

Italy

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Organization and Number of Staff:

ASSOCIAZIONE GLOBE ITALIA APS, 2 Country Coordinators, 1 Deputy Country Coordinator and 5 Staff

Funding by:

Calls for European, National, Regional funds, Private funds, Municipalities and schools' own budget.

Cooperating Organizations/Individuals:

- LABTER-CREA (Mantova): Responsible for coordination, information sharing, communication, and event promotion and management.
- IISS Malignani – BASSA FRIULANA (Cervignano del Friuli): Focuses on testing and promoting the use of GLOBE protocols within school projects, as well as event promotion and management.
- Universities, Associations, Research Centers, and Local Authorities: Serve as partners in various projects.

GLOBE Schools (what types, how many):

Comprehensive schools, including primary and junior high schools (48) and senior high schools (78).

GLOBE Areas you and schools focus on:

Hydrosphere, Atmosphere, Soil, Biosphere - Earth as a System

Number of Schools Reporting Data over Past Year:

14 junior high schools and 8 senior high schools

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

1. Education

“School Generation on the move with GLOBE” Project (Dec. 2023 - June 2024)

Focused on educating teachers from 30 schools across six Italian regions ((Friuli Venezia Giulia, Lombardy, Tuscany, Campania, Sicily and Sardinia) on the philosophy, methodologies, and scientific practices of GLOBE, under the "Sustainability and Ecological Transition" area, designated by the Italian Ministry of Education. The Project included an **online training course for teachers** (#connect science school citizens - SOFIA platform n. 83376-ed.123070), online **webinars for students**, **support in between** to teachers, **local events and a national event**. Over 140 teachers were certified as GLOBE Educators, and 121 classes involving 2,000 students participated.

“READ THE HORIZON, WRITE THE FUTURE” – edition ‘23-24

A new edition of the project of ISIS BASSA FRIULANA - managed by ASSOCIAZIONE GLOBE ITALIA, this project involved a network of 7 schools in the Friuli Venezia Giulia region to develop STEM by enhancing focus on climate change, innovative pedagogical approaches, and use of technologies in teaching with GLOBE. The project involved 50+ classes, nearly 1,000 students, and a three days summer school on microplastics.

“OCEAN MATTERS: Saving our Oceans” Project – teacher training June, July 2024

In this second edition of the project, supported by the US Consulate General Chennai, webinars for teachers of three Indian cities (Cochi, Puduchery and Chennai) were organized in the period of June-July 2024. To help teachers with uploading data, TERI is developing specific tutorials in collaboration with the MMP Team. The collaboration with TERI is very rewarding.

2. Science

Research projects with schools:

#SPES – Science, Cultural Heritage, Education, Society – Earth Day (April 22-23, 2024)

Celebrated in Aquileia (a UNESCO site) in the Friuli Venezia Giulia region, this 13th edition featured 60 exhibits and labs, mostly based on GLOBE protocols and included a **science learning expedition** in local river and lagoon areas. This event is recognized as a **GLOBE STAR event**.

MINCIO Project 34th edition

The 34th edition of the Project took place with a significant increase in numbers: 22 classes, 452 students and 18 monitored stations along Mantua Lakes and its tributaries. We gathered data on surface water parameters, E. coli levels, and AMPA (a metabolite of Glyphosate) and created a comprehensive report for the municipality, thus significantly contributing to the understanding of the local surface water situation.

Microplastics Monitoring Campaign, March-May 2024.

The campaign Engaged 54 teachers from 24 schools (7 from Croatia, 1 from Ukraine, 2 from Taiwan, 44 from Italy).15 of them are part of the school network investigating the Mincio River and its tributaries. Many **Dutch Teachers** took part in the campaign managed by GLOBE Netherlands. Schools gathered extensive data on the situation of their water bodies and created posters, videos images, reports etc. shared on Deakin University’s cloud platform.

RIO SCHOOL Project 6th Edition

Two high schools conducted chemical and bacteriological monitoring of the RIO canal in Mantova, with expanded research on historical and architectural aspects to revive the canal’s cultural significance.

3. Community

SLE-GO Science Learning Expedition Gorizia-Nova Gorica, 2023, November 11th

A science learning expedition in the cross-border area of Italy and Slovenia involving schools, scientists,

and the public.

Rivers in Spring – International World Water Day (March 22, 2024):

The event at the Lakes of Mantua was attended by 3000 participants, included a [national online live broadcast](#) in Italian and a [live international online event managed by Alessandra Sutti and Stuart Robottom of DEAKIN University, Australia](#). This in-person event is co-designed and co-managed together with public bodies, research centers, universities, parks, water control and management agencies, companies and many environmental associations. The *Rivers in Spring (Fiumi di Primavera)* is an event implemented as part of the [Mincio River Contract](#). The event is scheduled as a [GLOBE STAR](#) event.

MINCIO Project and the Mincio River Contract

The Mincio Project Report on the quality of the river is integrated into the Mincio River Contract, a planned negotiation for the redevelopment of the river and its territory. Schools take on a political role. The Mincio River Contract involves more than 60 public and private stakeholders.

GLOBE at the Suzzara Science Festival (October 21-27, 2024)

Associazione GLOBE Italia APS and LABTER-CREA are part of the Scientific Committee of the Science Festival in Suzzara. For the 9th edition of the Festival, the GLOBE Italy Team suggested several activities including a meeting for middle school teachers entitled *Clouds, Trees, Climate and Carbon Storage: doing citizen science with GLOBE Observer Apps*.

GLOBE E-E RCO Meetings

Globe Italy took part regularly in GLOBE E-E meetings.

4. Technology

During the national “School Generation on the move with GLOBE” project, a great effort has been made to increase the interest of teachers and students in the GLOBE data entry and GLOBE data visualization system. Teachers showed great interest in creating students’ teams, which are efficient in data- and research project-management.

There was a significant increase in Italian GLOBE Observers to 5,554.

5. Communications

GLOBE ITALY communicates through its website www.globeitalia.it, newsletter, and social media (YouTube, Facebook, Instagram), for disseminating news and connecting schools and citizens. The 2024 editions of WWD and EARTH DAY are available on GLOBE YouTube and Facebook. Many newspaper articles and local TV have covered this year’s events. The links to press review and social media can be found on the Association’s website.

Plans and Ideas for Next Year:

We plan to realize the following activities:

- 35th edition of Mincio Project – Spring 2025
- 25th edition of Rivers in Spring, WWD in Mantova – 21st March 2025. In-person EVENT with a national and international streaming session
- 7th edition of RIO School Project
- 4th edition of Microplastics Monitoring of Mincio River, some of its tributaries and the Po River
- 14th edition of Earth Day in Friuli Venezia Giulia – 15th April 2025. In-person EVENT
- 3rd edition of *Read the horizon, write the future* project – School year 24-25

We plan to support the GLOBE school network with a new edition of the teacher **training course “#connect science school citizens”**. Registrations are available on SOFIA ministerial platform (October 2024-June 2025) We will organize a special **blended (in-person and online) training course** for teachers in Sicily (supported by the U.S. Embassy). Focus: GLOBE Protocols and Microplastics Monitoring Protocol.

Microplastics Monitoring Campaign 2025: GLOBE schools will be invited to use the microplastics protocol mentioned before, along with the traditional GLOBE Hydrology measurements. The Campaign will be extended to Latina America and North America.

A new exhibition, *The Torments of Poseidon: Microplastics in the Hydrosphere*, will feature scientific and artistic contributions and will open in multiple locations across Friuli Venezia Giulia and Mantova in Spring 2025.