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Commission

The organisation of school time in Europe

Primary and general
secondary education
2023/2024

Eurydice – *Facts and Figures*



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The organisation of school time in Europe

**Primary and general
secondary education**

2023/2024

Eurydice – Facts and Figures

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European Education and Culture Executive Agency
Platforms, Studies and Analysis
Avenue du Bourget 1 (J-70 – Unit A6)
BE-1049 Brussels
E-mail: eacea-eurydice@ec.europa.eu
Website: <http://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu>

INTRODUCTION

This report gives an overview on the start of the school year and its length as well as the timing and length of school holidays. It covers both primary and general secondary education. The information is available for the 37 countries participating in the EU's Erasmus+ programme (27 EU Member States, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia and Türkiye). The reference year is 2023/2024.

KEY POINTS

The school year generally starts at the beginning of September

In most of the European education systems, the school year starts in September. It starts on 1 September in 11 education systems ⁽¹⁾. Students in Malta are the last to return to school at the end of September. In eight education systems, school starts in August ⁽²⁾. It may start as early as 9 August in Finland.

The length of the summer holidays varies a lot across Europe

In Europe, the summer holidays generally start between the end of May and the second half of July. In the majority of the education systems, students have between 8 and 12 weeks.

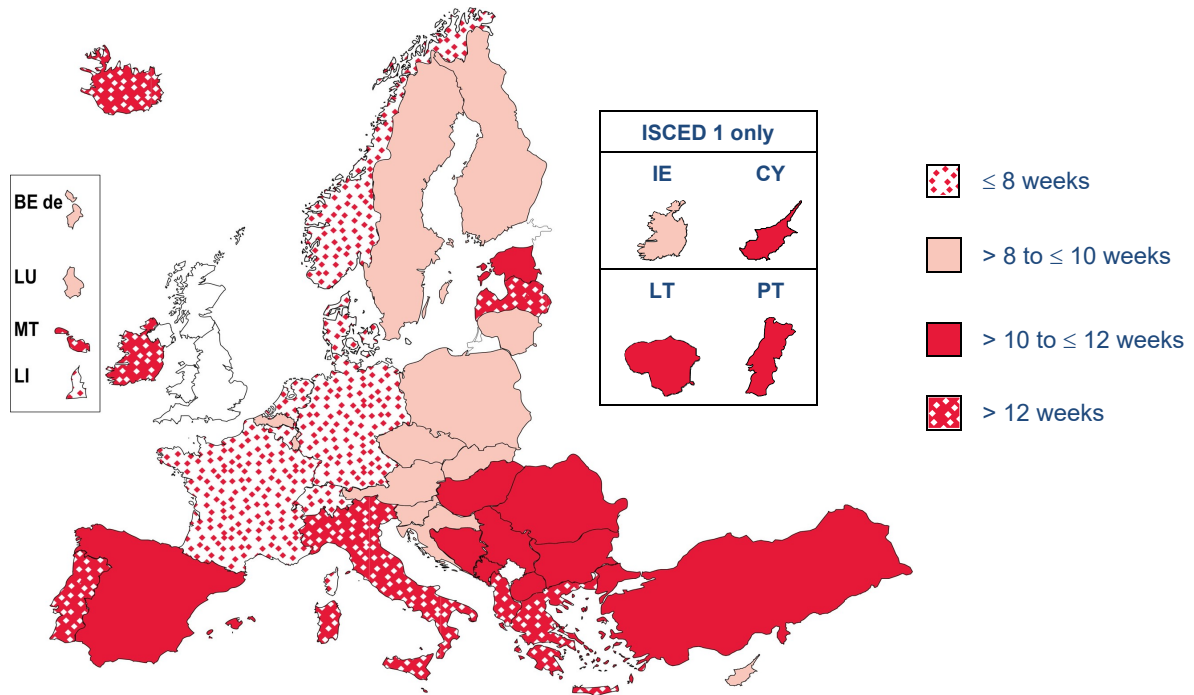
However, the length of the summer holidays varies significantly between countries (see Figure 1). They last no more than 8 weeks in the French Community of Belgium, Denmark, some German *Länder*, France, the Netherlands, some Swiss cantons, Liechtenstein and Norway. At the opposite end, students are on holidays for more than 12 weeks in Ireland (ISCED 2 and 3), Greece, Latvia, Malta, Portugal (ISCED 2), Albania, Iceland (ISCED 2-3), and in most regions in Italy.

In some countries, the length of the summer holidays varies depending on the level of education. In Lithuania, students in primary education have two more weeks than those in general secondary education. In three countries, students in primary education have more holidays than those in general secondary education. They may have one month more in Portugal (depending on grade), two more weeks in Lithuania, and one and a half week more in Cyprus; Conversely, students in general secondary education have longer summer holidays. In Iceland they have two weeks less and in Ireland about four weeks less.

(1) Belgium (German-speaking and Flemish Communities), Estonia, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia, North Macedonia and Serbia

(2) In the French Community of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. It may also be the case in Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands depending on the region or the school.

Figure 1: Length of summer holidays (in weeks) in primary and general secondary education (ISCED 1-3), 2023/2024



Source: Eurydice.

Explanatory note

See Figure 2.

Data are available as open data at <https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/publications/organisation-school-time-europe-primary-and-general-secondary-education-20232024>.

Country-specific notes

Belgium (Flemish Community): the data has not been validated by the Eurydice National Unit.

Spain, Croatia, Italy, Malta and Portugal: the exact dates for the start of the school year in 2024/2025 are not yet available. The summer period is calculated with the assumption that students will come back to school at the same period as in 2023/2024.

Portugal: In the last two grades of ISCED 3, the duration can be 8 weeks or less.

Iceland: the map shows the category for ISCED 3. For ISCED 1 and 2, the duration is between 10 and 12 weeks.

Figure 2: Length of the school year and distribution of holidays in primary and general education (ISCED 1-3), 2023/2024

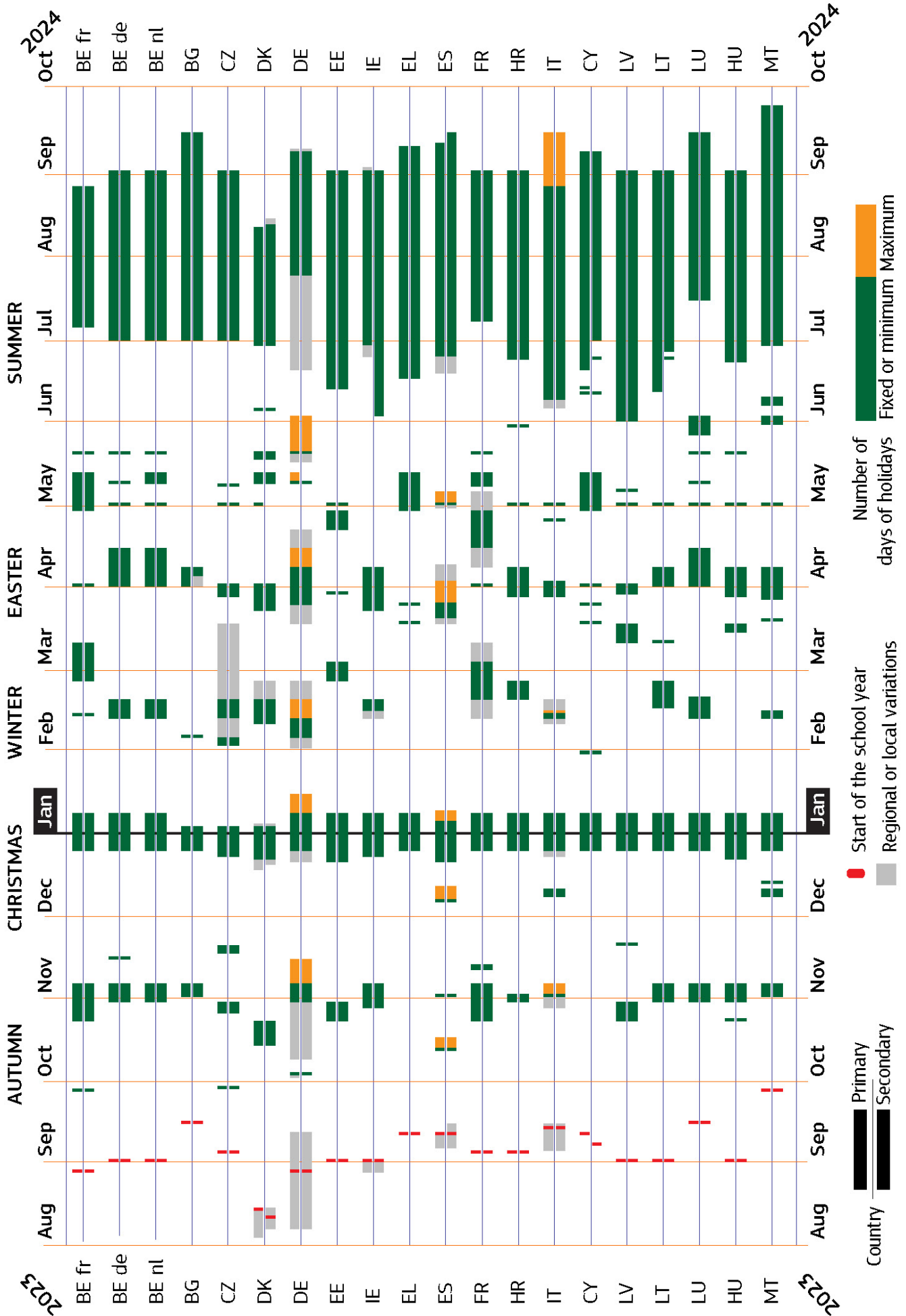
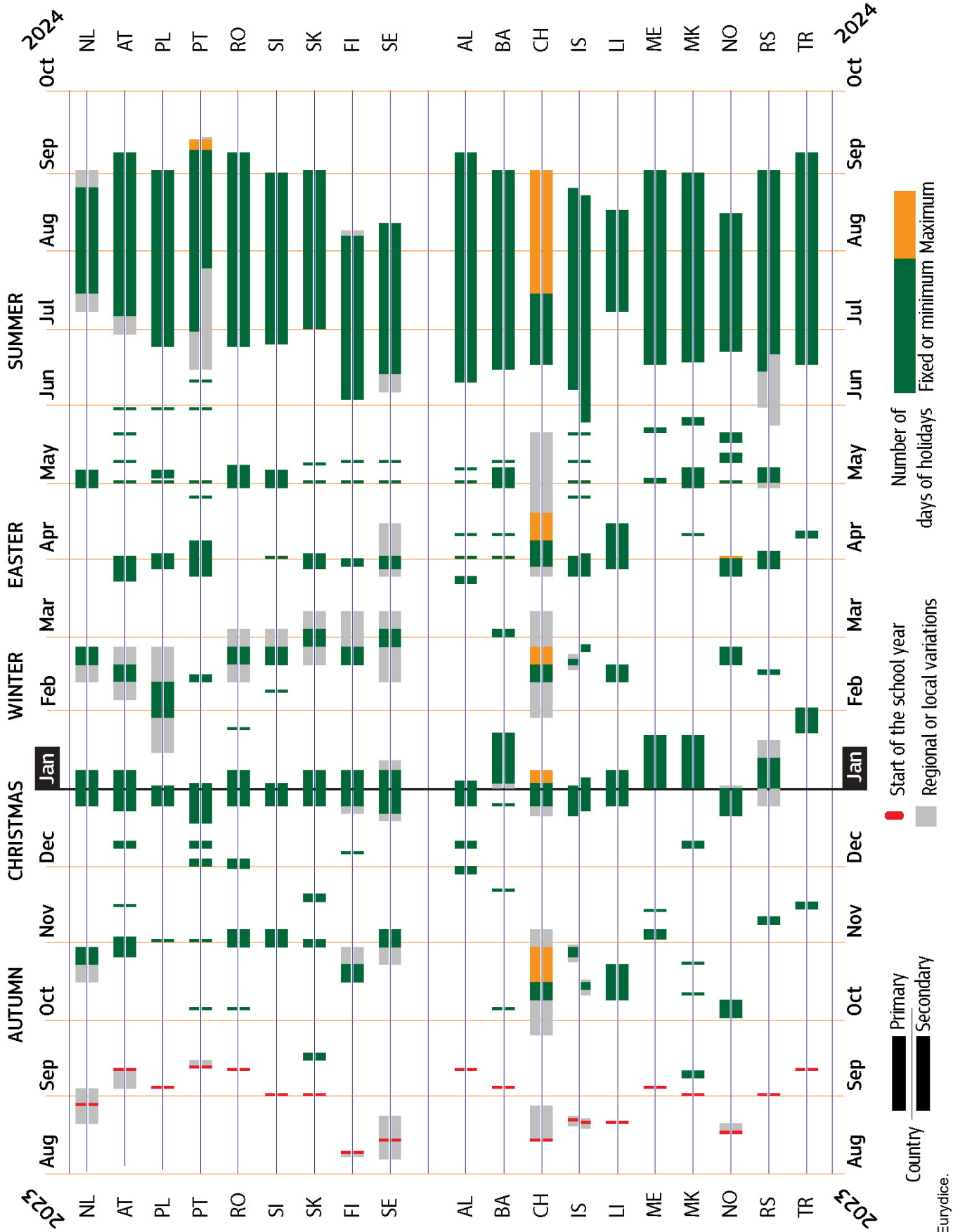


Figure 2 (continued): Length of the school year and distribution of holidays in primary and general education (ISCED 1-3), 2023/2024



Explanatory note

See in Annex the figures including, when applicable, school calendars depending on the region or the zone. All dates are also available as open data at: <https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/publications/organisation-school-time-europe-primary-and-general-secondary-education-20232024>

Beginning of the school year: the first day when students are meant to resume school activities, usually after the longest holiday period. It is the day that is indicated in official documents even if it is not an instruction day.

Holiday period: days when students are not required to be present at school (compared to usual school week). This includes public holidays. Examination periods (even if taken outside the schools), school trips when some or all students are not present at school are not considered, even if only some students are required to attend.

When there is a holiday period immediately before a weekend, the days of the weekend that follows are included as part of the holiday period.

When a holiday period lasts for a week or more, the weekends during the holiday period and at the end of the holiday period are included. However, the weekend before is not included even if the holiday period is starting on a Monday.

The figure does not take into account specific minimum number of days for students in the final grade of an education cycle.

Longer holiday periods for specific regions or tracks, indicated as 'maximum duration' in Figure 3, are not considered.

The figure does not take into account specific minimum number of days for students in the final grade of an education cycle.

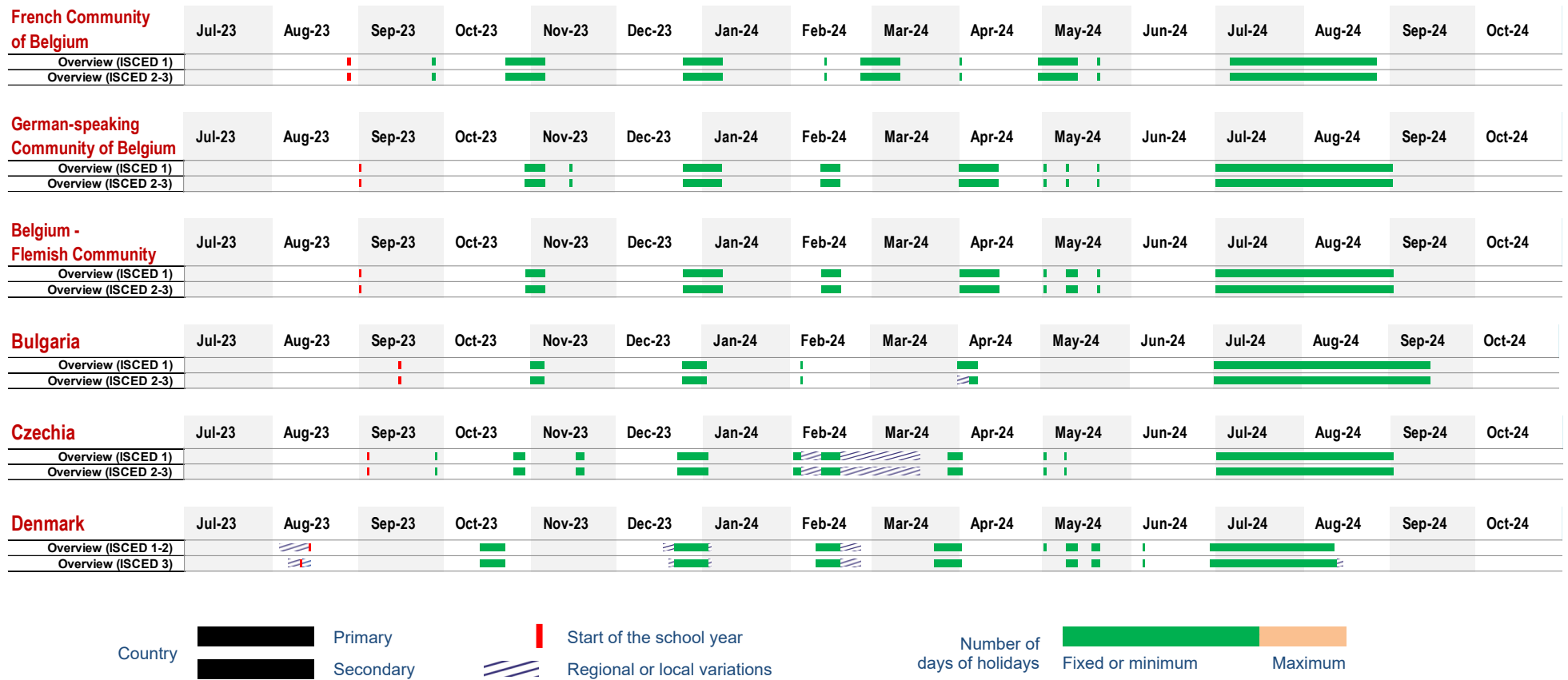
Country-specific notes

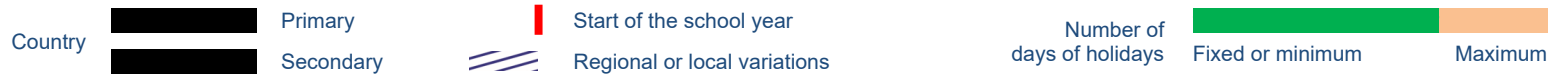
Belgium (Flemish Community): the data has not been validated by the Eurydice National Unit.

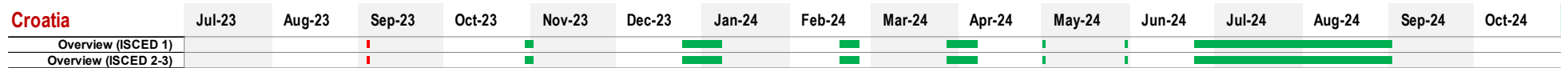
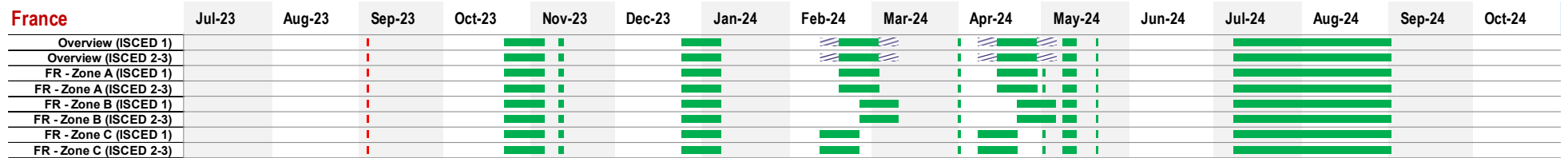
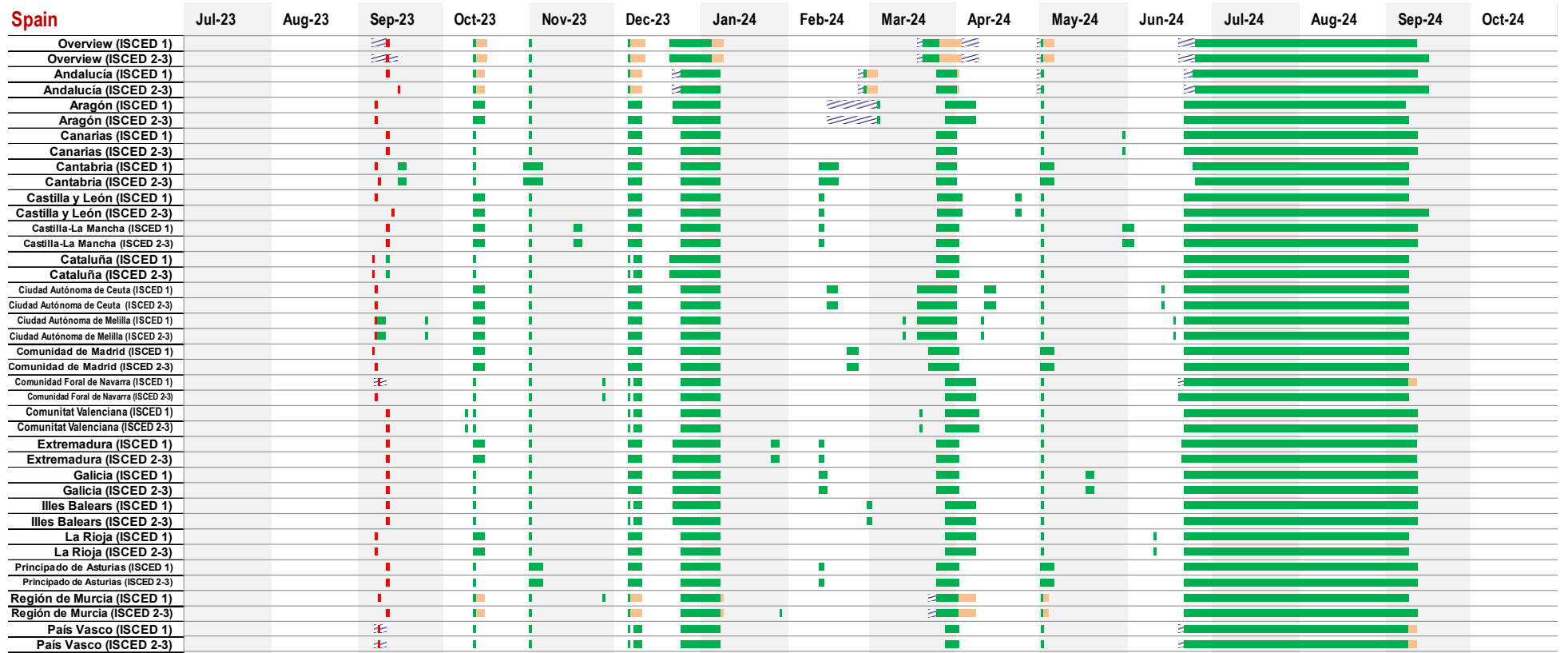
Denmark, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Norway and Serbia: the distinction is made between primary and lower secondary education (single structure) on one hand and upper secondary on the other hand.

Portugal: the variation occurs between grades.

Spain, Croatia, Italy, Malta and Portugal: the exact dates for the start of the school year in 2024/2025 are not yet available. The summer period is calculated with the assumption that students will come back to school at the same period as in 2023/2024.







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

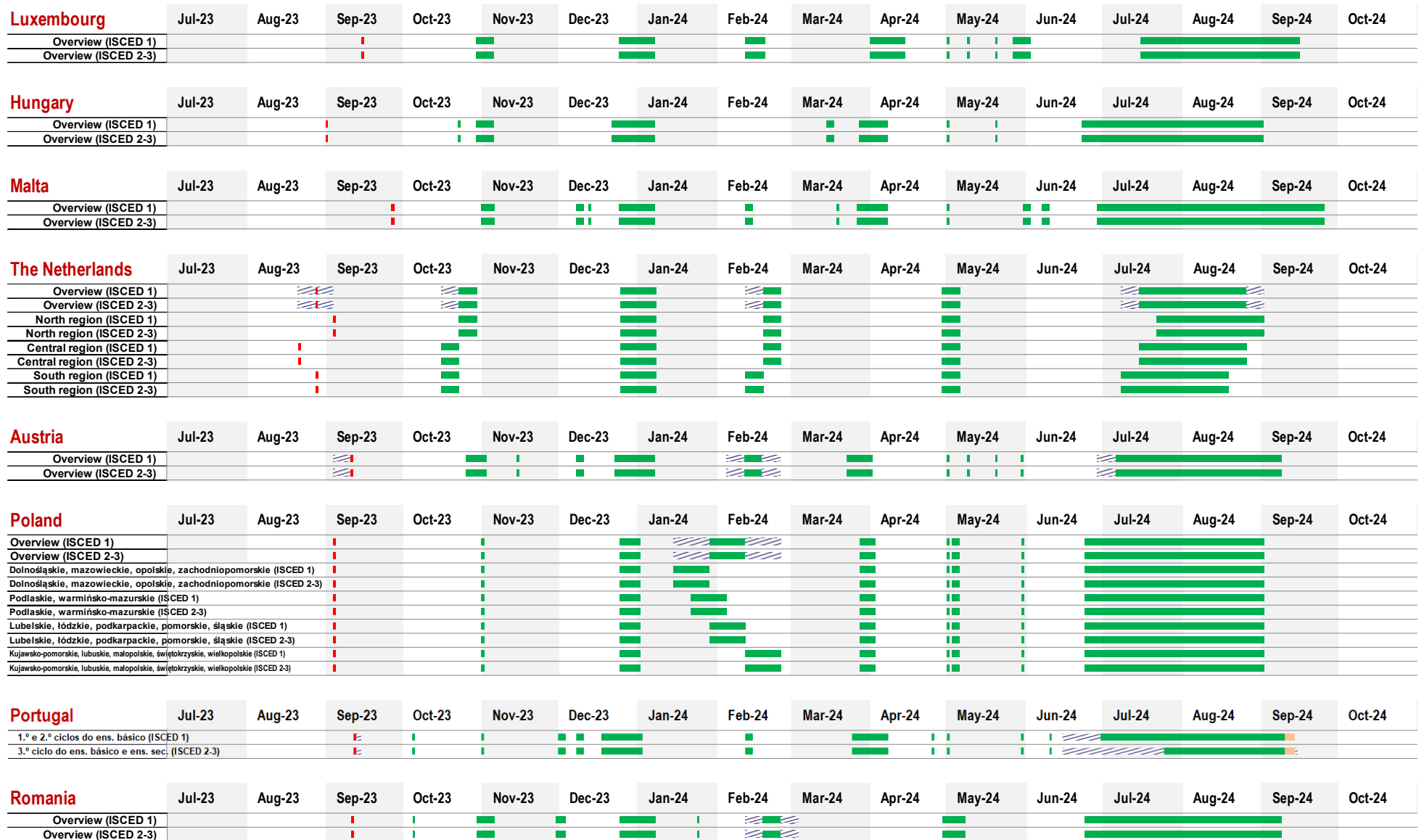
Italy	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24
National overview (ISCED 1)																
National overview (ISCED 2-3)																
Abruzzo (ISCED 1)																
Abruzzo (ISCED 2-3)																
Basilicata (ISCED 1)																
Basilicata (ISCED 2-3)																
Bolzano - Trentino Alto Adige (ISCED 1)																
Bolzano - Trentino Alto Adige (ISCED 2-3)																
Calabria (ISCED 1)																
Calabria (ISCED 2-3)																
Campania (ISCED 1)																
Campania (ISCED 2-3)																
Emilia-Romagna (ISCED 1)																
Emilia Romagna (ISCED 2-3)																
Friuli Venezia Giulia (ISCED 1)																
Friuli Venezia Giulia (ISCED 2-3)																
Lazio (ISCED 1)																
Lazio (ISCED 2-3)																
Liguria (ISCED 1)																
Liguria (ISCED 2-3)																
Lombardia (ISCED 1)																
Lombardia (ISCED 2-3)																
Marche (ISCED 1)																
Marche (ISCED 2-3)																
Molise (ISCED 1)																
Molise (ISCED 2-3)																
Piemonte (ISCED 1)																
Piemonte (ISCED 2-3)																
Puglia (ISCED 1)																
Puglia (ISCED 2-3)																
Sardegna (ISCED 1)																
Sardegna (ISCED 2-3)																
Sicilia (ISCED 1)																
Sicilia (ISCED 2-3)																
Toscana (ISCED 1)																
Toscana (ISCED 2-3)																
Trento - Trentino Alto Adige (ISCED 1)																
Trento - Trentino Alto Adige (ISCED 2-3)																
Umbria (ISCED 1)																
Umbria (ISCED 2-3)																
Valle D'Aosta (ISCED 1)																
Valle D'Aosta (ISCED 2-3)																
Veneto (ISCED 1)																
Veneto (ISCED 2-3)																

Cyprus	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24
Overview (ISCED 1)																
Overview (ISCED 2-3)																

Latvia	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24
Overview (ISCED 1)																
Overview (ISCED 2-3)																

Lithuania	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24
Overview (ISCED 1)																
Overview (ISCED 2-3)																





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

Slovenia	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24
Overview (ISCED 1)			█		█		█	█	█		█		█	█	█	
Overview (ISCED 2-3)			█		█		█	█	█		█		█	█	█	
Western region (ISCED 1)			█		█		█	█	█		█		█	█	█	
Western region (ISCED 2-3)			█		█		█	█	█		█		█	█	█	
Eastern region (ISCED 1)			█		█		█	█	█		█		█	█	█	
Eastern region (ISCED 2-3)			█		█		█	█	█		█		█	█	█	

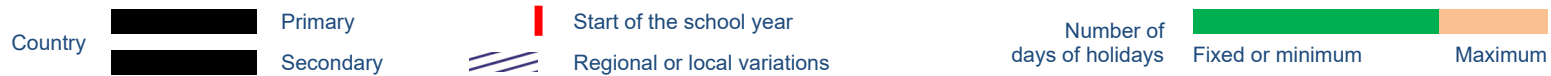
Slovakia	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24
Overview (ISCED 1)			█		█		█	█	█		█		█	█	█	
Overview (ISCED 2-3)			█		█		█	█	█		█		█	█	█	
Banská Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín reg. (ISCED 1)			█		█		█	█	█		█		█	█	█	
Banská Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín reg. (ISCED 2-3)			█		█		█	█	█		█		█	█	█	
Košice, Prešov regions (ISCED 1)			█		█		█	█	█		█		█	█	█	
Košice, Prešov regions (ISCED 2-3)			█		█		█	█	█		█		█	█	█	
Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava regions (ISCED 1)			█		█		█	█	█		█		█	█	█	
Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava regions (ISCED 2-3)			█		█		█	█	█		█		█	█	█	

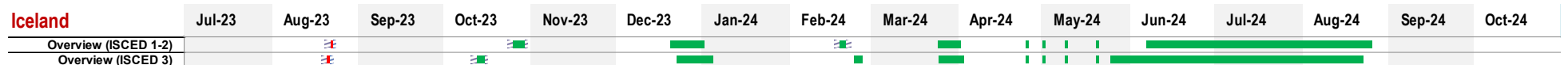
Finland	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24
Overview (ISCED 1)		█		█		█	█	█	█		█		█	█	█	
Overview (ISCED 2-3)		█		█		█	█	█	█		█		█	█	█	

Sweden	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24
Overview (ISCED 1)		█		█		█	█	█	█		█		█	█	█	
Overview (ISCED 2-3)		█		█		█	█	█	█		█		█	█	█	

Albania	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24
Overview (ISCED 1-2)			█			█	█		█		█		█	█	█	
Overview (ISCED 3)			█			█	█		█		█		█	█	█	

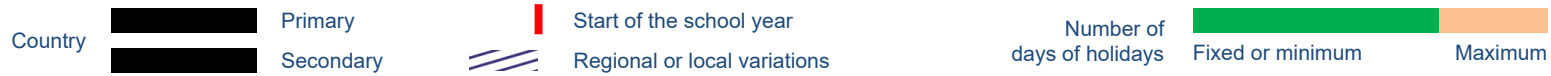
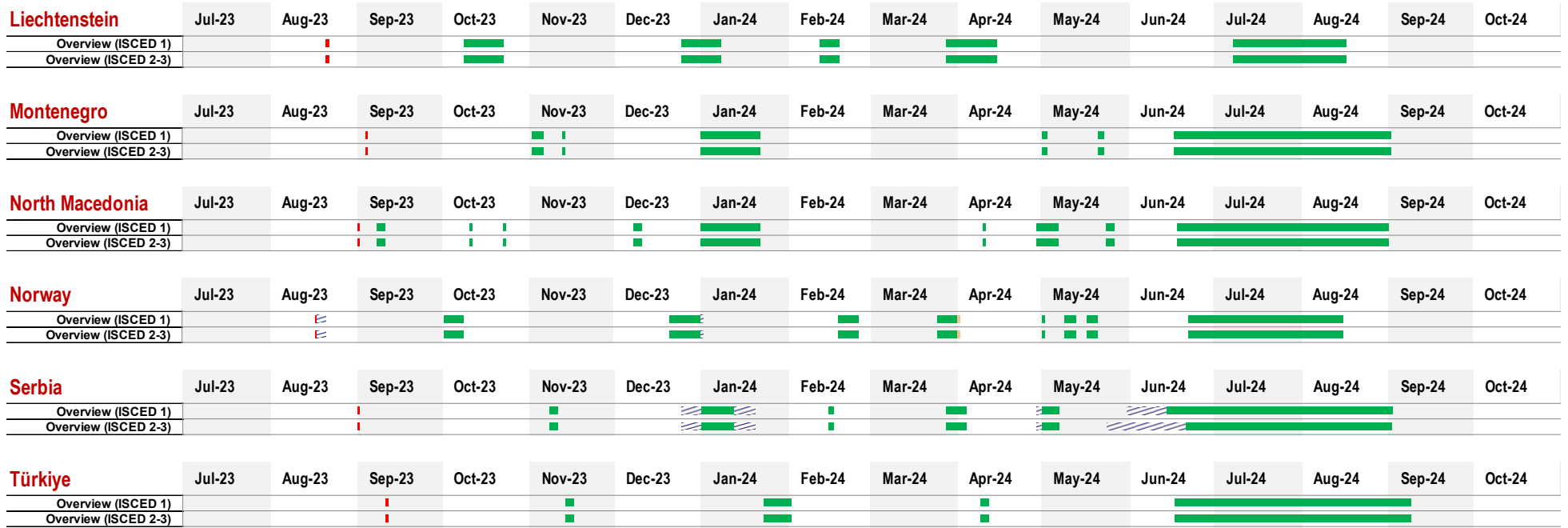
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24
Prim. Sch.; B&H (ISCED 1 and 2)			█		█		█	█	█		█		█	█	█	
Sec. Sch.; B&H (ISCED 3)			█		█		█	█	█		█		█	█	█	
Prim. Sch.; Republika Srpska (ISCED 1 and 2)			█		█		█	█	█		█		█	█	█	
Sec. Sch.; Republika Srpska (ISCED 3)			█		█		█	█	█		█		█	█	█	
Prim. Sch.; Federation of B&H (ISCED 1 and 2)			█		█		█	█	█		█		█	█	█	
Sec. Sch.; Federation of B&H (ISCED 3)			█		█		█	█	█		█		█	█	█	





Country

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



**EUROPEAN EDUCATION AND CULTURE
EXECUTIVE AGENCY**

Platforms, Studies and Analysis

Avenue du Bourget 1 (J-70 – Unit A6)

B-1049 Brussels

[\(https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/\)](https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/)

Managing editor

Marie-Pascale Balcon

Author

Jari Matti Riiheläinen

Graphics and layout

Patrice Brel

Production coordinator

Gisèle De Lel

EURYDICE NATIONAL UNITS

ALBANIA

Eurydice Unit
Ministry of Education and Sport
Rruga e Durrësit, Nr. 23
1001 Tiranë
Contribution of the Unit: Egest Gjokuta

AUSTRIA

Eurydice-Informationsstelle
Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und
Forschung
Abt. Bildungsstatistik und –monitoring
Minoritenplatz 5
1010 Wien
Contribution of the Unit: joint responsibility

BELGIUM

Unité Eurydice de la Communauté française
Ministère de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles
Administration Générale de l'Enseignement
Avenue du Port, 16 – Bureau 4P03
1080 Bruxelles
Contribution of the Unit: joint responsibility

Eurydice Vlaanderen
Departement Onderwijs en Vorming/
Afdeling Strategische Beleidsondersteuning
Hendrik Consciencegebouw 7C10
Koning Albert II-laan 15
1210 Brussel

Eurydice-Informationsstelle der Deutschsprachigen
Gemeinschaft
Ministerium der Deutschsprachigen Gemeinschaft
Fachbereich Ausbildung und Unterrichtsorganisation
Gospertstraße 1
4700 Eupen
Contribution of the Unit: joint responsibility

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Ministry of Civil Affairs
Education Sector
Trg BiH 3
71000 Sarajevo
Contribution of the Unit: joint responsibility

BULGARIA

Eurydice Unit
Human Resource Development Centre
Education Research and Planning Unit
15, Graf Ignatiev Str.
1000 Sofia
Contribution of the Unit: Marchela Mitova and
Lachezar Stamatov

CROATIA

Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes
Frankopanska 26
10000 Zagreb
Contribution of the Unit: Lucija Kičinbaći

CYPRUS

Eurydice Unit
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth
Kimonos and Thoukydidou
1434 Nicosia
Contribution of the Unit: joint responsibility

CZECHIA

Eurydice Unit
Czech National Agency for International Education and
Research
Dům zahraniční spolupráce
Na Poříčí 1035/4
110 00 Praha 1
Contribution of the Unit: Andrea Turynová and
Petra Prchlíková

DENMARK

Eurydice Unit
Ministry of Higher Education and Science
Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science
Haraldsgade 53
2100 Copenhagen Ø
Contribution of the Unit: The Ministry of Children and
Education

ESTONIA

Eurydice Unit
Ministry of Education and Research
Munga 18
50088 Tartu
Contribution of the Unit: Inga Kukk

FINLAND

Eurydice Unit
Finnish National Agency for Education
P.O. Box 380
00531 Helsinki
Contribution of the Unit: Hanna Laakso

FRANCE

Unité française d'Eurydice
Ministère de l'Éducation nationale et de la Jeunesse (MENJ)
Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche
(MESR)
Direction de l'évaluation, de la prospective et de la
performance (DEPP)
Mission aux relations européennes et internationales
(MIREI)
61-65, rue Dutot
75732 Paris Cedex 15
Contribution of the Unit: Anne Gaudry-Lachet in cooperation
with the competent education authorities

Acknowledgements

GERMANY

Eurydice-Informationsstelle des Bundes
Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e. V. (DLR)
Heinrich-Konen Str. 1
53227 Bonn

Eurydice-Informationsstelle der Länder im Sekretariat der
Kultusministerkonferenz
Taubenstraße 10
10117 Berlin
Contribution of the Unit: Thomas Eckhardt

GREECE

Eurydice Unit
Directorate for European and International Affairs
Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports
37 Andrea Papandreou Str. (Office 2172)
15180 Maroussi (Attiki)
Contribution of the Unit: Anastasia Efthimiou and
Ioanna Pouligianni

HUNGARY

Hungarian Eurydice Unit
Educational Authority
19-21 Maros Str.
1122 Budapest
Contribution of the Unit: joint responsibility

ICELAND

Eurydice Unit
The Directorate of Education
Víkurbíó 3
203 Kópavogur
Contribution of the Unit: Hulga Skogland

IRELAND

Eurydice Unit
Department of Education and Skills
International Section
Marlborough Street
Dublin 1 – DO1 RC96
Contribution of the Unit: Yvonne Carroll and Caroline Curran
(Department of Education)

ITALY

Unità italiana di Eurydice
Istituto Nazionale di Documentazione, Innovazione e Ricerca
Educativa (INDIRE)
Agenzia Erasmus+
Via C. Lombroso 6/15
50134 Firenze
Contribution of the Unit: Erica Cimò

LATVIA

Eurydice Unit
State Education Development Agency
Valņu street 1 (5th floor)
1050 Riga
Contribution of the Unit: Viktors Kravchenko

LIECHTENSTEIN

Informationsstelle Eurydice
Schulamt des Fürstentums Liechtenstein
Austrasse 79
Postfach 684
9490 Vaduz
Contribution of the Unit: Belgin Amann

LITHUANIA

Eurydice Unit
National Agency for Education
K. Kalinausko Street 7
03107 Vilnius
Contribution of the Unit: joint responsibility

LUXEMBOURG

Unité nationale d'Eurydice
Anefore
eduPôle Walferdange
Bâtiment 03 - étage 01
Route de Diekirch
7220 Walferdange
Contribution of the Unit: Christine Pegel (Head of the
Eurydice national Unit); expert: Claude Sevenig (Head of
international relations department, Ministry of Education,
Children and Youth)

MALTA

Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and
Innovation
Great Siege Road
Floriana VLT 2000
Contribution of the Unit: Peter Paul Carabott

MONTENEGRO

Eurydice Unit
Vaka Djurovica bb
81000 Podgorica
Contribution of the Unit: Zora Bogicevic (Head of the
Direction for secondary general and vocational education,
Ministry of Education)

NETHERLANDS

Eurydice Nederland
Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap
Directie Internationaal Beleid
Rijnstraat 50
2500 BJ Den Haag
Contribution of the Unit: Mirjam Kalverda, Alex Mulder,
Josine van den Elsen, Charlotte Ruitinga and
Mandy Malinka

NORTH MACEDONIA

National Agency for European Educational Programmes and
Mobility
Boulevard Kuzman Josifovski Pitu, No. 17
1000 Skopje
Contribution of the Unit: joint responsibility

NORWAY

Eurydice Unit
The Directorate for Higher Education and Skills
Postboks 1093,
5809 Bergen
Contribution of the Unit: joint responsibility

Acknowledgements

POLAND

Polish Eurydice Unit
Foundation for the Development of the Education System
Aleje Jerozolimskie 142A
02-305 Warszawa
Contribution of the Unit: Michał Chojnacki in consultation
with the Ministry of Education and Science

PORTUGAL

Portuguese Eurydice Unit
Directorate-General for Education and Science Statistics
Av. 24 de Julho, 134
1399-054 Lisbon
Contribution of the Unit: Margarida Leandro; outside the
Unit: Joaquim Santos

ROMANIA

Eurydice Unit
National Agency for Community Programmes in the Field of
Education and Vocational Training
Universitatea Politehnică București
Biblioteca Centrală
Splaiul Independenței, nr. 313
Sector 6
060042 București
Contribution of the Unit: Veronica – Gabriela Chirea, in
cooperation with experts Viorica Preda (Ministry of
Education) and Ciprian Fartușnic (National Center for Policy
and Evaluation in Education, Education Research Unit)

SERBIA

Eurydice Unit Serbia
Foundation Tempus
Zabljacka 12
11000 Belgrade
Contribution of the Unit: joint responsibility

SLOVAKIA

Eurydice Unit
Slovak Academic Association for International Cooperation
Křížkova 9
811 04 Bratislava
Contribution of the Unit: Martina Valušková

SLOVENIA

Eurydice Slovenia
Ministry of Education
Education Development and Quality Office
Masarykova cesta 16
1000 Ljubljana
Contribution of the Unit: joint responsibility

SPAIN

Instituto Nacional de Evaluación Educativa (INEE)
Ministerio de Educación y Formación Profesional
Paseo del Prado 28
28014 Madrid
Contribution of the Unit: Ana Martín Martínez and
Jaime Vaquero Jiménez

SWEDEN

Eurydice Unit
Universitets- och högskolerådet/
The Swedish Council for Higher Education
Box 4030
171 04 Solna
Contribution of the Unit: joint responsibility

SWITZERLAND

Eurydice Unit
Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (EDK)
Speichergasse 6
3001 Bern
Contribution of the Unit: Marina Wälti

TURKEY

Eurydice Unit
MEB, Strateji Geliştirme Başkanlığı (SGB)
Eurydice Türkiye Birimi, Merkez Bina 4. Kat
B-Blok Bakanlıklar
06648 Ankara
Contribution of the Unit: Osman yıldırım Uğur,
Dilek Güleçyüz, Hatice Nihan Erdal and Gülçin Öz

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The organisation of school time in Europe. Primary and general secondary education – 2023/2024

This report provides an overview of the school calendars for primary and general secondary education in 37 European countries. It presents information on the start of the school year and its length as well as the timing and length of school holidays.

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