

## **RULES OF THE COMPETITION**

**BESAFENET SCHOOL OLYMPIAD 2020 - 28 February 2020 at 9 a.m. GMT.**

### **BETTER KNOWLEDGE AGAINST DISASTERS**

The BeSafeNet initiative, supported by the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) of the Council of Europe, is pleased to announce the second on-line Olympiad competition between schools on the theme “Better knowledge against disasters”, open to secondary schools (participants must not turn 17 before the day of the competition). The competition will give students a chance to increase their knowledge on natural and technological hazards that they could face even outside of school. They will learn the adequate behaviour in these situations and to reduce/prevent as much as possible the potential impact of disasters.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The BeSafeNet Initiative “Protect yourself from hazards” in the context of which this competition is organised, was officially launched in 2012. Its purpose is to diffuse among young people, basic knowledge on hazards in order to make them aware of the risks that they may face if such events occur.

As current school curricula are mainly packed with traditionally taught subjects (such as physics and geography) and since technological tools are for new generations a preferred way to search information, the initiative has chosen to develop an internet-based tool that provides in a quite informal way, 12 questions and answers providing important information on major hazards (both natural and technological) that can affect our societies.

### **STRUCTURE**

The competition will include two parts:

A. A Quiz, based on five of the hazards, as below, featured on the BeSafeNet website.

- **Earthquakes**
- **Radiological emergencies**
- **Dam failures**
- **Hurricane and Storm surges and**
- **Avalanches**

Fifty questions (10 for each of the 5 chosen hazards): requiring a single-answer for each multiple-choice question will be available online on

**28 February 2020 at 9 a.m. GMT.**

Students should note that the Quiz scoring system will award 2 points for each correct answer, subtract 0.75 points for each incorrect answer and subtract 1 point for no answer.

- B. **Optional:** You may submit an additional essay (maximum 1000 words) on natural and/or technological hazards that concerns you. Any supporting material such as photos, pictures, maps, graphs will be taken into consideration.

The essay should be an original work, i.e. resulting from the student's personal work, and must be submitted in English. The essay will be used to decide on the winner in case the Quiz ends in a tie.

## REFERENCE MATERIAL

The competition will be based on the material available on the English version of the BeSafeNet website: [www.BeSafeNet.net](http://www.BeSafeNet.net)

Other versions are also available in French, Greek, Italian, Russian and can be useful for preparation for the competition.

The answers to the Quiz questions will be based only on the first level material, namely the Introduction and Sections 1 to 12 for each hazard: all sub-sections entitled "More information on ..." (labelled 1.1, 5.3, 12.2, etc.) on the website will not be used for the competition but can help to better understand the subject.

## REGISTRATION

The registration of participants will be open from 15 October 2019 until 21 February 2020 at 9 a.m. GMT and done online by filling the registration form accessible at the following link: <http://www.BeSafeNet.net/en-gb/olympiad>.

Participants from secondary schools (participants must not turn 17 before the day of the competition) must be Organised in teams of maximum of 4 students and should be endorsed by a teacher who should provide all the required information on the composition of the team. A teacher may endorse more than one teams.

After registration, a specific account will be generated for each team, allowing them to confirm their participation in the Olympiad, provide the team composition and submit any additional information.

Olympiad 2019 sign in credentials are valid but the teacher must register a new team to the Olympiad 2020 competition.

Further details and/or updates might be sent to the registered teams in due course.

## **COMPETITION PHASE**

The optional essay (maximum 1000 words), to be used in case of a tie between teams, must be uploaded before 28 February 2020 at 9 a.m. GMT through the specific team account.

On the Olympiad day, 28 February 2020, from 9 a.m. GMT, the registered teams should log in to the associated team account in order to access the Quiz.

Each team will have until 10 a.m. GMT to complete the answer form: for a successful completion of the Quiz, the “Submit” button must be clicked. In all cases, the page will automatically close at 10 a.m. GMT and answers submitted.

## **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

As this is an online competition, each team is required to:

- have access to the internet in order to complete the various steps (registration, access to BeSafeNet content, fill in the answers form, essay etc);
- have an e-mail address to allow the Organising Committee to liaise with them.

For any question about the competition, please send an email to the Organisation Committee through the BeSafeNet website contact form.

## **RESULTS**

The results will be announced on the BeSafeNet webpage and Facebook page within a month from the end of the competition.

## **AWARDS**

After verifying the authenticity of data provided in the registration form, the three best teams will be awarded prizes. In case of a draw between teams in the Quiz part, marks awarded for the essays submitted will serve as the tie-breaker.

The three best teams will be awarded the following prizes respectively:

A Gold certificate for the winning team, an i-pad and a 750 € voucher for their school (the teacher and students will also receive some small presents).

A Silver certificate for the team in second place, an i-pad and a 500 € voucher for their school (the teacher and students will also receive some small presents).

A Bronze certificate for the team in third place, an i-pad and a 250 € voucher for their school (the teacher and students will also receive some small presents).

The teacher and the students from each one of the best three teams will attend to a nomination ceremony at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

The top 10 ranked participating teams will receive gifts and printed Certificates of participation.

All other participating teams reaching a score of more than 80% of good answers will receive a digital Certificate of participation.

*The list of small presents includes Watches, Usb memory sticks, and other consolation prizes.*

Concerning the essays part, the submissions will be integrated in a special page of the BeSafeNet website<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The participant transfers to the Organising Committee the worldwide rights to reproduce and publish the essays submitted for this competition by any means and in all media, including multimedia (CD-ROM, CD-I, etc..) and networks (internet, intranet), in all languages and all countries.

The Organising Committee reserves the right to decide whether or not to reproduce, publish and display these essays. Unless otherwise agreed, the publication will contain the participant's name. The participant shall guarantee that reproduction and/or publication of texts/images by the Organising Committee will not result in any infringement of third-party rights. However, in cases where the liability of the Organising Committee would become involved as a result of such violation, the participant would indemnify the Organising Committee for any consequential damage.