

Slovenia

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Organization and Number of Staff:

Country coordinator and deputy country coordinator, supported by their organizations (Centre for School and Outdoor Education and the Ecoschool Program) and **a team of four GLOBE teachers** that have taken on additional organizational tasks (translation and quality of materials, purchasing and logistics of equipment, communication and promotion).

Funding by:

Ministry of Education of Slovenia provides core funding, additional funding is provided by **various projects**. In 2023, these projects were: a project financed by the US Embassy in Ljubljana, an Erasmus+ partnership project with GLOBE Croatia schools, a national project connected to Climate Change education, and an Erasmus+ teacher training mobility project.

Cooperating Organizations/Individuals:

The **Ministry of Education of Slovenia** has charged the **Centre for School and Outdoor Education (CŠOD)** with coordinating the GLOBE program in Slovenia. CŠOD in turn formed a partnership with the **Ecoschool Program in Slovenia** to ensure a quicker implementation of the GLOBE Program in Slovenian schools. The Ministry has also formed an advisory group to oversee the GLOBE Program implementation in Slovenia. An active cooperation with the **US Embassy in Ljubljana** is established.

GLOBE Schools (what types, how many):

Slovenia is finishing its second year of GLOBE, and we have already registered **58 GLOBE schools and other educational organizations** (from 41 in 2022), of which **29 are primary schools** (from 25 in 2022), meaning students aged 6 to 14, **17 are secondary schools** (from 15 in 2022), meaning students aged 15 to 19, **9 are kindergartens** (from 0 in 2022), meaning pre-school children, **one is the Centre for School and Outdoor Education** with its 25 outdoor learning centers throughout Slovenia, and **two are informal education organizations** (from 0 in 2022).

GLOBE Areas you and schools focus on:

All GLOBE Areas. By 2023, we have held trainings for all GLOBE spheres and teachers carry out activities from different areas. We continue to focus on GLOBE international campaigns and have again taken part in several international GLOBE events this year. Additionally, there has been a marked interest in Elementary GLOBE activities in Slovenia in 2023.

Number of Schools Reporting Data Over Past Year:

32 schools have reported data in 2023, along with several citizen scientists.

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

1. Education

63 GLOBE teachers (new and existing) attended the **two live trainings** in Slovenia with trainers from GLOBE Slovenia and GLOBE Croatia (live), the GLOBE Europe and Eurasia Regional Office (online) and NASA (online). Several teachers also finished the **e-training program** on the GLOBE website.

The **second GLOBE Trainer** in Slovenia, Jasmina Mlakar, successfully finished the certification process in 2023.

By end of 2023, Slovenia has a total of **152 trained GLOBE educators** and **two certified GLOBE trainers**.

The first **16 protocols with accompanying materials** were translated into Slovenian in 2021 and have undergone language and expert review in 2022 (Atmosphere – 5, Hydrosphere – 7, Pedosphere – 1, Biosphere – 3) and are available for Slovenian GLOBE teachers to use with their students. In 2023, additional materials connected to the protocols were translated and shared with teachers.

2. Science

GLOBE Slovenia has not yet established a connection with scientists in Slovenia, but **NASA scientists** have participated in several of our events, and we are in contact with **scientists from Australia** that are working on the proposed Microplastics protocol.

We had a **visit from NASA scientist, Brian Campbell**, from 23rd to 27th November 2022. Brian presented several times on different topics connected to GLOBE to Slovenian students (a lecture at the Center of Space Technologies Herman Potočnik Noordung) and Slovenian teachers (lecture and workshops at the international conference Forest and Climate Change in Bohinj, Slovenia).

3. Community

The **GLOBE community in Slovenia is getting stronger**, with some GLOBE teachers continuing their work with students and some starting it for the first time in the school year 2023/2024. We have several citizen scientists interested in the program and using the GLOBE Observer mobile app.

In addition to the Country Coordinator and Deputy Country Coordinator, a **growing number of teachers is becoming active in the global, regional and cross-border GLOBE activities**, connecting GLOBE Slovenia to the wider GLOBE community:

- Slovenian teachers have been active in several **international GLOBE campaigns**, including the Spring and Autumn European Phenology Campaigns, the Water Bodies Challenge and the Year of Climate and Carbon.
- Three Slovenian schools participated in the two-day **Earth Day learning expedition** organized by GLOBE Italy in Gorizia and Nova Gorica (Italy-Slovenia border).
- A group of teachers and students, including the Deputy Country Coordinator, have participated in the **GLOBE Learning Expedition in Estonia**.
- The Country Coordinator has participated in the **regional meeting for Europe and Eurasia** in Riga, Latvia.
- School to school **cooperation between Croatian and Slovenian GLOBE teachers** that has started in November 2021 has continued in 2023 and resulted in several international mobilities connected to two Erasmus+ projects.

Additionally, the GLOBE Country Coordinator for Slovenia, Zoran Petrov, continues to serve as a **member of the GLOBE Regional Board for Europe and Eurasia**.

4. **Technology**

GLOBE Slovenia continues using **online tools** (Zoom, MS Teams, Padlet etc.) for most of our coordination work, as this approach allows us to quickly connect different parties and lower our environmental footprint, so we will keep using it in the future.

We continued with procurement of **equipment for GLOBE Program implementation** and in 2023 purchased numerous additional devices and distributed them to GLOBE schools.

Of note is the 2023 purchase of 10 **Davis weather stations**, of which two have successfully been set up and are already reporting to the GLOBE database, while 8 will be set up in the near future.

5. **Communications**

Most activities of GLOBE Slovenia connected to communications were aimed at further **presenting the GLOBE Program in Slovenia**. Notable activities include:

- presenting the GLOBE program at the **yearly Ecoschool meeting**,
- presenting GLOBE at the **yearly training for all CŠOD teachers**,
- meeting with the **US Embassy** in Ljubljana representatives and the regional US Embassy delegation for science to present GLOBE activities in Slovenia,
- **developing a webpage** for CŠOD projects where we will be able to feature GLOBE and distribute GLOBE materials in Slovenian language,
- featuring the GLOBE Program at the November 2022 **international conference “Forest and Climate Change”**,
- **lecture by NASA expert Brian Campbell** at the Center of Space Technologies Herman Potočnik Noordung,
- **online lecture by NASA expert Dorian Janney** about precipitation data and the Water Story and Tree Story initiatives,
- presenting the GLOBE Program at several other meetings and conferences in Slovenia,
- presenting the GLOBE Program through **webpages and social networks of the country coordinator (CŠOD)** and their partners (Ecoschool program, GLOBE schools).

Plans and Ideas for Next Year:

In 2024, our plans are:

- to successfully **implement and improve GLOBE activities** in existing and new Slovenian GLOBE schools, as this will be the third school year in which the GLOBE program is carried out with students in Slovenia,
- to **motivate more teachers** to become GLOBE teachers and further **increase the number of GLOBE schools** in Slovenia,
- to carry out **several training events**, both live and online, for Slovenian GLOBE teachers,
- to carry out the **first GLOBE national conference** in Slovenia, where teachers will be able to present their work,
- to enable Slovenian GLOBE teachers to attend **trainings and other GLOBE events in other countries**,
- to establish **further cross-border cooperation** between schools in Slovenia and schools in neighboring countries (Croatia, Italy),
- to **support schools that wish to connect** with other schools in the wider GLOBE community,
- to start building **connections with scientists in Slovenia** in connection to GLOBE,
- to **continue translating** GLOBE protocols and other GLOBE materials into Slovenian,
- to **acquire more equipment** for GLOBE schools in Slovenia,
- to **actively contribute** to the further development of the GLOBE international Community,
- and to **further promote** the GLOBE program in Slovenia.