Terms of Reference (ToR)

National Competition for Journalists and Media Professionals

Beyond Borders: Bangladesh–EU Migration Stories

1. Background

The **"Caring for the Vulnerable – Transnational Social Protection of Bangladeshi Migrants' Families in the EU (CASTLE 2)"** project seeks to promote safe migration, strengthen social protection mechanisms, and improve public understanding of the experiences of Bangladeshi migrants in the European Union and their transnational families. Recognizing the critical role of media in shaping public understanding of migration and mobility, the Terre des hommes (Tdh) Bangladesh will organize a **National Competition for Journalists and Media Professionals** to acknowledge and celebrate outstanding reporting on migration-related issues. The competition aims to encourage high-quality, ethical, and impactful journalism that highlights the realities, contributions, challenges, and aspirations of Bangladeshi EU migrants and their families.

2. Purpose of the Competition

The competition aims to recognize and promote high-quality media products that contribute to a balanced, evidence-based and empathetic understanding of Bangladeshi migrants in the European Union and their transnational families, particularly their experiences of care, wellbeing, rights and social protection.

The competition seeks to:

- Encourage ethical and rights-based reporting on international migration;
- Promote voices and perspective of migrants and their families;
- Increase public awareness of the realities, challenges and contributions of migrant communities;
- Highlight the contribution, voices and experiences of migrants and transnational families;
- Promote public dialogues that avoid stigma, discrimination and misconceptions related to migration;
- Recognize excellence in journalism and media production.

3. Organizer

The competition is organized within the framework of the project CASTLE 2 (Caring for the Vulnerable – Transnational Social Protection of Bangladeshi Migrants' Families in the EU), a 27-month project co-funded by the European Union through the Migration Partnership Facility of ICMPD and implemented across Bangladesh, Romania, and Greece by Babeș-Bolyai University in partnership with Terre des hommes.

The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the implementing partners and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union or the one of ICMPD.

4. Eligibility Criteria

The competition is open to: Journalists; Freelance reporters; Photographers; Videographers and Podcast producers.

Participants may apply individually or jointly. Only Bangladeshi nationals are eligible to apply. Submitted media products must be accessible to audiences in Bangladesh and focus on migration-related issues concerning Bangladeshi migrants and their transnational families.

5. General Requirements:

- Applicants must submit a brief professional profile/ CV
- Applicants may apply under more than one category where they can demonstrate relevant experience.
- All submitted entries must be original, and applicants must hold the necessary rights and permissions for any material used.
- Applicants must adhere to ethical reporting principles, including accuracy, informed consent, privacy, safeguarding, and respectful representation of individuals and communities.
- Individuals directly involved in organising or judging the competition are not eligible to participate.

6. Categories

Eligible submissions may include the following components reported in national media/international media/social media:

- Feature story;
- Photo essays;
- Video documentary;
- Multimedia story.

7. Eligible Themes

Media products should focus on **Bangladeshi migrants in the European Union (EU) and their families in Bangladesh**. Entries focusing on Romania and Greece are particularly encouraged, but those covering other EU countries are also eligible. Media products should address one or more of the following themes:

i. **Migration and employment:** Recruitment costs, debt, migration journeys and working conditions, including their effects on families in Bangladesh.
ii. **Family life across borders:** Maintaining relationships, arranging care and sharing household responsibilities between migrants and family members in Bangladesh.
iii. **Social protection and services:** Access to healthcare, education, social security and support, including barriers faced by migrants and their families across borders.
iv. **Children and young people:** How migration shapes wellbeing, care arrangements, education and aspirations within migrant families.
v. **Migrant contributions:** How remittances, skills, knowledge and other support benefit families and communities in Bangladesh.
vi. **Protection gaps and responses:** Unmet protection needs, institutional responsibilities and promising practices supporting migrants and their families.

8. Evaluation Process

All eligible submissions will be assessed by independent juries composed of media professionals, and experts in one or more of the following fields:

- Journalism and media production;

- Migration and human rights;
- Communication and public awareness;
- Academic research on migration and transnational families;
- Social inclusion and diversity.

9. Evaluation Criteria

Submissions shall be evaluated on a scale of 100 points according to the following criteria:

Criterion	Maximum Score
Relevance to the competition theme	20
Accuracy, credibility and ethical reporting	20
Human rights sensitivity and representation of migrant voices	20
In-depth reporting and storytelling quality	30
Potential impact and public awareness value	10
TOTAL	100

10. Awards

Selected winners will receive:

- First Prize : BDT 75,000/-
- Second Prize : BDT 50,000/-
- Third Prize : BDT 30,000/-

11. Submission Requirements

- Content published, broadcasted or released during **April 2026 to March 2027** will be considered for the competition.
- Be original works created by the applicant.
- For journalists affiliated with print, television or online media outlets, reports must be published or broadcasted through their respective media house/organizations or recognized media platforms.
- Respect professional and ethical journalistic standards.
- Does not contain hate speech, discriminatory language or incitement to violence.
- Respect privacy, dignity, and human rights principles.
- Comply with national legislation and copyright requirements.
- All submitted documents must be in English or Bangla.

12. Copyright and Intellectual Property

By submitting their media products, participants grant the organizers a non-exclusive, royalty-free right to:

- Display the submitted journalism materials awarded during project events.
- Promote the competition and the CASTLE 2 project.
- Republish the media products and links to the products on websites, social media channels and communication materials of Terre des hommes.
- Use the products for non-commercial educational and awareness-raising purposes, while always acknowledging the authors.

Any other use shall require the prior consent of the authors.

13. Protection of Personal Data

- Personal data shall be processed in accordance with applicable to national legislation.
- Information collected through the competition shall be used exclusively for the purposes of organizing and promoting the competition and implementing the CASTLE 2 project.
- Participants may exercise their rights of access, rectification, restriction, erasure and objection in accordance with applicable legislation.

14. Acceptance of the Regulations

- Submission to the competition implies full acceptance of these Regulations.
- Any matter not covered by these Regulations shall be decided by the organizers in accordance with the principles of transparency, equal treatment and sound administration.

15. Award Dissemination Event

Award Giving Ceremony will be organized during a roundtable consultation to be held in **July 2027**. The event will bring together government officials, policymakers, media, civil society organizations, migration experts and migrants and their family members to recognize the contribution of the participating journalists.

16. Application Procedure and Deadline

Applicants must complete the ANNEX I – Application Form and upload ANNEX II and all required supporting documents through the Google Form by 31 March 2027 at 4:30 PM. Early submission is highly encouraged.