

# European Center for Disaster Awareness

## “BeSafeNet”

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**Cyprus Ministry of Interior**

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# What is BeSafeNet?

**BeSafeNet** is a tool for promoting risk culture among populations.

Natural and technological disasters cause great human and economic losses. We cannot prevent many of them but there is a way to minimize the risk of disaster by sharing internationally valid and reliable information on the nature, causes and consequences of natural and technological disasters.

# Who are we?

- Leader: European Centre for Disaster Awareness - Cyprus Civil Defence.
- Partners:
  - TESEC: European Centre of Technological Safety in Kiev.
  - ICOD: Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics in Valletta.
  - CERG: European Center for Seismic and Geomorphological Hazards in Strasbourg.



# What is the aim?

- The aim of BeSafeNet is to become an educational tool in the hands of teachers, focusing at risk prevention, preparedness, immediate reaction and rehabilitation.

# What are BeSafeNet's goals?

- Promote a culture of safety among a new generation of people
- Disseminate knowledge to multilingual societies
- Establish the website as an Interactive tool

# What is BeSafeNet dealing with?

## Natural Hazards

### Geological Hazards

1. Volcanic Eruptions
2. Earthquakes
3. Tsunami
4. Landslides
5. Landscape fires

### Hydro-Meteorological Hazards

1. Floods (Updated)
2. Drought and Desertification
3. Avalanches
4. Hurricanes and Storm Surges
5. Sea Level Rise

### Biological Hazards

1. Pandemics (Soon)

## Technological Hazards

1. Chemical Emergencies
2. Radiological Emergencies
3. Dam failure

# What have we done in 2020?

- Olympiad 2020 was organized to launch the BeSafeNet interactive tool as an online competition between schools on the theme “Better knowledge against disasters”. It was open to secondary schools in the 25 member States of the Agreement. The age limit to participate was 16 years and under. The competition gave students a chance to increase their knowledge on natural and technological hazards that they could face even outside of school. The students have learned the adequate behavior in these situations and how to reduce/prevent as much as possible the potential impact of disasters.



- During the competition, more than 1000 students and more than 272 teams from 9 different Countries competed together for Olympiad 2020.
- Olympiad 2019-2020 Statistics

	Olympiad 2019	Olympiad 2020
Registered Teams	167	339
Participated Teams	113	272
Countries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ALBANIA</li> <li>2. ALGERIA</li> <li>3. BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA</li> <li>4. BULGARIA</li> <li>5. CYPRUS</li> <li>6. GREECE</li> <li>7. MALTA</li> <li>8. ROMANIA</li> <li>9. SLOVAK REPUBLIC</li> <li>10. UKRAINE</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ALBANIA</li> <li>2. ALGERIA</li> <li>3. BULGARIA</li> <li>4. CYPRUS</li> <li>5. GEORGIA</li> <li>6. GREECE</li> <li>7. MALTA</li> <li>8. ROMANIA</li> <li>9. SLOVAK REPUBLIC</li> </ol>
Schools	99	176
Students	796	1015

- Also, it is good to note that more than 185 different Essays on Natural and/or technological Hazards, expressing student's point of view, were submitted during the competition and are now available.



## WELL DONE!

Well Done to SCC Pembroke Secondary Team B (Keira Privitiera, Celine Camilleri, Lisa Camilleri and Matthias Bartolo) who managed to place 4th out of 272 teams in the Olympiad organised by BeSafeNet, with the theme 'Natural and Technological Disasters.'



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- A virtual Award Ceremony was organized, very different than the one we planned.
- The three best teams were:

1	Country: Greece Team: Eager Teal School: Geitonas School
2	Country: Romania Team: Knowledge Knights School: Liceul Regina Maria Dorohoi
3	Country: Bulgaria Team: Green Team School: 40 Secondary School "Louis Pasteur"





- In cooperation with Global Fire Monitoring Center a topic on Landscape fires is now live.
- In cooperation with European Center for Disaster Medicine, CEMEC a topic on Pandemics is now being translated and getting ready for upload on BeSafeNet.
- Floods were updated, translated and uploaded to website.
- Continuous update of our Facebook page.
- Preparation and Dissemination for Olympiad 2021.
- A promotional leaflet for Olympiad was created, introducing Netty the ant as our mascot.





## The Olympiad consists of:

- 50 multiple-choice questions
- 5 types of disaster
- 10 questions for each type of disaster
- 1 answer per question

Don't miss out on this fun and unique opportunity to compete with schools from the EUR-OPA member states! Teachers and pupils can find all the instructions on how to register and compete in the Olympiad on the BeSafeNet website.

## Sponsors

BeSafeNet is sponsored by the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA), which is part of the Council of Europe, the continent's leading human rights organisation.

EUR-OPA is a platform for co-operation between member states from Europe and the South of the Mediterranean on major natural and technological disasters such as earthquakes, landslides and wildfires. It aims to build knowledge and raise public awareness of risks, as well as to improve disaster prevention, preparedness and management.



[www.BeSafeNet.net](http://www.BeSafeNet.net)



## HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HAZARDS?

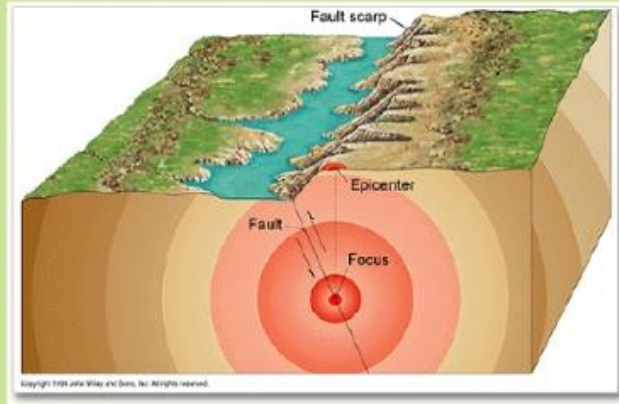


# BeSafeNet Migration

- Recent pandemic COVID-19 forced people to change and adopt new habits. Unfortunately, there was a loss of jobs, as companies had to lay off personnel. The current IT service provider which hosts the BeSafeNet website cannot ensure, due to staff cuts, the level of service which it maintained thus far.
- The BeSafeNet is a victim of this situation In order to continue working; the BeSafeNet needs to find a new service provider to host its website.
- After public procurements we now have a new IT partner in BeSafeNet and we already have a preview of the new website.

## 1. What is an earthquake?

An earthquake is a shaking and vibration of the ground caused mainly by a sudden release of energy in the Earth's crust due to constraints suffered by rocks situated in deeper layers of the Earth, namely the solid mantle (included in the lithosphere) and the molten mantle (the asthenosphere).



The earthquake's energy release is at the Focus, some hundreds of meters below the Earth's surface, on the fault plane. The Focus is the place where the first rupture is reached by the two portions of the crust, sliding one on top of the other (see the two black arrows) along the fault plane. The Epicenter is the vertical projection of the Focus on the surface. An earthquake's energy waves propagate with a 3D spherical pattern in all directions (coloured circles). Source: <http://earthquakesandplates.wordpress.com/>

Earthquakes are characterised by their magnitude (seismic energy measured on the Richter scale) and their hypocentre (the underground fault movement location) and the epicentre (the surface location situated just over the hypocenter).

Considering two earthquakes releasing the same seismic energy, in general the deeper the hypocenter, the wider is the impact areas on the surface; large seismic faults with very high depths can produce very destructive earthquakes over hundreds of square kilometres.

## 2. What types of earthquakes exist?

## 3. Why do earthquakes occur?

## 4. Where do earthquakes occur ?

## 5. What are the consequences of an earthquake ?

## 6. Can the consequences of an earthquake be influenced by human behaviour ?



# What's next?

## Project Proposals 2021-2022

### Q1–Q2

- Foster in Promoting the Olympiad competition among the participating Countries in order to engage as many participating teams as possible.
- Launch the Olympiad 2021 competition on the **19<sup>th</sup> of February 2021**.
- Evaluation of the tests and essays.
- Organize an Award Ceremony.
- Test of the new website and competition backend.
- Launch our new Website.

# What's next? (2)

## Project Proposals 2021-2022

### Q3–Q4

- Finalize and upload Pandemics Hazard.
- Improve the content of the website.
- Seek for Experts to cooperate in presenting a topic on Heat Waves.
- Update the content with new hazards.
- Start preparations on the new Olympiad.
- Launch Olympiad 2022 registration.

# The Olympiad competition

## “Better knowledge against disasters”



- The competition is between school classes open to students up to secondary school.
- The competition's purpose is to entice more and more children to enrich their knowledge against disasters.
- The competition is conducted in English Language.
- Olympiad 2021 will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2021.
- The registration of participants is open until the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2021.
- Participants must be organized in teams of maximum four students and should be endorsed by a teacher.
- The schools of the three best teams and their team members will be awarded.



How much do you know?  
Join the challenge and compete

How much do you know about hazards?

Join the challenge  
and compete

19 FEBRUARY 2021

09:00am GMT

[www.besafenet.net](http://www.besafenet.net)

SCHOOLS AROUND EUROPE WILL PARTICIPATE  
TO WIN PRIZES AND AWARDS

The BeSafeNet online Olympiad is open to secondary schools in the EUR-OPA member states.

In addition to raising awareness about disasters and emergencies, the Olympiad offers fabulous prizes, including a possible visit to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France for the three winning teams. Seven teams of runners-up will also be awarded a selection of consolation prizes.

2021  
**OLYMPIAD**

EUR-OPA  
EUR-OPA MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT  
ACCORD EUR-OPA RISQUES MAJEURS  
COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



**BeSafeNet**  
EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement

19 FEBRUARY 2021

09:00am GMT

[www.besafenet.net](http://www.besafenet.net)



**OLYMPIAD**

EUR-OPA  
EUR-OPA MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT  
ACCORD EUR-OPA RISQUES MAJEURS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Ευχαριστώ!  
Thank you!