

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. For GLOBE, there are 1 country coordinator, 1 Deputy CC, 4 trainers, and 1 event organiser for large events. One of the trainers, Ieva Kalka, is also a GLOBE Technology Working Group member.

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, Nature Conservation Agency, Institute for Environmental Solutions, municipalities.

GLOBE Schools (what types, how many):

In Latvia, there are 36 public schools with teachers who have received GLOBE training.

GLOBE Areas You and Schools Focus on:

From schools that are reporting or have reported in the past:

- Atmosphere: 20
- Earth as a System: 12
- Hydrology: 10
- Land Cover: 6
- 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 – areas. 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:

1: Mazzalve Elementary School

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

Like in 2021, the Covid19 pandemic and related restrictions heavily limited school participation in GLOBE. The situation was changing rapidly, lockdowns and restrictions to in-person teaching were put in place several times, and persisting uncertainty barred schools from planning their work in any serious manner, even two weeks in advance. This has been considered in planning this year's activities, as described in the following paragraphs.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24th has significantly impacted GLOBE program implementation in Latvia, posing additional challenges for schools and CES.

1. Education

We invited schools to participate in GLOBE campaigns and related webinars, including Tree Reporters Challenge.

We **translated into Latvian** and published the description of the **GLOBE Urban Protocol Bundle** to encourage teachers and students to investigate urban environments. It was also sent to GLOBE schools, requesting feedback on links to curricula subjects based on their teaching experience.

We are preparing an overview of GLOBE protocol links with Latvian national education curricula topics to encourage teachers to use GLOBE protocols for teaching curricula content.

2. Science

We invited schools to participate in the GLOBE Tree Challenge webinar on December 1st, PULCHRA Open International Workshop on November 30th and PULCHRA Open Workshop in Latvia on December 9th.

We invited students to participate in International Virtual Science Symposia 2022 and to attend GLOBE Student Virtual Conference 2022.

3. Community

The country coordinator **participated in GLOBE Annual Meeting** in July, online, and we also invited and encouraged schools to participate. However, we have no information on how many schools responded to this invitation. Nevertheless, schools were informed about important issues discussed in the meeting.

The country coordinator **participated in GLOBE Europe and Eurasia Regional Meeting in Omiš**, Croatia. With the support of private donations, also one teacher participated in the Meeting. The country coordinator also participated in Europe and Eurasia Region monthly meetings for country coordinators.

After the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24th, we published information about GLOBE protocols translated into Ukrainian on our social media pages and accounts to advise teachers who may receive Ukrainian refugees in their classrooms.

4. Technology

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, and at the Workshop for Environmental Educators in the Daugavpils University Study and Research Centre Ilgas.

Plans and Ideas for Next Year:

There is much uncertainty about 2023 due to the Covid19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war. Nonetheless:

Education

We will try to adapt and implement new ideas learned in the GLOBE Europe and Eurasia Regional Meeting, for example, Teacher Collaboration Day from Estonia.

We will encourage schools to use GLOBE to teach their regular curriculum.

We will continue to invite and **encourage schools to participate in GLOBE campaigns** and try to adapt some in Latvian for schools that cannot participate in international events due to language issues.

Science

We will continue to translate GLOBE materials into Latvian.

We will offer schools one-day events like visits to science centres and other professional organisations related to GLOBE topics, joint clean-ups etc.

Community

On October 2023, we **will host GLOBE Europe and Eurasia Regional Meeting in Riga, Latvia**. The exact date is to be confirmed in consultations with GLOBE Europe and Eurasia Regional Coordination Office.

We will try to restart the annual GLOBE Latvian School Meeting.

Technology

When **Latvian translation is added to the GLOBE Observer App**, we will promote the use of the App for data collection and educational activities.

Communications

We will continue communication 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, according to Covid-19 pandemic-related conditions.