

Croatia

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Organization and Number of Staff:

Several very important GLOBE activities are regularly conducted by Education & Teacher Training Agency (ETTA), such as teacher training, organized twice each year; Annual GLOBE Conference (GLOBE Competition and Science Fair; coordination of Regional GLOBE centers with the meeting of Regional GLOBE leaders once each year). There is 1 person in ETTA who is in charge for those activities. Therefore, ETTA also engages external specialists and school teachers to help with the above listed activities. They come from different organizations and get a contract for the period of mostly 6 months. Totally there could be about 35 external associates involved per year that get hired for a certain job

Funding by:

All activities conducted by ETTA are funded by ETTA, a governmental organization in the field of education that is in charge of teachers' professional development and school quality insurance.

Cooperating Organizations/Individuals:

The Ministry of Science and Education should be responsible for GLOBE sustainability, since that organization signed the GLOBE Agreement in 1995 and appointed the Country coordinator, and the Deputy country coordinator. However, the Ministry is not directly involved in the implementation of the GLOBE program. The Croatian Meteorological and Hydrological Service and the Faculty of Sciences in Zagreb/ Department for Biology also cooperate in GLOBE activities. The US Embassy in Zagreb gives steady support for the GLOBE activities.

OIKON – the Institute for Applied Ecology also supported GLOBE activities once last year.

GLOBE Schools (what types, how many):

The latest School Status Report indicates: Out of 432 schools and 617 educators, there were 16,300,356 total observations conducted; Yet only 42 schools are currently reporting (in the past 3 months) and 200 schools were reporting in the past. Many teachers have passed GLOBE training, but they have no obligation to start reporting. We do not know if teachers from those schools use GLOBE materials, since they don't report.

The number of actively reporting schools corresponds with the number of most active schools which get invited to the Annual GLOBE Competition and Science Fair. There are 2/3 of primary schools (students' age 6 – 14) and 1/3 of secondary schools (students' age 15 – 18). Most of the schools are public, and just one or two of them are private. There are some 30 kindergartens involved in GLOBE, but most of them have not been reporting the data yet, and if they do, that is almost always related to the Phenology campaign. Some of them use GLOBE Observer for cloud photographing.

GLOBE Areas you and schools focus on:

The most popular area is Phenology, followed by Atmosphere. We cover all GLOBE areas on each training and it is clear that school projects come from different research areas. Recently we have focused on the Carbon cycle, which resulted with several school projects in that area – several even received national and international recognitions.

Number of Schools Reporting Data over Past Year:

About 80 schools in total.

Program Implementation, International Cooperation in GLOBE Network, and Activities over Past Year (categorized by GLOBE Strategic Plan 2018-2023 Goals):

1. Education

Two in-person training sessions were organized at the national level. One of them was for new teachers as initial training, and the second was a follow-up for already trained teachers.

Teachers also use E-training on www.globe.gov, and meetings are organized by our regional centers— usually two meetings or training sessions per year. Regional meetings and training typically focus on the exchange of experiences and reports from teachers who participated in international GLOBE activities. Many teachers participated in international webinars and conferences.

2. Science

Scientists are involved in the evaluation of students' research projects as judges. They serve as mentors to selected school teams during the development of the research projects. At the National Conference, scientists and teachers are members of the judging committee that selects the best projects for recognition.

3. Community

GLOBE teachers are the best promoters of GLOBE in their communities, together with the students. They have developed skills to attract the attention of local media and often receive support from the local community, including some funding. Oš Dubovac from Karlovac was successful in gathering support from the local community for their journey to the USA to participate in the GLOBE Annual Meeting 2024. GLOBE kindergartens organized themselves into the subgroup GLOBE Elementary K4. They cooperate with STEM activities in the Scientix program, with CARNET (Croatian Academic Research Network), and other organizations that organize the Science Picnic, spreading the word about the GLOBE program. An exhibition of cloud photographs is being hosted by other organizations in the country and in several other participating countries.

4. Technology

In cooperation with the US Embassy, Faculty of Sciences, and the OIKON Institute, we organized a competition entitled "My Place Today and Yesterday" on the occasion of Earth Day 2024. The idea was to promote technologies that were not widely used previously. The instruction for schools was to illustrate environmental changes by comparing available satellite images from different years. The required was a Story Map. The US Embassy appointed scientists to the judging committee, which was voluntary work, and everything was done online. The Story Maps were published on the Croatian GLOBE website (globe.hr), and the judges selected the best entries to be presented in person on the occasion of Earth Day. The committee had just one online meeting, and the assessment system was simple and transparent. As a result, there were no disagreements about the four school teams selected to be the winners.

5. **Communications**

Information for new schools and teachers is available through ETTA's Catalogue of Workshops and Catalogue of Extracurricular Activities, as well as through word of mouth from involved teachers. All important information is distributed via regional centers, the website <http://globe.hr>, or the GLOBE Facebook page "GLOBE Hrvatska".

Plans and Ideas for Next Year:

We plan to establish a new CC, appointed by the Ministry of Science and Education, as well as introduce some innovations in the procedures for the annual conference.

The plans for the 30th GLOBE Anniversary are still in development, but it will be a major event as it is a significant anniversary.

We aim to strengthen the connection between GLOBE and education for sustainability. In line with this, we have prepared a GLOBE-based program for schools for "Outdoor Activities". We will offer this program to several counties (local governments), which may fund it and organize school visits if they find it of interest.



GLOBE competition 2024 – students are completing the tasks in teams.



GLOBE Competition and Science Fair 2024. – closing ceremony.



Competition "My place today and yesterday" – the winners and judges with representatives of US Embassy.



Competition “My place today and yesterday” - Story maps showcase the changes in the area by comparing satellite images.



The US ambassador visited OŠ Josipa Pupačića, Omiš, one of the most active Croatian GLOBE schools.