

Lithuania

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Organization and Number of Staff:

Lithuanian Centre of Non-formal Youth Education. There are 129 employees in total, 1 of them is working with GLOBE.

Funding by:

Ministry of Education, Science and Sport

Cooperating Organizations/Individuals:

Embassy of U.S in Vilnius.; Vilnius University

GLOBE Schools (what types, how many):

33 in total, some are more active than others, mostly progymnasiums and gymnasiums

GLOBE Areas you and schools focus on:

Atmosphere, Earth as a System, Hydrology, Land Cover, Soil

Number of Schools Reporting Data Over Past Year:

18

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

1. Education

During the annual scientific conference, we had a **guided tour to the Vilnius University's Museum of geology**. The most important part was that students not only get an interesting excursion, but this is the university's museum in which students are actually studying geology every day. We hope that this experience could have been an inspiration for GLOBE students to choose study geology or other branch of nature sciences and maybe learn the whole museum by heart for their exams!

2. Science

At the end of the year, every year we have an **Annual students conference**. During the conference, students present their research done while participating in GLOBE just the same way as real scientists would do. This is a great way to practice working with scientific data and methods from the very beginning to the end. After learning the quarantine lectures, we had the first hybrid conference with some participants participating remotely.

This year we made **connections with the recently opened Vilnius University's Observatory**. This is a historical observatory (almost 100 years old), so it's being used by real scientists anymore, but an amazing place for students to get familiar with space and science. We hope for amazing collaborations in the future!

3. Community

We are very proud to have our first (and actually, one of the strongest) homeschooled team of six students and a mom/teacher!

This year Lithuania made **connections with GLOBE Netherlands**, as one of their teachers was traveling and while staying in Lithuania, visited GLOBE school and coordinating organization. Later he joined our scientific conference and participated in some other international projects ("Plastic Pirates Go Europe!") too.

The youngest students and their teachers were honored by being invited to the U.S. Ambassador's residence to commemorate International Pollinators Month and World Bee Day. They had a chance to talk with an ambassador, held a drawings exhibition, and participated in the education of the Ambassador's beekeeper taking care of his bees and collecting the honey. It was the most beautiful GLOBE close of the school year so far!

Representatives of the organization had been given the honor to participate in **the 4 of July celebration of the U.S. Embassy**, where had a chance to make connections with a lot of organizations and interesting people for further collaboration.

4. Technology

This year's conference was the first one with international participants and lecturers who were reading their research live through zoom on the big screen. The audience was giving them questions, and they were responding in real-time. Because some students were very young, live translation was provided both ways (also the first time).

The same went with lectures of foreign guests. We decided to prerecord lectures in case to avoid possible technical issues. Now those are published and can be watched again by anyone interested.

5. Communications

As always, teachers are getting **newsletters** with both the news from the local GLOBE community; and with short translations together with original GLOBE newsletters for further reading. The most important news and teacher achievements are being shared on **social networks**.

Participation in **Europe and Eurasia country coordinators meeting** was very productive as a way to stay in touch with other coordinators, to get inspired by so many good practices examples, and also to get a lot of very useful experiences during various trainings.

Plans and Ideas for Next Year:

- To make a Facebook group - as suggested by NASA outreach specialist during country coordinators meeting 2023.
- To collaborate with Vilnius University STEAM center and Vilnius University Observatory. To make virtual badges physical for students who earn them.