

# Information on how to submit / nominate works and on the evaluation process<sup>1</sup>

## What the prize is about

The Investigative Journalism Prize is awarded for the most significant investigative journalism works that have an impact on the public interest and democracy in Lithuania.

The prize evaluates investigations that examine the functioning of the public sector, politics, or government, reveal systemic issues or abuses, and contribute to strengthening transparency and accountability. Investigations concerning private entities may also be submitted and evaluated if they expose broader issues of public interest.

## How to submit or nominate works

Works can be submitted for the award in two ways:

- by submitting an investigation directly (by authors or editorial teams),
- by nominating a work (by third parties).

### Submission of an investigative work

This option is intended for those who can provide comprehensive information about the work (e.g., methodology, sources, investigation process). This form enables a complete and high-quality evaluation of the work.

When submitting an investigation, the following will be required:

- link(s) to the publication(s)
- a summary of the investigation
- information on the methodology and sources used
- an explanation of the investigation's significance and impact
- information about the author(s)

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<sup>1</sup> This document has been translated using ChatGPT. Should there be any conflict or difference in meaning, the Lithuanian version takes precedence.

## Nomination

This option is intended to draw attention to a significant investigation when full detailed information about its preparation is not available. In such cases, basic information and justification for why the work deserves the prize are provided. Nominations may be evaluated based on publicly available information.

When nominating a work, the following will be required:

- link(s) to the publication(s)
- a brief description of the investigation
- justification of why the work deserves the prize
- information about the author(s) (if known)

The prize is awarded to one most significant investigative journalism work of the year; therefore, we encourage responsible submission and nomination of works. We recommend submitting or nominating only those works that, in your assessment, stand out in terms of their impact, quality of investigation, and importance to the public interest.

One person may submit no more than 3 works (including nominations).

It is important that the work is publicly published, has clear authorship, and that one submission form contains either one investigation or one series of investigations.

Works may be submitted or nominated throughout the call period – from 2026-04-07 to 2026-05-06.

## Who evaluates and how

The evaluation process takes place in two stages:

### I. Expert evaluation

First, the works are evaluated by independent experts. Each work is assessed by two experts individually and anonymously. If their evaluations differ significantly, an additional expert is assigned. Based on these evaluations, an overall ranking of works is created.

Experts evaluate works according to three main dimensions:

- alignment with the purpose of the prize
- professional and methodological quality
- impact on society

## II. Selection Committee decision

In the second stage, the decision is made by the Selection Committee. It relies on the ranking prepared by the experts but evaluates the decision within a broader context of public interest and democratic principles.

The Selection Committee assumes responsibility for the final decision — to determine whether the work ranked highest by experts truly best meets the purpose of the prize.

Deviation from the expert ranking is possible only in exceptional cases, when at least one of the following conditions is identified:

- another work more clearly serves the public interest
- justified and significant ethical concerns arise
- new significant circumstances emerge after evaluation

## When results are announced

After the submission period ends, expert evaluation takes place, followed by the Selection Committee's decision.

The winner and up to three finalists are announced at a public event, during which the prize is awarded. A summary of the decision rationale will be published on [www.pamatai.org](http://www.pamatai.org).

Submitters may receive summarized feedback from experts, and appeals are possible only in cases of procedural violations.

## Indicative timeline

- submission of works – 2026-04-07 to 2026-05-06
- evaluation – May
- award ceremony – 2026-06-08