

In the ECFA Journal KIDS Regio curates the *Information Celebration* section, answering the call of the Weimar Declaration to extend and improve research, especially when it comes to spreading available data. A close cooperation with ECFA has been standing for quite some years and will be standing for quite some more. Together with ECFA Board member Becky Parry, KIDS Regio initiated a mailing list between researchers from all over Europe to have a standing connection for knowledge exchange.

For this edition we chose a research report that is not completely new but that in our opinion hasn't been talked about enough yet:

Films for Kids in South East Europe: The State of Play

Based on the impression that the production of children's films in South Eastern European countries is extremely low and that movies from Northern European countries do not circulate in the region, the Thessaloniki Film Festival, supported by the Greek Film Centre, launched a research initiative. They identified the need to have reliable data as a basis for reflection and, where appropriate,

for proposals to encourage children's film in Southern Europe.

The report was first presented at the Thessaloniki Film Festival and again at the Cinekid Industry Forum in October 2019. It identifies the following reasons for the current situation:

- Absence or weakness of incentive policies for children's films on a national, regional and European level.
- European support schemes for dubbing are unfavourable to small markets.
- Lack of training for professionals in writing, directing and producing children's films.
- Absence of a regional market and professional meetings.

In consequence filmmakers in the region focus all their creative efforts on the same target group leading to a market saturated by arthouse films aiming at an adult audience. The young audience does not have any (or only little) access to films reflecting their culture. The films they do have access to are mainly of non-European origin, leading to a generation that builds their cultural and civic identity on values often far removed from European ones.



This is a call to all of you, commissioning or working on research, to share your findings through our network. Your facts and figures might mean more to your international colleagues than you think. Let us know about your big or small research projects and get in touch with journal@ecfaweb.org or with project manager Anne Schultka (KIDS Regio), schultka@kids-regio.org

Photo: At the Cinekid Industry Forum, © Corinne de Korver

For more information and a full report we invite you to take a look at the [research section on KIDS Regio's homepage](#).

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The 'Information Celebration' section is curated by KIDS Regio, a lobby initiative for high quality and multi-faceted European Children's Films. It functions as an agent between policy and society, the film industry and the scientific world in order to form a network and discuss new synergies.