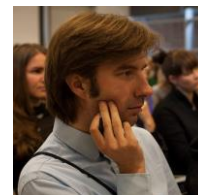


Republic of Latvia

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Organisation and Number of Staff:

Children's Environmental School is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) for the environment and education. The GLOBE coordination team includes 1 Country Coordinator, 1 Deputy CC, 5 trainers, and 1 event organiser for large events.

Funding by:

Coordination of the GLOBE Program is funded by the Ministry of Education and Science based on a delegation agreement. Additional activities are supported by grant projects from different foundations and private donations. Respective municipalities support school participation.

Cooperating Organisations/Individuals:

Embassy of the United States of America, University of Latvia, Ministry of Education and Science, municipalities.

GLOBE Schools (what types, how many):

In Latvia, there are 44 public schools registered in the GLOBE database, 21 are reporting (within the past 3 months) or have reported data. There are 44 fully trained GLOBE educators.

GLOBE Areas you and schools focus on:

The number of schools that are reporting or reported in the past in each GLOBE area:

- Atmosphere: 22
- Earth as a System: 13
- Hydrology: 11
- Land Cover: 7
- Soil: 6

Most schools focus on more than one area; some have tried all areas; some focus on just one - Atmosphere, or two - usually Atmosphere and Hydrology. The Atmosphere is the most popular area to start with for new schools, as it is or is perceived as the most uncomplicated.

Number of Schools Reporting Data over the Past Year:

3

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

In 2024, schools are busy with adjusting to the educational reforms, and most of the active teachers (including those doing GLOBE) are involved in the development of new teaching materials required by the new curriculum. As a result, teachers are overworked and not enthusiastically responsive to GLOBE activities. Most Latvian GLOBE teachers are also experienced and already trained in all protocols, thus setting a challenge to find something new they may be interested in.

Taking all that into account, this year we have focused on developing supporting materials aimed at helping teachers to integrate GLOBE into their everyday curriculum, as described in the detail in the following subsections.

1. Education

We invited schools to participate in GLOBE campaigns and related webinars, including the European Phenology Campaign and the Earth Day 2024 event.

2. Science

We invited students to participate in International Virtual Science Symposia 2024 and to attend GLOBE Student Virtual Conference 2024, as well as GLOBE Learning Expedition in Estonia.

We used the US Embassy small-grant funding for translation of Carbon Cycle protocols and learning activities, and for the review and update of the GLOBE protocols we translated at the beginning of our participation in the GLOBE program.

3. Community

We hosted GLOBE Europe and Eurasia Regional Meeting in Riga, Latvia, October 16th till 20th, in an excellent cooperation with the GLOBE Implementation Office (GIO), Regional Coordination Office (RCO), the Embassy of the United States of America in Latvia and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia. Five Latvian teachers participated; two of which were supported by the RCO and three by GLOBE Latvia from raised private donations.

The country coordinator also participated in Europe and Eurasia Region monthly meetings for country coordinators.

4. Technology

Since Latvian translation of the GLOBE Observer app was added to the October 2023 update, we revised the translation and translated the new content that was added to the app after we had completed and submitted our first translation.

5. Communications

We sent monthly newsletters to GLOBE teachers, informing them about relevant and actual GLOBE news and events.

We published information about GLOBE activities on our website and social media pages and accounts. We promoted GLOBE program activities and experience at the largest national conference for science teachers in Latvia, organised by the University of Latvia.

Plans and Ideas for Next Year:

There is much uncertainty about 2025 due to schools trying to adapt to ongoing educational reforms. Nonetheless:

1. Education

- We will develop a new GLOBE teacher training program and get it certified by the Latvian education system authorities. It will incentivise teachers to participate in our workshops by allowing them to add it to their mandatory professional development.

- We will encourage schools to use GLOBE in teaching their regular curriculum.
- We will continue to invite and encourage schools to participate in GLOBE campaigns and try to implement some of them in Latvian language, in order to reach schools that cannot participate in international events because of the language barrier.

2. Science

- We will continue to translate GLOBE materials into Latvian. In 2025, we will work on the Carbon Cycle protocols and learning activities. We will organise a teacher training workshop introducing Latvian teachers to the carbon cycle, using materials and results of the Year of Climate and Carbon Campaign.
- We will review and update the GLOBE protocols we had translated at the beginning of our involvement in the GLOBE program. Updated protocols will be published in the Latvian country page on the GLOBE website (globe.gov).

3. Community

The GLOBE Annual meeting will be organised at one of the schools involved in the program in October 2025. During this event, GLOBE Games and workshops about using the GLOBE Carbon Cycle protocols and learning activities will be organised.

4. Technology

We will review and update the Latvian translation of the GLOBE Observer app, including the content that is not currently translated, and promote the use of the app in data collection.

5. Communications

- We will continue to communicate with schools through monthly newsletters.
- We will continue to publish information about GLOBE activities on our website and social media pages.
- We will continue to promote the GLOBE program in public events, like science teacher conferences.