

## **Hetq Journalism Awards**

Here's a comprehensive list of *Hetq's* awards and honors:

### **2002**

Hetq won 1st Prize in Investigative Journalism from Internews-Armenia.

### **2003**

The Investigative Journalists NGO, at a ceremony organized by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Armenian office, was recognized as the NGO that most effectively used the right to file for information.

### **2004**

- The Armenian branch of Transparency International awarded the Investigative Journalists NGO a prize for its significant contribution to the struggle against corruption in Armenia.
- The series of films “Hrazdan Gorge: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow” won Second Prize in a competition organized by the Aarhus Armenian Centre of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on ‘Environmental Themes Represented in Media’.
- Edik Baghdasaryan, the editor in-chief of *Hetq*, received 1st Prize for “Best Investigative Film” from Internews-Armenia.

### **2005**

Edik Baghdasaryan, the editor in-chief of *Hetq*, received 1st Prize for “Best Environmental Film” from the OSCE Office in Yerevan.

### **2007**

- Edik Baghdasaryan, the editor in-chief of *Hetq*, received the “Incentive Award” in the World Wildlife Fund’s Environmental Journalism Competition.
- *Hetq* received the “Incentive Award” from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in the Environmental Journalism Competition category.

### **2008**

Edik Baghdasaryan, the editor in-chief of *Hetq*, was awarded the International Investigative Journalism Award by the Global Investigative Journalism Conference in Lillehammer, Norway, for an investigative series that uncovered the fact that the former environment minister in Armenia had taken control of a segment of the nation’s natural resources and had granted mining licenses to himself, his family members, and subordinates at the ministry.

### **2010**

- Edik Baghdasaryan, the editor in-chief of *Hetq*, received the “Defender of Armenia Freedom” award from United States Ambassador to Armenia Marie Yovanovitch.

- May 19, 2012, The Armenian Bar Association awarded Edik Baghdasaryan the “Hrant Dink Freedom Award” for his heroic defense of liberty and free speech in the service of the people of the Republic of Armenia.

### **2011**

- On November 10, 2011, the RA Ministry of Territorial Administration awarded *Hetq* the “Best Coverage of Community Life 2011” prize, as part of the 15th anniversary celebrations of local self-government in Armenia.
- Edik Baghdasaryan, the editor in-chief of *Hetq*, received the "Time for Free Press" prize for his investigative career and professional courage.
- *Hetq* reporter Larisa Paremuzyan won the “Freedom of Speech” prize for her investigative work on pedophilia.

### **2012**

- On May 3, 2012, the Council on Trafficking Issues awarded *Hetq* a medal of commendation for its on-going coverage of human trafficking and ways to prevent it.
- Yeranuhi Sogoyan, won 1st Prize in the “Internet or Blog Article” category in the British Council’s “Na/Neh” (He/She) Competition on February 10, 2012.
- *Hetq* received an award certificate from the RA Ministry of Labor and Social Issues for outstanding coverage of gender equality in 2011.

### **2013**

- In December 2013, *Hetq* and *Hetq* Reporter Marine Martirosyan won the "Book Friend" Award. The award is given to news outlets and reporters who, with their news coverage and writing, support literary endeavors in Armenia. This year, the award was granted by Antares Publishers, the Granish Literary Foundation, and literary critics Hasmik Hakobyan and Arkmenik Nikoghosyan.
- On December 18, 2013, (International Migrants Day) *Hetq* reporter Yeranuhi Soghoyan was awarded second prize in the “Best Article” category at the “Suitcase 2013” journalism competition. The competition, run by the Armenian office of the People in Need organization, is financed by the European Union – Armenia Mobility Partnership’s “Support of circular migration and re-integration process in Armenia” program.
- On September 25, 2013, *Hetq* reporter Grisha Balasanyan won 2nd Prize in a competition dedicated to the coverage of judicial system reforms.

### **2014**

- On March 25, 2014, *Hetq* received the “Freedom of Speech” prize for its revelations of offshore accounts owned by government officials and related issues. The prize was presented by Asparez Club of Journalists (Armenia).
- On June 18, 2014, *Hetq* won the “Media Excellence” prize at the 2014 Universal Rights Awards Ceremony held in Yerevan. The award singled out *Hetq* for its professionalism in the field of investigative journalism and expose of human rights issues.

### **2015**

- On June 4, 2015, *Hetq* reporter Zaruhi Mejlumyan won the “Media Excellence” prize at the 2015 Universal Rights award ceremony in Yerevan for her unique professionalism and coverage of the rights of those sentenced to life imprisonment. Katherine Leach, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Armenia, presented the award to Mejlumyan and noted: “Reporters throughout the world play a crucial role exposing failures in the judicial system. Certain reporters, in reality, are defenders of rights. Actively and consciously, they expose injustices, correct the mistakes, raise awareness, assist individuals and point out system-wide problems. I am happy to announce that this year’s Media Excellence award is given to Zaruhi Mejlumyan.
- On September 25, 2015, *Hetq* walked away with medals in three categories in the “Tvapatum 2015 – Stories about Change” journalistic competition awards ceremony held in Yerevan. *Hetq* won in the categories: Observer: Investigative Reportage, Re-information: Best Use of Reforms, and Media 3.0: Best Use of Technology”. *Hetq*’s reporters Ani Hovhannisyan and Marine Madatyan won in the Investigative Reportage category for their article “[Expired X-ray Machines: Dangers of Radiation a Shut Topic in Armenia](#)”. *Hetq* reporter Zaruhi Mejlumyan was a co-winner in the Re-information: Best Use of Reforms category for her article “Armenia Will Get the Latest Generation of DNA Testing Equipment. Ani Hovhannisyan and Narek Aleksanyan won the Media 3.0 prize for their multimedia story entitled “[Tavoush Province: Armenia’s Legal and Illegal Garbage Dumps](#)”.
- *Hetq* was named as one of the twelve finalists vying for the prestigious [Global Shining Light Award](#), which honors investigative journalism in a developing or transitioning country, done under threat, duress, or in the direst of conditions. *Hetq* was selected for its series exposing exposed the murky dealings of an offshore company registered in Cyprus, revealing how the country’s state, church and business sectors cooperate in pursuing their economic interests. The story implicated the Prime Minister, who resigned in April 2014.
- *Hetq* won two prizes at the 13th Annual “Equal Opportunities” mass media competition dealing with disability issues organized by the Bridge of Hope and Mission East organizations. Kristine Aghalaryan won 1<sup>st</sup> Prize in the Journalism Article category for her [Accessible Yerevan: Access Ramps](#) piece. Arpine Minasyan’s article Disability, a Reason Not to Attend Public School, won 2nd Prize.

## 2016

- *Hetq* reporter Tatev Khachatryan was declared the [winner](#) of Armenia’s branch of Oxfam’s Food Safety and Nourishment competition in the category of internet reporting.
- *Hetq* reporter Naira Hayrapetyan won two media [awards](#) in a competition organized by the Children of Armenia Fund (COAF).
- *Hetq* reporter Gayane Sargsyan [won](#) First Prize at the Annual Media Award on Religious Tolerance organized by the Eurasia Partnership Foundation and supported by the Embassy of the Netherlands. Sargsyan wrote a piece entitled “When I said we were expecting a child, he rejected me and the child”, based on the true story of a 22-year-old Molokan woman named Maria.
- *Hetq* reporters [won](#) four awards at the “Tvapatum (Digistory) – Stories About Change 2016” competition held in Yerevan.

- *Hetq* reporter Yeranuhi Soghoyan [won](#) 1st Prize at the “Suitcase 2016” annual media competition on key migration issues in the print media category.
- On December 10, 2016, *Hetq* reporter Gayane Sargsyan won 1st Prize at the 14th Annual “Equal Opportunities” mass media competition dealing with disability issues organized by the Bridge of Hope and Mission East organizations for her article [Between Inclusive and Special Schools](#).

## 2017

- *Hetq* reporter Hrant Galstyan’s article “[Artsakh Frontline 2016: Fallen Soldiers](#)” was recognized as the best investigative piece of the year at the 2017 Tvapatum Awards Ceremony, organized by the Media Initiatives Center, in Yerevan, on September 29.
- *Hetq* reporters Grisha Balasanyan and Zaruhi Mejlumyan were awarded honorary merit for their two-part series on the food situation in Armenia’s prisons.
- *Hetq* named the [number one news outlet](#) in Armenia to avail itself of the country’s freedom of information law. The title was bestowed on September 28 at “Golden Key, Rusty Lock” awards ceremony organized by the Freedom of Information Center.
- On July 18, the Yerevan Press Club (YPC) celebrated its 22nd anniversary and bestowed its annual awards to the best journalists and media organizations in Armenia.
- *Hetq* reporter Yeranuhi Soghoyan [was one of the award winners](#). The Civic Engagement in Local Governance (CELoG) project, led by the Community Finance Officers’ Association, with the financial support of the USAID, awarded Soghoyan for periodically referring to the theme of reforming the local self-governance system. The editor-in-chief of the Community-CELoG newspaper Arevhat Grigoryan presented the award, noting that many reporters write only in negative tones about the enlargement of the communities, whereas balanced coverage is rare to be found.
- Lusine Hovhannisyan, who writes also for *Hetq*, received a prize for her unique presentation style.
- *Hetq*’s Diana Ghazaryan and Saro Baghdasaryan were among those news outlets and reporters who won awards at this year’s (2017) Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) competition for their coverage of the issue "Inclusivity in Armenia". Here is their [story](#).
- *Hetq* reporter Ani Hovhannisyan’s article (90% of Armenians Seeking Refugee Status in Europe are Refused) won 3rd Prize at the “Suitcase 2017” annual journalism contest organized by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development) within the framework of the EU-funded project “Support to Migration and Border Management in Armenia” (MIBMA).
- Armenia’s Food Safety Service (FSS) awarded *Hetq* reporter Tatev Khachatryan an honorary award for the best coverage of the food safety issue in Armenia. Khachatryan received the award on March 15, 2018 at an event in Yerevan marking World Consumer Rights Day 2018. The awards ceremony followed a conference on food safety, entitled “Safe Food. Digital Solutions” attended by Armenian Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan, FSS Director Ishkhan Karapetyan, and EU Ambassador to Armenia Piotr Świtalski. All three spoke on the issue at the conference. "Inclusivity in Armenia".

## 2018

- On December 17, 2018, during the awards ceremony of the "Suitcase-2018" annual journalism contest. The best multimedia reportage award on migration issues went to *Hetq* reporters Ani Hovhannisyanyan, Saro Baghdasaryan for their [project](#) about seasonal workers.
- “Tvapatum” (Digistory) competition. Ani Hovhannisyanyan, Narek Aleksanyan and Davit Banuchyan won 1st prize in the category “Best Use of Media 3.0 Technologies” for the article [Paying Winter Utility Bills; How Do People in Yerevan Cope?](#)
- Grisha Balasanyan and Hrant Galstyan won the “Observer: Investigative Reportage” award for their article [Drinking Water Issues in Armenia: From Supply Network to Diseases Caused by Water](#) in “Tvapatum” (Digistory) competition.
- Yeranouhi Soghoian won "Special Mention" for her article [Irina Tadevosyan: Guardian Mistress of Tarik](#) in “Tvapatum” (Digistory) competition.

## 2019

- *Hetq*'s prison correspondent, Mher Yenokyan, won a special award issued by the Open Society Foundation- Armenia and Public Reporters' Club, as part of their “In the Name of Human Rights: Education in Prisons” project, for his article on his experience regarding getting an education while behind bars.
- *Hetq* reporter Kristine Aghalaryan won 1st prize in the “Tvapatum” (Digistory) competition's category “Observer. Investigative Reportage” for her article entitled “The Price of Armenian Gold. Poor Communities and Abandoned Tailing Dumps.”
- *Hetq*'s Diana Ghazaryan and Ani Hovhannisyanyan won an award in the “Tvapatum” competition (Best Use of Media 3.0 Technologies) for their multimedia piece "Alone in Class. 452 Children Are the Only Students in Their Class in Armenia.”
- A special prize was awarded in the "Tvapatum" competition on behalf of Yerevan Municipality for the investigation entitled “14 Kindergartens Close in Yerevan's Center. The Land was Sold”. *Hetq* reporters Seda Ghukasyan, Saro Baghdasaryan, and Tirayr Muradyan investigated the fate of the missing kindergarten buildings and opened a new area of work for the municipality.
- *Hetq* Journalist Ani Hovhannisyanyan received a Certificate of Special Mention in the “Tvapatum” competition for her "An Open Database of Property Owned by Officials and Their Affiliates."
- *Hetq*'s Marine Martirosyan and Vahe Sarukhanyan received a certificate of special commemoration in the "Tvapatum" competition for their article “Armenia's Artsvanik Tailings Dump: History, Impact, Dangers and Uncertain Future.”
- Marine Martirosyan and Vahe Sarukhanyan were awarded a special prize in the "Tvapatum" competition for article "Psychiatric Wards: Closed Cities of Armenia”.
- The winner of the "Best Journalistic Investigation" nomination at the 9th "Arevordi" International Environmental Festival was Kristine Aghalaryan's investigative film "The Price of Armenian Gold". Shot by cameraman Saro Baghdasaryan, it talks about Armenia's active and inactive gold mines.

- The Vanadzor office of the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly and the European Union paid special tribute to *Hetq* prison correspondent Mher Yenokyan for one of his prison letters in a competition for the protection of human rights in closed/restricted institutions.
- *Hetq* prison correspondent Mher Yenokyan received a special award from the Open Society Foundations and the Public Journalism Club, as part of the project “On Behalf of Human Rights. Education in Prison”, for an article about his experience of getting a higher education.
- *Hetq* correspondent Anya Sarkisova's article on climate change related environmental issues won a prize at the “COP25 - Act Now!” competition organized by the UN Office in Armenia.
- Vahe Sarukhanyan and Marine Martirosyan's "Psychiatric Wards: Closed Cities of Armenia” research paper received 2 special awards at the Public Journalism Club competition on closed institutions.

## 2020

- The producer of the podcasts of *Hetq* Samson Martirosyan has won the second prize of Annual Media Award for the Best Coverage on Religious Tolerance for his episode on Yazidis in Armenia. The award is organized by Eurasia Partnership Foundation and Embassy of Netherlands in Armenia.
- Samson Martirosyan has also received honorable mention for developing and promoting podcasting from 2020 Tvapatum Journalism Contest.
- *Hetq* journalist Seda Hergnyan was named the best in the "Verified" category of the Media Initiatives Center's "Tvapatum" competition for her article “Conflicting Data: Investigating the 3 Tons of Semi-Finished Jewelry Armenia Exported to Russia”.
- *Hetq* correspondents Marine Martirosyan and Vahe Sarukhanyan were awarded a special prize in the Humanities category at the “Tvapatum” competition for their multimedia article "Karen Gave Me Wings".

## 2021

- The Investigative Journalism for Europe (IJ4EU) fund announced on April 14 winners of its inaugural #IJ4EU Impact Award celebrating excellence in cross-border investigative reporting. Among them was “The Troika Laundromat” to which *Hetq* participated as member of the OCCRP.
- *Hetq* correspondent Seda Hergnyan was named winner of the Best Online Article competition in the Union of Banks of Armenia's "Best Financial and Banking Market 2020" competition. *Hetq* journalist Tirayr Muradyan and photographer Saro Baghdasaryan won the Ditak nomination for investigative journalism for their investigation entitled "The Owners of Soon to be Destroyed Buildings and the Alley Construction Program Along Sevan". Tvapatum is organized by Media Initiative Center.
- *Hetq* journalist Tirayr Muradyan and photographer Saro Baghdasaryan won the Ditak nomination for investigative journalism for their investigation entitled "The Owners of Soon to be Destroyed Buildings and the Alley Construction Program Along Sevan". Tvapatum is organized by Media Initiative Center.

Since 2019, the "Investigative Journalists" NGO has implemented the "Hetq Media Factory" educational program. The Factory, which aims to create innovative media products, opened in 2020. The Hetq Media Factory teaches six main subjects: investigative journalism, fact-checking, data journalism, visualization, mobile journalism, animation, photo-video journalism, as well as ethics and media legislation.