

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 others are pursuing economic and social development with the intention of 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

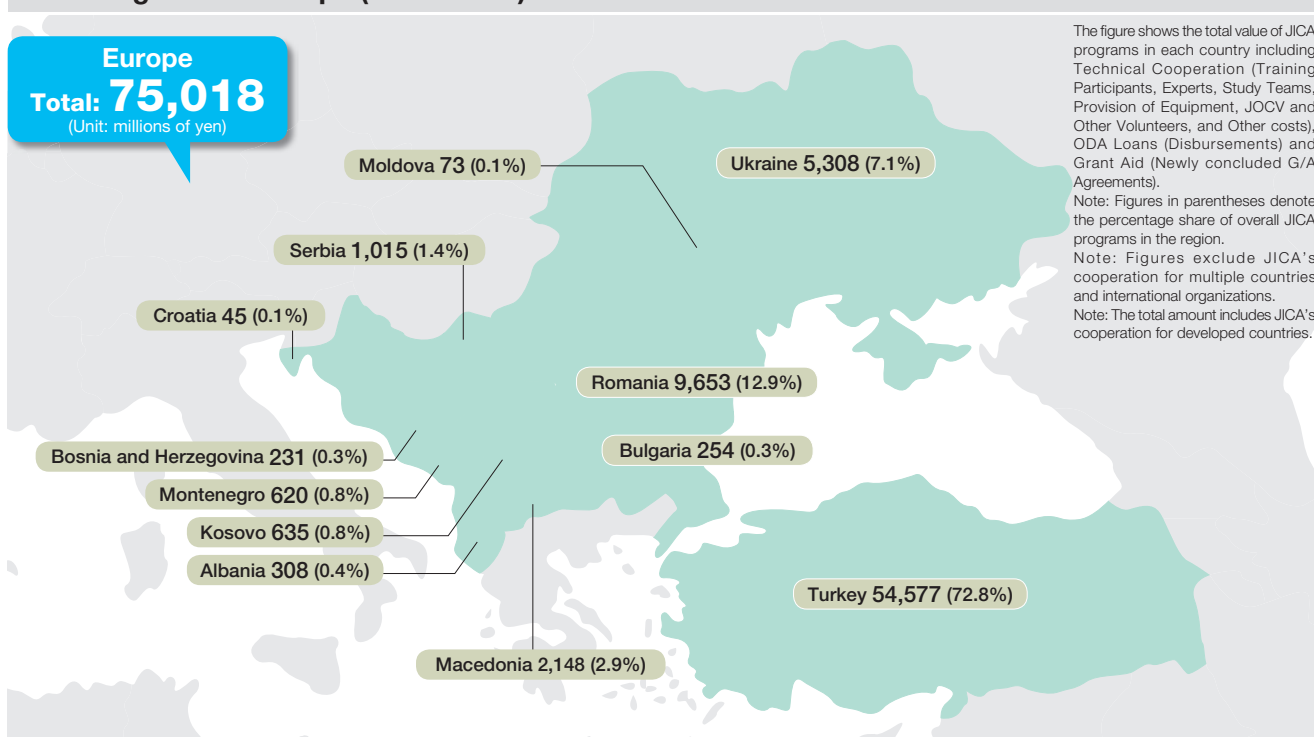
JICA operations in Europe originated with support for the former Eastern Bloc countries and newly independent former members of the Soviet Union to assist their pursuit of market economic systems and democratization following the G7 Summit in 1989.

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 Visegrad 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 ODA Loan projects and followup 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

JICA Programs in Europe (Fiscal 2010)





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 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 [→ See the Case Study on page 76].

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 still 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



Since the conflict, Croatian, Serbian and Bosniak high school students have been educated under different curricula according to their ethnicity. Progress is being made in trials of "informatics" classes, using a shared curriculum developed based on a program for Japanese high schools (Project on Informatics Curricula Modernization in BiH).



The Project for Confidence-Building in Srebrenica on Agricultural and Rural Enterprise Development (SACRED), Bosnia and Herzegovina: Beekeeping has been restarted after ceasing for many years due to the conflict. It requires a high level of skill, therefore the locals are teaching one another. They have begun shipping the product. Vegetables and seeds are being produced for sale in greenhouses. JICA provides technical assistance to returnees in order to help them obtain an income.



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.

Start of the First Post-Independence Full-Scale Technical Cooperation Project

In January 2011, JICA began cooperation in the solid waste sector in Kosovo's second city of Prizren. This represents the first full-scale Technical Cooperation project for Kosovo, which gained independence in 2008.



Litter in empty lots and around the riversides of Prizren is very noticeable—the appropriate management of waste is an urgent matter.

Aiming at Improving Garbage-Collection Rates

Japan recognized Kosovo as a nation immediately following its independence and established diplomatic relations with the country in February 2009. As of February 2011, 75 nations recognize Kosovo's independence, and the next step for the country is the immediate diplomatic challenge posed by accession to international organizations such as the United Nations. Accession to the European Union (EU) is anticipated in the future, but Kosovo must quickly meet strict environmental criteria in order to qualify.

To this end, JICA has commenced efforts aimed at improving Kosovo's management of solid waste, which is currently the most serious issue it faces in the environmental sector.

In Prizren, the majority of waste is managed via the collection of containers set on street corners and in open spaces, into which the inhabitants dispose of garbage whenever they like. These containers are picked up by collection trucks and transported to disposal sites. However, old urban districts exist in Prizren crisscrossed by many narrow alleys that make the use of collection trucks impossible. For this reason, the garbage in the containers must be collected either by tractor or pushcart. Moreover, the containers lack durability and any garbage that cannot fit into them tends to spill out into the surrounding area, creating insanitary conditions.

Due to the increasing volume of solid waste associated with the lack and dilapidation of collection equipment and the dramatic population increase in recent years, the management of waste is becoming ever more difficult, with the result that current urban garbage collection rates are around 50%.

Introducing Japanese Garbage-Collection Systems

In response to this situation, JICA has launched a pilot project aimed at serving both the urban and mountain areas of Prizren, and plans are being made to introduce fixed-time, fixed-site collection using garbage bags. Since garbage is only taken out at specific times, the situation involving garbage continually overflowing at all times will be ameliorated, which is expected in turn to improve the town's scenic appearance and hygiene situation. Furthermore, it is hoped that the project will spur understanding among the local residents regarding

The basic agreement on the Technical Cooperation project was signed on January 26, 2011, after which the first assistance for Kosovo was set in motion.

separated waste collection, and that this will help drive recycling in the future.

Environmental education and enlightenment activities to allow local residents to gain this understanding are also planned, while small- and medium-sized collection vehicles of types used in Japan, which can also collect garbage from the narrow alleys, will be provided through Grant Aid. These vehicles will also be accompanied by a characteristic sound when collecting in order to inform the residents.

The objective of this project is to provide practical support using experience already gained by Japan in the field of solid waste management, thereby contributing to the establishment of a waste management program that is suited to the situation in Kosovo, firstly by turning the old historic city of Prizren, the spiritual hometown of many Kosovars, into the cleanest city in the country, and then by extending these measures nationwide.

From the Partner Country's Government Official

Edon Cana
Official, Kosovo's Ministry of European Integration

Support from Japan is being welcomed not only by residents of the project's target region, but from the nation as a whole. The method of developing a system, which includes political capacity in order to contribute to an increase in the standard of living for local residents, rather than by simply providing items and materials, is extremely important in the sense that it will also raise the potential for self-reliance in future development.

From Our Expert

Yumi Yasuda
Advisor for Japanese Aid Coordination

This project is capable of making a direct contribution to the health and happiness of people who live each day at the mercy of political and social complexities. I want to work hard to ensure that before long, each and every citizen will be able to live a better life.



Comprehensive Disaster Prevention Aid Utilizing Japanese Technology and Knowledge

The Marmara Earthquake in Turkey in 1999 resulted in more than 17,000 victims and caused damage on an enormous scale. Japan provided large-scale aid through the dispatch of Japan Disaster Relief teams, provision of emergency supplies, dispatch of specialists in temporary housing construction, and an emergency ODA Loan (totaling 23.6 billion yen) to assist those affected. The Marmara region, which includes Istanbul, is considered to be at high risk of a large-scale earthquake occurring in the near future, and cooperation in the field of disaster prevention continues.



Large-scale bridges in Istanbul for which seismic reinforcement work has been completed.

Support for Strengthening the Seismic Observation Network and Improving Research Capabilities

In order to minimize damage from earthquakes in Istanbul, the main center of economic and social activity in Turkey, JICA has implemented a range of cooperation measures.

Examples of these measures include Technical Cooperation and provision of materials for seismic observation and seismic engineering from 1993 through 2000, as well as technology for the establishment of an earthquake disaster prevention program in Istanbul. In addition, since 2003, a series of Technical Cooperation projects has been provided, focusing on local seminars by short-term consultants and training in Japan for relevant parties, with the objective of raising awareness about disaster prevention among administrative officials such as provincial governors and mayors. This initiative has been highly appreciated by the people of Turkey.

Seismic Reinforcement Work to Protect Urban Functioning

Furthermore, in 2002, JICA signed an ODA



People involved in a cooperation project visited elementary schools in the target regions where they gave explanations and exchanged opinions on a project for disaster prevention education to teachers, parents and pupils.

Loan agreement with the Turkish government to provide a loan of up to 12.022 billion yen for seismic reinforcement work on bridges and elevated structures built on the Bosphorus. The project introduced the concept of "seismic isolation" to Turkey for the first time, becoming a cooperation project that took advantage of Japanese engineering.

The First Specialized Project for Disaster Prevention Education

The School Based Disaster Education Project, which began in January 2011, is aimed at developing the capacity of teachers to teach classes on disaster prevention, and at creating a system to address the issue of disaster prevention education across entire schools.

In the interests of extending disaster prevention education nationwide in Turkey, the project's most substantial feature is its use of a training system for Turkish teachers. The approach of developing disaster prevention education and extending it through the framework of the public education system is also a first for JICA. The project targets elementary and secondary schools in eight provinces in the Marmara Region and two neighboring provinces, which had been affected by the Marmara Earthquake and are at high risk of another earthquake in the future.

In the first stage of the project, in March 2011, a total of ten university teachers and Ministry of National Education staff involved in the development of a curriculum for teacher training in Turkey visited Japan. They learned about the experience Japan has accumulated

in areas such as methods of disaster prevention education, based on the lessons learned after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, a M7.2 earthquake which occurred in 1995 and resulted in 6,000 deaths. Based on the outputs of this training, efforts are now underway to establish a teacher-training curriculum on disaster prevention education, and to develop instructors for teacher training.

The Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011

For a period of approximately three weeks from March 21, 2011, a 32-member Turkish aid and relief team worked on rubble removal and on the search for missing persons in Shichigahama, Miyagi Prefecture, receiving high praise from local residents. Turkey also sent a substantial quantity of aid supplies.

In the wake of the recent earthquake, the friendly relationship built up between Japan and Turkey through many years of cooperation has become even stronger. JICA will continue to work together with Turkey in the field of disaster prevention.

From Our Counterpart

Yurt Necati
Section Director,
Ministry of National
Education, Teacher
Training Department

(Project Manager/
Team Leader)



Working together, the Teacher Training Department and JICA aim to increase the knowledge and ability concerning disaster prevention of the administrators, teachers, pupils and parents of 80 pilot schools in the project's target regions. We are striving to develop a more thoroughgoing disaster prevention program for these and other schools.

The goal of the project is to create "model disaster prevention plans for schools," while also improving the current educational materials and curricula used in elementary schools. In addition, a range of organizations are cooperating to develop educators who are able to play a central role in the region, by conducting trainers training in a number of areas including disaster prevention education, disaster prevention management and disaster risk mitigation. Ultimately, a major objective of the project is to contribute to improving awareness regarding disaster prevention among people nationwide.

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who has supported this project, beginning with JICA.