

## Traders As (Inter) Cultural Agents: Turkish-Romanian Relations

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### Abstract

The study explores the complex relationship between trade/traders and culture. Since ancient times, traveling traders have helped increment intercultural dialogue, so their work could be seen as an "osmotic" process. They have not only circulated goods but also ideas, concepts (from the field of science, religion, or philosophy), and vocabulary (they brought words from one nation or ethnic group to another, blending languages). One can assert that international trade is not a mere exchange of products but an occasion for mutual cultural enrichment. The main research question of the current paper is: "How can international traders sustain the intercultural dialogue?" from this point; the analysis will research the complexity of relations established by merchants among different cultures across numerous periods. The study will mainly focus on the commercial relationship between Turkey and Romania. The methodology includes historicism, cultural studies, interculturality, imagology, and a literature review and analysis of the intercultural trading interaction between Turkey and Romania.

**Keywords:** Culture, Intercultural Dialogue, International Trade, Turkey, Romania.

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## Introduction

Since prehistoric times, trade has been perceived as an opportunity to contact the alterity, an occasion to develop relations with the Other. Commerce also contributed to the emergence of ethnic and cultural stereotypes. The image of the Other is based on meeting people from outside one's own group, ethnicity or nation, and it is often subjective:

*“From earlier on in history, the encounter with other cultures, languages and customs has been governed by selective perception, which inspires curiosity, stimulates the imagination and evokes fascinating images in people's minds. Valorizing the Other is, of course, nothing but a reflection of one's own point of view. In the European tradition, images of self and other appear already in the early testimonials of ancient Greek literature: stereotypes concerning the demarcation between Greeks and barbarians” (Beller 2007: 6).*

Commerce, being similar to an osmotic process, has also contributed to globalization by permeating national borders. The *intercultural trade*, also referred to as cross-cultural trade, had a major contribution to linking nations and cultures in a wider and wider net that generated “the global village”, in McLuhan's terms. Scholars and specialists in global trade have different views regarding the relationship between trade / regional trade agreements and globalization:

*“RTAs are shaped by and in turn shape globalization. They are increasing in number, membership diversity, scope, and certainly importance and controversy. Whether RTAs facilitate economic liberalization or economic nationalism in the future and whether they promote a wider balance of societal interests than is currently the case remains to be seen. The interplay of economics and politics will continue to be the center of determining these future RTA, trade, and globalization trends” (Lynch 2010: 240).*

One can assert that the future of global trade is interrelated to the evolution of globalization. The interdependence between intercultural trade and globalization is obvious and they can make a serious contribution to the welfare of humanity. *Cross-cultural* or *intercultural trade* is the key of diversity within unity. Due to this type of commercial activity the entire world can enjoy products from remote parts of the globe.

## **International Trade as a Culture-Dependent Activity**

Culture has been defined by the Turkish Language Association as “all the material and spiritual values created in the historical and social development process and the tools used in creating and transmitting them to the next generations, showing the extent of human dominance over their natural and social environment”. As it is understood from this definition, one of the most important features of culture is the formation of culture in a historical process and the emergence of common material and spiritual values belonging to that society. There have been many studies on the cultures of countries, and the most well-known of these studies is the work of Hofstede (1983). According to Hofstede (1980), culture is “the collectively programmed mind that distinguishes one group from another. Hofstede (1983; 2011) emphasized the following dimensions of culture: *individualism-collectivism, power distance, uncertainty avoidance, masculinity-femininity, long-term-short term orientation, and Indulgence-restraint.*

With globalization, the importance of culture in international trade has gained more importance. In parallel with this, many academic studies have been carried out on this subject. In one of these studies, Mornah and MacDermott (2011) discussed culture as the determinant of competitive advantage in trade. Liu, Lu and Wang (2020) discussed the role of cultural and institutional distance in international trade. Tadesse and White (2017) investigated immigrants, cultural differences and trade costs. Cyrus (2012), Wang, Yang and Yasar (2020), kültürel mesafenin ikili ticaret üzerindeki etkisini araştırmışlardır. Arslan (2014), uluslararası ticaret ve kültürel yakınlık ilişkisini Asya örneği ile araştırmıştır.

Can trade be separated from culture? The answer is: No! Furthermore, one can assert that culture is the basis of commerce. Two or more individuals/companies trade goods on the basis of either a shared cultural background, or, on the contrary, a total difference in culture. Therefore, one can classify trade, from a cultural standpoint, as: *intracultural trade* and *intercultural trade*. The first type of commerce is generated by a request for products commonly used by sellers and customers pertaining to the same culture, whilst the second type is due to the interest and the appreciation of customers in the producer’s culture. This classification is distinct and more accurate than the one made solely on national criteria; for instance, inside a certain nation there could be many co-existing cultures and, thus, national trade encapsulates not only the intracultural trade but the intercultural one as well.

Another term is also used to describe the trade between two or more ethnic/cultural groups: *cross-cultural trade*, but the adjective “intercultural” is more appropriate as it emphasizes the

idea of interaction between sellers and buyers, the process of blending cultures, languages and religions during the commercial activity. As Philip D. Curtin noticed, the origin of the cross-cultural trade or the intercultural trade is uncertain and involved the borders and the first intercultural commercial activities were unpremeditated:

*“But it is possible to imagine that the earliest cross-cultural trade took place during random encounters of hunting bands, or that it was mixed with phases of warfare. One can also imagine that the earliest trade between different communities took place at the border between them. Linguistic evidence suggests that this was the case in ancient Greece, and later on, Hermes was both the god of trade and the god of the boundary stones separating one city from another. But this early phase of boundary markets ended for the Greek cities by the eighth century B.C. If similar institutions existed elsewhere in the ancient world, they disappeared with the earliest phases of urbanization. Early urban markets tended to appear near the heart of the city, not on the outskirts, presumably because the traders wanted to have the best possible access to potential customers”* (Curtin 1984: 2).

Thus, the intercultural trade represents a complex social activity that linked different fields of human creation sustaining the evolution of humanity, and generating dissensions among tribes or ethnicities in some rare cases.

Trade, and especially *intercultural trade*, has always acted as a binder, it has connected some cultural domains across cultures and ethnicities and it has increased their fusion. For instance, religion is one of the most influenced fields by intercultural trade, as Peter Wick and Volker Rabens emphasized in the *Preface to Religions and Trade: Religious Formation, Transformation and Cross-Cultural Exchange between East and West*:

*“Contact between religions is key to their formation and development. People become aware of their own religious identity through encounters with other religious traditions. This identity is both reinforced and transformed as people assimilate elements of different religions into their own religion or demarcate themselves from them. Trade is a prominent generator of intercultural contact and is thus one of the most important triggers of religious contact. Through trade-based interactions, not only is merchandise traded but sooner or later religious goods are also traded and interchanged”* (Wick ve Rabens 2014: xi).

One example of intercultural intertext agglutinated on trade routes is the hagiographic novel

*Varlaam and Joasaf*, a multilayered palimpsest of the Buddha's legend. The story of Siddharta Gautama was carried and transformed by traders from India to Europe, this process took hundreds of years and, as a result, Buddha Shakyamuni ended up as a Christian saint called Joasaf.

Sometimes, international/intercultural trade relations are reflected by linguistics. Tea is one of the most favourite beverages in the world but it is differently denominated by different people: either *tea* (thé, tè and some other variations) or *chai* (with a variety of different spellings: çay, ceai, cha etc.). An explanation of these two denominations of the same drink is the development of two trade routes: the maritime one (the one which propagated the word *tea* from a southern Chinese language) and the continental one (which disseminated the word *chai*, from the Chinese *cha*). And nowadays people call the same drink *tea* in the UK and *ceai* in Romania, for instance. Another example is *sugar* (the centuries-old companion of tea), a term that originated in the Sanskrit *śarkarā* (*sand* or *grit*). From the Sanskrit word evolved the Greek *saccharon* and the Latin *saccharo* which further evolved into the Italian *zuccherò*, the French *sucre*, the Spanish *azúcar*, the Turkish *şeker* or the Romanian *zahăr*.

Consequently, the intercultural trade represents one of the factors that can contribute to the reshaping process of a culture. Traders pertaining to different cultures permeate the cultural borders and, beside their main commercial activity, they also disseminate elements of their own culture, contributing to the intercultural dialogue.

### **Interactions Between International Trade and Culture: Turkey-Romania Relations**

The bilateral relations of Turkey and Romania, which are members of NATO, BLACKSEAFOR and BSEC, have a multidimensional structure. The reason for this is the existence of strong political, economic, cultural and human ties rooted in history. In this context, Turkey and Romania, which have developed cooperation in the field of trade and economy on the one hand, continue to sign social and cultural cooperations on the other. The Strategic Partnership Document signed in December 2011 and the Action Plan adopted in March 2013 are the most basic indicators that the relations between the two countries have been raised to the level of "strategic partnership". The most important factor in the development of bilateral relations is the presence of the dense Turkish population in Romania (T.R. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2021). Social and cultural interaction has also provided the development of political, economic and commercial relations.

### *Historical Links: Cultural Ties*

Located near the Danube River and the Black Sea, at the crossroads of Asia, Europe and the Middle East, Romania has a very strategic location in terms of geographical settlement. However, Romania, one of the oldest settlements in Europe, has hosted many civilizations. Like Romania, which has historically hosted many civilizations, especially Turks, Turkey is a very important country in the international system in terms of both its geostrategic location and its cradle to civilizations (Karadeniz Ereğli Ticaret Odası, 2020).

When the historical processes of both countries are examined, it can be observed that they have cultural unity. Romanian lands have been an important transit and settlement place for Turks from the past (Ural and Kılınç, 2015: 179). While the migration of Turkish people in Romania after the First World War was reflected in the relations between the two countries (Ömer, 2019: 322), Romania, with its developing economy after the Second World War, hosted Turkish immigrants this time. The two countries, which have strong bilateral historical ties, have given mutual immigration according to the state of the international system dynamics.

Perhaps another reason why Romania and Turkey are interlocked with strong ties is that they have been constantly exposed to foreign raids due to the strategic importance of the geographies they live in, but they have managed to keep their own cultures alive (Tarihte Türk-Rumen İlişkileri, 2006: 12).

It is possible to see another example of the close ties between Romania and Turkey, which have strong historical ties, in the difficult process that Turkey went through during its establishment. Romania took Turkey's side in the 1923 Lausanne negotiations on the Straits, minorities and war reparations. Likewise, Turkey supported Romania on minorities and war reparations (Metin, 2011: 26-38).

When we evaluate it in the economic context, it is possible to say that the commercial relations between Turkey and Romania date back to very old times. The bilateral trade relations, which developed within the scope of the close relations during the Ottoman period, were re-established with the trade agreement made after Lausanne. (Ömer, 2011: 114).

Romania, which can be considered as Turkey's neighbor in connection with the Black Sea, was admitted to NATO in 2004 and became a member of the European Union (EU) as of 2007. Romania, which gives full support to Turkey's EU membership journey (Kuşku Sönmez, 2018: 163), continues to support Turkey in this regard as well.

As can be seen, Turkey and Romania, which have strong historical ties, have preserved this structure from past to present and have been able to reflect it in their commercial relations. In particular, in the study, which aims to show how cultural ties interlock the societies of the two countries, historical and current commercial data analysis will be evaluated together with historical qualitative content analysis.

### ***Analysis of Trade Data with Historical Ties***

Although cultural and commercial exchanges have always been a characteristic feature of Euro-Asia, this type of interaction has intensified after the Mongol Conquest in the XVIIIth Century A.D. As all the empires, the Mongols also needed, besides the income from tributes and taxes applied to their vassals, other goods to sustain their enormous army and administration. Thus, the largest empire in history represented a commercial binder between the Far East and Europe:

*“This historiographical tendency maintains that a definite contribution should be first and foremost acknowledged in the contacts and connections across Eurasia that the nomads allowed to take place and develop. This is particularly evident in the century following the Mongol conquest, when Turco-Mongol courts, armies, and administrative apparati dictated the terms and conditions that regulated the flow of people and goods from China to the Mediterranean. The world became more open, remote lands more accessible, and knowledge increased as a result of travels and cultural exchange” (Di Cosmo 2005: 391).*

Prior to the Mongols, other Turkic tribes migrated to the Black Sea steppes and disturbed for a while the trading routes established by Romanians and other peoples such as “Khazars, Vikings, Arabs, and Byzantines” (Spinei 2009: 243). The Ottomans resumed, more or less, the customs and policy of their cousins, the Mongols, regarding trade and intercultural exchanges. As Neagu Djuvara noticed, the arrival of Turks in the Romanian territories represented a loss for Romanians as they could not collect taxes from the international trade on their territory. In 1484, Bayezid II conquered the two seaside citadels: Chilia and Cetatea Albă, causing an economic and political loss (Djuvara 2018: 141).

It is possible to see that the historical ties of Turkey and Romania are reflected in their bilateral trade relations throughout the historical process. In this context, especially during the Ottoman Empire, Wallachia and Moldavia were on the territory of Romania, and bilateral relations were carried out with the Ottoman Empire and Wallachia-Moldova (Bedir, 2020: 56-57).

The Ottomans never tried to give the region an Ottoman character and did not fully annex it. Although there were problems due to Tsarist Russia, Romania has always been in cooperation with Turkey in order to preserve its existence in the international system and to protect its interests in the recent period. The bilateral relations of both Turkey and Romania can be observed with their attitudes in the Lausanne talks. In fact, it is possible to see the reflection of the cultural relations between Turkey and Romania for the first time with the first bilateral agreement signed on 11 June 1929, the "Contract of Residence, Trade and Maritime Transportation" (Ömer, 2019: 319). In addition, it is possible to see the good relations between the two countries, which are reflected in their trade, in the Trade and Payment Agreement accepted on 5 January 1938. Agreement; It has clarified which products are covered by the import and export between the two countries, the customs duty exemption for these, and the way in which the requests for new export products will be processed (Ural and Kılınc, 2015: 183). Thus, the economic relations between Turkey and Romania, which were interrupted due to the First World War, were officially resumed with the trade agreement signed in Lausanne. However, the existence of close bilateral relations was also reflected in the press, which is a soft power element. Thus, articles encouraging the development of the economic relations of both countries were included in the Turkish and Romanian press. Regarding Turkey in the Viitorul newspaper dated 25 July 1923; It was emphasized that the Romanian and Turkish peoples have many common economic interests. Especially with the support of Romania on the Straits, the Straits were given to Turkey. According to the Romanian newspaper, the oil and gas that Istanbul needed could be brought to this city from the Constanta port and transferred to every region of Turkey from there. İkdam newspaper also drew attention to the importance of Romania for Turkey and stated that Romania meets import items such as oil, animals and grains, which are important for Turkey, while Turkey responds to Romania's needs in the fields of vegetables-fruits, olives and textiles (Metin, 2012: 54)

Turkey and Romania, where historical and cultural ties are so strong, are developing solid cooperation, although not as intense as it should be. In this context, they raised their relations to the level of "strategic partnership" with the Strategic Partnership Document they signed in 2011 and the Action Plan they accepted in March 2013 (T.R. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2021). Romania, which is located in the southeast of Europe and is the second largest market in Central and Eastern Europe after Poland (Çelik, 2018: 2), and Turkey, which is a very important supplier and market for Europe, continues to reflect its historical and cultural ties to its bilateral



trade day by day. Therefore, it can be stated that the trade-culture interaction in the historical process continues today.

In order to observe the development of bilateral trade between Turkey and Romania, we can examine the table below:

**Table 1. Turkey-Romania Trade from Past to Present (Import-Export)**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Export (USD)</i>	<i>Import (USD)</i>
1969	8.504.252	7.548.979
1970	3.951.525	8.263.813
1971	4.053.090	6.926.749
1972	8.798.864	3.892.797
1973	9.608.006	7.856.616
1974	5.979.934	77.970.972
1975	6.630.877	59.656.572
1976	30.623.875	89.950.403
1977	25.649.030	114.338.823
1978	74.109.188	174.714.483
1979	37.783.305	234.943.744
1980	70.952.741	261.118.103
1981	57.295.281	371.597.485
1982	59.196.045	103.959.707
1983	58.702.852	184.112.454

1984	57.478.048	119.684.081
1985	46.988.479	63.613.243
1986	39.855.878	105.169.731
1987	48.685.553	229.372.725
1988	76.006.458	197.912.404
1989	52.776.302	238.548.374
1990	83.164.483	202.494.620
1991	105.109.453	198.588.760
1992	173.073.100	256.111.868
1993	151.653.413	300.775.321
1994	175.341.509	228.910.913
1995	301.959.807	367.870.335
1996	314.111.724	441.289.614
1997	358.782.804	394.086.802
1998	468.178.139	344.672.402
1999	268.184.803	401.155.729
2000	325.818.464	673.927.760
2001	392.028.001	481.139.647
2002	566.497.254	661.764.557
2003	873.346.535	955.971.135
2004	1.235.485.461	1.699.553.146

2005	1.785.409.287	2.285.591.955
2006	2.350.474.492	2.668.986.859
2007	3.644.162.164	3.112.752.124
2008	3.987.476.166	3.547.820.080
2009	2.201.936.205	2.257.963.353
2010	2.599.380.058	3.449.194.982
2011	2.878.760.461	3.801.296.530
2012	2.495.426.541	3.236.424.992
2013	2.616.312.509	3.592.567.826
2014	3.008.010.728	3.363.233.118
2015	2.815.506.203	2.598.908.347
2016	2.671.249.153	2.195.728.349
2017	3.139.187.673	2.480.195.988
2018	3.867.039.651	2.447.471.127
2019	3.857.233.603	2.483.071.239
2020	3.679.337.292	2.531.208.631
2021	3.002.447.721	2.083.405.752

Source: TUIK, 2021

Although the historical process dates back to the past, the bilateral good relations that started specifically in 1923 were moved to the commercial platform with the trade agreement in 1938. In this process, the economic relations between Turkey and Romania developed after the trade

agreement signed in Bucharest on January 5, 1938. While Turkey was buying oil and petroleum products from Romania, it sold a lot of agricultural products to Romania.

In Romania, which is located in the southeast of Europe and is the second largest market in Central and Eastern Europe after Poland, a strong rural migration has taken place with the industrialization process. II. Romania, which came out with severe wounds from the World War II, entered a period of great struggle to develop its economy. Romania, which started to adapt to the free market system after the December 1989 Revolution, gave importance to foreign trade for the purpose of economic development. In addition, many reforms have been made for this purpose. In a short time, policies were put into practice for the rapid and transparent privatization of all establishments, most of which are under state control, and for raising the living standard of citizens. These reforms were especially supported by international bodies such as the IMF, the World Bank and European Union. Along with these important developments, the fact that the country became a full member of the European Union on January 1, 2007, has made Romania one of the most attractive countries of Europe (Adana Sanayi Odası, 2020).

Table 1 has been started since 1969, both because the course of Romania-Turkey trade relations started to take shape after 1989 and because TUIK data was available until 1969. According to the table, bilateral trade, which started in 1969, has evolved up to now in the form of ups and downs, but generally in the form of an increase. Although there have been cuts and decreases in the process, today the two strategic partners are also trading partners for each other. In this context, it is expected that both Turkey and Romania will use their existing historical ties much more effectively and efficiently and transfer them to bilateral trade more.

When Table 1 is examined, it can be stated that the crisis processes in the world and the events experienced in the internal structures of the countries also affect the bilateral trade. E.g; Internal and external dynamics such as the effects of the oil crisis in the 70s, the Romanian Revolution in 89, Turkey's Customs Union Agreement with the EU in 96, Romania's EU membership in 2007, etc. have transformed bilateral trade into a fluctuating structure. On the other hand, the general course of bilateral trade, which has been fluctuating, has always been in the form of an upward trend.

However, the mutual increase in bilateral trade volume in the 2000s, when globalization gained momentum, is also a very important development. The most important reason for this is the escalation of cultural interaction triggered by globalization. Arctic SA, Kastamonu Romania

SA, Marathon Distribution Group SRL, Akparom SRL, Kirazoğlu Corporation SRL, Erdemir Romania SRL, Motor Activa Inf SRL, Rulmenti SA, Vis Agri SRL, Luco Frucht Marketing SRL, Rompak SRL, Contec Foods SRL, Evoline SRL, In addition to the presence of large Turkish companies such as Masifpanel SRL, Sterk Plast SRL, Prestige Mob SRL, Ertec Business Building SRL in Romania, companies such as Koç Holding, Yıldız Entegre, Trakya Cam etc. have recruited workers and personnel to Romania (inşaat elemanı.com, 2021), resulting in bilateral cultural and commercial interaction can increase together.

The Roman-Turkish trade, which is historically rooted in the Ottoman Empire, shows its effects both in Romania and Turkey today, in the streets, in the movies and TV series watched by the society, in short, in their lives. This situation can be expressed as traces of the cultural effects of bilateral trade.

As a consequence of the intercultural trade between the Ottomans and Romanians, some new customs were adopted by Romanians, coffee consumption is only one example in this respect. The first coffee house in Bucharest was open in 1667 by an Ottoman, Kara Hamie, and gradually coffee became one of Romanians' favorite drinks. Nowadays, the most commercialized Turkish coffee brand in Romania is *Mehmet Efendi*. Spices also reached the Romanian territories due to the Turkish traders, one example in this respect is the term *ienibahar* borrowed from Turkish (*yenibahar* – “the new spice”). Thus, intercultural trade has not influenced only gastronomy but language, as part of Romanian culture, as well. These days Turkish tea is more and more popular among Romanians mainly due to the Turkish series. Some of the most accessible tea brands in Romania are *Rize* and *Doğuş*. These products can be found in the numerous Turkish shops mainly in Bucharest but in other cities as well; some of the most well-known Turkish shops and butchers in Bucharest are: *Altın Bıçak Kasabı*, *AYT*, *Saray*, *Efendi Market* etc. Turkish food is available in many restaurants from Bucharest and other cities: *Saray*, *Edessa*, *Efes*, *Çeşme* etc. Turkish films represent the main promoters of Turkish culture in Romania nowadays. Turkish films became popular after 2008 and the main television that promoted them was *Kanal D* (a Turkish television in Romania). The Turkish film business has rapidly developed in Romania, and some of the most appreciated films by Romanians are *Aşk ve Mavi*, *Bir Zamanlar Çukurova*, *Gülperi*, *Muhteşem Yüzyıl*, *Yaman* etc.

The Romanian people and culture were highly influenced by the Ottoman lifestyle and language during almost five centuries of Ottoman rule. Nowadays, the commercial relations between the two peoples are still active and there is high demand in Romania for Turkish films, foods and

drinks, and as a result, more and more Turkish restaurants have been opened in some of the most important cities of Romania.

## **Conclusion**

Culture can be defined as the sum of common material and spiritual values that emerged in a historical process in communities with a common past. Elements of culture are transmitted from one generation to another through learning and establish a bond between communities with the same culture. Similar behaviors emerge between individuals and communities with a common culture. In addition, there are similarities in many aspects such as way of thinking, language, discourses, attitudes, traditions and customs in communities with a common culture.

Since the first ages of history, trade has been an important element in the sharing of cultures of communities and transferring their cultural elements to each other. During trade, traders transferred their traditions, customs, behaviors and attitudes, which are the elements of their own culture, to other countries or communities. In this way, traders have become cultural ambassadors of their communities. Especially since the 1980s, with the effect of globalization, cultural interactions have increased in parallel with the increase in trade between countries.

Romania is a country that gained its independence in 1878. It was governed by the communist system between 1947-1989. In 1990, elections were held and a multi-party democratic system was adopted. Romania joined NATO in 2004 and the European Union in 2007 (EreğliTSO, Romanya Ülke Raporu, 2020). There are strong political, economic and cultural relations between Romania and Turkey, rooted in the past.

When the commercial relations between Turkey and Romania are examined, it is seen that they follow a fluctuating course. Despite the decrease in mutual trade in some years, it is seen that it continues uninterruptedly until today. Turkey and Romania are each other's biggest trading partners in the Balkans. Among the main products exported from Turkey to Romania; automotive spare parts, iron and steel products, agricultural products, machinery industry products, vehicle parts. Among the main products imported from Romania to Turkey are iron and steel products, processed petroleum products, vehicle parts, iron and steel scrap, chemical fertilizers and seeds (EreğliTSO, Romanya Ülke Raporu, 2020).

It is seen that cultural interactions have increased in parallel with these commercial relations. For example, Turkish coffee, which is one of the most important cultural elements of Turkey, is also very popular and consumed in Romania. However, products such as Turkish tea, spices and knives are highly preferred in Romania. Also, Turkish Restaurants and dishes are spreading

more and more in Romania. Apart from these, recently Turkish movies and TV series have been the most important factor that brought Turkish culture to Romania. TV series such as Once Upon a Time Çukurova, Gülperi, Magnificent Century and Yaman are among the most popular TV series in Romania.

As a result, Turkey-Romania relations and trade, whose historical roots date back to the Ottoman period, have increasingly continued over the years. In parallel with these commercial relations, Turkish-Romanian cultural interaction has also increased. Considering that these commercial relations and cultural interaction will increase more in the coming years, cultural activities should be given importance for both countries. It will be beneficial to organize cultural events where the traders of both countries will understand and share each other's culture.

In other words, there are cultural relations in the background of Turkish-Romanian commercial relations and cooperation. Both states and trading companies should take this fact for granted and be aware that this will maximize their relations.

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