

Czech Republic

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Organization and Number of Staff:

TEREZA Educational Centre is a professional non-governmental non-profit organization fostering environmental and science education in the Czech Republic. We play a significant role in the international Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) Program network since 1995. TEREZA has over 20 employees. There are currently four people working for GLOBE country coordination office plus three people working for RCO for Europe and Eurasia.

Funding by:

- Grants: State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Ministry of the Environment, Prague City Hall, U.S. Embassy Prague.
- Fundraising: Donations by SC Johnson and Bonatrans groups.
- Own resources: schools pay €80,- per school per year; other paid services: IBSE workshops, online courses, selling publications.

Cooperating Organizations/Individuals:

Apart from the GLOBE Program network, TEREZA is a member of Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). Within the GLOBE Program we collaborate with various organizations, U.S. Embassy in the Czech Republic, Czech Hydrometeorological Institute, Faculty of Science Charles University, Institute of Botany of the CAS, and others. We also maintain close cooperation with 14 members of the Czech GLOBE Scientific Board and around 20 GLOBE mentor-teachers.

GLOBE Schools (what types, how many):

110 registered schools, about 2/3 elementary schools and 1/3 high schools or leisure-time centers.

GLOBE Areas you and schools focus on:

Czech schools are focused on all essential GLOBE areas (Atmosphere, Hydrology, Soil, Phenology, Biometry and Land Cover). During the reporting period, our schools were actively involved in the European Phenology Campaign. During Autumn 2023 we launched our own Soil Challenge focused on school investigations of soil in the connection with climate change issues.

Number of Schools Reporting Data over Past Year:

Around 10 school are reporting data regularly.

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

1. Education

In Autumn 2023 we organized „Soil is not Dirt“ Pedology Challenge focusing on soil research in combination with GLOBE measurements and climate change. In spring 2024 we organized „Spring Climate Challenge“ focused on school investigations of climate change in the connection with GLOBE measuring methods, e.g. connections between spring phenology observations and climate change. As a challenge output we published a Czech textbook called „Climate Adventures“ consisting of IBSE teaching activities for teachers and worksheets for students.

2. Science

We collaborate with Czech GLOBE Scientific Board (14 active members) who are helpful in developing and editing methodical materials, giving trainings, webinars, and others. Together with these experts (esp. Faculty of Sciences, Charles University in Prague) we realized several webinars and workshops for teachers on microplastics investigations (Oct 2023-Dec2023), one planning meeting of GLOBE Scientific Board (Jan 2024) and one two-days' workshop for teachers on the use of Remote Sensing within the IBSE activities of the GLOBE program (Mar 2024).

3. Community

On the Earth Day 2024 we organized 2024 GLOBE Student Conference with participants from Czech Republic, Slovenia, Ireland, Georgia, North Macedonia, and Ukraine. The event happened under the auspices of US Embassy in Prague, and GLOBE Implementation Office's Director for Program Strategy and Community Engagement Dr. Tony Murphy met and opened the conference. About 40 school projects were presented at the conference. A Student Science Fair was followed with ample time for Dr. Murphy and other experts to interact and ask questions about the students' projects.

4. Technology

Around 10 Czech schools used microplastics filter kits for their school microplastics investigations successfully. During the spring period we purchased 15 smart air quality sensors (Atmotubes) in order to get familiar with them and begin to work on the air quality challenge for schools for the next monitoring period - together with experts and colleagues from the GLOBE Slovakia. In Aug 2024 we launched “We start with IBSE” – a brand-new video course for teachers who have no experience with IBSE.

5. Communications

We started to use the program's Facebook page and the associated Facebook group in the last project period with the aim of reaching a wider audience and creating a community of people who share an interest in STEM and IBSE projects in schools and beyond. We managed to achieve this goal, as our FB group currently has 5775 members, for whom we provide a platform for sharing articles, videos and other tips for IBSE teaching and exploring nature with children. We published two articles awarded as

GLOBE Stars on the website www.globe.gov - “GLOBE Czech Republic Holds Student Conference in Mělník”, and “GLOBE Czech Republic Students Plant a Tiny Forest at their School for Research” both available in the section Stars and STEM Stories.

Plans and Ideas for Next Year:

- To organize a “Water IBSE challenge” for schools in Spring 2025.
- To organize a two-days long 2025 GLOBE Students Conference in Židlochovice on May 22.-23. 2025.
- To enlarge our database of inquiry-based lessons and hands-on activities adequate for different school subjects.
- To support school investigations on the topic of air quality, especially aimed at PM10 and PM2,5.
- To continue with microplastics investigations at schools.
- To support the promotion and visibility of the program (through infographics, videos, articles, presentations).
- To submit and launch a new Erasmus+ project with partners from other GLOBE countries.
- To represent the Czech Republic at as many meetings of the Europe and Eurasia Region as possible.