

Europe



Supporting Accession to the EU and Ethnic Co-existence in the Western Balkans

Europe is a complex region with a long heritage of economic and cultural development. Most countries in the region have already joined the European Union (EU), and the others are pursuing economic and social development with a view to joining in the future. JICA's assistance to the region places an emphasis on infrastructure development, environmental improvement and private sector development. The western Balkan region, in particular, has been marked by ethnic conflicts in the former Yugoslavia during the 1990s and early 2000s, creating the need to build stable social situations in which different ethnicities can co-exist together. JICA has provided assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina designed to encourage ethnic co-existence. JICA has also initiated bilateral assistance to Kosovo, which declared independence in 2008.

Key Aid Strategies

Supporting Environmental Protection the Private Sector, and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding

JICA operations in Europe originated with support for the former Eastern Bloc countries and newly independent former members of the Soviet Union to assist their pursuit of market economic systems and democratization following the G7 Summit in 1989.

With the establishment of the EU in 1993, Eastern Bloc countries sought to pursue social and economic reforms with assistance from the international community, with the aim of joining the EU. In 2004, the EU was enlarged with the accession of the four Visegrád Group countries—comprising Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia—together with the three Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and rounded out by Slovenia, Malta and Cyprus. In 2007, Romania and Bulgaria became the EU's newest members. The new EU member states were removed from the DAC list of ODA recipient countries in 2006. Technical Cooperation projects to EU member states were concluded in fiscal 2008, except for continuing

cooperation in the form of Japanese ODA Loan projects and follow-up projects.

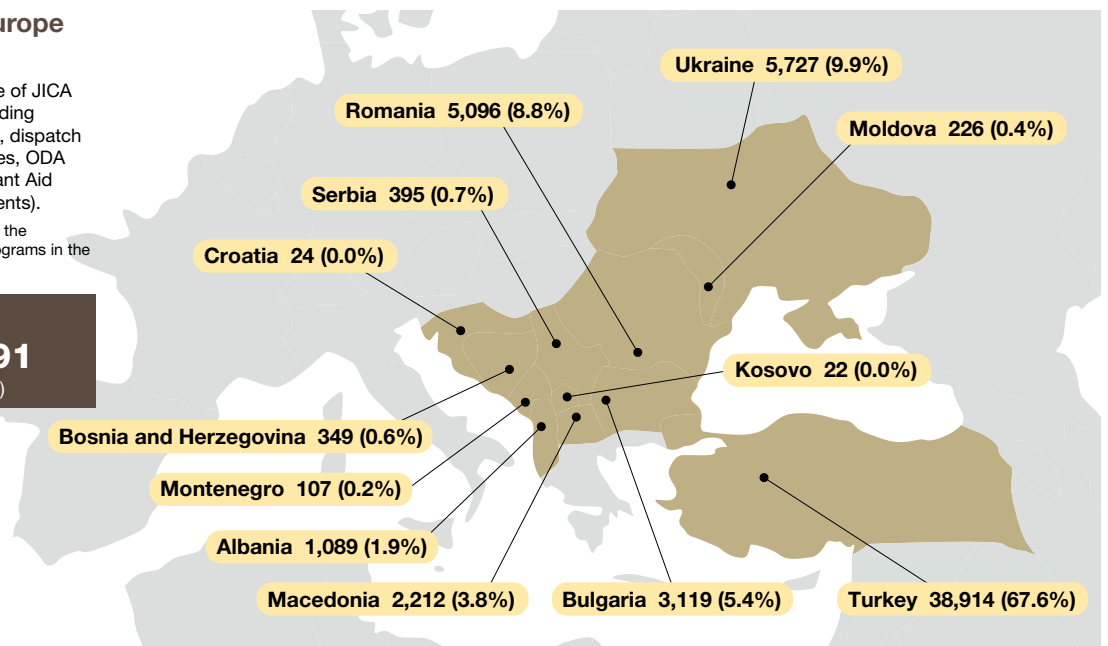
The western Balkans region—comprising the countries of the former Yugoslavia and Albania—has achieved a measure of reconstruction from ethnic conflicts and civil wars that originated with the breakup of the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s. However, the countries in this region face many challenges including high rates of unemployment and simmering ethnic tensions. Further economic development and enhanced governance is needed for these countries to be accepted into the EU. More and more countries in this region have achieved economic development on a par with the newly industrialized economies (NIES), but further effort is needed to build stable social situations in which different ethnicities can coexist together, and pursue environmental measures, which have been a low priority until now. JICA is focusing on the environment

JICA Programs in Europe (Fiscal 2009)

The figure shows the total value of JICA programs in each country including Technical Cooperation projects, dispatch of volunteers, other expenditures, ODA Loans (Disbursements) and Grant Aid (Newly concluded G/A agreements).

Note: Figures in parentheses denote the percentage share of overall JICA programs in the region.

Europe Total: 57,591
(Unit: millions of yen)



Note: Figures exclude JICA's cooperation to multinational and international organizations.

and assistance for the private sector to support countries in the western Balkan region in their efforts to join the EU and help to address global issues.

Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be politically and socially marked by ethnic segregation that stems from conflict during the 1990s, motivating JICA to focus its efforts on assistance to encourage ethnic co-existence. Kosovo, which declared independence in 2008, established diplomatic relations with Japan in 2009, and the governments of both nations have confirmed their intentions to engage in future cooperation. Under this framework, JICA initiated bilateral assistance in 2010 by dispatching experts to Kosovo and conducting training in Japan.

Ukraine and Moldova are situated in a geopolitically significant position between Russia and the EU. The two nations continue to strive for economic independence and development. Ukraine was

severely impacted by the global financial and economic crises that began in the late 2008, and needs critical assistance to enhance the nation's basic economic strength by supporting infrastructure development and promoting investment. Moldova is Europe's least developed country with a GNI per capita of US\$1,590 (World Bank, 2009) and is in need of sustained assistance. Turkey has achieved a more developed status, but continues to need assistance to address environmental issues, correct disparities and encourage South-South cooperation as priorities for cooperation.

Priority Issues and Efforts

Maximizing Aid Effectiveness to Foster Graduation from the Need for ODA

JICA currently extends assistance to 12 countries in Europe. Aside from Moldova, Ukraine and Kosovo, JICA has nearly concluded all Grant Aid to countries in the region, with the exception of cultural, grassroots and human security Grant Aid. JICA will pursue cooperation centering on Technical Cooperation and ODA Loans. In Romania and Bulgaria, JICA is extending ODA Loans and implementing follow-up projects, while assistance to Moldova and Kosovo is being pursued through Technical Cooperation and Grant Aid.

JICA's cooperation aims to leverage its own expertise and Japan's strengths, while considering the recipient country's EU ties and potential to graduate from the need for ODA in the future. JICA

is implementing highly focused Technical Cooperation and projects that can be locally pursued through training and follow-up in the recipient nation. There is also a need to implement projects that can produce region-wide results.

Many countries in Europe that are eligible for ODA Loans have equaled the performance of the NIEs. In these countries, ODA Loans focus on environmental improvement as a global issue that demands continued assistance.

JICA is pursuing Technical Cooperation in coordination with ODA Loans and schemes for Grant Aid, while also examining collaboration with other assistance agencies and the private sector. These initiatives are aimed at maximizing the benefits derived from ODA assistance.



Strawberries harvested in Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina



The IT program at Gymnasium Mostar (Mostar High School) in Bosnia and Herzegovina receives support from Japan. Japan also provided buses to Mostar city through Grant Aid.

Case Study

Rail Tube Linking the Asian and European Continents

Turkey
Bosphorus Rail Tube Crossing Project

The city of Istanbul is the center of commercial trade in Turkey, and spreads across both sides of the Bosphorus Strait, which forms part of the boundary between Asia and Europe. Economic development has seen the city's population grow to some 12 million residents in the last few years, which has brought chronic traffic congestion to the two bridges that cross the Bosphorus, together with severe air pollution from exhaust gases.

To address the situation, Turkey is building an underground rail tunnel beneath the Bosphorus, with the help of ¥111.2 billion in Japanese ODA Loans and the cutting-edge civil engineering expertise of Japan. The project will symbolically unite Asia and Europe through an underground rail tunnel built using Japanese engineering expertise.

Underground Tunnel at 60m Depth

The Bosphorus Strait that connects the Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea is just 700m wide at its narrowest point. Two bridges currently span the Bosphorus, connecting Istanbul's city center on the west with suburbs on the east side of the strait. Japan extended ODA Loans to Turkey to construct the Second Bosphorus Bridge, also known as Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge, which was completed in 1988.

Population growth in recent years has increased bridge traffic, with the two Bosphorus bridges combined seeing an average of 400,000 vehicles per day, leading to chronic traffic congestion. Ferry crossings are also available but are slow, creating the need for a rail crossing.

A plan was devised to construct an underground rail tunnel beneath the Bosphorus. The construction of the rail tube crossing involves digging a trench across the bottom of the strait, which has an average depth of 60m, then immersing 11 massive tubes and connecting them to form a tunnel. Once completed, the project will be the deepest immersed tunnel of its kind in the world.



Second Bosphorus Bridge in Turkey

Leveraging Japanese Engineering Expertise

Japanese civil engineering companies possess extensive experience with immersed tunnel construction, having been involved in a quarter of all immersed tunnel projects worldwide. Turkey is also prone to frequent earthquakes, much like Japan. The project was awarded to a Japanese company based on its engineering and expertise in the construction of urban tunnels in Japan, which in many cases are built on soft ground. The Japanese company's experience with 7.5 magnitude seismic design and expertise with waterproof engineering were also deciding factors.

The massive tubes used for the project measure 15.3m wide by 8.6m high, and are prefabricated on land. Immersing the tubes proved to be a major technical challenge, given the fast tidal currents in the Bosphorus and their varying direction at different depths. The Bosphorus ecosystem also had to be preserved during the construction.



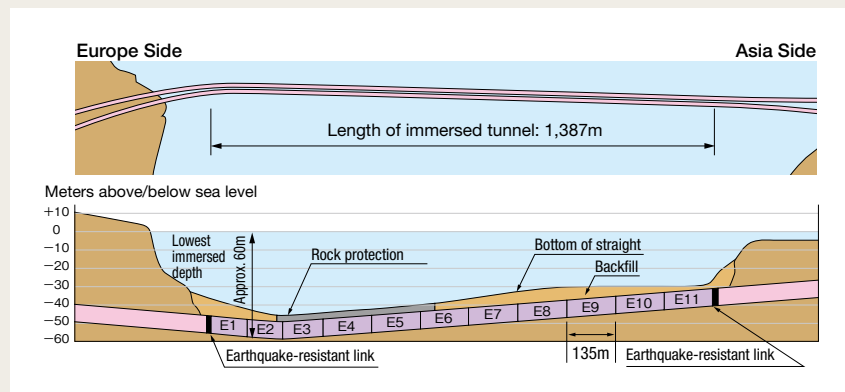
View from inside of one of the massive immersed tubes. Fumio Koyama, immersed tunnel project manager at Taisei Corporation, says, "Engineers from around the world viewed this project as being nearly impossible to accomplish. Turkey has close ties with Japan, and we were determined to show that our Japanese engineers could accomplish this project with our 'never give up' attitude."

A Grassroots View

Dr. Haluk Ibrahim Ozmen
Regional Director, General Directorate of Railways, Harbours, and Airports Construction, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Turkey

Istanbul is the largest city in Turkey. The idea of connecting Europe and Asia has been an ambition for 150 years. The tunnel is being constructed in harmony with the historical and cultural fabric of the city, and will carry one million commuters a day. We will also link this crossing with existing rail to connect distant parts of Europe with Asia.

Tunnel Construction



Case Study

Working Hand in Hand to Build a Future

Bosnia and Herzegovina was the scene of fierce ethnic conflict beginning in 1992, which claimed some 200,000 lives and led to the internal displacement and refugee status for some two million people. To this day, the country remains ethnically segregated some 15 years after the end of hostilities. JICA is providing long-term, post-conflict assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina to support both reconstruction and ethnic reconciliation in the country.

Facilitating Co-existence of Three Ethnic Groups

Bosnia and Herzegovina was formerly one of the six federal units constituting the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In 1992, armed conflict erupted in the region among the region's three ethnic groups—comprising Bosniaks (Muslims), Serbs and Croats—over disagreements about the country's declaration of independence. After the Bosnian War ended in 1995, Bosnia and Herzegovina was uniquely divided into two political entities comprising the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is primarily populated by Bosniaks and Croats, and the Republic of Srpska, which is primarily populated by Serbs. In addition to a central government, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has 10 cantons, with each entity and canton having different administrative mechanisms reflecting continued ethnic segregation.

From Focusing on Rebuilding to Assisting Ethnic Reconciliation

Stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina is critical to the overall security of Europe. Japan has focused its efforts on extending assistance to the country as a member of the Peace Implementation Council formed by the international community.

During the 1990s, JICA set about to assist the rebuilding of the country through Grant Aid and ODA Loans. For example, JICA provided buses to the capital of Sarajevo through Grant



Buses provided by Japan continue to provide transportation for the residents of Sarajevo.

Aid. These buses continue to operate in the city as symbols of Japan's assistance to the nation. JICA also provided support for the restoration of power utility infrastructure and construction of schools, along with the provision of medical equipment and supplies and the restoration, maintenance and management of roads.

As the nation's refugees and internally displaced began to repatriate in the 2000s, JICA's emphasis shifted to providing Technical Cooperation aimed at building a social situation that enables co-existence between the country's three ethnic groups. JICA is lending support at the community and regional levels and at the government and organization levels, all in support of ethnic reconciliation.

At the community and regional levels, JICA is lending support for interaction among residents or students in regions that are of symbolic significance to past ethnic conflict, helping to build trust at the grassroots level. For example, JICA has dispatched Japanese experts to Srebrenica, which was the scene of a notorious massacre, to revive agricultural production and harvesting of strawberries, mushrooms, herbs and honey, and is helping residents to develop sales channels and restore growing fields. These initiatives are revitalizing villages that were affected by the large-scale exodus of residents. In addition, JICA helped to build an integrated kindergarten for both Serbs and Bosniaks, which has increased the level of exchange between the ethnic groups.

Mostar city is marked by segregation between Bosniaks and Croats. Here, JICA has supplied equipment and materials for IT



Bosniak and Croat students learn side by side in the IT laboratory at Gymnasium Mostar (Mostar High School).

Bosnia and Herzegovina Program for Peace Consolidation

education to a high school through Technical Cooperation with grassroots Grant Aid. JICA has also extended Technical Cooperation to integrate the IT education textbooks and curriculum, helping to build an environment for students of both ethnicities to learn side by side.

At the government and organization levels, JICA is building on successes achieved in model regions to encourage dialogue and collaboration between governments and organizations. For example, the IT education curriculum and textbooks are currently being adopted by pilot schools in various areas, and has grown to encompass exchanges between teachers as well as information exchange.

JICA has implemented a successful ecotourism project in the pilot regions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is now being deployed by different entities in the nation. JICA plans to initiate a tourism development project that will encourage further collaboration between government organizations.

A Grassroots View

A Member of the Project on Informatics Curricula Modernization in BiH, JICA

We have managed to build connections between teachers in different entities by conducting teacher workshops in Bosnia and through training in Japan. One of the project's major achievements is having built an environment for teachers to share their problems and work as a team to find solutions, rather than facing the problems individually.