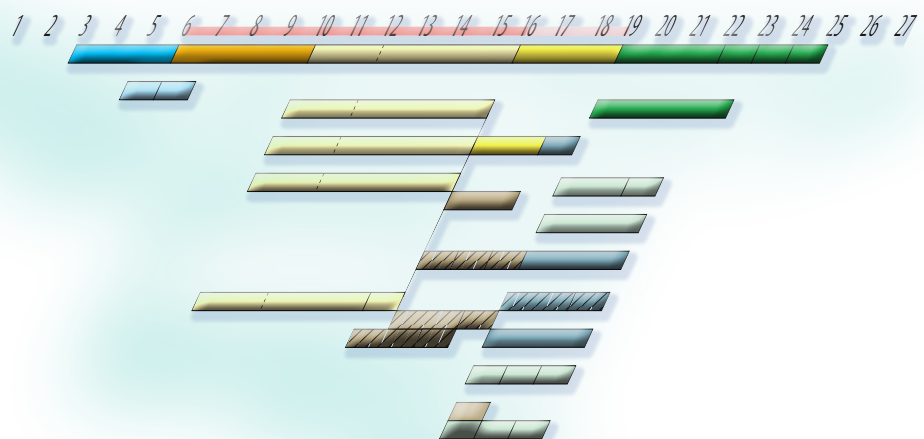


# The structure of European education systems 2009/10: schematic diagrams

These diagrams give an overview of the educational structure for mainstream schooling in each country from pre-primary level up to tertiary education .



## What is Eurydice?

The Eurydice Network provides information on and analyses of European education systems and policies. It consists of 35 national units based in all 31 countries participating in the EU's Lifelong Learning programme (EU Member States, EEA countries and Turkey) and is coordinated and managed by the EU Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency in Brussels, which drafts its publications and databases. All Eurydice publications are available free of charge at <http://www.eurydice.org>.

## Guide to reading the diagrams

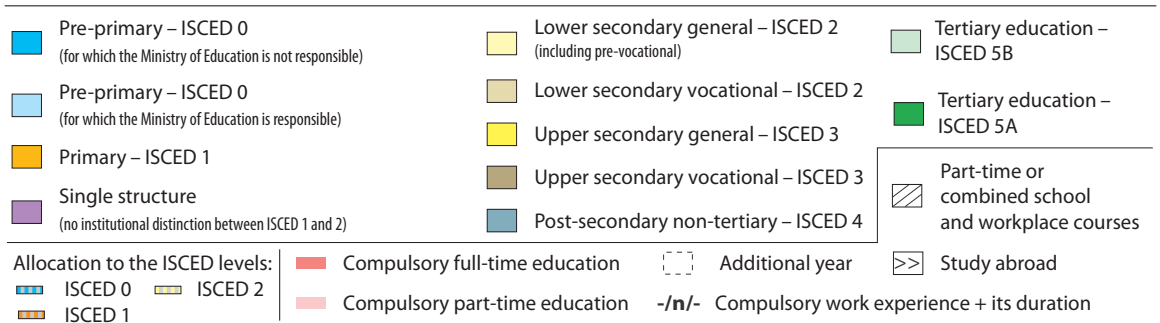
In an attempt to summarise and facilitate comparison of the different national educational structure, only the paths/programmes of study considered to be the most representative have been taken into account. Doctoral studies are not included. Special education, organised in separate structure, is not included in this diagram either.

The information presented here is structured by ISCED levels (see Definitions on page 8). For countries where ISCED levels do not correspond to the levels of education described in the diagram, an additional bar with the allocations ISCED 0, 1 and 2 has been introduced below the reference bar of the diagram. These details are especially necessary in the case of countries which organise compulsory schooling in a single structure and do not differentiate between primary (ISCED 1) and lower secondary (ISCED 2) education.

Where they exist, the division into different cycles or key-stages for the ISCED levels 1 to 3 as well as the duration of qualifying programmes in ISCED 4 and 5 are represented through black vertical lines into the reference bar.

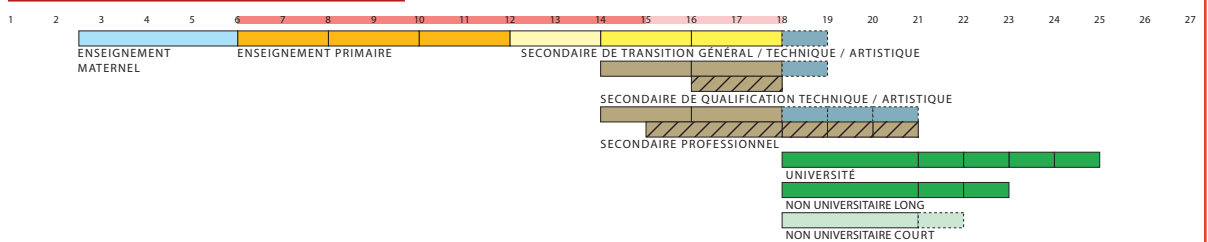
Only the pre-primary establishments 'said to be for 'educational purposes', i.e. which are obliged to employ staff (responsible for a group of children) qualified in education are shown here. Nurseries and play centres (whose staff are not obliged to be qualified in education) are not included.

The ages shown in the diagram correspond to the 'theoretical' years for entry to schooling and its duration. Neither early or late entry, nor longer periods of schooling due to having to repeat years, or interruptions are taken into account. It applies mainly to post-secondary (ISCED 4) and tertiary education (ISCED 5A and 5B): the «theoretical» age of entry and the minimum normal duration of the programmes are given as an indication because they can vary. In countries where this information is not relevant for many students finishing their studies, the end of the reference bar of the diagram has been left open. Concerning the distribution by age of students and actual participation rates in tertiary education by age, please see respectively the Figures C15 and C16 in the Eurydice publication *Key Data on Education in Europe 2009*.

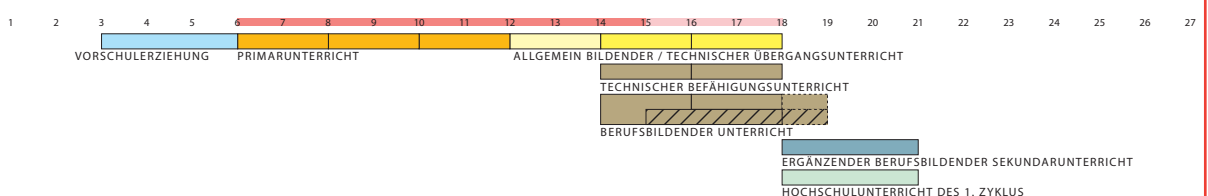


### EUROPEAN UNION

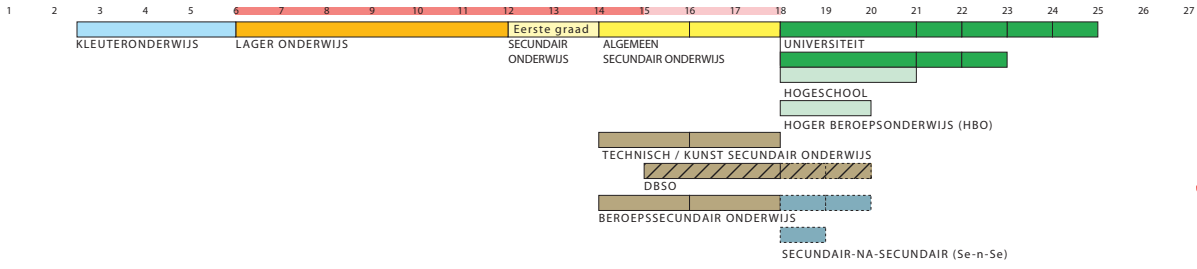
#### Belgium – French Community



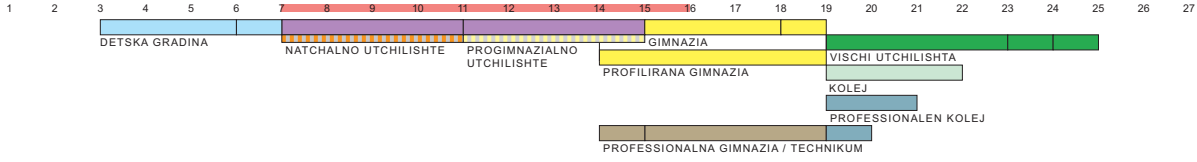
#### Belgium – German-speaking Community



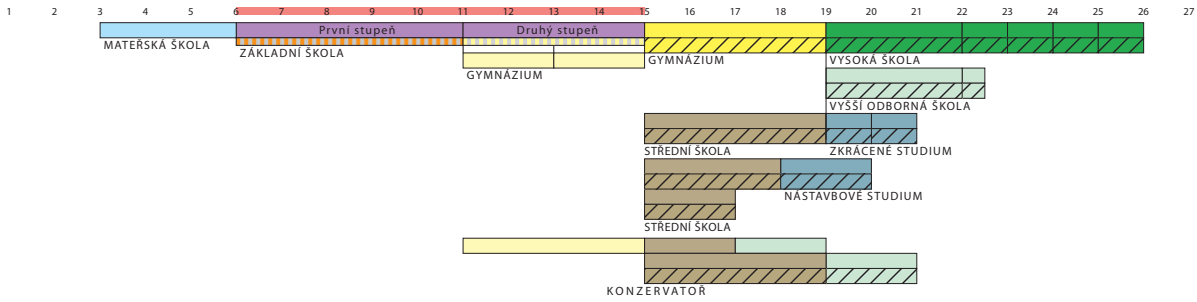
## Belgium – Flemish Community



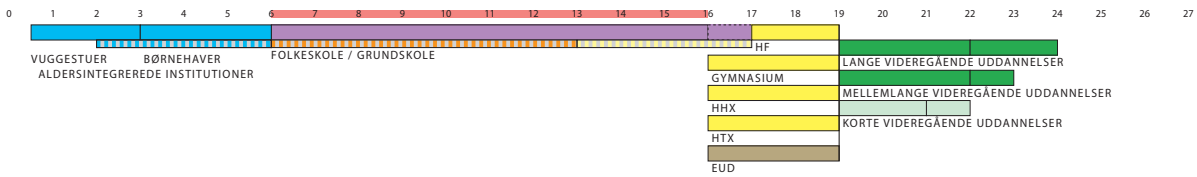
## Bulgaria



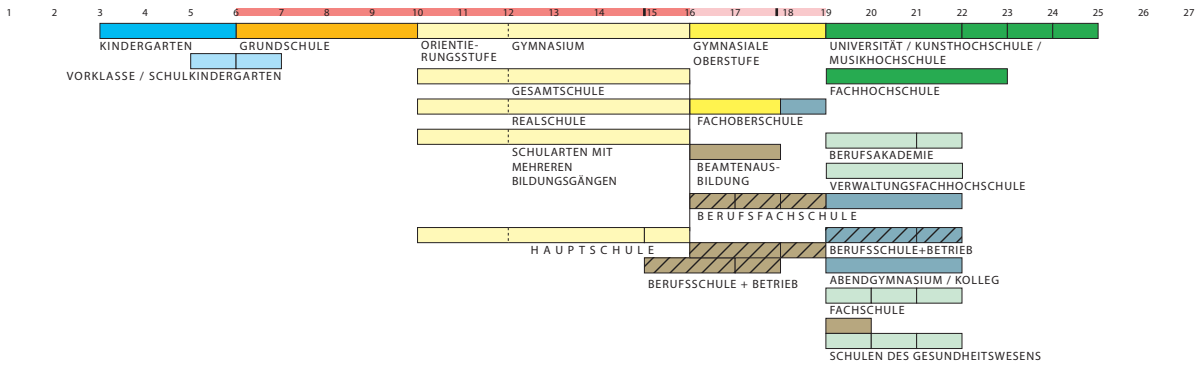
## Czech Republic



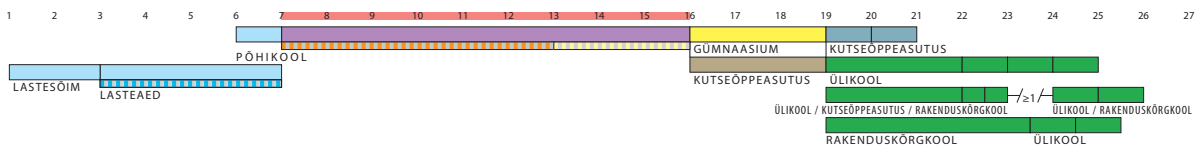
## Denmark



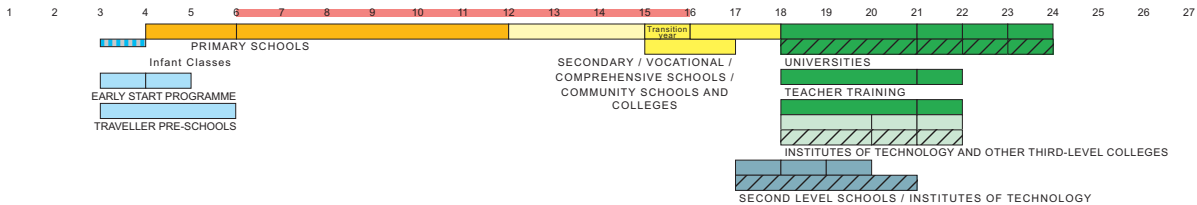
## Germany



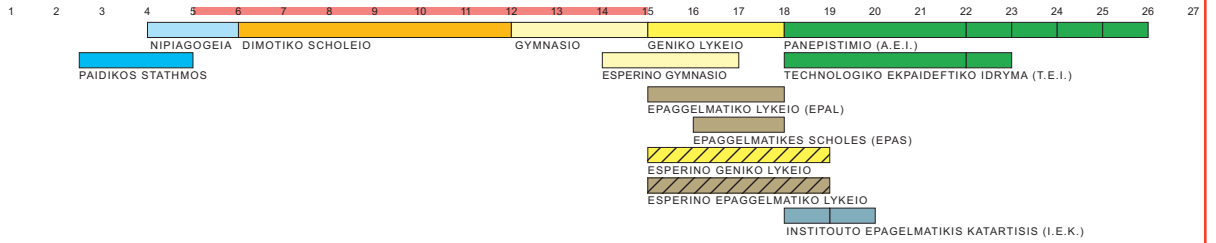
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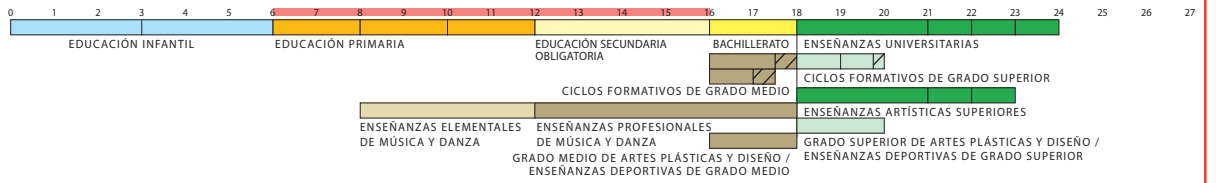
## Ireland



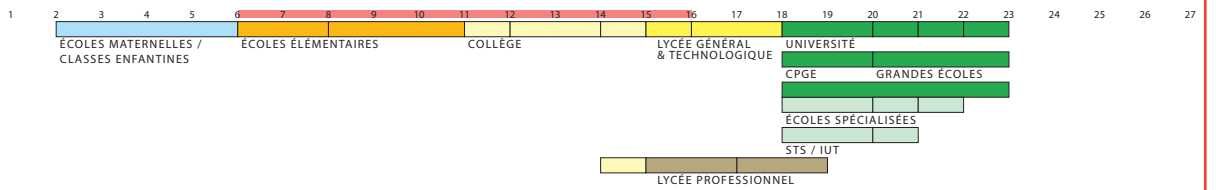
## Greece



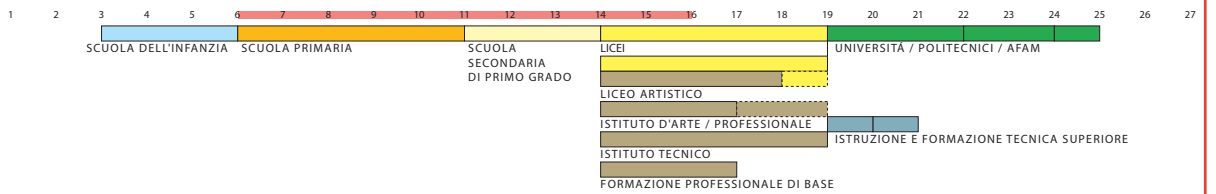
## Spain



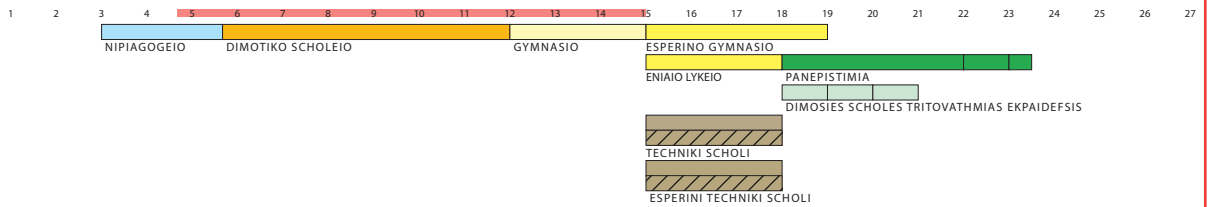
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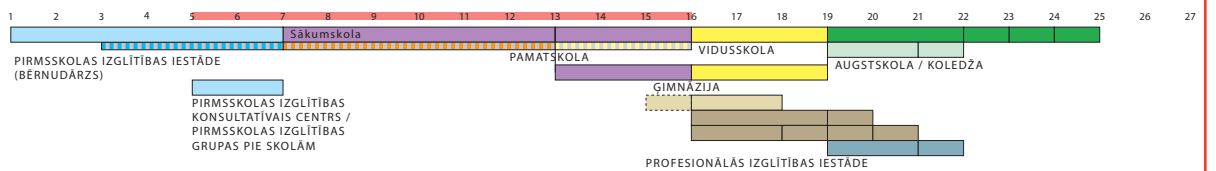
## Italy



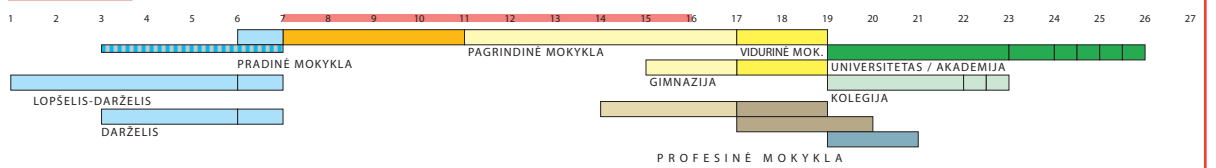
## Cyprus



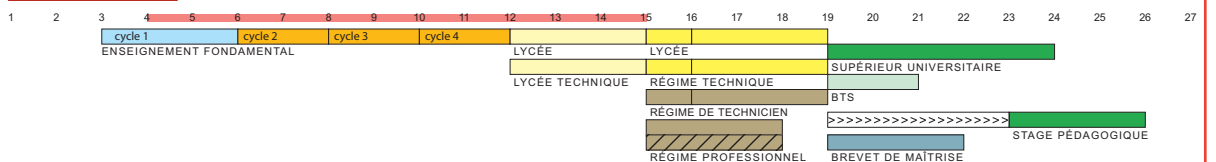
## Latvia



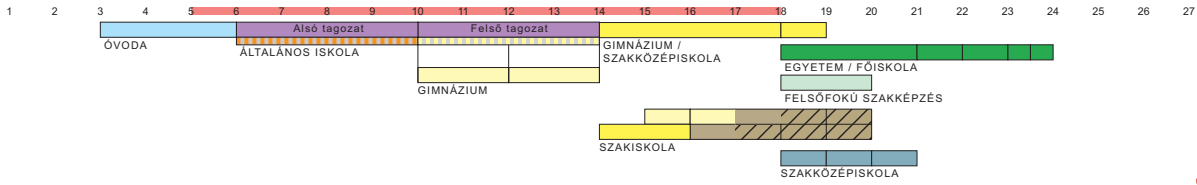
## Lithuania



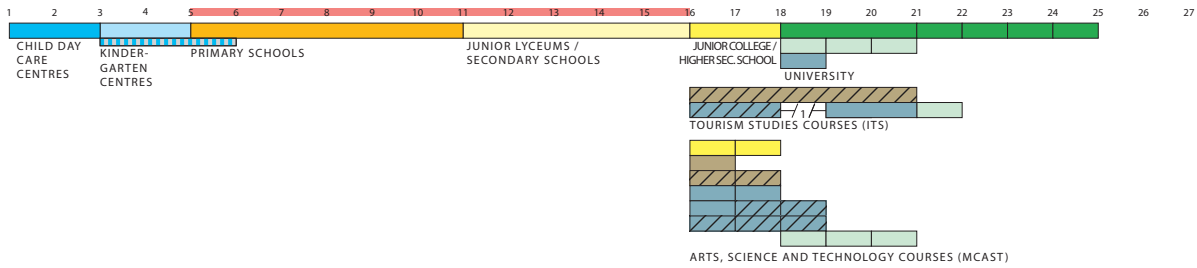
## Luxembourg



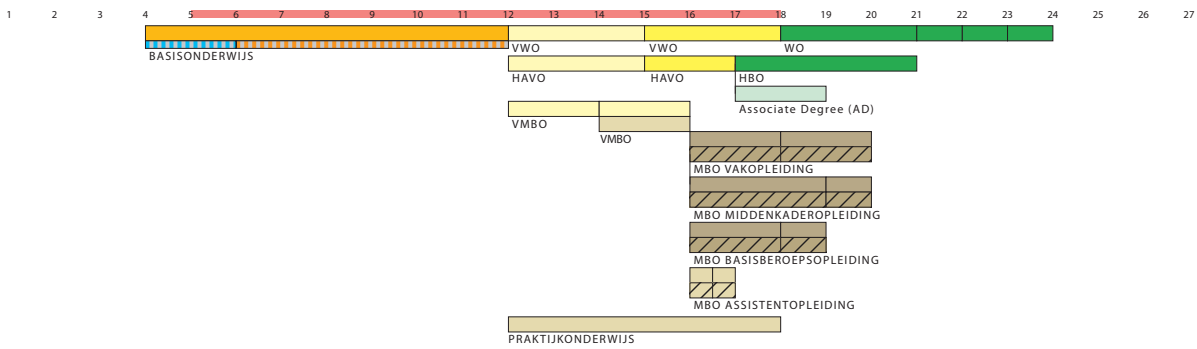
## Hungary



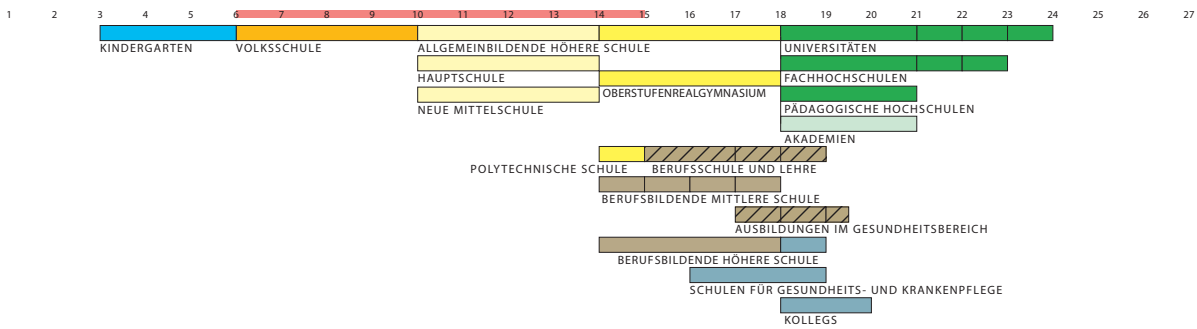
## Malta



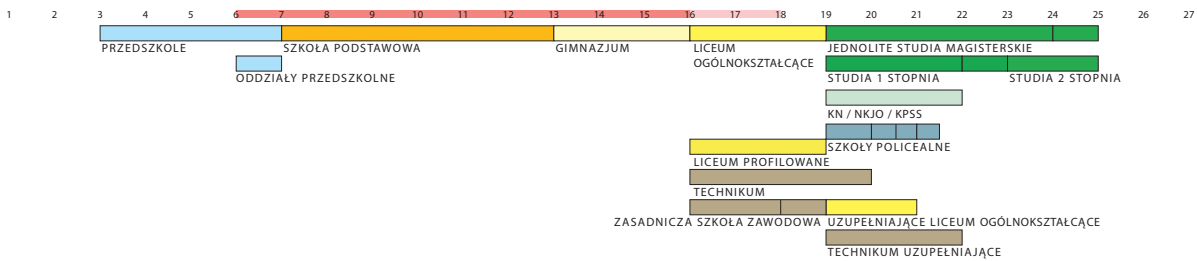
## Netherlands



## Austria

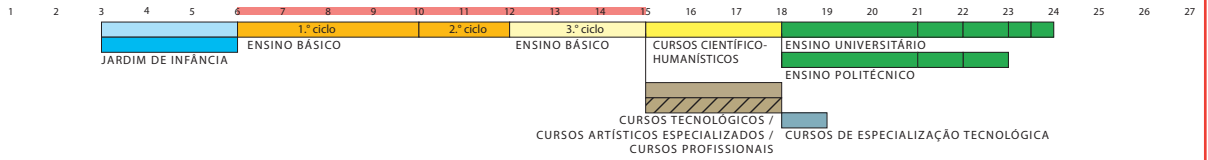


## Poland

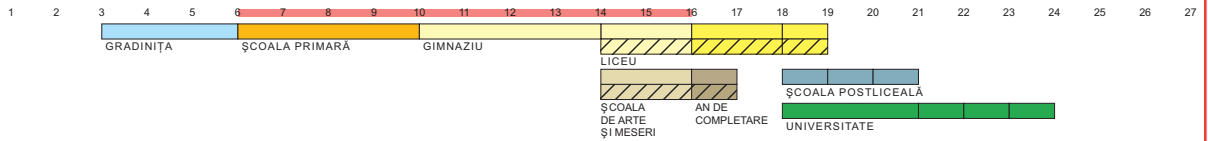


Pre-primary – ISCED 0 (for which the Ministry of Education is not responsible)	Lower secondary general – ISCED 2 (including pre-vocational)	Tertiary education – ISCED 5B
Pre-primary – ISCED 0 (for which the Ministry of Education is responsible)	Lower secondary vocational – ISCED 2	Tertiary education – ISCED 5A
Primary – ISCED 1	Upper secondary general – ISCED 3	Part-time or combined school and workplace courses
Single structure (no institutional distinction between ISCED 1 and 2)	Upper secondary vocational – ISCED 3	
Post-secondary non-tertiary – ISCED 4	Post-secondary non-tertiary – ISCED 4	Additional year
Compulsory full-time education	Compulsory part-time education	Study abroad
ISCED 0	ISCED 2	Compulsory work experience + its duration
ISCED 1		

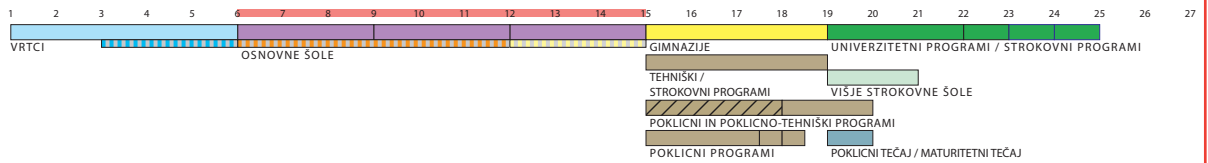
## Portugal



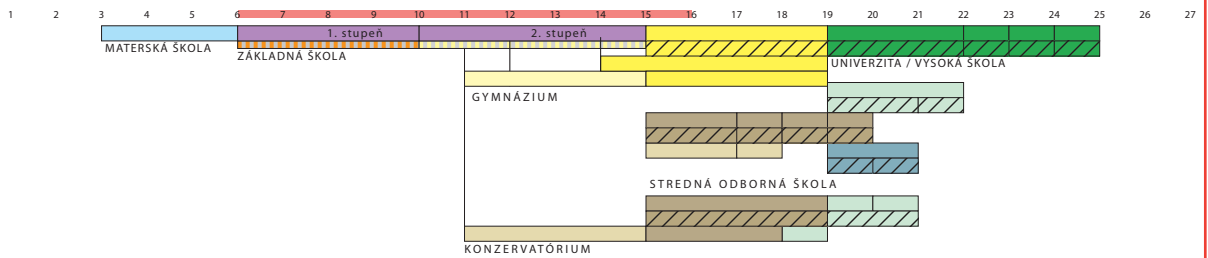
## Romania



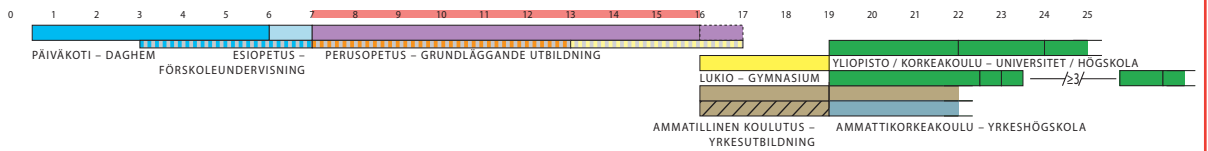
## Slovenia



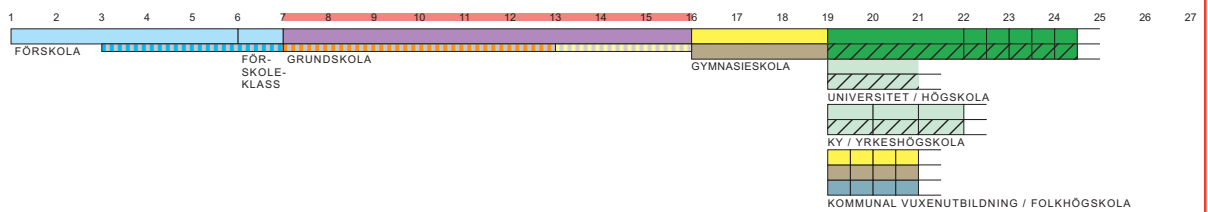
## Slovakia



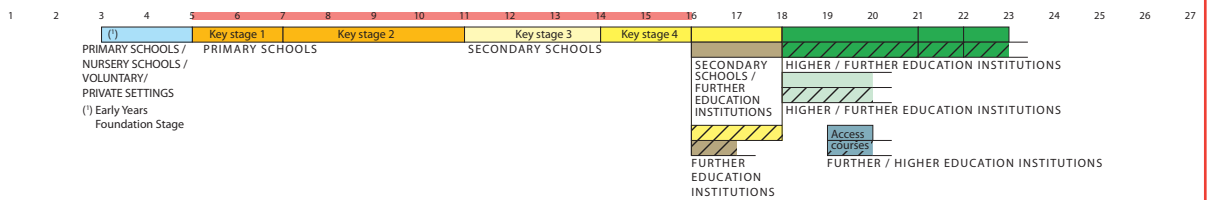
## Finland



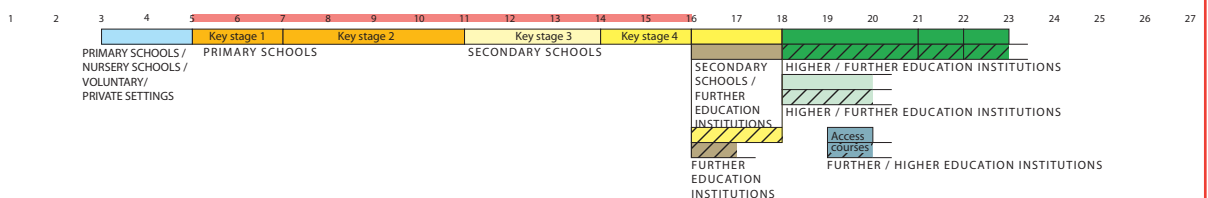
## Sweden



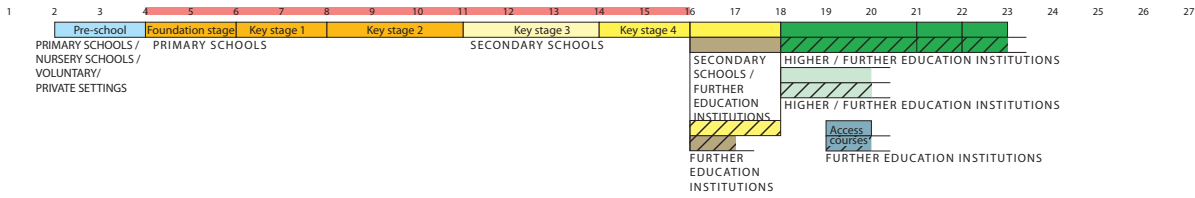
## United Kingdom – England



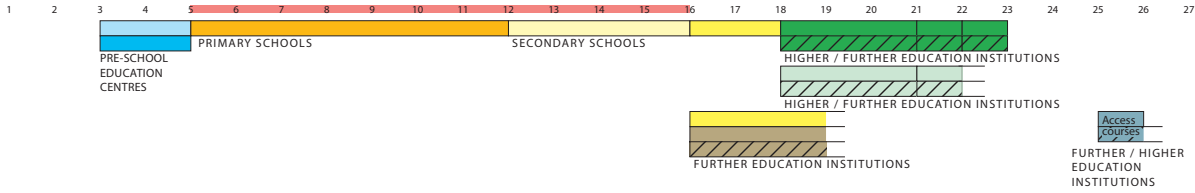
## United Kingdom – Wales



## United Kingdom – Northern Ireland

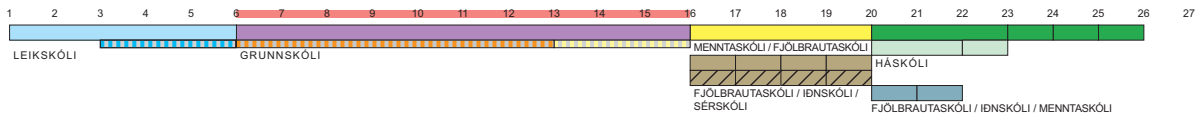


## United Kingdom – Scotland

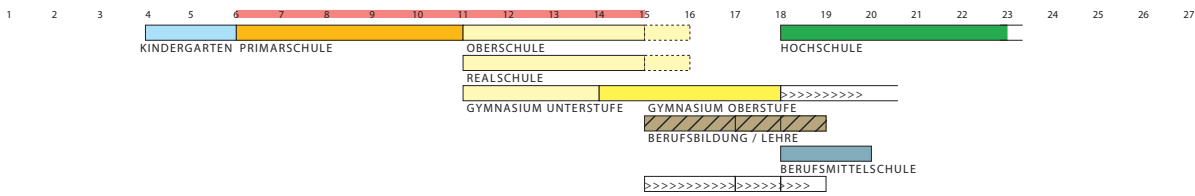


## EFTA/EEA COUNTRIES

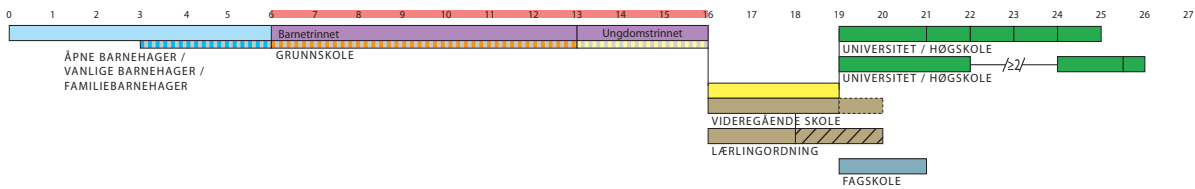
### Iceland



### Liechtenstein

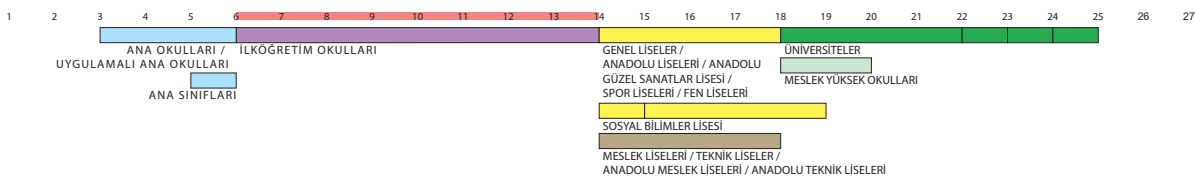


### Norway



## CANDIDATE COUNTRY

### Turkey



Pre-primary – ISCED 0 (for which the Ministry of Education is not responsible)	Lower secondary general – ISCED 2 (including pre-vocational)	Tertiary education – ISCED 5B
Pre-primary – ISCED 0 (for which the Ministry of Education is responsible)	Lower secondary vocational – ISCED 2	Tertiary education – ISCED 5A
Primary – ISCED 1	Upper secondary general – ISCED 3	Part-time or combined school and workplace courses
Single structure (no institutional distinction between ISCED 1 and 2)	Upper secondary vocational – ISCED 3	
Post-secondary non-tertiary – ISCED 4		

Allocation to the ISCED levels:

ISCED 0	ISCED 2	Compulsory full-time education	Additional year	Study abroad
ISCED 1		Compulsory part-time education	-/n/- Compulsory work experience + its duration	

## **International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED – UOE, 1997 edition)**

- ISCED 0: Pre-primary education  
Pre-primary education is defined as the initial stage of organised instruction. It is school- or centre-based and is designed for children aged at least 3 years.
- ISCED 1: Primary education  
This level begins between 5 and 7 years of age, is compulsory in all countries and generally lasts from four to six years.
- ISCED 2: Lower secondary education  
It continues the basic programmes of the primary level, although teaching is typically more subject-focused. Usually, the end of this level coincides with the end of compulsory education.
- ISCED 3: Upper secondary education  
This level generally begins at the end of compulsory education. The entrance age is typically 15 or 16 years. Entrance qualifications (end of compulsory education) and other minimum entry requirements are usually needed. Instruction is often more subject-oriented than at ISCED level 2. The typical duration of ISCED level 3 varies from two to five years.
- ISCED 4: Post-secondary non-tertiary education  
These programmes straddle the boundary between upper secondary and tertiary education. They serve to broaden the knowledge of ISCED level 3 graduates. Typical examples are programmes designed to prepare pupils for studies at level 5 or programmes designed to prepare pupils for direct labour market entry.
- ISCED 5: Tertiary education (first stage)  
Entry to these programmes normally requires the successful completion of ISCED level 3 or 4. This level includes tertiary programmes with academic orientation (type A) which are largely theoretically based and tertiary programmes with occupation orientation (type B) which are typically shorter than type A programmes and geared for entry into the labour market.

Detailed information on research programmes of the doctoral type (ISCED 6), as well as on those at ISCED level 5, can be found in the following publications:

- *Higher Education in Europe 2009: Developments in the Bologna Process*, Brussels: Eurydice, 2009
- *Focus on the structure of tertiary education in Europe 2006/07: National trends in the Bologna Process*, Brussels: Eurydice, 2007.

For detailed information on the educational system presented here, please see **Eurybase full country descriptions** on the Eurydice Website:

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/eurybase\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/eurybase_en.php).

Explanations on the national terms given with the diagrams can be consulted on the *European Glossary on Education, volume 2 – Educational Institutions* available on the Eurydice website:

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/tools\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/tools_en.php).