

CIR Open Source Film Awards

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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1. SUMMARY

To showcase the power and impact of Open Source Investigations (OSINV) in journalism, CIR is proud to announce the first edition of the CIR Open Source Film Awards, to be held at the International Journalism Festival in Perugia (17-21 April 2024).

The Awards are now open for entries and submissions will **close on Friday 23 February 2024.**

Open Source Investigative (OSINV) techniques have rapidly become a key part of modern-day investigative journalism with many media organisations making significant investments in OSINV capabilities and dedicated teams. The CIR Open Source Film Awards set out to celebrate the use of OSINV techniques in investigative journalism, to encourage innovation in visual OSINV storytelling and to support a creative community among OSINV-focused journalists.

2. CATEGORIES AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The CIR Open Source Film Awards are centred around one central requirement: **Open Source Investigative Techniques need to have played an integral part in reaching the investigative findings made in each (non-fiction) film.**

CIR does not aim to provide an exhaustive list of what defines OSINV techniques and does not want to limit any expression of innovative storytelling. Upon taking part, participants are asked to provide a **supporting statement** reviewing the use of OSINV techniques in their film by clarifying the significance of which OSINV techniques were used in their investigation, the importance of OSINV to their team or by explaining how OSINV techniques allowed them to pursue the journalistic aim of their video.



The Awards are open to any subject matter and any journalistic genre: news reports, feature pieces, current affairs programmes and documentary films are all welcomed. We do encourage the submission of films that have added to the deeper understanding of specific conflicts, expose human rights abuses, films that uncover key elements of accountability or that challenge an established narrative of events. Finding creative ways to tell OSINV stories in an emotionally engaging way is a plus.

There are three categories, based on the length of the video:

1. **Open Source – Short-form**
Videos of maximum 6 minutes of duration
2. **Open Source – Mid-form**
Videos of maximum 20 minutes of duration
3. **Open Source – Long-form**
Videos of more than 20 minutes of duration

There is no limit to the number of subject entries any participant can make in each category, but any one subject (which may have been published at different lengths) can only be entered in one category. For example, participants who have turned a long-form film into a short-form news report cannot submit the same investigation in both short-form and long-form categories, they will need to choose one category only for this particular subject.

In order to be eligible films need to have been first broadcast or published online between 22 February 2023 and 22 February 2024.

Films do not need to be broadcast or published by traditional media organisations in order to be eligible, independent, or freelance productions are also welcomed. However, there must be a clear way to identify the date of publication of the video online, this can be on a website, YouTube channel or other social media platform.

As part of the submission an accessible online viewing link must be provided. Videos that were part of linear broadcasting and do not have any online presence will need to be submitted by sending a private video link (like Vimeo) or an individual download link (like WeTransfer or Dropbox) along with a reference to the original broadcast date.

Films in any language can be submitted, but any films not produced in English will require submission of the original publication link along with a separate online link or download link to the same video with full English subtitles. Any non-English videos submitted without any reference to an English translated version will be disqualified.

CIR is a non-profit organisation; each submission carries a fee of 45 GBP + VAT (amounting to 54 GBP) to help cover the organisational costs of these awards. Participants will need to pay the fee using the dedicated CIR PayPal link before submitting a video. PayPal will provide the participant with an invoice and reference number which needs to be provided as part of the submission.



If a participant is submitting multiple videos a separate payment needs to be made for each submission so that the individual payment reference can be attached to each individual submission.

3. HOW TO SUBMIT

The following materials need to be entered via [this form](#) (click for hyperlink)

1. **Title** of film being submitted.
2. **Still image** to illustrate the film (min 1, max 5): This can be a thumbnail or other still taken from the film (jpeg image). If the video is part of an established branded programme, please submit one still image with and one without branding. Please ensure copyright requirements would allow CIR to republish this image in reference to the CIR Open Source film awards.
3. **Publication date** and any reference in relation to this (if not obvious from weblink).
4. **Category** the film is being submitted in.
5. **Credit List** of persons credited with making the film, this list will be part of any publication of the shortlist and/or winners.
6. **Weblink** to any online publication of the film, if there is no public online publication of the film available, please send a private viewing link (+password) or private download link along with some external reference to determine the publication date. For any non-English films please send original language publication link along with an English-subtitled link (as set out in previous section).
7. **Summary Statement** of max 100 words to summarise the subject of the video, this can be used by CIR to introduce and illustrate the film.
8. **Supporting Statement** of max 600 words, reviewing the use of OSINV techniques in the film by clarifying the significance of which OSINV techniques were used in the investigation, the importance of OSINV to the team or by explaining how OSINV techniques allowed them to pursue the journalistic aim of the video.
9. **Copyright Permission** must be explicitly granted by the applicant for any copyrighted materials provided in support of the submission to be used by CIR for promotional purposes within the context of the CIR Open Source Film Awards and for limited republication on CIR platforms.
10. **Fee:** the application fee of 45 GBP + VAT will need to be paid via this [PayPal link](#) (click for hyperlink) ahead of the application being submitted. An invoice will be provided by PayPal and will need to be uploaded for proof of payment as part of the application.



Any person/organisation can submit any number of films in each category, but separate forms for each submission will be required. Each submission should be made through a separate form, we do not accept multiple submissions in one form.

4. JURY / SHORTLISTING

The jury will consist of specialist members at CIR along with external experts.

The full list of jury members will be published on the CIR website ahead of the award ceremony.

5. SHORTLISTING AND FESTIVAL OFFER

Three submissions will be selected for the shortlist for each category. Participants shortlisted will be notified after 15 March 2024.

By Friday 29 March (2 weeks after notification) finalist must provide a 1 (minimum) to 3 (maximum) minute high resolution video trailer or excerpt of the selected film, to be used for promotional purposes online and during the Award ceremony.

For each finalist entry CIR will provide hotel accommodation for two participants per submission for 2 nights. All other expenses, including food and travel, are paid for by the finalists.

6. AWARDS CEREMONY

The Award Ceremony will be hosted at the International Journalism Festival in Perugia 17-21 April 2024. Winners will be asked to provide the audience with a 10 minute (max) presentation discussing the challenges they faced while making the film, the significance of OSINV techniques used and the wider impact of the investigation.

The CIR Open Source Film Awards do not include a monetary prize but offers a recognition of excellence in the field of OSINV journalism and a chance to build long-lasting networking relationships within the OSINV community at the International Journalism Festival.

7. NOTICE

By submitting a film to the CIR Open Source Film Awards, applicants give CIR explicit permission to use any materials provided as part of the submission, with the appropriate attribution, for promotion on its platforms. Applicants accept any and all legal responsibility for republication of any copyrighted materials (provided by the applicant) by CIR in the context of promotion (online or offline) of the CIR Open Source Film Awards or its subsequent announcement of finalists or winners.



CIR cannot be held responsible for any third party liability in relation to the submission materials provided, all responsibility lies with the applicant.

All data provided as part of the submission will be processed confidentially and solely for the purposes of the CIR Open Source Film Awards and in accordance with GDPR regulations. Applicants may receive a personal invite to participate in future CIR Open Source Film Award editions.

8. CONTACT

For queries in relation to the Open Source Film Awards please contact:

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