



The GLOBE program in Hungary

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The GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) international environmental education program was launched in the United States in 1994 with the aim of inspiring students within the framework of an environmental observation network to make regular observations and measurements by using standardized protocols in a number of subjects (meteorology, soil science, water chemistry and land cover). Hungary joined the GLOBE program in 1999. Currently 28 high schools throughout the country participate in the program which is supported by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Water Management. Prior experience in environmental education, proficiency in foreign languages and geographical location of the school were the main criteria for choosing between schools for participation in the program. Short training courses are held on a yearly basis for teachers leading each student group. In addition to regular and disciplined data collection students also acquire an environmentally conscious mentality during their GLOBE activities. One day in each year is appointed for synchronized measurements when every school makes the same observations and measurements that day. Calls for submitting short student reports on various topics are regularly released, and summer camps are organized each year. After a Hungarian initiative, arts are also part of the international GLOBE program already. A long-run return of the program is that students can contact one another at home and abroad, and can share their ideas and experiences in the same environmental topics. Our goal is to integrate the GLOBE program into the national high school-level education with the help from young teachers who are familiar with the program. For this purpose a special course is being organized. Introduction of the GLOBE schools, yearly postgraduate courses for teachers, schedule of synchronized measurement days, competition for GLOBE students and international

activity of schools are presented. The main goal of the scientific team is to put in practice its basic principle: "think globally, act locally!".