



in MONTENEGRO



Through technical cooperation, grant assistance and ODA loan, JICA has been providing assistance in the areas of environmental protection and private sector development in Montenegro

Strengthening and Expanding the Mentoring Service for Small and Medium Enterprises in the Western Balkans

Scheme: **Technical Cooperation**
Project Period: **January 2022 – January 2026**
Counterpart organization: **Ministry of Economic Development, Montenegro**

This regional project (Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and North Macedonia) is a continuation of the successful cooperation in mentoring of small and medium sized enterprises, which Montenegro has been the part of since 2006. Building upon the achievements over the past years and promoting regional collaboration, the current project aims to upgrade the quality, magnitude, and sustainability of the standardized mentoring service in the Western Balkan countries. While financial support is essential, non-financial assistance such as mentoring service is equally



Mentor Award ceremony

crucial for the success of SMEs. So far, about 160 small and medium enterprises have used the mentoring service in Montenegro.

Sustainable Tourism Development in the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia)

Scheme: **Technical Cooperation**
Project Period: **October 2024 to October 2026**
Counterpart organization: **Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations**

The Western Balkan region has diverse cultures and rich tourism resources. In 2019, 12 million people visited the region, generating the profit of EUR 7.2 billion for the entire region. Tourism is an important sector that accounts for 10.2% of GDP in the region. However, insufficient tourism infrastructure, tourism workers, and lack of connectivity between the tourist destinations in the region are some of the recognized issues. The project, therefore, aims at strengthening regional cooperation and promoting sustainable tourism in the region through the dispatching of an expert who will work closely with the ministries and tourism sector personnel in the Western Balkans.

Project on Capacity building for Disaster Risk Reduction through Montenegrin Forest Fire Information System and Eco-DRR (MEFFIS)

Scheme: **Technical cooperation**
Project Period: **March 2021- March 2026**
Counterpart organization: **Ministry of Interior of Montenegro**

The purpose of this project is to strengthen the capacities of the state institutions in the prevention and mitigation of forest fires and other natural disasters by establishing Montenegro Forest Fire Information System (MEFFIS) and promoting Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR). Eco-DRR in coastal forest in Ulcinj which protects against flying sand, wind and tides, prevents disasters caused by storm surges, presents a place for health and recreation and preserves biodiversity. Eco-DRR in Kolašin focused on planting of 9500 seedlings of spruce and 500 seedlings of black pine, slope terracing, assisted natural regeneration and soil scarification.



Creation of the Eco groups in schools

Capacity Building in International Law and Policy Formation for Cybersecurity

With the increasing threat of cybercrime, international collaboration and cooperation among law enforcement agencies has become essential, as well as strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies in each country to promote the rule of law in cyberspace. In this KCCP, the participants learn how the Japanese police deals with cybercrime in terms of investigation technique, legislation, cooperation with the private sector and digital forensics. The program also provides the opportunity to strengthen collaboration and cooperation between the national police of Japan and participating countries. Two participants from Ministry of Public Administration from Montenegro participated in this training course from September to October 2024. Due to high interest of the Montenegrin Government, the Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) "Countermeasures Against Cybercrime" will be organized again next year.

Scheme: **Country-Focused Training Course**
Project period: **September to October 2024**
Counterpart organization: **Ministry of Public Administration, Montenegro**



Group photo of the training participants in 2024

ABOUT JICA

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) assists and supports developing countries as the executing agency of the Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA).

In accordance with its vision of "Leading the world with trust", JICA supports the resolution of issues of developing and transient countries by using the most suitable tools of various assistance methods and a combined regional, country and issue-oriented approach.

JICA is in charge of administering I ODA such as technical cooperation, finance and investment cooperation and grants in an integrated manner. JICA, one of the world's largest bilateral aid agencies, operates in approximately 140 countries and regions and has approximately 100 overseas offices.

Technical Cooperation

For the human resources development and the formulation of administrative systems of developing countries, technical cooperation involves the dispatch of experts, the provision of necessary equipment and the training of personnel from developing countries in Japan and other countries. The cooperation plans can be tailored to address a broad range of issues.



Field visit to one of the Eco-DRR project sites



Participant from Montenegro at Knowledge Co-Creation Programs (KCCP) Small and Medium Enterprise Development Policies in Japan. KCCP programs are an important means of technical cooperation which supports human resource development and resolving issues in developing countries.

ODA loan

ODA Loan

The ODA loans support developing countries by providing low-interest, long-term and concessional funds. The ODA loans are used for large-scale infrastructure and other forms of development that require substantial funds.

Private Sector Investment Finance

JICA supports the acceleration of developing countries' economic/social growth through the private sector, through debt and equity investment for the development projects of private companies.



Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project Phase 2 (India)

Grants

Grants provide funds to low-income developing countries without the obligation of repayment to support the construction of facilities necessary for social and economic development, such as schools, hospitals, water supply systems, and roads, and the procurement of equipment and other supplies.



Donation of mammography machine

Disaster Relief

Research

Cooperation through Citizen Participation

ABOUT JICA BALKAN OFFICE

Established in 2006 in Belgrade, Serbia, JICA Balkan Office covers Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. JICA Balkan Office aids with growth and stability to the countries of the region, operating mainly in the areas of environmental conservation, Disaster Risk Reduction, private sector development and consolidation of peace.

*The Government of Japan recognized Kosovo as an independent country on March 18th, 2008.

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