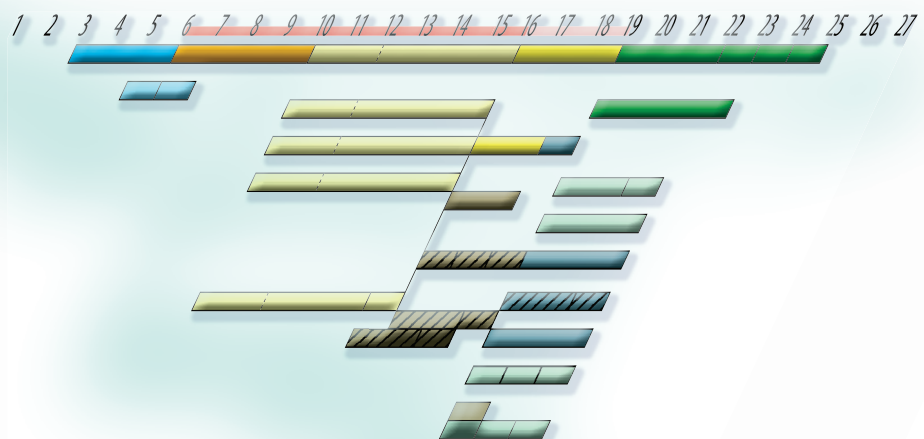


## The structure of the European education systems 2010/11: schematic diagrams

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



### What is Eurydice?

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

## GUIDE TO READING THE DIAGRAMS

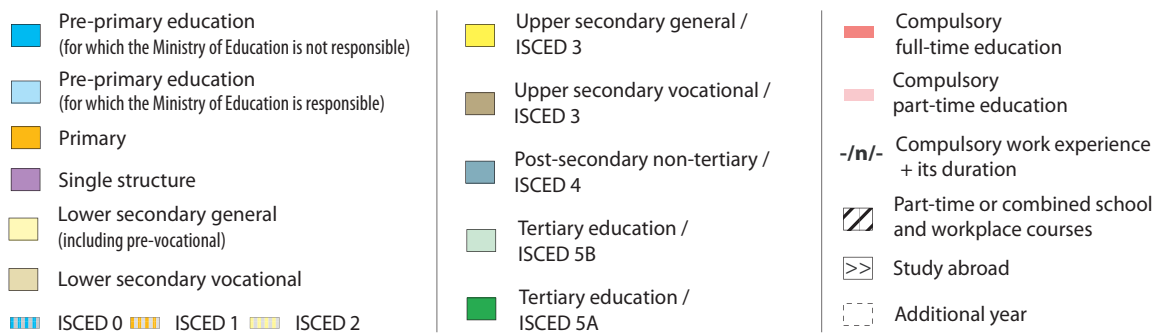
In an attempt to summarise and facilitate comparison of the different national educational structure, only the paths/programmes of study considered to be the most representative have been taken into account. Doctoral studies are not included. Special education when organised in a separate structure,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

The educational structures are presented according to the national organisation and by ISCED levels (see definitions on page 8). In some countries, the educational structure at pre-primary, primary and lower secondary levels does not coincide with the ISCED. Therefore, a bar with the allocations ISCED 0, 1 and 2 has been introduced below the reference bar which shows the education system at the national level.

Where they exist, divisions into different stages for the ISCED 1 to 3 as well as the duration of qualifying programmes at ISCED 4 and 5 are represented through black vertical lines into the reference bar of the diagram. National terms indicated in the diagrams can correspond to either institutions or levels of education or programmes.

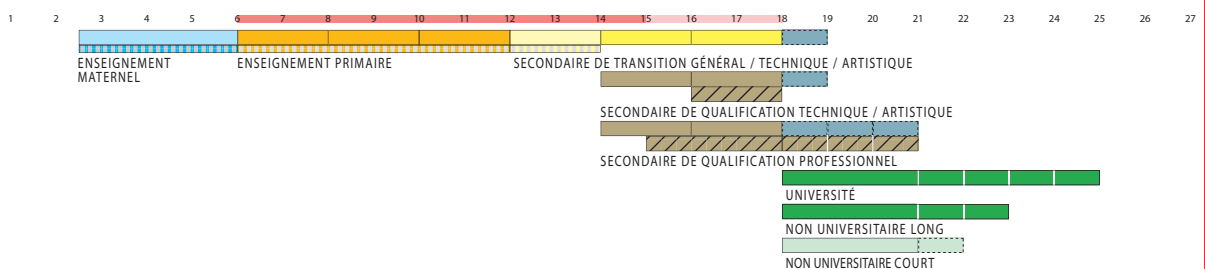
The ages shown in the diagram are given as an indication of the 'theoretical' years for entry to schooling and duration of studies. Situations such as early or late entry, year repetition or other interruption to schooling, are not taken into account. In countries where this information does not concern most of the students finishing their higher education 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 tertiary education are given in the Eurydice publication *Key Data on Education in Europe 2009* (figures C15 and C17).

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

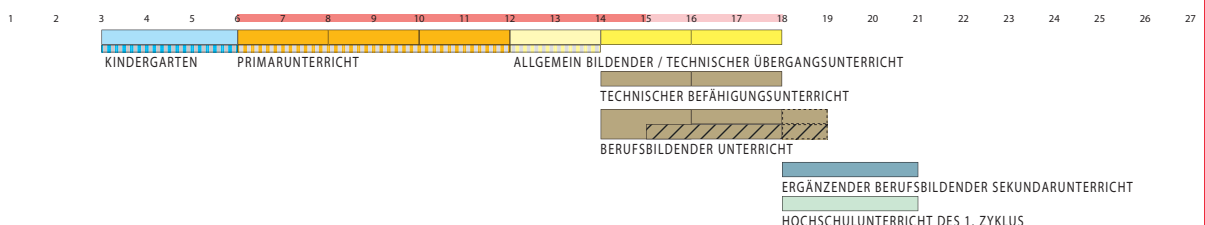


### EUROPEAN UNION

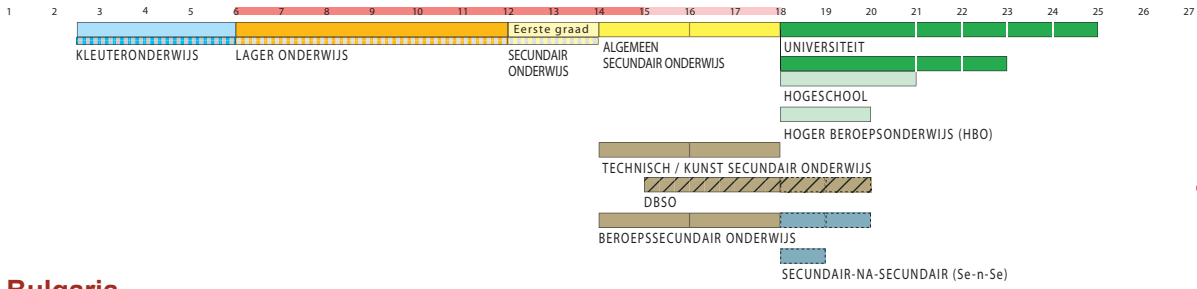
#### Belgium – French Community



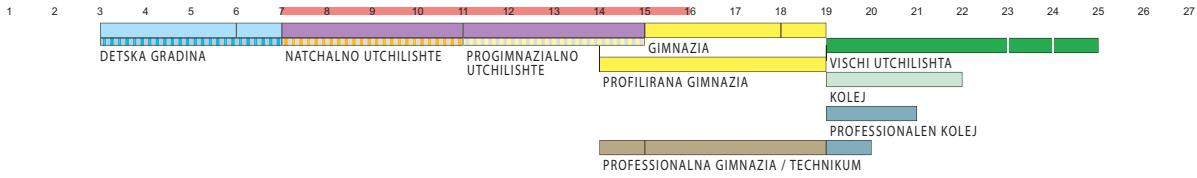
#### Belgium – German-speaking Community



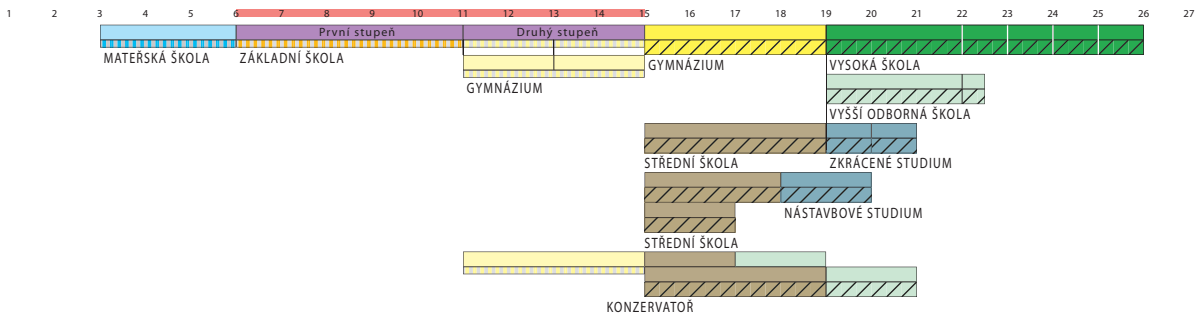
## Belgium – Flemish Community



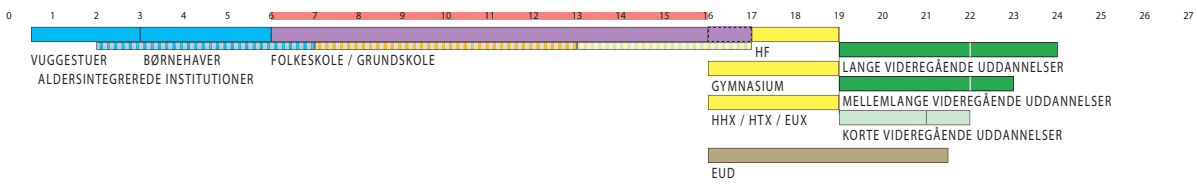
## Bulgaria



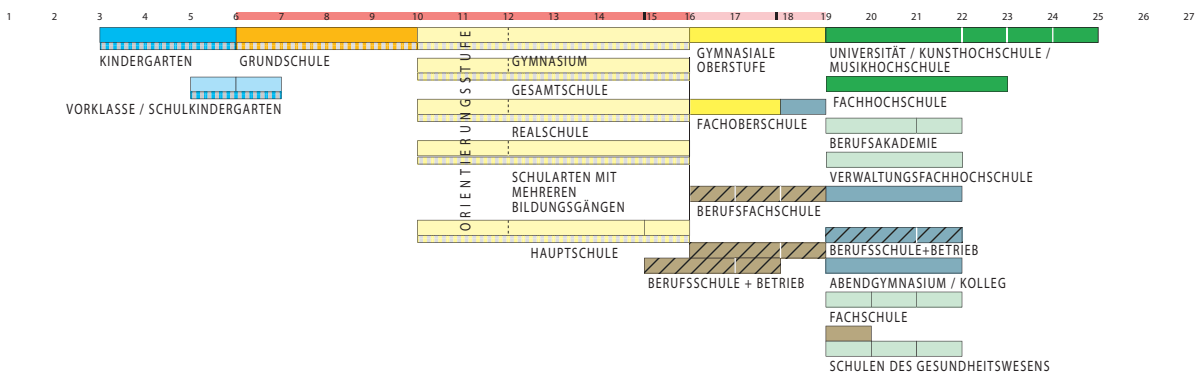
## Czech Republic



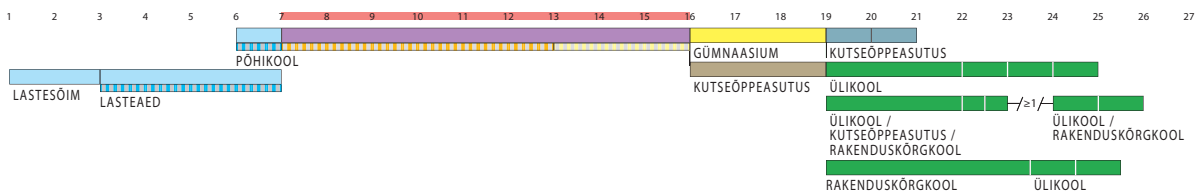
## Denmark



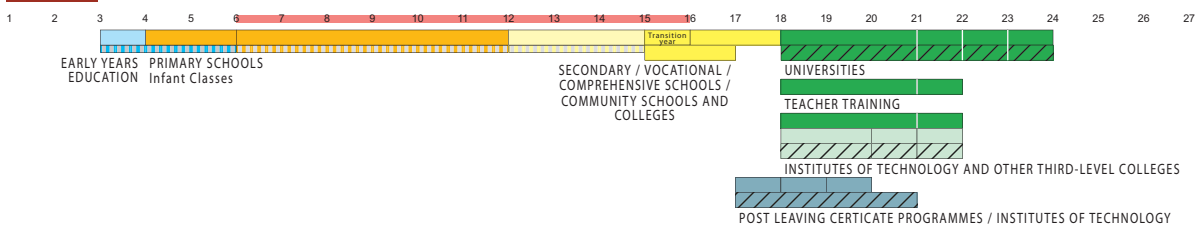
## Germany



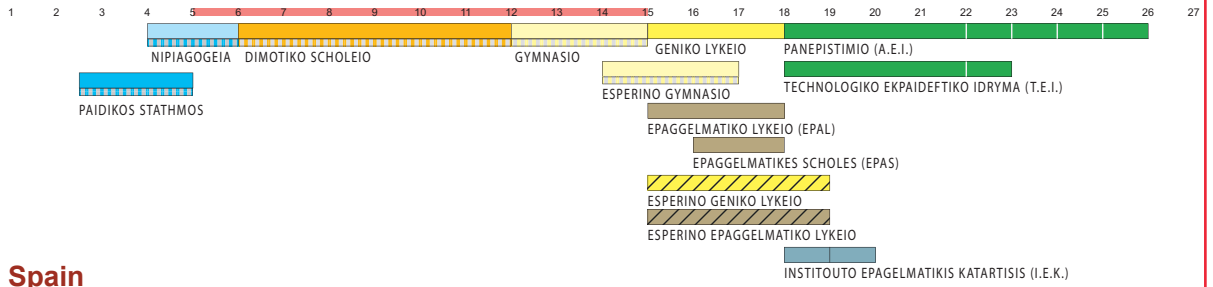
## Estonia



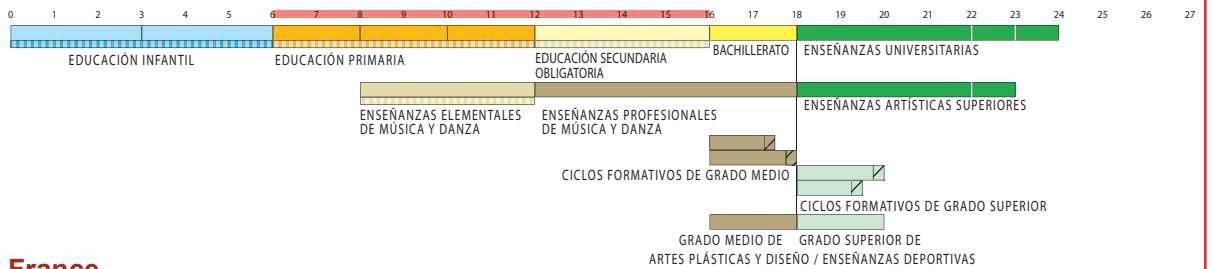
## Ireland



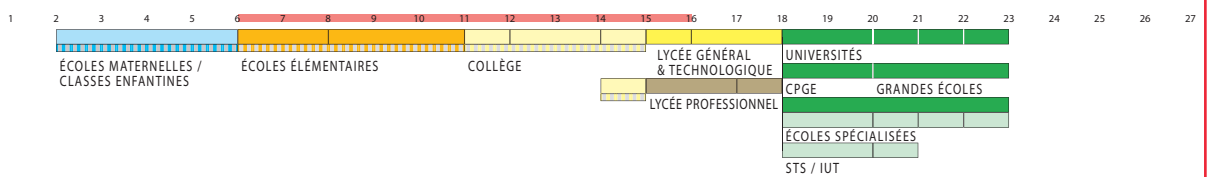
## Greece



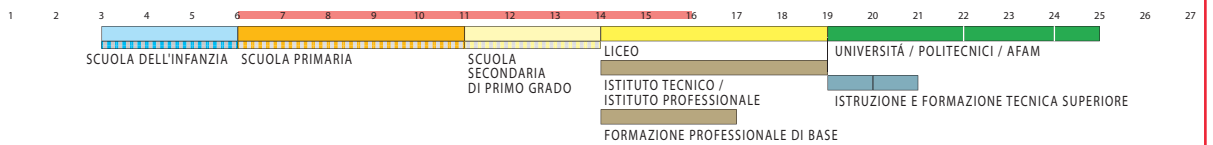
## Spain



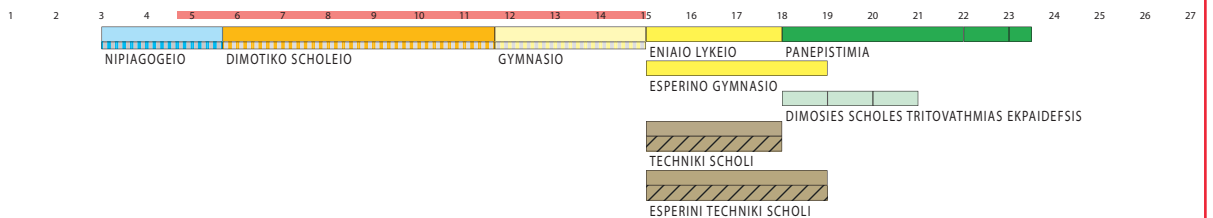
## France



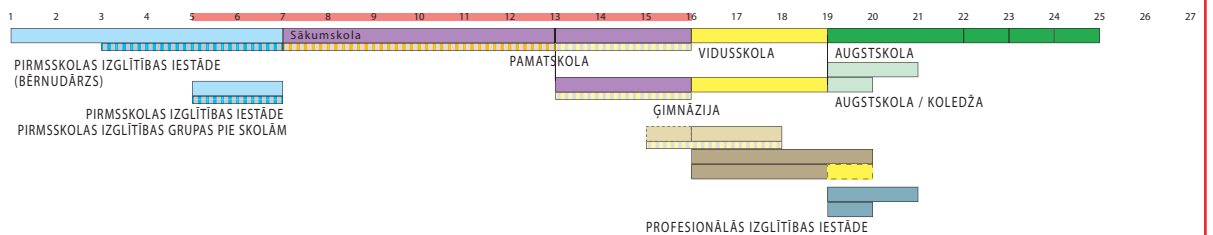
## Italy



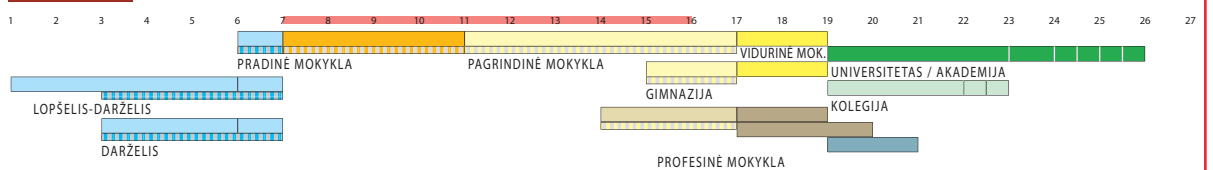
## Cyprus



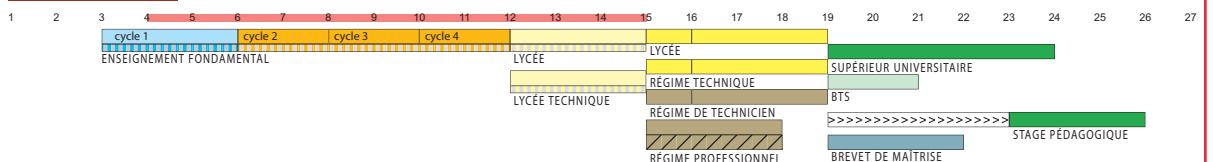
## Latvia



## Lithuania

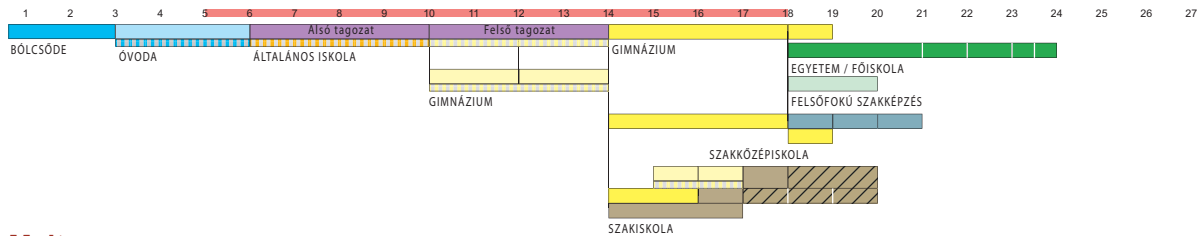


## Luxembourg

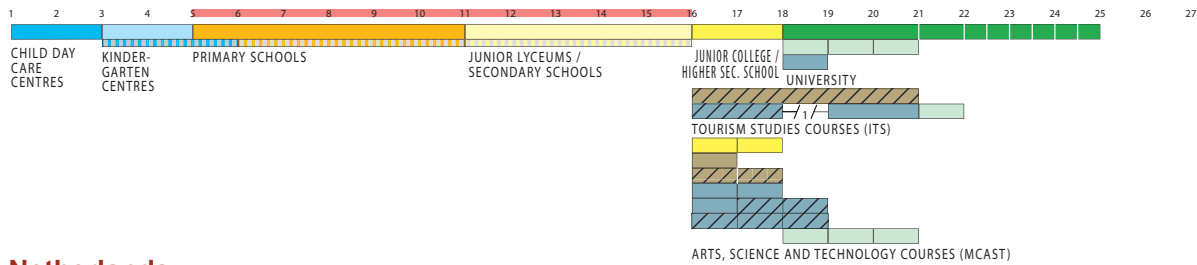


4

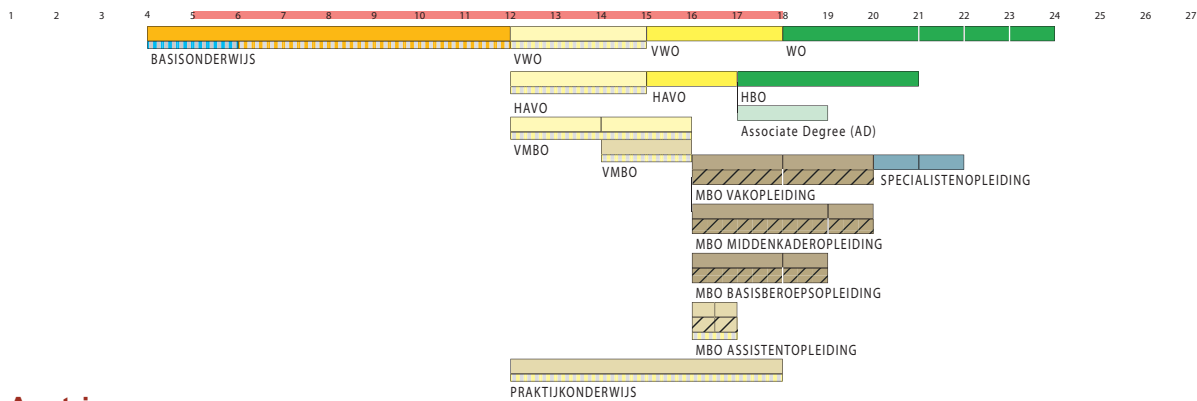
## Hungary



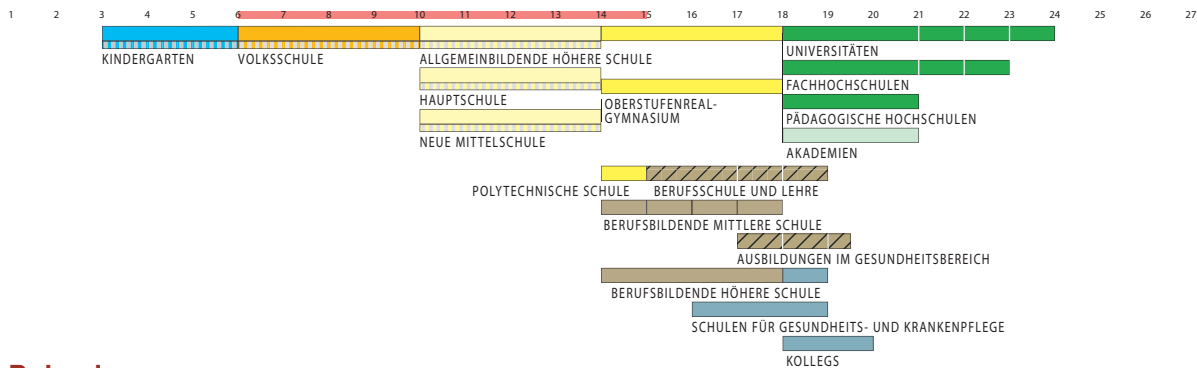
## Malta



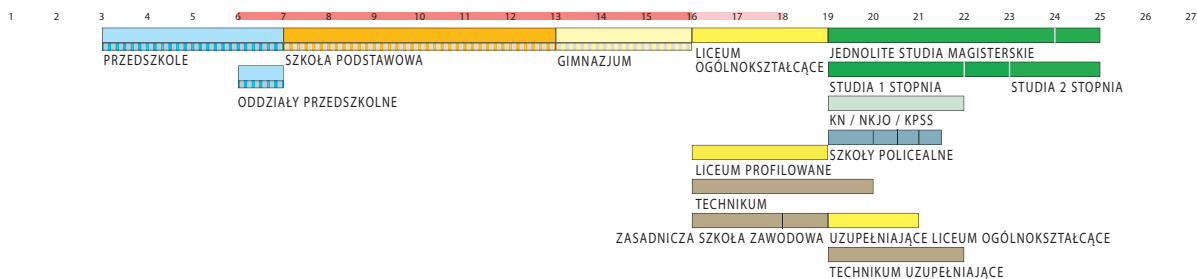
## Netherlands



## Austria



## Poland

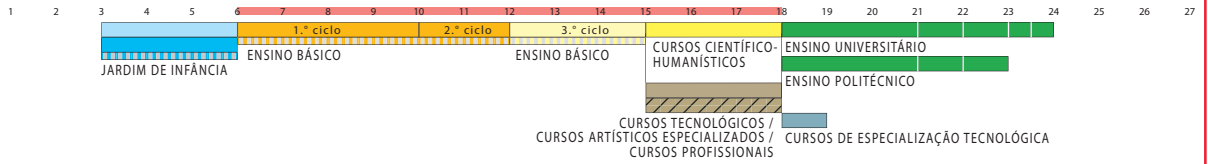


- Pre-primary education (for which the Ministry of Education is not responsible)
- Pre-primary education (for which the Ministry of Education is responsible)
- Primary
- Single structure
- Lower secondary general (including pre-vocational)
- Lower secondary vocational
- ISCED 0
- ISCED 1
- ISCED 2

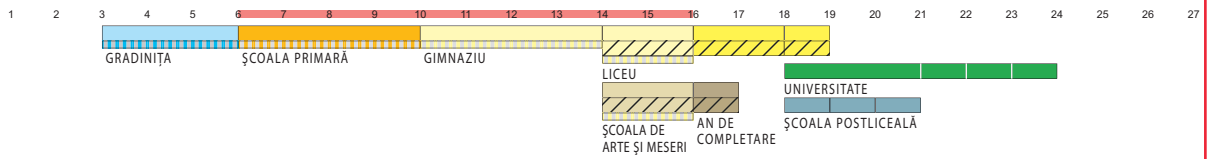
- Upper secondary general / ISCED 3
- Upper secondary vocational / ISCED 3
- Post-secondary non-tertiary / ISCED 4
- Tertiary education / ISCED 5B
- Tertiary education / ISCED 5A

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

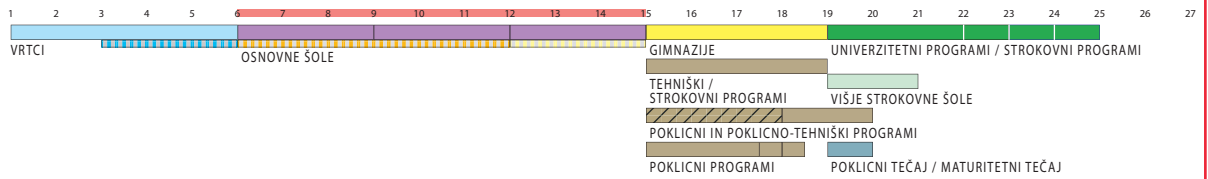
## Portugal



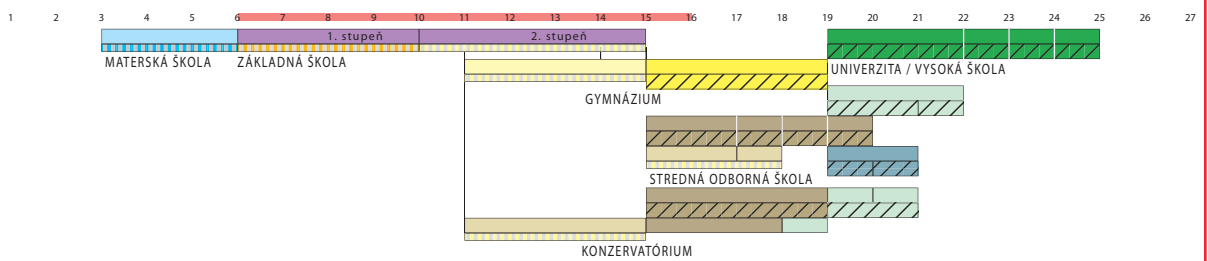
## Romania



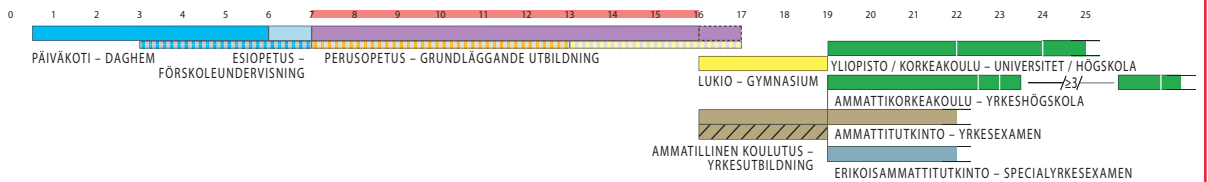
## Slovenia



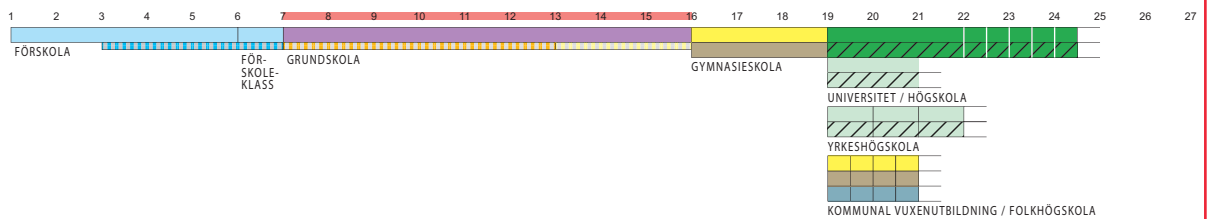
## Slovakia



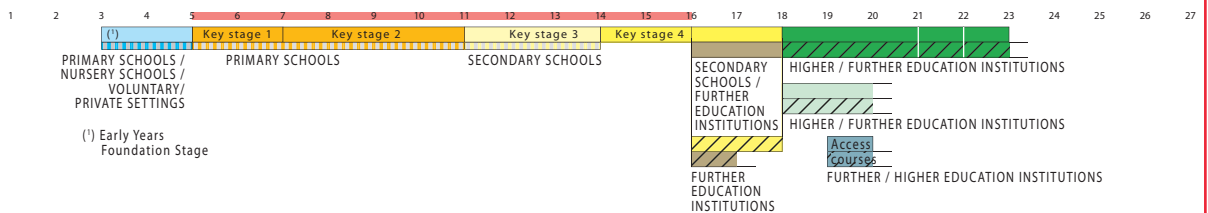
## Finland



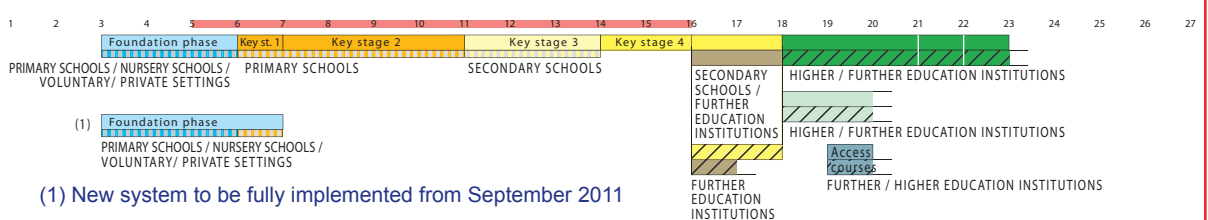
## Sweden



## United Kingdom – England

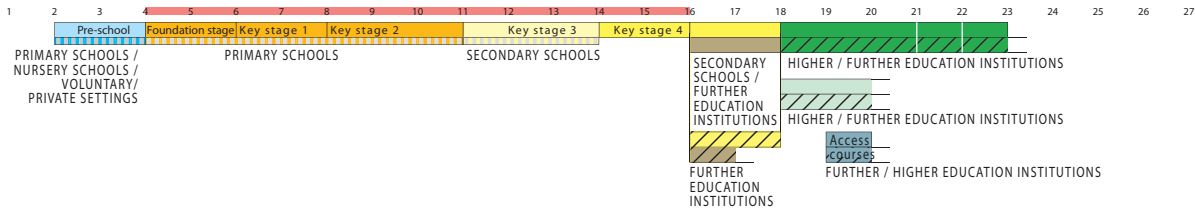


## United Kingdom – Wales

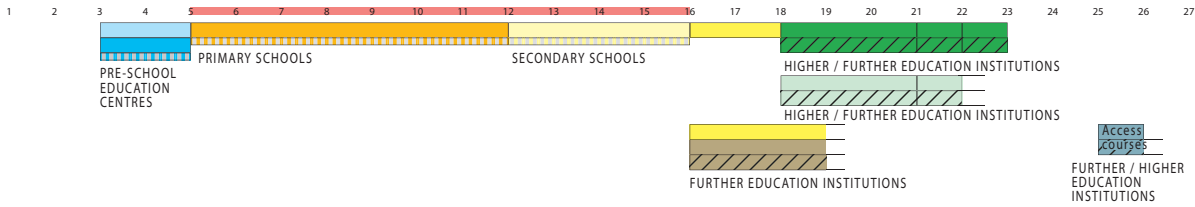


(1) New system to be fully implemented from September 2011

## United Kingdom – Northern Ireland

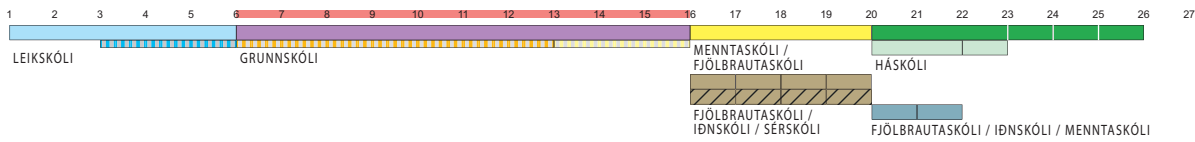


## United Kingdom – Scotland

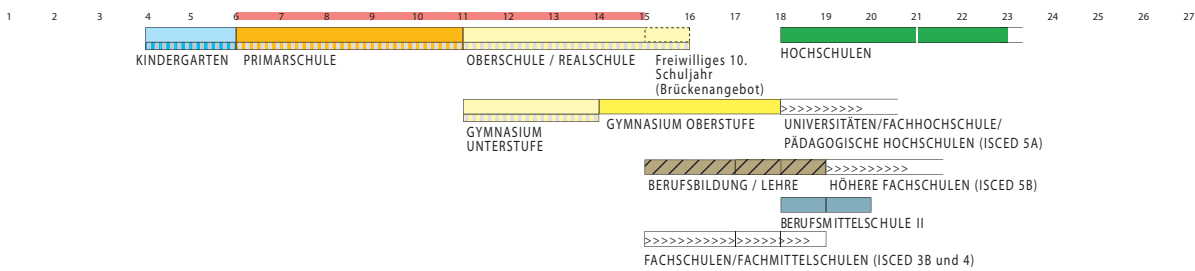


## EFTA/EEA COUNTRIES

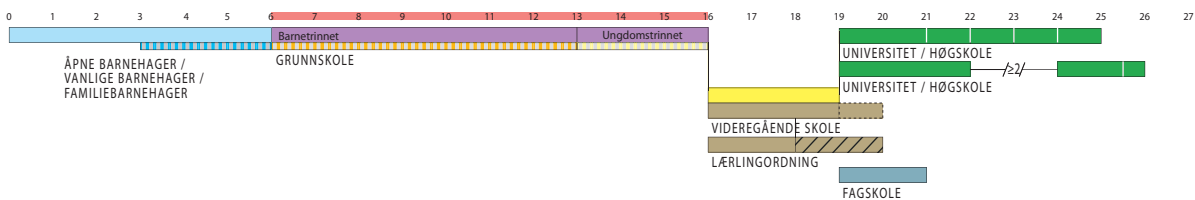
### Iceland



### Liechtenstein

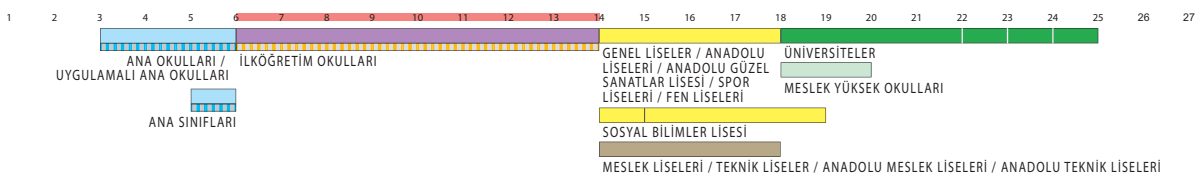


### Norway



## CANDIDATE COUNTRY

### Turkey



- Pre-primary education (for which the Ministry of Education is not responsible)
- Pre-primary education (for which the Ministry of Education is responsible)
- Primary
- Single structure
- Lower secondary general (including pre-vocational)
- Lower secondary vocational
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- Post-secondary non-tertiary / ISCED 4
- Tertiary education / ISCED 5B
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- Compulsory full-time education
- Compulsory part-time education
- /n/-** Compulsory work experience + its duration
- Part-time or combined school and workplace courses
- >> Study abroad
- Additional year

## INTERNATIONAL STANDARD CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION (ISCED – UOE, 1997 EDITION)

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

More detailed information can be found in the following Eurydice publications available on the Eurydice website - <http://www.eurydice.org>:

- *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.
- The database Eurybase provides descriptions of educational systems and policies in the Eurydice network countries.

September 2010