Buzzing GLOBE Schools

Empowering Young Minds through Nature and Science

LOBE Program



EUROPE DIRECT Gozo

Front and Back Cover Photos:

A bee foraging on borage flowers, highlighting the vital role of pollinators in our ecosystem.

Photos by Ramona Mercieca

Acknowledgements



This publication brings together students and educators from across Gozo in a shared mission to learn about and protect our precious pollinators.

Participating Schools

GL<mark>OBE Malta is p</mark>roud to collaborate on this project with:

- Gozo College, Agius de Soldanis Middle School, Victoria
- Gozo College, Ġużè Aquilina Primary & Special Unit, Sannat
- Gozo College, Karmni Grima Primary School, Għarb
- Gozo College, Mons. Giovanni Andrea Vella Primary School, Żebbuġ
- Gozo College, Peter Paul Grech Primary School, Kerċem
- Gozo College, Sir Arturo Mercieca Primary School, Victoria
- Laura Vicuña Primary School, Għasri
- St Francis Primary School, Victoria

The project and this publication were coordinated by Ms Ramona Mercieca, GLOBE Malta Deputy Coordinator, in collaboration with Mr Jesmond Buttigieg, Manager, EUROPE DIRECT Gozo.

Special thanks to Mr Yashraj Patil, Assistant Professor at SNJB's Late Sau. Kantabai Bhavarlalji Jain College of Engineering, India for writing the bee story.

Heartfelt thanks go to the educators involved for their dedication and commitment, and to the students for their enthusiasm, curiosity and creativity.



GLOBE Bloom & Buzz Project Cultivating Pollinator Gardens in Gozo



The project provided students with hands-on learning experiences that combined STEAM education with environmental awareness, helping them understand the vital role of bees in pollination and food production. As a citizen science initiative, it highlighted the importance of pollinators, particularly bees, in maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Eight schools across Gozo participated by transforming their school grounds into pollinator-friendly environments. Students planted a variety of flowers, shrubs and herbs to attract bees and other pollinators. They also monitored bee activity, recorded sightings and analysed biodiversity changes over time. Using scientific methods, they conducted experiments on plant growth, pollination rates and habitat preferences, contributing valuable data to the project.

Beyond gardening and data collection, each school organised actions to further engage students and the extended school community. These included workshops on beekeeping, visits from local environmental experts, and educational outings to nature reserves. Schools also hosted awareness campaigns, art projects and presentations to highlight the importance of pollinators and the threats they face.

The project encouraged students to take an active role in environmental stewardship, promoting sustainable practices in their schools and communities. By learning about pollinators through direct observation and research, students developed a deeper understanding of biodiversity and the need to protect natural habitats. In addition, the project was embedded across the curriculum, integrating a range of subjects to provide a holistic learning experience.

In the following pages, each participating school shares highlights from their journey, showcasing their creative and scientific contributions. This includes poems and posters as a way to raise awareness about the importance of bees among readers of all ages.

Scan the QR code to view photos of the students' work, including their bee-friendly gardens, research activities and awareness campaigns.



Bees and the Su<mark>stainable Devel</mark>opment Goals</mark> (SDGs)

The Bloom and Buzz Project was not just about admiring these busy little creatures, but a call to take action and recognize how vital bees are to achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals.





Bees pollinate 75% of our food crops, ensuring the availability of fruits, nuts and vegetables. **3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Bees maintain biodiversity, which is vital for medicinal plants, clean air and water.



Bees help preserve healthy ecosystems, which protect freshwater resources from contamination. Bees support soil fertility, combat desertification and aid in restoring ecosystems.



Gozo College, Agius de Soldanis Middle School, Victoria



Thanks to the GLOBE Bloom and Buzz Project, an abandoned soil patch in our school has been turned into a thriving pollinator garden. The first step was cleaning the area and preparing the soil for planting. The team then carefully planted the shrubs and flowers, and labels were added to each plant. Twice a week, the team visited the garden to water the plants and monitor their growth, making sure they were thriving in their new home. To further enhance the garden, the team decided to add sunflowers. These tall, bright flowers are not only visually striking but also crucial for pollinators. Their large, pollen-rich blooms attract bees and butterflies, providing them with essential food sources.

Understanding the importance of water for pollinators, the team decorated an overturned old pottery pot and created a shallow bee bath by filling the tray with water and pebbles. The pebbles give bees a safe place to land while they drink, preventing them from drowning. Providing a reliable water source helps support pollinators, especially during hot and dry periods.

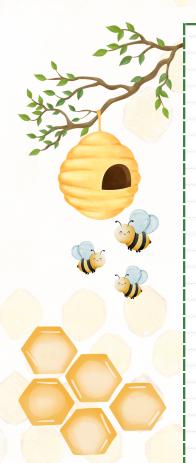
But the project didn't stop there. The wall behind the pollinator garden now features a colourful mural, designed by students. After brainstorming ideas, they created a vibrant scene that includes a tree, a beehive and flowers with bees and butterflies. The mural also features the quote, "The hum of bees is the voice of the garden."

This project created a learning hub at school where students can observe biodiversity in action. Through hands-on work, they supported sustainability and learned more about the role pollinators play in the ecosystem.









In-Natila

Akna n-nakla ninjorawha Hadd ma jhobbha, din miskina Mhux bios darba illi nsejna N-nakal x`jaf jaghmel ghalina.

Hafna drabi, atna nibžgtu Li n-natal se jwegggkana U tghidx kemm nghajtu,atna, u nibžgtu Meca nsibu watda magtna!

Imma, li kieku m`hemmx natal X`kien isir liha l-bnedmin? X`kien isir, imbagkad, mid-dinja? Ejja naraw ma`xulxin.

L-euwel kaga li tispičča Nafu li hi l-gkasel, žgur! "Ima mhux dak biss tagkmlilna N-nakla tagkna,iddur iddur.

Min, kieku jdakkrilna l-fjuri Sabiex wara jkollna l-frote? Min, kieku jzommilna l-goien Milli jmut u joir xott, xott?



U x-xemghat, dawk tal-festini? Dawk ukoll kienu jmorrulna. Ghax ix-xemgha, biss in-nahal Jafu kif jghamluhulna.

In-natla, ghalhekk, mhux nibighu minnha Ghax nakshu li se twegjaghna N-naha rridu nkobbuha Ghaliex lilna ssalvana.

Poster by Aiden Mercieca

The hum of the bees is the voice of the garden 

Gozo College, Ġużè Aquilina Primary & Special Unit, Sannat



The GLOBE Bloom and Buzz project has provided our students with a unique opportunity to learn about biodiversity and the vital role bees play in our ecosystem.

To support bee populations and encourage their presence in our school, we planted ten bee-friendly shrubs. The planting process was a hands-on experience for the students, who enthusiastically participated in preparing the soil, positioning the plants and watering them. Since planting, the students have been actively monitoring the growth of the shrubs. They learned to observe the development of leaves and flowers, track the height of the plants and take note of any changes over time.



The students also kept a weather log, recording daily conditions including temperature, rainfall and cloud cover. This helped them understand how weather can affect plant growth and bee activity. One of the most engaging aspects of the project has been the observational role the students have taken on in looking out for bees in the garden. They've been noting the presence of bees, their behaviours, and even the types of flowers they seem to prefer.





To further enrich the project, a local beekeeper was invited to the school. His visit proved to be a highlight for both students and staff. The beekeeper shared fascinating insights into the life of bees, how hives function, and the process of making honey. He brought along some of his bees in a safely enclosed hive, allowing the children to observe them up close and also listen to the humming of the bees without any risk. Additionally, he showcased the tools of his trade, including a beekeeper's suit, smoker and hive frames, which sparked a great deal of excitement and interest. The beekeeper's visit brought to life many of the concepts the children had been learning about in the garden and class. His enthusiasm and passion for bees left a lasting impression on the students, inspiring many to take a deeper interest in nature and the importance of environmental care.

Am a Special Bee

I am a special bee And wish you were like me. You will build a hive with me. And where I go, you'll follow me

You will see what I do, Buzzing through fields all day long, Dancing on petals, sipping nectar, Helping flowers bloom and grow.

I am not like you. And may not fly as fast as you do, But I have magic inside me too.

The natural world is what I am afraid of. Toxins and pesticides are killing us. Smoke and concrete steal our space, Leaving us no home, no place To build our hives, to live, to play.

The people take it for granted That we are the world's survivors, And without us, they can die. So plant a flower and say no to sprays, Set your mind on how to protect us, And you will survive yourself.

I am a special bee, So when you see me in the air, Be sure that you don't kill me, Remember that we help the earth

Remember, I am a special bee With dreams so high, Spreading love as I go by. So keep me safe and show me that

Giuseppi Camilleri Sannat Primary & Special Unit Special Unit, Group 2





Poem by Lia Abela

IZ - Zunzana trid iddur,

tmar

I.ż-żunżona trid iddar

u anna lejha niskantaw.

Fejn huma I-fjuni? Fejn hu I-whrd sabit? Fejn ha I-gnien? ... kf kollex mar mar-rik.

Ejja nagtreluko gnien Torsi inkona ikall tanjia

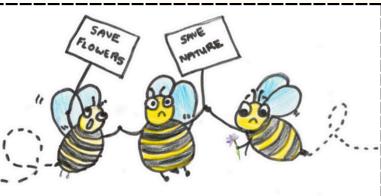
Si jzeraulna dawn il-

Nitatianga bel-kuluri

Miskina din iz-żunżano Xejn ma ghandha bix tist ghana

B' gheija Kara tanar fil-bejta u bil-git hum tinsab relita.

Tima mkin m' grandha tejn Thans I have u thores I haven



need Poster by Giana Marie Grima

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Gozo College, Karmni Grima Primary School, Għarb



Our students have been hard at work learning all about the fascinating world of bees! As part of this exciting project, Mr. Farrugia delivered an inspiring talk where he shared his knowledge about the roles of bees, how to care for them, and even brought in real equipment he uses to collect honey.







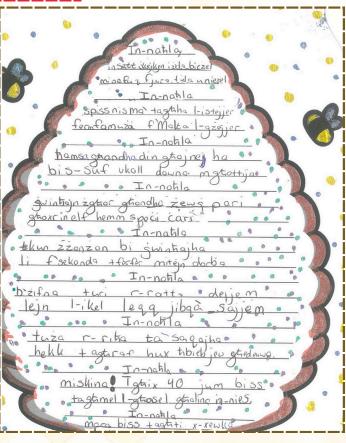
school got The entire involved: students wrote thoughtful poems and created eye-catching posters to celebrate these important pollinators. But it didn't stop there! The students also planted pollinating trees around our school and have been carefully observing and recording which bees come to visit.

This ongoing project has truly captured the interest of all the students, and we are proud to see their enthusiasm growing as they learn how to support our buzzing friends.





Poster by Isaac Micallef Poem by Dave Said





Gozo College, Mons. Giov. Andrea Vella Primary School, Żebbuġ



Our school is truly blessed - not only do we enjoy a breathtaking panoramic view of the entire island of Gozo, but we're also surrounded by a generous stretch of fields next to our classrooms. This unique setting means that the rich biodiversity found in these fields is always close at hand. It feels so familiar that many of the creatures we see have become like friends!

From birds and butterflies to flowers, trees and many other fascinating field-dwellers, nature is always just a glance away. Among our favourite visitors are the bees, which frequent our school grounds regularly.

Over the winter months, we took a small but impactful step to support these important pollinators: we intentionally left a parcel of land unploughed. This allowed the White Wall Rocket, a native wild plant, to grow and bloom, offering food for bees during a season when most plants don't flower. Our pupils quickly noticed the difference, especially the increasing hum of bees' wings. We proudly put up a sign: "Excuse the weeds, we're feeding the bees!"



Later in the year, with help from the GLOBE Program, our school established a dedicated pollinator garden. We received a variety of plants, including the Red Bottle Tree, thyme, sage and rosemary. These were planted in another part of our garden to complement the White Wall Rocket. Our students loved observing the bees at work—the sunnier the day, the louder the buzz!

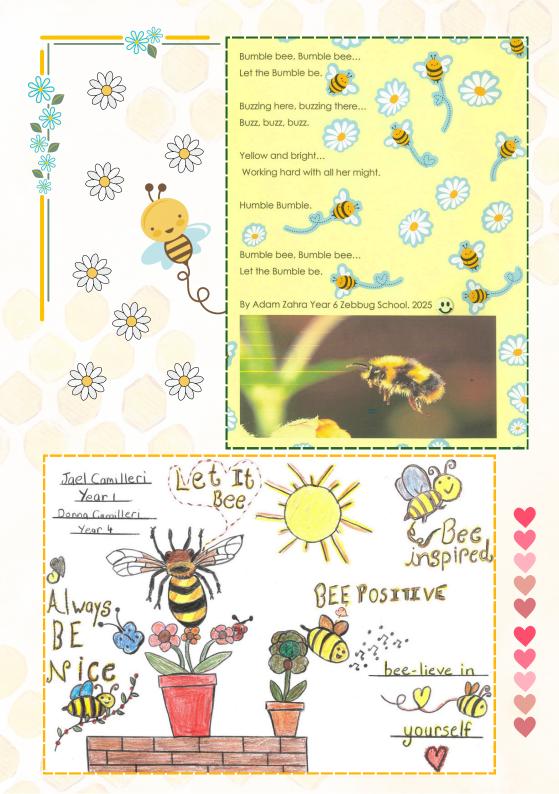
Most recently, our pupils took part in the Buzz Poem and Poster Challenge. They created original and thoughtful pieces, celebrating the importance of bees and pollinators. Every participant received a well-deserved certificate of appreciation.



Our students continue to learn from nature every day and the bees have certainly become some of our most inspiring teachers!

Francesca of Year 4 Rainbows proudly said, *"We're not just* learning about bees, we're helping them!"







Gozo College, Peter Paul Grech Primary School, Kerċem



This scholastic year, the school joined the GLOBE Program, and Year 5 and 6 students eagerly participated in the Bloom and Buzz Project; a journey that combined hands-on science with meaningful community action to raise awareness about the vital role of bees in our ecosystem.

As part of the Bloom and Buzz Project, students planted a pollinator garden using herbs, trees and shrubs in the school grounds. To attract more pollinators, they also sowed clover and beans and launched an investigation to monitor clover sprouting and growth in three different environmental conditions: outside in the garden soil, indoors in a sunny corridor (greenhouse-like container) and in the shade of a carob tree (also in a container).



Over a month, students recorded air temperature, soil surface temperature and plant growth through 3 sets of 6 observations. Their findings showed that while clover sprouted faster indoors in the sunlight, the best growth occurred outdoors in garden soil, highlighting how space, nutrients and natural conditions support healthy plant development. This investigation was selected to be presented during The Best of GLOBE Europe and Eurasia 2025 virtual student conference and was awarded the Scientific Inquiry Award.

The students did not stop there! They teamed up with their Local Council to take action beyond the school gates. Together, they co-created a Community Herb Garden in a designated public space. Designed to attract bees and provide fresh herbs, this garden invites villagers to pick herbs for cooking while appreciating nature's role in our daily lives.



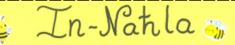


The students and the Local Council promoted the preservation of local wildflowers by encouraging residents not to remove wild plants, especially during spring. Hundreds of educational posters were printed and distributed around the village to raise awareness on the importance of wild plants in supporting pollinators, especially bees. Moreover, each family in the village received a herb plant to grow in their front garden, symbolising a shared responsibility for supporting pollinators. This simple act strengthens the bond between people and nature, while highlighting how small actions can have a big impact.



Together, we're blooming and buzzing for a better future!





Jiena nahla sewda w safra Fuq il-fjuri ndur indur Homor, safor, vjola, roža Dawn jgħogbuni kull kulur.

Lili jsibu bhala biezla, Jafu li ma nistrieh qatt, Specjalment waqt ir-rebbiegha, Interrag fis l-istess trigat.

Qalb ir-raba', fil-kampanja, L'hena tieghi jien inkun, Minn sbieh l-ghodwa nibda nzanzan, Sa ma jersaq tmiem il-jum.

Nibda naqbež ģewwa l-fjuri, Gol-ghelieqi u ģonna mmur, Nigbor pollin u anke nektar, Sabiex nahzen ghall-futur.

Dan sabiex matul ix-xitwa, Meta I kesha gmielha tkun, Jien u shabi nibqghu gewwa U milli hzinna nieklu bukkun.



Maga wahda hawn nitlobkom, Kunu maghna Ikoll henjin, La taqtghux tal-ghalqa I-fjur Huma ghalina ikel bnin.

Xejn la tibžghu li nniggzukom, X'hin tarawna la tibžghux, Ahna rridu lilkom nghinu, Ghax minghajrna, frott ma taqtghux.

Intom u ahna bżonn xulxin, tahqruniex u toqtluniex, hallu I ward biex ahna ndakkru U b'hekk id-dinja ma teqirduhiex.

Poem by Jacob Hili



STOP cutting wild flowers Poster by Anamika Farrugia



Gozo College, Sir Arturo Mercieca Primary School, Victoria



Our GLOBErs took on the Bloom & Buzz Project, and it was decided that we would dedicate a whole week for the Bees from Monday 7th till Friday 11th April, incorporating a whole-school approach.

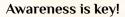
Before Bee Week, we thought about ways we could get people to plant more flowers. We decided that a pollinator pack would be ideal to give to the whole school, so we needed to get working on these. We took once-printed paper and instead of throwing it away, we used the unprinted/blank side. We printed an envelope and copied onto the blank side of the once-printed paper to create seed envelopes, working during both lunch breaks everyday. And then filling them with sunflower seeds. This would give an incentive to the recipients of these pollinator packs to plant flowers for our beloved bees.

During the Carnival period, we also planted a flower bed just outside our school. The aim was to attract bees and butterflies to Victoria, an area that has become increasingly affected by traffic and air pollution. These pollinators play an important role in supporting biodiversity and improving air quality.

In March 2025, we participated in a competition to do Poems & Posters about bees. These poems and posters would be read during a Bee Week assembly to inform our school. We set up a bulletin board and a BEE tree for all to see in our school as well as during our school's parents' day.

Here's how Bee Week unfolded: Monday kicked off with Crazy Bee and Butterfly Hair Day, followed by bee-themed poem sharing on Tuesday. On Wednesday, students watched an educational video about bees. Thursday featured a Bee Dance performance, and the week ended on Friday with a bee facts poster display and the distribution of pollinator packs.

Bee Week was a busy but rewarding experience. The energy throughout the school was positive and we helped raise awareness about the vital role of bees in our environment.













SAVE THE BEES!

Flutter around in the morning light, Buzzing and soaring up high, Dancing softly, taking flight

Sipping nector, kissing blooms, Spreading life across the land, Whilst filling the air with perfumes

Empty hives and flowers weep, Buzzing tunes start to rade, We should keep the promise we have made

So plant the gardens, let them be Avoid pesticides and chemicals It's time to let the bees room wild and free!

Poem by Nora Xerri





Laura Vicuña Primary School, Għasri



This year, our school proudly launched a whole-school initiative called "Bee Wise, Save Lives" to raise awareness about the essential role of bees in our ecosystem and daily lives.

The campaign began with an online school assembly featuring an educational video about the Maltese Honey Bee, followed by student contributions including factual presentations, poems and original songs about bees. Cross-curricular activities engaged all classes: Kinder to Year 2 explored bee-themed crafts and literacy tasks; Year 3 focused on reading, comprehension and Maltese bee cartoons; Year 4 wrote creative pieces like "A Day from a Bee's Diary"; Year 5 enjoyed a cooking session making Qagħaq tal-Għasel and created posters and recipes; while Year 6 wrote honey advertisements.

As part of an Artistic Design Challenge, students designed 6x6cm artwork highlighting the importance of bees. The winning design was printed as stickers and distributed throughout the school and the village, and even sparked conversations with visiting Italian tourists! Students also engaged in outdoor learning by planting ten bee-attracting shrubs in the school garden in collaboration with the GLOBE Malta and EUROPE DIRECT. Gozo, helping promote local biodiversity.

One of the project highlights was a live honey extraction session led by Ms Sarah, where students learned how honey is made, explored the differences between light and dark honey, and discussed threats to bee colonies such as disease. The honey collected was lovingly jarred and gifted to elderly residents at Casa Amalia, promoting intergenerational sharing.





In an inspiring act of initiative, Year 5 student Ethan Gatt, with the help of his father, built the school's first Bee Hotel, a small wooden shelter designed for solitary bees. This was placed in a sunny spot, facing south, at 1.5m height near the newly planted shrubs.

To conclude the project, the students enjoyed a live demonstration using a real beehive and protective beekeeping equipment by Mr Edward Psaila.





St. Francis Primary School, Victoria

This scholastic year at St. Francis School, students embarked on an exciting journey through the GLOBE Bloom & Buzz project, engaging in hands-on activities that deepened their understanding of nature, science and the vital role of bees in our ecosystem. Students planted bee-friendly plants, tracking their growth while learning about pollination. They measured soil temperatures and weather conditions to understand how environmental factors influence plant growth. During an engaging science lesson, they explored bee anatomy, discovering how different body parts help bees pollinate and thrive.

The Bee Hive Game introduced Year 4 students to halves and doubles through an interactive math experience. They also learned to use tally charts to track bee activity, linking mathematics to real-world observations. In literacy, they explored Nature's Tiny Miracle: Bee and Honey Bee by Young Zoologist, fostering an appreciation for bees through storytelling and outdoor reading.



FRANCIS SCHO

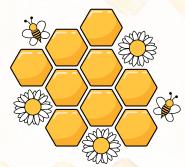


Students expressed their knowledge creatively by writing poems and designing posters about bee conservation. They crafted papier-mâché bees, improving fine motor skills while decorating their school garden. A visit to Dwejra with botanist Stephen Mifsud provided insights into pollination, groundwater and native flora, enhancing their connection to nature.

fhrough this GLOBE project the students had the unique opportunity to interview a beekeeper, gaining first-hand knowledge of hive roles, honey production, and pollination. A beespotting exercise in the fields further strengthened their understanding of bee behaviour in natural habitats. Exploring the countryside through creative writing allowed them to capture the beauty of rural life while fostering environmental awareness.









Bee the Best U Can Bee

I was taking some selfies, When I saw Lucy the Bee flying with the breeze, She stopped in front of me, And I asked bluntly; "Do you want some cheese?"

"I don't want cheese", But tell your world not to use pesticides please, One other thing before I go, Please also tell them to let the trees be

So I can pollinate and thus I can feed, That's when I sneezed, And of she went Lucy the Bee, But she thought me a lesson,

Bees are so precious on that we should agree, They are like rubies, So why shouldn't we let them be, And make an effort to protect them please.

Nina Zammit Year 4 St. Francis School Victoria Gozo



Buzzing into D the Storyworld of Bees

It's time to dive into the magical world of bees through storytelling!

➡ Join Queen Beenie, Buzzbert and Baby Bee Bella as they unveil the incredible mysteries of pollination and the hidden secrets of honeybees. From buzzing dances to their role in keeping our world blooming, discover how bees are tiny heroes with a big impact!

Written by Mr. Yashraj Patil, Assistant Professor at SNJB's Late Sau. Kantabai Bhavarlalji Jain College of Engineering, Chandwad (Nashik), India.

+ If I Were a Bee..

Close your eyes and imagine you've just grown a pair of fuzzy wings and shrunk to the size of a honeybee!



What would your day look like? Where would you go first? What colours would you see? Would you carry pollen? Talk to your hive Visit your favourite flower

Draw your adventure or write a few sentences below.

My Buzz-tastic Bee Day:





Hello! I'm Beenie, the Queen of the Bee Kingdom! Welcome to the Our Buzzy Library Room!

> "A honeybee visits 50– 100 flowers per trip!"

> > "We make fruits and seeds grow!"

Here's How You Can Help Us Survive

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Grow Herbs

Bella

Beenie

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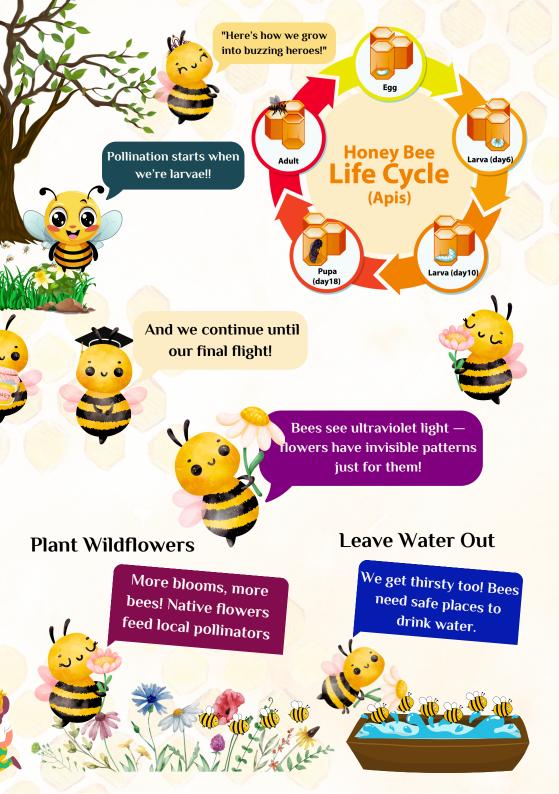
Buzzber

We love herbs. These small plants are full of nectar.

Support Organic Farming

Fewer chemicals, More Bees! Keeps habitats healthy.

11



The GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) Program is an international science and education program that focuses on promoting scientific literacy and building connections between people passionate about the environment. GLOBE has three primary goals:

- increasing environmental awareness,
- contributing to increased scientific understanding of the Earth and
- supporting improved student achievement in science.

One of the most effective ways to engage with grassroots communities and foster dialogue with citizens is through the EUROPE DIRECT network. This network consists of over 420 information offices across the European Union, co-financed by the European Commission, with the primary objective of providing citizens with easy access to information about the EU and its activities.

In Malta and Gozo, three EUROPE DIRECT Centres have been designated to offer their services and one of them is EUROPE DIRECT Gozo which is managed by the Gozo Business Chamber.

The EUROPE DIRECT network serves as a key communication channel, ensuring that European citizens have access to accurate and up-to-date information about the EU. Its primary role is to provide information, assistance and responses to inquiries related to the European Union.

EUROPE DIRECT centres organize various initiatives, including events, seminars, information sessions and debates, while also facilitating citizen feedback to EU institutions.

Additionally, EU publications are available for free at the EUROPE DIRECT Gozo office in Victoria, Gozo, for public dissemination.



Biosphere







EUROPE DIRECT Gozo



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