

# 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 Organizations/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 45 public schools registered in the GLOBE database, 22 are reporting (within the past 3 months) or have reported data. There are 46 fully trained GLOBE educators.

## **GLOBE Areas you and schools focus on:**

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

- Atmosphere: 22
- Earth as a System: 12
- 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, 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: Malpils Secondary School

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

In 2023, schools in Latvia are struggling with post-Covid challenges, teachers had to catch-up with delays because of the pandemic and distant learning periods. In addition, schools are busy with adjusting to the new curriculum reform, and most of active teachers (including those doing GLOBE) are involved in the development of new teaching materials required by the new curriculum. In the result, teachers are overworked and not enthusiastically responsive to GLOBE activities. 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 detailed in the following subsections.

### **1. Education**

We invited schools to participate in GLOBE campaigns and related webinars, including **European Phenology Campaign and the Earth Day 2023 event GLOBE for All: Connecting Our Community**. We have prepared an **overview of GLOBE protocol links with Latvian national education curricula topics to encourage teachers to use GLOBE protocols for teaching curricula content**. It has been submitted for publication in the largest teaching material e-repository.

Four new teachers registered with GLOBE this year, and we tried to organise an introductory training workshop online. Unfortunately, we got no response and thus the workshop didn't happen. But one of the new teachers, working at a school already participating in the GLOBE program, completed eTraining, thus doubling the number of e-trained GLOBE teachers in Latvia.

**One teacher with three of her students participated in the GLOBE Regional Learning Expedition in Tartu, Estonia**, from August 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>. She shared her experience on her school's Facebook page.

On March 19<sup>th</sup> til 21<sup>st</sup>, the **Country Coordinator participated in the GLOBE Trainers and Mentor Trainers Meeting in Prague, Czech Republic**. Participants shared their experience with GLOBE trainings, got acquainted with the new GLOBE Trainer and Mentor Trainer certification process and Data Literacy activities.

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, we successfully organised an **informative and discussion workshop for Latvian GLOBE Trainers**, sharing experience gained in the Prague Meeting.

### **2. Science**

We invited students to participate in International Virtual Science Symposia 2023 and to attend GLOBE Student Virtual Conference 2023.

### **3. Community**

**We hosted GLOBE Europe and Eurasia Regional Meeting in Riga, Latvia, October 16<sup>th</sup> till 20<sup>th</sup>**, 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 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**.

We met online with one Latvian school interested in joining GLOBE, and as the result, one teacher registered an account in the GLOBE database.

We had an **online meeting with GLOBE Estonia and GLOBE Lithuania to plan a joint project supporting GLOBE activities in Baltic countries**.

### **4. Technology**

Since Latvian translation of the GLOBE Observer app was added to the October 2023 update, we have been rechecking translation and planning a translation of the yet untranslated content that has been added to the app after we 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, as well as the Regional Meeting, 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 2024 due to schools trying to manage the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war, and implementing the national curriculum reform. Nonetheless:

### 1. **Education**

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

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 because of language issues.

### 2. **Science**

We will **continue to translate GLOBE materials into Latvian**. To align with The Year of Climate and Carbon Campaign, in 2024, 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, in cooperation with experts involved in the YCC Campaign.

We will review and update the GLOBE protocols we had translated at the beginning of our participation 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 in one of the project schools in October 2024.

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 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.