



KOSOVO

TOWARDS SOUND MATERIAL-CYCLE SOCIETY IN KOSOVO

On February 2, JICA and the Ministry of Economy and Environment (MEE) sealed the Record of Discussion (R/D) of “The Project for Enhancement of Capacity for Waste Management towards Sound Material-Cycle Society Phase 2” in Pristina, Kosovo.

JICA supported Municipality of Prizren in implementation of the Project (Phase 1) from 2011 to 2015. Project Phase 2 will be targeting four municipalities of the Prizren region, such as Suhareka, Rahovec, Malisheva and Dragash so as to expand the outcome of the Phase 1. The project, which aims to develop the capacities of 4 municipalities for solid waste management, is expected to start in May this year and will last for 3 years with an overall budget of 357 million Japanese Yen (approximately 2.8 million EUR).



Mr. Qerimi, Secretary General Ministry of Economy and Environment (MEE) and Mr. Hibino, Senior Resident Representative JICA Balkan Office signing the R/D

SERBIA

COMMENCEMENT OF THE PROJECT FOR CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN SID



Current landfill in Sid Municipality

Record of Discussion (R/D) for “The Project for Capacity Development of Solid Waste Management” was signed with Ministry of Environmental Protection (MoEP), Sid Municipality and Public Utility Company Standard Sid in December 2020. This 3-year technical cooperation project aims at establishing better operation of waste management system, including participation to the regional landfill. JICA’s experts, together with MoEP and the local authorities of Sid Municipality, will develop a plan of source separation, and it is expected to introduce and promote separation and collection of recyclable waste.



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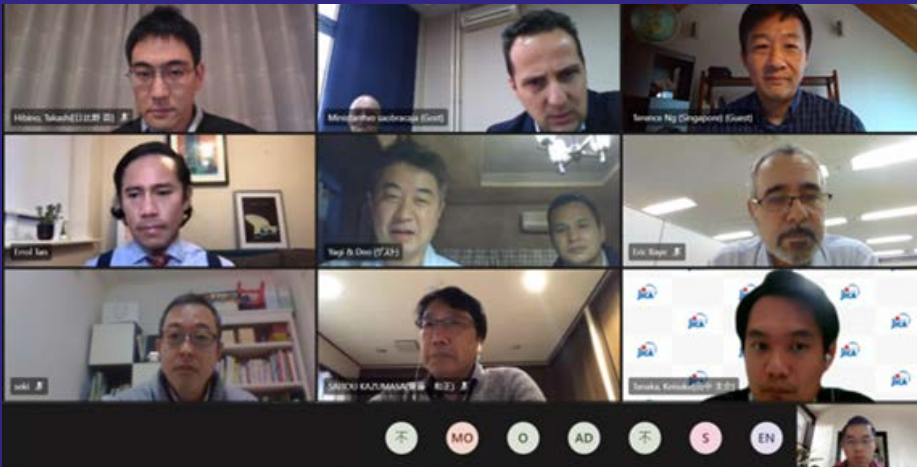


Building communal capacity to respond to natural disasters, page 5



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TO IMPROVE THE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICE IN CANTON SARAJEVO



Online Kick-off meeting

On December 16, 2020, Ministry of Traffic of Canton Sarajevo and JICA held an online kick-off meeting to launch the “Project for Formation of Sarajevo Public Transport Management and Operation Capacity Development Plan”.

The 3-year project aims to improve the public transportation service in Canton Sarajevo, which would result in the mitigation of the traffic congestion and air pollution. In order to address these challenges, the activities such as traffic survey, formation of overall public transport operation plan and training in Japan or in third countries are planned.

NORTH MACEDONIA

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING FOR QUALITY MANAGEMENT (2ND CYCLE) COMPLETED

The 2nd cycle of Japanese Management Program for Professional Training “Quality Management and Competitiveness” was conducted at the Faculty of Economy, University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje from January to April 2021. This Program was implemented by the Faculty of Economics, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Uni-

versity of Nagasaki, Japan and University of National and World Economy (UNWE), Sofia, Bulgaria.

The goals for the students were to develop skills for diagnosis, analysis and solving of the management challenges and to create unique management philosophy by using Japanese methods, techniques, and business

standards of the continuous quality improvement.

The target groups of the Program were business owners or managers of small and medium enterprises, innovators, entrepreneurs, representatives of the state and public administration, as well as all the professionals in the quality management.



Online closing ceremony

2 JOCVs RETURNED TO SERBIA

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, 8 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) left Serbia temporarily in March 2020. In December 2020, 2 volunteers returned to Serbia. Mr. MIYAGI Yuya, who has been engaged as volunteer at Belgrade Sport Association for persons with disabilities, was kindly welcomed by the members of the association, even though his assignment was

ending in January 2021. He used the remaining one month to wrap up his activities and summarize his experience at the association, where he supported the members to enjoy sport and improve their quality of life. Another JOCV, Mr. YUJI Kazuki resumed his work at Karate club in Arandjelovac. He will stay there until January 2022.



Mr. Yuji and Mr. Miyagi at Narita Airport heading to Serbia



Mr. Yuji at Karate club in Arandjelovac

BALKAN REGION

REGIONAL ALUMNI MEETING HELD ONLINE

On February 24, regional meeting of 5 alumni associations of ex-participants in JICA KCCP programs was held online. The meeting was attended by the Presidents of Alumni associations from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Serbia, applicants for Small-scale Follow-Up (SFU) projects and JICA Balkan Office. Since most of the events and seminars planned for 2020, which included gatherings, were cancelled due to epidemiological measures in the respective countries, the agenda of the meeting was mainly focused on exchanging experiences on successful implementation of 6 SFU projects in 2020. Some alumni associations adjusted to the new situation and shifted activities, such as thematic seminars, to the online platforms.



Online regional alumni meeting

KOSOVO

IMPROVING ACCESS TO MARKETS AND COMPETITIVENESS AMONG FARMERS

In cooperation with Kosovo Women's Chamber of Commerce (G7) and business consulting company Sigma BMC, JICA launched the Follow-up Cooperation for Country Focused (CF) Training Program on "Community Development for Livelihood Improvement and Confidence Building".

The project aims to build the resilience of farmers by enabling access to wider markets and increasing their competitiveness. COVID-19 pandemic created obstacles in using usual sales channels such as open

markets, restaurants, hotels, which caused losses for farmers and producers and affecting the level of income. In that regard, the Agro Market Ks is developed as a bilingual (Albanian –Serbian) online platform for selling fresh and processed local products and for farmers and producers of food products in the municipalities of Gjakova, Suhareka, Strpce and Partesh. Agro Market Ks is an additional and efficient channel for their promotion to consumers and the sale of their products across Kosovo.

This project also has support of representatives of farmers' associations, local government and NGOs from above mentioned 4 municipalities, who have been trained over the last 3 years by JICA and play a liaison role between farmers and the project.

Agro Market Ks has been operational from May when all farmers in Kosovo, who want to promote and sell their products, are encouraged to register on this platform.



Info session about Agro Market KS platform (Municipality of Gjakova)



Promotional poster for the platform

For small-scale producers, it is a unique opportunity to promote their products by becoming more visible to urban areas, reaching new buyers and selling directly to them.

Ms. Verica Milosevic,
Municipality of Partesh



The platform will help the farmers to understand better the requirements from the buyers, through direct communication, improve the quality of the products and services and to know where to expand their business.

Mr. Florin Dautaga,
Municipality of Gjakova



KOSOVO

BUILDING COMMUNAL CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO NATURAL DISASTERS



Delivering of DRR brochures in Lipovec village in municipality of Gjakove

In cooperation with the Red Cross of Kosovo, JICA started the project “Follow-up Cooperation for KCCP Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)”. The project aims to build an overall capacity of local communities on preparedness and response to disaster risks within the context of COVID-19 pandemic.

In that regard, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Clubs will be established in five villages in the municipality of Vushtri, Gjakove, Malisheve, Fushe Kosove and Gjilan, as they are found to be vulnerable to natural disasters, particularly the flooding.

Establishment of DRR Clubs is followed by public awareness campaign about protection measures in disaster risk situation and

COVID-19 pandemic, as well as a series of workshops and assessment of DRR vulnerabilities in targeted communities.

Besides brochures and video material on DRR and COVID-19, in cooperation with Emergency Management Agency (EMA), Red Cross of Kosovo is designing a manual based on “BOKOMI” (the popular name of Kobe City’s community based organization for disaster risk reduction “Disaster-Safe Welfare Community”) model from Japan that will be used for training in DRR Clubs.

JICA has provided 2000 packages of first aid material and 2000 personal aid bags for citizens from above mentioned villages. In coming period all DRR Clubs will be supplied with the equipment for emergency situations.



Delivering of information brochures about COVID-19 and earthquake, flooding and fire in Pestova village in municipality of Vushtri



Delivery of personal aid bags to students (village Pestova, municipality of Vushtri)



The community of the village of Pestove has tried to help themselves in case of disasters, but the establishment of the Club and provision of materials and equipment for DRR will contribute to their volunteer work.

Community is involved in drafting the Risk Assessment for their village, and it is also the first time that they participate in trainings and workshops for DRR!

Mr. Berat Ademi, Village Pestova, Municipality of Vushtri

We are happy to participate in the capacity building workshop on disaster management. We have formed Disaster Risk village Clubs which will teach us how to help people in unexpected disasters.

Mr. Qazim Gola,
Village Lipovec, Gjakove

Distribution of brochures about protection measures in DRR situation and COVID-19 help to increase awareness of our community.

Mr. Isuf Sertolli, Village Bellanica, Malisheva



NORTH MACEDONIA

DEVELOPMENTAL DYSPLASIA OF HIP – RAISING AWARENESS AND IMPROVEMENT OF SCREENING PRACTICE

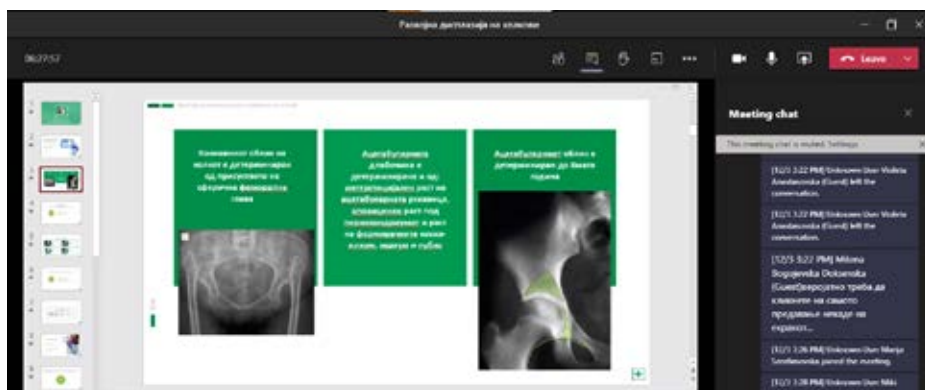
Developmental Dysplasia of Hip (DDH) in newborns can be prevented if ultrasound screening was done timely and properly. JICA's Small-scale Follow-up (SFU) project targeted parents of newborns by providing them with a brochure on DDH in Albanian and Macedonian language. It also targeted specialists dealing with DDH, such as pediatricians and orthopedic surgeons, and they were invited to attend interdisciplinary webinar on diagnosis, treatment, screening and prevention of DDH.

The brochure was prepared and printed in 6500 copies and distributed to maternity wards and pediatric primary offices in Skopje in December 2020. By the end of 2021, it is expected that all parents of newborns from Skopje area will receive one copy with information on how to prevent DDH.

Webinar titled "Pitfalls of early diagnosis of developmental hip dysplasia" was organized on 3rd December 2020, in collaboration of Macedonian Association of Orthopedics and Traumatology and Pediatric Association of Macedonia and it was accredited by Medical Chamber of North Macedonia. 155 attended, mainly orthopedic surgeons, pediatricians, general practitioners, neonatologists and physiatrists.



Brochure on "Developmental Dysplasia of Hip"



Webinar "Pitfalls of early diagnosis of developmental hip dysplasia"

KOSOVO

UN-LOCKING WOMEN'S OWNED SME's EXPORT POTENTIAL

The main goal of the SFU "Un-locking Women's Owned SME's Export Potential" was to promote export and raise awareness of women entrepreneurs from Kosovo so as to consider export as huge opportunity to increase their sales and profits.

NGO Kosovo Women's Chamber of Commerce - G7, undertook a series of activities from September to December 2020 to promote export potential and encourage women-owned SMEs and women managers to prepare for exporting. G7 organized webinars on 8th, 11th, 14th and 16th December 2020 with 65 participants from women-owned micro, small and medium size companies, majority of them with no experience in export.

One of the activities included export readiness assessment for up to 12 women owned SMEs. Each of 12 companies underwent a detailed export readiness assessment by an expert, which addressed the export prerequisites, and provided information for companies how they rate in each area, and provided guidance for internationalization by selecting the best strategy to follow. Furthermore, the media expert designed six infographics for export promotion among Kosovo micro, small and medium enterprises in general and in particular women-led businesses. The purpose of infographics was to illustrate and provide better understanding on the export procedures, export phases, export strategy

and export plan to increase awareness and stimulate export development initiatives.

Finally, the last activity that summarized this SFU concept proposal of 'SheTrades' platform which aims to increase women's participation in export activities for the purpose of developing Kosovo economy through the improvement of their competencies in international trade and innovation entrepreneurship. The long-term plan is to advocate for the implementation of this platform with the Government of Kosovo and for it to become a verifier of the "SheTrades" initiative of the International Trade Center (ITC); the initiative is aimed at uniting one million women entrepreneurs from all over the world.

KOSOVO

NEW LIFESTYLE AND WASTE DISPOSAL DURING COVID-19

This Small-scale Follow-Up (SFU) Project aimed at raising awareness for the proper waste disposal during COVID-19 pandemic through procurement and distribution of re-usable masks, preparation of brochure with explanation on proper disposal of used masks and production of video. During an outdoor activity when waste disposal during COVID-19 was discussed and explained, re-usable masks were distributed to school pupils in the town of Prizren. Brochures with explanation on proper use of masks, proper disposal of used ones and the importance of following the rules and regulations from the relevant institutions were prepared and distributed to the following institutions, Down Syndrome Kosova, Special School “Mother Teresa”, Special School “Lef Nosi”, Association “Autism”. Furthermore, video material with general information on precautionary measures of protection during COVID-19 was produced and aired on national TV RTK, as well as on local TV stations.



Lef Nosi – hand-over of masks for all children and the staff



School in Prizren- importance of keeping distance

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

PICTURE BOOK ON DRR FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Ms. Ismira Ahmović, expert advisor in Federal Hydro-meteorological Institute and a member of JICA Alumni Bosnia and Herzegovina, applied for Small-scale Follow-up (SFU) project with an aim to raise the awareness of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) among the elementary school pupils by using the tools adequate for their age and level

of understanding. Therefore, she prepared a material for a picture book on DRR and, in collaboration with Fine Art Academy Široki Brijeg, the students illustrated it. As soon as the epidemiological measures allow, the picture books will be distributed and presented in 20 schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina and will reach about 300 school children aged 9 to 11.



ALBANIA

APPLYING HYDROPONIC TECHNOLOGY, AS INNOVATION FOR FARMERS

As a relatively new concept and innovation farming business today, hydroponic technology was introduced to the Albanian farmers through the Small-scale Follow-Up (SFU) project. Mr. Eldi CECO, JICA ex-participant, who works as a business analyst at the Savings and Credit Association FEDinvest, initiated and implemented this project. He found as a very important to inspire farmers to open towards new technologies. Therefore, the "Guideline for the application of the Hydroponic technology for farmers in Albania" has been created and distributed to 200 farmers and uploaded on the digital platform of the FEDinvest members "ABA Online".

In order to create the manual, firstly, the consultants conducted the research on collecting and selecting the necessary information that describes the details of the hydroponic technology. The application of hydroponic greenhouses was introduced in the light of all its advantages, starting from the fact that the plants are cultivated at any time of year, without the need for solar energy nor soil, the high productivity, low labor cost, among others. The research was conducted in 4 different sites of Albania (Lushnje, Fier, Berat, Elbasan) and included 28 growers of greenhouse products. The results of the research were reflected in the Guideline.



Site visits as a significant part of the research



Discussion with farmers during site visits

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

My name is NAKANO Shizuka. I am recently assigned as a Project Formulation Advisor for the Volunteer Program at JICA Balkan Office. This is my first experience working in Europe and I am very happy and excited, as Serbia is currently the only country in Europe where JICA volunteers are dispatched.

It has only been a short time since I took up this assignment, but I have already come to appreciate working in Serbia. Serbian people are very kind and friendly and it made it easy for me to adjust to my new surroundings and I am enjoying my stay in Belgrade very much.

Before coming to Serbia, I worked in the JICA Office in Samoa, in a similar post for 3 years. I also have experience working as a JICA Volunteer in Bangladesh from 2011-2013 and 2014-2015 in the field of Rural development. I plan to use my past experience to successfully manage the Volunteer Program here in Serbia so as to contribute to the continued friendship and warm relations between Serbia and Japan.

I have noticed high awareness of Japanese culture, such as Manga and Martial arts in Serbia. I hope to recruit Japanese volunteers from a wide variety of backgrounds to work as volunteers here. It will help us share cultural ideas and understanding between Japan and Serbia.



Ms. Nakano at her workplace



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