

DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL RIGHTS, HEALTH
AND ENVIRONMENT

**To Ministries of Education
of the EUR-OPA member States**

Ref ► KZ/ce

Strasbourg, 09 January 2024

Subject: 2024 Olympiad on Natural and Technological Hazards

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to inform you about an Olympiad on Natural and Technological Hazards to be organised on **23 February 2024** under the auspices of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) of the Council of Europe, in collaboration with the Cyprus Civil Defence. The EUR-OPA Agreement is a platform for co-operation between 22 countries in Europe and South of the Mediterranean in the field of disaster prevention and preparedness since 1987.

Organised in the framework of the BeSafeNet project, the purpose of this Olympiad is to promote knowledge of hazards and the associated preventive measures among secondary school students. It consists of an online competition (in English) based on the [BeSafenet.net](https://www.besafenet.net) website to provide reliable educational material about hazards and preparedness). The competition is open to secondary schools (16 years old maximum) in the 22 member States of the Agreement¹.

The competition will be held online on **23 February 2024 at 09.00 CET**. Please refer to the [BeSafeNet](https://www.besafenet.net) website for further information on the Olympiad and the rules of the competition to participate in the Olympiad.

¹ The EUR-OPA member States: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Morocco, North Macedonia, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Ukraine.

The EUR-OPA Committee of Permanent Correspondents, composed of representatives of mainly ministries of interior and environment in charge of disaster risk reduction in each member State, fully supports this initiative and have been asked to diffuse its announcement.

Natural hazards and technological accidents cause a great number of casualties and important economic losses every year. Although it may not be possible to prevent certain hazards, we aim to reduce vulnerability to disasters by providing teachers and secondary school students in particular, with accurate information on risks and how to mitigate the effects.

I should be most grateful if you could disseminate the information on the 2024 Olympiad among the secondary schools in your country in order to promote their participation in the competition.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Krzysztof Zyman', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Krzysztof Zyman
Executive Secretary
European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement

Encl: Factsheet