

AN ACCESSIBLE MICROPLASTICS MONITORING PROTOCOL

Enabling students and citizens to become microplastics hunters

We are now in the sixth year of the international MMP pilot project in schools across more than 20 countries; this initiative has generated a unique Database and Image Gallery focused on microplastics.

While this is a significant achievement, there are tens of thousands of bodies of water where schools could conduct research and produce quality reports, using them to engage other schools and local citizens in raising awareness about the issue.

For this reason, we are offering the standard **two Training Webinars for GLOBE teachers**.



What you will receive:

- Methodological materials for students
- Teacher training live sessions
- Students training support and activities
- Gain access to a unique microplastics image database
- Access to panel of experts

What you will learn:

- What are microplastics and where do they come from
- The impact of microplastics on our environment
- How to use scientific equipment to sample microplastics and monitor microplastics in water

To register [Click here](#)

THE PLAN

TIMELINE

1. **Oct 2026**, Teacher Training: 2 live Zoom sessions (1.5-2 h each), protocol-steps video tutorials and training materials shared by GLOBE Italy and Deakin University. Please note training is compulsory.

Webinar 1: Oct 23 at 13:30 CET

Webinar 2: Oct 30 at 13:30 CET

2. **Nov 2026 - Feb 2027**, Student training: you'll use learning activities (ones you will design, or those recommended by GLOBE Italy and Deakin University) and a database of reference microplastics images provided by Deakin University.
3. **Mar - Jun 2027**, Student activities, data collection and upload: you'll guide your students through sampling and analysis of the samples and data collection; your school will be able to load the data into a dedicated folder.



4. **May 2027**, Data analysis and trial discussion: data discussion with experts and other participants; this concludes the student-facing part of the trial.
5. **June 2027**, Project review: teacher survey and meeting with experts.



WHAT YOU WILL RECEIVE:

- **Five 1 h teacher training live sessions (Zoom):**
 1. Plastics/microplastics: impact and literature
 2. Protocol materials and how to use them
 3. Ideas for learning activities
 - 4 Analysis and common observations, data collection and sharing
 5. Q&A
- **Teacher training materials:** relevant scientific literature on microplastics and microplastics analysis protocols, video tutorials.
- **Student training support and activities:** learning activities, video tutorials, reference images.
- **Access to a unique image database** built by Deakin University following the protocol: examples of microplastics and natural objects that you will be able to use for student training and assessment, and a sample analysis aid.
- **Access to a secure folder** where you will be able to upload your images and data sheets.
- **Access to a panel of experts** who may be able to review the images you and your students will gather through the trial (high-support schools).
- **Only for 30 selected schools:** image data validation by scientists – **APPLICATION NECESSARY** (microscope with high resolution imaging and image recording necessary)

THE COMMITMENT

The draft protocol uses materials that are either commonly available in European High Schools and research centres or can be acquired with low investment (approx. \$ 300 per sample preparation kit) and uses optical microscopes of maximum magnification as low as 160x (other solutions are also acceptable). The methodology is simple and requires no chemicals.



WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- Sampling bottles, bucket and/or telescopic sample bottle holder (for sampling from shore)
- Microbiology filtration unit (Merck-Millipore Sterifil Aseptic System), to fit 47mm diam. Filtration membranes, with tubing and syringe (or vacuum lines), optional 2 air check-valves (used in aquariums).
- Filtration membranes, 47 mm diam., 0.45 μm pore size
- Petri dishes, tweezers, deionised water spray bottle
- Microscope, with OPTIONAL camera or ability to photos
- Stationery, GPS, thermometer, pH, camera for taking site photo



TIME COMMITMENT – TEACHER (~25 h)

- **Live training**, 2 x 1.5-2 h sessions via Zoom: 3-4 h
- **Self review**, preparation of activities: 2-5 h
- **Student training** using learning activities: as part of curriculum, tailorable to students' needs 3-6 h
- **Protocol testing activity**: 2 x 2-4 h sample collection, analysis and data recording
- **Webinars** for data discussions: 2 h
- **End of trial survey**: 30 min

TIME COMMITMENT – STUDENTS (~16 h)

- **Student training** as above: 6 h
- **Protocol testing activity**: 2 x 1-3 h sample collection, analysis and data recording
- **Webinars** for all schools for data sharing and discussions: 2 h

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

22nd Oct 2026

CONTACTS:

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