



## European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) BeSafeNet 2025 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 their perception of emergencies and on the implications of their actions;
  - 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 pupils.

### 2025 Olympiad

The Olympiad is an online competition on the theme “Better knowledge against disasters” and is now open to secondary schools across the [46 member States of the Council of Europe](#). The age limit to participate is 11 to 16 years. The competition will offer pupils a chance to increase their knowledge on natural and technological hazards that they could face at any moment. 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 **12 March 2025 at 09.00 CET**. Registration of participants is open until 12 March at 08.30 CET.

[www.besafenet.net](http://www.besafenet.net)  
[www.coe.int/europa](http://www.coe.int/europa)