

Switzerland

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Organization and Number of Staff:

GLOBE Switzerland is organized as an association (NGO) with a national implementation office situated in Berne, the capital of Switzerland. At the office in Berne three staff members work part time (at 60% to 80%), along with two trainees. In addition, GLOBE Switzerland has seven regional offices implementing the GLOBE program in three languages (German, French, and Italian). The regional implementation is done by mandates to Teacher Education Universities (part time jobs of 10% to 20%) and allows to have direct access with the GLOBE activities to students' courses.

Funding by:

GLOBE Switzerland receives major funding by the Swiss Federal Office of Environment. Additional funding for events and R&D projects comes from private foundations, US Embassy, other Swiss Federal Offices and sponsors.

Cooperating Organizations/Individuals:

GLOBE Switzerland maintains close cooperation with all regional Teachers Education Universities, some with and some without mandates. In addition, we cooperate with Swiss Federal Research Institutions, with universities and Federal Institutes of Technology for R&D projects, for science outreach and for citizen science projects. In addition, we closely collaborate with the Swiss Academy of Science and with different national environmental education programs.

GLOBE Schools (what types, how many):

In Switzerland we have 164 active GLOBE schools from all school levels (primary, secondary, and high schools). About 72 GLOBE schools were not active in 2024. Most of the GLOBE schools in Switzerland are public, some are private ones (international schools). However, far more schools in Switzerland use the GLOBE offers without being part of the GLOBE school network, engaging with national and international GLOBE resources and data entry.

GLOBE Areas you and schools focus on:

Atmosphere, Hydrosphere, Biosphere, Pedosphere, and Earth as a System. Complementary to international protocols, national offers on agriculture (biodiversity and climate change), phenology and water quality are very often implemented.

Number of Schools Reporting Data over Past Year:

65

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

1. Education

Numerous introductory GLOBE trainings and workshops were offered across Switzerland to both in-service and pre-service teachers and multipliers, facilitated by the GLOBE national implementation office and seven regional offices. The training sessions were carried out by trainers and our regional experts who are employed at the Universities of teacher Education. In addition to these workshops, more than 500 individual consultations of teachers were carried out as in the last year before, or while they were implementing GLOBE offers. Switzerland currently has three mentor trainers and eleven certified trainers..

2. Science

We are steadily working on our national GLOBE offers in collaboration with partners of teachers' education and with scientific partners. In addition, we maintain close collaboration with the Swiss Federal Office of Environment to develop science education offers adapted to their needs. In 2024, our collaboration was focused on the following partners from science:

- ETH Zurich: Training course for young scientists to accompany school classes in their research projects on farms on biodiversity and climate change.
- ETH Zurich, Swiss Academy of Science and Research Institute of Organic Agriculture: consultation for teachers on science outreach with regards to topics biodiversity and climate change.
- Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL: Joint project on phenology in forests and forest pests.
- Swiss Federal Office of Meteorology and Climatology: Joint project on phenology.
- Lucerne Teachers Education University: Common R&D project on development of offers for Education on Sustainable Development

3. Community

GLOBE Switzerland launched the new national GLOBE Contest 2024/25. This „campaign“ serves as trigger for the use of GLOBE offers and aims at promoting them via social media platforms and newsletters. The Contest will end with the national science conference for students in June 2025.

4. Technology

We continue to improve GLOBE offers, including the restructuring our GLOBE website (in three languages), and making it more user-friendly. In the area of phenology, we are still working on the introduction of temperature and humidity probes (air and soil) to measure the microclimate near the observed plants. These data are now included to our phenology WebApp.

5. Communications

The national office distributes a newsletter 3-5 times per year to Swiss teachers, with essential information coming from the international program, as well as activities, campaigns, and training opportunities. Different target groups are contacted by direct mailings, if needed. We regularly promote selected offers on social media.

Plans and Ideas for Next Year:

Over the next year, we will focus on action within a R&D project. We aim to shift from research and understanding to action with all our offers, supporting Switzerland's goals in Education for Sustainable Development.