JICA

Follow-up Cooperation in Balkan Region



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Brief Introduction of JICA's Follow-up Cooperation

Follow-up Cooperation is the program for maintaining and developing effective results of JICA's technical cooperation.

Once JICA's cooperation including **Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP)** is completed, the partner countries are expected to undertake independent measures and activities, to disseminate and maintain the achievements of the implemented cooperation.

However, in case the partner countries face difficulty to accomplish expected goals, despite their efforts and initiative, JICA's follow-up cooperation can be extended with the aim of adding new value to the implemented cooperation by providing additional input at a relatively low cost.

The objective is to further diffuse and develop the results of the past technical cooperation of Japan as widely and deeply in the recipient country as possible. JICA will:

 Support on-site seminars and workshops to be held by former training participants or their alumni associations, counterparts

Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP)

JICA's KCCPs are a form of technical cooperation that JICA carries out in Japan. Some of the knowledge that Japanese society has accumulated, including its background in areas such as organizational know-how and social systems, can only be understood through first-hand experience. The programs are an important means of technical cooperation which support human resource development and resolving issues in developing countries.

KCCP is composed of "Group and Region Focus Program", "Country Focus Program" and "Young Leaders Program".

and counterpart organizations for the past technical cooperation projects, and/or
Support them in preparing audio-visual materials, native language materials or manuals.



Follow-up Cooperation can support you to maintain and develop effective results of your training experience.

Small-scale Follow-up project

Small-scale follow-up (SFU) project is a program established in 2019 as a part of JICA's Follow-Up Cooperation. The applicants are expected to implement his or her own project with the approved budget, if the proposal is selected by JICA Balkan Office. Through this program, JICA supports initiatives of ex-participants of KCCP, their belonging organizations and JICA Alumni Associations, to tackle the development issues or promote the relationship with Japan in a respective country.

Objectives:

- Help the alumni expand knowledge and experience gained through JICA KCCP in a respective country
- Strengthen the network among the alumni, while promoting the relationship with Japan

Eligible applicant:

Ex-participant of KCCP

Duration of the project:

Up to one year

*Schedule with the application and implementation period is announced through Alumni associations in late spring every year.

Ceiling amount of the project:

3,000 EUR per project

*For JFY2021; it may change depending on the year

Priority sectors for SFU project support:

- SMEs, economic development, private sector development, tourism
- Environmental protection and disaster prevention
- Improvement of the social sector (education, health, gender, support of the people with disabilities)
- Agriculture
- Administrative capacity development
- Inter-ethnic reconciliation/ disparity reduction

Types of activities to be supported:

- Workshop/ seminar/ conference
- Manuals/ publication/ teaching material/ educational videos
- Research/ study
- Procurement of small equipment

Best practices

ALBANIA



Follow-up Project

PRODUCING THE FARMER'S NOTEBOOK FOR BOOKKEEPING

Objectives:

- To contribute to the promotion of livelihoods of vulnerable small scale farmers and SMEs in rural areas of Albania
- To develop awareness, knowledge, and skills of vulnerable farmers and SME owners in book-keeping knowledge

Background:

The Albanian Council of Agribusiness (KASH), an umbrella organization that includes 20 Associations and focusses on Agriculture and Rural Development, recognized the necessity to enhance the capacity of the farmers and other applicants, benefitting from the financial support of National

Applicant:

Employee of the Albanian Council of Agribusiness (KASH) participated in Knowledge Co-Creation Program "Local Industry Development in Agricultural Regions by Strengthening Capacity of Management and Marketing"

Implementation organization:Albanian Council of Agribusiness (KASH)

Year of implementation: 2019

Subsidy schemes as well as those of EU Grants in Agriculture. Accurate accounting and book-keeping records are a pre-condition for access to any of these supporting funds. Each applicant is expected to submit a Business Plan and justify profit and financial transactions. Unfortunately, during the implementation of the Agriculture Subsidy schemes it has been noticed that a high rate of rejected applications are due to inaccurate budget/profit estimations, low quality and insufficient data.

Activities:

- Creation and distribution of the Farmer's Notebook
- Hold a series of workshops in three main agriculture regions of the country (Vlore, Shkoder, and Lushnje areas)

Outcome:

In order to fully utilize available funds and overcome challenges, Farmer's Notebook has been recognized as a useful tool that can facilitate accurate accounting and book-keeping of the farmers and other applicants. Through a serious of proactive workshops, organized on behalf of this follow-up cooperation, farmers learned to use the Farmer's Notebook. In addition, all beneficiaries become familiar with the basic principles of expenditure types, profit, turn-over, booking of expenses, simple forms of balance sheets, hidden costs, calculation of farmer's own labor cost, basic methods of product price calculation, etc. that were simply explained and introduced by the lecturers. By developing such workshops, farmers become able to understand the economic impact of their activities, as well as its importance.

Book-keeping FU had a great success in Albania and the JICA Balkan Office decided to introduce Farmer's Notebook book-keeping in the neighboring country Kosovo.

Voice of the stakeholder:



Ms. Enida SHENA Executive Director, Albanian Agribusiness Council (KASH)

The Workshops for the introduction of the "Farmer's Notebook" that took place on the districts of Lushnje, Shkoder and Vlore, were received with great interest by the attendees.

The goal was to get farmers to know, how to maintain a simple Balance Sheet and how to use their skills to make an accurate forecast of new farm investments.

The "Farmer's Notebook" has provided farmers with information on:

- How to register and maintain data on the financial activity of the farm,
- The importance of book-keeping, as well as how to use the data, in the preparation of the Business Plan.



Bookkeeping seminar in Vlora



Bookkeeping seminar in Shkodra

Small-scale Follow-up Project

APPLICATION OF HYDROPONIC TECHNOLOGY, AS INNOVATION FOR ALBANIAN FARMERS

Objective:

To introduce to the Albanian farmers the Hydroponic Technology through the Guideline that could be applied for indoor crop growth in controlled climate conditions.

Background:

The horticultural industry in Albania has changed rapidly over the years. The agricultural sector is entering a new revolution where the quality and productivity of crops and vegetables will be key factors in ranking among the most demanding markets. The Albanian farmers have great potential to become producer country and to supply the others but they only need the necessary technology to be able to produce the volume of crops vegetables demanded by big markets. A Hydroponic Greenhouses production is relatively new concept of intensive agriculture, which relates to the highly controlled growth of production in greenhouses. Instead of traditional season

Applicant:

Mr. Edi CECO, Manager of Network Development in the Business Department, participant of the KCCP "Development of Agricultural Cooperatives and Improvement of Management Capacity" (JFY 2015)

Implementing Organization:Association of Savings & Credit FEDinvest

Year of implementation: 2020

production, through application of this modern technology Albanian farmer growers will be able to control crop growth and yield, almost regardless of external factors, while protecting the high quality of produce year-round and ensuring the farmer a stable flow of income. Unfortunately, a lack of knowledge about available technology to use is an obstacle.

Activities:

- Conduct a Research Study and on-site survey in four districts Berat, Fier, Lushnja and Elbasan
- Create a Guideline (in hard copies and soft file)
- Dissemination of the created know-how Guideline

Outcome:

The Guideline was created as a result of the survey with comprehensive information on what the hydroponic concept is and how to apply it in specific places in Albania. Starting from the concept of this technology, than necessities for such an application, international providers of this technology, suppliers of the row material utilized for the plant production, costs calculation, plants and corps that can be cultivated in Albanian conditions, etc... Dissemination of the created Guideline was done through the distribution of 200 copies to the farmers. The soft content of the prepared material is uploaded on the ABA digital platform (platform created



Field study at Albanian greenhouses

and supported from a JICA Project) and it is available for all FEDinvest members of "ABA Online". The awareness of Albanian farmers on hydroponics technology benefits is enhanced.

Voice of the stakeholder



Mr. Edi CECO
Manager of Network Development in
Business Department
President of JICA
Alumni Association of Albania (JAAA)

Along with the need to increase food quantities, technological and industrial development has pushed competition to the highest peaks. Consequently, in order to stay in the market and be competitive, the entrepreneurial sector needs to adapt to market behavior and embrace innovation, to ensure the survival and continuity of their activities in the competitive free market economy.

In this Guideline with a summary of information, listed and adapted to the conditions of Albania, a look is taken at a technology of plant production development called the technology of "Hydroponics".

The main advantage of applying hydroponic technology is obtaining a maximum value of products from a small greenhouse area as well as controlling the production process effectively and with cost for both labor and minimum inputs. I wish that this Guideline would be a valuable and interesting material for agricultural innovators.

Message from the President of JICA Alumni Association of Albania (JAAA)

The JAAA was established in 1997 and carries out its activities, with the support and contribution of a number of former participants to the JICA Training program over the years. The mission of the Association is to provide support for strengthening and expanding JICA's Cooperation in Albania and enhance the effectiveness of JICA Projects that are currently being developed or have been developed in the past.

Its purpose is to promote the assistance provided by Japan in different sectors as well as to disseminate Japan's history, tradition and culture. One other aim of this Association is to show achievements of the Japanese people in different areas of economic, social and cultural development as well as help the enhancement of cooperation between Albania and Japan in areas of mutual interest.

The year 2022 is the 25th anniversary of the establishment of this Association. This anniversary marks an important milestone in the history of economic and cultural cooperation between Japan and Albania. Therefore, on this jubilee of the establishment of our Association, JAAA plans to carry out a series of important activities, which are expected to highlight the relationship cultivated over the years between the two countries and also to bring to the attention of the general public the invaluable contribution of Japan for the development of our country. The activities will be of developmental and cultural character and will also reflect the evolution of our association as well as important contributions of members over the years. The JAAA is the place many of us have chosen to express, through intellectual and professional contributions, the gratitude for the opportunity given to our membership, to know first hand, a Country of particular culture and tradition, such as Japan. It is a special pleasure to engage in giving to the organizations and various institutions in our country, the opportunity, to better know the valuable and tireless contribution that a friendly country, such as Japan, has given, and continues to provide every day, for the development of Albania.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



Follow-up Project

BUILDING EDUCATION NETWORK FOR PEACE

Objective:

Raising of pupils' and teachers' awareness about basic values and principles of democracy, basic human rights and liberties and environmental protection.

Background:

JICA's country focused training course "Building Education Network for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina" was aimed at teachers from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina, employed at elementary and secondary schools who were involved in education for peace, democracy and human rights. The purpose was to build a network which

Implementing organization:

for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina"

Applicant:

JICA Alumni Association Bosnia and Herzegovina

Former participants of JICA's country focused

training course "Building Education Network

Year of implementation: 2012

would work on promotion of peace activities and inter-ethnic cooperation.

All teachers had a strong desire to find solutions for their country, with the common goal to achieve a peaceful and stable society through education.

Activities:

Organize two-day different environmental activities for 10 primary schools from six municipalities of Middle-Bosnia Canton that have different social, national and religious background

Outcome:

This FU Project has bought together 150 pupils and teachers from Middle-Bosnia Canton with different social, national and religious backgrounds and spent one weekend together in different environmental activities, promoting peace and joint living while sharing their knowledge and raising environmental awareness. The lectures 'Raising of public environmental awareness', 'Inefficient usage of energy in primary schools and 'Ecological importance of plants' were delivered. Pupils and teachers were engaged in their group—work, writing essays, poems, songs and motto, designing posters and eco-garden for their schools.

Voice of the stakeholder:



Ms. Ranka MANDIĆCoordinator of the Project

I can say that I am really satisfied with the outcome of the project and that my wish to bring together pupils and school staff from different schools, with different ethnicity, cultural and national background was fulfilled as well as my aim to connect education, ecology and tourism.



The Closing Ceremony: quests, lecturers and eco-trainers



Planting trees

Small-scale Follow-up Project

LEARN TO REDUCE THE RISK

Applicant: Ismira AHMOVIC, Expert Advisor, Federal Hydro-meteorological Institute

Year of implementation: 2020

Objectives:

The objective of the project is to raise awareness of the pupils and teachers in primary school about the role of the Social Protection Systems in Emergency Preparedness and Response as well as to mainstream Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the education sector and to strengthen the preparedness and response of the social and child protection systems in BiH.

Background:

Considering the climate change projections for the region, by the end of the century, Bosnia and Herzegovina can expect an increase in the frequency, unpredictability and intensity of flooding, drought, heatwaves and wildfires. This will have an adverse effect on the GDP, multiple sectors and, more importantly, the lives and livelihoods of people.

Climate change and high exposure to natural and man-made hazards further hurdle the country so-cio-economic development. The 2017 World Risk Report ranks Bosnia and Herzegovina as a country of high exposure to natural hazards.

Despite obvious trends, the incidence of catastrophes has not been prompted by an appropriate approach to disaster management caused by climate change, including a stronger engagement in the application of preventive measures. Regarding civil protection, earthquakes, floods, heavy snowfall, landslides, mine contamination as well as forest fires have been identified as the main disaster risks for Bosnia and Herzegovina citizens.

Activities:

- Preparation, printing and distribution of picture book on DRR for primary school pupils.
- Organization of educative workshops in primary schools across Bosnia and Herzegovina (post-poned due to unfavorable epidemic situation)

Outcome:

Primary school pupils learn about DRR and the effects of climate change in an interesting and age-appropriate way through a picture book. Through workshops they will be able to learn about DRR in an interactive way and discuss about their role in combating climate change.



Picture book

Message from the President of JICA Alumni Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The key mission of the JICA Alumni BiH Association is capacity building through the dissemination of knowledge gained in courses in Japan. We achieve this by holding seminars and workshops from various fields, following the long-term needs of the society (as a whole), as well as the current needs arising from emergencies. Also, we have a lot of social gatherings among the members and friends of Japan - we organize cultural events every year, as a rule, every time in another city in BiH, where we promote the culture of BiH and Japan along with an appropriate program and socializing. All friends are welcome!



Mr. Živorad KOVAČEVIĆ President of JICA Alumni Association of BiH



KOSOVO

Follow-up Project

COUNTRY FOCUSED (CF) TRAINING PROGRAM ON "COMMUNITY DEVEL-OPMENT FOR LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING"

Applicant: Employee of Kosovo Women Chamber of Commerce G7, ex-participant of Country Focused (CF) Training Program on "Community Development for Livelihood Improvement and Confidence Building"

Implementing organization:

Kosovo Women Chamber of Commerce (G7)

Year of implementation: 2020

Objective:

To support farmers in competing in the market place and connect them with the communities.

Background:

As in many other countries, the measures undertaken by the Government of Kosovo against COVID-19 have affected the population with limited cash reserves, engaged in agriculture and small food businesses. The closure of restaurants/green markets caused farmers' inaccessibility to sell their produces and affected the major sources of income. In addition, Advisory Service Officers in the municipalities were not able to travel

to the fields and provide their technical advice to the farmers.

From 2016 to 2019, JICA organized a Country Focused (CF) Training Program on Community Development for Livelihood Improvement and Confidence Building, and farmers from both Albanian and Serbian communities participated in a study visit to Japan. The farmers associations, local governments and NGOs learned Japanese way of branding local products and promoting agro-tourism. After the training, participants developed action plans based on the knowledge acquired in Japan and this initiative is aligned with the plans aimed to build farmers' resilience by enabling access to markets and diversifying their products.

The current challenges, due to COVID-19 exacerbated the farmers' vulnerability in terms of not having the access to a market for their products due to limited movement during the lockdown. This is how the concept of this FU cooperation, the development of e-green market emerged, as a valuable tool to build farmers' resilience and support livelihoods.

Activities:

Creation of E-green Market was achieved through following activities:

- Consultation with Alumni of the Country Focused (CF) Training Program and identification of focal points from Albanian and Serbian majority municipalities.
- Involving all interested producers/Associations to join the e-green market through the network established by CF Training on Community Development
- Registration of all Farmers' Associations/Producers who are interested in offering their products through e-green market platform
- Creation of a bilingual (Albanian/Serbian) e-green market platform
- Promoting e-green market services to citizens through the media
- Developing the coordination mechanism among stakeholders in order to ensure sustainability of E-green market

Outcome:

The pandemic crisis triggered farmers to lose places to sell their produce. To address this issue, JICA Balkan Office in cooperation with the implementing partner Kosovo Women Chamber of Commerce (G7), created the first online E- green market, which connects farmers and citizens directly and enable farmers to reach out wider market.

E-green market creates a new opportunity to order local specialties that are typical for certain regions. Further, farmers and citizens are able to use e-green market anytime without the restriction of working hours in comparison to physical green markets. Not only in the emergency context such as COVID-19, but also people in need of assistance, especially the elderly, people with disabilities, the sick, and those who live remotely from markets can easily purchase products. In this way, e-green market is expected to contribute the sustainability of farming activity.

Voice of the stakeholder:



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.

Florim Dautaga (Municiplaity of Gjakova)



The first E-green market platform "Agromarket KS" was officially launched in June

Small-scale Follow-up Project

RAISING AWARENESS OF WASTE DISPOSAL DURING COVID-19

Applicant: Mr. Nehat Bojaxhi, employee of Environment & Community Development, ex-participant of KCCP "Solid Waste Management" JFY2019

Year of implementation: 2020

Objectives:

The objectives of this project include raising awareness of the proper use and disposal of single-use face masks and gloves among the citizens of Prizren municipality as well as informing elementary school pupils of protective measures and waste disposal during COVID-19.

Background:

COVID-19 pandemic imposed a huge challenge not only to the sector of public health but also

to the waste management sector. Although citizens have found many ways of producing masks on their own but the quality and the effectiveness of them is not really high, if not made of 100% cotton. Another issue is wide usage of disposable masks, which are improperly disposed, causing the rik of infection and pollution to the public.

Providing re-usable masks to the citizens and sharing information on the proper usage of mask will reduce the risk of virus spread and at the same time raise the awareness of the community. Citizens must be aware of the importance of proper waste management during the pandemic in order to protect themselves and others.

Activities supported through this project included:

- Procurement of 700 three-layered cotton face masks to elementary school pupils and marginalized groups in the Municipality of Prizren and distribution of the masks during an organized outdoor session on proper waste disposal during COVID-19.
- Preparation, printing and distribution of brochure on the proper waste treatment during COVID-19
- Production of video material on precautionary measures during COVID-19, which was aired on RTK and shared through social media.

Outcome:

By raising awareness of proper use and disposal of protective equipment during epidemic, as well as providing environmental education to primary school children, the waste disposal situation in the community will be significantly improved.



Distribution of protective equipment

Message from the President of JICA Alumni Association in Kosovo (JAAK)

The aim of JAAK is to achieve its objectives by stimulating the implementation of JICA development programs in Kosovo, cooperation between JAAK members, trained in Japan and other countries members, support the development of joint programs and cultural exchange, among others. JAAK with its activities have open new ways for project development, implementation of which will be in view of sustainable and long-term development of the Republic of Kosovo.

We hope to achieve a more cohesive and collaborative approach to partnering with the community. Perhaps in that sense, we can attract more committed participation and support to promote the good cause of the JAAK.



Ms. Nezakete HAKAJ President of JAAK



MONTENEGRO

NORTH MACEDONIA



Small-scale Follow-up Project

STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON MAIN TREE SPECIES IN NATIONAL PARKS OF MONTENEGRO

Applicant: Mr. Slobodan Stijepovic, Associate for forestry at Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro (PENPM), ex-participant of KCCP Adaptation to Climate Change (JFY2016)

Year of implementation: 2021

Objectives:

The objectives is to develop an expert study on impact of climate changes on abundance and growth of main tree species in national parks of Montenegro.

Background:

Development of the study on impact of climate changes on main forest species in protected areas contributes to better understanding of impact of climate changes on natural forests, respectively

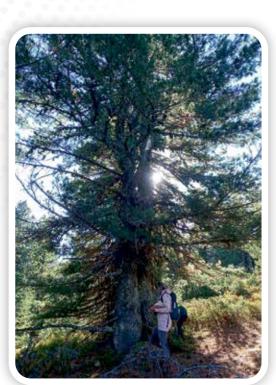
on forests that are not economically used or forests that are left to natural growth (rainforests). There have been no studies drafted for impact of climate changes on forest species in protected areas. The need for such a document is enormous and important, taking into account, apart from general importance of forests, the habitats formed in the untouched forest ecosystems such as national parks.

Activities:

- Defining material and methods of the study by the expert team
- Field work Collection of samples in order to define impact of Climate Change on the trees in period from 10 years
- Data processing and analysis of field work samples
- Development of the Draft Study
- Preparation and submission of the Final Study to Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro for future activity of the Management Plan and Programs.

Outcome:

Publication: The Study on analysis and projection of impact that climate changes will have on future abundance and growth of main tree species in protected areas of Montenegro (National Parks of Montenegro).



Collecting samples during fieldwork

Follow-up project

SUPPORTING SMALL-SCALE FARMERS TO EXPAND THE ACCESS TO NEW MARKETS AND IMPROVE MARKETING STRATEGIES

Objectives:

- Improving the competitiveness of small-scale farmers and women agricultural organizations in target areas by branding and adding value to their produces and contributing to their expansion and accessibility to the new markets.
- Supporting small-scale farmers through training sessions, publications and guidelines on cooperative principles for producers, marketing and sales

Background:

Small-scale farmers were particularly hit by COVID-19 crisis, as they temporarily lost their access to green markets and on-farm sales due to the epidemiological measures. Disruption of the food supply chain led to a surplus in raw produces, which need proper storage and packaging or they would be wasted, leaving many agricultural households without the income.

Applicants: Employees of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE) participated in the KCCP "Developed Market oriented Export Promotion Strategy / Marketing Strategy" and "Development of Agricultural Cooperative and Improvement of Management Capacity"

Implementing organization:National Federation of Farmers (NFF)

Year of implementation: 2020

This FU project aimed at empowering small-scale farmers in branding their local produces and products in order to become more competitive on the market and more resilient in the times of crisis. It also boosts the cooperation between the farmers as they need to coordinate branding and marketing strategies in promotion of their local products. This type of project may further motivate producers of other agricultural products to apply similar concepts and contribute to the rural development, generate employment and secure better living standard in the rural areas of the country.

Activities:

- Providing small-scale equipment related to labeling and packaging in post-harvesting to en sure the reliability of products
- Training sessions related to cooperative principles, marketing and sales organized by ex-par ticipants of JICA KCCP from MAFWE
- Providing instructions and support to the producer groups in terms of labeling and packaging and establishing mechanisms for knowhow share by publication of guidelines and its distribution to the farmers by NFF

Outcome:

With the new equipment, granted to the associations of farmers from 7 regions in North Macedonia, 700 agricultural households will be able to access the new markets with their products adequately stored, packed and labeled.



Hand-over ceremony in Makedonski Brod



Hand-over of equipment for apple produucers in Resen

Voice of the stakeholder:



Mr. Stevan OROZOVIĆ Executive Director of NFF

It is such an important project for the small-scale farmers, particularly because this support came soon after the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, and made a huge impact on the everyday life and conditions of the rural population, as the most affected community by the pandemic. The enhanced production, provided by the donated equipment from JICA, has created an economic boost and brought lots of smiles to the farmers' faces. They were pleased to receive the required equipment that will make a tremendous difference in their line of production, sorting/calibration, packaging of their products, promotion and marketing, etc.

Small-scale Follow-up Project

RAISING AWARENESS OF DEVELOPMENTAL DYSPLASIA OF HIP

Objectives:

- To increase awareness about DDH in new parents and pediatricians, who are supposed to refer newborns for hip ultrasound scan
- To educate pediatricians about physical hip examination, children at risk for DDH and good screening practices

Background:

Recent trend of skipping ultrasound screening for DDH in newborns resulted in the increase of surgeries. Screening was missed because parents were not informed their newborns needed a scan, they did not know the importance of hip ultrasound scan, although they were informed they Applicant: Ms. Danica Popovska, Specialist of orthopedics at University Clinic for Traumatology, Orthopedic diseases, Anesthesia, Reanimation, Intensive care and Emergency center, ex-participant of KCCP Hospital management JFY2015

Year of implementation: 2020

should perform it, or there was lack of available appointments. This project aimed to change the first two reasons for missed screening. Another ongoing issue in the DDH screening strategy is the fact that many of the babies, that do come for ultrasound scan, are 2 to 4 months old, while current recommendations state the scan should be performed at 6 weeks of age at the latest. This also creates delays of diagnosis and treatment and need for longer and more aggressive conservative treatment. Two main reasons for this delay were identified – lack of appointment terms and misinformation of the referring physicians (remnants from the period when hip x-rays were a routine, and they could be performed at 4 months of age and no earlier). The latter reason was addressed through this project.

Activities:

- Preparation, printing of 6,500 copies of brochure titled "Developmental dysplasia of hip" in Macedonian and Albanian language and distribution to maternity wards and pediatric primary offices
- Organization of webinar for 155 orthopedic surgeons, pediatricians, general practitioners, neonatologists and physiatrists, all of which are involved in diagnosis and treatment of DDH

Outcome:

Printed brochure about DDH in Macedonian and Albanian, prepared especially for this project, has been distributed to all maternity wards and pediatric clinics in the City of Skopje. Awareness of DDH and need for screening of newborns in new parents and primary care pediatricians is raised through this project and it is expected that medical education of pediatricians and orthopedic surgeons providing advanced knowledge about population at risk, good screening practice, diagnosis and treatment of DDH will be continued.



Brochure "Development Dysplasia of Hip"

Message from the President of JICA Alumni Association of North Macedonia (MAK-JAMS)



Mr. **Tashko RIZOV** President of JICA Alumni of North Macedonia

Our association has always faced numerous challenges in its more than 20 years existence. With the dedication and readiness of our team, we have overcome all these challenges. However, this last challenge we have faced in the form of a worldwide pandemic has limited us in so many ways at once. Again, with the dedication and readiness of our team, backed up with the technology, in form of online meetings, we have prevailed and continued in doing our mission. There is no doubt that the limitations have left their mark and our activities have been modified, but, on the other hand, it provided us with new possibilities to collaborate and engage in some new activities. As President of MAK-JAMS I am glad to say that our association is reliant and our team has answered to all challenges with success.

SERBIA



Follow-up project

SUPPORTING STRAWBERRY FARMERS IN SERBIA

Objective:

The objective of this Follow-up Cooperation Project is to test growing strawberry in plastic greenhouses in Serbia in order to see cost and revenues aiming at increasing income of farmers, by supporting farmers through purchase of plastic greenhouses and provision of necessary training in strawberry growing technology, which will enable them to produce strawberries all year round. Loznica is one of three locations and the other two are Požega and Vranje.

Applicant: Ex-Senior Advisor for Programming of Measures for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, ex-participant of Group-focused Training Program on "Promotion of SATOYAMA Initiative: Biodiversity conservation and rural development through the sustainable management of natural resources" JFY2019

Implementing agency: Ministry of agriculture

Year of implementation: 2020

Background:

One of the challenges for agriculture in Serbia is to increase incomes for small family farms (3-5ha represent 80% of farms) that are mostly located and cultivated in rural areas. Support for strawberry production has a possibility for successful model for the rural development. In Serbia strawberry is mainly harvested at open fields during the following three months: May, June and July, when is the usual "strawberry season" in this country. Most of the farmers do not have enough income to purchase plastic greenhouses by themselves although this would enable them to continue with the strawberry production over the other months as well and become more competitive in the global market including Japan.

Activities:

- Procurement of six plastic greenhouses 500m2 size, necessary pesticides and fertilizers, 18,000 pieces of strawberry seedlings
- Provision of technical support to farmers to educate them how to grow this type of strawberry in plastic greenhouses.

Outcome:

After reaching a peak in growth in the beginning of summer of the following year and after the strawberry harvest, the quality of strawberry will be analyzed and cost-effectiveness analysis will be performed to compare benefits to open-field strawberry production. If the result of this trial project turn out positive, it might lead to expansion of production of this type of strawberry in plastic greenhouses and increase in export of frozen senga-sengana strawberries from Serbia.



Mr. Takeichi with JICA ex-participant at the site in Loznica

Small-scale Follow-up Project

ECO CAMP 2020

Objectives:

- Promotion of healthy lifestyle, Japanese culture and environmental protection to the children with disabilities
- One day event that brought 30 children with and without disabilities in joint activities

Background:

The Eco camp is designed as an event that would bring together children with and without disabilities to compete, socialize and gain some new knowledge and experience through inclusion. All of the planned activities promote healthy lifestyle and improve psycho-physical condition of every person, as well as their knowledge on environmental protection and origami.



Activities at the Eco camp

Activities:

- Organization of joint activities such as table tennis, football, basketball, sitting volleyball, Origami school, Eco treasure hunting
- Procurement of the table tennis desk for the beneficiaries of the Sport association for the persons with disabilities in Belgrade

Outcome:

The expected outcome include raising awareness of children and adults of the typical population towards understanding and accepting the needs of children with disabilities, increased

participation of children with disabilities in school and extracurricular activities with children of the typical population, improved psycho-physical condition and immune system of all participants. The event also raised awareness of the importance of environmental protection while enabling real inclusion among youth through joint activities. The goal is establishing foundation for spreading similar project in other communities in Serbia.

Message from the President of JICA Alumni Association Serbia

JICA Alumni Serbia is a non-governmental and non-profit association founded by former attendees of JICA courses with the purpose of realizing objectives in the field of establishing and maintaining contacts with JICA and Japan, as well as establishing cultural, linguistic and sci-



entific cooperation which contributes to general progress of the society. The Alumni has around 50 members.

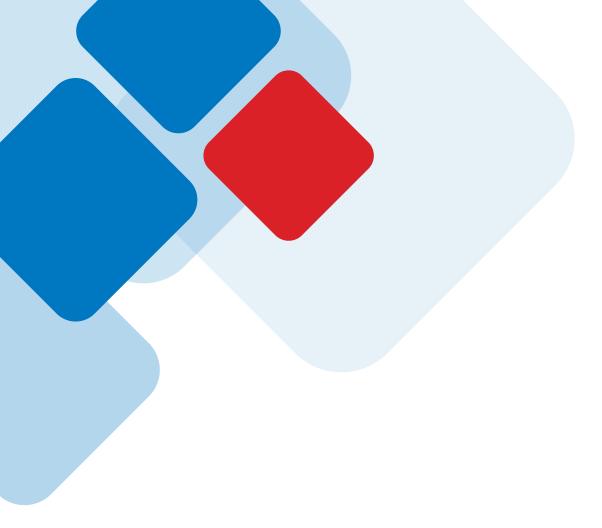
Since 2011 JICA Alumni Serbia has been performing different activities that can be divided in following categories:

- General activities of the Association (annual assembly meeting; web site maintenance; involvement of new members in activities; preparation of PR materials and Newsletter; contact with JICA Balkan Office; etc.)
- Activities on promotion of social and economic development
- Promotion of Japanese tradition and culture
- Regional cooperation

Activities in 2020 and 2021 were organized in accordance with the new reality due to COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the activities were organized in online format like Kanji symbols school, Workshop on energy efficiency and Annual general assembly. Other activities were organized in live like Origami schools and thematic seminar.

Despite the challenges brought by the pandemic, we are proud that we managed to implement all the planned activities in the previous two years.





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