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Title: **Representation of Diverse Identities in the Eurimages-backed Turkish-initiative Co-productions**

Abstract:

Eurimages was established as a part of the framework of the Council of Europe in 1988 to foster co-operation amongst film professionals from different member states in the co-production and distribution of cinematographic works. The cultural objective of the Council of Europe is 'to promote awareness and encourage the development of Europe's cultural identity and diversity'. Its cinema support fund, Eurimages, hence encourages filmmakers to 'reflect and promote the contribution of diverse national components to Europe's cultural identity'.

My paper - that has come out of my doctoral research - explores this principle of reflecting and promoting Europe's diverse identity in the imagined community of Turkey by looking at the multifarious representation of the intrinsically complex diversity of the Turkish nation in films, with regard to ethnicity, religion and gender – the identities that had crucial roles in the transition from empire to republic which came with the 1923 revolution, and have remained problematic hitherto. For Eurimages practically has been a good source of financial support for Turkish filmmakers seeking to engage with the problematic aspects of Turkey's national identity or simply seeking to convey the contribution of components to Turkey's overall cultural identity.

In a field-based research I have studied all of the Turkish-initiative films - those directed by Turkish filmmakers, the themes and milieu of which are pertinent to Turkey – that have received Eurimages co-production support in the first twenty years of Turkey's membership in the organization; which makes a total amount of fifty-nine films. The year of the decision to support a film with Eurimages funds and the year a film is released are often not the same. So, though the films covered are those that have been supported between 1990 and 2009, the first of these films was released a year later - in 1991 - and the last one was released in 2011.

Keywords: Eurimages, Turkish Cinema, Representation, Identity