

GS/pc

Strasbourg, 15 March 2018

To Ministries of Education of
EUR-OPA member States

Subject: 2019 Olympiad on knowledge of Natural and Technological Hazards

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to inform you about an Olympiad on knowledge of Natural and Technological Hazards to be organised in April 2019 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 26 countries in Europe and South of the Mediterranean in the field of disaster prevention and preparedness since 1987.

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, in particular to teachers and school students, accurate information on risks and how to mitigate the consequences.

Organised in the framework of the BeSafeNet project, the purpose of this Olympiad is to foster knowledge on hazards and the associated preventive measures among secondary school students. It consists of an online competition (in English) based on the BeSafenet.net tool (a website providing reliable educational material about hazards and preparedness) open to all secondary schools (16 years old maximum) in the 26 member States of the Agreement¹.

¹ The member States of EUR-OPA are : Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Morocco Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine.

It will take place on **16 April 2019 at 9 a.m. GMT**. The registration of participants will be open from 15 October 2018 until 9 April 2019 at 9 a.m. Please refer to the attached rules of the competition to participate in the Olympiad.

I should be most grateful if you could spread the information on the 2019 Olympiad among the secondary schools in your country in order to promote their participation in the competition.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gianluca Silvestrini', written in a cursive style.

Gianluca SILVESTRINI
Executive Secretary of the European and
Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement

Encl: Rules of the competition