



Organisation of school time in Europe

Primary and general secondary education

2006/07 school year



**TABLE I – LENGTH OF THE 2006/07 SCHOOL YEAR
(PRIMARY AND GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

COUNTRY	PRIMARY EDUCATION		GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION	
	Beginning 2006	End 2007	Beginning 2006	End 2007
BELGIUM FRENCH COMMUNITY FLEMISH COMMUNITY GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY ²	01 September 01 September 01 September	30 June 30 June 30 June	01 September 01 September 01 September	30 June 30 June 30 June
CZECH REPUBLIC ¹	04 September	31 August	04 September	31 August
DENMARK ³	14 August	30 June	14 August	30 June
GERMANY ⁴	01 August	31 July	01 August	31 July
ESTONIA ⁵	01 September	04 June	01 September	04 June
GREECE ⁶	11 September	15 June	11 September (lower and upper education)	20/21 May (lower education) 16 May (upper education)
SPAIN ⁷	Between 01 and 15 September	Between 20 and 30 June	Between 01 and 22 September	Between 21 and 30 June
FRANCE ⁸	04 September	03 July	04 September	03 July
IRELAND ⁹	01 September	30 June	About 29 August	31 May
ITALY ¹⁰	Between 11 and 19 September	Between 09 and 16 June	Between 11 and 19 September	Between 09 and 16 June
CYPRUS ¹¹	07 September	20 June	11 September	05 June
LATVIA ¹²	01 SEPTEMBER	31 May	01 September	31 May
LITHUANIA ¹³	01 September	01 June (end of lessons) 21 June (end of educational process)	01 September	01 June (end of lessons) 21 June (end of educational process)
LUXEMBOURG	15 September	14 July	15 September	14 July
HUNGARY ¹⁴	01 September	15 June	01 September	15 June (04 May for those taking the school leaving examination)
MALTA ¹⁵	25 September	28 June	25 September	28 June
NETHERLANDS ¹⁶	Between 14 August and 04 September	Between 29 June and 20 July	Between 21 August and 04 September	Between 29 June and 13 July
AUSTRIA ¹⁷	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 04 September other <i>Länder</i> : 11 September	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 29 June other <i>Länder</i> : 06 July	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 04 September other <i>Länder</i> : 11 September	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 29 June other <i>Länder</i> : 06 July
POLAND ¹⁸	04 September	22 June	04 September	22 June
PORTUGAL ¹⁹	Between 11 and 15 September	Between 08 and 22 June	Between 11 and 15 September	Between 08 and 22 June
SLOVENIA ²⁰	01 September (primary and lower secondary education)	22 June (primary and lower secondary education)	01 September (upper secondary education)	22 June (upper secondary education)
SLOVAKIA ²¹	04 September	29 June	04 September	29 June
FINLAND ²²	Between 07 and 17 August	02 June	Between 07 and 17 August	02 June

COUNTRY	PRIMARY EDUCATION		GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION	
	Beginning 2006	End 2007	Beginning 2006	End 2007
SWEDEN ²³	Between 14 and 28 August	Between 06 and 18 June	Between 14 and 28 August	Between 06 and 18 June
UNITED KINGDOM ENGLAND AND WALES ²⁴ NORTHERN IRELAND ²⁵	First week of September First week of September	Third or fourth week of July End of June	First week of September First week of September	Third or fourth week of July End of June
SCOTLAND ²⁶	Mid-August	End of June	Mid-August	End of June
ICELAND ²⁷	Between 22 August and 01 September (Primary and lower secondary education)	Between 01 and 08 June (Primary and lower secondary education)	Between 22 August and 01 September (Upper secondary education)	Between 21 and 31 May (Upper secondary education)
LIECHTENSTEIN	21 August	06 July	21 August	06 July
NORWAY ²⁸	Between 17 and 21 August	Between 19 and 22 June	Between 17 and 21 August	Between 19 and 22 June
BULGARIA ²⁹	15 September	23 May (I grade) 31 May (II-IV grades) 15 June (V-VIII grades) 30 June (VIII grade)**	15 September	23 May (XII and XIII grades) 30 June (IX-XI grades)
ROMANIA ³⁰	15 September	15 June	15 September	15 June
TURKEY ³¹	18 September	19 June	18 September	19 June

ENDNOTES

**TABLE I – LENGTH OF THE 2006/07 SCHOOL YEAR
(PRIMARY AND GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

- ² **BELGIUM GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY:** The **teachers'** school year is similar to the students' school year but, since 2005/06, the head of institutions may require teachers to be present the last 5 working days of the month of August for certain non-teaching activities (exams, decisions in connection with the student's results, preparation of the new school year, etc.).
- ¹ **CZECH REPUBLIC:** The Education Act determines that school year starts 01 September and ends 31 August (of the following calendar year). The school year is divided into a period of school lessons and a period of school holidays. If September falls on Friday or a weekend day, the period of school lessons starts the following Monday.
According to the Labour Code, the holidays for **teachers** at primary or secondary level is 8 weeks each calendar year. They take it primarily in the time of school holidays.
- ³ **DENMARK:** *Folkeskoler* are at liberty to decide on the number of holidays and their distribution, provided they offer a minimum number of 200 days of lessons during each school year. The Ministry of Education only determines the date of the last day of the school year. This is the case for both primary and general secondary education. 01 August is the earliest possible date to start, schools normally begin 1 or 2 weeks later.
- Teachers:** Beginning 09 August (General secondary education). Both primary and secondary schools are at liberty to decide on the number of holidays and their distribution, provided they live up to offering a minimum of 200 days of lessons during each school year. This also applies to the length of the teachers' school year, which may differ at the single educational institution in question.
- 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.

LENGTH OF STUDENTS' SCHOOL YEAR 2006/2007 AND SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2007			
Primary and secondary education			
	Beginning of school year 2006/2007	Summer holidays 2007	
		Beginning	End
NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN	08 August	21 June	03 August
HESSEN, RHEINLAND-PFALZ	28 August	09 July	17 August
SAARLAND	28 August	09 July	18 August
HAMBURG	17 August	12 July	22 August
BERLIN, BRANDENBURG	21 August	12 July	25 August
MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN, SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN	21 August	16 July	25 August
BREMEN, NIEDERSACHSEN, SACHSEN-ANHALT, THÜRINGEN	31 August	19 July	29 August
SACHSEN	04 September	23 July	31 August
BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG	18 September	26 July	08 September
BAYERN	12 September	30 July	10 September

- ⁵ **ESTONIA:** 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.
The beginning and the end of a **teacher's** school year depend on the individual school and teacher. According to the legislation, **teachers** have 56 days (8 weeks) of vacation. Generally, they go on vacation in the middle of June and are back in the middle of August.

- 6 **GREECE: Official** school year: 01 September 2006 to 31 August 2007. **Teaching** school year: 01 September 2006 to 21 June 2007.

TEACHERS' SCHOOL YEAR 2006/2007			
Primary education		General secondary education (upper/lower)	
Beginning 2006	End 2007	Beginning 2006	End 2007
01 September	21 June	01 September	30 June

- 7 **SPAIN:** Dates vary according to the different Autonomous Communities. For detail information, also on **teachers'** school year, see the following tables:

LENGTH OF STUDENTS' SCHOOL YEAR 2006/2007				
	Primary education		General secondary education	
	Beginning 2006	End 2007	Beginning 2006	End 2007
Andalucía	15 September	22 June	15 September 22 Sept.(Upper Secondary)	22 June
Aragón	11 September ¹	21 June ¹	12 September	21 June
Asturias	11 September	22 June	12 September	22 June
Baleares	13 September	22 June	14 September	22 June
Canarias	07/11 September	22 June	12/14 September 13/15 Sept. (Upper Second.)	22 June
Cantabria	12 September ¹	21 June ¹	19 September	27 June
Castilla y León	11 September ¹	22 June ¹	18 September	26 June
Castilla-La Mancha	11 September	20 June	18 September	27 June
Cataluña	12 September	20 June	12 September	20 June
Extremadura	12 September	22 June	12 September 14 September (Upper Secondary)	22 June
Galicia	11 September	22 June	20 September	22 June
Madrid	11 September	21 June	13 September	21 June
Murcia	11 September ¹	22 June ¹	15 September	28 June
Navarra	Not before 07 September	Not later than 22 June	Not before 14 September	Not later than 22 June
País Vasco ²	01 September	30 June	01 September	30 June
C. Valenciana	11 September ¹	22 June ¹	15 September	22 June
La Rioja	08 September	21 June	15 September	Not before 22 June

¹ Date for the first cycle of Compulsory Secondary Education when it takes place at a Primary School.
² Taking into account the beginning and ending dates and ensuring the minimum established timetable, educational centres are free to establish their own calendar

TEACHERS' SCHOOL YEAR 2006/2007	
Primary and General secondary education	
Beginning 2006	End 2007
01 September	29/30 June

- 8 **FRANCE:** Certain schools have a 4-day-week. Only in these cases will the dates vary. For students who have no classes on Wednesday, holidays will start after lessons on Tuesday and the beginning of the school year will be on Thursday. **Teachers** have to begin on 01 September 2005.
- 9 **IRELAND:** In accordance with circular M29/95, the minimum number of teaching days per post-primary school year will be 167. In addition, in accordance with circular M21/04, holiday periods during the school year have been standardised, ie midterm breaks, Christmas and Easter holidays. Traditionally, formal instruction ends in post-primary schools on the Friday preceding the June bank holiday weekend. State examinations normally commence the following Wednesday. In order for schools to meet their requirement to be open for 167 days during 2006/07 school year, it is expected that post schools will open circa 29 August 2006.
- 10 **Italy:** Schools can adjust the school calendar, established by the Regions, to the POF's requirements (POF is a basic document of the cultural and planning identity of the schools. It defines the curricular, extra-curricular, educational and organisational projects of each school within the school autonomy). Schools can organize in a

flexible way the overall timetable for the curriculum and for any single subject even on the basis of multi-week planning, provided that lessons spread over a minimum of five days per week and that the prescribed annual, pluriennial or cycle number of hours for the single subjects is complied with. Generally speaking, the school year begins between the 2nd and the 4th week of September and finishes between the 1st and the 3rd week of June. The school adaptations of the organization of school time must guarantee at least 200 days of lesson a school year.

LENGTH OF STUDENTS' SCHOOL YEAR 2006/2007		
Primary and General secondary education		
	Beginning 2006	End 2007
Abruzzo	12 September	09 June
Alto Adige (Bolzano)	11 September	16 June
Basilicata	14 September	09 June
Calabria	18 September	10 June
Campania	18 September	09 June
Emilia-Romagna	19 September	09 June
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	11 September	09 June
Lazio	13 September	09 June
Liguria	14 September	09 June
Lombardia	11 September	09 June
Marche	14 September	09 June
Molise	11 September	08 June
Piemonte	11 September	09 June
Puglia	18 September	09 June
Sardegna	14 September	09 June
Sicilia	18 September	09 June
Toscana	14 September	09 June
Trentino (Trento)	13 September	09 June
Umbria	14 September	09 June
Valle D'Aosta	14 September	09 June
Veneto	11 September	09 June

TEACHERS' SCHOOL YEAR 2006/2007			
Primary education		General secondary education	
Beginning 2006	End 2007	Beginning 2006	End 2007
01 September	30 June	01 September	30 June

- ¹¹ **CYPRUS:** the 5th of June is the end of the students' school year for students in lower secondary education. For the 1st and 2nd grade of upper secondary education the school year ends on the 3rd of June. For the 3rd grade of upper secondary education the school year ends on the 2nd of June. The Minister of Education and Culture may choose to change the above dates for educational benefit reasons. General secondary education: end of school year, end of June (includes exams, correction of papers, result announcements).

TEACHERS' SCHOOL YEAR 2006/2007			
Primary education		General secondary education	
Beginning 2006	End 2007	Beginning 2006	End 2007
04 September	22 June	01 September	30 June
The official school year is longer for teachers in both primary and secondary education as it includes registration days, sorting out of schools and classes and exam periods.			
In secondary general education according to the law, the official school year is from 01 September 2006 until the 31 August 2007.			
Teachers, however, need to be at school from the 01 September 2006 until the 30 June 2007 for "school work".			

- ¹² **LATVIA:** Primary education (Basic education): end of the school year for the 9th class: 08 June 2007. General secondary education: end of the school year for the 12th class: 15 June 2007. The school year is divided in two semesters: the first from 01 September to 22 December and the second from 08 January to 31 May (or 08 June for the 9th class and 15 June for the 12th class). Extension of the school year for classes 1-8 and 10-11 may be made if specific circumstances hindering education process arise during the school year (e.g. coldness, strike, emergency situation in school, etc.).

Teachers: The teachers' school year concurs fully with students' year, but normally is longer and starts earlier, though the end and the start date is not defined officially. Teachers have the right to receive 8 weeks of paid annual leave in summer.

- ¹³ **LITHUANIA:** It is within each school's discretion to decide what kind of activity pupils will be offered from 01 to 21 June: either disciplinary subject-based projects, subject/art weeks, work at the school library, visits to higher education schools, installing exhibition, visits to historic places, sports events, remedial courses for pupils not showing notable progress, etc.

Pupils in the years 1 to 5 can finish only after at least 170 school days, while those in the years 6 to 11 after at least 195 days. These days include the national holidays. Pupils in the last year of upper secondary education finish their lessons on 11 May.

The annual amount of leave for **teachers** is legislated as 56 calendar days. Normally, it is recommended that teachers take their annual leave during school summer holidays (i.e. teachers' leave is normally determined by the school calendar).

- ¹⁴ **HUNGARY:** At schools, using any of the ethnic minority languages as the language of instruction at general secondary education, the end of the school year, in case of pupils taking the school leaving examination: 03 May 2007. (Source: Decree N° 4/2006 [II.24.] of the Minister of Education on the school year 2006/07).

- ¹⁵ **MALTA:** Primary – 26 to 28 June 2007 annual examinations.

Secondary: 13 to 15 June 2007 oral examinations (annual examinations); 18 to 28 June 2007 annual examinations.

Teachers: Beginning 20 September 2006 and ending on 12 July 2007. INSET courses are held on the 15, 18 and 19 September and on the 9, 10 and 11 July 2007.

- ¹⁶ **NETHERLANDS:** The school year officially runs from 01 August to 31 July of the following year. Start and end of the teaching year is according to region (north, central and south region).

LENGTH OF STUDENTS' SCHOOL YEAR 2006/2007				
	Primary education		General secondary education	
	Beginning 2006	End 2007	Beginning 2006	End 2007
North region	04 September	06 July	04 September	06 July
Central region	21 August	20 July	28 August	13 July
South region	14 August	29 June	21 August	29 June

The **teachers'** school year is similar as students' school year. However, it is at the school's discretion to decide whether **teachers** are expected to end or start later (in order to attend meetings, for preparation of timetable, other non-teaching activities etc.).

- ¹⁷ **AUSTRIA:** Other *Länder*: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg.

The **teachers'** school year is of the same length as the pupils' school year.

- ¹⁸ **POLAND:** End of the school year in both primary and secondary schools is always the first Friday after the 18th of June. In the last grades of upper secondary schools ending with the Matura examination, however, the school year ends earlier, but the date has not yet been decided. In the last grades of gymnasium (lower secondary) ending with the external examination, the school year ends on 27 April 2007. In the last grades of basic vocational schools, ending with the external vocational examination, the school year ends on 15 June 2007.

In general, **teachers'** school year covers the same period of time as pupils' school year. Teachers' holidays, however, may be shortened by max. 7 days, if there is a need to perform organisational tasks in a given school.

- ¹⁹ **PORTUGAL:** Student's school year ends on 08 June (for 9th, 11th and 12th years of schooling) and on 22 June (for all the other ones). This happens because the first ones have external exams on some subjects.

Teachers: Beginning 1 September and ending 30 August. This is the official length of school year, although the teachers have school summer holidays for a month (they can have summer holidays during the months of June, July or August, according to school needs).

- ²⁰ **SLOVENIA:** The official length of the school year is from 01 September to 31 August, but lessons are completed in June.

Primary education: Primary and lower secondary education (single structure education);

General secondary education: Upper secondary general education.

End of the school lessons (single structure of primary and lower secondary education):

15 June for the final grade pupils, external examinations run by the end of June;

22 June for pupils who are not in the final grade.

End of the upper secondary school lessons:

18 May end of lessons for students in final grade; final examinations in June and July;

22 June is the last day of lessons for upper secondary students who are not in the final grade.

Teachers' school year begins about 10 days before the pupils'/students' school year and ends some 14-21 days after the end of pupils' lessons. The precise length depends on the individually determined leave of a teacher (from 22 to 35 days) and his/her tasks and obligations allocated by the head teacher.

- ²¹ **SLOVAKIA:** Official school year: 01 September to 31 August.
Following the Labour Code, **teachers** and **head teachers** at primary and secondary levels have 8 weeks of holidays per calendar year. They take it during the holidays. Usually, **teachers** work one week after beginning of summer holidays and one week before the beginning of the school.
- ²² **FINLAND:** In the 2006/07 school year, there will be 188 school days in all.
- ²³ **SWEDEN:** The exact days vary on regional and municipality levels.
Teachers: There is a total of 178 school days and around 5 extra days when teachers work or undergo training and the students have no classes.
- ²⁴ In **ENGLAND AND WALES**, schools must be open for at least 380 half day sessions each school year. The dates of school terms are not fixed nationally; they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the local authority (LA) or school governing body. 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. There is currently some movement towards the adoption of a standard school year which would be consistent year on year. A number of LAs began to introduce this new model in 2004/05 and other LAs are working towards introduction of a standard school year in subsequent years. However, the decision to adopt the new model remains at the level of the LA or school governing body.
Length of the **teachers'** school year: Teachers are required to be available for 5 additional days. Schools normally schedule these within the school opening dates given in the table.
- ²⁵ In **NORTHERN IRELAND**, schools must be open for 190 days a year. The dates of school terms are not fixed nationally; they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the Education and Library Board (ELB) or school governing body. Therefore school holidays may differ between boards and schools. The five ELBs, 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, but they are strongly advised to do so. In addition, for the 2006/07 school year, schools may allocate up to five 'School Development Days' from within the 190 days. These five days are devoted to staff development and school improvement; the school is closed to pupils.
Length of **teachers'** school year: Teachers are required to be available for 5 additional days. These are scheduled by schools to take place outside but near to the dates given in the table.
- ²⁶ In **SCOTLAND**, pupils attend school for 190 days a year.
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 2006/07 is 14 August 2006.
The **teachers'** school year is longer by 5 in-service days, thus it is 195 days long.
- ²⁷ In **ICELAND:** There are still a few small rural schools at compulsory level which operate for 8 ½ months.
Teachers work for 9 months. According to their wage contract, teachers in primary and lower secondary education must work 8 days at school during the months of June to August and teachers in upper secondary education attend school 4 days, before and after the school year commences.

Teachers' school year 2006/2007			
Primary and lower secondary education		Upper secondary education	
Beginning 2006	End 2007	Beginning 2006	End 2007
Between 14 and 31 August	Between 04 and 15 June	Between 21 and 31 August	Between 21 May and 04 June

- ²⁸ **NORWAY:** The **teachers'** work during the year is counted in working hours, that is 1300 hours for primary education (ISCED 1), 1225 hours for lower secondary education (ISCED 2) and 1150 for upper secondary education (ISCED 3). It is an individual matter for each school if the work hours, longer than for students, are before the beginning or after the end.
- ²⁹ **BULGARIA:** **Pupils from VIII grade for whom the school year will close on 30 June (primary education) are those admitted to continue their compulsory education in VIII grade, after completing successfully VII grade, to secondary language learning schools, after undergoing national tests or alternative form of examinations.
Teachers: The decision on the length of the teachers' school year is not taken at central level. Each educational institution (the school director) is entitled to draw up the school working schedule for the employed teachers. Most common situation is that the teachers are supposed to be at disposal at school in the beginning of September in order to get prepared with the necessary school documentation etc. As for the end of a given school year, it again depends on whether the teachers are needed at school in order to help/complete/close with the school documentation or whether they are involved in certain initiated projects, initiatives, etc.
- ³⁰ **ROMANIA:** Beginning of the school year: In exceptional situations, depending on local climatic conditions and school's specificity, the structure of the school year can be modified at the request of schools approved by the local educational authorities (County School Inspectorates). Approval is given if the number of 35 weeks and 174 school days is maintained and all pupils may participate, without restrictions in national examinations.

For the 8th grade, the length of the school year corresponds to 34 weeks and 169 days, starting on 15 September and ending on 8 June.

Teachers: Beginning 01 September, ending 31 August. During school holidays, teachers may benefit from an annual leave of minimum 62 days, excluding Sundays and legal holidays.

³¹ **TURKEY:** For primary and general secondary education, a school year must be not less than 180 days. A school year runs 9 months from September to June.

The length of the **teachers'** school year for primary and general secondary education is from 01 September 2006 to 01 July 2007.

- ²⁴ In **ENGLAND AND WALES**, schools must be open for at least 380 half day sessions each school year. The dates of school terms are not fixed nationally; they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the local authority (LA) or school governing body. 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. There is currently some movement towards the adoption of a standard school year which would be consistent year on year. A number of LAs began to introduce this new model in 2004/05 and other LAs are working towards introduction of a standard school year in subsequent years. However, the decision to adopt the new model remains at the level of the LA or school governing body.
Length of the **teachers'** school year: Teachers are required to be available for 5 additional days. Schools normally schedule these within the school opening dates given in the table.
- ²⁵ In **NORTHERN IRELAND**, schools must be open for 190 days a year. The dates of school terms are not fixed nationally; they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the Education and Library Board (ELB) or school governing body. Therefore school holidays may differ between boards and schools. The five ELBs, 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, but they are strongly advised to do so. In addition, for the 2006/07 school year, schools may allocate up to five 'School Development Days' from within the 190 days. These five days are devoted to staff development and school improvement; the school is closed to pupils.
Length of **teachers'** school year: Teachers are required to be available for 5 additional days. These are scheduled by schools to take place outside but near to the dates given in the table.
- ²⁶ In **SCOTLAND**, pupils attend school for 190 days a year.
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 2006/07 is 14 August 2006.
The **teachers'** school year is longer by 5 in-service days, thus it is 195 days long.
- ²⁷ In **ICELAND**: There are still a few small rural schools at compulsory level which operate for 8 ½ months.
Teachers work for 9 months. According to their wage contract, teachers in primary and lower secondary education must work 8 days at school during the months of June to August and teachers in upper secondary education attend school 4 days, before and after the school year commences.

Teachers' school year 2006/2007			
Primary and lower secondary education		Upper secondary education	
Beginning 2006	End 2007	Beginning 2006	End 2007
Between 14 and 31 August	Between 04 and 15 June	Between 21 and 31 August	Between 21 May and 04 June

- ²⁸ **NORWAY**: The **teachers'** work during the year is counted in working hours, that is 1300 hours for primary education (ISCED 1), 1225 hours for lower secondary education (ISCED 2) and 1150 for upper secondary education (ISCED 3). It is an individual matter for each school if the work hours, longer than for students, are before the beginning or after the end.
- ²⁹ **BULGARIA: NOT YET AVAILABLE**
- ³⁰ **ROMANIA**: Beginning of the school year: In exceptional situations, depending on local climatic conditions and school's specificity, the structure of the school year can be modified at the request of schools approved by the local educational authorities (County School Inspectorates). Approval is given if the number of 35 weeks and 174 school days is maintained and all pupils may participate, without restrictions in national examinations.
For the 8th grade, the length of the school year corresponds to 34 weeks and 169 days, starting on 15 September and ending on 8 June.
Teachers: Beginning 01 September, ending 31 August. During school holidays, teachers may benefit from an annual leave of minimum 62 days, excluding Sundays and legal holidays.
- ³¹ **TURKEY**: For primary and general secondary education, a school year must be not less than 180 days. A school year runs 9 months from September to June.
The length of the **teachers'** school year for primary and general secondary education is from 01 September 2006 to 01 July 2007.

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**TABLE II – STARTING DATES OF THE 2006/07 SCHOOL YEAR
(PRIMARY AND GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

COUNTRY	STARTING DATES - 2006	
BELGIUM		
FRENCH COMMUNITY	01 September	
FLEMISH COMMUNITY	01 September	
GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY	01 September	
CZECH REPUBLIC	04 September	
DENMARK¹	14 August	
GERMANY		
BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG	18 September	
BAYERN	12 September	
BERLIN	21 August	
BRANDENBURG	21 August	
BREMEN	31 August	
HAMBURG	17 August	
HESSEN	28 August	
MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN	21 August	
NIEDERSACHSEN	31 August	
NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN	08 August	
RHEINLAND-PFALZ	28 August	
SAARLAND	28 August	
SACHSEN	04 September	
SACHSEN-ANHALT	31 August	
SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN	21 August	
THÜRINGEN	31 August	
ESTONIA	01 September	
GREECE²	11 September	
SPAIN³	Primary between 01 and 15 September	General secondary Between 01 and 22 September
FRANCE	04 September	
IRELAND	Primary 01 September	General secondary About 29 August
ITALY⁴	Between 11 and 19 September	
CYPRUS	Primary 07 September	General secondary 11 September
LATVIA	01 September	
LITHUANIA	01 September	
LUXEMBOURG	15 September	
HUNGARY	01 September	
MALTA	25 SEPTEMBER	
NETHERLANDS	Primary	General secondary
NORTH REGION	04 September	04 September
CENTRAL REGION	21 August	28 August
SOUTH REGION	14 August	21 August
AUSTRIA		
BURGENLAND, NIEDERÖSTERREICH, WIEN	04 September	
OTHER LÄNDER	11 September	
POLAND	04 September	
PORTUGAL	Between 11 and 15 September	
SLOVENIA	01 September	
SLOVAKIA	04 September	
FINLAND	Between 07 and 17 August	

COUNTRY	STARTING DATES - 2006
SWEDEN	Between 14 and 28 August
UNITED KINGDOM	
ENGLAND AND WALES	First week of September
NORTHERN IRELAND	First week of September
SCOTLAND⁵	Mid-August
ICELAND	Between 22 August and 01 September
LIECHTENSTEIN	21 August
NORWAY	Between 17 and 21 August
BULGARIA	15 September
ROMANIA	15 September
TURKEY	18 September

ENDNOTES

- ¹ **DENMARK:** Not all schools start at the same date. 01 August is the earliest possible date to start school.
- 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. **See Endnotes to Table I.**
- ⁴ **ITALY:** **See Endnotes to Table I.**
- ⁵ **UK-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 2006/07 is 14 August 2006.

**TABLE III – SCHOOL HOLIDAYS DURING THE 2006/07 SCHOOL YEAR
(PRIMARY AND GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

COUNTRY	AUTUMN 2006	CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR 2006/2007	WINTER / CARNIVAL 2007	SPRING / EASTER 2007	3rd TERM 2007	SUMMER 2007	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL/RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS 2006/2007
BELGIUM FRENCH COMMUNITY	1 week (30 October- 03 November)	2 weeks (25 December- 05 January)	1 week (19-23 February)	2 weeks (02-13 April)	-	9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	4 public holidays (27/09; 01/05, 17/05; 28/05)
FLEMISH COMMUNITY	1 week (30 October- 03 November)	2 weeks (25 December- 05 January)	1 week (19-23 February)	2 weeks (02-13 April)	-	9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	4 public holidays (01/05; 17/05; 18/05; 28/5)
GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY	1 week (30 October- 03 November)	2 weeks (25 December- 05 January)	1 week (19-23 February)	2 weeks (02-13 April)	-	9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	4 public holidays (15/11; 01/05; 17/05; 28/05 + 1 extra day)
CZECH REPUBLIC¹	2 days (26 and 27 October)	About 1 week (23 December- 02 January)	1 day (02 February)	1 week (between 05 February and 18 March depending on the region); 2 days (05-06 April)	-	9 weeks (02 July- 31 August)	5 days (28/09; 17/11; 09/04; 01/05; 08/05)
DENMARK²	1 week (16-22 October)	1 ½ weeks (21 December- 02 January primary; 23 December- 02 January general secondary)	1 week (either 12-18 February or 19-25 February)	1 week (02-08 April)	-	7 weeks (30 June -13 August)	4 public holidays (04/05; 17/05; 28/05; 05/06)
GERMANY³	2 to 14 days (staggered between 02 October and 04 November)	9 to 18 days (staggered between 21 December and 12 January)	0 to 12 days (staggered between 01 and 24 February)	5 to 15 days (staggered between 05 March and 16 April)	0 to 11 days (staggered between 14 May and 09 June)	6 weeks (staggered between 21 June and 10 September)	Up to 10 days, depending on the <i>Land</i>
ESTONIA	1 week (28 October- 05 November)	2 weeks (23 December- 07 January)	-	1 week (17-25 March)	-	13 weeks (05 June-31 August)	3 days (24/02 Independence day; 06/04; 01/05)
GREECE	-	2 weeks (24 December- 07 January)	-	2 weeks (30 March-16 April)	-	Prim.: 10 weeks (22 June-31 August) Sec.: 9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	6 national/religious holidays (28/10; 17/11; 30/01; 19/02; 01/05; 28/05 and some holidays of regional character)

COUNTRY	AUTUMN 2006	CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR 2006/2007	WINTER / CARNIVAL 2007	SPRING / EASTER 2007	3 rd TERM 2007	SUMMER 2007	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL/RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS 2006/2007
SPAIN ⁴	-	2 weeks (between 22 December and 08 January)	Usually 2 or 3 days (between 16 and 20 February depending on the Autonomous Community)	About 1 week (staggered between 30 March and 16 April depending on the Autonomous Community)	-	Prim.: 11 weeks (staggered between late June and mid- September) Sec.: 12 weeks (staggered between late June and mid- September)	Around 8 public holidays, depending on the Autonomous Community
FRANCE ⁵	1½ weeks (25 October- 06 November)	2 weeks (23 December- 08 January)	2 weeks: 10/02-26/02 (zone A) 24/02-12/03(zone B) 17/02-05/03(zone C)	2 weeks: 31/03-16/04 (zone A) 14/04-02/05 (zone B) 07/04-23/04 (zone C)	-	9 weeks (04 July- 03 September)	5 days (11/11; 01/05; 08/05; 17/05; 28/05)
IRELAND ⁶	1 week (30 October- 03 November primary and secondary)	2 weeks 23 December- 07 January primary and secondary)	2 days (22-23 February primary*) 1 week (19-23 February secondary)	2 weeks (30 March-15 April primary and secondary)	-	Prim.: about 9 weeks (late June to end of August) Sec.: about 13 weeks (June, July and most of August)	Around 3 public holidays (01/05; 17/05; 28/05) + some religious holidays
ITALY ⁷	-	2 weeks (between 22/24 December and 05/07 January)	1 to 4 days (generally in February, depending on the regions)	5 to 10 days (between 04/05 April and 09/14 April depending on the regions)	-	12-13 weeks (between June and September)	5 national holidays (01/11, 08/12, 25/04; 01/05; 02/06 and Saints' days depending on the regions)
CYPRUS	-	2 weeks (primary: 23 December- 06 January) (secondary: 24 December- 06 January)	-	2 weeks (31 March-15 April)	-	Around 10 weeks (primary: 23 June- 02 September) (secondary: 01 July- 31 August)	7 days (13/11; 30/01;19/02; 01/05; 17/05 only primary education; 28/05; 11/06;) (13/11 might be changed to another date)
LATVIA ⁸	1 week (23-27 October)	2 weeks (23 December- 05 January)	-	1 week (30 March-05 April)	-	13 weeks (01 June-31 August)	3 public holidays (01/05; 04/05; 18/11)
LITHUANIA ⁹	1 week (31 October 06 November)	2 weeks (24 December- 06 January)	-	1 week (10-17 April)	-	Not shorter than 2 months (July/August)	3 days (16/02; 11/03; 01/05)
LUXEMBOURG	1 week (28 October- 05 November)	2 weeks (23 December- 07 January)	1 week (17-25 February)	2 weeks (31 March-15 April)	1 week (26 Mai-03 June)	9 weeks (16 July- 14 September)	2 public holidays (01/05; 17/05)
HUNGARY ¹⁰	1 week (30 October- 03 November)	1½ weeks (25 December- 02 January)	-	1 week (05-10 April)	-	11 weeks (15 June-31 August)	5 days (23/10; 01/11; 15/03, 01/05; 28/05)

COUNTRY	AUTUMN 2006	CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR 2006/2007	WINTER / CARNIVAL 2007	SPRING / EASTER 2007	3 rd TERM 2007	SUMMER 2007	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL/RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS 2006/2007
MALTA	3 days (01-3 November)	2 weeks (26 December- 05 January)	2 days (19-20 February)	1 week (04-11 April)	-	About 11 weeks (28 June- 14 September)	8 days 21/09; 08/12; 13/12; 25/12; 19/03; 01/05; 07/06; 29/06)
NETHERLANDS¹¹	1 week (staggered over 2 regions: South: 14-22 October; North/Central: 21-29 October)	2 weeks (23 December- 07 January)	1 week (staggered over 2 regions: Central/ South: 17-25 February; North: 24 February- 04 March)	-	1 week (28 April-06 May)	Prim: 6 weeks (staggered over 3 regions between 30 June and 02 September) Sec: 7 weeks (staggered over 3 regions between 30 June and 02 September)	3 public holidays (09/04; 17/05; 28/05) 2 national holidays (30/04 and 05/05)
AUSTRIA¹²	-	2 weeks (24 December- 06 January)	1 week (05-10 February: N, W; 12-17 February: B, K, S, T, V; 19-24 February: O, ST)	1 week (31 March-10 April)	4 days (26-29 May)	About 9 weeks (B, N, W: 30 June- 01 September; K, O, S, St, T, V: 07 July-08 September)	7 days (26/10; 01/11; 02/11; 08/12; 01/05; 17/05; 07/06) 1 extra religious holiday (Saint - different in each <i>Land</i>)
POLAND¹³	-	1 week (23 December- 01 January)	2 weeks (between 15 January and 25 February depending on the region)	4 days (05-10 April)	-	10 weeks (23 June-31 August)	7 days (01/11; 11/11; 01/05; 02/05; 03/05; 07/06; 08/06)
PORTUGAL	-	2 weeks (18 December- 02 January)	3 days (19-21 February)	2 weeks (26 March-09 April)	-	About 10 to 12 weeks (beginning 11 or 25 June)	7 days (05/10; 01/11; 01/12; 08/12; 25/04; 01/05; 07/06)
SLOVENIA¹⁴	1 week (30 October- 03 November)	1 week (25 December- 02 January)	1 week (between 19 and 23 February; 26 February and 02 March, depending on the regions)	1 week (27 April-02 May)	-	10 weeks (25 June-31 August)	2 days (08/02; 09/04)
SLOVAKIA¹⁵	2 days (02-03 November)	7 days (23 December- 02 January)	1 day (02 February)	1 week (spring holidays) (between 19 February and 09 March, depending on the regions); 4 days (Easter holidays) (05-10 April)	-	9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	5 days (01/09; 15/09; 01/11; 01/05; 08/05)
FINLAND¹⁶	1 to 7 days (between 13 and 30 October)	1 to 2 weeks (between 18 December and 07 January)	1 week (between 19 February and 11 March)	3-4 days (between 06 and 09 April)	-	10-11 weeks (from 02 June to mid-August)	3 days (06/12; 01/05; 17/05)

COUNTRY	AUTUMN 2006	CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR 2006/2007	WINTER / CARNIVAL 2007	SPRING / EASTER 2007	3rd TERM 2007	SUMMER 2007	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL/RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS 2006/2007
SWEDEN¹⁷	1 week (between 10 October and 10 November)	About 3 weeks (between 15/21 December and 08/10 January)	1 week (between 12 February and 01 March)	1 week (between 19 March and 20 April)	-	About 10 weeks (between 08/16 June and end of August)	3 days (01/05; 17/05; 06/06)
UNITED KINGDOM ENGLAND AND WALES¹⁸	1 week (23-27 October)	2 weeks (between the third or fourth week of December and the first week of January)	1 week (12-16 February or 19-23 February)	2 weeks (02-13 April)	1 week (28 May-01 June)	6 weeks (between 23 July and the first week of September)	1 public holiday (01/05)*
NORTHERN IRELAND¹⁹	2 days (30-31 October)	2 weeks (25 December- 05 January)	1 days (16 February)	1 week (06-13 April)	2 days (07 and 28 May)	9 weeks (between 01 July and the first week of September)	Up to 5 optional closure days
SCOTLAND²⁰	From 1 to 2 weeks (between 02 and 27 October)	2 weeks (22 December- 04 January)	1 to 7 days (between 08 and 20 February)	Around 2 weeks (between 31 March and 13 April)	-	7 weeks (from end June to mid-August)	Up to 3 days
ICELAND²¹	0-2 days (Primary/lower and upper secondary)	2 weeks (approx. 21 December- 03 January)	0-5 days primary and lower secondary; 0-2 days upper secondary (usually in the third week of February)	Approx.: 7 days (primary/lower and upper secondary: between 02 and 10/11 April)	-	11 weeks primary and lower secondary (between 04 June and 31 August); 13 weeks upper secondary (between 21 May and 31 August)	4 public holidays (19/04; 01/05; 17/05; 28/05)
LIECHTENSTEIN	2 weeks (07-22 October)	2 weeks (23 December- 07 January)	1 week (17-25 February)	2 ½ weeks (05-22 April)	-	6 weeks (06 July-20 August)	0
NORWAY²²	1 week (between 02 and 14 October)	Approx. 2 weeks (between 19/21 December and 02/04 January)	1 week (between 19 February and 10 March)	Approx. 1 week (02-11 April)	-	Approx. 8 weeks (from 19 /22 June)	3 occasional holidays (1/05; 17/05; 28/05)

COUNTRY	AUTUMN 2006	CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR 2006/2007	WINTER / CARNIVAL 2007	SPRING / EASTER 2007	3rd TERM 2007	SUMMER 2007	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL/RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS 2006/2007
BULGARIA²³	2/3 days (09-12 November for pupils I grade of primary education)	2 weeks (23 December- 07 January)	2/3 days (08-11 February – between the school terms)	1 week (01-09 April)	-	Between 11 and 16 weeks (Grades I, XII and XIII: 23/05-15/09; Grades II to IV: 31/05- 15/09; Grades V to VIII : 15/06- 15/09; Grades IX to XI and VIII : 30/06-15/09)	2 days (01/11; 25/05)
ROMANIA	1 week (30 October- 05 November; only primary education)	2 weeks (23 December- 07 January)	1 week (03-11 February)	1 week (07-15 April)	-	11 weeks (16 June-31 August)	1 day (1 December)
TURKEY²⁴	3 days (22-25 October: religious holidays)	4 ½ days (30 December- 03 January: religious holidays)	2 weeks (29 January- 09 February)	2 days (23-24 April)	-	12 weeks (19 June- 18 September)	-

ENDNOTES

**TABLE III –SCHOOL HOLIDAYS DURING THE 2006/07 SCHOOL YEAR
(PRIMARY AND GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

¹ **CZECH REPUBLIC**

Specification of terms for spring holidays in the CZECH REPUBLIC

Term 2007	Regions
5-11 February	Benešov, Beroun, Rokycany, České Budějovice, Český Krumlov, Klatovy, Trutnov, Pardubice, Chrudim, Svitavy, Ústí nad Orlicí, Ostrava-město
12-18 February	Praha 1 to 5, Blansko, Brno-město, Brno-venkov, Břeclav, Hodonín, Vyškov, Znojmo, Domažlice, Tachov, Louny, Prostějov, Karviná
19-25 February	Praha 6 to 10, Cheb, Karlovy Vary, Sokolov, Nymburk, Jindřichův Hradec, Litoměřice, Děčín, Přerov, Frýdek-Místek
26 February-04 March	Kroměříž, Uherské Hradiště, Vsetín, Zlín, Praha-východ, Praha-západ, Mělník, Rakovník, Plzeň-město, Plzeň-sever, Plzeň-jih, Hradec Králové, Teplice, Nový Jičín
05-11 March	Česká Lípa, Jablonec nad Nisou, Liberec, Semily, Havlíčkův Brod, Jihlava, Pelhřimov, Třebíč, Žďár nad Sázavou, Kladno, Kolín, Kutná Hora, Písek, Náchod, Bruntál
12-18 March	Mladá Boleslav, Příbram, Tábor, Prachatice, Strakonice, Ústí nad Labem, Chomutov, Most, Jičín, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Olomouc, Šumperk, Opava, Jeseník

² **DENMARK:** Following the legislation, municipalities are at liberty to decide when to place holidays, although it is expected that many of them will follow the previous schedule. The winter/carnival holidays therefore also depend on the local municipality which decides whether the holiday is in week 7 or 8 (12 or 19 February). The mentioned holiday schedule for primary and general school is for Herning Municipality.

³ **GERMANY:** The length of the shorter holiday periods in each year is fixed by the individual *Land*, within the total number of 75 days of the holidays in the school year.

➔ For **Summer holidays**, please see **Table I**.

Shorter School holiday periods (public/occasional/religious holidays)

Land	Autumn 2006	Christmas / New Year 2006/2007	Winter 2007	Spring / Easter 2007	3 rd term 2007
Baden-Württemberg	30 Oct.-03 Nov.	25 Dec.-05 Jan.	-	02 April-14 April	29 May-09 June
Bayern	30 Oct.-04 Nov.	25 Dec.-05 Jan.	19 Febr.-24 Febr.	02 April-14 April	29 May-09 June
Berlin	02 Oct.-14 Oct.	25 Dec.-05 Jan.	05 Febr.-10 Febr.	02 April-13/30 April	18 May
Brandenburg	02 Oct.- 14 Oct./30 Oct.	25 Dec.-05 Jan.	05 Febr.-10 Febr.	04 April-13 April	-
Bremen	02 Oct./16 Oct.- 28 Oct.	23 Dec.-06 Jan.	01 Febr.+ 02 Febr.	26 March-10 April	29 May
Hamburg	02 Oct./16 Oct.- 28 Oct.	25 Dec.-06 Jan.	02 February	05 March-17 March/ 30 April	14 May-18 May
Hessen	16 Oct.-28 Oct.	23 Dec.-12 Jan.	-	02 April-14 April	-
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	23 Oct.-28 Oct.	25 Dec.-05 Jan.	05 Febr.-17 Febr.	02 April-11 April	25 May-29 May
Niedersachsen	02 Oct./16 Oct.- 28 Oct.	23 Dec.-06 Jan.	01 Febr. + 02 Febr.	26 March- 10 April/30 April	18 May + 29 May
Nordrhein-Westfalen	02 Oct.-14 Oct.	21 Dec.-05 Jan.	-	02 April-14 April	29 May
Rheinland-Pfalz	09 Oct.-20 Oct.	22 Dec.-05 Jan.	-	28 March-13 April	-
Saarland	18 Oct.-31 Oct.	21 Dec.-06 Jan.	15 Febr.-21 Febr.	02 April-14 April	-
Sachsen	16 Oct.-27 Oct.	22 Dec.-02 Jan.	12 Febr.-23 Febr.	05 April-13 April	18 May/26 May- 29 May
Sachsen-Anhalt	23 Oct.-30 Oct.	22 Dec.-05 Jan.	01 Febr.-10 Febr.	31 March-05 April	18 May-25 May
Schleswig-Holstein	02 Oct./16 Oct.- 30 Oct.	25 Dec.-08 Jan.	-	02 April-16 April/ 30 April	-
Thüringen	23 Oct.-03 Nov.	23 Dec.-05 Jan.	05 Febr.-10 Febr.	02 April-13 April	26 May-29 May

⁴ **SPAIN:** Summer holidays start the day after the lessons are over and finish the day before the beginning of lessons for 2006/07 and they vary depending on the Autonomous Community.

⁵ **FRANCE: Zone A:** Caen, Clermont-Ferrand, Grenoble, Lyon, Montpellier, Nancy-Metz, Nantes, Rennes, Toulouse;
Zone B: Aix-Marseille, Amiens, Besançon, Dijon, Lille, Limoges, Nice, Orléans-Tours, Poitiers, Reims, Rouen, Strasbourg;
Zone C: Bordeaux, Créteil, Paris, Versailles.

⁶ **IRELAND:** The above holidays are standardised in accordance with circular M21/04. The school year at post-primary level is very tight and doesn't allow for any additional holidays as schools must comply with the minimum number of 167 days. In fact, in recent years, since the standardised school calendar, many schools who would have traditionally opened on 1 September are now opening in late August in order to meet their full complement of days. There is more flexibility at primary school level as they are not restricted by end of year state exams.

*Primary schools may use 3 discretionary days to extend break to full week.

⁷ **ITALY:** According to school autonomy, schools have 2 to 8 days available which are foreseen for the suspension of educational activities.

⁸ **LATVIA:** Summer holidays 2007: 01 June-31 August – official summer holiday period for classes 1-8 and 10-11. For the 1st class, education institution decides on additional holidays of 1 week in the second semester.

⁹ **LITHUANIA:** Subject to the school council's approval, additional school holidays may be allocated to pupils of grades 1 to 5, provided the mandatory number of 170 school days is respected.

¹⁰ **Hungary:** Taking into consideration § 52. of the Act on public education (which states that the first day of the school year is the 1st of September and the last day of the school year is the 15th of June) the school with leaving the first and last school day of the academic year unchanged may give further holidays to the pupils or may change the beginning and end date of the preset school holidays over the school year.

School holidays at schools teaching using any of the languages of national or ethnic minorities of Hungary as the language of instruction may differ from the above described school holidays. (Source: Decree No. 4/2006 [II.24.] of the Minister of Education on the school year of 2006/2007).

¹¹ **NETHERLANDS:** Dates for the **summer holidays** are decided by the Ministry; the holiday period is staggered over 3 regions (compulsory dates for all schools); all other holidays are recommended by the Ministry.

School year 2006/2007

	Primary education (2007)	General secondary education (2007)
North region	07 July-19 August	07 July-26 August
Central region	21 July-02 September	14 July-02 September
South region	30 June-12 August	30 June-19 August

The **administrative** school year runs from **01 August 2006 to 31 July 2007**, the summer holidays 2007 being considered as the summer holidays for the school year 2006/2007.

¹² **AUSTRIA:** B•Burgenland, N•Niederösterreich; W•Wien; K•Kärnten; O•Oberösterreich; S•Salzburg; St•Steiermark; T•Tirol; V•Vorarlberg.

¹³ **POLAND:** Winter Holidays - 2007:

29 January-11 February	Dolnoslaskie, Łódzkie, Mazowieckie, Opolskie, Zachodniopomorskie
22 January-04 February	Podlaskie
12-25 February	Lubelskie, Podkarpackie, Pomorskie, Śląskie, Warmińsko-Mazurskie
15-28 January	Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Lubuskie, Małopolskie, Świętokrzyskie, Wielkopolskie

¹⁴ **SLOVENIA:** Winter/Carnival: Ljubljana, Maribor and Ptuj regions: 26 February-02 March; other regions: 19-23 February.

¹⁵ **SLOVAKIA:** Spring holidays vary according to regions as follows:

05-09 March	Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava
19-23 February	Prešov, Košice
26 February-02 March	Banska Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín

¹⁶ In **FINLAND**, Independence day, Epiphany and 1 May are deducted from the total number of school days if they are on any weekday other than Saturday. In the 2006/07 school year, two of these days are on weekdays other

than Saturday, so there will be 188 school days in all. School holidays may differ within one municipality so that pupils in different schools may have their school holidays at different times.

- ¹⁷ **SWEDEN:** Starting and finishing dates vary on regional and municipality levels.
- ¹⁸ In **ENGLAND and WALES**, schools must be open for at least 380 half day sessions each school year. The dates of school terms are not fixed nationally; they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the local authority (LA) or school governing body. Although school holidays generally cover the same core periods, exact dates may vary between schools and authorities. There is currently some movement towards the adoption of a standard school year, which would be consistent year on year. A number of LAs began to introduce this new model in 2004/05 and other LAs are working towards introduction of a standard school year in subsequent years. However, the decision to adopt this new model remains at the level of the LA or school governing body. The pattern of terms and holidays for the standard school year is two approximately seven-week terms before Christmas with a two week break between them, followed by four approximately six-week terms with a break around the first two weeks of April, irrespective of the timing of Easter.
*School holidays in England and Wales are planned to take into account and cover other national public holidays.
- ¹⁹ In **NORTHERN IRELAND**, schools must be open for 190 days a year. The dates of school terms are not fixed nationally; they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the Education and Library Board (ELB) or school governing body. Therefore school holidays may differ between ELBs and schools. The five ELBs, 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, but they are strongly advised to do so. In addition, for the 2006/07 school year, schools may allocate up to five 'School Development Days' from within the 190 days. These five days are devoted to staff development and school improvement; the school is closed to pupils.
- ²⁰ **UK-SCOTLAND:** School holidays are not fixed nationally, but by local education authorities, and may vary from one authority to another.
- ²¹ **ICELAND:** Autumn, Christmas, Winter and Spring holidays may vary on compulsory level according to a change in the compulsory school act from 2001.
Pupils' holidays over the school year are never shorter than 15 weeks.
- ²² **NORWAY:** In some regions the school can decide individually the school holidays.
- ²³ **BULGARY:** For Grade VIII: see endnote in Table I.
- ²⁴ **TURKEY:** A school year is divided into two parts: at the end of a semester, there is a two-weeks' holiday called mid-school year holiday. The summer holidays are between June and September. Decisions on ending/starting semester dates are made by the Ministry.

BELGIUM (FRENCH COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	01 September
Autumn 2006	1 week 30 October – 03 November
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	2 weeks 25 December – 05 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	1 week 19 – 23 February
Spring/Easter 2007	2 weeks 02 – 13 April
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	9 weeks 01 July – 31 August
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	4 public holidays 27/09; 01/05; 17/05; 28/05

Source: Eurydice

BELGIUM (GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	01 September
Autumn 2006	1 week 30 October – 03 November
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	2 weeks 25 December – 05 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	1 week 19 – 23 February
Spring/Easter 2007	2 weeks 02 – 13 April
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	9 weeks 01 July – 31 August
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	4 public holidays 15/11; 01/05; 17/05; 28/05 + 1 extra day

Source: Eurydice

BELGIUM (FLEMISH COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	01 September
Autumn 2006	1 week 30 October – 03 November
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	2 weeks 25 December – 05 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	1 week 19 – 23 February
Spring/Easter 2007	2 weeks 02 – 13 April
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	9 weeks 01 July – 31 August
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	4 public holidays 01/05; 17/05; 18/05; 28/05

Source: Eurydice

CZECH REPUBLIC

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	04 September
Autumn 2006	2 days 26 and 27 October
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	About 1 week 23 December – 02 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	1 day 02 February
Spring/Easter 2007	1 week between 05 February and 18 March depending on the region 2 days: 05 and 06 April
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	9 weeks 02 July – 31 August
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	5 days 28/09; 17/11; 09/04; 01/05; 08/05

Specification of terms for spring holidays	
Term 2007	Regions
05-11 February	Benešov, Beroun, Rokycany, České Budějovice, Český Krumlov, Klatovy, Trutnov, Pardubice, Chrudim, Svitavy, Ústí nad Orlicí, Ostrava-město
12-18 February	Praha 1 to 5, Blansko, Brno-město, Brno-venkov, Břeclav, Hodonín, Vyškov, Znojmo, Domažlice, Tachov, Louny, Prostějov, Karviná
19-25 February	Praha 6 to 10, Cheb, Karlovy Vary, Sokolov, Nymburk, Jindřichův Hradec, Litoměřice, Děčín, Přerov, Frýdek-Místek
26 February-04 March	Kroměříž, Uherské Hradiště, Vsetín, Zlín, Praha-východ, Praha-západ, Mělník, Rakovník, Plzeň-město, Plzeň-sever, Plzeň-jih, Hradec Králové, Teplice, Nový Jičín
05-11 March	Česká Lípa, Jablonec nad Nisou, Liberec, Semily, Havlíčkův Brod, Jihlava, Pelhřimov, Třebíč, Žďár nad Sázavou, Kladno, Kolín, Kutná Hora, Písek, Náchod, Bruntál
12-18 March	Mladá Boleslav, Příbram, Tábor, Prachatice, Strakonice, Ústí nad Labem, Chomutov, Most, Jičín, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Olomouc, Šumperk, Opava, Jeseník

Source: Eurydice

The Education Act determines that school year starts 01 September and ends 31 August (of the following calendar year). The school year is divided into a period of school lessons and a period of school holidays. If September falls on Friday or a weekend day, the period of school lessons starts the following Monday.

DENMARK

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	14 August
Autumn 2006	1 week 16 – 22 October
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	1 ½ weeks 21 December – 02 January (primary) 23 December – 02 January (general secondary)
Winter/Carnival 2007	1 week either 12 – 18 February or 19 – 25 February
Spring/Easter 2007	1 week 02 – 08 April
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	7 weeks 30 June – 13 August
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	4 days 04/05; 17/05; 28/05; 05/06

Source: Eurydice

Folkeskoler are at liberty to decide on the number of holidays and their distribution, provided they offer a minimum number of 200 days of lessons during each school year. The Ministry of Education only determines the date of the last day of the school year. This is the case for both primary and general secondary education. 01 August is the earliest possible date to start, schools normally begin 1 or 2 weeks later.

Following the legislation, municipalities are at liberty to decide when to place holidays, although it is expected that many of them will follow the previous schedule. The winter/carnival holidays therefore also depend on the local municipality which decides whether the holiday is in week 7 or 8 (12 or 19 February). The mentioned holiday schedule for primary and general school is for Herning Municipality.

GERMANY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	01 August (begin of official school year)
Autumn 2006	2 to 14 days (staggered between 02 October and 04 November)
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	9 to 18 days (staggered between 21 December and 12 January)
Winter/Carnival 2007	0 to 12 days (staggered between 01 and 24 February)
Spring/Easter 2007	5 to 15 days (staggered between 05 March and 16 April)
Third term 2007	0 to 11 days (staggered between 14 May and 09 June)
Summer 2007	6 weeks (staggered between 21 June and 10 September)
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	Up to 10 days, depending on the <i>Land</i>

Source: Eurydice

Specification of terms for starting dates and summer holidays			
	Beginning of school year 2006/2007	Summer holidays 2007	
		Beginning	End
Nordrhein-Westfalen	08 August	21 June	03 August
Hessen, Rheinland-Pfalz	28 August	09 July	17 August
Saarland	28 August	09 July	18 August
Hamburg	17 August	12 July	22 August
Berlin, Brandenburg	21 August	12 July	25 August
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Schleswig-Holstein	21 August	16 July	25 August
Bremen, Niedersachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Thüringen	31 August	19 July	29 August
Sachsen	04 September	23 July	31 August
Baden-Württemberg	18 September	26 July	08 September
Bayern	12 September	30 July	10 September

Source: Eurydice

GERMANY

Specification of shorter holiday periods					
Land	Autumn 2006	Christmas / New Year 2006/2007	Winter 2007	Spring / Easter 2007	3 rd term 2007
Baden- Württemberg	30 Oct.-03 Nov.	25 Dec.-05 Jan.	-	02 April-14 April	29 May-09 June
Bayern	30 Oct.-04 Nov.	25 Dec.-05 Jan.	19 Febr.-24 Febr.	02 April-14 April	29 May-09 June
Berlin	02 Oct.-14 Oct.	25 Dec.-05 Jan.	05 Febr.-10 Febr.	02 April-13/30 April	18 May
Brandenburg	02 Oct.- 14 Oct./30 Oct.	25 Dec.-05 Jan.	05 Febr.-10 Febr.	04 April-13 April	-
Bremen	02 Oct./16 Oct.- 28 Oct.	23 Dec.-06 Jan.	01 Febr.+ 02 Febr.	26 March-10 April	29 May
Hamburg	02 Oct./16 Oct.- 28 Oct.	25 Dec.-06 Jan.	02 February	05 March-17 March/ 30 April	14 May-18 May
Hessen	16 Oct.-28 Oct.	23 Dec.-12 Jan.	-	02 April-14 April	-
Mecklenburg- Vorpommern	23 Oct.-28 Oct.	25 Dec.-05 Jan.	05 Febr.-17 Febr.	02 April-11 April	25 May-29 May
Niedersachsen	02 Oct./16 Oct.- 28 Oct.	23 Dec.-06 Jan.	01 Febr. + 02 Febr.	26 March- 10 April/30 April	18 May + 29 May
Nordrhein- Westfalen	02 Oct.-14 Oct.	21 Dec.-05 Jan.	-	02 April-14 April	29 May
Rheinland-Pfalz	09 Oct.-20 Oct.	22 Dec.-05 Jan.	-	28 March-13 April	-
Saarland	18 Oct.-31 Oct.	21 Dec.-06 Jan.	15 Febr.-21 Febr.	02 April-14 April	-
Sachsen	16 Oct.-27 Oct.	22 Dec.-02 Jan.	12 Febr.-23 Febr.	05 April-13 April	18 May/26 May- 29 May
Sachsen-Anhalt	23 Oct.-30 Oct.	22 Dec.-05 Jan.	01 Febr.-10 Febr.	31 March-05 April	18 May-25 May
Schleswig- Holstein	02 Oct./16 Oct.-30 Oct.	25 Dec.-08 Jan.	-	02 April-16 April/ 30 April	-
Thüringen	23 Oct.-03 Nov.	23 Dec.-05 Jan.	05 Febr.-10 Febr.	02 April-13 April	26 May-29 May

Source: Eurydice

ESTONIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	01 September
Autumn 2006	1 week 28 October – 05 November
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	2 weeks 23 December – 07 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	-
Spring/Easter 2007	1 week 17 – 25 March
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	13 weeks 05 June – 31 August
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	3 days 24/02 Independence day; 06/04 and 01/05

Source: Eurydice

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.

GREECE

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	11 September
Autumn 2006	-
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	2 weeks 24 December – 07 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	-
Spring/Easter 2007	2 weeks 30 March – 16 April
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	Primary: 10 weeks 22 June – 31 August Secondary: 9 weeks 01 July – 31 August
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	6 national/religious holidays 28/10; 17/11; 30/01; 19/02; 01/05; 28/05 and some holidays of regional character

Source: Eurydice

Official school year: 01 September 2006 to 31 August 2007.

SPAIN

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	Between 01 and 15 September (Primary education) Between 01 and 22 September (General secondary education)
Autumn 2006	-
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	2 weeks between 22 December and 08 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	Usually 2 to 3 days Between 16 and 20 February depending on the Autonomous Community
Spring/Easter 2007	About 1 week Between 30 March and 16 April depending on the Autonomous Community
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	11 weeks (primary) between late June and mid-September 12 weeks (secondary) between late June and mid-September
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	Around 8 public holidays, depending on the Autonomous Community

Source: Eurydice

SPAIN

Specification of terms for the beginning and the end of the school year 2006/07

	Primary education		General secondary education	
	Beginning 2006	End 2007	Beginning 2006	End 2007
Andalucía	15 September	22 June	15 September 22 Sept.(Upper Secondary)	22 June
Aragón	11 September ¹	21 June ¹	12 September	21 June
Asturias	11 September	22 June	12 September	22 June
Baleares	13 September	22 June	14 September	22 June
Canarias	07/11 September	22 June	12/14 September 13/15 Sept. (Upper Second.)	22 June
Cantabria	12 September ¹	21 June ¹	19 September	27 June
Castilla y León	11 September ¹	22 June ¹	18 September	26 June
Castilla-La Mancha	11 September	20 June	18 September	27 June
Cataluña	12 September	20 June	12 September	20 June
Extremadura	12 September	22 June	12 September 14 September (Upper Secondary)	22 June
Galicia	11 September	22 June	20 September	22 June
Madrid	11 September	21 June	13 September	21 June
Murcia	11 September ¹	22 June ¹	15 September	28 June
Navarra	Not before 07 September	Not later than 22 June	Not before 14 September	Not later than 22 June
País Vasco ²	01 September	30 June	01 September	30 June
C. Valenciana	11 September ¹	22 June ¹	15 September	22 June
La Rioja	08 September	21 June	15 September	Not before 22 June

¹ Date for the first cycle of Compulsory Secondary Education when it takes place at a Primary School.

² Taking into account the beginning and ending dates and ensuring the minimum established timetable, educational centres are free to establish their own calendar

Source: Eurydice

Summer holidays start the day after the lessons are over and finish the day before the beginning of lessons for 2006/07 and they vary depending on the Autonomous Community.

FRANCE

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	04 September
Autumn 2006	1 ½ weeks 25 October – 06 November
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	2 weeks 23 December – 08 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	2 weeks 10/02 – 26/02 (zone A) 24/02 – 12/03 (zone B) 17/02 – 05/03 (zone C)
Spring/Easter 2007	2 weeks 31/03 – 16/04 (zone A) 14/04 – 02/05 (zone B) 07/04 – 23/04 (zone C)
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	9 weeks 04 July – 03 September
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	5 days 11/11; 01/05; 08/05; 17/05; 28/05

Source: Eurydice

Certain schools have a 4-day-week. Only in these cases will the dates vary. For students who have no classes on Wednesday, holidays will start after lessons on Tuesday and the beginning of the school year will be on Thursday.

Zone A: Caen, Clermont-Ferrand, Grenoble, Lyon, Montpellier, Nancy-Metz, Nantes, Rennes, Toulouse;

Zone B: Aix-Marseille, Amiens, Besançon, Dijon, Lille, Limoges, Nice, Orléans-Tours, Poitiers, Reims, Rouen, Strasbourg;

Zone C: Bordeaux, Créteil, Paris, Versailles.

IRELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	01 September (primary education) About 29 August (general secondary education)
Autumn 2006	1 week 30 October – 03 November
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	2 weeks 23 December – 07 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	2 days 22 – 23 February (primary – primary schools may use 3 discretionary days to extend break to full week) 1 week 19 – 23 February (secondary)
Spring/Easter 2007	2 weeks 30 March – 15 April
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	Primary: about 9 weeks late June to end of August Secondary: about 13 weeks June, July and most of August
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	Around 3 public holidays 01/05; 07/05; 28/05 and some religious holidays

Source: Eurydice

In accordance with circular M29/95, the minimum number of teaching days per post-primary school year will be 167. In addition, in accordance with circular M21/04, holiday periods during the school year have been standardised, ie midterm breaks, Christmas and Easter holidays. Traditionally, formal instruction ends in post-primary schools on the Friday preceding the June bank holiday weekend. State examinations normally commence the following Wednesday. In order for schools to meet their requirement to be open for 167 days during 2006/07 school year, it is expected that post schools will open circa 29 August 2006.

The above holidays are standardised in accordance with circular M21/04. The school year at post-primary level is very tight and doesn't allow for any additional holidays as schools must comply with the minimum number of 167 days. In fact, in recent years, since the standardised school calendar, many schools who would have traditionally opened on 1 September are now opening in late August in order to meet their full complement of days. There is more flexibility at primary school level as they are not restricted by end of year state exams.

ITALY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	Between 11 and 19 September
Autumn 2006	-
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	2 weeks between 22/24 December and 05/07 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	1 to 4 days generally in February, depending on the regions
Spring/Easter 2007	5 to 10 days between 04/05 April and 09/14 April, depending on the regions
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	12 – 13 weeks between June and September
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	5 national holidays 01/11; 08/12; 25/04; 01/05; 02/06 and Saints' days, depending on the regions

Specification of terms for the beginning and the end of the school year 2006/07		
Primary and General secondary education		
	Beginning 2006	End 2007
Abruzzo	12 September	09 June
Alto Adige (Bolzano)	11 September	16 June
Basilicata	14 September	09 June
Calabria	18 September	10 June
Campania	18 September	09 June
Emilia-Romagna	19 September	09 June
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	11 September	09 June
Lazio	13 September	09 June
Liguria	14 September	09 June
Lombardia	11 September	09 June
Marche	14 September	09 June
Molise	11 September	08 June
Piemonte	11 September	09 June
Puglia	18 September	09 June
Sardegna	14 September	09 June
Sicilia	18 September	09 June
Toscana	14 September	09 June
Trentino (Trento)	13 September	09 June
Umbria	14 September	09 June
Valle D'Aosta	14 September	09 June
Veneto	11 September	09 June

Source: Eurydice

ITALY

Schools can adjust the school calendar, established by the Regions, to the POF's requirements (POF is a basic document of the cultural and planning identity of the schools. It defines the curricular, extra-curricular, educational and organisational projects of each school within the school autonomy). Schools can organize in a flexible way the overall timetable for the curriculum and for any single subject even on the basis of multi-week planning, provided that lessons spread over a minimum of five days per week and that the prescribed annual, plurennial or cycle number of hours for the single subjects is complied with. Generally speaking, the school year begins between the 2nd and the 4th week of September and finishes between the 1st and the 3rd week of June. The school adaptations of the organization of school time must guarantee at least 200 days of lesson a school year.

According to school autonomy, schools have 2 to 8 days available which are foreseen for the suspension of educational activities.

CYPRUS

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	07 September / primary 11 September / secondary
Autumn 2006	-
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	2 weeks 23 December – 06 January / primary 24 December – 06 January / secondary
Winter/Carnival 2007	-
Spring/Easter 2007	2 weeks 31 March – 15 April
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	Around 10 weeks 23 June – 02 September / primary 01 July – 31 August / secondary
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	7 days 13/11; 30/01; 19/02; 01/05; 17/05 only primary; 28/05; 11/06; 13/11 might be changed to another date

Source: Eurydice

- The 5th of June is the end of the students' school year for students in lower secondary education.
- For the 1st and 2nd grade of upper secondary education the school year ends on the 3rd of June.
- For the 3rd grade of upper secondary education the school year ends on the 2nd of June.

The Minister of Education and Culture may choose to change the above dates for educational benefit reasons.

- General secondary education: end of school year, end of June (includes exams, correction of papers, result announcements).

LATVIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	01 September
Autumn 2006	1 week 23 – 27 October
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	2 weeks 23 December – 05 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	-
Spring/Easter 2007	1 week 30 March – 05 April
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	13 weeks 01 June – 31 August
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	3 public holidays 01/05; 04/05; 18/11

Source: Eurydice

Holidays (summer 2007): These are the dates for the official summer holiday period for classes 1-8 and 10-11. For the 1st class, education institutions decide on additional holidays of 1 week in the second semester.

LITHUANIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	01 September
Autumn 2006	1 week 31 October – 06 November
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	2 weeks 24 December – 06 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	-
Spring/Easter 2007	1 week 10 – 17 April
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	Not shorter than 2 months July/August
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	3 days 16/02; 11/03; 01/05

Source: Eurydice

- It is within each school's discretion to decide what kind of activity pupils will be offered from 01 to 21 June: either disciplinary subject-based projects, subject/art weeks, work at the school library, visits to higher education schools, installing exhibition, visits to historic places, sports events, remedial courses for pupils not showing notable progress, etc.
- Pupils in the years 1 to 5 can finish only after at least 170 school days, while those in the years 6 to 11 after at least 195 days. These days include the national holidays. Pupils in the last year of upper secondary education finish their lessons on 11 May.
- Subject to the school council's approval, additional school holidays may be allocated to pupils of grades 1 to 5, provided the mandatory number of 170 school days is respected.

LUXEMBOURG

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	15 September
Autumn 2006	1 week 28 October – 05 November
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	2 weeks 23 December – 07 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	1 week 17 – 25 February
Spring/Easter 2007	2 weeks 31 March – 15 April
Third term 2007	1 week 26 Mai – 03 June
Summer 2007	9 weeks 16 July – 14 September
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	2 public holidays 01/05; 17/05

Source: Eurydice

HUNGARY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	01 September
Autumn 2006	1 week 30 October – 03 November
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	1 ½ weeks 25 December – 02 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	-
Spring/Easter 2007	1 week 05 – 10 April
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	11 weeks 15 June – 31 August
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	5 days 23/10; 01/11; 15/03; 01/05; 28/05

Source: Eurydice

At schools, using any of the ethnic minority languages as the language of instruction at general secondary education, the end of the school year, in case of pupils taking the school leaving examination: 03 May 2007. (Source: Decree N° 4/2006 [II.24.] of the Minister of Education on the school year 2006/07).

Taking into consideration § 52. of the Act on public education (which states that the first day of the school year is the 1st of September and the last day of the school year is the 15th of June) the school with leaving the first and last school day of the academic year unchanged may give further holidays to the pupils or may change the beginning and end date of the preset school holidays over the school year.

School holidays at schools teaching, using any of the languages of national or ethnic minorities of Hungary as the language of instruction, may differ from the above described school holidays. (Source: Decree No. 4/2006 [II.24.] of the Minister of Education on the school year of 2006/2007).

MALTA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	25 September
Autumn 2006	3 days 01 – 03 November
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	2 weeks 26 December – 05 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	2 days 19 – 20 February
Spring/Easter 2007	1 week 04 – 11 April
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	About 11 weeks 28 June – 14 September
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	8 days 21/09; 08/12; 13/12; 25/12; 19/03; 01/05; 07/06; 29/06

Source: Eurydice

NETHERLANDS

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	<p>North region: 04 September (primary and general secondary)</p> <p>Central region: 21 August (primary) 28 August (general secondary)</p> <p>South region: 14 August (primary) 21 August (general secondary)</p>
Autumn 2006	<p>1 week</p> <p>South: 14 – 22 October</p> <p>North/Central: 21 – 29 October</p>
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	<p>2 weeks</p> <p>23 December – 07 January</p>
Winter/Carnival 2007	<p>1 week</p> <p>Central/South: 17 – 25 February</p> <p>North: 24 February – 04 March</p>
Spring/Easter 2007	-
Third term 2007	<p>1 week</p> <p>28 April – 06 May</p>
Summer 2007	<p>6 weeks primary, 7 weeks general secondary</p> <p>North region: 07 July – 19 August (primary) 07 July – 26 August (general secondary)</p> <p>Central region: 21 July – 02 September (primary) 14 July – 02 September (general secondary)</p> <p>South region: 30 June – 12 August (primary) 30 June – 19 August (general secondary)</p>
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	3 public holidays: 09/04; 17/05; 28/05; and 2 national holidays: 30/04 and 05/05

Source: Eurydice

The school year officially runs from 01 August to 31 July of the following year. Start and end of the teaching year is according to region (north, central and south region).

Dates for the **summer holidays** are decided by the Ministry; the holiday period is staggered over 3 regions (compulsory dates for all schools); all other holidays are recommended by the Ministry.

AUSTRIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	04 September: Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland 11 September: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
Autumn 2006	-
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	2 weeks 24 December – 06 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	1 week 05 – 10 February: Niederösterreich, Wien 12 - 17 February: Burgenland, Kärnten, Salzburg, Tirol, Vorarlberg 19 – 24 February: Oberösterreich, Steiermark
Spring/Easter 2007	1 week 31 March – 10 April
Third term 2007	4 days 26 – 29 May
Summer 2007	About 9 weeks 30 June – 01 September: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 07 July – 08 September: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	7 days 26/10; 01/11; 02/11; 08/12; 01/05; 17/05; 07/06 1 extra religious holiday (Saint – different in each <i>Land</i>)

Source: Eurydice

POLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	04 September
Autumn 2006	-
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	1 week 23 December – 01 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	2 weeks 15 - 28 January: Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Lubuskie, Małopolskie, Świętokrzyskie, Wielkopolskie 22 January - 04 February: Podlaskie 29 January - 11 February: Dolnoslaskie, Łódzkie, Mazowieckie, Opolskie, Zachodniopomorskie 12 - 25 February: Lubelskie, Podkarpackie, Pomorskie, Śląskie, Warmińsko-Mazurskie
Spring/Easter 2007	4 days 05 – 10 April
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	10 weeks 23 June – 31 August
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	7 days 01/11; 11/11; 01/05; 02/05; 03/05; 07/06; 08/06

Source: Eurydice

End of the school year in both primary and secondary schools is always the first Friday after the 18th of June. In the last grades of upper secondary schools ending with the Matura examination, however, the school year ends earlier, but the date has not yet been decided. In the last grades of gymnasium (lower secondary) ending with the external examination, the school year ends on 27 April 2007. In the last grades of basic vocational schools, ending with the external vocational examination, the school year ends on 15 June 2007.

PORTUGAL

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	Between 11 and 15 September
Autumn 2006	-
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	2 weeks 18 December – 02 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	3 days 19 – 21 February
Spring/Easter 2007	2 weeks 26 March – 09 April
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	About 10 to 12 weeks Beginning 11 or 25 June
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	7 days 05/10; 01/11; 01/12; 08/12; 25/04; 01/05; 07/06

Source: Eurydice

SLOVENIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	01 September
Autumn 2006	1 week 30 October – 03 November
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	1 week 25 December – 02 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	1 week 26 February – 02 March: Ljubljana, Maribor and Ptuj regions 19 – 23 February: other regions
Spring/Easter 2007	1 week 27 April – 02 May
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	10 weeks 25 June – 31 August
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	2 days 08/02; 09/04

Source: Eurydice

The official length of the school year is from 01 September to 31 August, but lessons are completed in June.

Primary education: Primary and lower secondary education (single structure education);

General secondary education: Upper secondary general education.

End of the school lessons (single structure of primary and lower secondary education):

15 June for the final grade pupils, external examinations run by the end of June;

22 June for pupils who are not in the final grade.

End of the upper secondary school lessons:

18 May end of lessons for students in final grade; final examinations in June and July;

22 June is the last day of lessons for upper secondary students who are not in the final grade.

SLOVAKIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	04 September
Autumn 2006	2 days 02 – 03 November
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	7 days 23 December – 02 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	1 day 02 February
Spring/Easter 2007	1 week (spring holidays) 19 – 23 February: Prešov, Košice 26 February – 02 March: Banská Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín 05 – 09 March: Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava 4 days (Easter holidays) 05 – 10 April
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	9 weeks 01 July – 31 August
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	5 days 01/09; 15/09; 01/11; 01/05; 08/05

Source: Eurydice

Official school year: 01 September to 31 August.

FINLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	Between 07 and 17 August
Autumn 2006	1 to 7 days between 13 and 30 October
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	1 to 2 weeks between 18 December and 07 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	1 week between 19 February and 11 March
Spring/Easter 2007	3 – 4 days between 06 and 09 April
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	10 – 11 weeks from 02 June to mid-August
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	3 days 06/12; 01/05; 17/05

Source: Eurydice

Independence day, Epiphany and 1 May are deducted from the total number of school days if they are on any weekday other than Saturday. In the 2006/07 school year, two of these days are on weekdays other than Saturday, so there will be 188 school days in all. School holidays may differ within one municipality so that pupils in different schools may have their school holidays at different times.

SWEDEN

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	Between 14 and 28 August (The exact days vary on regional and municipality levels)
Autumn 2006	1 week between 10 October and 10 November
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	About 3 weeks Between 15/21 December and 08/10 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	1 week between 12 February and 01 March
Spring/Easter 2007	1 week between 19 March and 20 April
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	About 10 weeks Between 08/16 June and end of August
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	3 days 01/05; 17/05; 06/06

Source: Eurydice

Starting and finishing dates vary on regional and municipality levels.

UNITED KINGDOM – ENGLAND AND WALES

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	First week of September
Autumn 2006	1 week 23 – 27 October
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	2 weeks Between the third or fourth week of December and the first week of January
Winter/Carnival 2007	1 week 12 – 16 February or 19 – 23 February
Spring/Easter 2007	2 weeks 02 – 13 April
Third term 2007	1 week 28 May – 01 June
Summer 2007	6 weeks Between 23 July and the first week of September
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	1 public holiday 01/05 (School holidays in England and Wales are planned to take into account and cover other national public holidays)

Source: Eurydice

In **ENGLAND AND WALES**, schools must be open for at least 380 half day sessions each school year. The dates of school terms are not fixed nationally; they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the local authority (LA) or school governing body. 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.

There is currently some movement towards the adoption of a standard school year, which would be consistent year on year. A number of LAs began to introduce this new model in 2004/05 and other LAs are working towards introduction of a standard school year in subsequent years. However, the decision to adopt this new model remains at the level of the LA or school governing body. The pattern of terms and holidays for the standard school year is two approximately seven-week terms before Christmas with a two week break between them, followed by four approximately six-week terms with a break around the first two weeks of April, irrespective of the timing of Easter.

UNITED KINGDOM – NORTHERN IRELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	First week of September
Autumn 2006	2 days 30 – 31 October
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	2 weeks 25 December – 05 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	1 day 16 February
Spring/Easter 2007	1 week 06 – 13 April
Third term 2007	2 days 07 – 28 May
Summer 2007	9 weeks between 01 July and the first week of September
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	Up to 5 optional closure days

Source: Eurydice

In **NORTHERN IRELAND**, schools must be open for 190 days a year. The dates of school terms are not fixed nationally; they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the Education and Library Board (ELB) or school governing body. Therefore school holidays may differ between boards and schools. The five ELBs, 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, but they are strongly advised to do so. In addition, for the 2006/07 school year, schools may allocate up to five 'School Development Days' from within the 190 days. These five days are devoted to staff development and school improvement; the school is closed to pupils.

UNITED KINGDOM - SCOTLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	Mid-August
Autumn 2006	From 1 to 2 weeks Between 02 and 27 October
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	2 weeks 22 December – 04 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	1 to 7 days between 08 and 20 February
Spring/Easter 2007	Around 2 weeks Between 31 March and 13 April
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	7 weeks From end June to mid-August
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	Up to 3 days

Source: Eurydice

The earliest start date for the school year 2006/07 is 14 August 2006.

In Scotland, pupils attend school for 190 days a year.

There are no differences between primary and secondary schools, however, there are variances across the 32 local education authorities.

School holidays are not fixed nationally, but by local education authorities, and may vary from one authority to another.

ICELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	Between 22 August and 01 September
Autumn 2006	0 – 2 days
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	2 weeks Approx. 21 December – 03 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	0 – 5 days (primary and lower secondary) 0 – 2 days (upper secondary)
Spring/Easter 2007	About 7 days Between 02 April and 10/11 April
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	11 weeks (primary and lower secondary) between 04 June and 31 August 13 weeks (upper secondary education) between 21 May and 31 August
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	4 days 19/04; 01/05; 17/05; 28/05

Source: Eurydice

There are still a few small rural schools at compulsory level which operate for 8 ½ months.

Spring/Easter: In compulsory education, the dates may vary between municipalities, but most compulsory school will have Easter holidays from 02 April to 11 April.

Autumn, Christmas, Winter and Spring holidays may vary on compulsory level according to a change in the compulsory school act from 2001.

Pupils' holidays over the school year are never shorter than 15 weeks.

LIECHTENSTEIN

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	21 August
Autumn 2006	2 weeks 07 – 22 October
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	2 weeks 23 December – 07 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	1 week 17 – 25 February
Spring/Easter 2007	2 ½ weeks 05 – 22 April
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	6 weeks 06 July – 20 August
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	11 public holidays 08/09; 01/11; 08/12; 02/02; 19/03; 01/05; 17/05; 18/05; 28/05; 07/06; 08/06

Source: Eurydice

NORWAY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	Between 17 and 21 August
Autumn 2006	1 week Between 02 and 14 October
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	Approx. 2 weeks Between 19/21 December and 02/04 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	1 week Between 19 February and 10 March
Spring/Easter 2007	Approx. 1 week 02 April – 11 April
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	Approx. 8 weeks from 19/22 June
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	3 occasional holidays: 01/05; 17/05; 28/05

Source: Eurydice

In some regions the school can decide individually the school holidays.

BULGARIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	15 September
Autumn 2006	2/3 days 09 November – 12 November (only for pupils of grade I / primary education)
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	2 weeks 23 December – 07 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	2/3 days 08 – 11 February
Spring/Easter 2007	1 week 01 – 09 April
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	Between 11 and 16 weeks Primary education Grade I: 23 May – 15 September Grades II-IV: 31 May – 15 September Grades V-VIII: 15 June – 15 September Grade VIII ¹ : 30 June – 15 September Secondary education Grades IX, X, XI: 30 June – 15 September Grades XII, XIII: 23 May – 15 September
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	2 public holidays 01/11; 25/05

Source: Eurydice

¹ Pupils from Grade VIII admitted to continue their compulsory education to secondary language learning schools, after undergoing national tests or alternative form of examination.

ROMANIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	15 September
Autumn 2006	1 week 30 October – 05 November (only primary education)
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	2 weeks 23 December – 07 January
Winter/Carnival 2007	1 week 03 – 11 February
Spring/Easter 2007	1 week 07 – 15 April
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	11 weeks 16 June – 31 August
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	1 day 1 December

Source: Eurydice

Beginning of the school year: In exceptional situations, depending on local climatic conditions and school's specificity, the structure of the school year can be modified at the request of schools approved by the local educational authorities (County School Inspectorates). Approval is given if the number of 35 weeks and 174 school days is maintained and all pupils may participate, without restrictions in national examinations.

For the 8th grade, the length of the school year corresponds to 34 weeks and 169 days, starting on 15 September and ending on 8 June.

TURKEY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2006/07 school year	
Starting date 2006	18 September
Autumn 2006	3 days 22 – 25 October (religious holidays)
Christmas/New Year 2006/07	4 ½ days 30 December to 03 January (religious holidays)
Winter/Carnival 2007	2 weeks 29 January – 09 February
Spring/Easter 2007	2 days 23 – 24 April
Third term 2007	-
Summer 2007	12 weeks 19 June – 18 September
Public/religious holidays 2006/07	-

Source: Eurydice

For primary and general secondary education, a school year must be not less than 180 days. A school year runs 9 months from September to June.

A school year is divided into two parts: at the end of a semester, there is a two-weeks' holiday called mid-school year holiday. The summer holidays are between June and September. Decisions on ending/starting semester dates are made by the Ministry.