

Europe & Central Asia Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2024

Field Visit Programme

Wednesday 6 November 2024 - 15:45-20:00 CET

Participants of the Regional Platform are invited to join one of the two special field visits organized by the Government of Montenegro on Wednesday, 6 November. These visits are designed to offer an enriching experience, highlighting the region's natural beauty and cultural heritage. Please note that participants can only choose **one** field visit to attend.

Option 1: Field visit to planting locations in Ulcinj

Ulcinj is a town in the southern coast of Montenegro with a beautiful landscape. It is known as one of the most tourists visited coastal cities in Montenegro. Across the 13-kilometer-long beach, it contains a pine coastal forest which was planted by the locals during the Yugoslav era and unfortunately it was mostly devastated lately.

The JICA Project, together with the Rescue and Protection Directorate and Ministry of Interior, has been implementing an Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction or Eco-DRR in this area and has begun the revitalization of this forest. In 2022 and 2023, 6300 pine seedlings were planted across this forest. The aim of the project is to restore the pine forest at Long Beach in Ulcinj, which is recognized as an essential ecological and tourist area. This is a multifunctional coastal forest and it:

- Protects against flying sand, wind and tides;
- Prevents disasters caused by storm surges;
- Presents a place for health and recreation;
- Preserves biodiversity.

This area was identified as an important natural resource, both for its ecological value (preserving the environment) and for tourism (attracting visitors due to its natural beauty). The project decided to focus on reviving the pine forest by planting new pine seedlings, as a significant reforestation effort. After planting, joint project did not end but continued with the monitoring and protection of the seedlings to ensure they grow properly. The restoration of the pine forest is expected to slow down beach erosion, which is the gradual wearing away of the beach due to wind and water. The forest will also act as a "windbreak," which means it will block or reduce the wind's force. Additionally, the pine trees will help purify the air, enhancing the environmental health of the area. In summary, this is an environmental project aimed at restoring and protecting the pine forest to preserve the natural landscape and provide long-term ecological benefits, including slowing erosion, improving air quality, and acting as a wind barrier.

Contents

- Tour of Planting Sites: Guided tour of afforestation sites in Ulcinj;
- Demonstration of Techniques: Presentation of planting techniques, species selection, and maintenance practices;
- Observation of Ecosystem Benefits: Examination of the ecological and socio-economic benefits of the planting initiatives.

Expected Outputs

- Enhanced understanding of practical NbS implementation in afforestation;
- Strengthened connections between participants and local stakeholders;
- Future and best practices for future NbS projects/plans.

Expected Duration

- 5 hours including driving Budva-Ulcinj-Budva

Expected Participants

- 100 people (first come first served)

Others

- Refreshments will be served.
- Translation will be provided (English and Russian)
- Participants are advised to wear appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear.
- Transportation will be provided from the forum venue to the planting sites and back.
- Kindly note that these field visits are not accessible for individuals using wheelchairs or those requiring specific accessibility measures.



Ulcinj, Montenegro

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With the support of:

Option 2: Field visit to Lovćen (Njegoš Mausoleum)

Lovćen is national park and mountain range in central Montenegro between Kotor and Cetinje. Exactly 461 stairs lead to Jezerski Vrh, which is located at an altitude of 1660 m above sea level, where the Mausoleum dedicated to Petar II Petrovic Njegos, the most prominent political figure of Montenegro, was opened in 1974, making it the mausoleum at the highest altitude in the world at the time. The location of today's Mausoleum housed a humble chapel which Njegos constructed in 1845 to be his eternal resting place. It is one of the most visited sites in Montenegro from which you can see almost the entire territory of the country.

It is a significant cultural and historical monument dedicated to Petar II Petrović-Njegoš, a Montenegrin prince-bishop, poet, and philosopher. It is one of Montenegro's most iconic landmarks and symbolizes the deep connection between Njegoš, the country's history, and its rugged landscape.



Lovćen, Montenegro

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Petar II Petrović-Njegoš (1813–1851) was an influential ruler and a spiritual leader of Montenegro. He is considered one of the greatest Montenegrin poets, with his work "The Mountain Wreath" being one of the most important epic poems in South Slavic literature. Before his death, Njegoš wished to be buried at the top of Mount Lovćen, which he regarded as a sacred place representing freedom and the Montenegrin struggle for independence.

Initially, a small chapel was built at the peak in 1855 following his wishes. However, this chapel was destroyed during World War I, and in 1974, the grand Njegoš Mausoleum, designed by Croatian architect Ivan Meštrović, was erected on the site.

The mausoleum, perched at 1,657 meters (5,436 feet), is a blend of modern and traditional styles. To reach it, visitors must ascend 461 steps that lead to the top of the mountain, offering a panoramic view of the surrounding landscapes.

Key features include two grand statues of female figures, representing Montenegrin women in traditional attire, guarding the entrance. Inside the mausoleum is a colossal granite statue of Njegoš, sculpted by Meštrović, weighing around 28 tons. Njegoš is depicted in a meditative pose, emphasizing his intellectual legacy. The burial crypt lies beneath the central chamber, where Njegoš's remains are placed in a simple tomb.

Contents

- National Park Lovćen;
- Mausoleum;
- Food and wine tasting in Njeguši.

Expected Duration

- 5 hours including driving Budva-Lovćen-Njeguši-Budva

Expected Participants

- 100 people (first come first served)

Others

- Translation will be provided (English and Russian)
- Participants are advised to wear appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear.
- Transportation will be provided from the forum venue to the sites and back.
- Kindly note that these field visits are not accessible for individuals using wheelchairs or those requiring specific accessibility measures.

Registration to field visits

Participants can only choose one of the two visits. To register and select your preferred field visit, complete this [FORM](#) at your earliest convenience.