

# Slovakia

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## **Organization and Number of Staff:**

Daphne Institute of Applied Ecology, Podunajská 24, 821 06 Bratislava, Slovakia.

14 internal employees from which 1 is dedicated to GLOBE and other 3 people are involved in GLOBE above their regular work agenda.

## **Funding by:**

- Embassy of the United States of America
- Small grants from local private foundations
- Interreg Slovakia-Austria
- Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation

## **Cooperating Organizations/Individuals:**

- Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute,
- Matej Bell University Banská Bystrica,
- Comenius University Bratislava
- Konstantin philosopher university Nitra
- Embassy of the United States of America
- Czech GLOBE team – TEREZA Educational Centre
- Peter Falcon, NASA
- National parks and Protected areas around Slovakia

### **GLOBE Schools (what types, how many):**

41 Primary schools and 8 Secondary schools, 3 other educational institutions

### **GLOBE Areas you and schools focus on:**

Atmosphere, Biosphere, Hydrosphere, Carbon cycle

### **Number of Schools Reporting Data over Past Year:**

12

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

#### **1. Education**

Educational materials, presentations and activity ideas for all schools involved in GLOBE are covered by our website [www.globeslovakia.sk](http://www.globeslovakia.sk).

Regular monthly webinars were held to discuss science topics and school measurements, as well as to communicate live with teachers from January to June. .

In August, we organised a two-day in-person training for teachers in Bratislava, where they were able to review and try out new activities from the GLOBE portfolio, working with protocols, databases and the GLOBE observer application directly in the field.

In September 2024, we organised a two-day long GLOBE online training for 17 new GLOBE teachers.

#### **2. Science**

Slovak GLOBE schools participated in the Phenology campaigns, did research activities on climate change and wetlands, but the main science activity this year was the GLOBE Games festival with a student conference. In cooperation with the US Embassy Regional Center in Banská Bystrica, a workshop for teachers was organized to build capacity and deepen knowledge in the field of climate change. The topic of climate change was introduced to teachers at these seminars through various lectures (including by a scientist from the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute).

In cooperation with NASA scientist Peter Falconi, we organised personal visits to schools where pupils learned more about GLOBE and the way data entered into NASA's international database is used. Together with him, we also organised one public lecture on the topic.

#### **3. Community**

GLOBE Games was a four-day event from June 6 to June 9 hosted by the Polytechnic Secondary School of Jan Antonín Bat'a in Svit. The target audience included students and teachers of schools involved in the GLOBE program from Slovakia and the Czech Republic. The event was a unique opportunity to establish contacts among schools and initiate discussions between pupils/students and experts or scientists. Students have had the opportunity to present their own research results at the student conference and share and obtain new experiences during workshops and field games surrounding nature in the vicinity of TATRA National Park. Through the practical demonstration of activities of the GLOBE Program has been introduced to the general public in Svit.

#### **4. Technology**

Teachers and students continue to use the GLOBE Observer App. Together with teachers we try to overcome the English language barrier and technical problems in entering data into the GLOBE database, often through personal consultations.

During the face-to-face GLOBE teacher training during the summer holidays, we devoted one full day to working with the apps and data. Teachers were introduced to the GLOBE hydrology and meteorology tools, which were provided to all new member schools. One of the participating schools started working with a Calitoo photometer and for the purpose of simple measurements of dust particles in the air, we

purchased 15 low cost sensors for citizen science projects, which we plan to implement with the 21 registered schools.

#### **5. Communications**

We regularly attend CC Europe and Eurasia region meetings to learn about ongoing events and to report on our activities. On selected topics we work mainly with partners from the Czech Republic to establish closer partnerships. Together we were successful in applying for funding for an IBSE project for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and since September we have been running a common project to support research-based learning in disadvantaged communities.

#### **Plans and Ideas for Next Year:**

- To motivate and provide additional personal support to educators
- To encourage teachers to participate in international meetings and international GLOBE campaigns
- To seek new funding to cover the running of the GLOBE program in Slovakia
- Translation of the methodology focusing on Land Cover and Pedosphere
- To organize capacity building workshops for teachers during spring and autumn, in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy regional centers dedicated to IBSE
- To strengthen and stabilize the GLOBE team in Slovakia by creating a team of GLOBE Educator Mentors
- To expand collaboration with the scientific community in Slovakia and abroad.