



Invitation to participate in a school competition

Finding A New Name For A New European Initiative

Over the next few years, GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security) will become the European system able to provide the information necessary to monitor and forecast the environment. GMES is an ambitious initiative because of the diversity of its components (satellites, ground-based, airborne and waterborne elements) and the wide range of its applications.

Vice-President of the European Commission, Günter Verheugen, would like to find a memorable and attractive name for GMES and has therefore decided to invite schools and colleges in Europe to put their creativity into action and find a new name for this initiative.

We would appreciate it if you could integrate this competition into your school curriculum. It is up to each individual school to determine which subject (e.g. geography, environmental studies, physics, etc.) would be most appropriate to include the topic of GMES. If you accept to participate, we will send you additional information and material about GMES. Once the students have a good understanding of the purpose of GMES and the underlying technologies, they will work as a team to come up with their entry in the competition. You may also wish to use the information to stimulate discussions in class on the role of citizens and governments in addressing these issues.

This competition is addressed to students who are in their two final school years before they start work or university. Through this initiative, we would like to encourage their feeling of European citizenship while involving them in this European programme whose objective is to improve their future environment and security.

The first step to participating in this competition is to register on the dedicated web page (<http://www.gmes-competition.info>) before end of June 2006. In early September, those who have registered will receive the GMES school kit containing a leaflet for teachers, a poster for the classroom and a CD-ROM with a film illustrating different services which will be part of GMES.

You will then have up to the end of October 2006 and each class should submit one entry (new name) with a maximum of 15 lines explaining the choice. The intention is that the name should be the result of a consensus among the class. This will provide students with experience of working as a team.

A jury composed of international experts will select the winning entry. To further promote team spirit, the winning class and its teacher will be rewarded with a trip on a hot air-balloon over its region. This flight will take place in the presence of various European personalities.

We hope that your school will participate in this competition and we would like to thank you in advance for your involvement.

The European Commission competition team

