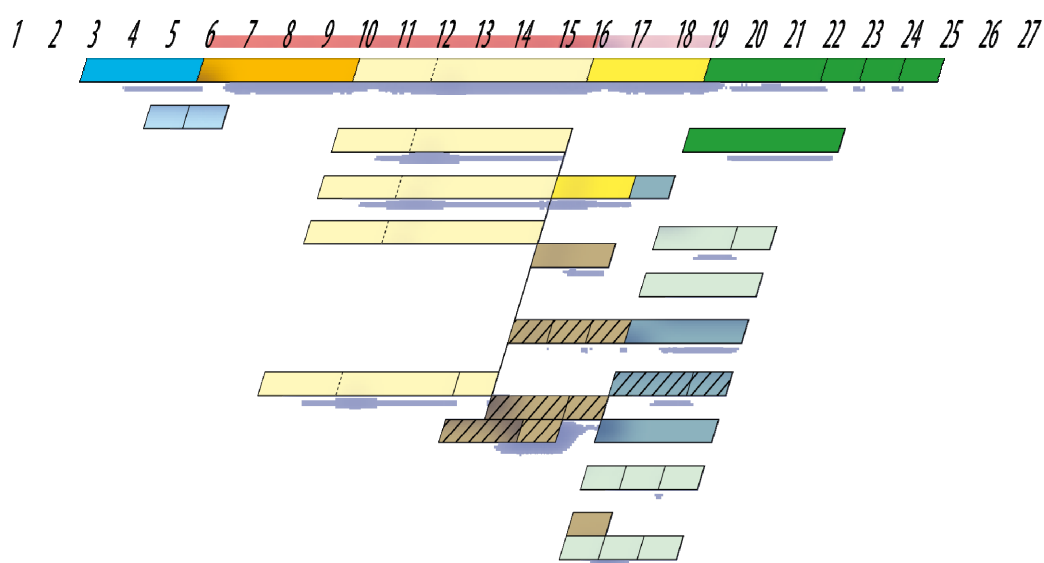




## The structure of the European education systems 2011/12: schematic diagrams

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























### What is Eurydice

The **Eurydice Network** provides information on and analyses of European education systems and policies. As of 2011, it consists of 37 national units based in all 33 countries participating in the EU's Lifelong Learning programme (EU Member States, EFTA countries, Croatia and Turkey) and is coordinated and managed by the EU Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency in Brussels, which drafts its publications and databases.



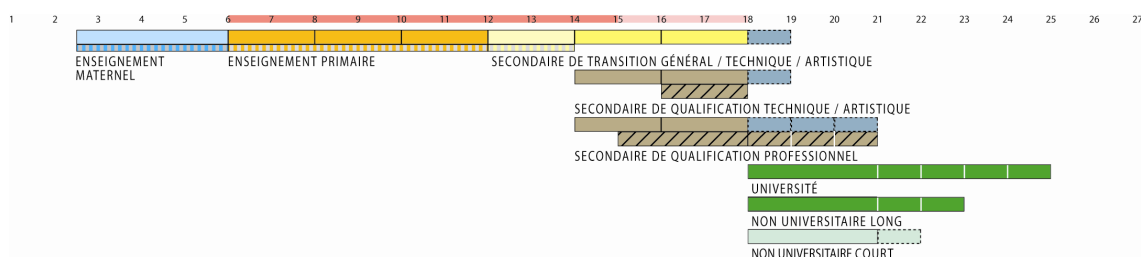
## HOW TO READ THE DIAGRAMS

- The diagrams show the programmes of study considered to be the most representative in each country. Doctoral studies are not taken into account and separate special education needs provision is not included either.
- The educational structures of all the countries are presented according to the national organisation and the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED). See definitions of the ISCED levels on page 8.
- The diagrams provide the terms corresponding to either institutions or education levels or programmes of study in the national language of each country.
- The ages shown in the diagram are theoretical. They give an indication of at which age schooling officially starts and how long studies last. Situations such as early or late entry, year repetition or other interruption to schooling are not taken into account.
- In countries where the theoretical ages in higher education does not concern most of the students when finishing their studies, the end of the reference bar of the diagram has been left open. Participation rates by age as well as the distribution by age of students in higher education are given in the Eurydice publication Key Data on Education in Europe 2009 (figures C15 and C17).

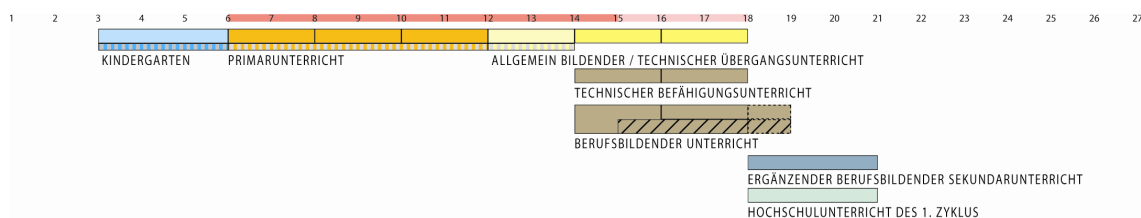
	Pre-primary education (ISCED 0) <i>For which the Ministry of Education is not responsible</i>		General lower secondary education (ISCED 2)		Post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED 4)
	Pre-primary education (ISCED 0) <i>For which the Ministry of Education is responsible</i>		Vocational lower secondary education (ISCED 2)		Short-cycle Higher education (ISCED 5B)
	Primary education (ISCED 1)		General upper secondary education (ISCED 3)		Higher education (ISCED 5A)
	Single structure education: integrated primary and lower secondary (ISCED 1 + 2)		Vocational upper secondary education (ISCED 3)		
	Compulsory full-time education		Additional year		Allocation to the ISCED levels: ISCED 0
	Compulsory part-time education		Compulsory work experience + its duration		ISCED 1
	Study abroad		Part-time or combined school and workplace courses		ISCED 2

## European Union

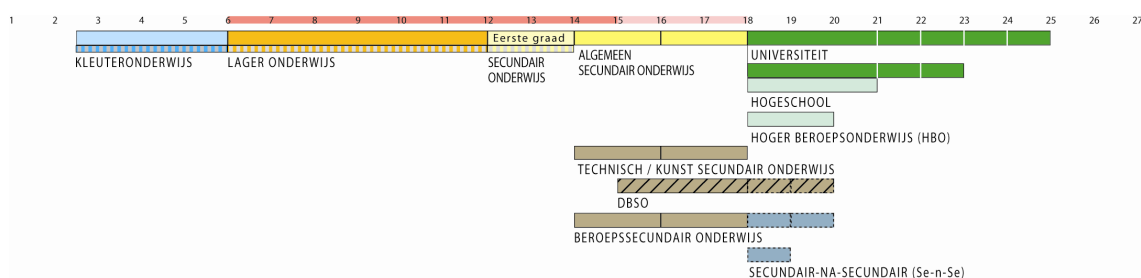
### Belgium – French Community



### Belgium – German-speaking Community

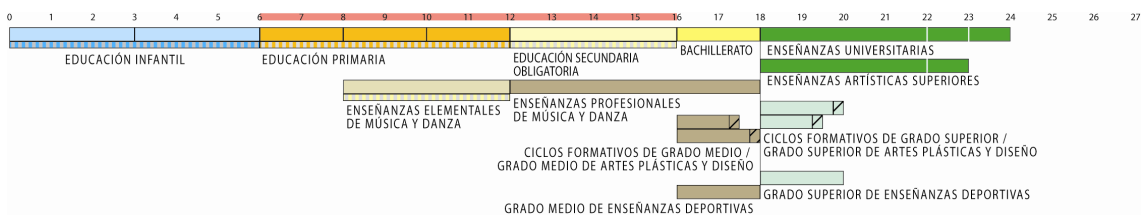


### Belgium – Flemish Community

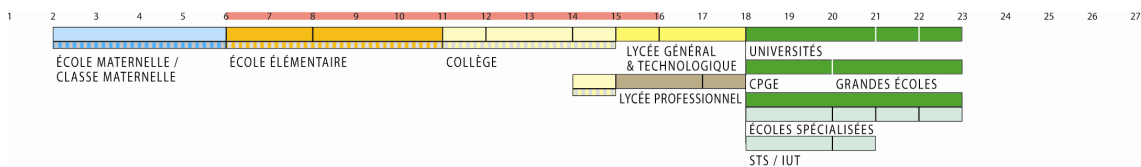




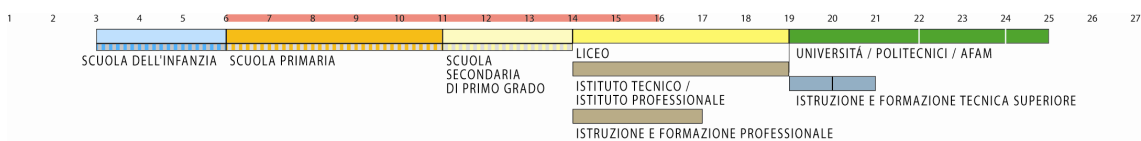
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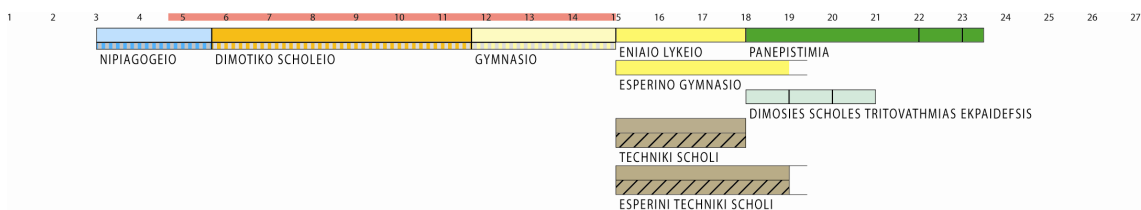
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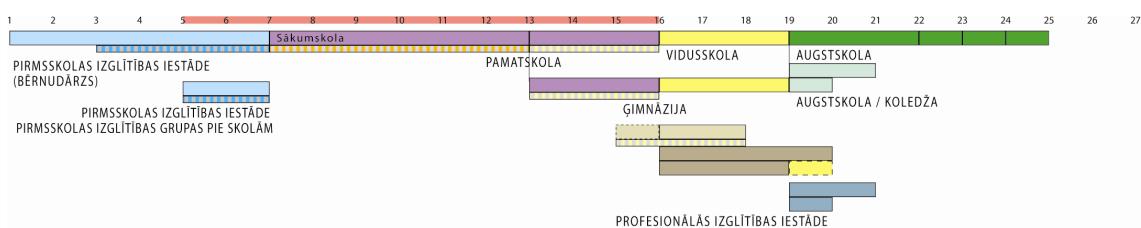
## Italy



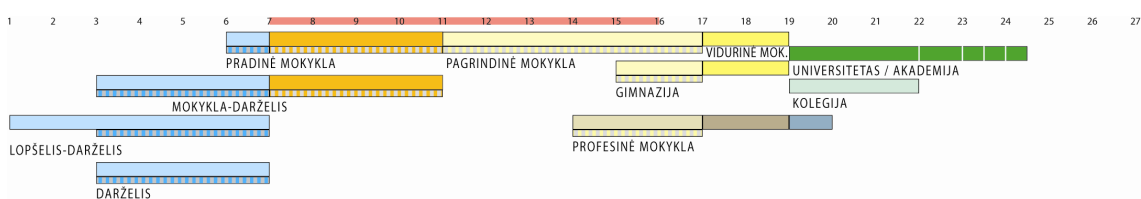
## Cyprus



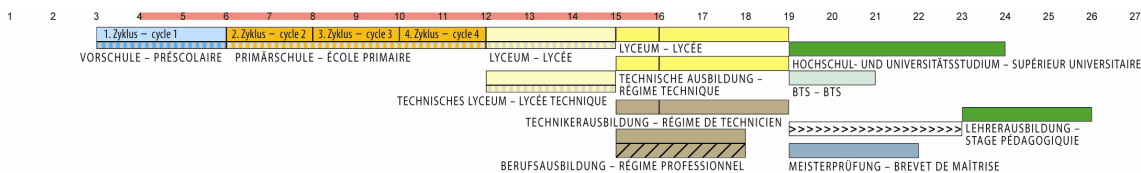
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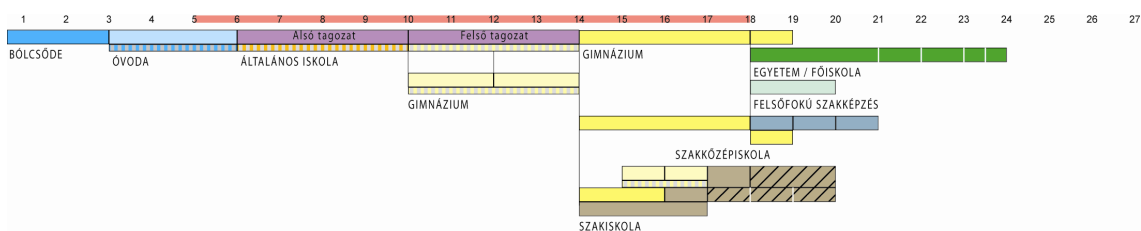
## Lithuania



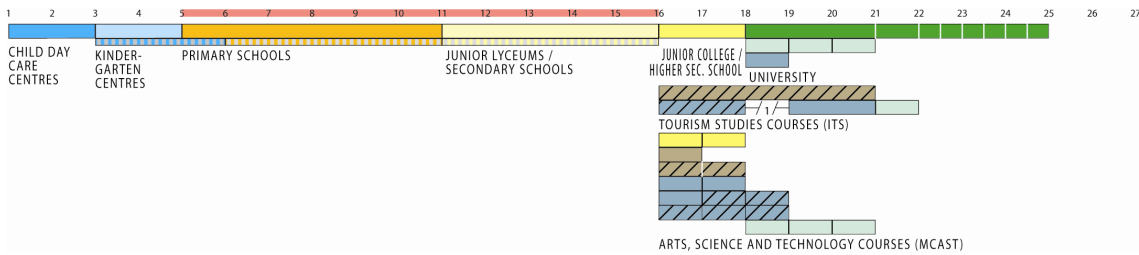
## Luxembourg



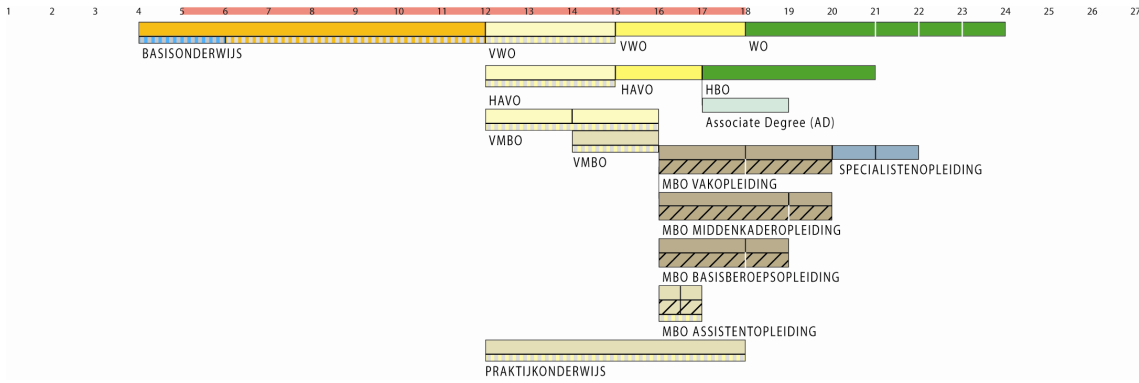
## Hungary



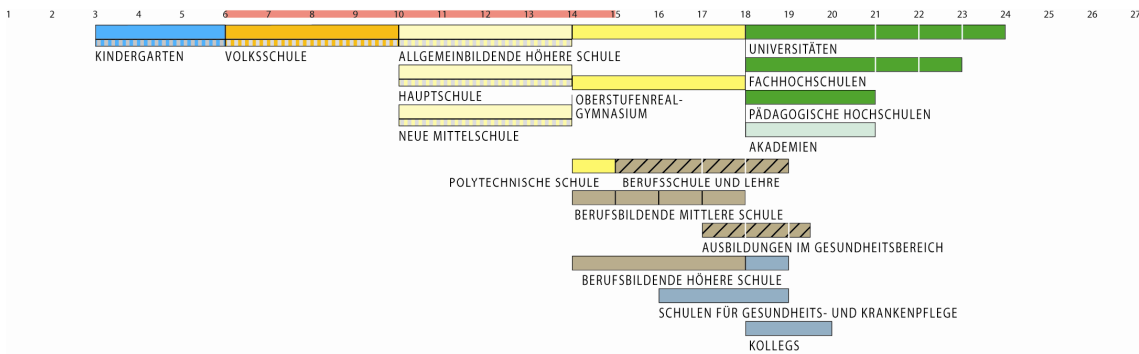
## Malta



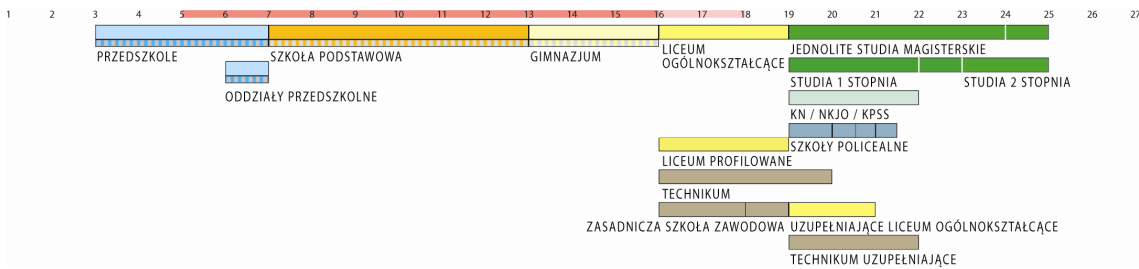
## Netherlands



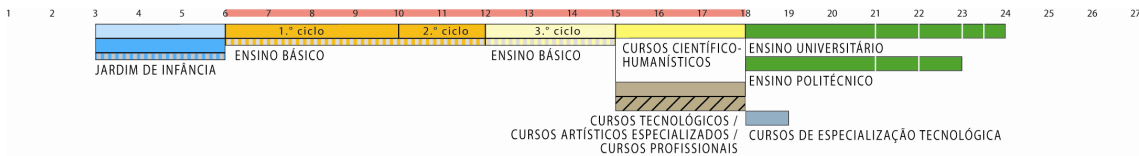
## Austria



## Poland



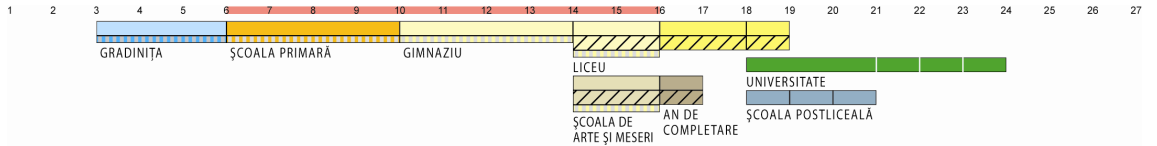
## Portugal



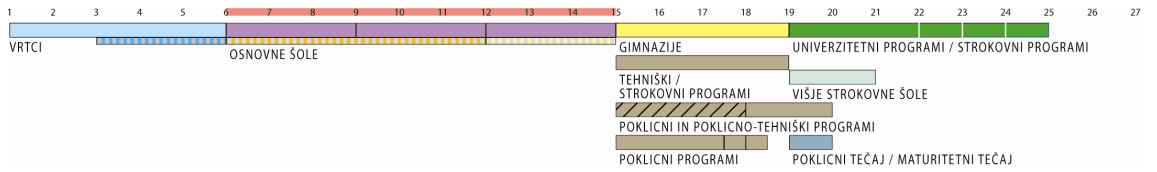
- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| Pre-primary education (ISCED 0)<br>For which the Ministry of Education is not responsible | General lower secondary education (ISCED 2)    | Post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED 4) |
| Pre-primary education (ISCED 0)<br>For which the Ministry of Education is responsible     | Vocational lower secondary education (ISCED 2) | Short-cycle Higher education (ISCED 5B)         |
| Primary education (ISCED 1)   | General upper secondary education (ISCED 3)    | Higher education (ISCED 5A)                     |
| Single structure education: integrated primary and lower secondary (ISCED 1 + 2)          | Vocational upper secondary education (ISCED 3) |   |

- |                                |  |   |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Compulsory full-time education | Additional year                                    | Allocation to the ISCED levels: ISCED 0 |
| Compulsory part-time education | Compulsory work experience + its duration          | Allocation to the ISCED levels: ISCED 1 |
| Study abroad                   | Part-time or combined school and workplace courses | Allocation to the ISCED levels: ISCED 2 |

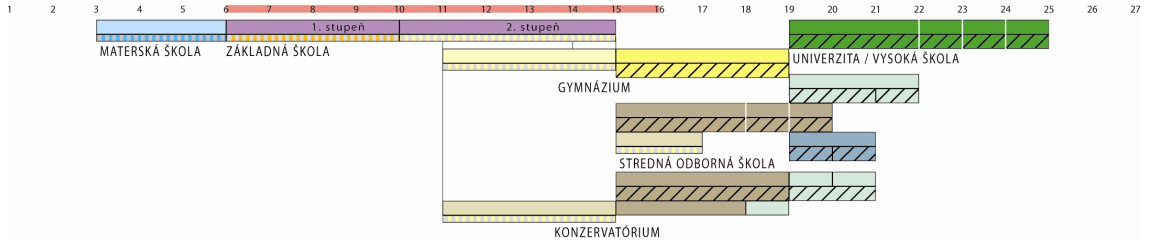
## Romania



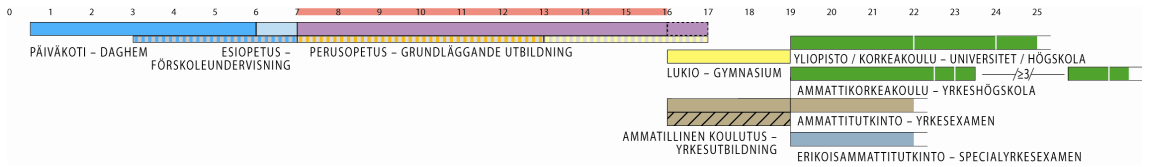
## Slovenia



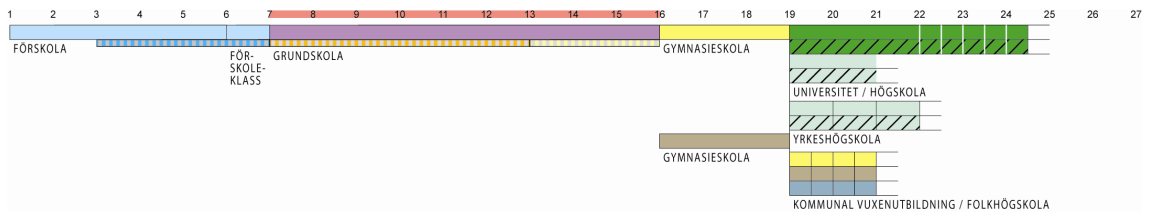
## Slovakia



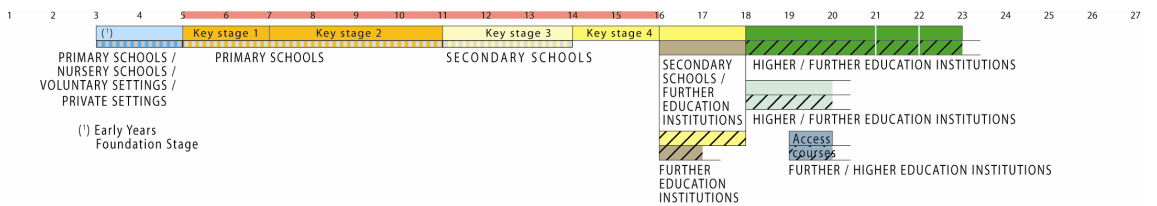
## Finland



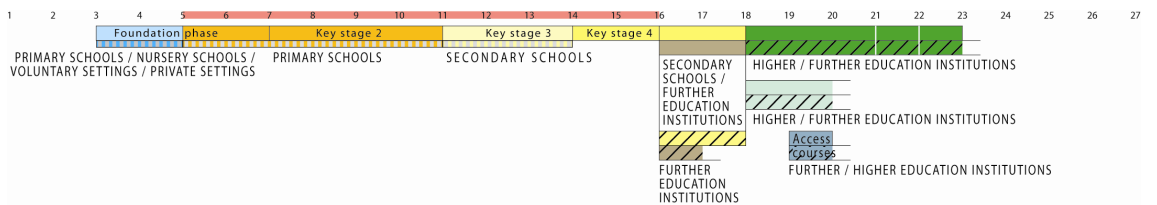
## Sweden



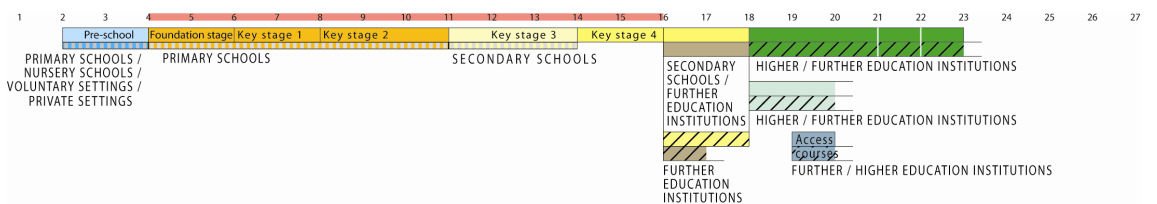
## United Kingdom – England



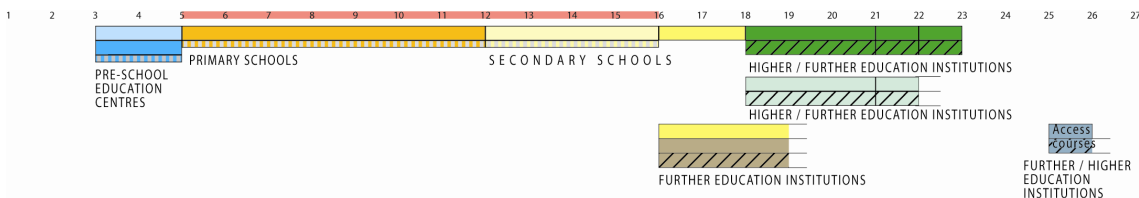
## United Kingdom – Wales



## United Kingdom – Northern Ireland

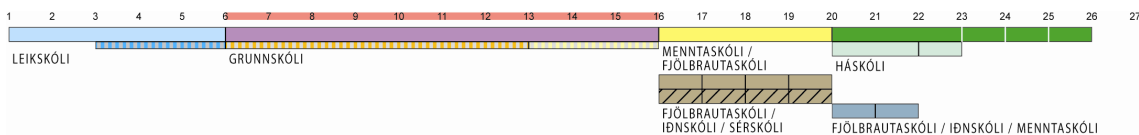


## United Kingdom – Scotland

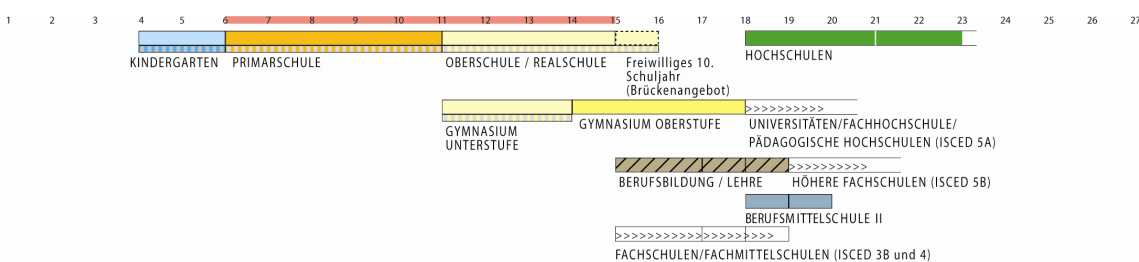


## EFTA countries

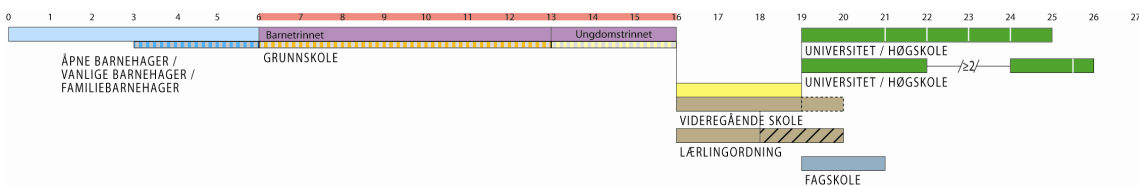
### Iceland



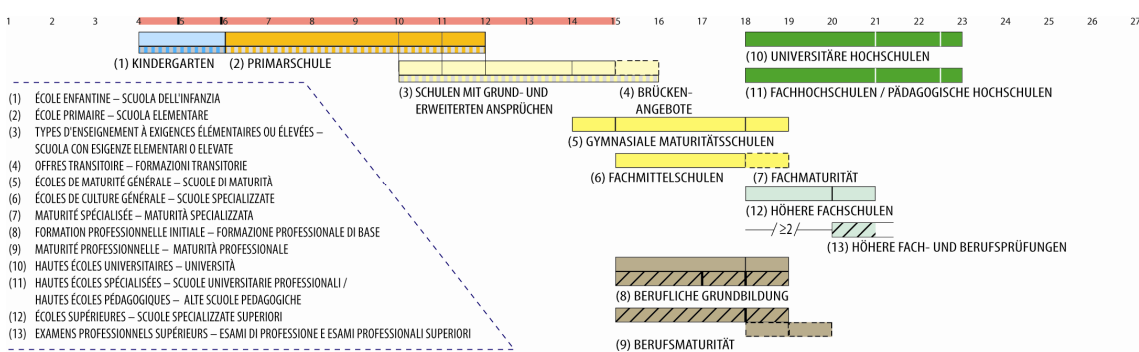
### Liechtenstein



### Norway



### Switzerland



- Pre-primary education (ISCED 0) For which the Ministry of Education is not responsible
- Pre-primary education (ISCED 0) For which the Ministry of Education is responsible
- Primary education (ISCED 1)
- Single structure education: integrated primary and lower secondary (ISCED 1 + 2)

- General lower secondary education (ISCED 2)
- Vocational lower secondary education (ISCED 2)
- General upper secondary education (ISCED 3)
- Vocational upper secondary education (ISCED 3)

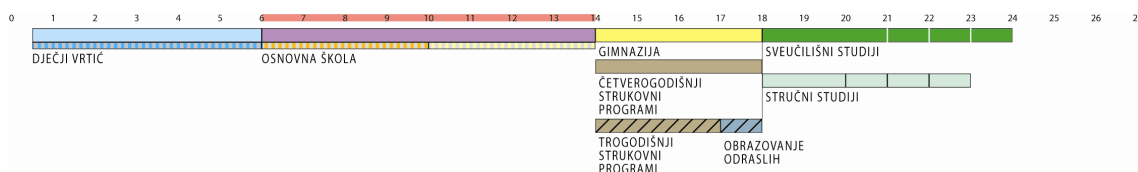
- Post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED 4)
- Short-cycle Higher education (ISCED 5B)
- Higher education (ISCED 5A)

- Compulsory full-time education
- Compulsory part-time education
- Study abroad
- Additional year
- Compulsory work experience + its duration
- Part-time or combined school and workplace courses

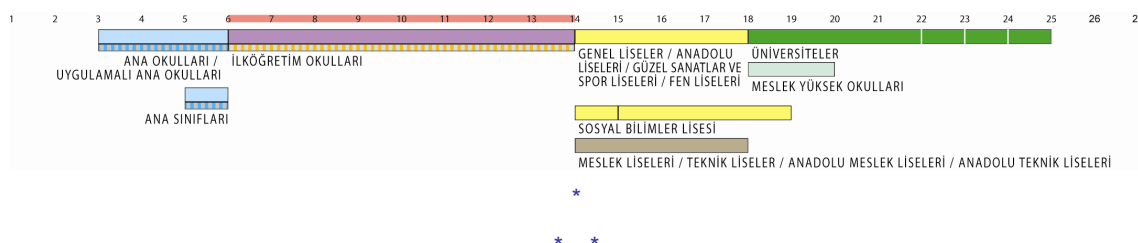
- Allocation to the ISCED levels:
- ISCED 0
- ISCED 1
- ISCED 2

## Candidate countries

### Croatia



### Turkey



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

### ISCED 0: Pre-primary education

Pre-primary education is defined as the initial stage of organised instruction. It is school- based or centre-based and is designed for children aged at least 3 years.

### ISCED 1: Primary education

This level begins between 5 and 7 years of age, is compulsory in all countries and generally lasts from four to six years.

### ISCED 2: Lower secondary education

It continues the basic programmes of the primary level, although teaching is typically more subject-focused. Usually, the end of this level coincides with the end of compulsory education.

### ISCED 3: Upper secondary education

This level generally begins at the end of compulsory education. The entrance age is typically 15 or 16 years. Entrance qualifications (end of compulsory education) and other minimum entry requirements are usually needed. Instruction is often more subject-oriented than at ISCED level 2. The typical duration of ISCED level 3 varies from two to five years.

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

These programmes straddle the boundary between upper secondary and tertiary education. They serve to broaden the knowledge of ISCED level 3 graduates. Typical examples are programmes designed to prepare pupils for studies at level 5 or programmes designed to prepare pupils for direct labour market entry.

### ISCED 5: Tertiary education (first stage)

Entry to these programmes normally requires the successful completion of ISCED level 3 or 4. This level includes tertiary programmes with academic orientation (type A) which are largely theoretically based and tertiary programmes with occupation orientation (type B) which are typically shorter than type A programmes and geared for entry into the labour market.

## More detailed information and other sources

**Eurydice Website:** [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/tools\\_en.php#diagrams](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/tools_en.php#diagrams)

- *Focus on Higher Education in Europe 2010: The impact of the Bologna Process*, Brussels: Eurydice, 2010, for a better understanding of ISCED level 5 and 6 programmes - Bachelor, Master and Doctorate.
- The reference material *European Glossary on Education, volume 2 – Educational institutions* gives explanations on national terms used for education institutions.
- Eurypedia provides descriptions of educational systems and policies in the Eurydice network countries: <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurypedia>.