

MORE TAUGHT HOURS AT AROUND AGE 10

Comparison of the annual load of pupils aged 7 and 10 years in Table 1.92 shows that more than half of all European Union Member States have adopted a slightly reduced timetable for younger children at the start of their primary education. This reduction can range from 50 to over 100 hours and is particularly marked in the United Kingdom (Northern Ireland).

Table 1.32: Minimum teaching hours for primary school students, 1995/96

	At about age 7	At about age 10	At about age 9	
	Annual hours per year	Annual hours per year	Number of days per week	Number of days per year
Austria	630	750	5/6	180/214
Belgium	849	849	5	182
Bulgaria	470	550	5	Not available
Czech Republic	607	662	Not available	Not available
Denmark	613	712	Not available	200
Finland	542	656	5	190
France	800	900	5	282
Germany	525	761	5/6	188/208
Greece	846	846	5	175
Hungary	555	694	5	
Iceland	576	640	5	160
Ireland	936	936	5	183
Italy	810	810	6 (4)	Min. 200
Liechtenstein	630	900	Not available	Not available
Luxembourg	600	720	6	212
Netherlands	880	1 000	5	200
Norway	570	827	5	190
Poland	499	638	Not available	Not available
Portugal	788	875	5	175
Romania	567	652	Not available	Not available
Slovakia	586	781	Not available	Not available
Spain	854	854	5	180
Sweden ¹	Not available	Not available	5	Min. 178
UK (England/Wales)	840	893	5	190
UK (Northern Ireland)	665	950	5	190
UK (Scotland)	950	950	5	190

Sources: European Commission (1999). Eurydice: The Information Network on Education in Europe (CD-ROM). Belgium: European Commission and European Commission (2000). Organization of school time in the European Union - Table VII (2). <http://www.eurydice.org/>

¹ The post-reform system sets a minimum requirement of teaching time of 6,665 units of 60 minutes, over the nine years in the compulsory school. The school board is free to distribute these units over the 9 years. In Stockholm, students attend for 185 days per year, 5 days a week.