

European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) BeSafeNet 2024 factsheet

The European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) is a platform for co-operation focusing on major natural and technological disasters. The main objectives of EUR-OPA are to reinforce and promote co-operation between the 22 member States in a multi-disciplinary context to ensure better prevention, protection against risks and better preparation in the event of major natural or technological disasters. In particular, EUR-OPA supports projects on education and disaster risk reduction aimed at promoting a culture of prevention, for example through emergency response drills in school establishments together with annual national campaigns. It also provides information and education on how to mitigate the effects of natural disasters as well as develop a methodology on basic knowledge for schoolteachers on safety activities in emergencies.

BeSafeNet project

The BeSafeNet project was initiated under the auspices of EUR-OPA to achieve three main goals:

1. Promote a culture of safety among youth:
 - Raise awareness on the implications of their actions and their perception of emergencies.
 - Replace fear with a culture of preparedness.
2. Disseminate knowledge to multilingual societies:
 - Create a common knowledge database of best practice.
 - Disseminate information in several languages for the benefit of the wider society.
3. Become an interactive tool:
 - Open the BeSafeNet website to other users and organisations for their benefit and comment.
 - Enrich its content by contributions based on real-life experiences and information provided by experts. The target audience is the general public, especially - school teachers and students.

2024 Olympiad

The Olympiad is an online competition on the theme “Better knowledge against disasters” and is open to secondary schools in the 22 member States of the Agreement¹. The age limit to participate is 11 to 16 years. The competition will give pupils a chance to increase their knowledge on natural and technological hazards that they could face even outside of school. The pupils will learn the adequate behaviour in these situations and how to reduce/prevent as much as possible the potential impact of disasters.



The competition is based on five of the hazards featured on the BeSafeNet website and fifty multiple choice questions (10 for each of the 5 chosen hazards) requiring a single answer. The competition will be held online on **23 February 2024 at 09.00 CET**. Registration of participants is open until 23 February 2024 - at 08.30 CET.

www.besafenet.net
www.coe.int/europa

¹ The EUR-OPA Member States in 2024 are: 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.