



October 2010: Assen Yordanov is receiving the Leipzig Media Award (“European Pulitzer”) in Leipzig, in the presence of the Minister of the Interior of Germany Thomas de Mézières

We created this private independent site to give you, the readers, another chance to have access to quality investigative journalism and to objective opinions of experts and analysts on the hottest topics of everyday life.

Why Bivol (Bull)? Because when it goes forward with its horns, this noble animal is not afraid of anything and is not looking around anxiously due to “some considerations.” We will not offer such journalism here. In today’s world of mass and often manipulate information, the horns of the bull will help us get to the truth. And it is the goal that we pursue.

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Bivol is also a tribune for its readers; it is a place to exchange ideas and a place for future collaboration. This is because we want to be a corrective, and you, our readers, can help us. We are pleased to publish all your opinions below articles if they meet [the rules for commenting](#). You can also send us [suggestions for new investigations](#) and additional information about already published texts.

[Assen Yordanov, Atanas Tchobanov](#)



Assen Yordanov was born on February 3, 1964 in Burgas. From 1992 until 2007, he worked as investigative journalist for the newspapers Standard, Monitor and Politika (Politics). He is the author of major investigations in corruption practices and in connections of people in power to organized crime. Assen is the winner of the prestigious journalism prize [Leipzig Media Award, also known as the “European Pulitzer”](#) for 2010. In 2013, he was nominated by “Reporters Without Borders” for the Netizen Award (see the video presentation below). Assen Yordanov is the only Bulgarian in the selection of “Reporters Without Borders” - “[100 heroes of information.](#)” He lives in Burgas.



Atanas Tchobanov was born on June 26, 1968, in Sofia. He graduated from the French Language High School in Sofia. From 1984 to 1989, he was active speleologist and mountain climber. Since 1990, he lives in France where in 2003 he obtained a PhD in linguistics at the University of Paris-West. Since 2007, Atanas works as a research engineer at [CNRS, France, in the laboratory MoDyCo](#). He was co-founder of and journalist in the newspaper Parizhki Vesti (Paris News) from 2005 to 2009. Since 2008, he is a member of the Public Council of the Association for Free Speech “Anna Politkovskaya.”. In 2016 he was elected OCCRP Member Representative in the Board of Directors of [OCCRP](#). Atanas Tchobanov’s interview for Novinite.com in English read [HERE](#).

Cooperation with WikiLeaks:

Since March 2011, Bivol is an official partner of the whistle-blowing site Wikileaks for Bulgaria and the Balkans. Bivol processed and published the US diplomatic cables on Bulgaria and Macedonia (the project

Cablegate), the correspondence of the American private spy headquarters Stratfor (the project [Gifiles](#)) and is a media partner in the projects [PlusD](#) and [SpyFiles 3](#). The assessment of Julian Assange for this collaboration can be seen in [his statement at the conference against corruption in the European Parliament](#) on December 5, 2012, and also in this [interview with Belgian media](#).

Partners:

Since November 2013, Bivol is part of the network of OCCRP – Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project



Awards:

Assen Yordanov is a recipient of the [prestigious journalism prize Leipzig Media Award 2010](#).

The site has won the audience award “[Person of the Year](#)” for 2012

The site won the the [prize for best journalistic materials relating to the protection of Bulgarian wildlife](#) for 2012 and 2013 by Biodiversity Foundation and the Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation to Bulgaria

Atanas Tchobanov is a co-recipient of the Serbian National Award for Investigative Reporting for 2015 and 2016

2017 Bivol is among the co-recipients of the [Global Shining Light Award Certificate of Excellency in Journalism](#) for the investigation “[Making a Killing](#)”

2017 Bivol is co-recipient of the “[Professional and Civil Ethics](#)” award “[Samuel Frances](#)”.

Bivol in foreign media:

[If Woodward and Bernstein were Bulgarian](#) – online in Slate, owned by the legendary Washington Post newspaper. The Bulgarian translation can be found on the site [BGNES](#).

NDR TV Germany: [Bulgarian Media – Free but Not Independent](#)

ARTE TV: [La liberté de la presse en Europe](#)

European Journalism Centre: [Underground professional journalism](#)

L’Express France: [Le port bulgare et la raffinerie russe](#)



Ars Technica: [Whither Whistleblowing: Where Have All the Leaking Sites Gone?](#)

Arte TV: [“Les Bulgares ne se font pas d’illusions“](#)

Arte TV: [“Le système social et politique du pays est malade”](#)

VICE USA: [Burning Men of Bulgaria](#)

ARD: [Bulgarien: Abhörskandal vor den Wahlen](#)

Alexa O’Brian [Interview with Atanas Tchobanov, Balkanleaks’ spokesman and Bivol.bg co-editor](#)

Atlatszo Hungary: [Journalist buffaloes in Bulgaria](#)

Der Spiegel Germany: [How Europe is helping dictators](#)

ARD and Euronews: [ARD and Euronews Seek Independent Bivol for Comments](#)

Kurier Austria: [Wahlsieger Borisow – der Brutalo-Buddha](#)

Ostpol Germany: [Bulgaria: In the Grip of the Past](#)

Klartext Switzerland: [Sous l’emprise des oligarques](#)

The Marker - Haaretz Israel: [Oren Hazan, the Casino, the Bulgarian Mafia and the Talks between Israeli and Bulgarian Senior Officials](#)

ARTE TV: Vox Pop: [Tourisme pour le meilleur et pour le pire](#) (with Atanas Tchobanov)

ARTE TV: [Bulgarians against corruption](#) (with Assen Yordanov)

AFP: [Bulgaria – powerless to curb corruption](#) (with Atanas Tchobanov)

Wiener Zeitung: [Land in Oligarch’s Hand](#) (interview with Assen Yordanov)

Financing:

The site Bivol.bg does not receive funds from foundations and is sustained by subscriptions from readers and supporters, by the sale of advertising space and by distribution of high-tech products for secure communication (Cryptophone).

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