

Organisation of school time in Europe

Primary and general secondary education

2012/13 school year

AUSTRIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2012: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 10 September 2012: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	3 September 2012: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 10 September 2012: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
End of students' school year	28 June 2013: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 5 July 2013: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	28 June 2013: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 5 July 2013: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
Autumn holidays	1 week 29 – 31 October 2012 (Vorarlberg*)	1 week 29 – 31 October 2012 (Vorarlberg*)
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 6 January 2013	2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 6 January 2013
Winter/Carnival	1 week 4 – 9 February 2013: Niederösterreich, Vorarlberg, Wien 11 – 16 February 2013: Burgenland, Kärnten, Salzburg, Tirol 18 – 23 February 2013: Oberösterreich, Steiermark	1 week 4 – 9 February 2013: Niederösterreich, Vorarlberg, Wien 11 – 16 February 2013: Burgenland, Kärnten, Salzburg, Tirol 18 – 23 February 2013: Oberösterreich, Steiermark
Spring/Easter	1 week 23 March – 2 April 2013	1 week 23 March – 2 April 2013
Third term	4 days 18 – 21 May 2013	4 days 18 – 21 May 2013
Summer	About 9 weeks 29 June – 31 August 2013: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 6 July – 7 September 2013: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	About 9 weeks 29 June – 31 August 2013: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 6 July – 7 September 2013: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
Public/religious holidays	26 October 2012 1 November 2012 2 November 2012 8 December 2012 9 May 2013 30 May 2013 1 extra religious holiday per province (<i>Land</i>)	26 October 2012 1 November 2012 2 November 2012 8 December 2012 9 May 2013 30 May 2013 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 2012/13 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2012	1 September 2012
End of students' school year	30 June 2013	30 June 2013
Autumn holidays	1 week 29 October – 4 November 2012	1 week 29 October – 4 November 2012
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 6 January 2013	2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 6 January 2013
Winter/Carnival	1 week 11 February – 17 February 2013	1 week 11 February – 17 February 2013
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 1 April – 14 April 2013	2 weeks 1 April – 14 April 2013
Third term	-	-
Summer	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2013	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2013
Public/religious holidays	4 days: 11 November 2012 1 May 2013 9 – 10 May 2013 20 May 2013	4 days: 11 November 2012 1 May 2013 9 – 10 May 2013 20 May 2013
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2012	1 September 2012
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2013	30 June 2013

Source: Eurydice.

BELGIUM (FRENCH COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2012	3 September 2012
End of students' school year	30 June 2013	30 June 2013
Autumn holidays	1 week 29 October – 2 November 2012	1 week 29 October – 4 November 2012
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 4 January 2013	2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 4 January 2013
Winter/Carnival	1 week 11– 15 February 2013	1 week 11 – 15 February 2013
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 1 – 12 April 2013	2 weeks 1 – 12 April 2013
Third term	–	–
Summer	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2013	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2013
Public/religious holidays	5 days: 27 September 2012 11 November 2012 1 May 2013 9 May 2013 20 May 2013	5 days: 27 September 2012 11 November 2012 1 May 2013 9 May 2013 20 May 2013
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2012	1 September 2012
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2013	30 June 2013

Source: Eurydice

BELGIUM (GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2012	1 September 2012
End of students' school year	30 June 2013	30 June 2013
Autumn holidays	1 week 29 October – 2 November 2012	1 week 29 October – 2 November 2012
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 4 January 2013	2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 4 January 2013
Winter/Carnival	1 week 11 – 15 February 2013	1 week 11 – 15 February 2013
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 1 – 12 April 2013	2 weeks 1 – 12 April 2013
Third term	–	–
Summer	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2013	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2013
Public/religious holidays	11 November 2012 15 November 2012 1 May 2013 9 May 2013 20 May 2013 + 1 day of holidays of choice of the institution	11 November 2012 15 November 2012 1 May 2013 9 May 2013 20 May 2013 + 1 day of holidays of choice of the institution
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2012	1 September 2012
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2013	30 June 2013

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 schooldays.
- 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.

CYPRUS

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	10 September 2012	11 September 2012 (see additional notes)
End of students' school year	19 June 2013	(see additional notes)
Autumn holidays	–	–
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 23 December 2012 – 6 January 2013	2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 6 January 2013
Winter/Carnival	–	–
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 29 April – 10 May 2013	2 weeks 29 April – 10 May 2013
Third term	–	–
Summer	11 weeks 20 June – 6 September 2013	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2013
Public/religious holidays	1 October 2012 28 October 2012 13 November 2012 30 January 2013 18 March 2013 25 March 2013 1 April 2013 11 June 2013 13 June 2013	1 October 2012 28 October 2012 13 November 2012 30 January 2013 18 March 2013 25 March 2013 1 April 2013 11 June 2013 24 June 2013
Starting date of teachers' school year	3 September 2012	1 September 2012
End of teachers' school year	21 June 2013	30 June 2013

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

Secondary education

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. For the Lower Secondary Education classes may end on any day during the first ten days of June, and for the Upper Secondary Education during the last ten days of May. The exact date is again defined by the Minister.

For the General secondary education, the end of the school year comes at the end of June and includes exams, correction of papers, result announcements.

Teachers

The official school year is longer for teachers in both primary and secondary education as it includes registration days, sorting out of schools and classes and exam periods.

In primary and secondary general education according to the law, the official school year is from 1 September 2012 until 31 August 2013.

Teachers however, need to be at school from 1 September 2012 until 30 June 2013 for school work for secondary education and from 3 September 2012 until the 21 June 2013 for primary education.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2012	3 September 2012
End of students' school year	28 June 2013	28 June 2013
Autumn holidays	25 – 26 October 2012	25 – 26 October 2012
Christmas/New Year	22 December 2012 – 2 January 2013	22 December 2012 – 2 January 2013
Winter/Carnival	1 February 2013	1 February 2013
Spring/Easter	1 week between 4 February and 17 March 2013 depending on the region 28 – 29 March 2013	1 week between 4 February and 17 March 2013 depending on the region 28 – 29 March 2013
Third term	–	–
Summer	29 June – 1 September 2013	29 June – 1 September 2013
Public/religious holidays	28 September 2012 1 April 2013 1 May 2013 8 May 2013	28 September 2012 1 April 2013 1 May 2013 8 May 2013
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 2013	Regions
4 – 10 February	Benešov, Beroun, Rokycany, České Budějovice, Český Krumlov, Klatovy, Trutnov, Pardubice, Chrudim, Svitavy, Ústí nad Orlicí, Ostrava-město
11 – 17 February	Praha 1 až 5, Blansko, Brno-město, Brno-venkov, Břeclav, Hodonín, Vyškov, Znojmo, Domažlice, Tachov, Louny, Prostějov, Karviná
18 – 24 February	Praha 6 až 10, Cheb, Karlovy Vary, Sokolov, Nymburk, Jindřichův Hradec, Litoměřice, Děčín, Písek, Frýdek-Místek
25 February – 3 March	Kroměříž, Uherské Hradiště, Vsetín, Zlín, Praha-východ, Praha-západ, Mělník, Rakovník, Plzeň-město, Plzeň-sever, Plzeň-jih, Hradec Králové, Teplice, Nový Jičín
4 – 10 March	Česká Lípa, Jablonec nad Nisou, Liberec, Semily, Havlíčkův Brod, Jihlava, Pelhřimov, Třebíč, Žďár nad Sázavou, Kladno, Kolín, Kutná Hora, Písek, Náchod, Bruntál
11 – 17 March	Mladá Boleslav, Příbram, Tábor, Prachatice, Strakonice, Ústí nad Labem, Chomutov, Most, Jičín, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Olomouc, Šumperk, Opava, Jeseník

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 2012/13 school year		
	Primary and lower secondary education (<i>Folkeskole</i>)	General secondary education (<i>Gymnasium</i>)
Starting date of students' school year	15 August 2012	15 August 2012
End of students' school year	29 June 2013	1 July 2013
Autumn holidays	13 – 21 October 2012	15 – 19 October 2011
Christmas/New Year	22 December 2012 – 1 January 2013	24 December 2011 – 4 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	9 – 17 February 2013	11 – 15 February 2013
Spring/Easter	23 March – 1 April 2013	25 March – 1 April 2013
Third term	-	-
Summer	29 June 2013 – 10/12 August	1 July 2013 – 10/12 August
Public/religious holidays	26 April 2013 9 – 12 May 2013 20 May 2013 5 June 2013	26 April 2013 9 – 12 May 2013 20 May 2013 5 June 2013
Starting date of teachers' school year	Not determined at central level – differs at the various schools / institutions. In general the teachers start a few days before the pupils/students.	Not determined at central level – differs at the various schools / institutions. In general the teachers start a few days before the pupils/students.
End of teachers' school year	Not determined at central level. Usually the teachers' school year follows that of the pupils/students.	Not determined at central level. Usually the teachers' school year follows that of the pupils/students.

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

The abovementioned dates for the *Folkeskole* are a sample from the municipality of Hørsholm ⁽¹⁾, as the dates vary slightly on a national scale. E.g. the winter/carnival holiday thus 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 Frederiksberg Gymnasium ⁽²⁾.

Folkeskole, that is schools offering comprehensive primary and lower secondary education are at liberty 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.

⁽¹⁾ <http://rungstedskole.horsholm.dk/Ferieplan/Ferieplan.htm>

⁽²⁾ <http://www.frberg-gym.dk/index.php/information/ferieplan>

ESTONIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2012	1 September 2012
End of students' school year	31 August 2013	31 August 2013
Autumn holidays	1 week 20 – 28 October 2012	1 week 20 – 28 October 2012
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 22 December 2012 – 6 January 2013	2 weeks 22 December 2012 – 6 January 2013
Winter/Carnival		
Spring/Easter	1 week 16 – 24 March 2013	1 week 16 – 24 March 2013
Third term	-	-
Summer	12 ½ weeks 5 June – 31 August 2013	12 ½ weeks 5 June – 31 August 2013
Public/religious holidays	24 February 2013 (Independence Day) 29 March 2013 (Good Friday) 31 March 2013 (Easter Day) 1 May 2013 (Spring Day (May Day)) 19 May 2013 (Whitsunday)	24 February 2013 (Independence Day) 29 March 2013 (Good Friday) 31 March 2013 (Easter Day) 1 May 2013 (Spring Day (May Day)) 19 May 2013 (Whitsunday)
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 vacation. Generally, they go on vacation in the middle of June and are back in the middle of 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 2012/13 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 10 and 17 August 2012	Between 10 and 17 August 2012
End of students' school year	2 June 2012	2 June 2012
Autumn holidays	2-7 days in October 2012	2-7 days in October 2012
Christmas/New Year	1-2 weeks between 18 December 2010 and 9 January 2012	1-2 weeks between 18 December 2010 and 9 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	1 week between 21 February and 13 March 2013	1 week between 21 February and 13 March 2013
Spring/Easter	4 days between 29 March and 1 April 2013	4 days between 29 March and 1 April 2013
Third term	-	-
Summer	10-11 weeks between 4 June to mid-August 2013	10-11 weeks between 4 June to mid-August 2013
Public/religious holidays	9 May 2013 (Ascension day)	9 May 2013 (Ascension day)
Starting date of teachers' school year	Between 8 and 15 August 2012 ⁽¹⁾	Between 8 and 15 August 2012 ⁽¹⁾
End of teachers' school year	4 June 2013	4 June 2013

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 2012/13 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 the pupils' holidays. However, teachers have their planning and INSET obligations, which they have to do during both during the school year and outside the school year.

FRANCE

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	4 September 2012	4 September 2012
End of students' school year	4 July 2013	4 July 2013
Autumn holidays	1 ½ week 27 October – 8 November 2012	1 ½ week 27 October – 8 November 2012
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 22 December 2012 – 7 January 2013	2 weeks 22 December 2012 – 7 January 2013
Winter/Carnival	2 weeks 23 February – 11 March 2013 (zone A) 16 February – 4 March 2013 (zone B) 2 – 18 March 2013 (zone C)	2 weeks 23 February – 11 March 2013 (zone A) 16 February – 4 March 2013 (zone B) 2 – 18 March 2013 (zone C)
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 20 April – 6 May 2013 (zone A) 13 – 29 April 2013 (zone B) 27 April – 13 May 2013 (zone C)	2 weeks 20 April – 6 May 2013 (zone A) 13 – 29 April 2013 (zone B) 27 April – 13 May 2013 (zone C)
Third term	–	–
Summer	9 weeks 4 July – September 2013 (date not set yet)	9 weeks 4 July – September 2013 (date not set yet)
Public/religious holidays	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 1 April 2013 1 May 2013 8 May 2013 9 May 2013 20 May 2013	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 1 April 2013 1 May 2013 8 May 2013 9 May 2013 20 May 2013
Starting date of teachers' school year	3 September 2012	3 September 2012
End of teachers' school year	4 July 2013	4 July 2013

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 2012/13 school year

Starting date of students' school year	1 August 2012 begin of official school year <i>(for details see table I)</i>
End of students' school year	31 July 2013 end of official school year <i>(for details see table I)</i>
Autumn holidays	5 to 14 days staggered between 1 October and 3 November 2012 <i>(for details see table II)</i>
Christmas/New Year	10 to 18 days staggered between 19 December 2012 and 5 January 2013 <i>(for details see table II)</i>
Winter/Carnival	0 to 11 days staggered between 31 January and 23 February 2013 <i>(for details see table II)</i>
Spring/Easter	8 to 15 days staggered between 4 March and 9 April 2013 <i>(for details see table II)</i>
Third term	0 to 12 days staggered between 2 May and 1 June 2013 <i>(for details see table II)</i>
Summer	6 weeks staggered between 19 June and 11 September 2013 <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 2012 (official date)
End of teachers' school year	31 July 2013 (official date)

Source: Eurydice

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

	Beginning of students' school year 2012/13	End of students' school year 2012/13	Summer holidays 2013
Hamburg	2 August 2012	19 June 2013	20 June – 31 July
Berlin	6 August 2012	19 June 2013	20 June – 2 August
Brandenburg	6 August 2012	19 June 2013	20 June – 3 August
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	6 August 2012	21 June 2013	22 June – 3 August
Schleswig-Holstein	6 August 2012	22 June 2013	24 June – 3 August
Hessen / Rheinland-Pfalz	13 August 2012	6 July 2013	8 July – 16 August
Saarland	15 August 2012	6 July 2013	8 July – 16 August
Nordrhein-Westfalen	22 August 2012	20 July 2013	22 July – 3 September
Bremen / Niedersachsen	3 September 2012	26 June 2013	27 June – 7 August
Sachsen / Thüringen	3 September 2012	13 July 2013	15 July – 23 August
Sachsen-Anhalt	6 September 2012	13 July 2013	15 July – 28 August
Baden-Württemberg	10 September 2012	24 July 2013	25 July – 7 September
Bayern	13 September 2012	30 July 2013	31 July – 11 September

GERMANY (CONTINUED)

TABLE II: Specification of shorter holiday periods

Land	Autumn 2012	Christmas / New Year 2012/13	Winter 2013	Spring / Easter 2013	3 rd term 2013
Baden-Württemberg	29 Oct.-2 Nov.	24 Dec.-5 Jan.	-	25 March-5 April	21 May-1 June
Bayern	29 Oct.-3 Nov.	24 Dec.-5 Jan.	11 Febr.-15 Febr.	25 March-6 April	21 May-31 May
Berlin	1 Oct.-13 Oct.	24 Dec.-4 Jan.	4 Febr.-9 Febr.	25 March-6 April	10 May 21 May
Brandenburg	1 Oct.- 13 Oct.	24 Dec.-4 Jan.	4 Febr.-9 Febr.	27 March-6 April	10 May
Bremen	22 Oct.-3 Nov.	24 Dec.-5 Jan.	31 Jan.-1 Febr.	16 March-2 April	21 May
Hamburg	1 Oct.-12 Oct.	21 Dec.-4 Jan.	1 February	4 March-15 March	2 May-10 May
Hessen	15 Oct.-27 Oct.	24 Dec.-12 Jan.	-	25 March-6 April	-
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	1 Oct.-5 Oct.	21 Dec.-4 Jan.	4 Febr.-15 Febr.	25 March-3 April	17 May-21 May
Niedersachsen	22 Oct.-3 Nov.	24 Dec.-5 Jan.	31 Jan.- 1 Febr.	16 March-2 April	10 May 21 May
Nordrhein-Westfalen	8 Oct.-20 Oct.	21 Dec.-4 Jan.	-	25 March-6 April	21 May
Rheinland-Pfalz	1 Oct.-12 Oct.	20 Dec.-4 Jan.	-	20 March-5 April	10 May 31 May
Saarland	22 Oct.-3 Nov.	24 Dec.-5 Jan.	11 Febr.-16 Febr.	25 March-6 April	-
Sachsen	22 Oct.-2 Nov.	22 Dec.-2 Jan.	4 Febr.-15 Febr.	29 March-6 April	10 May 18 May-22 May
Sachsen-Anhalt	29 Oct.-2 Nov.	19 Dec.-4 Jan.	1 Febr.-8 Febr.	25 March-30 March	18 May-31 May
Schleswig-Holstein	4 Oct.-19 Oct.	24 Dec.-5 Jan.	-	25 March-9 April	10 May
Thüringen	22 Oct.-3 Nov.	24 Dec.-5 Jan.	18 Febr.-23 Febr.	25 March-6 April	10 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 2012/13 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	11 September 2012	11 September 2012
End of students' school year	14 June 2013	The date in question (usually around 20 May), set by a Ministerial Decision, is subject to annual arrangement both for the lower and the upper secondary education.
Autumn holidays	–	–
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 7 January 2013	2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 7 January 2013
Winter/Carnival	-	-
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 29 April – 10 May 2013	2 weeks 29 April – 10 May 2013
Third term	-	-
Summer	± 12 weeks 22 June – 31 August 2013	± 10 weeks 1 July – 10 September 2013
Public/religious holidays	4 national/religious holidays 28 October 2012 30 January 2013 18 March 2013 (Shrove Tuesday) 25 March 2013 and some regional holidays	5 national/religious holidays 28 October 2012 30 January 2013 18 March 2013 (Shrove Tuesday) 25 March 2013 24 June 2013 and some regional holidays
Starting date of teachers' school year	3 September 2012	1 September 2012
End of teachers' school year	21 June 2013	30 June 2013

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Official School Year: 1 September 2012 to 31 August 2013

Didactic Year: 1 September 2012 to 21 June 2013 (primary education)

1 September 2012 to 30 June 2013 (secondary education)

HUNGARY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2012	3 September 2012
End of students' school year	14 June 2013	14 June 2013 (2 May 2013 in the final upper secondary grade)
Autumn holidays	7 days including 1 weekend and one public holiday 29 October – 4 November 2012	7 days including 1 weekend and one public holiday 29 October – 4 November 2012
Christmas/New Year	12 days including 2 weekends and 2 public holidays	12 days including 2 weekends and 2 public holidays
Winter/Carnival	22 December 2012 – 2 January 2013	22 December 2012 – 2 January 2013
Spring/Easter	6 days including one weekend and one public holiday 28 March – 2 April 2013	6 days including one weekend and one public holiday 28 March – 2 April 2013
Third term	-	-
Summer	11 weeks 15 June – 31 August 2013	11 weeks 15 June – 31 August 2013
Public/religious holidays	1 day 15 March 2013 (Revolution Day) 1 May 2013 (Labour Day) 20 May 2013 (Whit Monday)	1 day 15 March 2013 (Revolution Day) 1 May 2013 (Labour Day) 20 May 2013 (Whit Monday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	Autonomy of the educational institution takes into account the concerning legal provision*	Autonomy of the educational institution takes into account the concerning legal provision*
End of teachers' school year	Autonomy of the educational institution takes into account the concerning legal provision*	Autonomy of the educational institution takes into account the concerning legal provision*

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Data in the "General secondary education" column refer to general upper secondary education, while data in the "Primary education" column refer to single structure education (primary and lower secondary).

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 commences on the first working day of September every year and concludes on the last working day prior to 16 June.

Schools, while leaving the first and last school day of the academic year unchanged, may give further holidays to pupils or may change the beginning and end date of the preset school holidays during the school year if they ensure that teaching is provided on a regular resting day instead.

In addition to compulsory school days (182 days in 2012-13), schools may also have 5 (in single structure education) or 6 (in upper-secondary education) non-teaching days for educational purposes.

School holidays at schools providing minority education may differ from the above described school holidays to celebrate national traditions. (Source: Decree of the Minister responsible for education on the organization of the school year of 2012-2013).

* Act No. XXXIII. of 1992 on the legal status of public servants and the Government Decree No. 138/1992 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. (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 2012/13 school year		
	Primary and lower secondary education	General upper secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 22 and 31 August 2012	Between 20 and 24 August 2012
End of students' school year	Between 31 May and 7 June 2013	Between 27 and 31 May 2013
Autumn holidays	0-3 days in October 2012	0-3 days in October 2012
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 17 December 2012 – 3 January 2013	2 weeks 17 December 2012 – 3 January 2013
Winter/Carnival	0-5 days in February 2013	0-5 days in February 2013
Spring/Easter	9 days 25 March – 3 April 2013	9 days 25 March – 3 April 2013
Third term	-	-
Summer	11 weeks Between 7 June and 21 August 2013	12 weeks Between 25 May and 23 August 2013
Public/religious holidays	4 days 25 April 2013 1 May 2013 9 May 2013 20 May 2013	4 days 25 April 2013 1 May 2013 9 May 2013 20 May 2013
Starting date of teachers' school year	Between 17 and 27 August 2012	Between 20 and 22 August 2012
End of teachers' school year	Between 6 and 13 June 2013	Between 28 May and 1 June 2013

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 2012/13 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	First week of September 2012 (1)	Circa 28 August 2012 (1)
End of students' school year	End of June 2013 (2)	End of State Examinations in June 2013 (2)
Autumn holidays	1 week 29 October – 2 November 2012 (inclusive)	1 week 29 October – 2 November 2012 (inclusive)
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 4 January 2013 (inclusive)	2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 4 January 2013 (inclusive)
Winter/Carnival	2 days 14 – 15 February 2013 (3)	1 week (3) 11 – 15 February 2013 (inclusive)
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 25 March – 5 April 2013 (inclusive) (3)	2 weeks 25 March – 5 April 2013 (inclusive) (3)
Third term	-	-
Summer	About 9 weeks End of June until week of 1 September 2013	About 12 weeks June, July and most of August 2013
Public/religious holidays	18 March 2013 6 May 2013 3 June 2013 and some religious holidays (4)	18 March 2013 6 May 2013 3 June 2013 and some religious holidays (4)
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2012	1 September 2012
End of teachers' school year	31 August 2013	31 August 2013

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes: Circular 0034/2011 sets out the standardised school breaks at primary and post primary level for the school years 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14.

- (1) It is not a requirement that the commencement or end of the school year either at primary or post-primary level should be standardised. However, the expectation is that the school year will normally commence during the week in which 1st September falls. A school year may commence in the week prior to that in which 1st September falls where this is necessary in order to meet the overall requirement of a minimum of 167 at post-primary level or 183 days at primary level. The exact date is determined locally at Board of Management level.
- (2) At Primary Level, schools 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. At Post Primary level, traditionally, formal instruction ends in post-primary schools on the Friday preceding the June bank holiday weekend. State examinations normally commence the following Wednesday.
- (3) Primary school may extend their Winter/Carnival break to an alternative option of a 5 day break provided the overall requirement of 183 days is met. Both primary and post primary schools may reduce the length of Winter/Carnival and Spring/Easter breaks where contingency measures are necessary to make up for unforeseen school closures e.g. due to adverse weather.
- (4) The standardised school year arrangements are agreed without prejudice to closure on specific days, subject to the overall requirement of 167 days at post-primary level and 183 days at primary level, dictated by religious observance that is required in schools under the patronage of different denominations or faiths.

ITALY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 5 and 17 September 2012	Between 5 and 17 September 2012
End of students' school year	Between 8 and 14 June 2013	Between 8 and 14 June 2013
Autumn holidays	–	–
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks Between 22/24 December 2012 and 5 January 2013	2 weeks Between 22/24 December 2012 and 5 January 2013
Winter/Carnival	1 to 5 days Generally in February/March, depending on the regions	1 to 5 days Generally in February/March, depending on the regions
Spring/Easter	3 to 5 days Between 26/28 April and 1/3 April 2013, depending on the regions	3 to 5 days Between 26/28 April and 1/3 April 2013, depending on the regions
Third term	–	–
Summer	12 – 13 weeks Between June and September 2013	12 – 13 weeks Between June and September 2013
Public/religious holidays	5 national holidays 1 November 2012 8 December 2012 25 April 2013 1 May 2013 2 June 2013 and Saints' days, depending on the regions	5 national holidays 1 November 2012 8 December 2012 25 April 2013 1 May 2013 2 June 2013 and Saints' days, depending on the regions
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2012	1 September 2012
End of teachers' school year	31 August 2013	31 August 2013

Source: Eurydice

ITALY (CONTINUED)

Specification of terms for the beginning and the end of the school year 2012/13		
Primary and general secondary education		
	Beginning 2012	End 2013
Abruzzo	17 September	8 June
Alto Adige (Bolzano)	5 September	14 June
Basilicata	17 September	11 June
Calabria	17 September	12 June
Campania	13 September	8 June
Emilia-Romagna	17 September	8 June
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	12 September	8 June
Lazio	13 September	12 June
Liguria	17 September	12 June
Lombardia	12 September	8 June
Marche	12 September	8 June
Molise	11 September	11 June
Piemonte	12 September	12 June
Puglia	17 September	8 June
Sardegna	17 September	8 June
Sicilia	14 September	12 June
Toscana	12 September	8 June
Trentino (Trento)	12 September	11 June
Umbria	12 September	8 June
Valle d'Aosta	10 September	12 June
Veneto	12 September	8 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 2012/13 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2012	3 September 2012
End of students' school year	31 May 2013	31 May 2013
Autumn holidays	1 week 29 October – 2 November 2012	1 week 29 October – 2 November 2012
Christmas/New Year (Winter holidays)	2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 4 January 2013	2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 4 January 2013
Spring/Easter	1 week 22 – 28 March 2013	1 week 22 – 28 March 2012
Third term	-	-
Summer	13 weeks 3 June – 30 August 2013	13 weeks 3 June – 30 August 2013
Public/religious holidays	5 public holidays 18 (transferred to 19) November 2012 29 March 2013 1 April 2013 1 May 2013 4 (transferred to 6) May 2013	5 public holidays 18 (transferred to 19) November 2012 29 March 2013 1 April 2013 1 May 2013 4 (transferred to 6) May 2013
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: 14 June 2013.

Upper secondary education: end of the school year for the 12th class: 21 June 2013.

The school year is divided in two semesters: the first from 3 September to 21 December 2012 and the second from 7 January to 31 May 2013 (or 14 June for the 9th class and 21 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 2013): These are the dates for the official summer holiday period for classes 1-8 and 10-11.

Pilot schools: With September 2012 some pilot schools will start to implement an extended school year and the experience of these pilot schools will help the Ministry of Education to make an informed decision about longer school year 2014/2015 in Latvia.

Public holidays: When the specific holidays of November 18 and May 4 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 (ISCED 0, 1, 2 and 3) 2012/13 school year	
	Primary and general secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	20 August 2012
End of students' school year	5 July 2013
Autumn holidays	2 weeks: 6 – 21 October 2012
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks: 22 December 2012 – 6 January 2013
Winter/Carnival	1 week: 9 – 17 February 2013
Spring/Easter	2½ weeks: 28 March (from noon) – 14 April 2013
Summer	6 weeks: 6 July – 18 August 2013
Public/religious holidays	15 August 2012 – Assumption/Nat. Holiday (<i>Maria Himmelfahrt/Liechtensteinischer Staatsfeiertag</i>) 8 September 2012 – The nativity of our lady (<i>Maria Geburt</i>) 1 November 2012 – All Saints Day (<i>Allerheiligen</i>) 8 December 2012 – Immaculate Conception (<i>Maria Empfängnis</i>) 2 February 2013 – Candlemas (<i>Maria Lichtmess</i>) 19 March 2013 – St. Josephs Day (<i>Josefitag</i>) 1 May 2013 – Labour Day (<i>Tag der Arbeit</i>) 9/10 May 2013 – Ascension Day (<i>Auffahrt</i>) 19/20 May 2013 – Whitsuntide/Whit Monday (<i>Pfingsten/Pfingsmontag</i>) 30/31 May 2013 – Corpus Christi (<i>Fronleichnam</i>)
Starting date of teachers' school year	20 August 2012
End of teachers' school year	5 July 2013

Source: Eurydice

LITHUANIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2012	1 September 2012
End of students' school year	31 May 2013	7 June 2013
Autumn holidays	1 week 29 October – 4 November 2012	1 week 29 October – 2 November 2012
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 27 December 2012 – 9 January 2013	2 weeks 27 December 2012 – 4 January 2013
Winter/Carnival	–	18 – 19 February 2013
Spring/Easter	1 week 25 – 31 March 2013	1 week 25 – 29 March 2013
Third term	–	–
Summer	13 weeks 3 June – 30 August 2013	12 weeks 10 June – 30 August 2013
Public/religious holidays	1 November 2012 16 February 2013 11 March 2013 1 May 2013	1 November 2012 16 February 2013 11 March 2013 1 May 2013
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: Eurydice

Additional notes:

The end of students' school year in grade 5 (first year of lower secondary education) is on 31 May 2013, grade 10 (last year of lower secondary education) is on 7 June 2013 and grade 12 (last year of upper secondary education) is on 31 May 2013.

Additional 2-weeks school holidays (twice in the year) are allocated to pupils of grades 1 to 5. The recommended time for pupils of grades 1-4 is: 11 – 15 February 2013 and 1 – 5 April 2013; for pupils of grade 5: 26 – 30 November 2012 and 11 – 15 February 2013. Subject to the school council's approval, additional school holidays may be allocated at another time.

Summer holidays for students in grade 5 start on 3 June 2013.

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 2012/13 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	17 September 2012	17 September 2012
End of students' school year	15 July 2013	15 July 2013
Autumn holidays	1 week 27 October – 4 November 2012	1 week 27 October – 4 November 2012
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 22 December 2012 – 6 January 2013	2 weeks 22 December 2012 – 6 January 2013
Winter/Carnival	1 week 9 – 17 February 2013	1 week 9 – 17 February 2013
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 23 March – 7 April 2013	2 weeks 23 March – 7 April 2013
Third term	1 week 25 May – 2 June 2013	1 week 25 May – 2 June 2013
Summer	8 weeks 16 July – 14 September 2013	8 weeks 16 July – 14 September 2013
Public/religious holidays	4 days 1 May 2013 9 May 2013 20 May 2013	4 days 1 May 2013 9 May 2013 20 May 2013
Starting date of teachers' school year	15 September 2012	15 September 2012
End of teachers' school year	15 July 2013	15 July 2013

Source: Eurydice.

THE NETHERLANDS

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Northern region: 3 September 2012 Central region: 20 August 2012 Southern region: 13 August 2012	Northern region: 3 September 2012 Central region: 20 August 2012 Southern region: 20 August 2012
End of students' school year	Northern region: 6 July 2013 Central region: 20 July 2013 Southern region: 29 June 2013	Northern region: 6 July 2013 Central region: 13 July 2013 Southern region: 29 June 2013
Autumn holidays	Northern region: 20 – 28 October 2012 Central and Southern region: 13 – 21 October 2012	Northern region: 20 – 28 October 2012 Central and Southern region: 13 – 21 October 2012
Christmas/New Year	22 December 2012 – 6 January 2013	22 December 2012 – 6 January 2013
Winter/Carnival*)	Central region and Northern region: 16 – 24 February 2013 Southern region: 23 February – 3 March 2013	Central region and Northern region: 16 – 24 February 2013 Southern region: 23 February – 3 March 2013
Spring/Easter	-	-
Third term	27 April – 5 May 2013	27 April – 5 May 2013
Summer	Northern region: 6 July – 18 August 2013 Central region: 20 July – 1 September 2013 Southern region: 29 June – 11 August 2013	Northern region: 6 July – 25 August 2013 Central region: 13 July – 1 September 2013 Southern region: 29 June – 18 August 2013
Public/religious holidays	1 April 2013 (Easter Monday) 30 April 2013 (Queen's Birthday) 9 May 2013 (Ascension Day) 20 May 2013 (Whit Monday)	1 April 2013 (Easter Monday) 30 April 2013 (Queen's Birthday) 9 May 2013 (Ascension Day) 20 May 2013 (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: Eurydice

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); all other holidays are recommended by the Ministry.

Carnival holiday is also called Spring Holiday or Crocus Holiday

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 2012/13 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 15 and 23 August 2012 Most counties: 16 – 20 August 2012	Between 15 and 23 August 2012 Most counties: 16 – 20 August 2012
End of students' school year	Between 18 and 21 June 2013	Between 18 and 21 June 2013
Autumn holidays	1 week (some just 2 days) Starting 1. Or 8. October 2012 (week 40 or 41)	1 week (some just 2 days) Starting 1 or 8 October 2012 (week 40 or 41)
Christmas/New Year	Approx.: 2 weeks Between 17 and 23 December 2012 and 2 to 7 of January 2013	Approx.: 2 weeks Between 18 and 21 December 2012 and 2 to 7 of January 2013
Winter/Carnival	1 week Between 18 February and 1 March 2013 (Week 8, 9 or 10)	1 week Between 18 February and 1 March 2013 (Week 8, 9 or 10)
Spring/Easter	9 days Between 25 March and 4 April 2013	9 days Between 25 March and 4 April 2013
Third term	-	-
Summer	Approx.: 8 weeks Between 18/21 June and 15/22 August 2013	Approx.: 8 weeks Between 18/21 June and 15/22 August 2013
Public/religious holidays	4 day 1 May 2013 (Labour Day) 17 May 2013 (National Day) 9 May 2013 (Ascension Day) 20 May 2013 (Whit Monday)	4 day 1 May 2013 (Labour Day) 17 May 2013 (National Day) 9 May 2013 (Ascension Day) 20 May 2013 (Whit Monday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	See additional note	See additional note
End of teachers' school year	See additional note	See additional note

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 2012/13 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2012	3 September 2012
End of students' school year	28 June 2013	28 June 2013
Autumn holidays	–	–
Christmas/New Year	1 week 24 – 31 December 2012	1 week 24 – 31 December 2012
Winter/Carnival	2 weeks 14 – 27 January 2013 <u>Regions:</u> Kujawsko-Pomorskie Lubuskie Małopolskie Świętokrzyskie Wielkopolskie 21 January – 3 February 2013 Podlaskie Warmińsko-Mazurskie 28 January – 10 February 2013 Dolnośląskie Mazowieckie Opolskie Zachodniopomorskie 11 - 24 February 2013 Lubelskie Łódzkie Podkarpackie Pomorskie Śląskie	2 weeks 14 – 27 January 2013 <u>Regions:</u> Kujawsko-Pomorskie Lubuskie Małopolskie Świętokrzyskie Wielkopolskie 21 January – 3 February 2013 Podlaskie Warmińsko-Mazurskie 28 January – 10 February 2013 Dolnośląskie Mazowieckie Opolskie Zachodniopomorskie 11 - 24 February 2013 Lubelskie Łódzkie Podkarpackie Pomorskie Śląskie
Spring/ Easter	28 March – 2 April 2013	28 March – 2 April 2013
Third term	-	-
Summer	29 June – 31 August 2013	29 June – August 2013
Public/religious holidays	1 November 2012 1 January 2013 1 – 3 May 2013 30 May 2013	1 November 2012 1 January 2013 1 – 3 May 2013 30 May 2013
Starting date of teachers' school year	3 September 2012	3 September 2012
End of teachers' school year	28 June 2013	28 June 2013

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.

ROMANIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	10 September 2012	10 September 2012
End of students' school year	21 June 2013	21 June 2013
Autumn holidays	1 week 29 October – 4 November 2012	-
Christmas/New Year	3 weeks 22 December 2012 – 13 January 2013	3 weeks 22 December 2012 – 13 January 2013
Winter/Carnival		
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 6 April – 21 April 2013	2 weeks 6 April – 21 April 2013
Third term	-	-
Summer	11 weeks 22 June – 08 September 2013	11 weeks 22 June – 08 September 2013
Public/religious holidays	3 days 1 May 2013 6 May 2013 24 June 2013	3 days 1 May 2013 6 May 2013 24 June 2013
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2012	1 September 2012
End of teachers' school year	31 August 2013	31 August 2013

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

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 178 school days (36 weeks) is maintained and all pupils may participate without restrictions in national examinations.

The structure of school year is approved every year, by an order of the Minister of Education, Research, Youth and Sports.

SLOVAKIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2012	3 September 2012
End of students' school year	28 June 2013	28 June 2013
Autumn holidays	2 days 31 October – 2 November 2012	2 days 31 October – 2 November 2012
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 7 January 2013	2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 7 January 2013
Winter/Carnival	1 day 1 February 2013 1 week, according regions: 18 – 22 February 2013 Košice, Prešov 25 February – 1 March 2013 Banska Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín 4 – 8 March 2013 Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava	1 day 1 February 2013 1 week, according regions: 18 – 22 February 2013 Košice, Prešov 25 February – 1 March 2013 Banska Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín 4 – 8 March 2013 Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava
Spring/Easter	4 days (Easter holidays) 28 March – 2 April 2013	4 days (Easter holidays) 28 March – 2 April 2013
Third term	-	-
Summer	9 weeks 1 July – 30 August 2013	9 weeks 1 July – 30 August 2013
Public/religious holidays	6 days 1 September 2012 15 September 2012 1 November 2012 17 November 2012 1 May 2013 8 May 2013	6 days 1 September 2012 15 September 2012 1 November 2012 17 November 2012 1 May 2013 8 May 2013
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: 1 September to 31 August. If 2 September is Friday, Saturday or Sunday starting date of school year is next Monday.

Following the Labour Code, teachers and head teachers of schools 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 2012/13 school year

	Single structure education	General upper secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2012	3 September 2012
End of students' school year	24 June 2013 14 June 2013 (final grade)	24 June 2013 27 May 2013 (final grade)
Autumn holidays	1 week 29 October – 2 November 2012	1 week 29 October – 2 November 2012
Christmas/New Year	1 week 24 December 2012 – 1 January 2013	1 week 24 December 2012 – 1 January 2013
Winter/Carnival	1 week 18 February – 22 February 2013 (Eastern region) 25 February – 1 March 2013 (Western region)	1 week 18 February – 22 February 2013 (Eastern region) 25 February – 1 March 2013 (Western region)
Spring/Easter	1 day 1 April 2013 (Easter Monday)	1 day 1 April 2013 (Easter Monday)
Third term	1 week 29 April – 3 May 2013	1 week 29 April – 3 May 2013
Summer	10 weeks 25 June – 31 August 2013	10 weeks 25 June – 31 August 2013
Public/religious holidays	8 February 2013 (<i>Prešern</i> Day – Day of Slovene Culture)	8 February 2013 (<i>Prešern</i> Day – Day of Slovene Culture)
Starting date of teachers' school year	At least 10 days before students	At least 10 to 15 days before students
End of teachers' school year	Beginning to mid-July 2013	Beginning to mid-July 2013

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

The school year officially lasts from 1 September to 31 August, however, the lessons end in June.

Single structure education: Slovenia has a single structure compulsory school of 9 years with no differences among separate stages.

Teachers' school year starts 10 to 15 days before the pupils'/students' school year and lasts until the beginning or mid July. The precise length depends on the individually allocated days of annual leave (from 22 to 35 days) and tasks and obligations appointed by the head teacher.

SWEDEN

Organisation of school time in compulsory education (*grundskola*) and in general upper secondary education (*gymnasieskola*) 2012/13 school year

	Single structure compulsory education (<i>grundskola</i>)	General upper secondary education (<i>gymnasieskola</i>)
Starting date of students' school year 2012	Late in August	Late in August
End of students' school year 2013	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 2012	29 October – 2 November 2012	29 October – 2 November 2012
Christmas/New Year 2012/2013	Start between 19 – 21 December 2012 End between 7 – 11 January 2013	Start between 19 – 21 December 2012 End between 7 – 11 January 2013
Winter/Carnival 2013	One week between 11 February – 8 March 2013	One week between 11 February – 8 March 2013
Spring/Easter 2013	One week between 25 March – 5 April 2013	One week between 25 March – 5 April 2013
Summer 2013	About 10 weeks	About 10 weeks
Public/religious holidays	Public holidays outside school holidays are: 29 March 2013 (Good Friday) 1 April 2013 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2013 (Labour Day) 9 May 2013 (Ascension Day) 6 June 2013 (the National Day)	Public holidays outside school holidays are: 29 March 2013 (Good Friday) 1 April 2013 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2013 (Labour Day) 9 May 2013 (Ascension Day) 6 June 2013 (the National 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: 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.

SWITZERLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Staggered between 13 August and 3 September 2012	Staggered between 13 August and 3 September 2012
End of students' school year	Staggered between 21 June and 19 July 2013	Staggered between 21 June and 19 July 2013
Autumn holidays	Between 1 and 3 weeks Staggered between 2 September and 4 November 2012	Between 1 and 3 weeks Staggered between 2 September and 4 November 2012
Christmas/New Year	Between 1 and 2 weeks Staggered between 22 December 2012 and 6 January 2013	Between 1 and 2 weeks Staggered between 22 December 2012 and 6 January 2013
Winter/Carnival	Between 1 and 2 weeks Staggered between 26 January and 3 March 2013	Between 1 and 2 weeks Staggered between 26 January and 3 March 2013
Spring/Easter	Between 1 and 2 weeks Staggered between 23 March and 12 May 2013	Between 1 and 2 weeks Staggered between 23 March and 12 May 2013
Third term	-	-
Summer	Between 5 and 10 weeks Staggered between 22 June and 1 September 2013	Between 5 and 10 weeks Staggered between 22 June and 1 September 2013
Public/religious holidays	1 August 2012 20 May 2013	1 August 2012 20 May 2013
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 August 2012	1 August 2012
End of teachers' school year	31 July 2013	31 July 2013

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

According to Switzerland's federal structure, the starting date / end of students' school year (for details see table I) and school holidays vary between cantons, in some cantons even between municipalities (for details see table II).

With a few exceptions the teachers' official school year starts on 1st August and ends on 31 July. However, it is at the school's discretion to decide whether teachers are expected to start or end later (in order to attend meetings, to prepare for teaching, etc.).

The only national holiday is 1 August (National Day). All other public and religious holidays are fixed by the cantons. New Year's Day, Ascension and Christmas Day are the only holidays all cantons have in common. In most cantons Good Friday, Easter Monday, Whit Monday and Boxing Day are also official holidays.

SWITZERLAND (CONTINUED)

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

Canton	Beginning of students' school year 2012/13	End of students' school year 2012/13	Summer holidays 2013
Aargau	13 August 2012	19 July 2013	20 July – 11 August
Appenzell Innerrhoden*	13 August 2012	5 July 2013	6 July – 18 August
Appenzell Ausserrhoden	13 August 2012	5 July 2013	6 July – 11 August
Bern*	13 August 2012	5 July 2013	6 July – 11 August
Basel-Landschaft	13 August 2012	28 June 2013	29 June – 11 August
Basel-Stadt	13 August 2012	28 June 2013	29 June – 11 August
Fribourg*	23 August 2012	5 July 2013	6 July – 21 August
Geneva	27 August 2012	28 June 2013	29 June – 25 August
Glarus	13 August 2012	28 June 2013	29 June – 11 August
Graubünden*	20 August 2012	28 June 2013	29 June – 18 August
Jura	20 August 2012	5 July 2013	6 July – 18 August
Lucerne	20 August 2012	5 July 2013	6 July – 18 August
Neuchâtel	20 August 2012	5 July 2013	6 July – 18 August
Nidwalden*	20 August 2012	5 July 2013	6 July – 18 August
Obwalden*	20 August 2012	5 July 2013	6 July – 18 August
St. Gallen	13 August 2012	5 July 2013	6 July – 11 August
Schaffhausen	13 August 2012	5 July 2013	6 July – 11 August
Solothurn	13 August 2012	5 July 2013	6 July – 11 August
Schwyz*	13 August 2012	5 July 2013	6 July – 11 August
Thurgau	13 August 2012	5 July 2013	6 July – 11 August
Ticino	3 September 2012	21 June 2013	22 June – 1 September
Uri*	20 August 2012	5 July 2013	6 July – 18 August
Vaud	27 August 2012	5 July 2013	6 July – 27 August
Valais*	16 August 2012	21 June 2013	22 June – 18 August
Zug	20 August 2012	5 July 2013	6 July – 18 August
Zurich*	20 August 2012	12 July 2013	13 July – 18 August

* with variation between regions / municipalities

SWITZERLAND (CONTINUED)

TABLE II: Specification of shorter holiday periods

Canton	Autumn 2012	Christmas / New Year 2012/13	Winter 2013	Spring / Easter 2013
Aargau*	29 Sept. – 14 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	variable	13 – 28 April
Appenzell Innerrhoden*	6 – 21 Oct.	22 Dec. – 2 Jan.	9 – 17 Feb.	6 – 21 April
Appenzell Ausserrhoden	6 – 21 Oct.	22 Dec. – 2 Jan.	variable	6 – 21 April
Bern*	22 Sept. – 14 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	variable	6 – 21 April
Basel-Landschaft*	29 Sept. – 14 Oct.	22 Dec. – 2 Jan.	9 – 24 Feb.	23 March – 7 April
Basel-Stadt	29 Sept. – 14 Oct.	22 Dec. – 2 Jan.	9 – 24 Feb.	28 March – 7 April
Fribourg*	13 – 28 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	9 – 17 Feb.	29 March – 14 April
Geneva	20 – 28 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	9 – 17 Feb.	28 March – 7 April
Glarus	6 – 21 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	26 Jan. – 3 Feb.	29 March – 14 April
Graubünden*	6 – 21 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	23 Feb. – 3 March	13 – 28 April
Jura	6 – 21 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	9 – 17 Feb.	29 March – 14 April
Lucerne	29 Sept. – 14 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	2 – 17 Feb.	29 March – 14 April
Neuchâtel	6 – 21 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	23 Feb. – 3 March	29 March – 14 April
Nidwalden*	29 Sept. – 14 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	2 – 17 Feb.	29 March – 14 April
Obwalden*	29 Sept. – 14 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	2 – 17 Feb.	29 March – 14 April
St. Gallen	29 Sept – 21 Oct.	22 Dec. – 2 Jan.	variable	6 – 21 April
Schaffhausen	29 Sept – 21 Oct.	22 Dec. – 2 Jan.	26 Jan. – 9 Feb.	13 – 28 April
Solothurn*	29 Sept – 21 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	2 – 17 Feb.	6 – 21 April
Schwyz*	29 Sept. – 14 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	23 Feb. – 3 March	27 April – 12 May
Thurgau	6 – 21 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	26 Jan. – 3 Feb.	29 March – 14 April
Ticino	27 Oct. – 4 Nov.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	9 – 17 Feb.	29 March – 7 April
Uri*	6 – 21 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	2 – 10 Feb.	29 March – 14 April
Vaud	13 – 28 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	16 – 24 Feb.	28 March – 14 April
Valais*	24 Oct. – 4 Nov.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	9 – 17 Feb.	29 March – 7 April
Zug	6 – 21 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	2 – 17 Feb.	13 – 28 April
Zurich*	6 – 21 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	9 – 24 Feb.	20 April – 5 May

* with variation between regions / municipalities

TURKEY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	17 September 2012	17 September 2012
End of students' school year	14 June 2013	14 June 2013
Christmas/New Year	–	–
Winter/Carnival	2 weeks 28 January – 8 February 2013	2 weeks 28 January – 8 February 2013
Spring/Easter	–	–
Third term	–	–
Summer	13 weeks 14 June – 16 September 2013	13 weeks 14 June – 16 September 2013
Public/religious holidays	25-26 October 2012 (Religious Holiday) 29 October 2012 (Republic Day) 23 April 2013 (Children's Day) 1 May 2013 (Labour Day)	25-26 October 2012 (Religious Holiday) 29 October 2012 (Republic Day) 23 April 2013 (Children's Day) 1 May 2013 (Labour Day)
Starting date of teachers' school year	Beginning September	Beginning September
End of teachers' school year	Beginning July	Beginning July

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

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

A school year is divided into two parts: at the end of a semester, there is a two-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 2012/13 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	The first week of September 2012	The first week of September 2012
End of students' school year	Between 18 and 23 July 2013	Between 18 and 23 July 2013
Autumn holidays	1 week Either 22 – 26 October 2012 or 29 October – 2 November 2012	1 week Either 22 – 26 October 2012 or 29 October – 2 November 2012
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks Between 19 December 2012 and 7 January 2013	2 weeks Between 19 December 2012 and 7 January 2013
Winter/Carnival	1 week Either 11 – 15 February 2013 or 18 – 22 February 2013	1 week Either 11 – 15 February 2013 or 18 – 22 February 2013
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 29 March – 12 April 2013	2 weeks 29 March – 12 April 2013
Third term	1 week 27 – 31 May 2013	1 week 27 – 31 May 2013
Summer	6 weeks Between 24 July and the first week of September 2013	6 weeks Between 24 July and the first week of September 2013
Public/religious holidays	6 May 2013 – early May Bank Holiday	6 May 2013 – early May Bank Holiday
Starting date of teachers' school year	The first week of September 2012	The first week of September 2012
End of teachers' school year	Between 18 and 23 July 2013	Between 18 and 23 July 2013

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes: Schools must be open to pupils for at least 380 half day sessions each school year. Teachers are required to be available for five additional days, ie for 195 days in total. The actual dates on which schools operate are not laid down centrally; they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the local authority (LA) or school governing body.

The table shows the most common patterns for term dates and holidays. 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.

There is currently movement towards the adoption of a standard school year, consistent year on year. The standard school year is divided into six blocks of roughly even length which are more evenly distributed throughout the year: two, approximately seven-week blocks before Christmas, followed by four approximately six-week blocks afterwards. The spring break is taken around the first two weeks of April irrespective of the timing of Easter. A 2008 Local Government Association (LGA) survey found that, since its introduction in 2004/05, 79 local authorities out of 125 had adopted the standard school year fully or in part.

UNITED KINGDOM – NORTHERN IRELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2012	3 September 2012
End of students' school year	30 June 2013	30 June 2013
Autumn holidays	2 days 31 October – 1 November 2012	2 days 31 October – 1 November 2012
Christmas/New Year	1.5 weeks 24 December 2012 – 1 January 2013	1.5 weeks 24 December 2012 – 1 January 2013
Winter/Carnival	2 days 18 – 19 February 2013	2 days 18 – 19 February 2013
Spring/Easter	1.5 weeks 28 March – 5 April 2013	1.5 weeks 28 March – 5 April 2013
Third term	–	–
Summer	9 weeks Between 1 July and the first week of September 2013	9 weeks Between 1 July and the first week of September 2013
Public/religious holidays	18 March 2013 – St Patrick's Day (not all schools) 6 May 2013 – early May Bank Holiday 27 May 2013 – late May Bank Holiday	18 March 2013 – St Patrick's Day (not all schools) 6 May 2013 – early May Bank Holiday 27 May 2013 – late May Bank Holiday
Starting date of teachers' school year	3 September 2012	3 September 2012
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2013	30 June 2013

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

The table shows the dates on which schools are closed to pupils. Teachers must attend on 5 of these dates for training and development purposes.

Schools are required to be in operation for 200 days a year; however, schools have the discretion to close for up to 5 optional days. Optional days are intended to cover closings throughout the year in special circumstances, for example the death of a person connected with the school, the need to move premises, the start of building work at the school or church holy days. These optional days are therefore likely to differ from school to school.

Schools may also close for up to 5 School Development Days each year.

UNITED KINGDOM - SCOTLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Mid-August 2012	Mid-August 2012
End of students' school year	End June/early July 2013	End June/early July 2013
Autumn holidays	Many schools will take from 1 to 2 weeks in mid-October 2012 but others will take from 1 to 3 days spread out between 3 September and 3 December 2012	Many schools will take from 1 to 2 weeks in mid-October 2012 but others will take from 1 to 3 days spread out between 3 September and 3 December 2012
Christmas/New Year	Around 2 weeks between 20 December 2012 to 7 January 2013	Around 2 weeks between 20 December 2012 to 7 January 2013
Winter/Carnival	From 1 day to 1 week between 11 and 18 February 2013	From 1 day to 1 week between 11 and 18 February 2013
Spring/Easter	About 2 weeks between 25 March and 15 April 2013	About 2 weeks between 25 March and 15 April 2013
Summer mid-term holidays	Generally schools will take at least 1 day on 6 May 2013 but some schools will also take up to 3 days between 29 April and 31 May 2013	Generally schools will take at least 1 day on 6 May 2013 but some schools will also take up to 3 days between 29 April and 31 May 2013
Summer	End June/early July 2013	End June/early July 2013
Public/religious holidays	Up to 3 days	Up to 3 days
Starting date of teachers' school year	Mid-August 2012	Mid-August 2012
End of teachers' school year	End June/early July 2013	End June/early July 2013

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.