

Slovakia

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Organization and Number of Staff:

Daphne Institute of Applied Ecology, Podunajská 24, 821 06 Bratislava, Slovakia.

16 internal employees from which 2 full-time employees are involved in GLOBE above their regular work agenda.

Funding by:

- Embassy of the United States of America
- Small grants from local private foundations
- Interreg Slovakia-Austria
- Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation

Cooperating Organizations/Individuals:

- Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute,
- Matej Bell University Banská Bystrica,
- Comenius University Bratislava
- Embassy of the United States of America
- Czech GLOBE team – TEREZA NGO
- Peter Falcon NASA
- Protected areas around Slovakia

GLOBE Schools (what types, how many):

33 Primary schools and 12 Secondary schools, 3 other educational institutions

GLOBE Areas you and schools focus on:

Atmosphere, Biosphere, Hydrosphere

Number of Schools Reporting Data Over Past Year:

5 – in 2023

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

1. Education

Educational materials, presentations, and ideas for activities for all schools involved in GLOBE were provided by our website www.globeslovakia.sk. **Carbon Cycle methodology including worksheets was translated into Slovak language** and **Carbon Cycle poster was elaborated** and is available to teachers in pdf version. One **practical hydrobiological outdoor training** in Bratislava for teachers was organised in March 2023. **Two-day online introductory GLOBE training for teachers** was organized in September 2023, involving 9 new schools in the GLOBE program. **Regular monthly webinars** were organised to discuss scientific topics and school measurements, as well as to keep the communication with teachers lively.

2. Science

Our GLOBE schools participated in the **Phenology Campaigns**. **Two two-day capacity building seminars for teachers** were organized in quarters of US Embassy libraries in Banská Bystrica and Košice, **dedicated to IBSE and outdoor learning**. These seminars allow teachers from different regions to participate.

Climate change' topic was introduced to teachers at these seminars through different lectures (also scientist from Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute). We also practically tested the newly purchased CO2 probes. We organised the second webinar for GLOBE schools in **cooperation with scientist Peter Falcon from NASA** in order to popularize science in Slovak schools and introduce the practical use of entered data into the international database NASA.

3. Community

Personal seminars have once again confirmed the **importance of face-to-face meetings**. This helped us to enhance the cordial relationship within our GLOBE community in Slovakia which we consider as an essential part of implementation of the program at schools.

Our **schools also attended the GLOBE Conference in Czech Republic in May 2023**. Primary school pupils together with secondary school students successfully presented their observations and joined the practical workshops.

We celebrated the second year of GLOBE Program in Slovakia at **online conference in June 2023**. 14 student teams presented their activities, discussed their observations with scientists from our Scientific Board and had a chance to see the variability of GLOBE measurements and activities at other GLOBE schools in our country.

4. Technology

The GLOBE Observer App and GrowApp continue to be used by teachers and students. **Consultations with schools were held to overcome the English language barrier and technical issues** when entering the data into the GLOBE database.

GLOBE tools for hydrology and meteorology were introduced to teachers and provided for all new member schools. **Calitoo photometers and CO2 probes were purchased** and are available to schools for rent at American Centre Libraries of US Embassy.

5. Communications

We regularly attend **CC meetings of Europe and Eurasia Region** to learn about the ongoing events and to communicate our activities.

Plans and Ideas for Next Year:

- Look for new funds to cover the running of the GLOBE program in Slovakia (e.g. Erasmus+ for underprivileged students),
- Focus on Land Cover and/or Pedosphere theme,

- Organise capacity building seminars for teachers in Spring and Autumn in quarters of US Embassy libraries (the new one in Žilina as well), dedicated to IBSE, climate change, peatlands and other topics,
- Motivate and provide additional support to schools to raise number of data entry,
- Encourage teachers to participate on international meetings, e.g. through Erasmus cooperation,
- Strengthen and stabilize the GLOBE team in Slovakia and find a stable donor of the Program,
- Organise **historically first GLOBE Games in Slovakia** 😊