

The Clearinghouse for International Developments in Child, Youth and Family Policies at  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

**Table 1.34: Usual opening hours of primary schools in EU**

Country	Opening hours	Meal provision/supervision during lunch break
Belgium	Generally Monday to Friday, from 8.30 h to 12.00 h and from 13.30 h to 15.30 h/16.00 h (except on Wednesday afternoon)	Many
Denmark	8:00-15:00	Yes
Germany	8:00-12:30, hours increase with age from 2.5 to 4.5 hours a day	Very few
Greece	8:30-13:00 or 13:15-19:30 (hours increases with age from 20 to 29 weekly hours)	No
Spain	9:00-12:00 and 15:00-17:00	Increasing number
France	8:30-19:30 (26 weekly hours)	Yes
Ireland	9:00-14:00 (minimum 4 hours)	Supervision
Italy	8:00-12:30 or 8:00--16:30 (minimum 27 weekly hours, max 30 hours)	Yes, for the latter
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 1 Sat out of 2. (28 weekly hours)	Increasing number
Netherlands	8:30-12:00 and 13:15-15:30 (currently max 5 ½hours a day – bill for changing to min. 3 hours a day)	Yes (child care during lunch break is organized by parents in school)
Austria	8:00-12:00 or 13:00 (between 20 and 24 weekly hours, according to age)	Few
Portugal	9:00-12:00 and 14:00-16:00 or 13:00-15:00 (normal scheme) 8:00-13:00 or 13:00-18:00 (two-shift scheme) 25 weekly hours	Yes
Finland	19 to 30 hours per week, according to age	All
Sweden	Flexi-time patterns (around 20-25 weekly hours)	Yes for children in school for about 5 hours
UK	9:00-12:00 and 13:00-15:30 (number of hours increase with age)	Yes

Source: Eurostat (2004). *Development of a Methodology for the Collection of Harmonized Statistics on Childcare*. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.