

## 3. RECONCILIATION OF WORK AND FAMILY LIFE

### 3.4. Service Provision

Please describe the timetables for children in primary school. Are there any plans to alter these timetables?

#### Austria

Compulsory hours grades I and II: 20- 23 per week

Science 3  
German, Reading, Writing 7  
Mathematics 4  
Musical education 1  
Creative education 1  
Handicrafts (textile + technical) 1  
Physical education 3  
Religion 2

Compulsory hours grades III and IV: 22-25 per week

Science 3  
German, Reading, Writing 7  
Mathematics 4  
Musical education 1  
Creative education 1  
Handicrafts (textile + technical) 2  
Physical education 2  
Foreign language 1 (obligatory, unmarked)  
Religion 2

Curricula Regulations due to the Autonomy of Schools:

Autonomous curricula (article 6, par. 1 of the „Schulorganisationsgesetz“) are intended for the range of the compulsory subjects (excl. religion).

The overall compulsory hours per week are fixed within a defined scope for each grade.

Within this scope the weekly may be increased by two or decreased by one per grade.

The complete cancellation of a subject of a grade is not allowed.

It is not planned to change the timetables.

#### Azerbaijan

They typically work from 8 to 6 o'clock (hours vary depending upon institution). The secondary schools mainly work in two shifts – from 08:00 to 13:00 and from 13:30 to 18:00.

## Belgium

Communauté française.

Les instituteurs maternels et primaires peuvent être chargés par le chef d'établissement dans l'enseignement organisé par la Communauté française ou par le pouvoir organisateur dans l'enseignement subventionné d'assurer la surveillance des élèves 15 minutes avant le début des cours et 10 minutes après la fin des cours de chaque demi-journée. Ils peuvent également être chargés d'assurer les surveillances pour les récréations en cours de journée. Ces surveillances valent pour tous les lieux de l'école et pour les déplacements des élèves hors de l'école. Pour le reste, les écoles peuvent organiser comme elles le souhaitent et moyennant une contribution financière des parents, l'accueil des élèves avant et après les cours (7.30 jusqu'à 8.30 et 15.30 jusqu'à 18.00 par exemple).

Communauté germanophone.

Les cours se tiennent de 8 :30 à 15 :30 (certaines écoles terminent entre 15 :00 et 15 :30).

Il n'y a pas de modification prévue.

Communauté flamande.

Nursery and primary school:

8.30 - 12.00

13.30 - 16.00

Wednesday: 8.30 - 12.00

Christmas and Easter holiday: 2 weeks

Autumn and Spring holiday: 1 week

Summer holiday: 2 months

No plans to alter these timetables.

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

Not mentioned

## Bulgaria

\* Not applicable

Curricula for students from first until eight grade are approved by the Minister of Education and Science. These ensure the mastering of the mandatory general education minimum. Programmes for the mandatory chosen fields are approved by the head of the Regional Education Inspectorate. These are aimed at furthering the knowledge and skills of students within the framework of approved culture-education fields and mandatory school subjects. The programmes in freely chosen fields are approved by the headmaster of the respective school. These are developed by teachers and are aimed at the development of children's interests and skills and may be in fields outside the culture-education fields and school subjects.

The development of new school programmes started in 2000. Until now, new school programmes are introduced from first to sixth grade.

In the 2008/2009 school season, the new school programme for seventh grade will be introduced, and in 2009/2010 – for eight grade.

## Croatia

The Education in Primary and Secondary Schools Act, Official Gazette, no. 87/08 and National Pedagogical Norms in Preschool Education, Official Gazette, 63/08 define the transfer of working in multiple shifts in primary and secondary schools to working in one shift (the feasibility coefficient being 3; the year 2017 is planned to be the first year of the transfer to one-shift work on the national level).

## Cyprus

Schools operate from 07:45 to 13:05 five days a week and there are seven forty minute sessions every day. With a view to extending timetables in primary schools the following actions have been taken:

The Ministry of Education introduced, on a pilot basis, the All Day Compulsory Schools in Primary Education during the school year 2006-2007. The reform has been established in nine (9) primary schools all over Cyprus. In 2007-08, the number of schools increased to fifteen (15). The pilot programme will have a total duration of three consecutive years and will be evaluated by an appointed independent Evaluation Committee. All Day Compulsory Schools operate from 07:45 until 16:00 in the afternoon, for four days per week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) and until 13:05 on Wednesday. Schools operate from 07:45 until 16:00, four times a week and once until 13:05. Teaching periods are in total 47 per week, meaning that 12 more periods per week have been added to the existing curriculum.

In addition, All Day Voluntary schools operate in Primary Education since 1999-2000. This practice has been expanding and during the school year 2007-2008, 120 primary schools and 19 pre-primary schools function as All Day Voluntary Schools. Participation of students in this type of school is not compulsory. This means that parents decide whether they wish to enrol their children to the all day voluntary school or pick them at the time that the school normally ends, that is at 1:05 p.m. The afternoon programme includes four periods per week for carrying out assigned homework, four teaching periods for reinforcing teaching and four teaching periods for two of the following subjects: English, Information Technology, Music, Physical Education, Art, Design and Technology.

## Czech Republic

Not mentioned

## Denmark

No information

## Estonia

The highest permitted weekly study load of students in the basic school classes is:

- 1) 20 lessons in year 1;
- 2) 23 lessons in year 2;
- 3) 25 lessons in years 3 and 4

The length of lesson is 45 minutes. The length of break can not be shorter than 10 minutes. The number of lessons and the order

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thereof within a day of study is determined in the timetable which is approved by the head of the school.

Usually, the lessons start at 8 AM and end 1 PM. After that the child is free. In case the school offers long day groups and other extracurricular activities, the child attends them on parents' agreement.

The organisation of study is regulated by the Basic Schools and Upper Secondary Schools Act that is available in [www.riigiteataja.ee](http://www.riigiteataja.ee) (only in Estonian) and the translation in [www.legaltext.ee](http://www.legaltext.ee) (both in English and in Estonian).

## Finland

About 20 hours a week in the first grade. No plans to change these timetables

## France

Not mentioned

## Germany

Not mentioned

## Greece

Not mentioned

## Hungary

School time from 8 a.m./7. 15. p.m. to 7. p.m.

Academic lesson from 8 a.m. / 7:15. a.m. to 12. p.m. generally

School time can only begin at 7.15. a.m. if the student's government and the parental-teacher gave contribution.

## Iceland

(10,12) The most typical length of provision is 8 hours or more per day, 78% of children in pre-school are at least 8 hours a day

## Ireland

Responsibility for this rests with the Department of Education and Science.

Primary schools are required to complete 183 full school days per school year. A full school day comprises a period of not less than five hours and forty minutes. The school day typically breaks down as set out in the following model.

Assembly, supervision, preparation etc: 20 minutes; Roll call 10 minutes; Secular instruction: 4h and 10 minutes; Religious instruction: 30 minutes; Recreational interval: 30 minutes; Total: 5h and 40 minutes.

Forenoon and afternoon breaks of five minutes each are also allowed. Where a recreation interval or breaks of a longer duration than the foregoing are taken, the length of the school day must be extended correspondingly.

If a school completes less than two hours and fifty minutes in any day of operation, such period may not be registered as part of the 183 days minimum for pupil teaching.

Any day on which the pupils complete two hours and fifty minutes but less than five hours and forty minutes will be regarded as a half school day and may be registered only as a half day for purposes of compliance with the minimum school year requirement.

The Department's circular letters Circulars 11/95 "Time in School" and M21/04 "Standardisation of the school year" set out the requirements in relation to time in school and school closures.

There are no plans to alter the above arrangements.

## Italy

In general, children stay at school from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, but, if their parents choose a different timetable, they can leave school at 1:30 pm.

## Latvia

According to the Law of General Education there are:

1.class (for 7-8 years) – 22 hours per week; 2.class (for 8-9 years) – 23 hours per week; 3.class (for 9-10 years) - 24 hours per week; 4.class (for 10-11 years) – 26 hours per week.

## Lithuania

Not mentioned.

## Luxembourg

Le Luxembourg a un système scolaire pendant toute la journée. Les horaires dépendent des communes ; les maisons relais pour enfants prennent la relève avant et après et entre les heures d'enseignement.

## Malta

8:30 – 14:40 Mon – Friday – There are no current plans to alter the time table

## Moldova

Not mentioned

## Monaco

Les horaires d'accueil des élèves en école primaire vont de 7 h 45 à 18 h 45, une garderie étant proposée le mercredi après-midi de 14 h à 18 h pour les classes de maternelle.

## Netherlands

Children attend primary school on average 5 to 5.5 hours a day on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and approximately three hours on Wednesday mornings. There is no school on Saturdays and Sundays. School hours can be, for example, 8.45-12.00 and 13.15-15.30 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and 8.45-12.00 on Wednesdays. Children can either stay at school during the lunch break, or go home.

Comments:

1. Children who are 4-8 years of age tend to have fewer classes than children aged 8-12. For instance, they may not only have the Wednesday afternoon off but also the Friday afternoon, or they have a longer lunch break (finishing at 11.30 or starting at 13.45).
2. School attendance is not compulsory for four-year-olds, but 98% do go to school.
3. Five-year-olds can have a reduced timetable (fewer hours), if their parents so wish.
4. Some schools have a different timetable (the continurooster), with a shorter lunch break (45 minutes) during which all children and teachers have lunch together. The lunch break is then viewed as an integral part of school hours. Other schools have an extended timetable, with a longer lunch break: school hours might then be 8.45-12.00 and 14.30-16.30.
5. There are classes for 40 weeks a year (12 weeks holiday).

Since the 2006-2007 school year, schools are allowed to arrange school days as they see fit, as long as they meet the statutory obligation to provide 3520 hours of classes to children from the age of 4 to 7 (880 hours per school year on average) and 3760 hours to children aged 8-12 (940 hours per year on average). It is mandatory to provide classes five days a week. However, this does not apply to four and five-year-olds.

## Norway

The average number of educational hours per week is 18 to 19 for the 6 to 10 year old. There are discussions about extending the hours both for pedagogical reasons and with reference to a better caring situation for the children

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<b>Poland</b>
Not mentioned

<b>Portugal</b>
<p>At present (since 2006) public primary schools have an 8-hour school timetable, offer lunch and are open until 17.30 (see above). Schools are also encouraged, through agreements with non-profit organizations, to provide "support for families" (apoio à familia) before and after opening hours in order to help families reconcile work and care. The main aim is to provide universal coverage of out of school care for this age group. Some families still prefer to use private after-school clubs, but the majority of children are integrated in the regular school activities. Reports on the implementation of the new law in 2006/2007 show that over 90% of children were already integrated in after school care (Wall and Azevedo, 2007).</p> <p>In the 2nd and 3rd cycles, there are often "gaps" in the children's time schedule, which is always difficult to handle for families. At present, the non-profit sector is giving more attention to the needs of this age group (10-12 years old). The Ministry of Education also announced recently that it might introduce changes similar to the ones introduced in primary schools (open full-time).</p>

<b>Romania</b>
The school timetable for primary classes is 4-5 hours /day.

<b>Russian Federation</b>
Not mentioned

<b>Serbia</b>
<p>Implementation of a school programme in accordance with teaching plans and programmes is regulated by the Law of Basics of the Systems and the Law of Primary School: the school programme is constituted from obligatory, optional and facultative section. The teaching plan affirms their schedule per grades and weekly and yearly number of classes and other shapes of educational work. The school year begins on 1st of September and ends on 31st of August the following year. Educational upbringing work is accomplished over two semesters. Pupils have a school holiday, duration of which is declared by a school calendar legislated by responsible minister for education until 1st of June. Each school institution provides the year teaching programme by 15th of September.</p> <p>Republic of Serbia enables free education for students of primary and high schools. The primary education lasts for eight years and is accomplished in two cycles: first cycle embraces the period from first to fourth grade and second one embraces the period from fifth to eighth grade. The Primary musical education lasts from two to six years (one semester suits one school year) and ballet education lasts for four years and is accomplished in two educational cycles. Primary education of children with developmental difficulties lasts up to eight years and is accomplished in accordance with the school programme of a primary school or a special programme in accordance with a special law.</p> <p>Minister of Education and National Education Council declared the act about teaching plan from first until fifth grade of primary school. Within the act for the first, second and third grade, the following is legislated: A-obligatory teaching subjects, B-optional teaching subjects (in annex). By the teaching plan for first, second, third, fourth and fifth grade, besides obligatory teaching subjects, the following is legislated: A-obligatory optional teaching subjects (religion/civil education, foreign language and physical education-</p>

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chosen sport), B-optional teaching subjects (nature guardians, daily life in the past, drawing, painting and sculpturing, choir and orchestra, information and computing, mother tongue with elements of national culture, chess and household)-in annex. Programmes for sixth, seventh, and eight grade will gradually be legislated by the National Education Council.

## Slovakia

Not mentioned

## Slovenia

In general, lessons are 45 minutes long. The maximum total number of hours of instruction per week is: 16.5 hours (22 lessons) for pupils of the first cycle, 19.5 hours (26 lessons) for pupils of the second cycle and 22.5 hours (30 lessons) for pupils of the third cycle. Every school year the Minister for education issues a school calendar, specifying the distribution of school days, school free days and school holidays. Apart from summer holiday which lasts approximately 10 weeks, pupils also have the autumn holidays, Christmas / New Year Holidays, winter holidays and the first of May holiday. National holidays are also school free days.

## Spain

Between 9 in the morning to 5 in the afternoon. There may be extra activities after 5.

## Switzerland

L'école obligatoire est de la compétence des cantons. A l'heure actuelle, les horaires d'école peuvent par conséquent varier fortement d'un canton à l'autre. Cet état de fait devrait changer avec l'entrée en vigueur du concordat HarmoS, prévue pour 2014/2015. Le concordat HarmoS est un accord intercantonal sur l'harmonisation de la scolarité obligatoire, élaboré par la Conférence suisse des directeurs cantonaux de l'instruction publique (CDIP) et adopté en juin 2007; il entrera en vigueur dès que 10 cantons l'auront ratifié. Il prévoit, outre l'introduction de standards pédagogiques, d'harmoniser l'âge d'entrée à l'école obligatoire à 4 ans, l'introduction des horaires blocs et d'organiser la prise en charge des élèves en dehors des temps d'enseignement répondant aux besoins locaux (cf. supra), ce qui devrait contribuer aussi à mieux concilier travail et famille.

## Turkey

### COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

Turkish

Mathematics

Introduction to Science

Science and Technology

Social Sciences

T.R. Revolution History and Kemalism

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Foreign Language  
Education of Religion and Ethics  
Visual Arts  
Music  
Physical Education  
Technology and Design  
Traffic Safety  
Guidance and Counselling/Social Activities

TOTAL OF COMPULSORY SUBJECTS HOURS

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

Foreign Language  
Art Activities (Drama, Theatre, Folk Dances, Instrument, Drawing, Photography, Sculpture etc.)  
Sport Activities (Wrestling, Football, Basketball, Volleyball, Table Tennis etc.)  
Information Technologies  
Chess  
Thinking Training  
Popular Culture  
Agriculture  
Mass Media Literacy  
Consolidation and Etude Studies

## Ukraine

Not mentioned

## United Kingdom

In Scotland, compulsory education starts at age five, although many children start at four because schools have a single intake at the beginning of the school year. Local authorities set a cut-off date (normally 1st March) defining the cohort of children eligible to start school at the beginning of the following school year (normally in August). This means that Scottish children do not usually start school below the age of four years and six months.

England and Wales have a similar system, with a compulsory school starting age of five, although the majority of children start school at four. Because the cut-off date is the same as the beginning of the school year, children born in August can start school in September, just after their fourth birthday

The compulsory school starting age in Northern Ireland is four years old  
<http://www.nfer.ac.uk/eurydice/briefingseurope/school-starting-ages.cfm>

In England, all 5 year olds have a full day, normally 09.00-15.30, during the academic year, typically 38 weeks.