



ECNAIS

European Council of National Associations of Independent Schools



Debate for
democracy and tolerance

**Promoting
Democracy and
Civic
Engagement**

23rd – 24th

March 2026

**Lisbon,
Portugal**

ECNAIS Student Debate Event | 23rd and 24th March 2026 | Lisbon, Portugal

WELCOME

Dear Participant,

The organizational Committee and ECNAIS welcome you in Lisbon to participate in ECNAIS Student Debate Event 2026

Promoting Democracy and Civic Engagement.

This Event has been organized in good cooperation with the Portuguese member of ECNAIS, AEEP – Portuguese Association of Independent Schools, which guarantees that your stay in Lisbon will be a special one.

We are very pleased that Lisbon is hosting the 2nd Debate Event of ECNAIS, a thrilling city where so much is going on.

Students have debated at their schools and at the national level and now 10 teams from 6 countries will debate in Lisbon, during ECNAIS Student Debate Event 2026.

We wish you an inspirational Event and hope some of the ideas that will be shared may lead you to new thoughts and actions. And please take some extra time to enjoy your stay in the beautiful city of Lisbon.

Best regards,

Monday 23rd March	
AEEP (Av. Defensores de Chaves, n.º 32, 1.º Esq, Lisboa) Colégio Valsassina (Azinhaga da Bela Vista, 2. Quinta das Teresinhas Largo Frederico Valsassina, Lisboa) Gula's for the Kitchen Lovers (Rua Dona Filipa de Vilhena, 18 A, Lisboa)	
17:30/19:30	ECNAIS AGM Open for <u>official ECNAIS members only</u> Location: AEEP headquarters
16:00/16:30	STUDENT REGISTRATION Location: Colégio Valsassina
16:30/19:30	STUDENT MEETING Open to students and accompanying teachers Location: <u>Colégio Valsassina</u>
20:00	Student dinner at Gulas for Kitchen Lovers Open to students and accompanying teachers

Tuesday 24th March	
Colégio Valsassina - Azinhaga da Bela Vista, 2. Quinta das Teresinhas Largo Frederico Valsassina, 1959 - 010 Lisboa Hotel Holiday Inn Lisboa (Av. António José de Almeida, 28 A, Lisbon)	
08:45/09:15	Arrival at Colégio Valsassina
09:15	OPENING SESSION of the event Colégio Valsassina representant AEEP representant ECNAIS Chairman
09:45/10:30	Round 1 of the debate All teams debate
10:30 / 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 / 11:45	Round 2 of the debate All teams debate
12:00 / 13:15	Lunch at the school
13:30 / 14:15	Round 3 of the debate All teams debate
14:30	Announcement of results
14:30 / 16:00	School visit for teachers Activity for students Preparation of the final debate – 2 teams in the final
16:00	Group photo
16:05	Coffee break
16:15 / 17:00	Final debate 2 teams
17:00	Return to hotels
19:30	Official dinner at Hotel Holiday Inn Lisboa

PROGRAM



Democracy and Tolerance

23 - 24 MARCH 2026

LISBON

**PROMOTING DEMOCRACY AND CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT THROUGH STUDENT
DEBATES**

“To promote debate as an educational tool for the development of students’ empathy, critical thinking, and creative thinking. To empower students as active citizens, thus contributing to democracy and tolerance.”

**STUDENT
TEAMS:**

Bulgaria

Czechia

Great Britain

Portugal

Romania

Turkiye



Promoting Democracy and Civic Engagement

23rd and 24th of March 2026

A. General information

- 1) The event will happen in the city of Lisbon, in the rooms of the Colégio Valsassina
- [Link](#)
- 2) The official welcoming session for all the teams (students and teachers) will happen on the 23rd afternoon at 16:30 (local time) in one of the Colégio Valsassina rooms.
- 3) Ten teams from six countries will participate in the event. One of the teams will be off-competition.
- 4) Each teacher is responsible for his group/ team.
- 5) Images and sound will be captured during the event for promotional purposes and may be put online.



B. Debate event information

- 6) The event's rulebook is available at <https://www.ecnais.org/debate/>
- 7) All the teams will participate in three debates (three rounds).
- 8) In each round, five debates will happen simultaneously in different rooms.
- 9) The debate schedule is presented in the following table. Teams will be randomly allocated a letter on the 24th, before round 1.

Rooms	1st debate	2nd debate	3rd debate
1	A – F	D – H	B – J
2	B – G	E – I	C – F
3	C – H	A – J	D – G
4	D – I	B – F	E – H
5	E – J	C – G	A – I

- 10) After each round of debate, the total points for each team will be publicized. After the third round, the two teams with the biggest total scores will debate each other in the final.
- 11) In case of a tie, the sum of each team's total "Attitude" and "Content" scores will decide the winner. The "Attitude" total score will determine the winner if there is still a tie. If the tie persists and a tie-break debate is not possible, the organization will draw lots to decide the winner.
- 12) The two teams going to the final will be announced in the afternoon, after the three debate rounds, as well as each one's position (proposition or opposition).
- 13) In the first three debates, the teams' position (proposition or opposition) is determined by toss of a coin at the beginning of the debate, having 5` to prepare.



C. Teams

Bulgaria (2 teams), Czechia, Great Britain, Portugal (2 teams + 1 off competitions), Romania, Turkiye (2 teams)

D. Motions for the debates

Round	Motion
1 st	Schools should have surveillance cameras in all classrooms and recreation areas
2 nd	Nuclear energy is the best solution for Europe`s energy crisis
3 rd	The EU should have an elected President
Final	Technology is making us smarter

E. Adjudication and chairperson

- 14) The adjudication team is composed of volunteers trained by the organization.
- 15) Chairpersons will be secondary students from a Portuguese school.

F. Code of conduct and rules for protection and care

- 16) ECNAIS' [code of conduct](#) and rules for protection and care with students apply to all persons participating in ECNAIS activities. This applies even thou the responsibility over and for any minor brought by a school remains under the school`s responsibility.
- 17) We attach the ECNAIS Code of Conduct for activities with students that should be announced to all students and adults participating.
- 18) At the beginning of the event, the organization will present the contacts of the two persons responsible for Protection and Care. These persons are: Anke Tästensen and Peter Warnders.



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G. Support

- 19) Debate organization: Nuno Archer debate@ecnaeis.org
- 20) Event organization: secretariat@ecnaeis.org



TEAMS

BULGARIA (TEAM 1)

EVELINA KRASTEVA – TEACHER

KALINA - STUDENT

NIA - STUDENT

IVA - STUDENT



BULGARIA (TEAM 2)

ELKA STAVREVA – TEACHER

MARINA - STUDENT

TAYRA - STUDENT

NEDA - STUDENT



CZECHIA

JOHN WHALLEY – TEACHER

NICOL – STUDENT

ALENA – STUDENT

BARBORA – STUDENT



GREAT BRITAIN

DAVID HAMMOND – TEACHER

RIORDAN – STUDENT

ALEX – STUDENT

ANNABEL – STUDENT



PORTUGAL (TEAM 1)

DANIELA MORAIS – TEACHER

VASCO – STUDENT

GUSTAVO – STUDENT

MATEUS – STUDENT



PORTUGAL (TEAM 2)

JOÃO MIRANDA – TEACHER

MADALENA – STUDENT

MARIA – STUDENT

FRANCISCO – STUDENT



PORTUGAL (TEAM OFF-COMPETITION)

VÍTOR SÁ DIAS – TEACHER

MIGUEL – STUDENT

SOFIA – STUDENT

INÊS – STUDENT



ROMANIA

GEORGIANA POPA-DRAGOMIR – TEACHER

MARA TEODORA – STUDENT

ALEXANDRA MARIA – STUDENT

DARIA – STUDENT





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TURKIYE (TEAM 1)

MEHTAP KAYA – TEACHER

NAZLI DERIN – STUDENT

KUZEY – STUDENT

ATA – STUDENT



TURKIYE (TEAM 2)

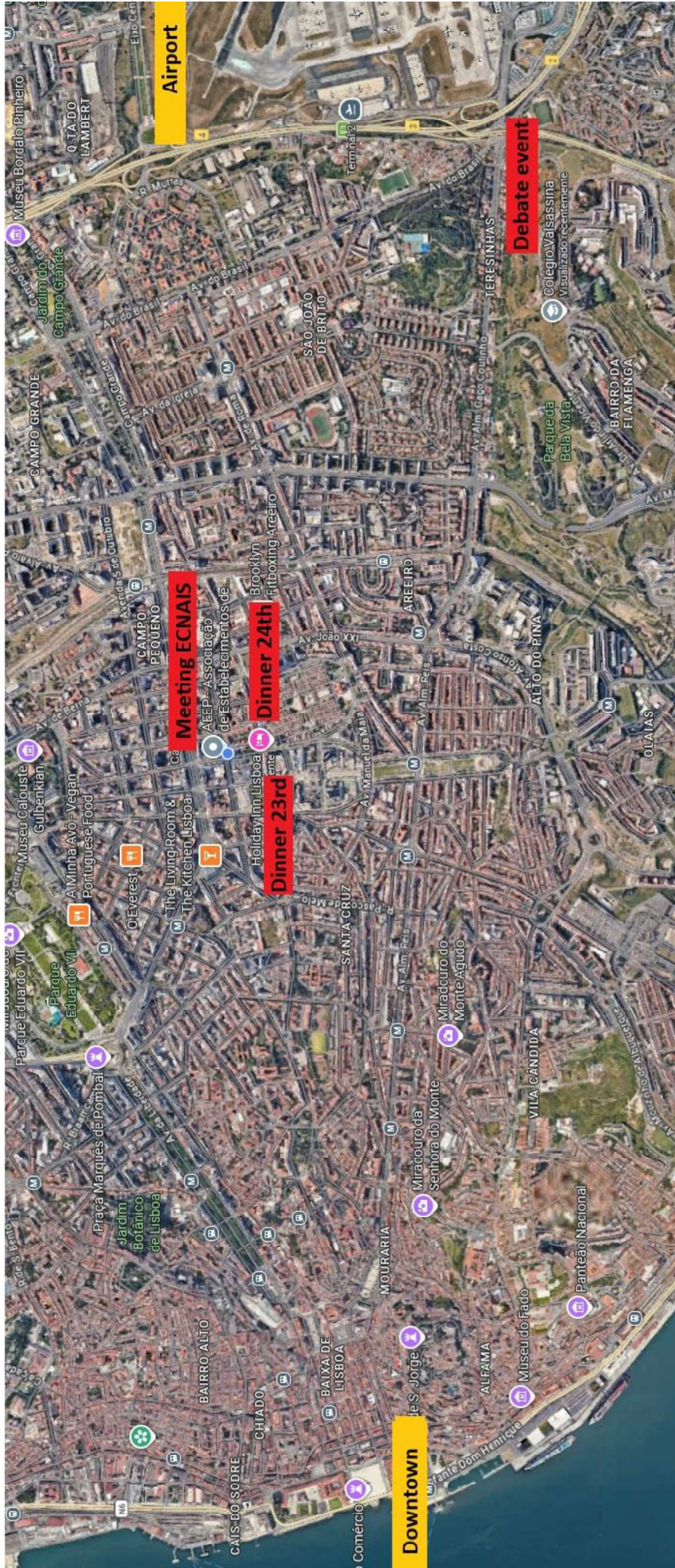
EMRE ERKORKMAZ – TEACHER

TUNA – STUDENT

ALISA ZEYNEP – STUDENT

SALIH – STUDENT





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