

# Europe

## Supporting Eastern European Countries to join the EU

Many European countries belong to the European Union (EU) and most of non-member countries in Eastern Europe are working on economic and social development with a view to becoming a member in the future.

JICA focuses on three sectors where Japan has comparative advantages namely; (1) Environmental protection, (2) Peace consolidation and (3) Private sector development. In so doing, consideration is given to the close relationship between Eastern European countries and the EU, as well as to the prospect that these countries would graduate from ODA when they eventually join the EU.

### Key Aid Strategies

### Environmental Protection, Peace Consolidation and Private Sector Development

#### Environmental Protection

Countries wishing to join the EU are obliged to establish environmental standards in line with those of the EU. For example, they will have to comply with restrictions on pollution from thermal power plant emissions and produce 30% of their electricity from renewable energy sources. JICA supports countries in achieving these requirements.

The Flue Gas Desulphurization Construction Project for Thermal Power Plant Nikola Tesla is the first ODA Loan project for Serbia. Through installing equipment that will reduce SO<sub>2</sub> and dust emissions, the project hopes to improve the environment and enable the country meet EU environmental standards with a view to future EU membership.

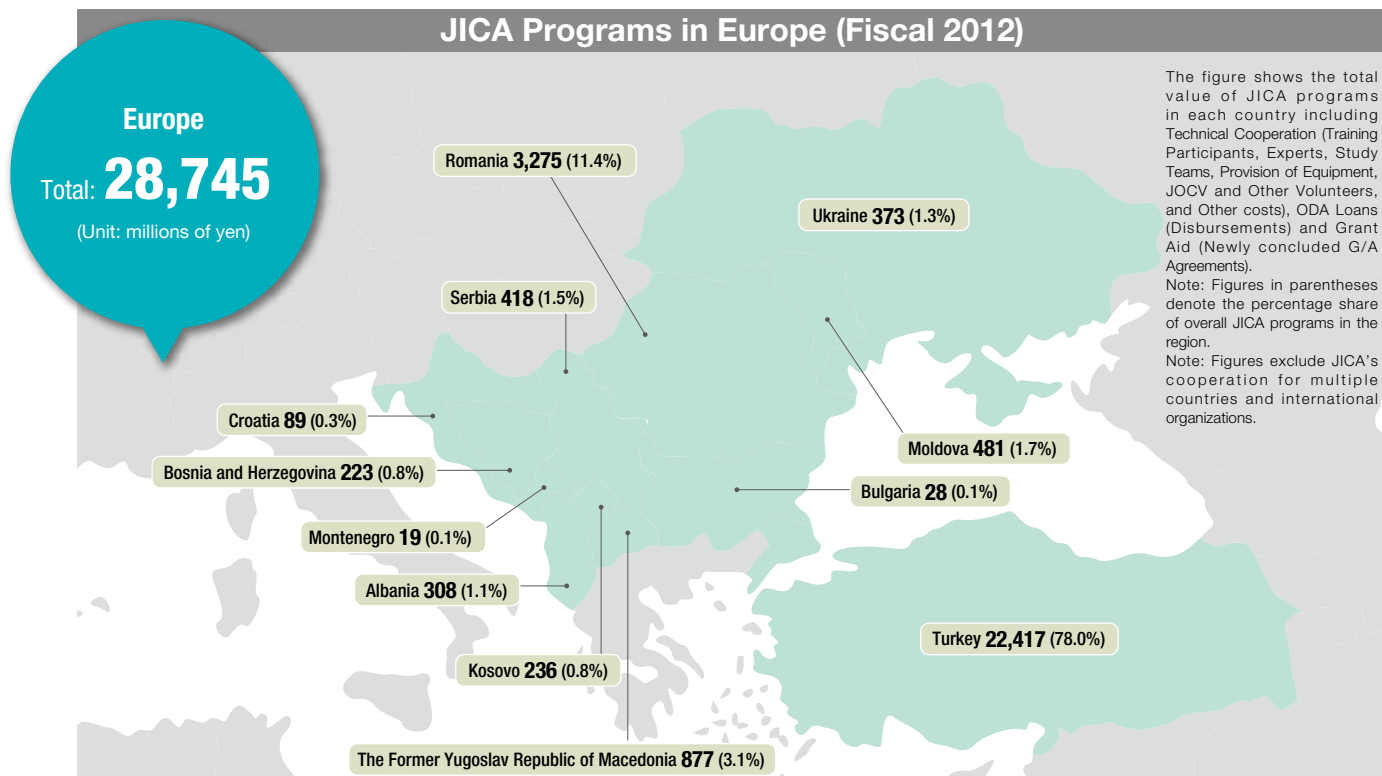
ODA Loans for environmental improvement at thermal

power plants have been extended to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Romania as well. JICA also has many other environmental projects, such as waste management in Kosovo. Overall, environment protection is a major element of JICA's activities in Europe.

#### Peace Consolidation

Countries in the Western Balkans have now recovered from ethnic conflicts and civil wars of the 1990s. However, these countries still face many challenges that include high unemployment and persistent ethnic tensions. Building a stable society in which different ethnicities can coexist is a paramount issue and requires international support. At the 2004 Conference on Peace Consolidation and Economic Development of the

### JICA Programs in Europe (Fiscal 2012)



Western Balkans, participants agreed that stability of the region would be achieved through fostering their accession to the EU.

JICA has been providing assistance to foster coexistence and thus encouraging these countries to achieve EU membership. The Project for Confidence-Building in Srebrenica on Agricultural and Rural Enterprise Development (SACRED), a Technical Cooperation project in Bosnia and Herzegovina, supports agricultural and rural development activities through cooperation by residents of different ethnicities. By facilitating interaction among ethnic groups, this project is making steady progress with fostering bonds based on trust.

## Private Sector Development

The Western Balkans as well as Moldova and Ukraine are emerging as an export hub to EU countries. In particular, the Western Balkans represents a huge market thanks to the region's relatively high per capita gross national income and population of more than 50 million. Furthermore, there are no tariffs within the region because of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA). To foster the potential of the region, JICA supports economic revitalization through promoting tourism, the growth of SMEs and social infrastructure projects.

## Turkey

Turkey has been playing a key role as a bridge from Asia and the Middle East to Europe. In recent years, its economy has

shown remarkable growth. Because of its balanced diplomatic ties with the United States, Europe, the Middle East, the Caucasus and the Central Asia, Turkey exerts a strong influence over the surrounding regions. JICA recognizes Turkey as a mutual global partner and strengthens that partnership by extending ODA Loans and Technical Cooperation.

Specifically, JICA focuses on improving the business and investment environment to secure sustainable economic development. To this end, upgrading disaster prevention methods and disaster preparedness is one of the priorities, in order to minimize the impact of a disaster on economic activity.

In fiscal 2012, preparations began for a Technical Cooperation on disaster risk management and a Science and Technology Research Partnership programs on disaster prevention research to mitigate earthquake and tsunami damage.

JICA also carries out triangular cooperation projects with the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) to disseminate Japanese expertise to Turkey and its neighboring countries. This is in response to the regional development issues in collaboration with both agencies as a development partner.

## Case Study Moldova The Project for Improvement of Medical Care Service

### Provision of Medical and Laboratory Equipment and Technical Cooperation

**The Republic of Moldova is a small Eastern European country with a population of about 3.5 million. A landlocked country sharing borders with Romania, an EU member, and the Ukraine, a former Soviet bloc nation, Moldova serves as a link between the EU and the former Soviet bloc. Although medical care services are improving in Moldova, there are still lack of medical and laboratory equipment. JICA is providing equipment and technical support.**

After Moldova gained its independence from the Soviet Union, the country's economic and fiscal conditions deteriorated, putting pressure on its medical care services budget. As a result, citizens did not have good access to medical care. This situation was caused by 100% state covered medical care expenses and by an excessive number of hospitals operating inefficiently. In the following 20 years, the government reformed its medical care finance system by introducing mandatory health insurance. The quality of its medical services also improved through streamlining health care system. Moldova is now regarded as a model of medical care sector reform.

Although Moldova's medical institutions have relatively high level medical care staff, there is lack of adequate medical care equipment. In addition to modern equipment for general diagnosis and treatment, the medical institutions require advanced equipment

to treat growing number of cardiovascular disease and cancer patients. To that end, JICA is giving impetus to Moldova's medical care reform through an ODA Loan project entitled 'the Project for Improvement of Medical Care Service' to provide medical care equipment and supplies.

JICA is also considering further support through a Technical Cooperation project with aim of improving equipment maintenance skills and clinical techniques using Japan's comprehensive

medical technology.



JICA Vice-President Masakazu Ichikawa and Moldova's Minister of Health Andrei Usatii signing the agreement.