The structure of the European education systems
2023/2024

Schematic diagrams

Eurydice – Facts and Figures

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

Sport
Jean Monnet
Youth
Higher education
Vocational education and training
Adult education

School education

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2023


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The structure of the European education systems

2023/2024

Schematic diagrams

Eurydice – Facts and Figures
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INTRODUCTION

This report focuses on the structure of education and training systems from pre-primary to tertiary level for the 2023/2024 school/academic year. It covers 39 education systems, which corresponds to 37 countries participating in the EU’s Erasmus+ programme (27 EU Member States, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia and Turkey).

This report has three main sections:

1. A brief presentation of the main organisational models of primary and lower secondary education (ISCED levels 1-2)
2. A guide to reading the diagrams
3. The schematic diagrams.
Three main organisational models of primary and lower secondary education (ISCED levels 1 and 2) can be identified. These education levels are part of compulsory education in all European education systems.

- **Single structure** education. From the beginning to the end of compulsory education, all students follow a common curriculum providing general education; in addition, there is no transition between primary and lower secondary education.

- **Common core curriculum** provision. After successfully completing primary education (ISCED level 1), all students progress to lower secondary level (ISCED level 2) where they follow the same general common core curriculum.

- **Differentiated** lower secondary education. After successfully completing primary education, students follow distinct educational pathways or specific types of education, which start either at the beginning or in the course of lower secondary education. At the end of their studies, they receive different certificates.

### Main models of primary and lower secondary education (ISCED 1-2) in Europe, 2023/2024

![Map of Europe showing different models of primary and lower secondary education](source-image)

Source: Eurydice.

Note. In Czechia, Latvia, Hungary and Slovakia, compulsory education is organised in a single structure up to the age of 14, 15, and 16 depending on the country. However, from the age of 10, 11 and 13 (depending on the country), students can enrol in separate educational institutions providing lower and upper secondary education.
GUIDE TO READING THE DIAGRAMS

This short guide provides the necessary information to understand the diagrams. More specifically, it defines the scope; it presents the main elements of the diagrams and how they are graphically displayed; it provides the definitions as well as the key. Finally, it includes a short description of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011).

Scope

The diagrams show the most representative mainstream education programmes in each education system. They encompass:

- Early childhood education and care provided in publicly subsidised and accredited centre-based settings for children from the youngest age of enrolment
- Primary and secondary education programmes
- Post-secondary non-tertiary programmes
- Main tertiary level programmes.

The diagrams do not show:

- Education provision intended exclusively to adults with low formal educational attainment and/or a low level of basic skills. The diagrams cover only the courses allowing adults to go back to school or to gain further qualifications that are part of mainstream education programmes. Usually, these courses are integrated in the programmes providing competence-based qualifications at secondary education level or allowing access to tertiary education (i.e., post-secondary non-tertiary education level) (1)
- Separate provision outside mainstream education for children and young people with special educational needs
- At tertiary level, doctoral studies as well as the specialised studies for regulated professions such as medicine and architecture.

Main elements of the diagrams (and their graphical display)

Age of students and programme duration: two different scales

The schematic diagrams have two distinct graphic areas:

- The left-side coloured bars show the main education programmes from pre-primary to post-secondary non-tertiary levels (ISCED levels 0 to 4) in relation to the age of students when they start a particular programme. The ages are notional, i.e. they indicate the theoretical age at which students are supposed to enter an education level or begin a study programme. Early or late entry, grade retention or other interruptions to schooling are not taken into account.
- The right-side coloured bars present the main education programmes at tertiary level in relation to the standard number of years necessary to complete these programmes on a full-time basis. The duration of part-time studies or individualised study patterns are not shown.

**Education programmes**

The thick coloured bars show education programmes (2); the colours refer to the levels and types of education. Within coloured bars, short vertical lines either show the division into cycles/key stages/education levels, or entry to or leaving ages for study programmes.

The thin bars with coloured stripes indicate the corresponding levels of education as defined by the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011) (see description below).

In few cases, the diagrams also show transition points between ISCED levels or education programmes. Long vertical lines linking coloured bars (education programmes) show these transition points.

**Educational institutions**

The terms under the coloured bars refer to the names of the schools or educational institutions providing the education programmes shown. In some cases, however, they might refer to education programmes or types of teaching. In that case, the terms are put in brackets. All terms are provided in the national language(s) of the country.

**Definitions**

**Full-time compulsory education/training** refers to a period of full-time education/training that is compulsory for all students. This period is regulated by law and often determined by students' age. Usually, full-time compulsory education/training is provided in formal institutions/schools. However, in some education systems, certain compulsory education/training programmes can combine part-time school-based and part-time workplace courses. In such cases, students are assessed for the work they do in both places (workplace and school). In some countries, under certain conditions, compulsory education/training can be provided at home.

**Part-time compulsory education/training** may take two forms: before or after full-time compulsory education.

- **Before**: early childhood education and care programs of 250 or less hours per year
- **After**: until a certain age, students are required to participate in additional part-time school-based or workplace education/training.

**Possible additional year**: part of an education programme that is not necessary to complete in order to end an education cycle or level but may be necessary to access a higher education level or move to a different education pathway.

---

(2) ECEC services outside ISCED classification are also shown.
The structure of the European education systems 2023/2024: schematic diagrams

Key

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levels and types of education</th>
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<td>Early childhood education and care (for which public education authorities are not responsible)</td>
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<td>Early childhood education and care (for which public education authorities are responsible)</td>
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<td>Primary education</td>
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Allocation to the ISCED 2011 levels (see definitions below)

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<th>ISCED 5</th>
<th>ISCED 6</th>
<th>ISCED 7</th>
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</table>

Other keys

| Compulsory full-time education/training |
| Compulsory part-time education/training |
| Combined school based and workplace courses |
| Possible additional year |
| Study abroad |
| Programme being phased out in (year) |
| Compulsory work experience + its duration (in years) |

Compulsory work experience and its duration

Compulsory work experience is shown when it is required to move to the next education level or to begin a particular education programme; when applicable, its minimum required duration is indicated (/-n/-).

Education programmes being phased out

When reforms change education programmes, new and old programmes are concurrently shown. The year during which the old education programmes are being phased out is indicated (→) year).
International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011)

The International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) is an instrument suitable for compiling statistics on education internationally. It covers two cross-classification variables: levels and fields of education with the complementary dimensions of general/vocational/pre-vocational orientation and education-labour market destination. The last version, ISCED 2011, distinguishes eight levels of education. Empirically, ISCED assumes that several criteria exist which can help allocate education programmes to levels of education. Depending on the level and type of education concerned, there is a need to establish a hierarchical ranking system between main and subsidiary criteria (typical entrance qualification, minimum entrance requirement, minimum age, staff qualification, etc.).

For the full details on each ISCED level, please consult:


**ISCED 0: Early childhood education**

Programmes at this level are typically designed with a holistic approach to support children's early cognitive, physical, social and emotional development and introduce young children to organised instruction outside of the family context. ISCED level 0 refers to early childhood programmes that have an intentional education component.

**ISCED 1: Primary education**

Programmes at this level are typically designed to provide students with fundamental skills in reading, writing and mathematics (i.e. literacy and numeracy) and establish a solid foundation for learning and understanding core areas of knowledge, personal and social development, in preparation for lower secondary education.

Age is typically the only entry requirement at this level. The customary or legal age of entry is usually not below 5 years old or above 7 years old. This level typically lasts six years, although its duration can range between four and seven years.

**ISCED 2: Lower secondary education**

Programmes at this level are typically designed to build on the learning outcomes from ISCED level 1. Students enter ISCED level 2 typically between ages 10 and 13 (age 12 being the most common).

**ISCED 3: Upper secondary education**

Programmes at this level are typically designed to complete secondary education in preparation for tertiary education or provide skills relevant to employment, or both. Students enter this level typically between ages 14 and 16.

**ISCED 4: Post-secondary non-tertiary education**

Post-secondary non-tertiary education provides learning experiences building on secondary education, preparing for labour market entry as well as tertiary education. Programmes at ISCED level 4, or post-secondary non-tertiary education, are typically designed to provide individuals who completed ISCED level 3 with non-tertiary qualifications required for progression to tertiary education or for employment when their ISCED level 3 qualifications do not grant such access. The completion of an ISCED level 3 programme is required to enter ISCED level 4 programmes.
ISCED 5: Short-cycle tertiary education

Programmes at this level are often designed to provide participants with professional knowledge, skills and competencies. Typically, they are practically based, occupationally-specific and prepare students to enter the labour market. However, these programmes may also provide a pathway to other tertiary education programmes. Entry into ISCED level 5 programmes requires the successful completion of ISCED level 3 or 4 with access to tertiary education.

ISCED 6: Bachelors' or equivalent level

Programmes at this level are often designed to provide participants with intermediate academic and/or professional knowledge, skills and competencies, leading to a first degree or equivalent qualification. Entry into these programmes normally requires the successful completion of an ISCED level 3 or 4 programme with access to tertiary education. Entry may depend on subject choice and/or grades achieved at ISCED levels 3 and/or 4. Additionally, it may be required to take and succeed in entry examinations. Entry or transfer into ISCED level 6 is also sometimes possible after the successful completion of ISCED level 5.

ISCED 7: Master's or equivalent level

Programmes at this level, are often designed to provide participants with advanced academic and/or professional knowledge, skills and competencies, leading to a second degree or equivalent qualification. Typically, programmes at this level are theoretically-based but may include practical components and are informed by state of the art research and/or best professional practice. They are traditionally offered by universities and other tertiary educational institutions.

Entry into ISCED level 7 programmes preparing for a second or further degree normally requires the successful completion of an ISCED level 6 or 7 programme. In the case of long programmes that prepare for a first degree equivalent to a Master’s degree, entry requires the successful completion of an ISCED level 3 or 4 programme with access to tertiary education. Entry into such programmes may depend on subject choice and/or grades achieved at ISCED levels 3 and/or 4. Additionally, it may be required to take and succeed in entry examinations.
### SCHEMATIC DIAGRAMS

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<td>Belgium – German-speaking Community</td>
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Belgium – French Community

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<th>Age of students</th>
<th>Programme duration (years)</th>
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<td>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22</td>
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- École maternelle
- École primaire
- Établissement d’enseignement secondaire

- Milieu d’accueil collectif

Belgium – German-speaking Community

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- Krippen
- Kindergarten
- Primarschule
- Sekundarschule (allgemeinbildender/technischer Übergangsunterricht)
- Sekundarschule (technischer Befähigungsunterricht)
- Sekundarschule (berufsbildender Unterricht)
- Ergänzender Berufsbildender Sekundarunterricht
- Hochschule

Note. Krippen starts from 3 months.
Czechia

Age of students

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

Programme duration (years)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Denmark

Age of students

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

Programme duration (years)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
The structure of the European education systems 2023-2024: schematic diagrams

**Germany**

*Age of students*

- **Kindergarten**
- **Grundschule**
- **Gymnasium**
- **Realschule**
- **Hauptschule**

*Schularten mit drei Bildungsgängen*

- **Fachoberschule**
- **Berufsoberschule**
- **Abendgymnasium / Kolleg**

*Schularten mit zwei Bildungsgängen*

- **Fachhochschule**
- **Berufsakademie**
- **Verwaltungsfachhochschule**

*Orientierungsstufe (Duale Berufsausbildung)*

- **Berufsschule/Betrieb**

**Estonia**

*Age of students*

- **Põhikool**
- **Koolieelne lasteasutus**
- **Gümnaasium**
- **Kutsõõpeasutus**
- **Kutsõõpeasutus / Rakenduskõrgkool**

**Programme duration (years)**

- **Universität**
- **Kunsthochschule / Musikhochschule**
- **Fachhochschule**
- **Berufskakademie**
- **Verwaltungsfachhochschule**
- **Fachschule / Fachakademie**

**Allocation to the ISCED levels:**

- ISCED 0: Compulsory full-time education/training
- ISCED 1: Possible additional year
- ISCED 2: Combined school and workplace courses
- ISCED 3: Study abroad
- ISCED 4: Compulsory work experience + its duration
- ISCED 5: Years
- ISCED 6: Programme being phased out in (year)
- ISCED 7:
Spain

Age of students

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Programme duration (years)

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Note. Escuelas oficiales de idiomas offer language courses that may last for 11 years. Some of the education provision of Conservatorios can be recognised/validated in full-time mainstream education programmes and contribute to obtaining the Bachillerato certificate, Bachiller artístico.
France

Age of students

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</table>

(1) CPGE: Classes préparatoires aux Grandes Écoles

Note. ISCED 4 education covers less than 2% of the total number of students (all levels).
Young people aged between 16 and 18 can fulfill the obligation for compulsory training in different ways: schooling, apprenticeship, training courses, civic service, and support system or social and professional integration measures.

Croatia

Age of students

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>0</th>
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<td>Cycle</td>
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<td>Dječji vrtić</td>
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<td>Osnovna škola</td>
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<td>Gimnazija</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ustanova za strukovno obrazovanje</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ustanova za obrazovanje odraslih</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note. Start of primary education (ISCED 1) depends on child’s birthday.
Children born between January and April start primary school in calendar year in which they turn 6;
those born from April to December when they are 7 years old.
**Italy**

### Programme duration (years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Duration (years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nido d'infanzia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scuola dell'infanzia</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scuola primaria</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scuola secondaria di primo grado</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liceo</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Istituto tecnico / Istituto professionale</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Istruzione e formazione professionale - IFP)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Istruzione e formazione tecnica superiore - IFTS)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Università</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Alta formazione artistica / musicale / coreutica - AFAM)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scuola superiore per mediatori linguistici</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Istituto tecnologico superiore (ITS Academy)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**
- In 2022, the law no. 99 has reformed the Istituto tecnico superiore (ITS). The name was changed to Istituto tecnologico superiore (ITS Academy).
- In addition to 2-year ISCED 5 courses, it now offers 3-year ISCED 6 programmes.
- Implementation decrees are still under development.

**Cyprus**

### Programme duration (years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Duration (years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nipiagogeio</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dimotiko Scholeio</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnasio</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lykeio</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Techniki / Epaggelmatiki Scholi</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panepistimia</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimosies Scholes Tritovathmias Ekpaidefsis</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metalykeiaka Instituta Epaggelmatikis Ekpaidefsis kai Katartisis</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**
- Early childhood education and care (for which public education authorities are not responsible)
- Early childhood education and care (for which public education authorities are responsible)
- Primary education
- Single structure
- Secondary general education
- Secondary education
- Tertiary education (full-time)
- Compulsory full-time education/training
- Possible additional year
- Study abroad
- Combined school and workplace courses
- Compulsory work experience + its duration
- Years
- Programme being phased out (year)
Latvia

Age of students

Programme duration (years)

Lithuania

Age of students

Programme duration (years)

Luxembourg

Age of students

Programme duration (years)

Note: Gymnaziā might cover primary education programme (ISCED 1) and basic education programmes.

Note: Luxembourg also has three international schools streams: Enseignement germano-luxembourgeois, Enseignement européen and Enseignement britannique.

A new law voted on July 13 June 2023 extended compulsory education to the age of 18 years. This law will come into force at the start of the 2026 school year. This will give the education and training sector time to develop new education provision for the students who currently leave schools at 16.
The structure of the European education systems 2023/2024: schematic diagrams

Note. Every student under 18 who has completed compulsory education, but dropped out afterwards without completing any other courses has to continue her/his education and training until the acquisition of at least one partial VET qualification.
**Malta**

**Age of students**

- Childcare Centres
- Kindergarten
- Primary schools
- Middle schools
- Secondary schools
- Junior College / Higher secondary schools

**Programme duration (years)**

- University of Malta
- Institute of Tourism Studies (ITS)

**Notes:**
- Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST)
- Note. At 16, students who have not obtained a basic qualification (Startkwalificatie) have to continue their education/training until they turn 18 or get a senior general secondary (HAVO) or pre-university (VWO) or VET (at least MBO 2) diploma.

---

**Netherlands**

**Age of students**

- Voorschoolse educatie en kinderopvang
- Basisonderwijs
- Voorgezet onderwijs (VWO)
- Voorgezet onderwijs (HAVO)
- Voorgezet onderwijs (VMBO)

**Programme duration (years)**

- WO (bachelor) (master)
- HBO (bachelor) (master)
- HBO (associate degree)

**Notes:**
- At 16, students who have not obtained a basic qualification (Startkwalificatie) have to continue their education/training until they turn 18 or get a senior general secondary (HAVO) or pre-university (VWO) or VET (at least MBO 2) diploma.
Austria

Age of students

The structure of the education systems 2023/2024: schematic diagrams

Programme duration (years)

Note. Berufsbildende Höhere Schulen offer education programmes lasting 5 years: the first three years are classified as ISCED level 3 while the last two years belong to ISCED level 5.
Note. Agrupamentos de Escolas (School clusters) are organisational units that can encompass several schools and learning cycles, from kindergarten to upper secondary education. The institutions in the diagram are examples of some of the learning spaces where each type of education is offered; the diagram does not indicate all educational institutions existing in the Portuguese system.
The structure of the European education systems 2023–2024. Schematic diagrams

### Romania

**Age of students**

- **0-5**: Creșă (Creșă)**
- **6-14**: Școala primară (Școală primară)**
- **15-18**: Școala Gimnazială (Liceu filiera Teoretică / Liceu filiera Vocațională / Liceu filiera Tehnologică / Universitate)
- **19-22**: Școala profesională / Școala profesională în sistem dual / Școala postliceală / Școala posticeală in sistem dual / Școala de maistri

**Programme duration (years)**

- **0-20**: 3
- **21-22**: 7

### Slovenia

**Age of students**

- **0-5**: Osnovna šola (Vrtec)**
- **6-15**: Gimnazija
- **16-19**: Višja strokovna šola

**Programme duration (years)**

- **0-20**: 3
- **21-22**: 8

---

**Allocation to the ISCED levels:**

- ISCED 0
- ISCED 1
- ISCED 2
- ISCED 3
- ISCED 4
- ISCED 5
- ISCED 6
- ISCED 7

**Programme being phased out in (year):**

- 2024

**Possible additional year:**

- Study abroad
- Compulsory part-time education/training

**Combination of school and workplace courses:**

- Combined school and workplace courses

**Compulsory full-time education/training:**

- Compulsory full-time education/training
The structure of the European education systems 2023/2024: schematic diagrams

**Slovakia**

**Age of students**

- Zariadenie starostlivosti o deti do troch rokov veku dietata
- Materská škola
- Základná škola
- 1. stupeň
- 2. stupeň
- Gymnázium
- Stredná odborná škola
- Stredná športová škola
- Konzervatórium
- Škola umeleckého priemyslu

**Programme duration (years)**

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

**Finland**

**Age of students**

- Päiväkoti – Daghem
- (*) Perusköulu – Grundskola
- (*) Esikoulu – Förskola
- Lukio – Gymnasium
- Ammattikoulu – Yrkesskola
- (Ammattitutkinto – Yrkeexamens)
- (Erikoisammattitutkinto – Specialyrkeexamens)

**Programme duration (years)**

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Note. Students can join ISCED 3 and 4 programmes at different ages.
Sweden

Age of students

Programme duration (years)

Förskola
Grundskola
Förskole-Klass
Gymnasieskola
Kommunal vuxenutbildning / folkhögskola
Yrkehögskola
Universitet / Högskola

Early childhood education and care (for which public education authorities are not responsible)
Early childhood education and care (for which public education authorities are responsible)
Primary education
Single structure
Secondary general education

Allocation to the ISCED levels:

ISCED 0
ISCED 1
ISCED 2
ISCED 3
ISCED 4
ISCED 5
ISCED 6
ISCED 7

Compulsory full-time education/training
Possible additional year
Combined school and workplace courses

Compulsory part-time education/training
Study abroad
Compulsory work experience + its duration

Possible additional years
Programme being phased out in (year)
Albania

Age of students

Programme duration (years)

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Age of students

Programme duration (years)

Note. Education between 5 and 6 is only compulsory on a part-time basis in the Federation of BiH and the Brčko District but it is implemented in the Republika Srpska on the same basis, although it is not mandatory.
The structure of the European education systems 2023/2024: schematic diagrams

Switzerland

Age of students

Programme duration (years)

Early childhood education and care (for which public education authorities are not responsible)

Early childhood education and care (for which public education authorities are responsible)

Primary education

Secondary general education

Secondary vocational education

Post-secondary non-tertiary education

Tertiary education (full-time)

Allocation to the ISCED levels:

ISCED 0

ISCED 1

ISCED 2

ISCED 3

ISCED 4

ISCED 5

ISCED 6

ISCED 7

Compulsory full-time education/training

Possible additional year

Combined school and workplace courses

Compulsory part-time education/training

Study abroad

Compulsory work experience + its duration

Years

Programme being phased out in (year)

Note. In most cantons, compulsory education starts at age 4 (in a few at ages 5 or 6).
The structure of the European education systems 2023/2024: schematic diagrams

Iceland

Age of students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme duration (years)</th>
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Liechtenstein

Age of students

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<th>Programme duration (years)</th>
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Montenegro

Age of students

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<tr>
<th>Programme duration (years)</th>
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</table>

Note. Students in vocational education and the majority of students in higher education attend educational institutions in Switzerland.
The structure of the European education systems 2023/2024: schematic diagrams

North Macedonia

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age of students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Detska gradinka i jasli</td>
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Programme duration (years)

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<th>Programme duration (years)</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Univerzitet</td>
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Note. The leaving age for compulsory education may vary from 17 to 19 years and 6 months depending on the type of programme. The lowest leaving age (17) applies to students attending the two years vocational programme (strucno osposobuvanje) while the ending age of 18 applies to those attending the three years vocational programme (strucno obrazovanje za zanimanje). The highest leaving age of 19 years and 6 months applies to students attending general secondary education (gimnazisko obrazovanie) or a four years programme of vocational education (chelinstishno struchno obrazovanie).

Norway

<table>
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<th>Age of students</th>
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Programme duration (years)

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<th>Programme duration (years)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Universitet / Høgskole</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Early childhood education and care (for which public education authorities are not responsible) | Secondary vocational education
---|---
Early childhood education and care (for which public education authorities are responsible) | Post-secondary non-tertiary education
Primary education | Tertiary education (full-time)
Single structure | Combined school and workplace courses
Secondary general education | Possible additional year
Allocation to the ISCED levels: ISCED 0 | Study abroad
ISCED 1 | Compulsory work experience + its duration
ISCED 2 | Years
ISCED 3 | Programme being phased out in (year)
ISCED 4 |
Early childhood education and care (for which public education authorities are not responsible)

Early childhood education and care (for which public education authorities are responsible)

Primary education

Single structure

Secondary general education

Secondary vocational education

Post-secondary non-tertiary education

Tertiary education (full-time)

Allocation to the ISCED levels:

ISCED 0

ISCED 1

ISCED 2

ISCED 3

ISCED 4

ISCED 5

ISCED 6

ISCED 7

Compulsory full-time education/training

Possible additional year

Combined school and workplace courses

Compulsory part-time education/training

Study abroad

Compulsory work experience + its duration

Years

Programme being phased out in (year)
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The structure of the European education systems 2023/2024: schematic diagrams

This report provides information on the structure of mainstream European education systems, from pre-primary to tertiary level for the 2023/2024 school and academic year. It includes national schematic diagrams and a guide to reading the diagrams. It also contains a map visually showing the main organisational models of primary and lower secondary education in Europe: ‘single structured education’, ‘common core curriculum provision’ and ‘differentiated lower secondary education’. The information is available for 39 European education systems covering 37 countries participating in the EU’s Erasmus+ programme.

The Eurydice Network’s task is to understand and explain how Europe’s different education systems are organised and how they work. The network provides descriptions of national education systems, comparative studies devoted to specific topics, indicators and statistics. All Eurydice publications are available free of charge on the Eurydice website or in print upon request. Through its work, Eurydice aims to promote understanding, cooperation, trust and mobility at European and international levels. The network consists of national units located in European countries and is coordinated by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). For more information about Eurydice, see: https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/