ENV-01**	**/**	**INV-03**	**UPC-05**
2	**ENV-12**	**/**	**INV-04**	**UPC-01**
3	**ENV-02**	**/**	**INV-05**	**UPC-06**
	The winning entry is being recognised for being a wide-ranging investigation that was deeply researched and contributes to the public understanding of environmental issues. The runner up is to be commended as an explainer of a complex issue that was communicated with the public in a clear manner. The third place entry presents a detailed and investigative account of an issue with an environmental concern.	The jury decided not to recommend any of the submissions for the award in this category. The jury felt that several of the entries do not qualify as comments as such, and those that do qualify were not of a sufficient quality. Formats such as an interview or an informational piece cannot be considered as comments, which should demonstrate clear and informed argumentation.	The winning entry is being recognised for being a highly impactful investigation that contributed to the resignation of a minister. The runner up presents a well-researched investigation into failures of regulation. The third place entry is being commended for being a good investigated that resulted in follow-up action.	Kyle Patrick Camilleri is being recommended as the winner in this category for pursuing highly relevant stories, such as those related to property prices in Malta, climate politics and overtourism, with clear, effective and analytical writing. Jaelle Borg is being recommended as runner up for demonstrating ability both in writing but also in speaking, as well as her work on this summer's high profile trial. Emma Brownrigg Fenech is being recommended for third place for her dogged and persistent work (for example, chasing MPs for responses) and following up on stories.

Ranking	Interview of the Year	Business Journalism	Best Podcast Episode	Best use of the Maltese language
1	INT-05	BUS-01	POD06	INV-02
2	INT-02	BUS-08	POD02	
3	INT-04	BUS-04		
	The winning entry is being recognised for being an interview that presents a powerful story while eliciting the broader institutional failures surrounding the story. The runner up is being recognised for pursuing a good line of questioning, addressing complex issues in a clear way. The third place entry is being recognised for presenting a good retrospective account of a life in politics.	The winning entry is being commended for its detailed and wide-ranging investigation and clear communication. The runner up presents an impactful story with a good follow-up piece. The third place entry presents a detailed and precise discussion of key economic and business issues.	The winning entry is being commended for presenting a timely and detailed account of a key trial, using clear and effective communication to explain complex procedures. The runner up is being recognised for being a good production and also for presenting an articulate discussion on complex economic issues. The third place is being given to no entry since several of the entries do not strictly speaking qualify as a podcast, but are more a typical interview or TV debate.	This award is being given to this entry for being a series of articles highlighting the systemic barriers faced by TCNs in Malta. The use of the Maltese language in this series of articles blends narrative, testimonies, critique and analysis in an effective way. The tone and style of writing are distinctive and carries a strong sense of voice.