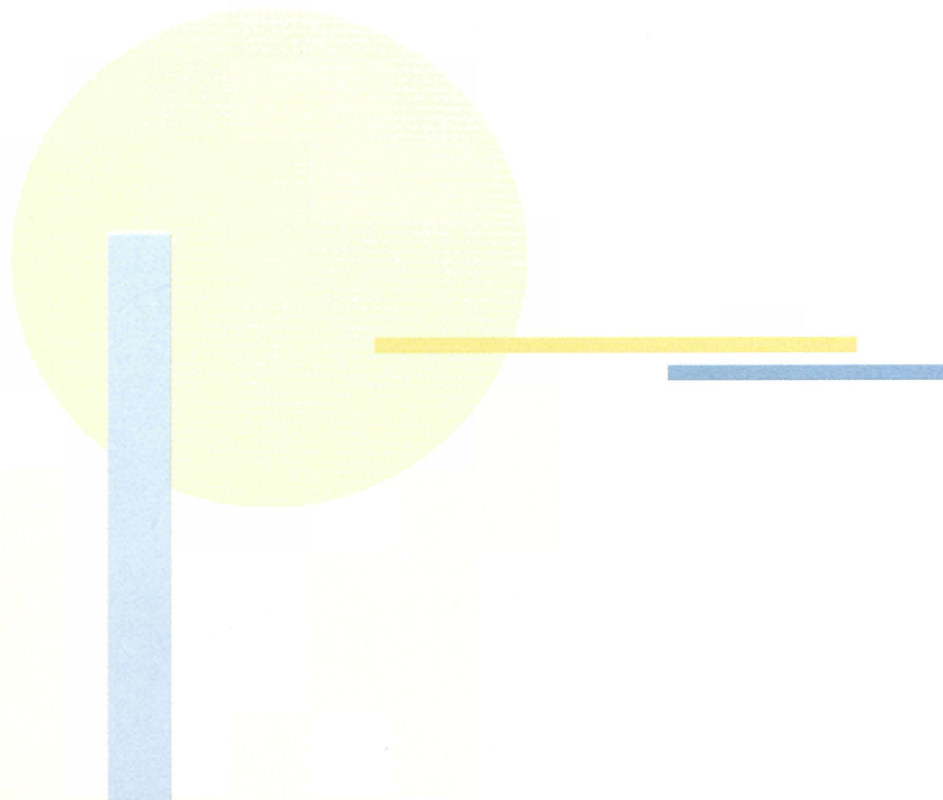




Organisation of School Time in the European Union





Organisation of School Time in the European Union

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The Information Network on Education in Europe

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European Unit of Eurydice
Rue d'Arlon 15
B-1050 Brussels
Tel.: 32-2-238.30.11
Fax: 32-2-230.65.62
E-mail: EURYDICE.UEE@euronet.be

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Foreword

The second edition of the document *Organisation of School Time in the European Union* published by EURYDICE in 1995 contains a set of graphics and tables relating to various data on school time in the European Union.

Most of the aspects presented in this publication, such as the duration of compulsory education and the daily and weekly timetables for primary and secondary education, do not change each year and therefore in most cases remain valid. However, the data on the start and end of the school year and holiday dates change every year. This is why it was necessary to produce a supplement to this second edition in order to provide a regular update of such specific details for those readers concerned. This update covers the 1996/97, 1997/98 and 1998/99 school years for those countries where the information is already available.

In this supplement, we have also taken the opportunity to include corresponding information in relation to the ten Central and Eastern European countries which have joined the EURYDICE network more recently and which were not covered in the 1995 edition.

We would like to express our thanks to all the national units in the EURYDICE network which have provided the necessary information for this update. We will ensure that such supplements are published on a regular basis.

Luce Pépin
Head of the EURYDICE European Unit

September 1997

List of abbreviations used for country names

B fr	Belgium – French Community
B nl	Belgium – Flemish Community
B de	Belgium – German-speaking Community
DK	Denmark
D	Germany
EL	Greece
E	Spain
F	France
IRL	Ireland
I	Italy
L	Luxembourg
NL	Netherlands
A	Austria
P	Portugal
FIN	Finland
S	Sweden
UK	United Kingdom
E/W	England and Wales
NI	Northern Ireland
SC	Scotland
IS	Iceland
LI	Liechtenstein
NO	Norway
BG	Bulgaria
CZ	Czech Republic
HU	Hungary
PL	Poland
RO	Romania
SK	Slovakia
EE	Estonia
LT	Lithuania
LV	Latvia
SL	Slovenia

**TABLE II -
LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL YEAR 1997/98
(PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

COUNTRY	PRIMARY EDUCATION *		SECONDARY EDUCATION	
	Beginning	End	Beginning	End
B fr	1 September	1 July	1 September	1 July
B nl	1 September	1 July	1 September	1 July
B de	1 September	1 July	1 September	1 July
DK (1)	2nd Monday in August	20 June	2nd Monday in August	20 June
D (2)	1 August	31 July	1 August	31 July
EL	11 September	15 June	1 September (3)	30 June (3)
E (4)	15 September at the latest (1st fortnight of September)	1 week before 30 June (end of June)	2nd fortnight of September (5)	1 week before 30 June (end of June)
F	1st fortnight of September	end of June	1st fortnight of September	end of June
IRL (6)	1 September	end of June	1 September	end of May
I (7)	between 11 and 22 September (depending on the regions)	13 June (end of courses); 30 June (end of teaching activities)	between 10 and 22 September (depending on the regions)	13 June (end of courses); 30 June (end of teaching activities)
L	around 15 September	15 July	around 15 September	15 July
NL (8)	1 August	31 July	1 August	31 July
A	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 1 September; the other <i>Länder</i> : 8 September	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 3 July; the other <i>Länder</i> : 10 July	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 1 September and 3 September; the other <i>Länder</i> : 8 September and 10 September	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 3 July; the other <i>Länder</i> : 10 July
P	between 15 and 22 September	between 24 and 30 June	between 15 and 22 September	between 24 and 30 June (9)
FIN (10)	1 August	31 July	1 August	31 July
S (11)	end of August	beginning of June	end of August	beginning of June
UK				
E/W (12)	1st week of September	3rd week of July	1st week of September	3rd week of July
NI (13)	beginning of September	end of June	beginning of September	end of June
SC (14)	3rd week of August	beginning of July	3rd week of August	beginning of July
IS (15)	1 September	31 May	1 September	31 May
LI (16)	18 August	3 July	18 August	3 July
NO	2nd fortnight of August	2nd fortnight of June	2nd fortnight of August	2nd fortnight of June
BG	15 September	24 May for the first year pupils; 30 May for years 2 to 4	15 September	15 June
CZ (17)	1 September	31 August	1 September	31 August
HU	1 September	12 June	1 September	12 June
PL	1 September	19 June	1 September	19 June
RO (18)	15 September	15 June	15 September	15 June
SK	1 September	30 June	1 September	30 June
EE (19)	1 September	31 May	1 September	13 June
LT (20)	1 September	31 May at the earliest; 30 June at the latest	1 September	31 May at the earliest; 30 June at the latest
LV	1 September	29 May	1 September	29 May
SL	1 September	12 June (21)	1 September	12 June (22)

* Primary and lower secondary education organised in a single structure in Denmark (*folkeskole*), Portugal (*ensino básico*), Finland (*peruskoulu*, *grundskola*), Sweden (*grundskola*), Iceland (*grunnskóli*) and Norway (*grunnskole*). This is also the case in Poland, whereas in the Czech Republic, Hungary and the Slovak Republic, the single structure coexists with distinct primary and secondary levels.

- (1) Officially, the school year runs from 1 August of one year to 31 July of the following year. The local education authorities are free to fix their school holidays, with the exception of the first day of the summer holidays.
- (2) In Germany, the summer holidays (of about 6 weeks) in the individual *Länder* are staggered over the period between mid-June and mid-September. The dates are fixed in a long-term agreement by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the *Länder*. Consequently, the actual beginning and end of the school year vary in the *Länder*.
- (3) Includes the examination periods.
- (4) These data concern the regions answerable to the Ministry of Education and Culture. In the Autonomous Communities competent in education matters, the school authorities fix their own dates.

AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES	PRIMARY EDUCATION		SECONDARY EDUCATION	
	Beginning	End	Beginning	End
Andalucía	The dates of the beginning and end of the school year vary according to the province.			
Canarias	15 September	30 June	ESO (1st stage): 16 September rest of secondary education: 1 October	30 June
Cataluña	15 September	19 June	17 September	19 June
Galicia	15 September	23 June	29 September	23 June
Navarra	9 September	23 June	9 September	23 June
País Vasco (a)	1 September at the earliest	30 June at the latest	1 September at the earliest	30 June at the latest
Valencia	15 September	26 June	25 September	19 June

(a) País Vasco: taking into account that the school year comprises 176 days in primary education and 175 days in secondary education.

- (5) 1st stage of compulsory secondary education: 22 September.
2nd stage of compulsory secondary education and upper secondary education: 29 or 30 September.
- (6) Officially, the school year runs from 1 September of one year to 31 August of the following year (primary education) and from 1 August to 31 July (secondary education).
- (7) Officially, the school year runs from 1 September of one year to 31 August of the following year. Actual teaching, including time spent on assessment and examinations, takes place between 1 September and 30 June (with the exception of the final upper secondary examinations which may also be held in the month of July). The effective dates of the start of classes are those fixed by the regional authorities.
- (8) The dates of the beginning and end of the summer holidays are fixed by the Minister; they vary according to region, based on the principle of staggering school holidays.
For 1997:

	PRIMARY EDUCATION		SECONDARY EDUCATION	
- North Region	28 June	10 August	28 June	17 August
- Central Region	5 July	17 August	5 July	24 August
- South Region	19 July	31 August	12 July	31 August

- (9) 9 June for the 12th year of schooling.
- (10) According to the law on the *peruskoulu*, the school year starts on 1 August and ends on 31 July. There are, however, according to the same law, 190 school days in the school year. Teaching in schools begins in August. The municipalities (local authorities) decide the exact starting date (usually in the middle of August). Work ends on the last working day in week 22 (usually, end of May or beginning of June).
- (11) The dates of the beginning and end of the school year are decided by the municipalities.

-
- (12) In England and Wales, the school year officially runs from 1 September of one year to 31 August of the following year. The teaching year normally runs from the first week in September to the third week in July, giving about six weeks' holidays in the summer. The precise dates of school opening are left to the discretion of the local education authorities or the school governing bodies; there is therefore variation between schools and regions. There is, however, little variation from one year to another.
 - (13) In Northern Ireland, the school year runs from the beginning of September to the end of June. The actual dates are decided by the Education and Library Boards, the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and/or the School Board of Governors depending on the type of school.
 - (14) The starting date of the school year is a matter for local authorities to agree, according to local conditions, customs and climatic requirements.
 - (15) During the school year 1996/97, exemption from the 9-month school year was granted to 7 compulsory schools (*grunnskóli* which cover ten years between the ages of 6 and 16). These schools are all located in rural areas and their school year extends over 8 1/2 months.
 - (16) The school year starts on 17 August and ends on the first weekend in July (beginning of the summer holidays). The school year thus comprises approximately 40 weeks of classes.
This structure of the school year and the holiday schedule applies to all types of educational institutions and to all schools throughout the country.
 - (17) Officially, the school year runs from 1 September of one year to 31 August of the following year. The effective dates of the beginning and end of the school year are fixed by the Ministry of Education. Usually, the school year begins the first Monday of September and ends the last Friday of June. The school holidays are fixed by the Ministry of Education.
 - (18) For the last year of upper secondary education, the school year finishes at the end of April or beginning of May, followed by the school leaving examination in June.
 - (19) Generally, the school year starts on 1 September. The date of the beginning of the school year is decided by the municipalities. The date of the end of the school year is fixed by the Ministry of Education.
 - (20) The school year may not end earlier than 31 May. Years 1 to 5 can finish only after at least 170 school days, years 6 to 12, after at least 195 school days. These days include examination sessions and national holidays if they occur on working days. Variations depend on the school authorities, but the school year must not end before 31 May or after 30 June.
 - (21) The last day of school for pupils finishing primary education is 12 June in 1997/98. External examinations run from 26 to 27 May and from 9 to 10 June.
 - (22) The last day of school for pupils finishing secondary education is 5 June in 1997/98. *Matura* and final examinations run to 4 July in 1997/98.

**TABLE II -
LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL YEAR 1998/99
(PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

COUNTRY	PRIMARY EDUCATION*		SECONDARY EDUCATION	
	Beginning	End	Beginning	End
B fr	1 September	30 June	1 September	30 June
B nl	1 September	**	1 September	**
B de	1 September	30 June	1 September	30 June
DK (1)	2nd Monday in August	20 June	2nd Monday in August	20 June
D (2)	1 August	31 July	1 August	31 July
EL	11 September	15 June	1 September (3)	30 June (3)
E (4)	1st fortnight of September	end of June	2nd fortnight of September	end of June
F	1st week of September	end of June	1st fortnight of September	end of June
IRL (5)	1 September	end of May	1 September	end of May
I (6)	between the 2nd and the 3rd week of September	**	between the 2nd and the 3rd week of September	**
L	around 15 September	15 July	around 15 September	15 July
NL (7)	1 August	31 July	1 August	31 July
A	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 7 September; the other <i>Länder</i> : 14 September	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 2 July; the other <i>Länder</i> : 9 July	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 7 September and 9 September; the other <i>Länder</i> : 14 September and 16 September	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 2 July; the other <i>Länder</i> : 9 July
P	**	**	**	**
FIN (8)	1 August	31 July	1 August	31 July
S (9)	end of August	beginning of June	end of August	beginning of June
UK				
E/W (10)	1st week of September	3rd week of July	1st week of September	3rd week of July
NI (11)	beginning of September	end of June	beginning of September	end of June
SC (12)	3rd week of August	beginning of July	3rd week of August	beginning of July
IS (13)	1 September	31 May	1 September	31 May
LI (14)	17 August	2 July	17 August	2 July
NO	2nd fortnight of August	2nd fortnight of June	2nd fortnight of August	2nd fortnight of June
BG	15 September	24 May for the first year pupils 30 May for the years 2 to 4	15 September	15 June
CZ (15)	1 September	31 August	1 September	31 August
HU	**	**	**	**
PL	1 September	** (16)	1 September	**
RO (17)	15 September	15 June	15 September	15 June
SK	1 September	30 June	1 September	30 June
EE (18)	**	**	**	**
LT (19)	1 September	31 May at the earliest; 30 June at the latest	1 September	31 May at the earliest; 30 June at the latest
LV (20)	1 September	end of May	1 September	end of May
SL	1 September	15 June (21)	1 September	18 June (22)

* Primary and lower secondary education organised in a single structure in Denmark (*folkeskole*), Portugal (*ensino básico*), Finland (*peruskoulu*, *grundskola*), Sweden (*grundskola*), Iceland (*grunnskóli*) and Norway (*grunnskole*). This is also the case in Poland, whereas in the Czech Republic, Hungary and the Slovak Republic, the single structure coexists with distinct primary and secondary levels.

** Dates unknown at time of going to press — these will be fixed by the competent authorities towards the end of the preceding school year.

- (1) See note (1) of Table II 1997/98.
 (2) See note (2) of Table II 1997/98.
 (3) See note (3) of Table II 1997/98.
 (4) See note (4) of Table II 1997/98.
 (5) See note (6) of Table II 1997/98.
 (6) See note (7) of Table II 1997/98.
 (7) The dates of the beginning and end of the summer holidays are fixed by the Minister; they vary according to region, based on the principle of staggering school holidays.
 For 1998:

	PRIMARY EDUCATION		SECONDARY EDUCATION	
- North Region	11 July	23 August	11 July	30 August
- Central Region	4 July	16 August	4 July	23 August
- South Region	25 July	6 September	18 July	6 September

- (8) See note (10) of Table II 1997/98.
 (9) See note (11) of Table II 1997/98.
 (10) See note (12) of Table II 1997/98.
 (11) See note (13) of Table II 1997/98.
 (12) See note (14) of Table II 1997/98.
 (13) See note (15) of Table II 1997/98.
 (14) The school year starts on 18 August and ends on the first weekend of July (beginning of the summer holidays). The school year thus comprises approximately 40 weeks of classes.
 This structure of the school year and holiday schedule applies to all types of educational institutions and to all schools throughout the country.
 (15) See note (17) of Table II 1997/98.
 (16) The organisation of school time is decided on an annual basis (no later than the end of May of the preceding school year). The date of the end of the school year is usually fixed according to the following rule "the first Friday after 18 June". In 1999, 18 June falls on a Friday. It is not clear at present whether the school year will end on 18 June or one of the days in the following week.
 (17) See note (18) of Table II 1997/98.
 (18) See note (19) of Table II 1997/98.
 (19) See note (20) of Table II 1997/98.
 (20) The beginning and end of the 1998/99 school year have not yet been decided by the Ministry of Education and Science. These are only possible dates.
 (21) The last day of school for pupils finishing primary education is 15 June in 1998/99. External examinations run from 26 to 27 May and from 9 to 10 June.
 (22) The last day of school for pupils finishing secondary education is 4 June in 1998/99. *Matura* and final examinations run to 3 July in 1998/99.

**TABLE III -
STARTING DATES OF THE SCHOOL YEAR IN
1996/97, 1997/98 AND 1998/99
(PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

COUNTRY	1996/1997		1997/1998		1998/1999	
B fr B nl B de	2 September		1 September		1 September	
DK	12 August		11 August		10 August	
D	1 August		4 August		20 August	
Schleswig-Holstein	1 August		7 August		20 August	
Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	5 August		4 August		24 August	
Berlin, Brandenburg	8 August		28 August		3 September	
Niedersachsen, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Thüringen	12 August		1 September		7 September	
Bremen	19 August		18 August		10 August	
Nordrhein-Westfalen	29 August		4 September		27 August	
Saarland	2 September		8 September		31 August	
Hessen, Rheinland-Pfalz	9 September		15 September		14 September	
Baden-Württemberg	16 September		16 September		15 September	
Bayern						
EL (1)	11 September		11 September		11 September	
E	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
MEC (**)	between 11 and 13 September		15 September at the latest (1st fortnight of September)	2nd fortnight of September		
Autonomous Communities (with competencies in education)	between 11 and 15 September	2nd fortnight of September	1st fortnight of September	between 9 September and 1 October	1st fortnight of September	2nd fortnight of September
F	3 September (schools and <i>collèges</i>) 11 September (<i>lycées</i>)		4 September (schools and <i>collèges</i>) 11 September (<i>lycées</i>)		3 September (schools and <i>collèges</i>) 10 September (<i>lycées</i>)	
IRL	2 September		1 September		1 September	
I	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	between 2nd and 3rd week of September (*)	
	between 11 and 18 September (according to the region)	between 10 and 18 September (according to the region)	between 11 and 22 September (according to the region)	between 10 and 22 September (according to the region)		
L	15 September		15 September		15 September	
NL	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
North Region	12 August	19 August	11 August	18 August	24 August	31 August
Central Region	2 September	2 September	18 August	25 August	17 August	24 August
South Region	19 August	26 August	1 September	1 September	7 September	7 September
A	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 2 and 4 September; all other <i>Länder</i> : 9 and 11 September		Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 1 and 3 September; all other <i>Länder</i> : 8 and 10 September		Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 7 and 9 September; all other <i>Länder</i> : 14 and 16 September	
P	between 16 and 20 September		between 15 and 22 September		(*)	
FIN (2)	mid-August		mid-August		mid-August	
S (3)						
UK	generally between 1 and 15 September		generally between 1 and 15 September		generally between 1 and 15 September	
E/W/NI (4)	between 13 and 27 August		between 19 and 26 August		(5)	
SC						

(*) The starting date of the school year is only fixed by the competent authorities towards the end of the preceding school year.
(**) MEC: under the responsibility of the Education Ministry.

COUNTRY	1996/1997		1997/1998		1998/1999	
	Primary and lower secondary	Upper secondary	Primary and lower secondary	Upper secondary	Primary and lower secondary	Upper secondary
IS	between 1 and 15 September	1 September	between 1 and 15 September	1 September	between 1 and 15 September	1 September
LI	19 August		18 August		17 August	
NO	between 15 and 20 August		between 15 and 20 August		between 15 and 20 August	
BG	15 September		15 September		15 September	
CZ	1 September (2 September)		1 September		1 September	
HU	2 September		1 September		(*)	
PL	2 September		1 September		1 September	
RO	15 September		15 September		15 September	
SK	2 September		2 September		2 September	
EE	2 September		1 September		(*)	
LT	1 September		1 September		1 September	
LV	2 September		1 September		1 September	
SL	2 September		1 September		1 September	

- (1) Excluding the examinations period.
- (2) Starting dates of the school year are decided by the local authorities.
- (3) Starting dates are decided by the local authorities (municipalities). Therefore, dates vary according to the municipality and in some cases even between the various schools of a municipality. Generally, schools start at mid-August and at the end of August.
- (4) Actual dates decided at local and/or school level (see notes 12 and 13 of Table II).
- (5) Information not available until the end of 1997.

**TABLE V -
LENGTH AND DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL HOLIDAYS OVER THE SCHOOL YEAR 1997/98
(PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

COUNTRY	SUMMER	AUTUMN	CHRISTMAS	WINTER / CARNIVAL	SPRING / EASTER	3rd TERM	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL HOLIDAYS
B fr	Around 9 weeks (1 July to 31 August).	1 week (27 October to 2 November).	2 weeks (starting on the Monday of Christmas week).	1 week in February.	2 weeks.		4 public holidays + 1 day or 2 half-days as the schools or organising powers choose.
B nl	Around 9 weeks (1 July to 31 August).	1 week (27 October to 2 November).	2 weeks (22 December to 4 January).	1 week (23 February to 1 March).	2 weeks. In the Flemish Community, when Easter falls in March, the holidays start on the Monday following Easter.	21 to 22 May.	In primary education, 2 days or 4 half-days. In secondary education, 1 day or 2 half-days.
B de	Around 8 weeks (beginning of July to end of August).	1 week (starting on the Monday of the week of 1 November).	2 weeks (starting on the Monday of Christmas week).	1 week (starting on the 7th Monday before Easter).	2 weeks around Easter.		Around 5 public holidays + 1 to 3 optional days.
DK	Around 7 weeks (21 June to 10 August).	1 week.	2 weeks.	1 week in mid-February (winter holidays). (1)	6 school days.		3 public holidays between Easter and summer holidays + 2 optional days.
D	6 weeks (staggered between mid-June and mid-September).	4 to 10 days.	5 to 10 days.	1 to 10 days (not in all <i>Länder</i>) (winter holidays). (2)	4 to 13 days.	1 to 10 days (not in all <i>Länder</i>).	14 days of national, religious or local holidays, depending on the <i>Land</i> .
EL Primary education	Around 12 weeks (16 June to 10 September).		2 weeks.		2 weeks.		Around 7 days of national, local or religious holidays.
Secondary education	Around 9 weeks (1 July to 31 August). (3)		2 weeks.		2 weeks.		Around 7 days of national, local or religious holidays.
E Primary education	Around 11 weeks (end of June to 1st fortnight of September)						
Secondary education	Around 12 weeks (end of June to 2nd fortnight of September).		Around 15 days.	3 days in February.	Around 8 days.		Around 7 public holidays per year.
F	2 months (staggered between end of June/beginning of July and 1st week of September).	10 days.	2 weeks.	2 weeks.	2 weeks.		3 to 5 public holidays between Easter and the summer holidays.

COUNTRY	SUMMER	AUTUMN	CHRISTMAS	WINTER / CARNIVAL	SPRING / EASTER	3rd TERM	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL HOLIDAYS
IRL Primary education Secondary education	Around 9 weeks (end of June to 1 September). Around 13 weeks (end of May to 1 September).	Around 1 week (end of October). (4)	Around 10 days.		Around 10 days.		16 days of bank and religious holidays. (5)
I	Around 9 weeks (30 June to 1 September). (6)		Around 2 weeks.		Around 1 week.		5 public holidays.
L	Around 9 weeks (from mid-July to mid-September).	1 week.	2 weeks.	1 week.	2 weeks.	1 week at Whitsun.	3 public holidays between Easter and the summer holidays.
NL Primary education Secondary education	6 weeks (staggered between beginning July and beginning September). 7 weeks (staggered between beginning July and beginning September).	1 week in October. 1 week in October.	2 weeks. 2 weeks.	1 week in February or 1 week in March (spring holidays). 1 week in February or 1 week in March (spring holidays).	Easter Monday. Easter Monday.	1 to 2 weeks end of April/beginning of May. 1 to 2 weeks end of April/beginning of May.	8 public holidays. 8 public holidays.
A	9 weeks and in some cases 2 days (at intermediate and higher secondary level, before the first or second Wednesday in September).		2 weeks.	1 week (varying in the individual <i>Länder</i> , starting either on the first, second or third Monday in February).	9 days (from Monday before Easter to Tuesday after Easter).	2 days (Monday and Tuesday after Whitsun)	7 public and religious holidays, 1 holiday on the Patron Saint's Day in the various <i>Länder</i> . The schools and the school authorities can reserve up to 8 school days per year for various reasons.
P	Around 11 weeks.	3 days.	2 weeks.	3 days.	2 weeks.		Around 5 public holidays.
FIN (7)	Around 10 weeks.	2 days (duration and date decided by the local authorities).	10 days minimum.	1 week staggered according to the region between end of February and mid- March, depending on the decision of the municipality.	Depending on the decision of the municipality.		Around 4 public holidays and 3 days at Easter.
S	Around 10 weeks. (8)		Around 3 weeks. (8)	1 week. (9)	1 week. (10)		Around 4 public holidays between Easter and the summer holidays.
UK E/W NI SC	Approximately 6 weeks. Approximately 8 weeks. 6 weeks.	Approximately 1 week (end of October). Varies. 1 week (mid-October).	Approximately 2 weeks. Approximately 2 weeks. 2 weeks.	Approximately 1 week. Varies.	Approximately 2 weeks. Approximately 2 weeks. 2 weeks.	Approximately 1 week in May. Varies.	(11) Around 8 public holidays (local/bank holidays, long week- ends).

COUNTRY	SUMMER	AUTUMN	CHRISTMAS	WINTER / CARNIVAL	SPRING / EASTER	3rd TERM	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL HOLIDAYS
IS	13 weeks (1 June to 31 August). (12)		2 weeks.		11 days (from the Saturday before Palm Sunday up to and including the Tuesday after Easter).		Primary and lower secondary: 3 to 4 public holidays, 5 teachers' "preparation days". (12) Upper secondary: 3 to 4 public holidays, 2 school holidays.
LI	6 weeks.	2 weeks.	Around 2 weeks.	Around 1 1/2 weeks.	Around 2 1/2 weeks.		9 to 12 days.
NO	Around 8 weeks.	1 week.	2 weeks.	1 week in mid-February (winter holidays).	1 week and 2 days.		3 to 4 public holidays.
BG (13)	25 May to 14 September (year 2); 1 June to 14 September (years 3 and 4); 16 June to 14 September (years 5 to 8); 1 July to 14 September (years 9 to 11).	3 days for first year pupils.	2 weeks (24 December to 6 January).	2 days (6 and 7 February).	2 weeks (16 to 28 April).		10 public holidays.
CZ	9 weeks.	2 days.	Around 10 days.	1 day in February.	1 week (spring). 2 days (Easter).		10 public and religious holidays.
HU	2 1/2 months.		2 weeks.	3 to 5 days. (14)	1 1/2 weeks.	1 day at Whitsun.	3 days.
PL	10 weeks.		1 week. 10 days	2 weeks.	6 days (from Easter Thursday to the following Tuesday).		6 days + 3 optional days.
RO	3 months.		2 weeks.		2 weeks.		4 days.
SK	Around 9 weeks (from end of June to 1 September).	2 days (end of October).	10 to 13 days.	1 day at the end of the first term (31 January).	1 week (between mid-February and mid-March), the date varies according to the region.		12 public and religious holidays.
EE	Primary: 12 weeks. Secondary: 10 weeks.	Primary: 5 days. Secondary: 5 days.	Primary: 2 weeks. Secondary: 2 weeks.		Primary: around 9 days. Secondary: around 9 days.		
LT	The summer holidays cannot last less than 2 months (1 July to 1 September).	1 week.	2 weeks.		1 week.		4 days public holidays.
LV	Around 13 weeks.	1 week at the end of October. (15)	2 weeks.	1 week in February for year 1. (15)	1 week (23 to 29 March).		10 public holidays (8 of them fall during school holidays). (16)

COUNTRY	SUMMER	AUTUMN	CHRISTMAS	WINTER / CARNIVAL	SPRING / EASTER	3rd TERM	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL HOLIDAYS
SL	Around 10 weeks (from the last day of school work to the end of August).	1 week. (17)	9 days (from 25 December to 2 January).	1 week. (18)	2 days at Easter and from 27 April to 2 May. (19)		8 February (Culture Day). Primary schools fix 1 additional day off school by year. Pupils in primary and secondary education can take 5 additional days off school of their own choice (in consultation with their parents).

- (1) Depending on the schools.
- (2) The length of the shorter holiday periods is fixed by the individual *Länder* within the total number of 75 days of holiday per school year.
- (3) From 1 to 10 September: examination resits.
- (4) Most schools take a mid-term break of one week's duration towards the end of October. This is usually arranged around one public holiday (last Monday in October) and one religious holiday (1 November).
- (5) Includes public and religious holidays which occur during school holidays, e. g. first Monday in August (bank holiday) and 15 August (religious holiday).
- (6) Including the examinations period, but excluding the *Maturità*.
- (7) The length of holidays depends on when the school year starts.
- (8) Depending on the schools.
- (9) Varies from mid-February to mid-March in the different parts of the country.
- (10) The week before or after Easter. Varies in the different parts of the country.
- (11) All public holidays fall during school holidays with the exception of the May Day holiday (first Monday in May).
- (12) The summer holidays of children attending *grunnskólar* operating for 8 and 8 1/2 months are longer. There are no winter holidays as such in these schools, but pupils have one week in December and another one in February. Teachers are entitled classes for 12 "preparation days" during the school year in *grunnskólar*.
- (13) Data from 1996/97. Holidays almost always have the same length and distribution, with the exception of the Easter holidays which start according to the Bulgarian orthodox religion.
- (14) Not regulated officially (at Ministry level).
- (15) The dates are fixed by the municipalities for the schools answerable to the municipalities and by the Ministry of Education and Science for the schools answerable to that Ministry.
- (16) 1 May and 18 November (national holidays) do not occur during school holidays.
- (17) Including national holidays of 31 October (Reformation Day) and 1 November (Remembrance Day).
- (18) Starting on the Monday of the third week in February in half of the regions (Ljubljana and Maribor) and on the Monday of the fourth week in February in the regions.
- (19) From 27 April (national Resistance Day) until the end of the public holidays of 1 and 2 May (Labour Day).



EURYDICE

The Information Network on Education in Europe

OBJECTIVES

The role of the EURYDICE network, the information network on education in Europe, is to promote the exchange of information on education systems and on national policies in the field of education. It contributes to increasing mutual understanding and cooperation between the 15 Member States of the European Union.¹

ORIGIN AND HISTORY

In 1976, when the Council and the Education Ministers adopted the Resolution on a first programme for cooperation in the field of education, they gave recognition to the importance, in this context, of exchanges of information and experience. It was on this basis that the EURYDICE network was set up and became operational in 1980. Ten years later, in 1990, the Council and the Ministers adopted a Resolution dealing specifically with EURYDICE and calling for a reinforcement of its services. The Maastricht Treaty (Treaty on European Union) marked an important step forward, providing in the new Chapter 3, Article 126, for developing exchanges of information and experience on issues common to the education systems of the Member States. It has thus opened up for EURYDICE new prospects of which the Community education programme, SOCRATES, adopted on 14 March 1995, takes full account (Annex, Chapter III, Action 3, point 2). It is under this Programme that the development of EURYDICE will be assured from now on.

ORGANISATION AND ACTIVITIES

The network comprises **National Units**, most of which are located in the Ministries of Education. The **European Unit**, established by the European Commission, coordinates the network's activities, publications and services. It also promotes exchanges between the National Units to meet the information needs of national and Community policymakers. On the basis of contributions from the network, it produces basic documents and comparative analyses on topics of interest to cooperation at Community level. EURYDICE is also increasingly called upon to fulfil the role of an "Observatory", in relation to the development of the education systems and policies in the European Union. Through the dissemination of its publications, the EURYDICE network also reaches a wide public in the education world.

SERVICES AND PRODUCTS

- Database on the education systems (EURYBASE).
- Various publications on education.

EURYDICE European Unit
Rue d'Arlon 15
B-1050 BRUSSELS
Tel. 32 2 238.30.11
Fax 32 2 230.65.62

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¹ Under the Agreement on the European Economic Area, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein are participating in the activities of the EURYDICE network in the same way as the Member States of the European Union. Moreover, from 1996, the network activities are open to the central and eastern European countries and to Cyprus.

European Commission

EURYDICE NETWORK

Editing of the document
Eurydice European Unit
Rue d'Arlon 15
B-1050 Brussels
Tel.: 32-2-238.30.11
Telefax: 32-2-230.65.62
E-mail: EURYDICE.UEE@euronet.be

Coordination and finalisation of the study: María Luisa García Mínguez

Data provided by the Eurydice National Units

UNITS OF THE EURYDICE NETWORK

European Union

BELGIQUE / BELGIE

Unité Belge d'Eurydice (Communauté française)
Ministère de l'Éducation, de la Recherche et de la Formation
Secrétariat Général
Cité Administrative de l'État
Boulevard Pachéco 19, Bte 0, 7e étage
B-1010 Bruxelles
Tel.: 32-2-210.55.29
Telefax: 32-2-210.55.38

Belgische Eurydice-Eenheid (Vlaamse Gemeenschap)
Ministerie van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap
Departement Onderwijs
Afdeling Beleidsgerichte Coördinatie
RAC Arcadengebouw – lokaal 3063
B-1010 Brussel
Tel.: 32-2-210.51.36
Telefax: 32-2-210.53.72

Ministerium der deutschsprachigen Gemeinschaft
Agentur Eurydice / Agentur für Europäische Programme
Gospertstrasse 1-5
B-4700 Eupen
Tel.: 32-87-55.38.78
Telefax: 32-87-55.77.16

DANMARK

Eurydice's Informationskontor i Danmark
Undervisningsministeriet
Frederiksholms Kanal 21
DK-1220 København K
Tel.: 45-33-92.52.01
Telefax: 45-33-92.55.27

BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND

Eurydice – Informationsstelle beim
Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft,
Forschung und Technologie
Heinemannstrasse 2
D-53175 Bonn
Tel.: 49-228-57.28.34
Telefax: 49-228-57.20.96

Eurydice – Informationsstelle der Länder
im Sekretariat der Kultusministerkonferenz
Lennéstrasse 6
D-53113 Bonn
Tel.: 49-228-50.12.70
Telefax: 49-228-50.12.29

ELLADA

Ministry of National Education
and Religious Affairs
Mitropoleos 15
GR-10185 Athens
Tel.: 30-1-32.37.480
Telefax: 30-1-32.20.767

ESPAÑA

Ministerio de Educación y Cultura
CIDE – Centro de Investigación
y Documentación Educativa
c/General Oráa 55
E-28006 Madrid
Tel.: 34-1-562.11.90
Telefax: 34-1-563.18.42

FRANCE

Unité d'Eurydice
Ministère de l'Éducation nationale, de la Recherche et de la
Technologie
Délégation aux Relations internationales et à la Coopération
Sous-Direction des Relations internationales et
de la Coopération de l'enseignement scolaire
Bureau de l'information sur les systèmes éducatifs et
la reconnaissance des diplômes
Rue de Grenelle 110
F-75357 Paris
Tel.: 33-1-40.65.67.66
Telefax: 33-1-45.44.57.87

IRELAND

Eurydice Unit
International Section
Department of Education
6th floor – Apollo House
Tara Street
Dublin 2
Ireland
Tel.: 353-1-873.47.00
Telefax: 353-1-679.13.15

ITALIA

Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione
Biblioteca di Documentazione Pedagogica
Palazzo Gerini
Via Buonarroti 10
I-50122 Firenze
Tel.: 39-55-238.03.25
Telefax: 39-55-238.03.30

LUXEMBOURG

Unité d'Eurydice
Centre de Psychologie et d'Orientation Scolaire
Route de Longwy 280
L-1940 Luxembourg
Tel.: 352-45.64.64.604
Telefax: 352-45.45.44

NEDERLAND

Eurydice Eenheid Nederland
Bibliotheek en Documentatie
Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschappen
Postbus 25000 – Europaweg 4
Station 333 Kamer H150
2700 LZ Zoetermeer
Nederland
Tel.: 31-79-323.35.02
Telefax: 31-79-323.48.23

ÖSTERREICH

Bundesministerium für Unterricht und
kulturelle Angelegenheiten
Abt. I/6b
Minoritenplatz 5
A-1014 Wien
Tel.: 43-1-53.12.03.520
Telefax: 43-1-53.12.03.535

PORTUGAL

Unidade de Eurydice
Ministério da Educação
Departamento de Avaliação, Prospectiva e Planeamento (DAPP)
Av. 24 de Julho 134
P-1350 Lisboa
Tel.: 351-1-395.75.97
Telefax: 351-1-395.76.10

EFTA/EEA Countries**ISLAND**

Ministry of Culture and Education
Division of Evaluation and Supervision
Eurydice Unit
Sölvholsgata 4
IS-150 Reykjavik
Tel.: 354-560.95.66
Telefax: 354-562.30.68

LIECHTENSTEIN

National Unit of Eurydice
Schulamt
Herrengasse 2
FL-9490 Vaduz
Tel.: 41-75-236.67.58
Telefax: 41-75-236.67.71

NORGE

Royal Norwegian Ministry of Education,
Research and Church Affairs
Eurydice Unit
P.O. Box 8119 Dep.
N-0032 Oslo
Tel.: 47-22-24.74.47
Telefax: 47-22-24.27.30

SUOMI/FINLAND

Eurydice Finland
National Board of Education
P.O. Box 380
SF-00531 Helsinki
Tel.: 358-9-77.47.71.38
Telefax: 358-9-77.47.78.69

SVERIGE

Eurydice Unit
Ministry of Education and Science
Drottninggatan 16
S-10333 Stockholm
Tel.: 46-8-405.17.52
Telefax: 46-8-20.32.55

UNITED KINGDOM

Eurydice Unit London
National Foundation for Educational Research
The Mere, Upton Park
Slough, Berkshire SL1 2DQ
United Kingdom
Tel.: 44-1753-57.41.23
Telefax: 44-1753-53.14.58

Eurydice Unit Scotland
International Relations Branch
Scottish Office Education and Industry Department
Floor 1 Area B Victoria Quay
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ
United Kingdom
Tel.: 44-131-244.09.14
Telefax: 44-131-244.55.81

Central and Eastern European Countries

BULGARIA

Eurydice Unit
Equivalence and Mobility in Education Division
International Relations Department
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
2A, Knjaz, Dondukov Bld
1000 Sofia
Tel.: 359-2-831.521
Telefax: 359-2-9880.600

CZECH REPUBLIC

Eurydice Unit
Institute for Information on Education
UIV/IE
Senovazné nam. 26
Praha 1, 111 21
Tel.: 420-2-24.398.449
Telefax: 420-2-26.71.37

HUNGARY

Eurydice Unit
Ministry of Education
Szalay u. 10-14
1054 Budapest
Tel.: 36-1-302.00.36
Telefax: 36-1-302.00.36

ESTONIA

Eurydice Unit
Ministry of Education
Tõnismägi Street 9/11
0100 Tallinn
Tel.: 372-6-282.286
Telefax: 372-6-311.213

LATVIA

Eurydice Unit
Ministry of Education and Science
Valnu iela 2
1050 Riga
Tel.: 371-721.29.23
Telefax: 371-721.39.92

Others

CYPRUS

Eurydice Unit
Ministry of Education and Culture
Pedagogical Institute
Latsia
P.O. Box 12720
2252 Nicosia
Tel.: 357-2-480.491
Telefax: 357-2-480.505

POLAND

Eurydice Unit
Institute for Educational Research
Documentation and Information Unit
Gorzewska 8
01-180 Warszawa
Tel.: 48-22-632.18.95
Telefax: 48-22-632.18.95

ROMANIA

Socrates National Agency
Eurydice Unit
1 Schitu Magureanu, 1-2nd floor
70626 Bucarest
Tel.: 40-1-311.35.05
Telefax: 40-1-311.35.00

SLOVAKIA

Eurydice Unit
Ustav Informacii a prognoz skolstva mladeze a telovychovy
Institute of Information and Prognoses of Education
Staré grundy 52
842 44 Bratislava
Tel.: 421-7-726.495
Telefax: 421-7-721.048

LITHUANIA

Eurydice Unit
Ministry of Education and Science
A. Volano St. 2/7
2691 Vilnius
Tel.: 370-2-610.034
Telefax: 370-2-612.077

SLOVENIA

Eurydice Unit
Department of International Cooperation
Ministry of Education and Sport
Zupancejeva 6
1000 Ljubljana
Tel.: 386-61-1323.225
Telefax: 386-61-1327.212

EURYDICE EUROPEAN UNIT
Rue d'Arlon 15
B-1050 Brussels