

PRESS RELEASE

Journalist Victor Ilie to receive the 2021 Ion Rațiu Journalism Award

Turda, 8 June 2021 The Rațiu Family Charitable Foundation, the Rațiu Democracy Centre and the Rațiu Forum are pleased to announce the 2021 Recipient of the Ion Rațiu Journalism Award: journalist Victor Ilie, who currently reports for [Recorder](#).

In November 2020 Victor Ilie published [the investigation](#) that discovered and brought to the public's attention the "King of the pandemic", the main person responsible for purchasing vital medical equipment for the Romanian state and its citizens, a master of a "kingdom" dominated by corruption, defiance and incompetence. According to the members of the Jury Committee that evaluated this year's proposals, the article written by Victor Ilie is an example of "class journalism" produced by an independent press project, an investigation carried out at a time when the access to information was often limited for journalists.

With the support of the Rațiu Family Charitable Foundation, the Awardee will attend the 2021 Reuters Journalist Fellowship Summer School, an international programme for professional journalists, organised by the [Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism](#).

"I congratulate Victor Ilie for his impeccably researched investigation, in which he revealed a (new) corrupt official feeding on public resources, who had gained huge decision-making powers at a time that was critical for everyone, and who is presently prosecuted by anti-corruption prosecutors for bribery and abuse of office. We continue to support investigative journalism in Romania and what gives us hope is the quality of the investigation articles that we read when evaluating nominations. They are all conducted thoroughly and with professionalism by honest and dedicated journalists - much needed by our society, especially in times of crisis", states Nicolae Rațiu, Chairman of the Rațiu Family Charitable Foundation.

Victor Ilie graduated from the Iași Faculty of Journalism (2012) and reported for Opinia Veche (former Opinia Studentească), Jurnalul Național, Casa Jurnalistului, RISE Project and Inclusive. He joined the Recorder team in September 2020. He will officially receive the Journalism Award during a ceremony included in the agenda of the 2021 **Rațiu Dialogues for Democracy**, an event organized by the Rațiu Forum and LSE IDEAS, scheduled this year for 13-14 September, in Turda, Romania.

The Ion Ratiu Journalism Award was established in 2015 and is inspired by the example of Ion Ratiu who, upon his return to Romania after 50 years in exile, fought for freedom of the press, a necessary condition of any functional democracy. The Award promotes and encourages investigative journalism in Romania by rewarding the most important achievements of Romanian journalists. The nominations of investigative journalists are made by the Center for Independent Journalism, Active Watch, and by representatives of Romanian journalism faculties and departments. Former Awardees: Diana Oncioiu, [Dela0](#); Alex Nedea, [Recorder](#); Paul Radu, [RISE Project](#); Ovidiu Vanghele, [Să Fie Lumină](#); Emilia Șercan, [Pressone](#); Cătălin Tolontan, [Libertatea](#).

The Ratiu Family Charitable Foundation was established in London in 1979 by Ion and Elisabeth Ratiu to promote and support projects which further education and research in the culture and history of Romania, both in Romania and the UK. The Foundation offers up to 100 annual grants, principally for projects, postgraduate courses, conference participations, travel grants, and other short term courses including academic research. It also offers annual seed funding for innovative projects, principally in Romania, which foster Romanian arts and civilisation, heritage, civil society, democracy, and environmental protection.

The Ratiu Democracy Centre was created in 2004 with the support from the Ratiu Family Charitable Foundation, to maintain and continue the legacy of Ion Ratiu, as well as his commitment to democratic values. In the last 17 years, the Ratiu Democracy Centre has developed projects with a local, regional and international impact.

The Ratiu Forum is a joint initiative of the Ratiu Family Charitable Foundation, the Ratiu Democracy Centre and the London School of Economics IDEAS think tank, currently ranked leading university think tank in the world. Its priority areas of interest are Romania and the Balkan region. The Ratiu Forum is a part of the Central and South-East Europe Programme of LSE IDEAS, focused on strengthening co-operation in the region, through events and collaborations, publications and projects aiming to generate a richer understanding of the region's history, geopolitics and current affairs.