ECNAIS Debate Event:

Overview

In April 2023, ECNAIS will organize a debate event with teams of upper secondary students from different European countries. The aim of this event is to help develop a more robust European social fabric, where people can engage actively in the public sphere, promoting tolerance and democracy.

Building up to the event, ECNAIS offers training for teachers to develop or improve school debate initiatives (March to December 2022, free of charge) and support to implement debates at the school and national level. For both training and participation in the event, please get in touch with your national independent schools' association (ECNAIS member).

Helpdesk and information - debate@ecnais.org
Rulebook and more information - https://www.ecnais.org/

Registration

ECNAIS member associations select and register teams for the April 2023 event.

Teams must have at least one previous participation in structured debates at the national level.

Teams

Teams include three upper secondary students and a teacher.

All students will participate as speakers (first, second, and third or rebuttal speakers).

The debate

There are three initial rounds of simultaneous debates with all the teams.

The four teams with the highest scores will participate in the semi-final and the two winning teams in the final.

Motions

Motions are the ideas, topics, propositions, or suggestions to be debated by the teams.

Motions will be published one month before the event.

Empathy ● **Critical Thinking** ● **Creativity**

Training partner:

Stichting Nederlands Debat Instituut
schooldebatteren.nl

In collaboration with:

PORTICUS
www.porticus.com

In the initial rounds, teams already know the motions. However, positions are decided just before the debate by a coin toss.

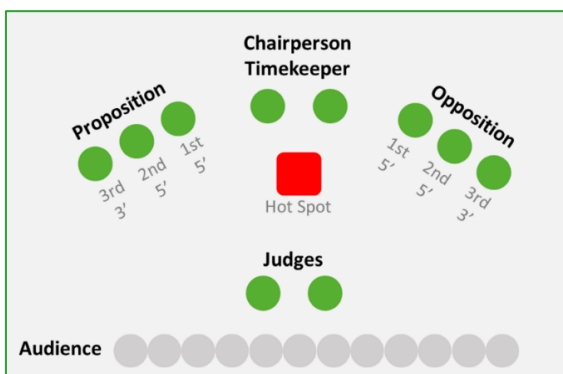In the semi-final and final rounds, the motion and positions are known one hour before the debate.

Debating

Debates take place as described in Figure 1 and Table 1.

Each speaker has a different role in the debate, and summary or rebuttal speakers cannot present new arguments.

Between each intervention, there is a 1-minute break.

Picture 1: Debate Format

Table 1: Speakers' order, time limit, and role

1st Speakers	Proposition	5`	Motion definition Setting issues for debate To present the team's case
	Opposition	5`	
2nd Speakers	Proposition	5`	Handle definition if needed Answer other team arguments Continue building team's case
	Opposition	5`	
Summary speakers	Proposition	3`	Synthesize team's case Refute other team's arguments Close with the final idea
	Opposition	3`	

Adjudication

Two judges assess both teams, using the criteria and score (0-20) presented in Table 2

Code of conduct

a) Value debate as an opportunity to develop empathy, creative and critical thinking

b) Understand debate critical importance for the common good and shared future

c) Acknowledge both team roles in deepening each motion

d) Exercise active listening

e) Show respect for each other at all times and in all roles

f) Comply with the regulation

g) Avoid any insulting or joking remarks that can be easily misinterpreted

h) Contribute to a positive debate environment where everyone's voices and ideas are heard.

Table 2: Adjudication criteria

Attitude	0-8	Ability to listen and respond Relevance of the contribution Relation in the team, with the other teams, and the audience
Content	0-8	Argumentation relevance and strength Rebuttal pertinence and quality Overall compelling and consistent case
Delivery	0-4	Body language Vocal style Rhetoric techniques