



Organisation of school time in Europe

Primary and secondary general education

2014/15 school year

Eurydice – Facts and Figures

*Education
and Training*

KEY POINTS

In most countries, the school year starts at the beginning of September

Despite some differences, countries across Europe show many similarities regarding the structure of the school year. In around half of European countries the school year officially starts on the first of September. In the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway and Iceland), it generally starts between mid- to end August. In Southern Europe, the starting date is usually in the second half of September (e.g. Greece, Malta, Portugal and Turkey).

The distribution of holidays during the school year varies between countries with the exception of the Christmas break

In addition to the summer break, there are four other main periods of school holidays across Europe: the autumn holidays, Christmas and New Year's, winter/Carnival holidays as well the spring/Easter holidays. With the exception of the Christmas/New Year's holiday, other school breaks differ both in length and timing. As some of these holidays are related to flexible calendar dates (Carnival and Easter), their timing changes slightly from year to year. As well as these common holidays, all countries offer an additional one to ten days of holiday for public or religious occasions.

Regional and local variations exist within some countries

The periods and dates of school holidays may vary within a country. In some countries, such as Germany, Spain, Italy and Austria regional authorities make the decisions in this regard. In Norway and Sweden, the responsibility lies with the municipalities, while in Ireland and the United Kingdom (England and Wales) the school calendar is traditionally decided at school level. However, this freedom to determine school holiday periods may be limited. The number of days of teaching is generally fixed at central level.

In the Czech Republic, France, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the central authorities fix different dates for some periods of holidays depending on the geographical area.

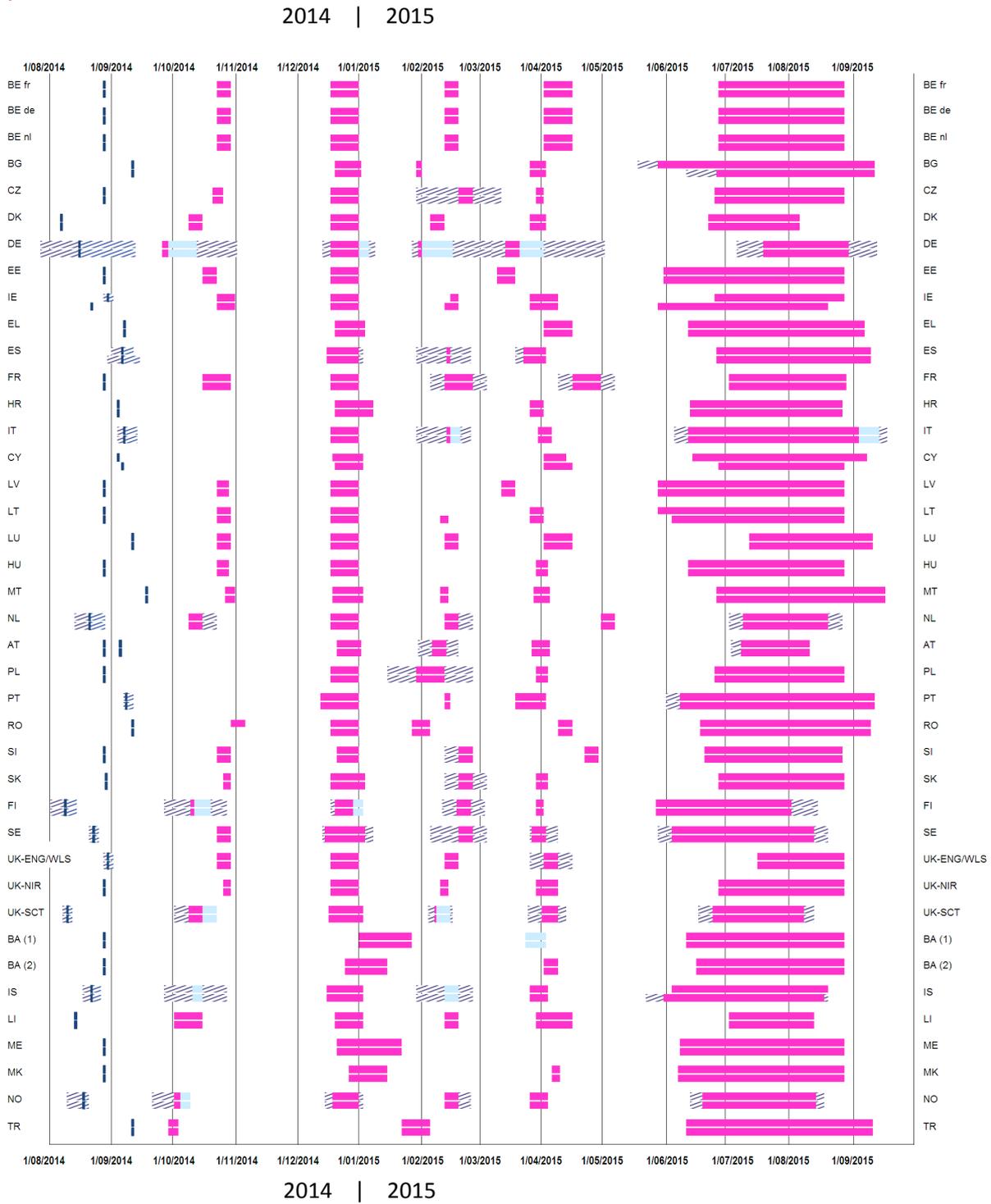
The length of the summer holidays varies a lot across Europe

In Europe, the school year generally ends between the end of May and the second half of July. Mid-June is the time when the summer break begins in most countries. The length of the summer holidays varies significantly between countries: from 6 weeks in some German *Länder*, the Netherlands, in the United Kingdom (England and Wales) and Liechtenstein up to 13 weeks in Latvia, Italy and Turkey. The summer holidays are usually shorter in those countries where students have more frequent and longer holidays during the school year. Some countries show differences in the length of holidays depending on the level of education. In secondary education, students normally study longer, as they might take examinations at the end of the year.

Same holiday patterns persist for primary and secondary education

The pattern of holidays over the school year is similar for both primary and secondary education. Slight differences occur in only a few countries. In Bulgaria, Greece, Cyprus and Lithuania, the summer holidays for younger students last longer than for older. The opposite is true in Ireland and Iceland.

Figure 1: Length of the school year and distribution of holidays, general education, ISCED 1-3, 2014/15

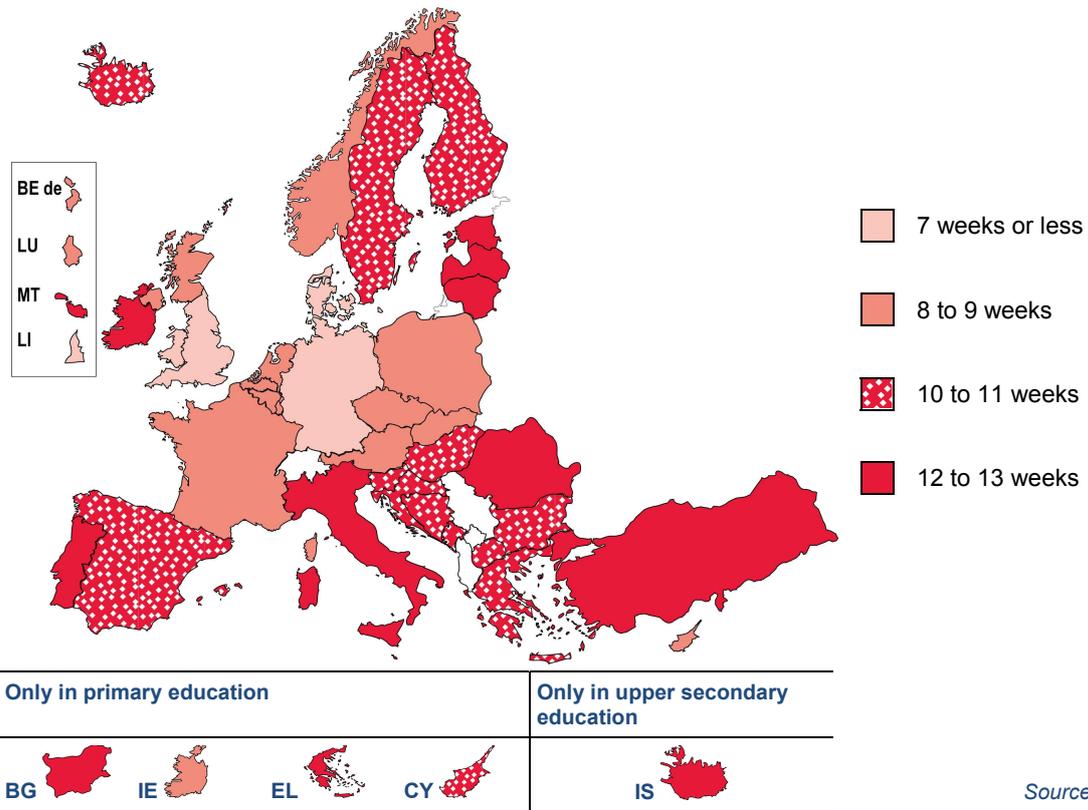


Primary		Start of the school year
		Regional or local variations
Secondary		Fixed or minimum number of days of holidays
		Maximum number of days of holidays

Country specific notes

Denmark, Hungary, Slovenia, Sweden and Iceland: The distinction is made between primary and lower secondary education (single structure) on one hand and upper secondary on the other hand.

Figure 2: Length of summer holidays (in weeks), primary and secondary general education, 2014/15



Source: Eurydice

AUSTRIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2014: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 8 September 2014: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	1 September 2014: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 8 September 2014: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
End of students' school year	3 July 2015: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 10 July 2015: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	3 July 2015: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 10 July 2015: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2014 – 6 January 2015	2 weeks 24 December 2014 – 6 January 2015
Winter/Carnival	1 week 2-7 February 2015: Niederösterreich, Wien 9-14 February 2015: Burgenland, Kärnten, Salzburg, Tirol, Vorarlberg 16-21 February 2015: Oberösterreich, Steiermark	1 week 2-7 February 2015: Niederösterreich, Wien 9-14 February 2015: Burgenland, Kärnten, Salzburg, Tirol, Vorarlberg 16-21 February 2015: Oberösterreich, Steiermark
Spring/Easter	1 week 28 March – 7 April 2015	1 week 28 March – 7 April 2015
Third term	4 days 23-26 May 2015	4 days 23-26 May 2015
Summer	About 9 weeks 4 July – 6 September 2015: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 11 July – 13 September 2015: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	About 9 weeks 4 July – 6 September 2015: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 11 July – 13 September 2015: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
Public/religious holidays	1 November 2014 2 November 2014 8 December 2014 1 May 2015 14 May 2015 4 June 2015 1 extra religious holiday per province (<i>Land</i>)	1 November 2014 2 November 2014 8 December 2014 1 May 2015 14 May 2015 4 June 2015 1 extra religious holiday per province (<i>Land</i>)
Starting/End date of teachers' school year	The teachers' school year is the same as the pupils' school year	The teachers' school year is the same as the pupils' school year

*) The autumn holidays in Vorarlberg are decreed by the educational authority of this *Land*. To enable these holidays, Easter and third term holidays are shortened in this *Land*.

BELGIUM (FLEMISH COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of students' school year	30 June 2015	30 June 2015
Autumn holidays	1 week 27 October – 2 November 2014	1 week 27 October – 2 November 2014
Christmas/New Year holidays	2 weeks 22 December 2014 – 4 January 2015	2 weeks 22 December 2014 – 4 January 2015
Winter/Carnival	1 week 16-22 February 2015	1 week 16-22 February 2015
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 6-19 April 2015	2 weeks 6-19 April 2015
Third term	Between Easter holidays and Summer holidays	Between Easter holidays and Summer holidays
Summer	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2015	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2015
Public holidays (national/religious/occasional)	11 November 2014 (Armistice Day) 1 May 2015 (Labour Day) 14-15 May 2015 (Ascension Day) 25 May 2015 (Whit Monday) + 4 days to be decided by the school	11 November 2014 (Armistice Day) 1 May 2015 (Labour Day) 14-15 May 2015 (Ascension Day) 25 May 2015 (Whit Monday) + 4 days to be decided by the school
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2015	30 June 2015

Source: Eurydice.

BELGIUM (FRENCH COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of students' school year	30 June 2015	30 June 2015
Autumn holidays	1 week 27-31 October 2014	1 week 27-31 October 2014
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 22 December 2014 – 2 January 2015	2 weeks 22 December 2014 – 2 January 2015
Winter/Carnival	1 week 16-20 February 2015	1 week 16-20 February 2015
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 6-17 April 2015	2 weeks 6-17 April 2015
Summer	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2015	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2015
Public/religious holidays	11 November 2014 1 May 2015 14-15 May 2015 25 May 2015	11 November 2014 1 May 2015 14-15 May 2015 25 May 2015
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2015	30 June 2015

Source: Eurydice

BELGIUM (GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of students' school year	30 June 2015	30 June 2015
Autumn holidays	1 week 27-31 October 2014	1 week 27-31 October 2014
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 22 December 2014 – 2 January 2015	2 weeks 22 December 2014 – 2 January 2015
Winter/Carnival	1 week 16-20 February 2015	1 week 16-20 February 2015
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 6-17 April 2015	2 weeks 6-17 April 2015
Third term	–	–
Summer	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2015	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2015
Public/religious holidays	11 November 2014 15 November 2014 1 May 2015 14 May 2015 25 May 2015	11 November 2014 15 November 2014 1 May 2015 14 May 2015 25 May 2015
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2015	30 June 2015

Additional notes:

- During the last working days of August, secondary education teachers may be consigned to conduct exams of a second chance.
- A school year has a minimum of 180 and a maximum of 184 days of school days.
- As the 1 November is a religious holiday (*Allerheiligen* – All Saints' Day) and at the same time autumn vacation, it is left to the school to choose a compensation day.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of students' school year	12 June 2015	12 June 2015
Winter holidays	5-30 January 2015	5-30 January 2015
Spring/Easter	28 March – 6 April 2015 (only in 4 cantons)	28 March – 6 April 2015 (only in 4 cantons)
Summer holidays	13 June – 31 August 2015	13 June – 31 August 2015
Public/religious holidays	Public holidays: 25 November 2014 (Statehood Day) 1-2 January 2015 (New Year) 1 March 2015 (Independence Day) 1-2 May 2015 (International Labour Day) Religious holidays: 25 December 2014 (Catholic Christmas) 3 and 6 April 2015 (Catholic Easter) 10 and 13 April 2015 (Orthodox Easter)	
Starting date of teachers' school year	18 August 2014	18 August 2014
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2015	30 June 2015

Additional notes:

Religious holidays are celebrated depending on the religious community.

There are some differences between the cantons within the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The given data are the most common for most cantons. Apart from these dates, each canton (ten in total) has established its own celebration day.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (CONTINUED)

Republic of Srpska

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of students' school year	19 June 2015 (5 June 2015 in the final year)	10 June 2015 (13 May 2015 in the final year)
Winter holidays	29 December 2014 – 16 January 2015	29 December 2014 – 16 January 2015
Spring/Easter	6-10 April 2015	6-10 April 2015
Summer holidays	20 June 2015 – 31 August 2015	11 June – 31 August 2015
Public/religious holidays	<p>Public holidays: 21 November 2014 (Day of establishing a General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina) 1-2 May 2015 (International Labour Day) 9 May 2015 (Day of Victory over Fascism)</p> <p>Religious holidays: 25 December 2014 (Catholic Christmas) 3 April 2015 (Catholic Good Friday) 13 April (Orthodox Easter Monday)</p>	
Starting date of teachers' school year	15 August 2014	15 August 2014
End of teachers' school year	3 July 2015	3 July 2015

Additional notes:

Religious holidays are celebrated depending the religion community.

BULGARIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	15 September 2014	15 September 2014
End of students' school year	Year I: 22 May 2015 Year II – IV: 30 May 2015 Year V – VIII: 13 June 2015 Year VIII*: 30 June 2015	Year VIII*: 30 June 2015 Year IX, X, XI: 30 June 2015 Year XII: 15 May 2015
Autumn holidays	1-3 November 2014	1-3 November 2014
Christmas/New Year	24 December 2014 – 5 January 2015	24 December 2014 – 5 January 2015
Winter/Carnival	1-4 February 2015	1-4 February 2015
Spring/Easter	29 March – 6 April 2015	29 March – 6 April 2015 (until Grade XI) 29 March – 1 April 2015 (Grade XII)
Summer	Year I: 24 May 2015 – 15 September 2015 Year II – IV: 31 May – 15 September 2015 Year V – VIII: 15 June – 15 September 2015 Year VIII*: 30 June – 15 September 2015	Year VIII*: 30 June – 15 September 2015 Year IX – XI: 30 June – 15 September 2015
Public/religious holidays	22 September 2014 24 December 2014 3 March 2015 1 May 2015 6 May 2015 24-25 May 2015	22 September 2014 24 December 2014 3 March 2015 1 May 2015 6 May 2015 24-25 May 2015
Other dates	21 May 2015 State graduation exam in Bulgarian language and literature and national external assessment after Year 7 in Bulgarian language and literature 23 May 2015 Second state graduation exam and national external assessment after year 7 in mathematics	
Starting date of teachers' school year	See Additional Notes	See Additional Notes
End of teachers' school year	See Additional Notes	See Additional Notes

Source: Eurydice

BULGARIA (CONTINUED)

Additional notes:

Year VIII* (18 study weeks) is made up of students who have been admitted, after completed year 7, to secondary schools after successfully passing admission exams. During this year they take intensive foreign language classes, the number of which prevails significantly in comparison with the number of classes assigned to the rest of the studied at this school level, subjects.

Teachers' school year: The length of the teachers' school year is defined at school level. The school head is responsible for setting and drawing up of the school's timetable. The most common situation is when teachers, on employment contract, are required to be present and at disposal at school at the beginning of September so that they can get prepared well in advance and deal with the school documentation for the new school year.

The end of the teachers' school year is also determined at school level. If teachers are needed to be at school in order to help, complete or close the school documentation, or if they are involved in other out-of-class activities, school projects, initiatives, etc., they usually are supposed to stay extra days after the beginning of the summer holidays for pupils.

CROATIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year	
	Primary and general secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	8 September 2014
End of students' school year	16 June 2015
Winter holidays	24 December 2014 – 9 January 2015
Spring holidays	30 March – 3 April 2015
Summer holidays	17 June – 30 August 2015
Public/religious holidays	8 October 2014 (Independence Day) 6 April 2015 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2015 (International Labour Day) 4 June 2015 (Corpus Christi)
Starting date of teachers' school year	22 August 2014
End of teachers' school year	10 July 2015

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Starting from the school year 2010/11, counties, regional administrative units (in total 21), are allowed to request some modifications of the school calendar for the coming year (the date of the beginning of the school year and the duration of the winter break) which apply at the County level.

CYPRUS

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year (1)	8 September 2014	10 September 2014
End of students' school year (1)	17 June 2015	(see additional notes)
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 23 December 2014 – 6 January 2015	2 weeks 24 December 2014 – 6 January 2015
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 6-19 April 2015	2 weeks 6-19 April 2015
Summer	12 weeks 18 June – 11 September 2015	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2015 (see additional notes)
Public/religious holidays	1 October 2014 28 October 2014 13 November 2014 30 January 2015 23 February 2015 25 March 2015 1 April 2015 1 May 2015 21 May 2015 1 June 2015 11 June 2015	1 October 2014 28 October 2014 13 November 2014 30 January 2015 23 February 2015 25 March 2015 1 April 2015 1 May 2015 1 June 2015 11 June 2015
Starting date of teachers' school year (2)	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of teachers' school year (2)	19 June 2015	30 June 2015

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

(1) **Students:** Classes may begin on any day during the first ten days of September. The exact date in each year is defined by the Minister of Education and Culture. In lower secondary education classes, the end of the school year may be on any day during the first seven days of June, in upper secondary education during the last ten days of May. The exact date is also defined by the Minister. In primary education, lessons begin on the second Monday of September and end on the Wednesday before the penultimate Friday of June.

(2) **Teachers:** In general secondary education, the end of the school year is at the end of June after exams, correction of papers, result announcements. The official teachers' school year is longer than student's school year 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 1 September 2014 until 31 August 2015. Teachers in primary education need to be at school from the first Monday of September until the penultimate Friday of June.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of students' school year	30 June 2015	30 June 2015
Autumn holidays	27-29 October 2014	27-29 October 2014
Christmas/New Year	22 December 2014 – 2 January 2015	22 December 2014 – 2 January 2015
Winter/Carnival	30 January 2015	30 January 2015
Spring/Easter	1 week between 2 February and 15 March 2015 depending on the region 2-3 April 2015	1 week between 2 February and 15 March 2015 depending on the region 2-3 April 2015
Summer	28 June – 31 August 2014	28 June – 31 August 2014
Public/religious holidays	28 September 2014 28 October 2014 17 November 2014 6 April 2015 1 May 2015 8 May 2015	28 September 2014 28 October 2014 17 November 2014 6 April 2015 1 May 2015 8 May 2015
Starting date of teachers' school year	Not specified	Not specified
End of teachers' school year	Not specified	Not specified

SPECIFICATION OF TERMS FOR SPRING HOLIDAYS

Term 2015	Regions
2 – 8 February	Česká Lípa, Jablonec nad Nisou, Liberec, Semily, Havlíčkův Brod, Jihlava, Pelhřimov, Třebíč, Žďár nad Sázavou, Kladno, Kolín, Kutná Hora, Písek, Náchod, Bruntál
9 – 15 February	Mladá Boleslav, Příbram, Tábor, Prachatice, Strakonice, Ústí nad Labem, Chomutov, Most, Jičín, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Olomouc, Šumperk, Opava, Jeseník
16 – 22 February	Benešov, Beroun, Rokycany, České Budějovice, Český Krumlov, Klatovy, Trutnov, Pardubice, Chrudim, Svitavy, Ústí nad Orlicí, Ostrava-město
23 February – 1 March	Praha 1 - 5, Blansko, Brno-město, Brno-venkov, Břeclav, Hodonín, Vyškov, Znojmo, Domažlice, Tachov, Louny, Prostějov, Karviná
2 – 8 March	Praha 6 - 10, Cheb, Karlovy Vary, Sokolov, Nymburk, Jindřichův Hradec, Litoměřice, Děčín, Přerov, Frýdek-Místek
9 – 15 March	Kroměříž, Uherské Hradiště, Vsetín, Zlín, Praha-východ, Praha-západ, Mělník, Rakovník, Plzeň-město, Plzeň-sever, Plzeň-jih, Hradec Králové, Teplice, Nový Jičín

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

According to the Labour Code, the holiday for **teachers** at primary or secondary level is 8 weeks each calendar year. They take it primarily in the time of school holidays.

DENMARK

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year		
	Primary and lower secondary education (<i>Folkeskole</i>)	General secondary education (<i>Gymnasium</i>)
Starting date of students' school year	11 August 2014	12/13 August 2014
End of students' school year	26 June 2015	26 June 2015
Autumn holidays	13-19 October 2014	13-19 October 2014
Christmas/New Year	20 December 2014 – 4 January 2015	20 December 2014 – 4 January 2015
Winter/Carnival	9-15 February 2015	9-15 February 2015
Spring/Easter	30 March – 6 April 2015	30 March – 6 April 2015
Summer	Starting on 26 June 2015	Starting on 26 June 2015
Public/religious holidays	1 May 2014 8 May 2015 14 May 2015 25 May 2015 5 June 2015	8 May 2015 14 May 2015 29 May 2015 5 June 2015
Starting date of teachers' school year	Not determined at central level – differs at the various schools / institutions. In general teachers start a few days before pupils/students.	
End of teachers' school year	Not determined at central level. Usually the teachers' school year follows that of the pupils/students.	

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

The above mentioned dates for the *Folkeskole* are a sample from two municipalities from two different regions, as the dates vary slightly on a national scale. For instance, the winter/carnival holiday depends on the municipality which usually decides whether the holiday is in week 7 or 8. The dates for upper secondary education are taken from Solrød Gymnasium ⁽¹⁾.

Folkeskole, schools offering comprehensive primary and lower secondary education, are free to decide on the number of holidays and their distribution, given that they offer a minimum of 200 school days each year. The Ministry of Education determines the last day of the school year, which is the case for both primary, lower secondary and general upper secondary education. In addition, the Ministry may also issue guidelines regarding the distribution of holidays.

The Constitution Day (*Grundlovsdag*) is not a public holiday. However, some schools are closed on this day while others are open.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.solgym.dk/index.php/om-sg/ferieplan>

ESTONIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of students' school year	31 August 2015	31 August 2015
Autumn holidays	1 week 18-26 October 2014	1 week 18-26 October 2014
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 20 December 2014 – 4 January 2015	2 weeks 20 December 2014 – 4 January 2015
Spring/Easter	1 week 14-22 March 2015	1 week 14-22 March 2015
Summer	12.5 weeks 4 June – 31 August 2015	12.5 weeks 4 June – 31 August 2015
Public/religious holidays	24 February 2015 (Independence Day) 3 April 2015 (Good Friday) 1 May 2015 (Spring Day (May Day))	24 February 2015 (Independence Day) 3 April 2015 (Good Friday) 1 May 2015 (Spring Day (May Day))
Starting date of teachers' 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 holidays. Generally, they take holidays mid-June and are back mid-August.	
End of teachers' school year		

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

The Basic Schools and Upper Secondary Schools Act stipulates that an academic year shall start on 1 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.

FINLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 6 and 18 August 2014	Between 6 and 18 August 2014
End of students' school year	30 May 2015	30 May 2015
Autumn holidays	2-7 days in October 2014	2-7 days in October 2014
Christmas/New Year	1-2 weeks between 21 December 2014 and 6 January 2015	1-2 weeks between 21 December 2014 and 6 January 2015
Winter/Carnival	1 week between 16 February and 8 March 2015	1 week between 16 February and 8 March 2015
Spring/Easter	4 days between 3 and 6 April 2015	4 days between 3 and 6 April 2015
Summer	10-11 weeks between 30 May to mid-August 2015	10-11 weeks between 30 May to mid-August 2015
Public/religious holidays	6 January 2015 (Epiphany) 1 May 2015 14 May 2015 (Ascension day)	6 January 2015 (Epiphany) 1 May 2015 14 May 2015 (Ascension day)
Starting date of teachers' school year ⁽¹⁾	Between 6 and 18 August 2014	Between 6 and 18 August 2014
End of teachers' school year	30 May 2015	30 May 2015

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Independence day, Epiphany and 1 May are deducted from the total number of school days (190 days) if they are on any weekday other than Saturday. In the school year 2014/15, the number of school days will consequently be 188.

⁽¹⁾ There are no exact starting and ending dates of teachers' school year because their duties are regulated according to the collective agreement for teachers. In the agreement, the parties have agreed that the teachers have a calculatory holiday, which begins in mid-June and the length of holiday depends mainly on years in occupation. In practice, teachers' holidays coincide with students' holidays. However, teachers have their planning and INSET obligations, which they have to do both during and outside the school year. In general teachers start a school year a couple days before students.

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of students' school year	10 June 2015	10 June 2015
Christmas / New Year	31 December 2014 – 18 January 2015	31 December 2014 – 18 January 2015
Spring / Easter	10-13 April 2015	10-13 April 2015
Third term	11-17 June 2015: Additional classes for students with low attainment in primary schools 10-21 August 2015: Preliminary classes for students with who will take remedial exams or exams for faster progress	16-30 June 2015: Additional classes for students with low attainment 10-14 August 2015: Preliminary classes for students with who will take remedial exams or exams for faster progress
Summer	11 June – 31 August 2015	11 June – 31 August 2015
Public holidays (national/religious/occasional)	8 September 2014 11 October 2014 23 October 2014 8 December 2014 10-13 April 2015 1 May 2015 25 May 2015	8 September 2014 11 October 2014 23 October 2014 8 December 2014 10-13 April 2015 1 May 2015 25 May 2015
Starting date of teachers' school year	10 August 2014	10 August 2014
End of teachers' school year	10 July 2015	10 July 2015

Source: Eurydice.

FRANCE

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	2 September 2014	2 September 2014
End of students' school year	4 July 2015	4 July 2015
Autumn holidays	2 weeks 18 October – 2 November 2014	2 weeks 18 October – 2 November 2014
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 20 December 2014 – 4 January 2015	2 weeks 20 December 2014 – 4 January 2015
Winter/Carnival	2 weeks 9-22 February 2015 (zone A) 23 February – 8 March 2015 (zone B) 16 February – 1 March 2015 (zone C)	2 weeks 9-22 February 2015 (zone A) 23 February – 8 March 2015 (zone B) 16 February – 1 March 2015 (zone C)
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 13-26 April 2015 (zone A) 27 April – 10 May 2015 (zone B) 20 April – 3 May 2015 (zone C)	2 weeks 13-26 April 2015 (zone A) 27 April – 10 May 2015 (zone B) 20 April – 3 May 2015 (zone C)
Summer	9 weeks 4 July – September 2015 (date not set yet)	9 weeks 4 July – September 2015 (date not set yet)
Public/religious holidays	The following dates are public holidays in all institutions: 11 November 2014 6 April 2015 1 May 2015 8 May 2015 14 May 2015 25 May 2015	The following dates are public holidays in all institutions: 11 November 2014 21 April 2015 1 May 2015 8 May 2015 14 May 2015 25 May 2015
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of teachers' school year	4 July 2015	4 July 2015

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

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

GERMANY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year

Starting date of students' school year	1 August 2014 begin of official school year <i>(for details see table I)</i>
End of students' school year	31 July 2015 end of official school year <i>(for details see table I)</i>
Autumn holidays	3 to 13 days staggered between 30 September and 2 November 2014 <i>(for details see table II)</i>
Christmas/New Year	11 to 18 days staggered between 18 December 2014 and 11 January 2015 <i>(for details see table II)</i>
Winter/Carnival	0 to 12 days staggered between 30 January and 8 March 2015 <i>(for details see table II)</i>
Spring/Easter	6 to 17 days staggered between 3 March and 2 May 2015 <i>(for details see table II)</i>
Third term	0 to 11 days staggered between 28 April and 21 June 2015 <i>(for details see table II)</i>
Summer	6 weeks staggered between 7 July and 13 September 2015 <i>(for details see table I)</i>
Public/religious holidays	Up to 10 days, depending on the <i>Land</i>
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 August 2014 (official date)
End of teachers' school year	31 July 2015 (official date)

Source: Eurydice

TABLE I: Specification for starting/end of students' school year and summer holidays

	Beginning of students' school year 2014/15	End of students' school year 2014/15	Summer holidays 2015
Hamburg	21 August 2014	15 July 2015	16 July – 26 August
Berlin	25 August 2014	14/15 July 2015	15/16 July – 28 August
Brandenburg	25 August 2014	15 July 2015	16 July – 28 August
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern/ Schleswig-Holstein	25 August 2014	17 July 2015	20 July – 29 August
Bremen / Niedersachsen	11 September 2014	22 July 2015	23 July – 2 September
Rheinland-Pfalz / Hessen	8 September 2014	24 July 2015	27 July – 4 September
Saarland	8 September 2014	24 July 2015	27 July – 5 September
Sachsen / Thüringen	1 September 2014	10 July 2015	13 July – 21 August
Sachsen-Anhalt	4 September 2014	10 July 2015	13 July – 26 August
Nordrhein-Westfalen	20 August 2014	26 June 2015	29 June – 11 August
Baden-Württemberg	15 September 2014	29 July 2015	30 July – 12 September
Bayern	16 September 2014	31 July 2015	1 August – 14 September

GERMANY (CONTINUED)

TABLE II: Specification of shorter holiday periods

Land	Autumn 2014	Christmas /New Year 2014/15	Winter 2015	Spring / Easter 2015	3 rd term 2015
Baden-Württemberg	27-30 October	22 Dec.-5 Jan.	-	30 Mar.-10 April	26 May-6 June
Bayern	27-31 October	24 Dec.-5 Jan.	16-20 February	30 Mar.-11 April	30 May-5 June
Berlin	20 Oct.-1 Nov.	22 Dec.-2 Jan.	2-7 February	30 Mar.-11 April	15 May
Brandenburg	20 Oct.-1 Nov.	22 Dec.-2 Jan.	2-7 February	1-11 April	15 May
Bremen	27 Oct.-8 Nov.	22 Dec.-5 Jan.	2-3 February	25 Mar.-10 April	26 May
Hamburg	13-24 October	22 Dec.-6 Jan.	30 January	2-13 March	11-15 May
Hessen	20 Oct.-1 Nov.	22 Dec.-10 Jan.	-	30 Mar.-11 April	-
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	20-25 October	22 Dec.-2 Jan.	2-14 February	30 Mar.-8 April	22-26 May
Niedersachsen	27 Oct.-8 Nov.	22 Dec.-5 Jan.	2-3 February	25 Mar.-10 April	15 May 26 May
Nordrhein-Westfalen	6 Oct.-18 Nov.	22 Dec.-6 Jan.	-	30 Mar.-11 April	26 May
Rheinland-Pfalz	20-31 October	22 Dec.-7 Jan.	-	26 Mar.-10 April	-
Saarland	20-31 October	22 Dec.-7 Jan.	16-21 February	30 Mar.-11 April	-
Sachsen	20-31 October	22 Dec.-3 Jan.	9-21 February	2-11 April	15 May
Sachsen-Anhalt	27-30 October	22 Dec.-5 Jan.	2-14 February	2 April	15-23 May
Schleswig-Holstein	13-25 October	22 Dec.-6 Jan.	-	1-17 April	15 May
Thüringen	6-18 October	22 Dec.-3 Jan.	2-7 February	30 Mar.-11 April	15 May

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

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

GREECE

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	11 September 2014	11 September 2014
End of students' school year	15 June 2015	The date in question, set after a Ministerial Decision (usually around 20 May), is subject to annual arrangement both for lower and upper secondary education. The beginning of the exam period is set within the second fortnight of May and the end of the exam period, within the last week of June.
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2014 – 7 January 2015	2 weeks 24 December 2014 – 7 January 2015
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 6-19 April 2015	2 weeks 6-19 April 2015
Summer	Around 12 weeks 16 June – 10 September 2015	Around 10 weeks After the end of the exam period in June until 10 September 2015
National/religious holidays	28 October 2014 17 November 2014 30 January 2015 23 February 2015 25 March 2015 1 May 2015 1 June 2015 and some regional holidays	28 October 2014 17 November 2014 30 January 2015 23 February 2015 25 March 2015 1 May 2015 1 June 2015 and some regional holidays
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of teachers' school year	19 June 2015	30 June 2015

Additional notes:

The official school year for both primary and secondary education lasts from 1 September 2014 until 31 August 2015.

At **primary** level, according to Presidential Decree 200/1998 (Government Gazette 161/issue A/13-7-1998) and Presidential Decree 201/1998 (Government Gazette 161/issue A/13-7-1998), the didactic year lasts from 1 September until 21 June of the following year.

At **secondary** level, according to Presidential Decree 123/1987, the didactic year lasts from 1 September until 30 June of the following year.

HUNGARY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year		
	Primary and lower secondary education	General upper secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of students' school year	15 June 2015	15 June 2015 (30 April 2015 in the final upper secondary grade)
Autumn holidays	27-31 October 2014	27-31 October 2014
Christmas/New Year holidays	22 December 2014 – 2 January 2015	22 December 2014 – 2 January 2015
Spring/Easter holidays	2-7 April 2015	2-7 April 2015
Summer holidays	11 weeks 16 June – 31 August 2015	11 weeks 16 June – 31 August 2015
Public/religious holidays	23 October 2014 1 May 2015 (Labour Day) 25 May 2015 (Whit Monday)	23 October 2014 1 May 2015 (Labour Day) 25 May 2015 (Whit Monday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	Institutional autonomy takes into account the concerning legal provision*	Institutional autonomy takes into account the concerning legal provision*
End of teachers' school year	Institutional autonomy takes into account the concerning legal provision*	Institutional autonomy takes into account the concerning legal provision*

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

According to the Act on Public Education, the minister responsible for education specifies the schedule of the academic year in a ministerial decree. The Act stipulates that the school year starts on the first working day of September every year and finishes on the last working day prior to 16 June.

Thus schools have no autonomy in changing the first and last day of the school year but they have some autonomy in giving extra holidays before or after public holidays or school holidays for practical reasons (e.g. if a public holiday falls on a Thursday, the school may give Friday as holiday) if they provide teaching on a regular resting day (weekend) instead.

In addition to compulsory school days (181 days in basic schools and 180 days in upper-secondary schools), schools also have five (in basic schools) or six (in upper-secondary schools) non-teaching days for educational purposes.

Holidays at schools providing minority education may differ from the above described school holidays to celebrate national traditions.

* Act No. XXXIII of 1992 on the legal status of public servants and the Government Decree No. 326/2013 stipulate that the holidays of teachers primarily have to be given during the summer holiday. If not all days can be taken during that, the rest has to be provided during the autumn, winter or spring holidays or teaching days. (For teachers the autumn, winter and spring holidays are regarded as workdays without teaching).

ICELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year		
	Primary and lower secondary education	General upper secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 22 and 30 August 2014	Between 20 and 26 August 2014
End of students' school year	Between 8 and 12 June 2015	Between 26 and 30 May 2015
Autumn holidays	0-3 days in October 2014	0-3 days in October 2014
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 20 December 2014 – 6 January 2015	2 weeks 20 December 2014 – 6 January 2015
Winter/Carnival	0-5 days in February 2015	0-5 days in February 2015
Spring/Easter	8 days 30 March – 7 April 2015	8 days 30 March – 7 April 2015
Summer	11 weeks Between 7 June and 21 August 2015	12 weeks Between 26 May and 23 August 2015
Public/religious holidays	23 April 2015 1 May 2015 25 May 2015	23 April 2015 1 May 2015 25 May 2015
Starting date of teachers' school year	Between 9 and 21 August 2014	Between 20 and 22 August 2014
End of teachers' school year	Between 5 and 11 June 2015	Between 28 May and 1 June 2015

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

According to teachers wage contracts compulsory school teachers shall work in schools 4 days before the beginning of the school year and 4 days after the formal end of the school year. Upper secondary school teachers have a total of 4 working days before the beginning and/or the end of the school year.

IRELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	First week of September 2014 ⁽¹⁾	Circa 26 August 2014
End of students' school year	End of June 2015 ⁽²⁾	End of State Examinations in June 2015
Autumn holidays	1 week 27-31 October 2014 (inclusive)	1 week 27-31 October 2014
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 22 December 2014 – 2 January 2015	2 weeks 22 December 2014 – 2 January 2015
Winter/Carnival	2 days 19 & 20 February 2015 ⁽³⁾	1 week 16-20 February 2015
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 30 March – 10 April 2015	2 weeks 30 March – 10 April 2015
Summer	About 9 weeks End of June until week of 1 September 2015	About 12 weeks June, July and most of August 2015
Public/religious holidays	17 March 2015 4 May 2015 1 June 2015 and some religious holidays	17 March 2015 4 May 2015 1 June 2015 and some religious holidays
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of teachers' school year	31 August 2015	31 August 2015

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

Primary Education

- ¹ In order to meet the overall requirement of 183 days at primary level, the school year will normally commence in the week that 1 September falls. The exact date is determined locally at Board of Management level.
- ² School may use their own discretion to determine the precise ending of the school year in June, providing it has met the overall requirement of 183 days.
- ³ Primary school may use 3 discretionary days to extend their Winter/Carnival break to an alternative option of a 5 day break.

Circular 0016/2014 sets out the standardised school breaks at primary and post-primary level for the school years 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17.

IRELAND (CONTINUED)

The arrangements for standardised closure at primary level (Circular 0016/2014) are agreed without prejudice to closure on specific days, within the overall requirement of 183 days at primary level, dictated by religious observance that is required in schools under patronage of different denominations or faiths. In the absence of an adequate number of discretionary days a school authority may choose to utilise a religious observation day for non-tuition purpose when planning the school year.

The existing arrangements for school breaks may provide some limited flexibility to schools on certain other days outside of the defined periods. The scheduling of such days must not be used to extend or modify the period set out above in respect of mid-term, Christmas and Easter breaks save where a school has been affected by extensive or prolonged school closures or religious observance requirements of a school under a particular patronage makes this necessary.

It was not a requirement of this agreement that the commencement or end of the school year either at primary or post primary level should be standardised.

General Secondary

In accordance with Circular M29/95, the minimum number of teaching days per post-primary school will be 167. In addition, in accordance with Circular 0016/2014, holiday periods during the school year have been standardised, i.e. 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 2014/15 school year, it is expected that post-primary schools will be open circa 26 August 2014.

The above holidays are standardised in accordance with Circular 0016/2014. The school year at post-primary level is very tight and does not 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 which 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 the end of year State exams.

ITALY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/2015 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 8 and 17 September 2014	Between 8 and 17 September 2014
End of students' school year	Between 6 and 16 June 2015	Between 6 and 16 June 2015
Autumn holidays	–	–
Christmas/New Year	12 to 14 days between 22/24 December 2014 and 5 January 2015	12 to 14 days between 22/24 December 2014 and 5 January 2015
Winter/Carnival	1-5 days in February	1-5 days in February
Spring/Easter	5 to 6 days between 2 April and 7/8 April 2015, depending on the regions	5 to 6 days between 2 April and 7/8 April 2015, depending on the regions
Third term	–	–
Summer	12-13 weeks Between June and September 2015	12-13 weeks Between June and September 2015
Public/religious holidays	1 November 2014 25 April 2015 1 May 2015 2 June 2015 (and Saints' days depending on the regions)	1 November 2014 25 April 2015 1 May 2015 2 June 2015 (and Saints' days depending on the regions)
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of teachers' school year	31 August 2015	31 August 2015

Source: Eurydice

ITALY (CONTINUED)

Specification of terms for the beginning and the end of the school year 2014/2015		
Primary and general secondary education		
	Beginning 2014	End 2015
Abruzzo	11 September	11 June
Alto Adige (Bolzano)	8 September	16 June (5-day weeks) 16 June (6-day weeks)
Basilicata	15 September	11 June
Calabria	15 September	11 June
Campania	15 September	10 June
Emilia-Romagna	15 September	6 June
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	15 September	11 June
Lazio	15 September	8 June
Liguria	15 September	10 June
Lombardia	15 September	8 June
Marche	15 September	10 June
Molise	10 September	6 June
Piemonte	15 September	11 June
Puglia	17 September	9 June
Sardegna	15 September	10 June
Sicilia	17 September	13 June
Toscana	15 September	10 June
Trentino (Trento)	10 September	9 June
Umbria	15 September	10 June
Valle d'Aosta	11 September	11 June
Veneto	15 September	10 June

Additional notes:

Schools can adjust the school calendar, established by the Regions, to the POF's requirements (the POF is the basic document of the cultural and planning identity of each school. It defines the curricular, extra-curricular, educational and organisational projects of each school). Schools can organise in a flexible way the overall and single-subject timetable, provided that lessons spread over a minimum of five days per week and that the prescribed number of hours for the single subjects is complied with. 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 school time should guarantee at least 200 days of lesson in the school year.

According to school autonomy, schools have up to 5 or 6 days available, which are foreseen for the suspension of educational activities.

LATVIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2013/14 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of students' school year	29 May 2015	29 May 2015
Autumn holidays	1 week 27-31 October 2014	1 week 27-31 October 2014
Christmas/New Year (Winter holidays)	2 weeks 22 December 2014 – 2 January 2015	2 weeks 22 December 2014 – 2 January 2015
Spring/Easter	1 week 16-20 March 2015	1 week 16-20 March 2015 23-27 March 2015 (year 12)
Summer	13 weeks 1 June – 31 August 2015	13 weeks 1 June – 31 August 2015
Public/religious holidays	18 November 2014 (Proclamation of the Republic of Latvia) 3-6 April 2015 (Easter) 1 May 2015 (Convocation of the Constituent Assembly of the Republic of Latvia, Labour Day) 4 May 2015 (Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia)	18 November 2014 (Proclamation of the Republic of Latvia) 3-6 April 2015 (Easter) 1 May 2015 (Convocation of the Constituent Assembly of the Republic of Latvia, Labour Day) 4 May 2015 (Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia)
Starting date of teachers' school year	See additional notes	See additional notes
End of teachers' school year	See additional notes	See additional notes

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

Lower secondary education (Basic education): end of the school year for the 9th class: 12 June 2015.

Upper secondary education: end of the school year for the 12th class: 19 June 2015.

The school year is divided in two semesters: the first from 1 September to 19 December 2014 and the second from 5 January to 29 May 2015 (or 12 June for the 9th class and 19 June for the 12th class).

Education institutions decide when to carry out an additional 1 week long holidays in the second semester for the 1st class.

Education institutions decide when to carry out a 1 week long project week in the second semester.

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. extreme temperature, strike, emergency situation in school, etc.).

Holidays (summer 2015): These are the dates for the official summer holiday period for classes 1-8 and 10-11.

Public holidays: When the specific holidays of 18 November (Proclamation of the Republic of Latvia) and 4 May (Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia) fall on Saturday or Sunday, the holiday is transferred to the next working day.

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.

LIECHTENSTEIN

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year	
	Primary education and general secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	18 August 2014
End of students' school year	3 July 2015
Autumn holidays	2 weeks 4-19 October 2014
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2014 – 6 January 2015
Winter/Carnival	1 week 16-22 February 2015
Spring/Easter	2.5 weeks 2-19 April 2015
Summer	6 weeks 6 July – 16 August 2015
Public/religious holidays	1 November 2014 – All Saints Day (<i>Allerheiligen</i>) 19 March 2015 – St. Josephs Day (<i>Josefitag</i>) 6 April 2015 – Easter Monday (<i>Ostern/Ostermontag</i>) 1 May 2015 – Labour Day (<i>Tag der Arbeit</i>) 14-15 May 2015 – Ascension Day (<i>Auffahrt</i>) 25 May 2015 – Whitsuntide/Whit Monday (<i>Pfingsten/Pfingsmontag</i>) 4-5 June 2015 – Corpus Christi (<i>Fronleichnam</i>)
Starting date of teachers' school year	18 August 2014
End of teachers' school year	3 July 2015

Source: Eurydice.

http://www.llv.li/files/sa/pdf-llv-sa-ferienkalender_0910_bis_1112.pdf

LITHUANIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of students' school year	29 May 2015	5 June 2015*
Autumn holidays	1 week 27-31 October 2014	1 week 27-31 October 2014
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 22 December 2014 – 2 January 2015	2 weeks 22 December 2014 – 2 January 2015
Winter/Carnival	–	17-18 February 2015**
Spring/Easter	1 week 30 March – 3 April 2015	1 week 30 March – 3 April 2015
Summer	13 weeks 1 June – 31 August 2015	12 weeks 8 June – 31 August 2015***
Public/religious holidays	1 November 2014 16 February 2015 11 March 2015 1 May 2015	1 November 2014 16 February 2015 11 March 2015 1 May 2015
Starting date of teachers' school year	Following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher	Following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher
End of teachers' school year	Following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher****	Following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher****

Source: General Curriculum Framework for Primary and Secondary Education

Additional notes:

* The end of students' school year in grade 5 (first year of lower secondary education) is on 29 May 2015 and grade 12 (last year of upper secondary education) is on 28 May 2015.

** Additional 2-week holidays are allocated to pupils of grades 1 to 5. It is required that the school agreed additional holidays with parents and school council. At national level, it is recommended that additional holidays would coincide with 6-12 grades winter holidays.

*** Summer holidays for students in grade 5 start on 1 June 2015 and grade 12 on 29 May 2015.

**** 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).

LUXEMBOURG

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	15 September 2014	15 September 2014
End of students' school year	15 July 2015	15 July 2015
Autumn holidays	1 week 25 October – 2 November 2014	1 week 25 October – 2 November 2014
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 20 December 2014 – 4 January 2015	2 weeks 20 December 2014 – 4 January 2015
Winter/Carnival	1 week 16-22 February 2015	1 week 16-22 February 2015
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 6-19 April 2015	2 weeks 6-19 April 2015
Third term	1 week 25-31 May 2015	1 week 25-31 May 2015
Summer	8 weeks 16 July – 14 September 2015	8 weeks 16 July – 14 September 2015
Public/religious holidays	1 May 2015 14 May 2015 23 June 2015	1 May 2015 14 May 2015 23 June 2015
Starting date of teachers' school year	15 September 2014	15 September 2014
End of teachers' school year	15 July 2015	15 July 2015

Source: Eurydice.

MALTA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	22 September 2014	22 September 2014
End of students' school year	26 June 2015	26 June 2015
Autumn holidays	3-4 November 2014	3-4 November 2014
Christmas / New Year	23 December 2014 – 6 January 2015	23 December 2014 – 6 January 2015
Winter / Carnival	16-17 February 2015	16-17 February 2015
Spring / Easter	1-8 April 2015	1-8 April 2015
Third term	9 April – 26 June 2015	9 April – 26 June 2015
Summer	30 June – 18 September 2015	30 June – 18 September 2015
Public / religious holidays	8 December 2014 10 February 2015 19 March 2015 31 March 2015 1 May 2015 29 June 2015	8 December 2014 10 February 2015 19 March 2015 31 March 2015 1 May 2015 29 June 2015
Starting date of teachers' school year	18 September 2014	18 September 2014
End of teachers' school year	6 July 2015	6 July 2015

Additional notes:

Half-yearly examinations take place between 9 and 13 February 2015 for pupils in the last three years of primary school and between 3 and 13 February 2015 for secondary school students.

The Annual Examinations take place between 24 and 26 June 2015 for primary school pupils and between 11 and 26 June 2015 for secondary school students.

Students of Year 6 in primary schools sit for End-of-Primary Benchmark Assessments held between 27 and 28 May (oral components) and between 29 May and 3 June 2015 (for the written components).

Teachers are required to attend in-service training (INSET) for three days either prior to the beginning of the school year or immediately at the end of the school year. This training is held on 15, 16 and 17 September 2014 and on 7, 8 and 9 July 2015.

Teachers who attend INSET courses in September 2014 start their school year on 15 September 2014. Teachers who attend INSET courses in July 2015 end their school year on 9 July 2015.

During the month of June schools are on half-days.

MONTENEGRO

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of students' school year	12 June 2015 20 May 2015 (in the final year)	12 June 2015 20 May 2015 (in the final year)
Christmas / New Year / Winter	25 December 2014 – 9 January 2015	25 December 2014 – 9 January 2015
Winter / Carnival	5-25 January 2015	5-25 January 2015
Summer	15 June – 31 August 2015	15 June – 31 August 2015 Note: for the students in vocational education who have professional internship (10-15 days), the summer vacation begins after the end of the internship.
Public holidays (national/religious/occasional)	1 May 2015 (International Labour Day) 21 May 2015 (Independence Day)	1 May 2015 (International Labour Day) 21 May 2015 (Independence Day)
Starting date of teachers' school year	10 August 2014	10 August 2014
End of teachers' school year	10 July 2015	10 July 2015

Source: Eurydice.

THE NETHERLANDS

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Northern region: 18 August 2014 Central region: 1 September 2014 Southern region: 25 August 2014	Northern region: 18 August 2014 Central region: 1 September 2014 Southern region: 25 August 2014
End of students' school year	Northern region: 3 July 2015 Central region: 10 July 2015 Southern region: 17 July 2015	Northern region: 3 July 2015 Central region: 10 July 2015 Southern region: 17 July 2015
Autumn holidays	Northern region: 11-19 October 2014 Central region: 18-26 October 2014 Southern region: 18-26 October 2014	Northern region: 11-19 October 2014 Central region: 18-26 October 2014 Southern region: 18-26 October 2014
Christmas/New Year holidays	20 December – 4 January 2015	20 December – 4 January 2015
Winter/Carnival (Spring Holiday or Crocus Holiday)	Northern region: 23 February – 1 March 2015 Central region: 23 February – 1 March 2015 Southern region: 16-22 February 2015	Northern region: 23 February – 1 March 2015 Central region: 23 February – 1 March 2015 Southern region: 16-22 February 2015
Spring/Easter (May Holidays)	2-10 May 2015	2-10 May 2015
Summer	Northern region: 6 July – 16 August 2015 Central region: 13 July – 23 August 2015 Southern region: 20 July – 30 August 2015	Northern region: 6 July – 16 August 2015 Central region: 13 July – 23 August 2015 Southern region: 20 July – 30 August 2015
Public holidays (national/religious/occasional)	6 April 2015 (Easter Monday) 27 April 2015 (King's Birthday) 5 May 2015 (Liberation day) 14 May 2015 (Ascension Day) 25 May 2015 (Whit Monday)	6 April 2015 (Easter Monday) 27 April 2015 (King's Birthday) 5 May 2015 (Liberation day) 14 May 2015 (Ascension Day) 25 May 2015 (Whit Monday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	See additional notes	See additional notes
End of teachers' school year	See additional notes	See additional notes

The Netherlands (continued)

Additional notes:

The school year officially runs from 1 August to 31 July of the following year. Start and end of the school year of the individual schools is according to the region (Northern, Central and Southern region).

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

A balanced distribution of teaching time is important in the Netherlands. Schools have the opportunity to deviate from the recommended data, but they have to take into account the wishes and expectations of the parents/caregivers.

- *) In the Netherlands Carnival holiday is called Spring Holiday or Crocus Holiday
- If the recommended period for the Spring Holiday does not fit with Carnival week; it can be expected that schools, especially in the Southern areas of the Netherlands, will not follow the recommendations and will close for Carnival.

The **teachers'** school year is similar to the 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.)

NORWAY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 14 and 22 August 2014	Between 14 and 22 August 2014
End of students' school year	17 or 23 June 2015	17 or 23 June 2015
Autumn holidays	1 week (some only 2-3 days) Between 25 September and 10 October 2014	1 week (some only 2-3 days) Between 25 September and 10 October 2014
Christmas/New Year	Around 2 weeks From 19-22 December 2014 until 2-6 January 2015	Around 2 weeks From 19-22 December 2014 until 2-6 January 2015
Winter/Carnival	1 week Between 16 and 28 February 2015	1 week Between 16 and 28 February 2015
Spring/Easter	8 or 9 days Between 30 March and 6/7 April 2015	8 or 9 days Between 30 March and 6/7 April 2015
Third term	–	–
Summer	Around 8 weeks Between 17/23 June and 17/21 August 2015	Around 8 weeks Between 17/23 June and 17/21 August 2015
Public/religious holidays	1 May 2015 (Labour Day) 14 May 2015 (Ascension Day) 25 May 2015 (Whit Monday)	1 May 2015 (Labour Day) 14 May 2015 (Ascension Day) 25 May 2015 (Whit Monday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	See additional notes	See additional notes
End of teachers' school year	See additional notes	See additional notes

Source: KS/ Eurydice

Additional notes:

For the primary schools can the municipality decide individually the school holidays, as the counties can decide for the upper secondary schools.

The teachers' work during the school 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 hours for upper secondary education. It is an individual matter for each school if the work hours, longer than for the students, are before the beginning or after the end of the school year.

POLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of students' school year	26 June 2015	26 June 2015
Autumn holidays	–	–
Christmas/New Year	22-31 December 2014	22-31 December 2014
Winter/Carnival	2 weeks (dates differ between the regions): 19 January – 1 February 2015 Dolnośląskie Mazowieckie Opolskie Zachodniopomorskie 26 January – 8 February 2015 Podlaskie Warmińsko-Mazurskie 2-15 February 2015 Lubelskie Łódzkie Podkarpackie Pomorskie Śląskie 16 February – 1 March 2015 Kujawsko-Pomorskie Lubuskie Małopolskie Świętokrzyskie Wielkopolskie	2 weeks (dates differ between the regions): 19 January – 1 February 2015 Dolnośląskie Mazowieckie Opolskie Zachodniopomorskie 26 January – 8 February 2015 Podlaskie Warmińsko-Mazurskie 2-15 February 2015 Lubelskie Łódzkie Podkarpackie Pomorskie Śląskie 16 February – 1 March 2015 Kujawsko-Pomorskie Lubuskie Małopolskie Świętokrzyskie Wielkopolskie
Spring/ Easter	2-7 April 2015	2-7 April 2015
Third term	–	–
Summer	27 June – 31 August 2015	27 June – 31 August 2015
Public/religious holidays	11 November 2014 1 January 2015 6 January 2015 1 May 2015 4 June 2015	11 November 2014 1 January 2015 6 January 2015 1 May 2015 4 June 2015
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of teachers' school year	26 June 2015	26 June 2015

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

In addition, the school head has the possibility to determine some extra days off (up to 6 days for primary schools, basic vocational schools, post-secondary schools, continuous education institutions; up to 8 days for lower secondary schools; up to 10 days for upper secondary schools) that may be devoted to external tests and exams and/or religious festivals not being registered as official public holidays.

Teacher holiday period altogether is 47 days. The school head may oblige a teacher to work for the benefit of their school for 7 days over their summer or winter holidays. In addition, during the summer holidays teachers carry out tasks related to recruitment and exam procedures.

PORTUGAL

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 11 and 15 September 2014	Between 11 and 15 September 2014
End of students' school year*	Between 5 and 12 June 2015 – year 6 12 June 2015 – years 1-5	5 June 2015 – years 9, 11 and 12 12 June 2015 – years 7, 8 and 10
First term	11/15 September – 16 December 2014	11/15 September – 16 December 2014
Christmas/New Year	17 December 2014 – 2 January 2015	17 December 2014 – 2 January 2015
Second term	5 January – 20 March 2015	5 January – 20 March 2015
Winter/Carnival	16-18 February 2015	16-18 February 2015
Spring/Easter	23 March – 6 April 2015	23 March – 6 April 2015
Third term*	7 April Between 5 and 12 June 2015 (see: end of students school year)	7 April Between 5 and 12 June 2015 (see: end of students school year)
Summer*	About 12 weeks Beginning between 5 and 12 June until mid-September 2015	About 12 weeks Beginning between 5 and 12 June until mid-September 2015
Public/religious holidays	8 December 2014 1 May 2015 10 June 2015 (plus holidays at municipal level)	8 December 2014 1 May 2015 10 June 2015 (plus holidays at municipal level)
Starting date of teachers' school year**	See additional notes	See additional notes
End of teachers' school year**	See additional notes	See additional notes

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

* Formalization of internal summative assessment until 15 June 2015, inclusive. The end of the year for pupils in years 4 and 6 having extra support is 8 July 2015. National exams occur until the end of July.

** The official teachers' school year lasts from 1 September to 31 August. Teachers have the right to take summer holidays between the end of pupils' school year and the beginning of the following school year.

ROMANIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	15 September 2014	15 September 2014
End of students' school year	19 June 2015	19 June 2015
Autumn holidays	1-9 November 2014	-
Christmas/New Year	20 December 2014 – 4 January 2015	20 December 2014 – 4 January 2015
Winter/Carnival	31 January – 8 February 2015	31 January – 8 February 2015
Spring/Easter	11-19 April 2015	11-19 April 2015
Summer	20 June – 13 September 2015	20 June – 13 September 2015
Public/religious holidays	1 May 2015 1 June 2015 30 November 2015 1 December 2015	1 May 2015 1 June 2015 30 November 2015 1 December 2015
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of teachers' school year	31 August 2015	31 August 2015

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

1. The schools and the School Inspectorates will mark with specific events the following days:

- 5 October 2013 = World Teachers' Day
- 5 June 2014 = Primary Teacher's Day

2. The week 6-10 April 2015 in the second semester is dedicated to extracurricular and extra-school activities, within the programme *Other kind of school: Know more, Be better!* [*Școala altfel: Să știi mai multe, să fii mai bun!*], with a specific timetable.

3. In exceptional situations, depending on the local climatic conditions and school's specificity, the organisation of the school year can be modified at the request of schools, approved by the regional education authorities (County School Inspectorate). Approval is given if the number of 177 school days (36 weeks) is maintained and all pupils may participate without restrictions in national examinations.

SLOVAKIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	2 September 2014	2 September 2014
End of students' school year	30 June 2015	30 June 2015
Autumn holidays	2 days 30-31 October 2014	2 days 30-31 October 2014
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 22 December 2014 – 7 January 2015	2 weeks 22 December 2014 – 7 January 2015
Winter/Carnival	1 week according to regions: 16-20 February 2015 Banska Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín 23-27 February 2015 Košice, Prešov 2-6 March 2015 Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava	1 week according to regions: 16-20 February 2015 Banska Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín 23-27 February 2015 Košice, Prešov 2-6 March 2015 Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava
Spring/Easter	4 days (Easter holidays) 2-7 April 2015	4 days (Easter holidays) 2-7 April 2015
Summer	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2015	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2015
Public/religious holidays	1 September 2014 15 September 2014 17 November 2014 2 February 2015 1 May 2015 8 May 2015	1 September 2014 15 September 2014 17 November 2014 2 February 2015 1 May 2015 8 May 2015
Starting date of teachers' school year	Usually one week before beginning of the school year	Usually one week before beginning of the school year
End of teachers' school year	Usually, one week after summer holidays begin	Usually, one week after summer holidays begin

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

Official school year lasts from 1 September to 31 August. If 2 September falls on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday starting date of school year is next Monday.

According to the Labour Code, teachers and school heads 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 year.

SLOVENIA

Organisation of school time in single structure education and general upper secondary education 2014/15 school year

	Single structure education	General upper secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of students' school year	24 June 2015 15 June 2015 (final grade)	24 June 2015 22 May 2015 (final grade)
Autumn holidays	1 week 27 to 31 October 2014	1 week 27 to 31 October 2014
Christmas/New Year	1 week 25 December 2014 to 2 January 2015	1 week 25 December 2014 to 2 January 2015
Winter/Carnival	1 week 16-20 February 2015 (Eastern region) 23-27 February 2015 (Western region)	1 week 16-20 February 2015 (Eastern region) 23-27 February 2015 (Western region)
Spring holiday	1 week 27 April – 1 May 2015	1 week 27 April – 1 May 2015
Summer holidays	10 weeks 25 June – 31 August 2015	10 weeks 25 June – 31 August 2015
Public/religious holidays	6 April 2015 (Easter Monday)	6 April 2015 (Easter Monday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	10-15 days before students start school	10-15 days before students start school
End of teachers' school year	Beginning to mid-July 2015	Beginning to mid-July 2015

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

Slovenia has a single structure compulsory school of nine years.

For students, the school year officially runs from 1 September to 31 August, however, the lessons end in June.

For teachers, the school year begins 10 to 15 days before the students start school and lasts until the beginning or mid-July. The precise length depends on the days of annual leave allocated to an individual (22 to 35 days) and tasks and obligations appointed by the school head.

SPAIN

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year ^(1, 2)		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 5 and 15 September 2014	Between 3 and 18 September 2014
End of students' school year	Between 19 and 23 June 2015	Between 10 and 25 June ⁽³⁾ 2015
Christmas/New Year	At least 2 weeks between 20 December 2014 and 7 January 2015	At least 2 weeks between 20 December 2014 and 7 January 2015
Winter/Carnival	Between 2 and 3 days (depending on the Autonomous Community) ⁽⁴⁾	Between 2 and 3 (depending on the Autonomous Community) ⁽⁴⁾
Spring/Easter	About 10 days between the fourth week of March and the first week of April 2015	About 10 days between the fourth week of March and the first week of April 2015
Summer	11 weeks between late June and mid-September	11-12 weeks between late June and mid-September
Public/religious holidays	12 public holidays (some common to the whole country and some specific of the different Autonomous Communities).	12 public holidays (some common to the whole country and some specific of the different Autonomous Communities).
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2015	30 June 2015 ⁽⁵⁾

Additional notes:

⁽¹⁾ Dates vary according to the different Autonomous Communities, see the table below.

⁽²⁾ The total minimum number of school days is 175 in primary, lower and upper secondary education in all Autonomous Communities.

⁽³⁾ In the last year of post-compulsory upper general secondary education, classes finish two or three weeks earlier than in other stages. This time is meant for preparing entrance examinations to universities.

⁽⁴⁾ In the different Autonomous Communities, the education authorities allocate a certain number of days (between 3 and 6) for Carnival, bank holidays or other free days or grant freedom to schools to allocate these days along the whole school year at their convenience.

⁽⁵⁾ The management team of Secondary Education Schools must stay in the school until 31 July.

SPAIN (CONTINUED)

Specification of terms for the starting and the end of students' school year 2014/15 in the different Autonomous Communities

	Primary education		General secondary education ⁽¹⁾	
	Beginning (2014)	End (2015)	Beginning (2014)	End (2015)
Andalucía	10 September	22-23 June	15 September	22-23 June
Aragón	10 September	19 June	10 September (lower secondary students in primary education schools) 15 September (lower secondary) 18 September (upper secondary)	19 June (lower secondary students in primary education schools) 24 June (lower secondary and upper secondary)
Asturias	11 September	19 June	17 September	25 June
Baleares	12 September	19 June	12 September	19 June
Canarias	8 September	19 June	10 September	19 June
Cantabria	11 September	19 June	17 September	24 June
Castilla y León	10 September	23 June	10 September (lower secondary students in primary education schools) 17 September (lower and upper secondary)	23 June
Castilla-La Mancha	10 September	19 June	15 September	24 June
Cataluña	15 September	19 June	15 September	19 June
Ceuta	9 September	19 June	9 September	19 June
Extremadura	12 September	19 June	15 September	19 June
Galicia	10 September	19 June	15 September	19 June
La Rioja	9 September	23 June	11 September	25 June
Madrid	9 September	19 June	10 September (1 st year of lower secondary) 11 September (rest of secondary education)	19 June
Melilla	9 September	19 June	9 September	19 June
Murcia	8 September	19 June	16 September	19 June
Navarra ⁽²⁾	Not before 5 September	Not later than 19 June	Not before 10 September	Not later than 19 June
País Vasco ⁽²⁾	Not before 9 September	Not later than 19 June	Not before 9 September	Not later than 19 June
C. Valenciana	3 September	19 June	3 September	10 June

Additional notes:

⁽¹⁾ In the last year of post-compulsory upper general secondary education, classes end up two or three weeks earlier than in the rest of stages. This time is used to prepare the university entrance examinations.

⁽²⁾ In these Autonomous Communities schools are free to establish their own calendar taking into account the limit starting and ending dates established by the educational authorities.

Source: School calendars of the Autonomous Communities and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla.

SWEDEN

Organisation of school time in compulsory education (*grundskola*) and in general upper secondary education (*gymnasieskola*) 2014/15 school year

	Single structure compulsory education (<i>grundskola</i>)	General upper secondary education (<i>gymnasieskola</i>)
Starting date of students' school year	Late in August	Late in August
End of students' school year	Mid-June	Mid-June
According to the Compulsory School Ordinance and the Upper secondary School Ordinance, a school year consists of at least 178 school days and at least 17 holidays – the exact dates vary on regional and municipality level.		
Autumn holidays	27-31 October 2014	27-31 October 2014
Christmas/New Year	Start between 17-19 December 2014 End between 7-9 January 2015	Start between 17-19 December 2014 End between 7-9 January 2015
Winter/Carnival	One week between 9 February – 6 March 2015	One week between 9 February – 6 March 2015
Spring/Easter	One week between 30 March – 10 April 2015	One week between 30 March – 10 April 2015
Summer	About 10 weeks	About 10 weeks
Public/religious holidays	3 April 2015 (Good Friday) 6 April 2015 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2015 (Labour Day) 14 May 2015 (Ascension Day)	3 April 2015 (Good Friday) 6 April 2015 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2015 (Labour Day) 14 May 2015 (Ascension Day)
Starting date of teachers' school year	Mid-August	Mid-August
End of teachers' school year	Mid-June	Mid-June

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

Sweden has a single structure compulsory school (9 years) with no differences between stages. Starting and finishing dates vary on regional and municipality levels, dates here are indicative.

Teachers usually start their work earlier for planning etc. Continuous professional development (CPD) is the responsibility of the employer and it can take place when the pupils are in school or not.

TURKEY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	15 September 2014 (1st Grade – 8 September 2014)	15 September 2014
End of students' school year	12 June 2015	12 June 2015
Christmas/New Year	1 January 2015	1 January 2015
Winter/Carnival	2 weeks 26 January – 6 February 2015	2 weeks 26 January – 6 February 2015
Summer	13 weeks 12 June – 14 September 2015	13 weeks 12 June – 14 September 2015
Public/religious holidays	3-7 October 2014 (4.5 days – religious holiday) 28-29 October 2014 (1.5 days – Republic Day) 23 April 2015 (Children's Day) 1 May 2015 (Labour Day) 19 May 2015 (Youth and Sport Day)	3-7 October 2014 (4.5 days – religious holiday) 28-29 October 2014 (1.5 days – Republic Day) 23 April 2015 (Children's Day) 1 May 2015 (Labour Day) 19 May 2015 (Youth and Sport Day)
Starting date of teachers' school year	Beginning September	Beginning September
End of teachers' school year	Beginning July	Beginning July

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

In primary and general secondary education, a school year must contain at least 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-week 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.

Source: The work schedule of Ministry of National Education.

UNITED KINGDOM – ENGLAND AND WALES

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2013/14 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	The first week of September 2014	The first week of September 2014
End of students' school year	Between 20 and 22 July 2015	Between 20 and 22 July 2015
Autumn holidays	1 week 27-31 October 2014	1 week 27-31 October 2014
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks Between 22 December 2014 and 2 January 2015	2 weeks Between 22 December 2014 and 2 January 2015
Winter/Carnival	1 week 16-20 February 2015	1 week 16-20 February 2015
Spring/Easter	2 weeks Between 30 March and 17 April 2015	2 weeks Between 30 March and 17 April 2015
Third term	1 week 25-29 May 2015	1 week 25-29 May 2015
Summer	6 weeks Between 20 July and 31 August 2015	6 weeks Between 20 July and 31 August 2015
Public/religious holidays	4 May 2015 – early May Bank Holiday (see note)	4 May 2015 – early May Bank Holiday (see note)
Starting date of teachers' school year	The first week of September 2014	The first week of September 2014
End of teachers' school year	Between 20 and 22 July 2015	Between 20 and 22 July 2015

Source: Eurydice.

UNITED KINGDOM – ENGLAND AND WALES (CONTINUED)

Additional notes: Traditionally, the school year is divided into three terms, each of which is divided into two half terms separated by a half term holiday. The dates of school holidays are normally planned to take into account and cover most national public holidays including Easter, although a minority of schools operate a standardised year.

The length of the school year, 380 half day sessions, is laid down centrally but the actual dates are not. These are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the local authority (LA) or school governing body. The decision is taken at school level in voluntary aided schools and foundation schools. Otherwise LAs regulate the school year, and the table shows the most common patterns for term dates and holidays set by LAs.

Teachers are required to be available for five additional days when pupils are not present, i.e. for 195 days in total.

In England, the recent growth in the number of academies means that approximately 70 per cent of secondary and 30 per cent of primary schools in England are responsible for setting their own term dates. Academies and free schools also have responsibility for determining the length of their school year.

Some English local authorities have recommended that schools with a significant number of pupils who will be celebrating religious festivals (for example Eid-UI-Adha, Eid-UI-Fitr, Guru Nanak's birthday, Diwali) should consider making these optional closure days.

In March 2014, the Welsh Assembly passed legislation (the Education (Wales) Act 2014) which will require local authorities and school governing bodies to co-operate and co-ordinate with each other to ensure that the dates for the school term are the same (or as close as possible to being the same) for every maintained school in Wales. It also gives Welsh Ministers the power to direct local authorities and the governing bodies of voluntary aided and foundation schools on the term dates they set. This is to achieve harmonisation of school term dates if local authorities and the governing bodies of voluntary aided and foundation schools have been unable to agree on term dates, or if the term dates which have been agreed need to be altered. As school term dates as set at least two years in advance, the first harmonised term dates will be for the year 2016/2017.

UNITED KINGDOM – NORTHERN IRELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of students' school year	30 June 2015	30 June 2015
Autumn holidays	2 days 30-31 October 2014	2 days 30-31 October 2014
Christmas/New Year	1.5 weeks 22 December 2014 – 2 January 2015	1.5 weeks 22 December 2014 – 2 January 2015
Winter/Carnival	2 days 16-17 February 2015	2 days 16-17 February 2015
Spring/Easter	1.5 weeks 2-10 April 2015	1.5 weeks 2-10 April 2015
Third term	–	–
Summer	9 weeks Between 1 July and 31 August 2015	9 weeks Between 1 July and 31 August 2015
Public/religious holidays	17 March 2014 – St Patrick's Day (not all schools) 4 May 2015 – early May Bank Holiday 25 May 2015 – late May Bank Holiday	17 March 2014 – St Patrick's Day (not all schools) 4 May 2015 – early May Bank Holiday 25 May 2015 – late May Bank Holiday
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2014	1 September 2014
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2015	30 June 2015

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes: Schools are required to be in operation for 200 days. The number of days that pupils are taught in the classroom may vary from 185 to 190 days when optional closing days, teacher training days and School Development Days (SDDs) are taken into account. Decisions on when to take these days are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the Education and Library Board (ELB) or boards of governors. The five optional closing days may be taken as an extension to the Easter, Christmas or summer holidays or to cover closure in exceptional circumstances, for example, the death of someone connected with the school or a planned event such as a move to new premises/building work or a religious holiday. Teachers are required to be available for work on 195 days, of which no more than 190 days should involve teaching children in the classroom. The remaining five non-contact days are used for training purposes. Schools may also avail themselves of up to five School Development Days (SDDs) for the purpose of school improvement and school/staff development. For further information see [Circular 2013/09](#).

UNITED KINGDOM – SCOTLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2014/15 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Mid-August 2014	Mid-August 2014
End of students' school year	End June/early July 2015	End June/early July 2015
Autumn holidays	All schools will take from 1 to 2 weeks between 6 and 24 October 2014 and some will also take from 1 to 2 days in September 2014	All schools will take from 1 to 2 weeks between 6 and 24 October 2014 and some will also take from 1 to 2 days in September 2014
Christmas/New Year	Around 2 weeks between 22 December 2014 to 7 January 2015	Around 2 weeks between 22 December 2014 to 7 January 2015
Winter/Carnival	From 1 day to 1 week between 9 and 20 February 2015	From 1 day to 1 week between 9 and 20 February 2015
Spring/Easter	About 2 weeks between 30 March and 17 April 2015	About 2 weeks between 30 March and 17 April 2015
Summer mid-term holidays	Generally schools will take at least 1 day on 4 May 2015 but some schools will also take up to 3 days between 4 May and 1 June 2015	Generally schools will take at least 1 day on 4 May 2015 but some schools will also take up to 3 days between 4 May and 1 June 2015
Summer	End June/early July 2015	End June/early July 2015
Public/religious holidays	Up to 3 days	Up to 3 days
Starting date of teachers' school year	Mid-August 2014	Mid-August 2014
End of teachers' school year	End June/early July 2015	End June/early July 2015

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

In Scotland, pupils attend school for 190 days a year. The teachers' school year is longer by 5 in-service days (195 days).

As school holidays (and in-service days) are not fixed nationally, but by each of the 32 local education authorities, term dates vary from one authority to another. There are no differences between primary and secondary schools.

