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Eurydice Voice



Eurydice *Back to school*

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Welcome

Welcome to Eurydice Voice!

A new school year begins: let curiosity lead the way!

As students return to classrooms, it's not just about fresh notebooks and sharpened pencils: it's about fresh questions and a renewed sense of curiosity. At the heart of every new school year lies the drive to understand: how things work and what we can do better.

This Eurydice Voice Back-to-School Edition is all about asking and answering questions that shape our school systems and influence the lives of pupils across Europe.

So, let's start:

How are school and academic calendars organised across Europe? Discover when the school year starts and ends, how holidays are scheduled, and the differences across countries. If you are planning a student or staff mobility, you may be interested to know when the academic year starts in the different European countries.

How does instruction time vary across Europe? Explore how much time students spend on core subjects and how much flexibility schools have on the compulsory curriculum.

How are teachers paid across Europe? Dive into our interactive tool comparing salaries, allowances, and career structures for teachers and school heads in 37 countries.

How are European education systems organised? From primary to tertiary education, explore the models, pathways, and structures that shape learning across Europe in 2025.

This school year, let's celebrate curiosity: because when we question, we grow. Scroll down to explore, compare, and discover new things!

How is the school and academic year organised across Europe?

School calendars in Europe - 2025/2026

How is the school year organised across Europe? The approaches vary across countries. The school year starts on 1 September in half of the countries, while pupils in other countries may go back to school in August or later in September. The differences are even more important concerning the holiday rhythm.



While some countries organise up to four 2-week breaks during the school year (the French Community of Belgium, France and Switzerland) pupils in Bulgaria (secondary education), Italy, Montenegro and North Macedonia only have one longer break per year.

Depending on the country, pupils may have between 6 and 14 weeks for the summer holidays, 10 weeks on average. Eurydice is releasing the school calendars as an interactive web-tool, providing information on the start of the school year and holidays.

[more](#)

Start of the academic year in Europe - 2025/2026

The academic calendar plays a crucial role in determining the feasibility and preferences for student and staff mobility. For example, if the academic year started and finished at similar times, planning mobility periods for students and staff would be easier. Discover our data and visuals on the start of the academic year to explore how it works across Europe.

[more](#)

How does instruction time vary across Europe?

Recommended annual instruction time in full-time compulsory education in Europe – 2024/2025

Effective learning depends on many factors, but undoubtedly, the instruction time available to students plays a key role in their learning process. Along with the quality of instruction and the time available for learning after school, the increase in the amount of instruction time allocated to a discipline can help to raise students' interest in that subject and can have a positive effect on students' performance.



How much time do students spend on core subjects at school, and how does the instruction time vary across Europe? This new report provides a comprehensive overview of the recommended minimum instruction time by education level and across four core subjects areas (i.e. reading, writing and literature; mathematics; natural sciences and social sciences) in full-time general compulsory education in 38 education systems.

Data collection was a joint undertaking between the Eurydice and the OECD NESLI network.

[more](#)

How are teachers paid across Europe?

Teachers' and school heads' salaries and allowances in Europe

Attracting and retaining qualified educators is a challenge, prompting investment in professional development and remuneration. Explore teachers and school heads salaries and career development across Europe with the Eurydice interactive tool!

Discover comparative and national data on salaries and allowances for full-time teachers and school heads in public schools across 37 European countries that are members of the Eurydice Network.

The tool offers information in interactive and open data format. It covers pre-primary, primary and general lower and upper secondary levels. Users can consult and explore information on salaries and their evolution in time, salary progression per career stage, trends, qualification requirements. Data can be exported for easy analysis. Detailed data can also be downloaded in open data format. Check it out!

[more](#)

How are european education systems organised?

The structure of the European education systems 2025/2026: schematic diagrams

Europe displays a variety of approaches to education that sometimes translates into multi-layered and complex systems.

What are the different models of organisation in primary and secondary education and how long does each education level last? How diverse are the programmes offered at tertiary level? Find the answers to these questions in Eurydice's data and visuals "The structure of European education systems".

The updated national diagrams will help you navigate the different education programmes and institutions through schematic information on how countries across Europe organise their education systems. This webtool depicts the structure of education and training systems from early childhood education and care to tertiary level for the 2025/2026 school/academic year. The information covers 39 European education systems in 37 countries participating in the Erasmus+ programme.

[more](#)

Country news

Ukraine: Recognition of schoolchildren's learning outcomes acquired abroad is now regulated

In June 2025, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted a resolution approving the procedure for recognising the learning outcomes of schoolchildren who have received formal and/or non-formal education from providers located abroad.

[more](#)

Italy: A new curriculum for preprimary, primary and lower secondary education by 2026/2027

The Ministry of education and merit has revised the curriculum for preprimary school and for the first cycle of education. The new curriculum will apply from school year 2026/2027.

[more](#)


Estonia: Changes to the start of the school day and learning environment rules from 2026

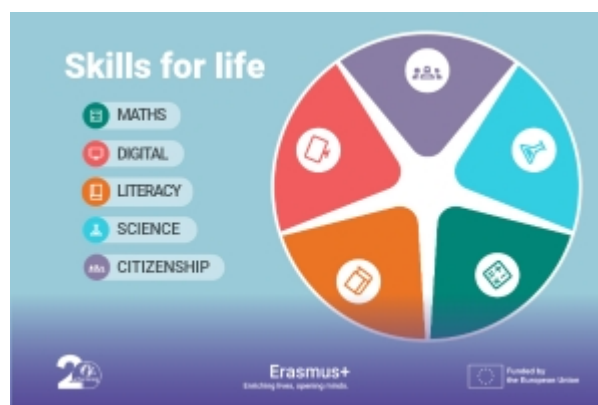
From September 2026, Estonian schools will start at 9 AM instead of 8 AM, under a new regulation that streamlines rules and prioritises students' health and well-being. Research shows later start times better support adolescents' sleep and development.

[more](#)


News

Launch of new eTwinning annual theme 2025/2026: Skills for life

This school year eTwinning is focussing on 'Skills for life', as part of the EU's work to improve basic skills across Europe. The new annual theme supports the 'Basic skills action plan', which aims to raise achievement in 5 essential skills: literacy, mathematics, science, digital and citizenship.

[more](#)


European Statistics Competition

The European Statistics Competition (ESC) is back in 2026! This Europe-wide initiative promotes statistical literacy among students and fosters the use of official statistics in schools. Organised by Eurostat together with the national statistical institutes of the European Statistical System (ESS), the competition invites secondary school teams and their teachers to take on statistical challenges and create engaging stories with official data.

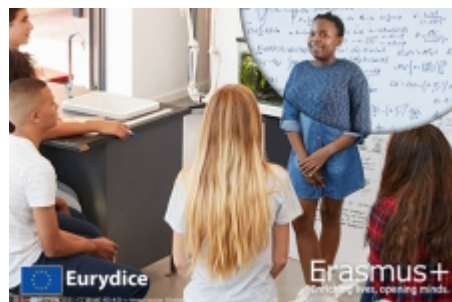
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Who we are

Who we are - The Eurydice Network

The Eurydice Network's task is to provide reliable information and comprehensive analyses of European education systems and policies. The network drafts descriptions of national education systems, comparative studies devoted to specific topics, indicators and statistics.



Through its work, Eurydice aims to promote understanding, cooperation, trust and mobility at European and international levels. All Eurydice publications are available free of charge on the Eurydice website. The network consists of national units located in European countries and is coordinated by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency.

[more](#)

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