

New York, April 3, 2025 – The prestigious SLOVAK PRESS PHOTO 2024 exhibition, which was held in September and October of last year at Hviezdoslav Square and Zichy Palace in Bratislava, was given the unique opportunity to travel to America and opened on April 3, 2025, at the gallery of the Consulate General in New York!

Thanks to the invitation of the Consulate General in New York, talented photographers, photojournalists, video makers and students will have their works exhibited right on Manhattan, giving them valuable international exposure and bringing a view of Slovakia, the V4 countries and Ukraine to a wider audience.

Congratulations to all exhibiting artists who are part of this prestigious event! Thanks to the invitation of the Consul General, Milan Vrbovský, to New York, we have brought to their gallery the photographs, videos and stories of the finalists and winners of the 13th SLOVAK PRESS PHOTO 2024. Thank you to Mercedes Benz at Panónska street for supporting this exhibition. The opening was held in the presence of Consul General, Milan Vrbovský, representatives of the diplomatic corps and representatives of the Slovak community in New York, as well as other distinguished guests.

204 photographers from Slovakia, the V4 countries and Ukraine entered the competition, submitting a total of 1 876 photographs. 14 creators entered the re-opened short video category.

Photographers and video makers from Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Ukraine have registered for the competition. The finalists are creators from the V4 countries. Notably, photographers working for international agencies, many of whom have received prestigious awards, have also applied. We were especially surprised by the student category. "After a long break, the quality of student work has improved. Following the pandemic crisis, students have regained their motivation to create," said Jana Hojstříčová, guarantor of the SLOVAK PRESS PHOTO project, assessing the level of entries in the student category.

Among the entries, a tragic event that deeply resonated throughout our society was a dominant theme. Many authors explored various social issues, environmental protection, the climate crisis, and the war in Ukraine and its consequences through their photographic works and short videos. The jury expressed great satisfaction with the student category, which surpassed the level of the other categories. The results can be found in the online gallery: <https://sutaz.slovak-press-photo.sk/SK/sutaz-finalisti-2024>.

The jury included **Maral Deghati** (photo editor and education manager at World Press Photo, France), **Bülent Kılıç** (journalist, photojournalist, and World Press Photo winner, Turkey), **Magdalena Herrera** (art director and photo editor, France), **Jindřich Štreit** (photographer and educator, Czech Republic), and **Jana Hojstřichová** (photographer and educator, Slovakia), who also serves as the guarantor of the project.

Commenting on the winning GRAND PRIX photo, the jury said: *"We awarded the prize for several reasons. The photograph is part of a series capturing a historic event in Slovakia in 2024—the attempted assassination of the Prime Minister. It's important to recognize that the photographer was present at an event that most of the international press did not attend. The fact that the photographer made the effort to document part of the country's political atmosphere was significant, and he fulfilled his duty to witness this historic moment. No one was prepared for such an event, but the photographer was able to capture the atmosphere and the event as it unfolded in the best possible way. And I think that should be appreciated,"* added Maral Deghati, chairperson of the jury.

A special prize, the Bratislava Grant 2024, was awarded to the project ***Borders of Inclusion*** by **Kristýna Seidlová**. The topic of the Bratislava Grant is *"Inclusion in Education."*

In its 13th year, we reintroduced the international short video category, which attracted 14 authors with excellent works, confirming that it was a great choice. The jury for the short video category was composed of **Maral Deghati** (photo editor and education manager at World Press Photo, France), **Tomáš Rafa** (photographer, video maker, and educator, Slovakia), and **Ivo Miko** (cameraman and documentary filmmaker, Slovakia). Among all the authors with very close results, the winner was student **Robo Mihály** with **The Most Beautiful Corner in the Wide World**. The video is a documentary essay that reflects contemporary Slovak society.

The exhibition will run until April 25, 2025, at the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic in New York, located at 167 East 73rd Street, New York, NY 10021.

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