

Lithuania

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Organization and Number of Staff:

LINEŠA is a governmental institution focused on the system of pupils' non-formal education, their guidance in professional choices, and STEAM education. LINEŠA was recently reorganized, connecting smaller non-formal education institutions that previously worked separately in areas such as children's sports, aviation, technical creation activities, and nature education. LINEŠA is a National Agency with around 133 staff members working in various fields, focusing on raising teachers' qualifications, creating and guiding a sustainable school network, providing opportunities for pupils who win national Olympiads to participate in international Olympiads and organizing them in Lithuania, and providing information to other educators in various fields. More information can be found at <https://www.lmnc.lt/informacija/>.

Funding by:

National Funding and occasionally JAV Small GRANTS.

Cooperating Organizations/Individuals:

STEAM centers, of which there are around 10 spread across the country. They are newly built, still in the process of integration into the national education system, and will help us teach and spread knowledge through these partners.

GLOBE Schools (what types, how many):

As of September 2024, new participants have joined GLOBE Lithuania, including around ten new educators from STEAM centers and teachers from basic schools to gymnasiums who attended the training workshop. Up until September 2024, we have approximately 20 more or less active participating schools.

Currently, the participating schools include:

- 10 basic schools
- 30 gymnasiums
- 6 STEAM centers (one in Panevėžys is already teaching kids GLOBE activities)
- 3 kindergartens
- 10 private or non-formal education centers

GLOBE Areas you and schools focus on:

Phenology, Hydrology, and Atmosphere

Number of Schools Reporting Data over Past Year:

35 schools

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

1. Education

We aim to encourage our teachers to become GLOBE Trainers, which will enable us to prepare new schools for GLOBE activities each year. We believe we can achieve stable growth, with around 15 to 20 new schools annually. The Program is extensive, so we need to invest in our existing network to help them grow and involve a larger community in GLOBE activities. It takes time to build confidence, especially with new activities, and teachers are already very busy. To make it easier, we want multiple teachers to teach GLOBE in schools—IT, math, or language teachers could find it just as useful as other specialists.

2. Science

This program is very effective in promoting science, making it more engaging for students, and allowing them to conduct real scientific work, helping them understand the hard work behind scientific achievements.

3. Community

We encourage GLOBE activities to involve the broader community, using a whole-school approach. Workshops can include multiple classes or even parents. Participants in the Program meet at conferences and camps, where they exchange knowledge and experiences.

4. Technology

The Program encourages the use of a variety of technologies in GLOBE activities. As students gain more knowledge, they begin to explore how other scientific discoveries and research are conducted, and they learn about the various processes happening around them.

5. Communications

The Program helps students explore new areas of their lives. They learn new terminology, new systems, and especially practical methods, such as using mathematics to calculate tree height. Through hands-on learning, they gain confidence to share their knowledge in their community and at conferences.

Plans and Ideas for Next Year:

We aim to continue encouraging our teachers to become GLOBE Trainers, which will allow us to prepare new schools for GLOBE activities each year. One of the current challenges is the language barrier for some teachers, making the support of new local GLOBE Trainers crucial for network growth. We believe we can achieve steady growth, with 15 to 20 new schools joining each year. The Program is vast, so we must invest in our current network to help them grow and engage a larger community in GLOBE activities. It takes time to build confidence with new activities, especially as teachers have busy schedules. To make it easier, we want more than just one teacher per school to teach GLOBE—teachers from IT, math, or language departments could find it valuable, as well as other specialists.

A key goal is to increase international participation: Lithuanian schools need to participate internationally, as GLOBE schools have shown excellent results and deserve broader recognition.