

Press Release

On Saturday, the Award Ceremony in Košice's Dom umenia venue concluded the 23rd International Festival of Local Televisions Golden Beggar. This year, authors from 53 countries sent more than 300 films to compete at the Festival.

The films which made it into the short list were screened every day from Wednesday to Saturday in Dom techniky in Košice.

The international Jury awarded the following prizes:

Grand Prix Golden Beggar 2017 of the Representation of European Commission in Slovakia for Production Company was awarded to *Spring Flood* directed by Jeannice Adriaansens (Belgium).

Grand Prix Golden Beggar 2017 of the Košice Self-governing Region for Young Author was awarded to

Rabie Chetwy directed by Mohamed Kamel (Egypt).

Grand Prix Golden Beggar 2017 of the Mayor of Košice for Local Television was awarded to the Serbian film *Strokes* by Vladimir Perović.

This year, prizes of mayors of Rožňava, Spišská Nová Ves and Michalovce were awarded at the Festival for the very first time. Moreover, for the first time ever the Festival travelled into these three towns, offering one-day screenings of the films from previous years.

General audience could also enjoy the non-competitive three-day screening of films in Kino Úsmev cinema in Košice.

The complete list of awarded films can be found in a separate document.

More than 150 filmmakers, TV broadcasters, experts and artists from the total of 19 countries registered for the Festival.

During one of Festival's special moments, Grand Prix Golden Beggar 2016 for Young Author was presented to Saman Hosseinpour from Iran. The prize was presented by the Chairman of the Jury Roger Worrod during the opening ceremony in Kino Úsmev cinema.

Working meetings during which current European affairs are discussed have already become a traditional part of the Festival. This year's topics were *Terrorism, Wars and Other Conflicts – Existential Threat for Journalism* and *Refugee and Migrant Crisis as Seen by Media*. Particularly interesting for participants from local televisions was the meeting with MP Ján Budaj who talked about the chances to draft a law act on the funding of local televisions particularly interesting. Panelists included Slovak, Turkish, French, Czech, Serbian, Macedonian, German and Ukrainian experts.

Accompanying events have become very popular and enjoyable complement to the Festival. This year's joint exhibition *Made in Košice + Niš* has been a great success and attracted many people from Košice. Together with street performances of musicians, it was an interesting and

attractive way to liven up the city. Flawless choir singing of Niš academics, who sang at various spots in Košice, attracted admiration and acclaim among all passers-by.

Based on various reactions, the organisers concluded that this year's edition of the Festival was successful and it met the expectations of Festival organisers and organisers alike.

Košice, 10.06.2017