

Czech Photo announces the 31st edition of the Czech Press Photo competition. At the beginning of the fourth decade of the competition, it introduces changes and new categories.

Registration for the 31st edition of the Czech Press Photo competition opens on September 1. The competition is intended for photographers in the Czech Republic, and a newly established special award called PROJECT EUROPE is being introduced for the first time, open also to foreign authors documenting contemporary Europe, its transformations, challenges, and everyday life. A new category has been added to the main competition categories: Life in the Czech Republic – Long-term Project, intended for more extensive documentary series. Special emphasis is also placed on the work of photographers operating in the Czech regions. **This year, the international jury will have seven members, including Serbian Reuters photographer Marko Djurica and Adrian Evans, director of the UK agency Panos Pictures, alongside Czech experts.**

The international jury will be chaired by **Petr Mlch**, editor-in-chief of the ČTK photo bank. Other members include photographer **Alžběta Jungrová** from 400ASA, documentary photographer Dana Kyndrová, Respekt magazine photographer **Milan Jaroš**, and long-time Reuters photographer **Petr Josek**. An independent perspective will be ensured by the foreign jurors: Serbian Reuters photographer **Marko Djurica** and **Adrian Evans** representing Panos Pictures.

The jury will evaluate the submitted works from November 6–8, 2025, at the Czech Photo Centre gallery. The jury's work will be launched with exhibitions at our galleries Czech Photo Centre and Fragment Gallery.

The 31st edition of the Czech Press Photo competition features eight categories: News, Reportage, Everyday Life, Arts and Culture merged with Portrait, Sports, People and the Environment, and People in the News.

A newly announced category, **Life in the Czech Republic**, is intended for series of photographs capturing life in the Czech Republic, especially those documenting regional events, human stories, and long-term reportages. Projects developed over longer periods that provide a comprehensive view of a chosen theme can also be submitted. The award is supported by ČSOB Private Banking.

Why we established the new category Life in the Czech Republic is explained by competition manager Dan Materna: *"The new category Life in the Czech Republic – Long-term Project creates space for photographers dedicated to themes with lasting documentary value. It's not just about a single shot, but a deeper look at events and stories that shape our society and life in our country. At the same time, we want to give greater room to authors working in the regions, as that is where strong and authentic stories are created that deserve attention. We want to recognize the work of photographers who have the courage and perseverance to follow a theme for a longer period and thus offer the public a comprehensive visual testimony about contemporary Czechia,"* says competition manager Dan Materna.

The most significant change is the creation of the Project Europe Award. This special award is intended for photographers living and working in Europe. Awarded will be series that provide an authentic and deeper look at contemporary Europe, its transformations, challenges, and everyday life – whether in an urban, rural, political, or cultural context.

*"For three decades, the Czech Press Photo competition has operated at a federal level – open to both Czech and Slovak authors. The 31st edition is the ideal opportunity for change. In the main categories, we now focus exclusively on Czech authors, which corresponds to the very name of the competition. At the same time, we realize that we are an integral part of Europe, where borders are disappearing, and photographers' work is instantly visible worldwide thanks to the internet. We want to support photojournalism as broadly and highly as possible, and therefore we announce **the new special award Project Europe**. It is intended for photographers from all over Europe, including Czech and Slovak authors. The winner will receive a sculpture by artist David Černý. I would like to emphasize that this is a special award. The images are therefore not included in the main competition and do not aspire to the title Photo of the Year. We believe that the participation of foreign photographers will not only increase the competition's prestige but above all enrich the exhibition,"* adds Czech Photo director Veronika Souralová.

A traditional part of the competition is the annual Prague Grant creative scholarship, personally awarded by the Mayor of Prague.

The launch of this year's edition will take place in a new format – a gala ceremony will be held in January 2026 in the West Hall of the National Museum, and the exhibition will open in March in the New Building of the National Museum.

Alongside the main competition, Czech Photo Junior will be held for young photographers. This competition is intended for elementary and high school students. It has three age categories – younger pupils, older pupils, and high school students. Young photographers can submit their photos until September 30, 2025, via the CEWE system. The best photos will be judged together with the professional Czech Press Photo competition.

Photographs can be submitted to the 31st edition of the Czech Press Photo competition from September 1 to September 30, 2025, exclusively online via the form published on the competition website. The competition is open to publishers, agencies, professional photographers, photography schools, and established freelance photographers who have permanent residence in Czechia and whose work is created for publication in the media. All authors must comply with the competition rules. The entry fee for the photography category is 1200 CZK / 50 EUR, and young people under 23 years of age are exempt from the fee.

Also in the 31st edition, partner awards will not be missing – the Canon Junior Award for young talents, the ČTK Prize as a scholarship for young authors under 26, the PICTOART Prize accompanying the Prague Grant and intended for printing and mounting photographs, the Committee of Good Will – Olga Havel Foundation's award "My Life with a Disability" for

authors capturing specific living conditions of people with sensory, physical, or mental disabilities or those at risk of social exclusion, the Samsung Prize awarded within the categories Portrait, Arts and Culture, or Sport, and the Czech Radio – Radiožurnál Prize awarded for the most powerful photo or series taken in a war zone, major natural disaster, social unrest, or crisis situation.

The Czech Press Photo 2025 competition and exhibition is organized by Czech Photo, o. p. s., under the auspices of the President of the Republic, the Minister of Culture, and the Mayor of Prague.

General Partner: Trigema Family Foundation

Exhibition Co-organizer: National Museum

Partners: Koupelny Ptáček, CeWe, eContest, Siko, Berlitz, Pictoart, Canon, Eizo, Samsung, Laufen, Soliter Parket, Fomei, Newton Media, Olga Havel Foundation – Committee of Good Will, Saint-Gobain, ČSOB Private Banking, CertiCon

Main Media Partner: Czech Television, Czech Radio 1 – Radiožurnál

Media Partners: ČTK, Radio DAB, Lidé a Země, PUBLICO NEWS

Press contact: sikorova.jana@czechphoto.org