

Table 1.31: School schedules and meal provisions in European countries

	School hours	Meal provisions/ Supervision during midday break
Austria	8:00-12:00 or 13:00	Few
Belgium	8:30-12:00 and 13:30-15:00	Many
Denmark	8:00-15:00 ¹	Yes
Finland*	19-21 hours per week for the first 2 years 23-25 hours per week for the third and fourth year	All
France	8:30-11:30 and 13:30-19:30	Generally
Germany	8:00-12:30	Very few
Greece	8:30-13:00 or 13:15-19:30 ²	No
Iceland	Not available ³	No
Ireland	4-12 years old: 9:00AM-2:00 PM 13-18 years old: 9:00AM-16:00PM	Supervision only
Israel	8:00-12:50 6-12 8:00-13:12 4-5	No No
Italy	2 patterns: 1)8:00-12:30 for 6 days 2)8:00-12:30 and 14:00-16:30 for 5 days	1)very few 2)yes
Luxembourg	8:00-11:45 and 14:00-15:45 on Mon., Wed., and Fri. 8:00-11:30/12:00 on Tues., Thurs., and Sat.	No
Netherlands	8:30-12:00 and 13:15-15:30 ⁴	Yes
Norway	Flexi-time patterns ⁵	No breaks
Portugal	9:00-15:00 ⁷	Yes
Spain	9:00-12:00 and 15:00-17:00 ⁸	Increasing number
Sweden	Flexi-time patterning ^{7,8}	Yes for children in school for about 5 hours
United Kingdom	9:00-12:00 and 13:00-15:30	Yes

Source: European Commission (September 1998). *Care in Europe: Joint Report of the "Gender and Employment" and the "Gender and Law" Groups of Experts.*

* Local authorities determine school schedule but must meet nationally mandated minimum hours.

¹ Children bring their lunch from home.

² 20 hours for children aged 5-8; 26 hours for older children.

³ Varies with age of child.

⁴ Child care during lunch break is organized by parents in school.

⁵ The length of the school day increases with the age of the child