



Organisation of school time in Europe

Primary and general secondary education

School year 2002/03





ORGANISATION OF SCHOOL TIME IN EUROPE

SCHOOL YEAR 2002/2003

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

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

October 2002

**TABLE I – LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL YEAR 2002/2003
(PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

COUNTRY	PRIMARY EDUCATION		SECONDARY EDUCATION	
	Beginning 2002	End 2003	Beginning 2002	End 2003
BELGIUM FRENCH COMMUNITY ¹ FLEMISH COMMUNITY ² GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY	02 September 02 September 02 September	30 June 30 June 30 June	02 September 02 September 02 September	30 June 30 June 30 June
DENMARK ³	05 August	20 June	05 August	20 June
GERMANY ⁴	01 August	31 July	01 August	31 July
GREECE ⁵	11 September	15 June	02 September (upper and lower- secondary)	30 June (upper and lower secondary)
SPAIN ⁶	Between 02 and 16 September	Between 20 and 30 June	Between 02 and 23 September	Between 13 and 30 June
FRANCE	03 September	27 June	03 September	27 June
IRELAND ⁷	02 September	28 June	02 September	30 May
ITALY ⁸	Between the 2 nd and the 3 rd week of September (09-19 September)	Between the 1 st and the 3 rd week of June (07-16 June)	Between the 2 nd and the 3 rd week of September (09-19 September)	Between the 1 st and the 3 rd week of June (07-16 June)
LUXEMBOURG	16 September	15 July	16 September	15 July
NETHERLANDS ⁹	Between 12 August and 02 September	Between 27 June and 18 July	Between 19 August and 02 September	Between 27 June and 11 July
AUSTRIA	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 02 September other <i>Länder</i> 09 September	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 27 June other <i>Länder</i> : 04 July	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 02 September other <i>Länder</i> : 09 September	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 27 June other <i>Länder</i> : 04 July
PORTUGAL	Between 03 and 05 September	27 June	Between 03 and 05 September	27 June 12 th year on 13 June
FINLAND ¹⁰	Between 12 and 14 August	31 May	Between 12 and 14 August	31 May
SWEDEN ¹¹	Between 14 and 26 August	Between 05 and 17 June	Between 14 and 26 August	Between 05 and 17 June
UNITED KINGDOM ENGLAND AND WALES ¹² NORTHERN IRELAND ¹³ SCOTLAND ¹⁴	First 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 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
ICELAND ¹⁵	Between 21 August and 02 September (primary/lower secondary)	Between 31 May and 10 June (primary/lower secondary)	Between 22 August and 31 August (upper secondary)	Between 22 May and 31 May (upper secondary)
LIECHTENSTEIN	19 August	04 July	19 August	04 July
NORWAY ¹⁶	Approx. 19 August	Approx. 20 June	Approx. 19 August	Approx. 20 June
BULGARIA ¹⁷	16 September	End of May/beginning of June	16 September	mid/end of June
CZECH REPUBLIC ¹⁸	02 September	27 June	02 September	27 June

COUNTRY	PRIMARY EDUCATION		SECONDARY EDUCATION	
	Beginning 2002	End 2003	Beginning 2002	End 2003
ESTONIA ¹⁹	02 September	04 June	02 September	04 June
CYPRUS	02 September	20 June	02 September	30 June
LATVIA ²⁰	02 September	30 May	02 September	Between 23 May and 20 June
LITHUANIA ²¹	02 September	30 May	02 September	30 May; 23 May for lower secondary school leavers; 16 May for upper secondary school leavers
HUNGARY	02 September	13 June	02 September	13 June
MALTA ²²	23 September	26 June	23 September	26 June
POLAND ²³	02 September	20 June	02 September	20 June
ROMANIA	16 September	13 June	16 September	13 June
SLOVENIA ²⁴	02 September	Between 13 and 24 June	02 September	Between 29 May and 24 June
SLOVAKIA ²⁵	02 September	27 June	02 September	27 June

ENDNOTES

**TABLE I – LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL YEAR 2002/2003
(PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

1 Belgium – French Community

The school year begins on the first working day of September and ends the last working day in June.

2 Belgium – Flemish Community

Official **beginning** of the school year is 01 September 2002. Because this is a Sunday the school year will start this year on 02 September 2002.

Official **end** of the school year is 30 June. As the 30 June is a Monday, the minister of education decided to consider Monday 30 June as a holiday.

3 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.

4 Germany

In accordance with the *Hamburg Agreement* between the *Länder* on harmonisation in the school system, the school year begins on 01 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.

SCHOOL YEAR 2002/2003			
Primary and secondary education			
	Beginning of school year 2002/2003	Summer holidays 2003	
		beginning	end
BREMEN, NIEDERSACHSEN, SACHSEN-ANHALT, THÜRINGEN	01 August	10 July	20 August
SACHSEN	01 August	12 July	22 August
SAARLAND	08 August	21 July	30 August
HESSEN	12 August	21 July	29 August
SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN	15 August	30 June	09 August
HAMBURG	15 August	03 July	13 August
MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN	15 August	05 July	15 August
BERLIN, BRANDENBURG	19 August	03 July	16 August
RHEINLAND-PFALZ	19 August	21 July	29 August
NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN	02 September	31 July	13 September
BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG	09 September	24 July	06 September
BAYERN	17 September	28 July	08 September

5 Greece

PRIMARY EDUCATION (TEACHERS)		SECONDARY EDUCATION (TEACHERS)	
Primary education		Secondary education (upper/lower)	
Beginning	End	Beginning	End
02 September	20 June	02 September	30 June

Official school year: 01 September-31 August

6 Spain

	LENGTH OF STUDENTS' SCHOOL YEAR				TEACHERS' SCHOOL YEAR	
	Primary education		Secondary education		Primary/secondary	
	Beginning	End	Beginning	End	Beginning	End
Andalucía	16 September	23 June	23 September	23 June	02 September	30 June
Aragón ¹⁾	09 September	20 June	16 September	20 June	02 September	30 June
Asturias	10 September	20 June	16 September	20 June	02 September	30 June
Baleares	16 September	20 June	18 September	20 June	02 September; Official 01 September	Not before 30 June; Official 31 August
Canarias	10/12 September		17/19 September		02 September	30 June
Cantabria ²⁾	10 September	20 June	18 September	25 June	02 September	30 June prim. Not before 30 June second.

LENGTH OF STUDENTS' SCHOOL YEAR					TEACHERS' SCHOOL YEAR	
	Primary education		Secondary education		Primary/secondary	
	Beginning	End	Beginning	End	Beginning	End
Castilla y León	11 September	20 June	18 September	20 June	02 September	30 June
Castilla-La Mancha	09 September	20 June	16 September	20 June	02 Sept. primary and secondary	30 June primary 15 Sept. second.
Cataluña	16 September	20 June	16 September	20 June	02 September	Not before 27 June
Extremadura	12 September	24 June	16 September	24 June	02 September	30 June
Galicia	10 September	20 June	17 September	20 June	02 September	31 August
Madrid	12 September	24 June	17 September	24 June	02 September	30 June
Murcia ¹⁾	09 September	20 June	16 September	20 June	02 September	30 June
Navarra ³⁾	Not after 06 September	Not before 20 June	Not after 16 September	Not before 13 June	02 September	30 June
País Vasco ⁴⁾	Not before 02 September	Not after 30 June	Not before 02 September	Not after 30 June	-	-
C.Valenciana ⁵⁾	09 September	20 June	17 September	13 June	-	-
La Rioja	05 September	20 June	18 September	20 June	02 September	30 June

¹⁾ Dates for the First Cycle of Secondary Compulsory Education when it takes place at a Primary School: 09 September - 20 June.
²⁾ Dates for the First Cycle of Secondary Education when it takes place at a Primary School: 10 September – 20 June.
³⁾ Dates for Compulsory Secondary Education when it takes place at a Primary School: Not after the 6 of September – not before the 20 June.
⁴⁾ Schools are free to decide on the exact date of beginning and end of the lessons.
⁵⁾ Dates for the First Cycle of Secondary Compulsory Education when it takes place at a Primary School: 6 September –21 June.

7 **Ireland:** School authorities have discretion in the 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.

8 **Italy:** It is up to the *Direttori degli Uffici scolastici regionali* (school regional authorities) to decide the date of beginning of the school year. Starting from school year 2002/2003 also the date of end of the school year is decided by the Regions. 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 and end, according to the school level. Generally speaking, the school year begins between the 2nd and the 3rd week of September and finishes between the 1st and the 3rd week of June. According to the implementation of school autonomy, the consultative councils of the schools can adapt the school calendar concerning the beginning and the end 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 and end. 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
Piemonte	09 September	07 June
Lombardia, Trentino-Trento	10 September	07 June
Alto Adige-Bolzano	10 September	16 June
Basilicata	11 September	07 June
Valle d'Aosta	11 September	10 June
Campania, Molise	12 September	07 June
Abruzzo, Calabria, Emilia Romagna, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Toscana, Umbria	16 September	07 June
Veneto, Sardegna	16 September	10 June
Marche	16 September	11 June
Sicilia	17 September	07 June
Lazio	18 September	11 June
Liguria	18 September	07 June
Puglia	19 September	11 June

PRIMARY EDUCATION (TEACHERS)		SECONDARY EDUCATION (TEACHERS)	
Beginning	End	Beginning	End
02 September	30 June	02 September	30 June

- ⁹ **Netherlands:** The school year officially runs from 01 August of one year to 31 July of the following year. The start and end of the teaching year vary per region.

LENGTH OF SCHOOL YEAR				
Primary education			Secondary education	
	Beginning	End	Beginning	End
North region	12 August	27 June	19 August	27 June
Central region	02 September	04 July	02 September	04 July
South region	19 August	18 July	26 August	11 July

- ¹⁰ **Finland:** The providers of education (municipalities, school boards of private schools) decide when to start, but in the school year 2002/2003 there has to be 187 schooldays and all schools have to finish on 31 May.
- ¹¹ **Sweden:** Municipalities decide themselves when to start and finish, as long as the school year starts in August and finishes in June .
- ¹² In **England and Wales**, school terms are not fixed nationally, they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by local education authorities or school governing bodies. Although school holidays generally cover the same core periods, exact dates may vary between schools and authorities. In most cases, the school year runs from the first week of September to the third or fourth week of July. A small minority of schools have implemented a five term year; most of these begin the school year in August. Schools must be open for at least 380 half day sessions each school year.
- ¹³ In **Northern Ireland**, school terms are not fixed nationally, they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, be Education and Library Boards or school governing bodies. Therefore school holidays may differ between boards and schools. The five Education and Library Boards, encouraged by the Department of Education, have set up a harmonisation scheme, which sets the core holiday dates on which no services (school transport and school meals) are provided. Schools do not have to set holidays within these dates, however they are strongly advised to do so. Schools must be open for 180 days a year.
- ¹⁴ **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 2002/03 is 12 August 2002 and the latest is 19 August 2002.
The earliest **end** date for the school year 2002/03 is 27 June 2003 and the latest is 04 July 2003.
- ¹⁵ **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 19 August and 26 August	Between 04 June and 14 June	Between 20 August and 30 August	Between 29 May and 03 June

- ¹⁶ **Norway:** The dates vary between municipalities (primary and lower secondary education) and between counties (upper secondary education). It is, however, required that the teaching covers a period of at least 38 school weeks and that it takes place within a period of 45 continuous weeks during a school year.
- ¹⁷ **Bulgaria:** As for grade 1 (primary education) and for grade 12 (secondary education) the end is 23 May; for grades 9, 10, 11 (secondary education) the end is 30 June.
- ¹⁸ **Czech Republic:** According to the Labour Code, the holiday for teachers at primary or secondary level is 8 weeks per year. Official school year is from 02 September 2002 to 31 August 2003.
- ¹⁹ **Estonia:** Official school year from 01 September to 31 August. The Basic Schools and Upper Secondary Schools Act stipulates that an academic year shall start on 01 September and a study period shall include not less than 175 days of study (35 weeks). School holidays (and accordingly the end of the school year) are determined by a regulation of the Minister of Education for every school year.
- ²⁰ **Latvia:** Because the exam period is included in the school year, Year 9 finishes on 13 June and Year 12 on 20 June. Years 1-8, 10 and 11 finish studies on 30 May 2003. The length of the school year is annually set by a decree of the Ministry of Education and Science.
- ²¹ **Lithuania:** Lessons end on 30 May. Yet the school year (education process) as such may not end on 30 May, it ends 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. It is within each school's discretion to decide what kind of activity pupils will be offered after 01 June: either disciplinary subject-based projects, subject/art weeks, work at the school library, visits to higher education schools, organising exhibition, visits to historic places, sports events, remedial courses for under-achieving pupils, etc. Year 10 (last year of lower secondary/compulsory education) finishes on 23 May. Year 12 finishes on 16 May. Maturity (upper secondary school-leaving)

examinations shall end by 20 June (by 12 July if taken outside the regular schedule – the schedule still to be ministerially approved). Teachers begin on 26 August and end on 30 June.

²² **Malta:** These dates include also examination days. Annual exams will be held between the 12 June and 26 June; half-year exams will be held between the 11 and 19 February.
Teachers begin on 16 September 2002 and end on 09 July 2003.

²³ **Poland:** Official beginning of the school year in both primary and secondary schools is 01 September. Because it is a Sunday in 2002, the school year will start on Monday, 2 September. End of the school year in both primary and secondary schools is always the first Friday that follows 18 June. In the last grades of upper secondary schools ending with the Matura examination, however, the school year ends on 25 April 2003. 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.

²⁴ **Slovenia:** The official length of the school year is from 01 September to 31 August, but lessons are completed in May/June.

End of single structure lessons (primary and lower secondary education): 13 June for the final grade (8 in 8-year school, 9 in 9-year school); 24 June for pupils in other grades (1-7 in 8-year school, 1-8 in 9-year school) and for 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 and technical schools have to pass final examinations in June, in vocational schools (*poklicne šole*) from June to 11 July.

²⁵ **Slovakia:** Official length of the school year is from 01 September to 31 August. The holidays for teachers at primary and secondary levels are 8 weeks per year.

**TABLE II – STARTING DATES OF THE SCHOOL YEAR IN 2002/2003
(PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

COUNTRY	DATES	
BELGIUM		
FRENCH COMMUNITY	02 September	
FLEMISH COMMUNITY	02 September	
GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY	02 September	
DENMARK¹	05 August	
GERMANY		
BREMEN, NIEDERSACHSEN, SACHSEN-ANHALT, THÜRINGEN	01 August	
SACHSEN	01 August	
SAARLAND	08 August	
HESSEN	12 August	
SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN	15 August	
HAMBURG	15 August	
MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN	15 August	
BERLIN, BRANDENBURG	19 August	
RHEINLAND-PFALZ	19 August	
NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN	02 September	
BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG	09 September	
BAYERN	17 September	
GREECE²	Primary 11 September	Upper/lower secondary 02 September
SPAIN³	Primary Between 02 and 16 September	Secondary Between 02 and 23 September
FRANCE⁴	Primary 03 September	Secondary 03 September
IRELAND	First week in September	
ITALY⁵	Between the 2 nd and 3 rd week of September (09-19 Sept.)	
LUXEMBOURG	16 September	
NETHERLANDS	Primary	Secondary
NORTH REGION	12 August	19 August
CENTRAL REGION	02 September	02 September
SOUTH REGION	19 August	26 August
AUSTRIA		
BURGENLAND, NIEDERÖSTERREICH, WIEN	02 September	
OTHER LÄNDER	09 September	
PORTUGAL⁶	Between 03 and 05 September	
FINLAND	Between 12 and 14 August	
SWEDEN	Between 14 and 26 August	
UNITED KINGDOM		
ENGLAND AND WALES	First week of September	
NORTHERN IRELAND	First week of September	
SCOTLAND	Middle of August	
ICELAND⁷	Primary/lower secondary Between 21 August and 02 September	Upper secondary Between 22 August and 31 August
LIECHTENSTEIN	19 August	
NORWAY⁸	Approx. 19 August	
BULGARIA	16 September	
CZECH REPUBLIC	02 September	
ESTONIA	02 September	
CYPRUS	02 September	
LATVIA	02 September	
LITHUANIA⁹	02 September	
HUNGARY	02 September	
MALTA¹⁰	23 September	
POLAND	02 September	
ROMANIA	16 September	
SLOVENIA	02 September	
SLOVAKIA	02 September	

ENDNOTES

TABLE II – STARTING DATES OF THE SCHOOL YEAR 2002/2003
(PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION)

- ¹ **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.
- ² **Greece:** Official school year: 01 September – 31 August.
- ³ **Spain:** Each Autonomous Community officially starts and ends the school year on a fixed date within this period. Teachers begin on 02 September (officially on 01 September).
- ⁴ **France:** Teachers begin on 02 September.
- ⁵ **Italy:** Teachers begin on 02 September.
- ⁶ **Portugal:** Teachers have the summer holidays from 15 July until 1st September, according to school needs.
- ⁷ **Iceland: Teachers:** primary and lower secondary education - beginning between 20 and 30 August; upper secondary education – beginning between 20 and 30 August.
- ⁸ **Norway:** The dates vary between municipalities (primary and lower secondary education) and between counties (upper/secondary education).
- ⁹ **Lithuania:** Teachers begin on August 26.
- ¹⁰ **Malta:** Teachers begin on 16 September.

**TABLE III – SCHOOL HOLIDAYS OVER THE SCHOOL YEAR 2002/2003
(PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

COUNTRY	AUTUMN 2002	CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR 2002/2003	WINTER / CARNIVAL 2003	SPRING / EASTER 2003	3 rd TERM 2003	SUMMER 2003	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL/RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS 2002/2003
BELGIUM FRENCH COMMUNITY	1 week (28 October-03 November)	2 weeks (23 December-05 January)	1 week (03-09 March)	2 weeks (14-27 April)	-	9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	5 public holidays (27/09; 11/11; 01/05; 29/05; 09/06)
FLEMISH COMMUNITY	1 week (28 October-03 November)	2 weeks (23 December-05 January)	1 week (03-09 March)	2 weeks (07-21 April)	2 days (29-30 May)	9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	4 public holidays (11/11; 01/05; 29/05; 09/06 + 2 extra days)
GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY	1 week (28 October-03 November)	2 weeks (23 December-05 January)	1 week (03-09 March)	2 weeks (14-27 April)	1 day (free choice)	9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	5 public holidays (11/11; 15/11; 01/05; 29/05; 09/06)
DENMARK ¹	1 week (12-20 October)	2 weeks (21 December-05 January)	-	1 week (12-21 April)	-	7 weeks (21 June-10 August)	4 public holidays (16/05; 29/05; 05/06; 09/06)
GERMANY ²	3 to 11 days (staggered between 30 September and 02 November)	6 to 12 days (staggered between 20 Dec. and 10 Jan.)	0 to 11 days (staggered between 31 January and 07 March)	4 to 12 days (staggered between 10 March and 28 April)	0 to 9 days (staggered between 02 May and 21 June)	6 weeks (staggered between 30 June and 13 September)	Up to 10 days, depending on the <i>Land</i>
GREECE	-	2 weeks (24 December-07 January)	-	2 weeks (21 April-02 May)	-	Prim.: 10 weeks (between June and Sept.) Sec.: 9 weeks (between May and Sept.)	4 national holidays (28/10; 17/11; 25/03; 01/05); 3 religious holidays (30/01; 10/03; 16/06)
SPAIN ³	-	2 weeks (between 21/23 December and 06/07 January)	Usually 2 or 3 days in February depending on the Autonomous Community	About 1 week (staggered between 11 and 28 April)	-	Prim.: 11 weeks (staggered between 21 June and mid-September) Sec.: 12 weeks (staggered between 14 June and end September)	Around 7 public holidays, depending on the Autonomous Community
FRANCE	1½ week (23 October-04 November)	2 weeks (21 December-06 January)	2 weeks: 22/2-10/3 (zone A) 15/2-03/3 (zone B) 08/2-24/2 (zone C)	2 weeks: 19/04-05/05 (zone A) 12/04-28/04 (zone B) 05/04-22/04 (zone C)	-	9 weeks (30 June-04/05 September)	A few days between Easter and summer holidays
IRELAND ⁴	1 week end of October	2 weeks from 20 December	A few days in February/March	About 8 days from 17 April	-	Prim.: 9 weeks (27 June-01 September) Sec.: 13 weeks (30 May-01 September)	5 public holidays (28/10; 01/11; 17/03; 05/05; 06/06)
ITALY ⁵	-	2 weeks (22/23/24 December-07 January)	1 to 6 days depending on the Regions (27 February-04 March)	2 to 10 days depending on the Regions (17/18 April to 27 April)	-	13-14 weeks (between June and September)	5 national holidays (01/11; 08/12; 25/04; 01/05; 02/06 and up to 4 Saints' days depending on the Region)

COUNTRY	AUTUMN 2002	CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR 2002/2003	WINTER / CARNIVAL 2003	SPRING / EASTER 2003	3 rd TERM 2003	SUMMER 2003	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL/RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS 2002/2003
LUXEMBOURG	1 week (26 October-03 November)	2 weeks (21 December-05 January)	1 week (15 February-23 February)	2 weeks (05 April - 21 April)	1 week (24 May-1 June)	9 weeks (16 July-14 September)	4 public holidays (03/03; 01/05; 09/06; 23/06)
NETHERLANDS ⁶	1 week (staggered over 2 regions: South/Central: 19-27 October; North: 12-20 October)	2 weeks (21 December-05 January)	1 week (staggered over 2 regions: North/Central: 22 February-02 March; South: 01-09 March)	-	1 week (26 April-5 May)	Prim: 6 weeks (staggered over 3 regions between 28 June and 31 August) Sec.: 7 weeks (staggered over 3 regions between 28 June and 31 August)	8 public holidays + 2 national holidays (30/04 and 05/05)
AUSTRIA ⁷	-	2 weeks (23 December-06 January)	1 week (staggered over 3 regions between 03 and 22 February)	10 days (12-22 April)	4 days (Whitsun) (07-10 June)	About 9 weeks (28 June/05 July-30 August/06 September)	6 days throughout the school year (01/11; 08/12; 01/05; 29/05; 09/06; 19/06)
PORTUGAL ⁸	-	2 weeks (19 December-03 January)	3 days (03-05 March)	2 weeks (14-24 April)	-	About 12/14 weeks (12 th year from 13 June, others from 27 June to Sept.)	Around 10 days throughout the school year
FINLAND ⁹	1 to 7 days (between 14 October and 01 November)	About 1½-2 weeks (between 19 December and 06 January)	1 week (between 17 February and 15 March)	4 days (18-21 April)	-	10-11 weeks (02 June-mid-August)	3 public/religious holidays (06/12; 01/05*; 29/05)
SWEDEN ¹⁰	A few days-1 week (between 14 October and 02 November)	Around 3 weeks (between 19-20 December and 07-09 January)	1 week (between 17 February and 09 March)	1 week (between 14 and 27 April)	-	Around 10 weeks (between 05-17 June and 14-28 August)	5 days (including public holidays 01/05; 29/05 and 09/06)
UNITED KINGDOM ENGLAND AND WALES ¹¹	1 week (either 21-25 October or 28 October-01 November)	2 weeks (21 December-04 January)	1 week (either 17-21 February or 24-28 February)	2 weeks (05 or 12 April-22 or 26 April)	1 week (23 May-02 June or 26 May-30 May)	6 weeks (between 19 or 26 July- the first week of September)	1 public holiday (5 May)
NORTHERN IRELAND ¹²	2 days (31 October and 01 November)	2 weeks (23 December-03 January)	1 day(14 February)	1 week + 1 day (18-25 April)	1 day (05 May)	9 weeks (01 July to 31 August)	Up to 6 optional closures days
SCOTLAND ¹³	From 1 to 2 weeks (between 07 and 28 October)	2 weeks (20 December-06 January)	1 to 7 days (between 06 and 19 February)	2 weeks (between 28 March and 28 April)	-	7 weeks (between 27 June and 18 August)	-
ICELAND ¹⁴	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 (05-20 October)	2 weeks (21 December-06 January)	1 week (01-09 February)	About 2 weeks (17 April - 4 May)	-	6 weeks (05 July-17 August)	5 public holidays
NORWAY ¹⁵	1 week (normally in October)	2 weeks (20 December-03 January)	1 week (normally February)	1 week + 1 day (14-21 April)	-	8 weeks (between 20 June and 20 August)	4 public holidays (01/05; 09/05; 17/05; 20/05)

COUNTRY	AUTUMN 2002	CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR 2002/2003	WINTER / CARNIVAL 2003	SPRING / EASTER 2003	3 rd TERM 2003	SUMMER 2003	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL/RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS 2002/2003
BULGARIA	Grade 1: 4 days (09-12 November)	2 weeks (23 December- 05 January)	-	10 days (31 March-09 April)	-	Grade 1: 16 weeks (23 May-15 Sept.) Prim. 15 weeks (02 June-15 Sept.) Sec.: 13 weeks (16 June-15 Sept.) Grades 9, 10, 11: 11 weeks (01 July-15 Sept.)	About 4 bank holidays (01/11; 03/03; 01/05 and 06/05)
CZECH REPUBLIC	2 days (29-30 October)	About 1 week (23 December- 03 January)	1 day (31 January)	1 week (between 03 February and 16 March depending on the region); 3 days (17+18+21 April)	-	9 weeks (30 June- 31 August)	5 days (28/09; 28/10; 17/11; 01/05 and 08/05)
ESTONIA ¹⁶	1 week (26 October- 03 November)	2 weeks (21 Decem- ber-05 January)	-	1 week (15-23 March)	-	12 weeks (5 June- 31 August)	3 days (24/02; 18/04; 01/05)
CYPRUS ¹⁷	-	2 weeks (24 Decem- ber-06 January)	-	2 weeks (21 April-04 May)	-	01 July	10 days (01/10; 28/10; 13/11; 30/01; 10/03; 25/03; 01/04; 01/05; 11/06; 16/06)
LATVIA ¹⁸	1 week (21-25 October)	2 weeks (23 December- 03 January)	1 week in February (only for Year 1 pupils)	5 days (24-28 March)	-	13 weeks (02 June-29 August)	4 days (18/11; 18/04; 21/04; 01/05)
LITHUANIA ¹⁹	1 week (28 October- 01 November)	2 weeks (23 December- 03 January)	-	1 week (14-18 April)	-	Prim.: 13 weeks (01 June-01 Sept.) Sec.: approx. 12-13 weeks (01 June- 01 Sept. or approx. 15/17 June-01 Sept.)	4 days (16/02; 11/03; 21/04; 01/05)
HUNGARY ²⁰	3 days (23-25 October)	2 weeks (23 December- 03 January)	-	1 week (17-22 April)	-	11 weeks (16 June-29 August)	8 days (06/10; 23/10; 01/11; 25/02; 15/03; 15/04 , 16/04; 01/05)
MALTA ²¹	1 day (01 November)	2 weeks (23 December- 06 January)	2 days (03 and 4 March)	2 weeks (14-25 April)	-	About 9 weeks (between 15 July and 14 September)	About 10 days (08/9; 21/09; 08/12; 13/12; 10/02; 19/03; 31/03; 01/05; 07/06; 29/06)
POLAND ²²	-	1 week (23 December- 31 December)	2 weeks (20-31 January in 1 region [Voivodships], 27 January-07 Feb- ruary in 12 regions and 03-14 February in 3 regions)	6 days (17-22 April)	-	10 weeks (21 June- 31 August)	5 days (01/11; 11/11; 01/01; 01/05; 19/06)

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ROMANIA	1 week (04-10 November)	2 weeks (21 December- 05 January)	-	2 weeks (19 April-04 May)	-	13 weeks (14 June- 14 September)	1 day (01 December)
SLOVENIA²³	1 week (28 October- 03 November)	1 week (25 December- 02 January)	1 week (between 17 February and 02 March, depending on the regions)	1 week (28 April- 04 May)	-	10 weeks (24 June-31 August)	2 days (21 April + 1 more day)
SLOVAKIA	2 days (30 and 31 October)	10 days (23 December- 03 January)	1 day (03 February)	1 week (between 17 February and 07 March, depending on the regions); Easter: 4 days (17-22 April)	-	9 weeks (30 June-31 August)	4 days (01/11; 06/01; 01/05, 08/05)

ENDNOTES

**TABLE III –SCHOOL HOLIDAYS OVER THE SCHOOL YEAR 2002/2003
(PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

- ¹ **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.
- ² **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.
- ³ **Spain:** Summer holidays start the day after the lessons are over and finish the day before the beginning of lessons for 2003/04 and they vary depending on the Autonomous Community.
- ⁴ **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.
- ⁵ In **Italy**, public holidays that fall on Sunday are **not** taken on another day of the week as compensation.
- ⁶ **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 2002/2003 (summer holidays 2003)

	Primary education	Secondary education
North region	28 June-10 August	28 June-17 August
Central region	05 July-17 August	05 July-24 August
South region	19 July-31 August	12 July-31 August

The administrative school year runs from 01 August 2002-31 July 2003, the summer holiday 2003 is considered to be the summer holiday for the 2002/2003 school year.

- ⁷ **Austria:** Summer holidays: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien ⇒ 28 June-30 August; other 6 *Länder* ⇒ 5 July-06 September.
- ⁸ **Portugal:** School holidays are stipulated in new regulations (national level): *Despacho n° 13859/2002 (DR n° 139-19 of June 2002)*. With the new government, the public holidays/occasional/religious holidays are under revision.
- ⁹ 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 may 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 10/11.
*In many municipalities also 2 May is a holiday (in order to link public/religious holidays – e.g. on a Thursday – to a weekend, some schools work on one or two Saturdays during the school year to make up the day(s) between).
- ¹⁰ **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.
- ¹¹ In **England and Wales**, school terms are not fixed nationally; they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by local education authorities or school governing bodies. Although school holidays generally take place over a core period, their exact dates may vary between schools and authorities. Schools must be open for at least 380 half day sessions each school year.
- ¹² In **Northern Ireland**, school terms are not fixed nationally; they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by Education and Library Boards or by school governing bodies. Therefore holidays vary between boards and schools. The dates provided in the table are the harmonised holidays as set by all the Education and Library Boards. These are the core dates on which the Boards have agreed not to provide services (school transport and school meals). Schools do not have to set holidays within these dates, however they are strongly

advised to do so. In addition to these dates, schools have between four and six optional closure days annually, which may be scheduled at their discretion. Schools in Northern Ireland must be open for 180 days a year.

- ¹³ In **Scotland** the school holidays are not fixed nationally, but by local education authorities, and may vary from one local authority to another.
- ¹⁴ **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.
The winter/carnival holidays in upper secondary education are 0-2 days.
- ¹⁵ **Norway**: The exact dates vary between municipalities for primary and lower secondary level and between counties for upper secondary level.
It is, however, required that the teaching covers a period of at least 38 school weeks and that it takes place within a period of 45 continuous weeks during a school year.
- ¹⁶ **Estonia**: The pupils after year 9 have an examination period in June and pupils after year 12 have an examination period from the end of April/beginning of May to 23 June.
- ¹⁷ **Cyprus**: The first and last days for Christmas and Easter are included.
Some primary schools named after a Saint are closed on the corresponding nameday.
- ¹⁸ **Latvia**: The official summer holiday period is from 02 June to 29 August, though pupils after years 9 and 12 have an examination period in June.
- ¹⁹ **Lithuania**: Upon approval of the school council, schools may stagger days of holidays or, if need be, change dates of holidays recommended by the Ministry provided the following requirements are met: 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 (see table I).
- ²⁰ **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.
- ²¹ **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 this year will cover two weeks between 14 April and 25 April both dates included. This is due to four days being given in lieu of public holidays falling on a Saturday or Sunday, 14 July in lieu of 21 September (National Holiday), 15 April in lieu of 02 November (part of the autumn mid-term holidays), 14 April in lieu of 08 December (Public Holiday) and 25 April in lieu of 07 June (Public Holiday).
- ²² **Poland**: Winter holidays are arranged with geographical differentiation. They last 2 whole weeks in the period between 20 January and 14 February: the first 2 weeks in 1 region, the next two weeks in 12 regions and the last two weeks in the remaining 3 regions.
- ²³ **Slovenia**: Ljubljana and Maribor regions: 24 February-02 March; other regions: 17-23 February.
