



SCRIPTWRITERS ASSOCIATION OF TURKEY 2008 REPORT

Our principal problems and aims

1. *Campaigning for laws which organize and protect all cultural products according to EU directives.*
2. *Campaigning for the recognition of all cinema workers, including scriptwriters, as a profession just like engineers, doctors, lawyers in Turkish laws. The enforcement of a law on cinema into the agenda of the parliament.*
3. *The building of effective professional organizations which take its power from cinema law*
4. *Correcting the structural problems of so called 'professional organizations' built by the government (in accordance with EU integration as the government claims) and making these collecting societies a part of the international networks.*
5. *Assuring the recognition and distribution related to rights regarding the repetition of screenings and copyright levy.*
6. *Learning the artistic property rights and the laws which organize the application of these rights in EU film industry.*
7. *Controlling the government and related institutions whether they apply the obligations related to the integration process based on this knowledge.*
8. *Correcting incomplete and distorted rights and applications.*
9. *Making the sector realize that the script is the architectural plan and principal contract of every film in terms of its meaning and function.*
10. *Helping the producers and directors realize that the script development process is the most vital part of every film and that a special budget should be reserved for that.*
11. *Helping every scriptwriter work with a contract by any means necessary.*
12. *Forming minimum standards for scriptwriters in cinema, helping them get a percentage of the box office and that their secondary payment rights will take a place in the contracts.*

13. Prevention of the transference of financial rights infinitely.

14. Prevention of producers, directors and actors' intervention to the scripts arbitrarily.

15. Increasing the recognition, reputation and functionality of sender in the industry.

Activities in 2008 and the point we reached.

1. We continued to give workshops to our members and other scriptwriters about their rights in present laws. We saw an increase of %50 in the number of our members and now we reached 220 members.

2. We started to develop an effective relationship with FSE and other institutions. This way we started to understand the system in UN in a more comprehensive way. We shared this knowledge with other cinema institutions. This raised our reputation and discursive space in the industry.

3. We developed our website as an e-magazine looking at cinema from the perspective of scriptwriters. We formed a circle of editors and young writers volunteering for this website. This way our website became an important reference in scriptwriting industry. The daily visit of our site increased tremendously.

4. We formed a data bank and search engine in our website in Turkish and English. This way every scriptwriter could search detailed information about the industry. The producers started to meet scriptwriters that they didn't know before.

5. We organized a meeting to correct the collecting societies formed at the level of ministry of culture. A considerable number of people started to grasp the problems and form a unity of language. We published a common manifesto with the actors professional organization FIA. We helped the bureaucrats recognize the mistakes and search for solutions.

6. This year has become a year in which more writers make contracts more than ever as a result of their realization of their rights.

7. We published the list of minimum primary payments that we started in 2007. This list became very effective since two years in dealing with the producers.

8. We presented an effective legal aid to our members in negotiating with producers.

9. We started to make more effort to create a tradition of reconciliation in the process of production and later as a result of the long terms of the trials. We became successful in that. We succeeded to find solution in three different problems.

10. We used an expert in lawsuits related to copyrights. As a result courts started to take our opinion as an expert.

11. We applied to Norcode Institute. We are sending a volunteer legal consultant who is preparing a masters thesis in this area.

12. We did effective work in the Turkish cinema platform which was formed in 2004. We formed the TCP consisting of 30 members and representative sof all professional organizations. TCP proposed an outline of a law similar to the CNC in France and the British Film Council.

13. In order to raise the quality of scriptwriting as well as integrating young scriptwriters to the industry we continued the workshops we have been organizing since 3 years. In 2008 250 young writers attended these seminars and workshops.

14. We supported the formation of Grasse festival and Fatih Akın represented us with his film 'Yaşamın Kıyısında'

15. We have social projects we organize every year to increase the recognition of our institution. One of these is SineMardin film festival based on our ancient eastern city Mardin. The festival chose scriptwriting as its concept. We bring more than 20 writers every year to organize scriptwriting seminars and workshops. This continued in 2008. This way Mardin gained a cinema foundation and movie theatre.

16. Another project which is in our agenda for 2008 is 2010 an international scriptwriting competition on Istanbul. We proposed this project to Istanbul 2010 European Culture Capital Agency and is open to FSE members only. We may summarize the purposes of the project as to create a permanent international scriptwriting production workshop in Istanbul, opening Turkish film industry to EU integration with the energies of scriptwriters, providing platform for co-productions, providing the utilization of rich story background of Turkey and the resources of restructured motion picture industry by Europe and providing mutual exchange of professional knowledge and experience. Our project file has passed all approval phases of 2010 agency. In April, we are expecting the realization of final approval.