

ERASMUS+

PARTNER IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

Film Research Association (Film Araştırmaları Derneği, FAD – FRA)

Sakarya University, Turkey

PIC: 874190385 | OID: E10343528 | Acronym: FAD

A. PARTNER ORGANISATION

A.1 Identification	
PIC	874190385
OID	E10343528
Full Legal Name (National Language)	Film Araştırmaları Derneği (FAD)
Full Legal Name (Latin Characters)	Film Research Association
Acronym	FAD
National ID	54-024-172
Department (if applicable)	–
Address (Street and Number)	Sakarya University, M2 Building, Floor 3, Esentepe Campus
Country	Turkey
Region	Sakarya
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Post Code	54050
CEDEX	–
City	Serdivan / Sakarya
Website	https://www.turkishfilmstudies.com/ https://dergipark.org.tr/en/pub/film
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B. PROFILE

B.1 Organisational Profile	
Type of Organisation	Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) / Civil Society Association
Is the partner organisation a	No

public body?	
Is the partner organisation a non-profit?	Yes
Size of Organisation	Small (under 10 full-time staff; over 20 active academic members)
Primary Field of Activity	Film Studies, Film Literacy, Cultural Education, Arts & Humanities
Geographic Scope of Operations	National (Turkey) and International (EU projects, Erasmus+, Creative Europe)
Year of Establishment	2022
Affiliated Institution	Sakarya University, Faculty of Communication, Cinema and Media Department

C. ACCREDITATION & EU GRANT HISTORY

C.1 Accreditation Status	
Has the organisation received any type of accreditation before submitting this application?	Yes
Accreditation Details	Registered with EACEA (Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency) as Beneficiary Organisation in Creative Europe MEDIA programme (CinEd 2.1, Ref. 101059640)
Has the organisation received / applied for any EU grants?	Yes – see Section F (List of Previous Projects) for full details
EU Programmes Engaged	Creative Europe MEDIA, MARKA Regional Development Agency (TR)
National-level Funded Projects	Sakarya University BAP (Scientific Research Projects Coordination Unit), MARKA Regional Development Agency

D. BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

D.1 Please Briefly Present the Organisation

Founded in 2022 by passionate academics from Sakarya University's Cinema-Media Department, the Film Research Association (FAD – Film Araştırmaları Derneği) quickly emerged as a vibrant and dynamic force in film scholarship, film literacy education, and cinematic culture within Turkey and beyond.

From its very inception, FAD made a significant mark on the Turkish cultural landscape. In its founding year, it hosted the inaugural International Film Studies Symposium, launched the scholarly Turkish Journal of Film Studies (a biannual peer-reviewed academic publication released in June and December), and actively supported the 8th Sakarya International Short Film Festival. These early achievements signalled the association's intent to operate simultaneously as a hub for rigorous academic inquiry and as a bridge to broader cultural and civic engagement.

Building on this momentum, 2023 saw FAD hosting its second International Film Studies Symposium, deepening its partnership with the 9th edition of the Sakarya Short Film Festival, and continuing the publication of its academic journal with new issues. By 2024, the association further consolidated its role in the Turkish film studies ecosystem: it organised its third annual symposium, sustained its partnership with the landmark 10th Sakarya Short Film Festival, and reached new

journal milestones. The Turkish Journal of Film Studies is distinguished by its rigorous double-blind peer-review process and its commitment to publishing research in Turkish, English, and other European languages.

The core mission of the Film Research Association is threefold: (1) to mediate the dissemination of scientific and cultural knowledge specific to the field of cinema from the academic sphere to the wider segments of society; (2) to ensure the development and strengthening of civil society initiatives related to film culture; and (3) to contribute to the increase of cultural diversity and to the development of cinema culture across all segments of society. In pursuit of this mission, the association organises film festivals and film symposia, publishes its academic journal, and mediates the development of cinema knowledge through academic, cultural and artistic publications of varying levels of expertise and interest, drawing from both Turkish and international contributors.

The key members of the association are scholars and practitioners with extensive international experience in the fields of cinema, culture, art, critical theory, youth studies, sustainable social development, and film pedagogy. Beyond their academic credentials, the members of the association possess considerable practical experience in organising science, culture, and arts events at local, national, and international levels. This combination of academic rigour and practical organisational competence is one of the association's defining strengths.

FAD is also an active stakeholder of the Sakarya International Short Film Festival (since 2021) – a festival that includes a dedicated environmental film category, reflecting the association's commitment to using the power of cinema as a vehicle for building environmental awareness and contributing to sustainable development goals. Through this festival partnership, FAD plays a direct role in leveraging cinematic storytelling in the fight against the climate crisis.

D.2 Activities and Experience Relevant to This Application

When evaluated together with the experience of its key staff, the Film Research Association has a prominent and well-documented organisational experience in the fields of cinema, culture, and the arts. Its relevant activities and expertise span the following areas:

1. European Film Literacy (CinEd Project)

FAD served as the official National Coordinator for Turkey in the Creative Europe MEDIA-funded CinEd 2.1 – 'Let's Watch Together' project (Ref. 101059640, 17/10/2022 – 30/11/2024). This was a continent-wide European film literacy initiative bringing together 16 partner organisations from 16 countries, with a total project budget of approximately 1.5 million EUR. Through this project, FAD demonstrated its capacity to implement complex, multi-stakeholder, cross-border cultural education initiatives at the highest European level.

The association's team translated and proofread pedagogical kits for European films – including titles such as 'Blue Tiger' and 'The Happiest Girl in the World' and 'The Man Without a Past' – and coordinated their publication on the CinEd digital platform. They facilitated project activities and workshops at Sakarya University and at secondary schools in cities including Sakarya, Istanbul, and Bursa. FAD members also established social media platforms to promote CinEd in Turkey, published academic research on the project's outcomes, and participated in international CinEd events held in Portugal, Finland, Bulgaria, Romania, and Greece. In March 2024, FAD hosted the CinEd project's mid-term meeting at Sakarya University – a major international event that it organised and coordinated in its entirety.

2. Balkan Film Culture and Residency (TAIFAS Project)

FAD was a Beneficiary in the Creative Europe MEDIA-funded TAIFAS Balkan Film Festival project (06/11/2023 – 20/10/2024), with a total festival budget of 100,000 EUR. In this project, FAD took responsibility for coordinating Turkish directors' participation and managing a film literacy residency component, demonstrating its ability to connect Turkish film culture with the wider European and Balkan cinematic landscape.

3. Regional Film Infrastructure and Policy Research (MARKA Project)

FAD served as Researcher in the MARKA Regional Development Agency-funded project (Ref. TR42/21/FZD/0030): 'Sakarya Film Plateau and Production Center Requirements/Qualifications Feasibility Project' (01/02/2022 – 31/03/2023). This project produced a feasibility study to assess the infrastructural needs and qualifications required for the development of a Film Plateau and Production Center in Sakarya. This work positions FAD as a credible voice in evidence-based cultural policy and film industry development at the regional level.

4. Documentary and Intercultural Education (BAP Project)

FAD served as Project Coordinator for the Sakarya University BAP-funded project (Ref. 2022-9-32-69): 'The Impact of Japanese Culture and Industry on Turkey's Socio-Economic Development (Documentary Project)' (17/08/2022 – 17/08/2024). This project used documentary filmmaking as a medium for exploring cross-cultural and socio-economic dimensions of global influence, further demonstrating FAD's commitment to using cinema as a tool for intercultural education and understanding.

5. Film Festival Organisation and Environmental Awareness

As a stakeholder of the Sakarya International Short Film Festival since 2021, FAD has accumulated considerable experience in film festival organisation, jury coordination, filmmaker outreach, and audience development. The festival's dedicated environmental film category exemplifies FAD's integrated approach to cinema as a vehicle for social and environmental advocacy.

6. Academic Publishing and Knowledge Dissemination

The Turkish Journal of Film Studies (published biannually since 2021 via the DergiPark platform) constitutes a significant ongoing contribution to the field of film studies in Turkey and the wider region. With contributions from Turkish and international scholars, the journal serves as a platform for the advancement and dissemination of original film research, fostering academic debate and cross-border scholarly exchange.

7. Cinema Education for Diverse and Marginalised Communities

FAD has the capacity and commitment to extend film literacy education to diverse and marginalised communities across Turkey. The association has experience designing and delivering film screenings, workshops, and educational activities for youth, students, and the general public in both formal (university, secondary school) and informal settings. Looking ahead, FAD is ready to implement expanded film literacy programming targeting refugees, ethnic minorities, disadvantaged youth, the elderly, and other underserved groups – leveraging partnerships with NGOs, universities, cultural centres, and municipalities.

D.3 Skills and Expertise of Key Staff

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mustafa ASLAN – Co-Founder & Head of the Association (FAD)

Dr. Mustafa Aslan is the co-founder and President of FAD. He graduated from the Department of Radio, TV and Cinema at the Faculty of Communication, International Cyprus University (2008). He completed his Master's degree at Istanbul Beykent University with a thesis on the Maronites – a minority community in Northern Cyprus. He earned his Doctorate from Selçuk University in 2015, with a dissertation on Nationalism and Aesthetics in Cinema. In his professional career prior to academia, Dr. Aslan worked in a wide range of roles in national and international television channels, including sound technician, cameraman, editing director, director, and programme producer. From 2001 to 2008, he directed discussion programmes for international television.

Dr. Aslan currently serves as a faculty member at Sakarya University's Cinema and Media Department. His research focuses on film history, film aesthetics, nationalism in cinema, and film pedagogy. He contributed significantly to the CinEd project through the translation and design of

pedagogical kits – including the kit for the film 'The Happiest Girl in the World' – and managed the administrative permissions required for local workshop implementations. He co-authored academic research on CinEd workshops conducted by Sakarya University students. Dr. Aslan played a leading organisational role in managing institutional negotiations, logistical support, and official permissions for the successful CinEd mid-term meeting hosted at Sakarya University in March 2024.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Serhat YETİMOVA – Co-Founder & EU Projects Coordinator

Dr. Serhat Yetimova is a co-founder of FAD and the association's primary contact for EU-funded projects. He holds a Doctorate from Sakarya University in Film and Media Studies. As the main representative for Turkey in the Creative Europe MEDIA-funded CinEd 2.1 project, Dr. Yetimova served as National Coordinator, actively engaging in the translation and proofreading of pedagogical kits (including 'Blue Tiger' and 'The Happiest Girl in the World'), and coordinating their publication on the CinEd platform.

Dr. Yetimova facilitated the project's implementation through educational activities and workshops at Sakarya University and several secondary schools in Sakarya, Istanbul, and Bursa. He established and managed social media platforms to promote CinEd in Turkey and published academic research on the project's outcomes. He participated in international CinEd events in Portugal, Finland, Bulgaria, Romania, and Greece. Notably, Dr. Yetimova hosted and coordinated the highly successful CinEd mid-term meeting at Sakarya University in March 2024 – an event attended by delegates from 16 European partner countries. His expertise spans European film literacy, cinema education, transnational film culture, and EU project management.

Dr. Doğuşcan GÖKER – Academic Member & Film Studies Researcher

Dr. Doğuşcan Göker is an academic member of FAD and a faculty member at Sakarya University. In the CinEd project, he participated in translating and designing the pedagogical kit for 'The Man Without a Past', conducted training sessions and workshops at Sakarya University, supported activities at local schools, and contributed to promotional video productions. He was instrumental in the organisation and presentation of activities during the CinEd mid-term meeting at Sakarya University, providing essential moderation and translation support. Dr. Göker co-edited the forthcoming volume 'Eastern European Cinemas' (with Dr. Muzaffer Musab Yılmaz), demonstrating his active contribution to the international scholarly publishing landscape.

Dr. Muzaffer Musab YILMAZ – Educator & Academic Researcher

Dr. Muzaffer Musab Yılmaz is an academic at Sakarya University and an educator within the association. He graduated from Marmara University, Department of Radio, Television and Cinema (2016), completed his Master's degree at Marmara University (2018), and his Doctorate at the same institution in 2022. During his graduate studies, he was a visiting researcher at Université Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3, where he wrote his Master's thesis at the French National Library. His thesis – published as the book 'From Colonial to Global: Transnational African Cinema and Abderrahmane Sissako' – demonstrates his specialisation in transnational and postcolonial cinema.

Dr. Yılmaz has authored articles including 'A Ghost is Disturbing Africa: The Evolution of Black Consciousness from Masks to Ghosts in Contemporary African Cinema' and 'Ousmane Sembene's Camp De Thiaroye in the Context of Anticolonial African Literature', as well as book chapters on Turkish and world cinema. He has also published in interdisciplinary fields, including 'The Implementation of Adult Digital Literacy: Analysis of Adult Digital Literacy in South Korea and Turkey' (Media Education Journal) and 'The Importance of Leadership in the Time of Covid-19: The Example of Turkish Health Minister Fahrettin Koca's YouTube Shares' (Journal of International Organizational Leadership). He co-edited the forthcoming 'Eastern European Cinemas' with Dr. Göker.

Additional Members

FAD benefits from a broader community of over 20 active academic members drawn from Sakarya University's Cinema and Media Department and partner institutions, as well as film practitioners, independent researchers, and cultural professionals. These members contribute to the association's symposia, journal, festival activities, and project work. Several members have experience with international students at Sakarya University (home to over 5,000 international students from Africa,

Asia, and elsewhere) and hold expertise in inclusive education, digital literacy, and community outreach – skills that are particularly valuable for proposed film literacy programmes targeting diverse and marginalised communities.

E. LIST OF PREVIOUS PROJECTS (Last 4 Years)

The following table lists FAD's participation in funded projects over the past four years (2022–2025).

Participant	Year	Project Reference No. and Title / Funding Programme	Period	Role	Amount (EUR)
Film Research Association (FAD)	2022-2023-2024-2025	Film Symposium Supported by the Ministry of Culture and the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye	2022-continues	COO (Project Coordinator)	116.000 TL (approx. 2,500 EUR)
Film Research Association (FAD)	2022-2023-2024-2025	International Sakarya Short Film Festival, supported by the Ministry of Culture.	2022-2025	BEN (National Coordinator)	300.000 TL (approx. 6,500 EUR)
Film Research Association (FAD)	2024	Creative Europe MEDIA (Ref: 101059640) CinEd 2.1 – Let's Watch Together (European Film Literacy Project) Website: https://cined.eu/	17/10/2022 – 30/11/2024	BEN (National Coordinator)	~1,500,000 EUR (Total project scale)
Film Research Association (FAD)	2024	Creative Europe MEDIA TAIFAS Balkan Film Festival (Coordinating Turkish Directors and Film Literacy Residency) Website: https://taifasfestival.ro/	06/11/2023 – 20/10/2024	BEN (Researcher / Coordinator)	100,000 EUR (Festival Budget)
Film Research Association (FAD)	2022	MARKA Regional Development Agency (Ref: TR42/21/FZD/0030) Sakarya Film Plateau and Production Center Requirements / Qualifications Feasibility Project	01/02/2022 – 31/03/2023	COO (Project Coordinator)	125,000 TRY (approx. 2,500 EUR)
Film Research Association (FAD)	2022	Sakarya University BAP (Ref: 2022-9-32-69) The Impact of Japanese Culture and Industry on Turkey's Socio-Economic Development (Documentary Project) Archive: YouTube (@sinematikyolculuklar)	17/08/2022 – 17/08/2024	COO (Project Coordinator)	32,000 TRY (approx. 600 EUR)

Role Codes: COO = Coordinator | BEN = Beneficiary | AE = Associated Entity | OTHER = Other

F. LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE

F.1 Legal Representative Details	
Title	Assoc. Prof. Dr.
Gender	Male
First Name	Mustafa
Family Name	ASLAN
Department	Cinema and Media
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Region	Sakarya
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City	Serdivan / Sakarya, Turkey

G. CONTACT STAFF FOR EU PROJECTS

G.1 Primary EU Project Contact	
Title	Assoc. Prof. Dr.
Gender	Male
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Family Name	YETİMOVA
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H. POSSIBLE ROLES AND TASKS WITHIN THE NEW CinEd PROJECT

The Film Research Association is fully committed to implementing the new CinEd project (CinEd LAB) in Türkiye through a structured, inclusive, and impactful approach, ensuring that cinema continues to serve as a powerful tool for social cohesion, intercultural dialogue, and education.

1. Needs Assessment and Stakeholder Engagement

FAD will begin by conducting a thorough needs assessment to identify the most marginalised and underserved communities in Türkiye – including refugees, ethnic minorities (Kurds, Arabs, Roma), the elderly, and disadvantaged youth. This assessment will inform a targeted, context-sensitive programme design. FAD will actively collaborate with NGOs, universities, cultural centres, and municipalities that already work with these communities, including organisations such as Mülteci-Der, Kırkayak Kültür, Anadolu Kültür, and the Migration Research Foundation. FAD will also seek institutional support and backing from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Presidency of Migration Management of Türkiye, the EU Delegation to Türkiye, and the EU-Türkiye Civil Society Dialogue programme.

2. Film Curation and Accessibility

For the implementation of the new CinEd, FAD will curate films from the CinEd catalogue that explore migration, social integration, identity, discrimination, and resilience – topics that resonate deeply with the new target groups. Ensuring accessibility is central to FAD's approach: the association will provide subtitles and translations in Arabic, Kurdish, and other relevant languages where needed. Screenings will be organised in community centres, refugee accommodation facilities, disadvantaged schools, cultural associations, elderly care homes, and prison education programmes – making cinema accessible to those who might not otherwise have regular exposure to European films.

3. Film Literacy Workshops and Thematic Discussions

Beyond screenings, FAD will offer thematic discussions and film literacy workshops, enabling participants to engage with film experts, social activists, and filmmakers to explore the social issues depicted in the films. These interactive workshops will empower individuals to share their own stories through film and to develop their visual literacy and critical thinking skills. English-language pedagogical kits from the CinEd catalogue will be a core working tool, and where necessary, FAD will organise translation support into Arabic or Kurdish to ensure full participation.

4. Inclusion of International University Students

A distinctive feature of FAD's implementation plan is the inclusion of the large and diverse international student population at universities in the Sakarya region and surrounding cities (Istanbul, Kocaeli, Düzce). Sakarya University alone hosts over 5,000 international students from across Africa, Asia, and other regions. The English-language pedagogical kits of the CinEd catalogue provide a direct avenue for engaging these students, making it possible to build bridges between European cinema and the cultural backgrounds of students from diverse global contexts.

5. Capacity Building and Community Film Ambassadors

To ensure the long-term sustainability and impact of the project beyond the pilot phase, FAD will train local facilitators – including teachers, NGO workers, and university students – as Community Film Ambassadors. These ambassadors will be equipped to continue organising screenings and discussions independently, embedding film literacy as a lasting resource in their communities.

6. Communication, Visibility, and Public Engagement

FAD will leverage its experience with social media, local and national media outlets, and established connections with Turkish film festivals (including the Sakarya International Short Film Festival and the International Film Studies Symposium) to raise public awareness about the CinEd LAB project and its activities. The association's academic journal – the Turkish Journal of Film Studies – will also serve as a platform for disseminating research outcomes and project learning.

7. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Impact Assessment

To measure the project's effectiveness and ensure continuous improvement, FAD will conduct feedback surveys, participant interviews, and case studies, assessing the programme's impact on

social cohesion, education, intercultural understanding, and community empowerment. Findings will be shared with the wider CinEd network and published through academic and public channels.

Conclusion

By carefully curating films and designing workshops that genuinely resonate with participants' lived experiences, the new CinEd project – as implemented by FAD in Türkiye – has the potential to become a truly powerful tool for education, empowerment, and community-building. Through European cinema, FAD aims to foster dialogue, understanding, and a sense of belonging among marginalised communities, using storytelling as a bridge for social change and as a connector between Türkiye and European cultural values.

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