



## Organisation of school time in Europe

Primary and general secondary education

School year 2001/02





# ORGANISATION OF SCHOOL TIME IN EUROPE

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**SCHOOL YEAR 2001/2002**

**PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

- **LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL YEAR**
- **STARTING DATES OF THE SCHOOL YEAR**
- **SCHOOL HOLIDAYS OVER THE SCHOOL YEAR**

**SEPTEMBER 2001**

**TABLE I – LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL YEAR 2001/2002  
(PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

COUNTRY	PRIMARY EDUCATION		SECONDARY EDUCATION	
	Beginning	End	Beginning	End
<b>BELGIUM</b> FRENCH COMMUNITY FLEMISH COMMUNITY GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY	01 September 01 September 01 September	30 June 30 June 30 June	01 September 01 September 01 September	30 June 30 June 30 June
<b>DENMARK</b> <sup>1</sup>	13 August	22 June	13 August	22 June
<b>GERMANY</b> <sup>2</sup>	01 August	31 July	01 August	31 July
<b>GREECE</b> <sup>3</sup>	11 September (primary and lower secondary)	15 June	03 September (upper secondary) 11 September (lower secondary)	15 May (upper secondary) 23 May (lower secondary)
<b>SPAIN</b> <sup>4</sup>	Between 03 and 17 September	Between 20 and 28 June	Between 03 and 24 September	Between 14 and 30 June
<b>FRANCE</b>	06 September	28 June	05 September	28 June
<b>IRELAND</b> <sup>5</sup>	03 September	30 June	03 September	31 May
<b>ITALY</b> <sup>6</sup>	Between the 2 <sup>nd</sup> and the 3 <sup>rd</sup> week of September	08 June	Between the 2 <sup>nd</sup> and the 3 <sup>rd</sup> week of September	08 June
<b>LUXEMBOURG</b>	17 September	13 July	17 September	13 July
<b>NETHERLANDS</b> <sup>7</sup>	Between 13 August and 03 September	Between 28 June and 19 July	Between 20 August and 03 September	Between 28 June and 12 July
<b>AUSTRIA</b>	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 03 September other <i>Länder</i> : 10 September	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 28 June other <i>Länder</i> : 05 July	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 03 September other <i>Länder</i> : 10 September	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 28 June other <i>Länder</i> : 05 July
<b>PORTUGAL</b>	Between 10 and 17 September	28 June	Between 10 and 17 September	28 June 12 <sup>th</sup> year on 07 June
<b>FINLAND</b>	Generally 13/14 August	01 June	Generally 13/14 August	01 June
<b>SWEDEN</b> <sup>8</sup>	Between 14 August and 03 September	Beginning of June	Between 14 August and 03 September	Beginning of June
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b> ENGLAND AND WALES <sup>9</sup> NORTHERN IRELAND <sup>10</sup> SCOTLAND <sup>11</sup>	First or second week of September First week of September Middle of August	Third or fourth week of July End of June End of June/beginning of July	First or second week of September First week of September Middle of August	Third or fourth week of July End of June End of June/beginning of July
<b>ICELAND</b> <sup>12</sup>	Between 21 August and 03 September (primary/lower secondary)	Between 31 Mai and 10 June (primary/lower secondary)	Between 22 August and 03 September (upper secondary)	Between 22 May and 31 May (upper secondary)
<b>LIECHTENSTEIN</b>	20 August	05 July	20 August	05 July
<b>NORWAY</b> <sup>13</sup>	Approx. 20 August	Approx. 20 June	Approx. 20 August	Approx. 20 June
<b>BULGARIA</b> <sup>14</sup>	15 September	End of May/beginning of June	15 September	mid/end of June
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b> <sup>15</sup>	03 September	28 June	03 September	28 June
<b>ESTONIA</b> <sup>16</sup>	03 September	31 May	03 September	31 May

COUNTRY	PRIMARY EDUCATION		SECONDARY EDUCATION	
	Beginning	End	Beginning	End
CYPRUS	10 September	21 June	12 September	05 June for lower education 01 June for upper education
LATVIA <sup>17</sup>	03 September	31 May	03 September	31 May
LITHUANIA <sup>18</sup>	01 September	01 June	01 September	01 June for schools with a 6-day week; approx. 15/17 June for schools with a 5-day week; end July for upper secondary school leavers
HUNGARY <sup>19</sup>	29 August	14 June	29 August	14 June
MALTA <sup>20</sup>	24 September	04 July	24 September	04 July
POLAND <sup>21</sup>	03 September	21 June	03 September	21 June
ROMANIA				
SLOVENIA <sup>22</sup>	03 September	Between 14 and 21 June	03 September	Between 29 May and 21 June
SLOVAKIA	03 September	28 June	03 September	28 June

## ENDNOTES

**TABLE I – LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL YEAR 2001/2002  
(PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

**1 Denmark**

The Ministry of Education issues guidelines to the distribution of holidays in the *Folkeskole*. They are not binding. Only the date of the last day of the school year must be complied with, and the school year must consist of 200 school days. As for upper secondary education, the Ministry only fixes the date of last day of the school year.

**2 Germany**

In accordance with the *Hamburg Agreement* between the *Länder* on harmonisation in the school system, the school year begins on 1 August and ends on 31 July. The actual beginning and end depend on the dates of the summer holidays which vary from one year to the other.

<b>LENGTH OF SCHOOL YEAR</b>		
<b>Primary and secondary education</b>		
	<b>Beginning</b>	<b>End</b>
SAARLAND	02 August	26 June
HESSEN	06 August	26 June
NIEDERSACHSEN, SACHSEN, SACHSEN-ANHALT, THÜRINGEN	09 August	19 June
RHEINLAND-PFALZ	13 August	03 July
BREMEN	13 August	19 June
NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN	20 August	17 July
HAMBURG, MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN	30 August	03 July
BERLIN, BRANDENBURG, SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN	03 September	03 July
BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG	10 September	24 July
BAYERN	11 September	31 July

**3 Greece**

<b>PRIMARY EDUCATION (TEACHERS)</b>		<b>SECONDARY EDUCATION (TEACHERS)</b>	
<b>Primary education</b>		<b>Secondary education (upper/lower)</b>	
Beginning	End	Beginning	End
03 September	21 June	03 September	30 June

Official school year: 1 September-31 August

**4 Spain**

	<b>LENGTH OF STUDENTS' SCHOOL YEAR</b>				<b>TEACHERS' SCHOOL YEAR</b>	
	<b>Primary education</b>		<b>Secondary education</b>		<b>Primary/secondary</b>	
	<b>Beginning</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Beginning</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Beginning</b>	<b>End</b>
Andalucía	17 September	21/25 June	24 September	21/25 June	01 September	30 June
Aragón	10 September	21 June	17 September	21 June	01 September	30 June
Asturias	10 September	21 June	17 September	21 June	01 September	30 June
Baleares	13 September	20 June	18 September	20 June	03 September; Official 01 Sep- tember	Not before 28 June; Official 31 August
Canarias	11 September		17/18 September		03 September	28 June
Cantabria	12 September	21 June	20 September <sup>1)</sup>	25 June		
Castilla y León	11 September	21 June	18 September	21 June	01 September	30 June
Castilla-La Mancha	10 September	21 June	17 September	21 June	01 Sept. primary 16 Sept. secondary	30 June primary 15 Sept. second.
Cataluña	17 September	21 June	17 September	21 June	03 September	Not before 28 June
Extremadura	13 September	24 June	17 September	24 June	03 September	30 June
Galicia	13 September	21 June	19 September	19 June	03 September	30 August
Madrid	12 September	24 June	17 September	24 June	03 September	28 June
Murcia <sup>1)</sup>	11 September	22 June	18 September	22 June	01 September	30 June
Navarra <sup>2)</sup>	Not after 06 September	Not before 21 June	Not after 17 September	Not before 14 June	01 September	30 June

País Vasco <sup>3)</sup>	Not before 01 September	Not after 30 June	Not before 01 September	Not after 30 June	-	-
C.Valenciana <sup>4)</sup>	06 September	21 June	17 September	17 June	-	-
La Rioja	06 September	21 June	19 September	21 June	01 September	30 June

<sup>1)</sup> Dates for the First Cycle of Compulsory Education when it takes place at a Primary School: 11 September - 22 June.

<sup>2)</sup> Dates for Compulsory Secondary Education when it takes place at a Primary School: Not after the 6 of September - not before the 21 June.

<sup>3)</sup> Schools are free to decide on the exact date of beginning and end of the lessons.

<sup>4)</sup> Dates for the First Cycle of Compulsory Education when it takes place at a Primary School: 6 September - 21 June.

<sup>5)</sup> **Ireland:** School authorities have discretion in planning the school year, holidays, etc. However, a primary school must open for a minimum of 183 recognised teaching days and is required to close for July and August. A secondary school must open for a minimum of 167 recognised teaching days.

<sup>6)</sup> **Italy:** It is up to the *Direttori degli Uffici scolastici regionali* (school regional authorities) to decide the date of beginning of the school year. That means that the school year can begin at different dates, according to the decision taken at regional level. The *Direttore dell'Ufficio scolastico regionale* can decide for the same region different dates of beginning, according to the school level. Generally speaking, the school year begins between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September.

According to the implementation of school autonomy, the consultative councils of the schools can adapt the school calendar concerning the beginning of the lessons. It means that the decisions of the *Direttori degli Uffici scolastici regionali* will be applied only in the case that schools have not decided their own date of beginning. The school adaptations of the organisation of school time must guarantee at least 200 days of lesson a school year.

LENGTH OF SCHOOL YEAR		
Primary and secondary education		
	Beginning	End
Alto Adige (Bolzano), Valle d'Aosta	12 September	08 June
Campania, Lombardia, Piemonte	13 September	08 June
Emilia Romagna, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Marche, Molise, Puglia, Sardegna, Toscana, Trentino (Trento), Umbria, Veneto	17 September	08 June
Calabria, Lazio, Sicilia	18 September	08 June
Basilicata	19 September	08 June
Abruzzo, Liguria	20 September	08 June

PRIMARY EDUCATION (TEACHERS)		SECONDARY EDUCATION (TEACHERS)	
Beginning	End	Beginning	End
03 September	30 June	03 September	30 June

<sup>7)</sup> **Netherlands:** The school year officially runs from 1 August of one year to 31 July of the following year. The start and end of the teaching year varies per region.

LENGTH OF SCHOOL YEAR				
	Primary education		Secondary education	
	Beginning	End	Beginning	End
North region	20 August	28 June	27 August	28 June
Central region	03 September	19 July	03 September	12 July
South region	13 August	05 July	20 August	05 July

<sup>8)</sup> **Sweden:** Municipalities decide themselves when to start and finish, as long as the school year starts in August and finishes in June (however, some schools finish already late May).

<sup>9)</sup> In **England and Wales**, decisions on the school year are taken locally. Depending on the legal category of the school either the local education authority or the school governing body makes such decisions. In most cases, the school year runs from the first or second week of September to the third or fourth week of July. The only exception to this is the small minority of schools which have implemented a five term year whose school year must also begin in the first term after July. In practice, most of these begin the school year in August.

<sup>10)</sup> In **Northern Ireland**, decisions on the school year are taken locally. Education and Library Boards set holidays for controlled schools. For all other schools, the school governing body, with the approval of the appropriate board, sets the dates of terms and holidays.

<sup>11)</sup> **Scotland:** There are no differences between primary and secondary schools, however, there are variances across the 32 Local Education Authorities.

The earliest start date for the school year 2001/02 is 13 August and the latest is 22 August 2001.

The earliest end date for the school year 2001/02 is 27 June and the latest is 7 July 2002.

- <sup>12</sup> **Iceland:** There are still a few small rural schools on compulsory level which operate for 8 ½ months. The teachers work for 9 months.

PRIMARY EDUCATION (TEACHERS)		SECONDARY EDUCATION (TEACHERS)	
Beginning	End	Beginning	End
Between 17 August and 26 August	Between 04 June and 14 June	Between 20 August and 30 August	Between 29 May and 03 June

- <sup>13</sup> **Norway:** The dates vary between municipalities (primary and lower secondary education) and between counties (upper secondary education).

- <sup>14</sup> **Bulgaria:** As for grade 1 (primary education) and for grade 12 (secondary education) the end is 24 May; for grades 9, 10, 11 (secondary education) the end is 30 June.

- <sup>15</sup> **Czech Republic:** According to the Labour Code, the holiday for teachers at primary or secondary level is 8 weeks per year.

- <sup>16</sup> **Estonia:** Official school year from 01 September to 31 August.

- <sup>17</sup> **Latvia:** Because the exam period is included in the school year, Year 9 finishes on 14 June but Year 12 on 21 June.

- <sup>18</sup> **Lithuania:** The school year may not end earlier than 1 June..

Year 10 finishes on 25 May. Year 12 finishes on 25 May. Maturity (upper secondary school-leaving) examinations shall end by the end of July.

Years 1 to 9 and 11 finish on the date established by the school concerned. The date is established following these requirements: years 1 to 5 can finish only after at least 170 school days, while years 6 to 9 and 11, after at least 195 days. These days include the national holidays.

Teachers begin on 25 August and end on 30 June.

- <sup>19</sup> **Hungary:** In the final grade of the school, the end of the school year is: in secondary schools providing education in minority language(s) or in two languages ⇒ 09 May 2002; in secondary schools and in *szakiskola* (vocational training) ⇒ 10 May 2002; in secondary schools that are maintained by the Ministry of the Interior ⇒ 24 May 2002.

- <sup>20</sup> **Malta:** These dates include also examination days. Annual exams will be held between the 19 June and 4 July; half-year exams will be held between the 13 and 20 February.

Teachers begin on 14 September 2001 and end on 10 July 2002.

- <sup>21</sup> **Poland:** In general teachers are obliged to take holidays during the winter and summer school holidays. The school head can require individual teachers to work during school holidays, however, the time cannot exceed 7 days.

- <sup>22</sup> **Slovenia:** The official length of the school year is from 1 September to 31 August, but lessons are completed in May/June.

End of single structure lessons: 14 June for the final grade (8 in 8-year school, 9 in 9-year school); 21 June for pupils in other grades (1-7 in 8-year school, 1-8 in 9-year school) – primary and lower secondary education and for general upper secondary students who are not in the final grade.

29 May is the last day of lessons in final grade (upper secondary education), but students of general schools have to pass final examinations in June, in vocational schools (*poklicne šole*) from June to 16 July.

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**TABLE II – STARTING DATES OF THE SCHOOL YEAR IN 2001/2002  
(PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

COUNTRY	DATES
<b>BELGIUM</b>	
FRENCH COMMUNITY	01 September
FLEMISH COMMUNITY	01 September
GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY	01 September
<b>DENMARK<sup>1</sup></b>	13 August
<b>GERMANY</b>	
SAARLAND	02 August
HESSEN	06 August
NIEDERSACHSEN, SACHSEN, SACHSEN-ANHALT, THÜRINGEN	09 August
RHEINLAND-PFALZ	13 August
BREMEN	13 August
NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN	20 August
HAMBURG, MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN	30 August
BERLIN, BRANDENBURG, SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN	03 September
BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG	10 September
BAYERN	11 September
<b>GREECE<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Primary/lower secondary</b> : <b>Upper secondary</b> 11 September : 03 September
<b>SPAIN<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Primary</b> : <b>Secondary</b> Between 03 and : Between 03 and 17 September : 24 September
<b>FRANCE<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Primary</b> : <b>Secondary</b> 06 September : 05 September
<b>IRELAND</b>	First week in September
<b>ITALY<sup>5</sup></b>	Between the 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> week of September
<b>LUXEMBOURG</b>	17 September
<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	<b>Primary</b> : <b>Secondary</b>
NORTH REGION	20 August : 27 August
CENTRAL REGION	03 September : 03 September
SOUTH REGION	13 August : 20 August
<b>AUSTRIA</b>	
BURGENLAND, NIEDERÖSTERREICH, WIEN	03 September
OTHER LÄNDER	10 September
<b>PORTUGAL<sup>6</sup></b>	Between 10 and 17 September
<b>FINLAND</b>	Generally 13/14 August
<b>SWEDEN</b>	Between 14 August and 03 September
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	
ENGLAND AND WALES	First or second week of September
NORTHERN IRELAND	First week of September
<b>SCOTLAND</b>	Between 13 and 22 August
<b>ICELAND<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>Primary/lower secondary</b> : <b>Upper secondary</b> Between 21 August and : Between 22 August and 03 September : 03 September
<b>LIECHTENSTEIN</b>	20 August
<b>NORWAY<sup>8</sup></b>	Approx. 20 August
<b>BULGARIA</b>	15 September
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	03 September
<b>ESTONIA</b>	03 September
<b>CYPRUS<sup>9</sup></b>	10 September for primary / 12 September for secondary
<b>LATVIA</b>	03 September
<b>LITHUANIA<sup>10</sup></b>	01 September
<b>HUNGARY</b>	29 August
<b>MALTA<sup>11</sup></b>	24 September
<b>POLAND</b>	03 September
<b>ROMANIA</b>	
<b>SLOVENIA</b>	03 September
<b>SLOVAKIA</b>	03 September



## ENDNOTES

TABLE II – STARTING DATES OF THE SCHOOL YEAR 2001/2002  
(PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION)

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- <sup>1</sup> **Denmark:** Not all schools start at the same date, they may start a week earlier so as to save up a week so that they can have a week's Winter holidays in February.
- <sup>2</sup> **Greece:** The teaching school year begins on 1 September.  
Teachers begin on 3 September.
- <sup>3</sup> **Spain:** Each Autonomous Community officially starts and ends the school year on a fixed date within this period.  
Teachers begin on 3 September (officially on 1 September).
- <sup>4</sup> **France:** Teachers begin on 3 September.
- <sup>5</sup> **Italy:** Teachers begin on 3 September.
- <sup>6</sup> **Portugal:** Teachers have the summer holidays from 15 July until mid-September, according to school needs.
- <sup>7</sup> **Iceland:** Teachers: primary and lower secondary education - beginning between 17 and 26 August; upper secondary education – beginning between 20 and 30 August.
- <sup>8</sup> **Norway:** The dates vary between municipalities (primary and lower secondary education) and between counties (upper secondary education).
- <sup>9</sup> **Cyprus:** In primary education starting date for teachers is the 4 September and in secondary education the 1 September.
- <sup>10</sup> **Lithuania:** Teachers begin on August 25.
- <sup>11</sup> **Malta:** Teachers begin on 14 September.

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**TABLE III – SCHOOL HOLIDAYS OVER THE SCHOOL YEAR 2001/2002  
(PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

COUNTRY	AUTUMN 2001	CHRISTMAS 2001/2	WINTER / CARNIVAL 2002	SPRING / EASTER 2002	3 <sup>rd</sup> TERM 2002	SUMMER 2002	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL/RELI- GIOUS HOLIDAYS 2001/2002
<b>BELGIUM</b> FRENCH COMMUNITY	1 week (29 October- 2 November)	2 weeks (24 Decem- ber-4 January)	1 week (11-15 February)	2 weeks (1-12 April)	-	9 weeks (1 July- 31 August)	5 public holidays (27/09; 11/11; 1/05; 9/05; 20/5)
FLEMISH COMMUNITY	1 week (29 October- 4 November)	2 weeks (24 Decem- ber-6 January)	1 week (11-17 February)	2 weeks (1-14 April)	2 days (9-10 May)	9 weeks (1 July- 31 August)	4 public holidays (11/11; 1/05; 9/5; 20/05)
GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY	1 week (29 October- 2 November)	2 weeks (24 Decem- ber-4 January)	1 week (11-15 February)	2 weeks (1-12 April)	1 day (free choice)	9 weeks (1 July- 31 August)	5+1 public holidays (11/11; 15/11; 1/05; 9/05; 20/5)
<b>DENMARK</b> <sup>1</sup>	1 week (15-19 October)	2 weeks (24 Decem- ber-3 January)	1 week (optional) February	1 week (25-29 March)	5 days (between Easter and Summer holidays)	7 weeks (24 June- 10 August)	5 public holidays (16/4; 26/4; 9/5; 20/5; 5/6)
<b>GERMANY</b> <sup>2</sup>	5 to 12 days (staggered between 1 October and 3 November)	5 to 14 days (staggered between 19 Dec. and 11 Jan.)	0 to 12 days (staggered between 1 and 23 February)	6 to 16 days (staggered between 4 March and 15 April)	0 to 10 days (staggered between 10 May and 1 June)	6 weeks (staggered between 21 June and 10 September)	Up to 10 days, depending on the <i>Land</i>
<b>GREECE</b>	-	2 weeks (24 Decem- ber-7 January)	-	2 weeks	-	<b>Prim.:</b> 10 weeks (between June and Sept.) <b>Sec.:</b> 9 weeks (between May and Sept.)	Around 7 days of national, local or religious holidays
<b>SPAIN</b> <sup>3</sup>	-	2 weeks (between 22/23 December and 6/7 January)	Usually 2 or 3 days in February depending on the Autonomous Community	About 1 week (staggered between 23 March and 8 April)	-	<b>Prim.:</b> 11 weeks (staggered between 21 June and mid- September) <b>Sec.:</b> 12 weeks (staggered between 15 June and end September)	Around 7 public holidays, depending on the Autonomous Community
<b>FRANCE</b>	1 week (27 October- 5 November)	2 weeks (22 Decem- ber-7 January)	2 weeks: 09/2-25/2 (zone A) 02/2-18/2 (zone B) 16/2-04/3 (zone C)	2 weeks: 06/04-22/4 (zone A) 30/3-15/4 (zone B) 13/4-29/4 (zone C)	-	9 weeks (1 July- 4/5 September)	A few days between Easter and summer holidays
<b>IRELAND</b> <sup>4</sup>	1 week (end October-early November)	2 weeks (22 Decem- ber-7 January)	A few days in February or March (Mid-term)	About 8 days (27 March–8 April)	1 week (24 April-3 May)	<b>Prim.:</b> 9 weeks (30 June-2 September) <b>Sec.:</b> 13 weeks (end of May-2 Sept.)	5 public holidays (29/10; 1/11; 18/3; 6/5; 3/6)
<b>ITALY</b>	-	2 weeks (23/24 De- cember-5/7 January)	2 days (between 11 and 16 February)	About 4 days (28 March-2 April)	-	13-14 weeks (between June and September)	Around 5 public holidays - depending on the Regions (1/11; 2/11; 25/4; 1/5, 20/5)

COUNTRY	AUTUMN 2001	CHRISTMAS 2001/2	WINTER/ CARNIVAL 2002	SPRING / EASTER 2002	3 <sup>rd</sup> TERM 2002	SUMMER 2002	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL/RELI- GIOUS HOLIDAYS 2001/2002
LUXEMBOURG	1 week (27 October-4 November)	2 weeks (22 December-6 January)	1 week (9 February-17 February)	2 weeks (23 March-7 April)	1 week (18 May-26 May)	9 weeks (15 July-16 September)	3 public holidays (1/5; 9/5; 24/6)
NETHERLANDS <sup>5</sup>	1 week (staggered over 2 regions: <b>South</b> 13-21 October; <b>North/Central</b> 20-28 October)	2 weeks (22 December-6 January)	-	1 week (staggered over 2 regions: North 16-24 February, Central/South 9-17 February)	1 week (27 April-5 May)	<b>Prim:</b> 6 weeks (staggered over 3 regions between 29 June and 1 September.) <b>Sec.:</b> 7 weeks (staggered over 3 regions between 29 June and 1 September)	8 public holidays + 2 national holidays (30/4; 5/5)
AUSTRIA <sup>6</sup>	-	2 weeks (24 December-6 January)	1 week (staggered over 3 Regions between 4 and 23 February)	1 week (23 March-2 April)	4 days (18-21 May)	About 9 weeks (29 June/6 July-1/8 September)	6 days throughout the school year (1/5; 9/5; 30/5; 26/10; 1/11; 8/12)
PORTUGAL	1 week (29 October-2 November)	2 weeks (19 December-2 January)	1 week (11-15 February)	2 weeks (25 March-5 April)	-	11 weeks (12 <sup>th</sup> year from 07 June, others from 28 June to 10/17 Sept.)	Around 10 days throughout the school year
FINLAND <sup>7</sup>	1 to 7 days (between 15 October and 3 November)	about 2 weeks (between 20 December-6 January)	1 week (between 18 February-9 March)	4 days (29 March-1 April)	-	10-12 weeks (3 June-12/13 August)	3/5 public/religious holidays (6 and 7 December, 1 May; 9 and 10 May*)
SWEDEN <sup>8</sup>	1 week (in some municipalities)	around 3 weeks	1 week (end of February or beginning of March)	1 week (end of March or beginning of April)	-	10 weeks (beginning of June-end of August)	5 days (including public holidays 1/5; 9/5 and 20/5)
UNITED KINGDOM ENGLAND AND WALES <sup>9</sup>	1 week (either 22-27 October or 29 October to 2 November)	2 weeks (between 17 December-7 January)	1 week (mid-February)	2 weeks (between 25 March-15 April)	1 week (end May-beginning June)	6 weeks (between 23 July-3 September)	3 public holidays (6 May; 3 and 4 June)
NORTHERN IRELAND <sup>10</sup>	2 days (1 and 2 November)	2 weeks (24 December-4 January)	1 day (15 February)	1 week + 1 day (29 March-5 April)	1 day (6 May)	9 weeks (1 <sup>st</sup> July to 31 <sup>st</sup> August)	6 public holidays (6 May; 3 June and 4 other days at schools discretion))
SCOTLAND <sup>11</sup>	1 or 2 weeks	2 weeks (21 December-7 January)	1 to 3 days (February)	2 weeks (26 March-8 April)	A few days in May	7 weeks (between 28 June-22 August)	-
ICELAND <sup>12</sup>	0-2 days	2 weeks (December/January)	0-5 days	7-11 days	-	11-13 weeks* (June/August)	3-4 public holidays
LIECHTENSTEIN	2 weeks (6-21 October)	2 weeks (22 December-6 January)	1 week (9-17 February)	About 2 weeks (28 March-14 April)	-	6 weeks (6 July-18 August)	8 public holidays
NORWAY <sup>13</sup>	1 week (normally in October)	2 weeks (20 December-3 January)	1 week (normally February)	3 days (25-27 March)	-	8 weeks (between 20 June and 20 August)	8 public holidays (28/3; 29/3; 31/3; 1/4; 1/5; 9/5; 17/5; 20/5)

COUNTRY	AUTUMN 2001	CHRISTMAS 2001/2	WINTER / CARNIVAL 2002	SPRING / EASTER 2002	3 <sup>rd</sup> TERM 2002	SUMMER 2002	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL/RELI- GIOUS HOLIDAYS 2001/2002
<b>BULGARIA</b>	<b>Grade 1:</b> 5 days (11- 15 November)	2 weeks (23 December- 7 January)	-	10 days (31 March-16 April)	-	<b>Grade 1:</b> 16 weeks (24 May-15 Sept.) <b>Prim.</b> 15 weeks (1 June-15 Sept.) <b>Sec.:</b> 13 weeks (16 June-15 Sept.) <b>Grades 9, 10, 11:</b> 11 weeks (1 July-15 Sept.)	About 7 bank holidays (22 Sept.; 1 Nov.; 3 March; 1 May; 6 May; 24 and 25 May)
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	2 days (29-30 October)	About 1 week (23 December- 2 January)	1 day (1 February)	1 week (between 4 February and 15 March depending on the region); 2 days (28-29 March)	-	9 weeks (1 July- 31 August)	5 days (28 Sept.; 28 Oct.; 17 Nov.; 1 and 8 May)
<b>ESTONIA</b>	1 week (28 October- 4 November)	2 weeks (22 Decem- ber-6 January)	-	9 days (16-24 March)	-	13 weeks (3 June- 31 August)	1 day
<b>CYPRUS</b>	-	2 weeks (24 Decem- ber-6 January)	-	2 weeks (29 April-12 May)	-	<b>Prim.</b> 11 weeks (24 June-7 Sept.); <b>Sec.:</b> 12 weeks (mid-June-7 Sept.)	About 10 days
<b>LATVIA</b>	1 week (22-26 October)	2 weeks (24 December-4 January)	Some days in February for Year 1	4 days (25-28 March)	-	13 weeks (3 June-30 August)	3 days (18 November, 1 April, 1 May)
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	1 week (29 October- 2 November)	2 weeks (24 Decem- ber-4 January)	-	1 week (25-29 March)	-	<b>Prim.:</b> 13 weeks (1 June-1 Sept.) <b>Sec.:</b> approx. 12-13 weeks (1 June-1 Sept. or approx. 15/17 June- 1 Sept.)	3 days (16 February; 11 March, 1 April) <sup>14</sup>
<b>HUNGARY</b> <sup>15</sup>	3 days (29-31 October)	1 week (25 December- 2 January)	-	1 week (27 March-2 April)	-	11 weeks (17 June- 28 August)	8 days (6 Oct., 23 Oct.; 1 Nov.; 25 February; 15 March; 15 and 16 April; 1 May)
<b>MALTA</b> <sup>16</sup>	2 days (1-2 November)	2 weeks (23 December- 6 January)	2 days (11 and 12 February)	1 week (27 March-3 April)	-	About 9 weeks (11 July- 13 September)	About 10 days (8/9; 21/9; 8/12; 13/12; 10/2; 19/3; 31/3; 1/5; 7/6; 29/6)
<b>POLAND</b>	-	1 week (23 December- 1 January)	2 weeks (between 14 January and 24 February depending on the region)	6 days (28 March-2 April)	-	10 weeks (22 June- 31 August)	4 days (1 November; 1 and 3 May; 30 May)
<b>ROMANIA</b>					-		
<b>SLOVENIA</b> <sup>17</sup>	1 week (29 October- 4 November)	1 week (25 Decem- ber-2 January)	1 week (between 18 February and 3 March)	6 days (27 April- 2 May)	-	10 weeks (24 June- 31 August)	8 February, 1 April + 2 more days

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>AUTUMN 2001</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS 2001/2</b>	<b>WINTER / CARNIVAL 2002</b>	<b>SPRING / EASTER 2002</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> TERM 2002</b>	<b>SUMMER 2002</b>	<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL/RELI- GIOUS HOLIDAYS 2001/2002</b>
<b>SLOVAKIA</b>	3 days (31 October- 2 November)	10 days (22 December- 4 January)	1 day (1 February)	1 week (between 18 February and 8 March, depending on the regions); Easter: 4 days (end March/beginning April)	-	9 weeks (1 July- 31 August)	6 days

## ENDNOTES

**TABLE III –SCHOOL HOLIDAYS OVER THE SCHOOL YEAR 2001/2002  
(PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

- <sup>1</sup> **Denmark:** The Ministry of Education issues guidelines to the distribution of holidays. They are not binding. Only the date of the last day of the school year must be complied with, and the school year must consist of 200 school days.
- <sup>2</sup> **Germany:** The length of the shorter holiday periods in each year is fixed by the individual *Länder* within the total number of 75 days of the holidays in the school year.
- <sup>3</sup> **Spain:** Summer holidays start the day after the lessons are over and finish the day before the beginning of lessons for 2002/03 and they vary depending on the Autonomous Community.
- <sup>4</sup> **Ireland:** School authorities have discretion in the planning of the school year, holidays, etc. However, a primary school must open for a minimum of 183 recognised teaching days and is required to close for July and August. A secondary school must open for a minimum of 167 recognised teaching days.
- <sup>5</sup> **Netherlands:** The summer holiday is decided by the Ministry and is staggered over 3 regions (compulsory dates for all schools). All other holidays are recommended by the Ministry. It is left to the schools to follow or not the recommendations of the Ministry (school autonomy). The general recommendation is that schools after a period of 7 to 8 weeks lessons give one week holiday.

**School year 2001/2002 (summer holidays)**

	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>Secondary education</b>
North region	29 June-11 August 2002	29 June-18 August 2002
Central region	20 July-01 September 2002	13 July-01 September 2002
South region	06 July-18 August 2002	30 July-25 August 2002

The administrative school year runs from 1 August 2001-31 July 2002, the summer holiday 2002 is considered to be the summer holiday for the 2001/2002 school year.

- <sup>6</sup> **Austria:** Summer holidays: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien ⇒ 29 June-1 September; other *Länder* ⇒ 6 July-8 September.
- <sup>7</sup> In **Finland**, the provider of education decides on the precise starting date of the school year and on other possible short holiday periods. School holidays differ so that even in one municipality pupils in different schools might have their school holidays at different times.  
Winter holidays are generally the following: in the Southern parts of Finland week 8, in Central Finland week 8/9 and in the Northern parts of Finland week 10.  
\*In many municipalities the 6 **and** 7 December are public holidays and the 9 **and** 10 May are religious holidays.
- <sup>8</sup> **Sweden:** The exact dates vary between municipalities. There is a total of 178 school days and 5 holidays to be distributed, and this as each municipality wishes.
- <sup>9</sup> In **England and Wales** school terms are not fixed nationally; they are set, depending on the type of school by local education authorities or school governing bodies. Although school holidays take place over a core period, their exact dates may vary between schools and authorities. 2001/2002 has an extra national public holiday to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee.
- <sup>10</sup> In **Northern Ireland** school terms are not fixed nationally; they are set, depending on the type of school by education and library boards or by school governing bodies with the approval of the board. Therefore holidays vary between local authorities. The dates provided in the table are an example of one education and library board; holidays for other boards will not be exactly the same but will cover the same core periods. In addition to the one-off bank holiday for the Queen's Golden Jubilee, annually schools have between four and six optional closure days to schedule at their discretion.
- <sup>11</sup> In **Scotland** the school holidays are not fixed nationally, but by local education authorities, and may vary from one local authority to another.

- <sup>12</sup> **Iceland:** Autumn, Christmas, winter and spring holidays can vary on compulsory level according to a change in the compulsory school act from 2001.  
Pupils' holidays over the school year are never less than 15 weeks.  
\*The summer holidays in compulsory education are 11 weeks and 13 weeks in upper secondary education.
- <sup>13</sup> **Norway:** The exact dates vary between municipalities for primary and lower secondary level and between counties for upper secondary level.
- <sup>14</sup> **Lithuania:** Primary schools stagger at their own discretion additional five days of holiday in autumn or spring.
- <sup>15</sup> **Hungary:** 5 days may be allocated as a holiday each academic year; it depends on the school to pick the dates. Schools are also allowed to allocate additional holidays if they reschedule the lessons onto a weekend or another holiday as a replacement.
- <sup>16</sup> **Malta:** School holidays are stipulated in the 1994 Agreement between the Government and Malta Union of Teachers.  
Officially, according to the agreement between the Government and the Malta Union of Teachers, which is the major union representing the majority of teachers, the summer holidays last between 15 July and 14 September.  
Christmas holidays are between 23 December and 6 January.  
Easter holidays are between Wednesday before to Wednesday after Easter.  
A day off is given in lieu of those public holidays that fall on a Saturday or a Sunday within the School Year. The dates when such day/s off in lieu will be availed of are established before the start of the school year.
- <sup>17</sup> **Slovenia:** Ljubljana and Maribor regions: 18-24 February; other regions: 25 February-3 March.

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