

Europe

Key Aid Strategies

Consolidation of Peace, Industrial Development and Environmental Preservation

JICA is supporting the stabilization and development of the geopolitically important European region. In the Western Balkans, JICA extends cooperation in establishing peace, industrial development, and environmental preservation, utilizing Japan's knowledge and specialization, aiming

at future self-sustainability without foreign assistance. In addition to supporting local governments that accept Syrian refugees, JICA also promotes support for the stabilization and domestic reform of Ukraine and Moldova.

● Consolidation of Peace

In the Western Balkans, building a peaceful and cooperative multiethnic society is of great importance. JICA has been providing support for facilitating ethnic collaboration and social stabilization in Bosnia and Herzegovina, such as introducing a multiethnic curriculum for informatics education in secondary schools and supporting capacity development of the media.

To address the Syrian refugee problem, which has been an urgent issue in Europe, JICA is helping local governments that accept many refugees to improve their living environment by developing the infrastructure systems [→ see the Case Study on page 67]. In the western Balkans, with migration routes for refugees, JICA is currently conducting a survey among the local governments near the national borders to identify the movements of refugees and ascertain assistance needs.

For Ukraine, Japan maintains three core policies: improvement of the economic situation, restoration of democracy, and promotion of domestic dialogue and integration. JICA held training programs and seminars for lawmakers and officials from the legislative and administrative bodies of Ukraine under the “Package for

Supporting the Restoration of Democracy.” JICA also provided an ODA Loan for economic reform of Ukraine as it faced a financial crisis.

● Industrial Development

The Western Balkans, Moldova, and Ukraine are expected to emerge as exporters to EU countries. In addition, there are no tariffs within the region covered by the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA). JICA supports economic revitalization by promoting tourism and SMEs. In the training course for tourism promotion for Serbia, Montenegro, and Albania, staff members from tourism authorities of these countries studied Japanese tourism policies and Japanese-style hospitality, “Omotenashi,” and developed a joint scheme among the three countries in order to attract tourists from Japan. JICA also provides support for enhancing domestic and export industries through implementing technical cooperation projects aimed at improving the service of SME assistance organizations in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro, and also accepting training participants from Moldova and Ukraine to Japan.

JICA Programs in Europe (Fiscal 2015)





Japanese experts instructing radio and TV program production
(Project for Capacity Development of Radio Television of Kosovo)

● Environmental Preservation

Countries that want to join the EU need to establish environmental standards in line with EU criteria. For example, they will have to comply with restrictions on emissions and activate renewable energy. JICA focuses its support on achieving these requirements.

At an ODA Loan project for Bosnia and Herzegovina, JICA aims to reduce air pollution and achieve EU environmental standards through installing equipment that will reduce sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and dust emissions from power plants.

ODA Loan projects for environmental improvement at thermal power plants have also been implemented in Serbia and Romania as well. JICA also implements technical cooperation for waste management in Kosovo and Albania and energy conservation in Serbia.

● Turkey — Strengthening Relationship as a Global Partner

As Turkey is located at a node point that links Asia and the Middle East to Europe, the political and economic stability of Turkey is of vital importance for peace and stability in the region. Turkey chaired the G20 in 2015 and is enhancing its international presence. JICA supports Turkey in achieving high economic growth in harmony with the environment with a view to developing partnerships with the private sector, and has strengthened the partnership between JICA and Turkey to support less developed regions.

For example, in the field of disaster risk reduction, JICA extends technical cooperation in disaster risk management, disaster mitigation of earthquakes and tsunamis, and for capacity development of the Bursa Disaster Learning and Training Center, a first-of-its-kind center in Turkey jointly established by the Turkish government and Bursa Province. In the field of infrastructure, JICA conducted a training program on the safety management system of Japanese subways to improve the safety of the Bosphorus Rail Tube. In the field of development partners, JICA and the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) are jointly working on providing third country training programs for Central Asian countries. In addition to this, capacity building training programs are also held for officials from the foreign-aid institutions in Turkey—TIKA and relevant governmental agencies—to strengthen the cooperative relationship between Japan and Turkey.

Case Study

Turkey: Local Authorities Infrastructure Improvement Project

Sustainable Support for Turkey to Accept the Largest Number of Syrian Refugees

In the Syrian crisis, more than 4.8 million refugees escaped to neighboring countries. Turkey has accepted about 2.7 million refugees, which is more than half the total number. JICA is providing assistance to reduce the burden on countries accepting refugees.

For Improvement of the Living Environment

Due to the sustained Syrian crisis, the number of Syrian refugees that Turkey accepts has been increasing. Today, about 2.7 million refugees have migrated to Turkey, and more than 80% of them are living in the country as Turkish citizens are. Their stay is expected to be protracted.

Specifically, more than half of the refugees are living in the southeast part of Turkey near the Syrian border. The population in the country has increased due to the massive flows of refugees; accordingly, many local authorities have come to face various problems, such as a shortage of drinking water in the dry season and improper sewage and waste treatment. Therefore, it is urgent for Turkey to enhance infrastructure systems.

In this context, through Ilker Bank, a state-owned financial institution, JICA is providing the long-term funds necessary for consulting

services as well as for facility investment in the water and sewerage systems and waste disposal facilities of the local governments in the southeast part of Turkey. Through these initiatives, JICA is aiming to improve infrastructure and the living environment in the country.



A refugee camp in Osmaniye, a city in the southeast part of Turkey