



A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SCHOOL SYSTEMS



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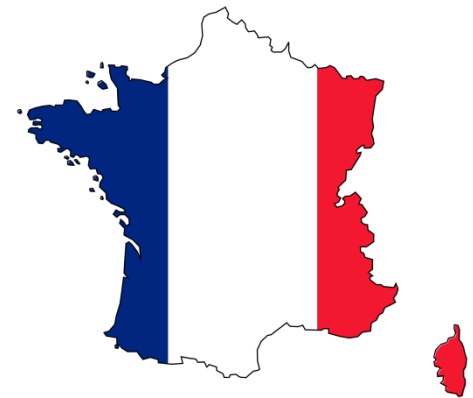
We are Our Future!

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Credit for the questionnaire material: All Erasmus teams Credit for the questionnaire: Mernik, Todorović, Luković, Godec Kopčič (Erasmus team Slovenia)

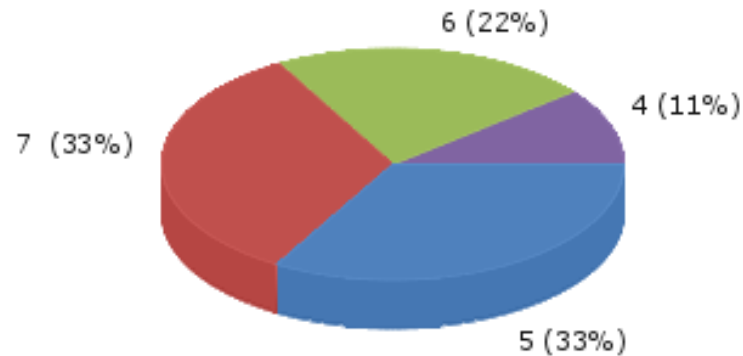
Credit for the analysis presentation : Godec Kopčič, Luković (Erasmus team Slovenia)

Participating countries:



At what age do children start school? N=9

France	Bulgaria	Portugal	Netherlands	Greece	Poland	Slovenia
6	7	5	4	5	7	6 (possible 5)



How long does the compulsory education last? N=9

France	Bulgaria	Portugal	Netherlands	Greece	Poland	Slovenia
10	10	more than 10	more than 10	10	more than 10	9

more than 10 years (33%)

9 years (11%)

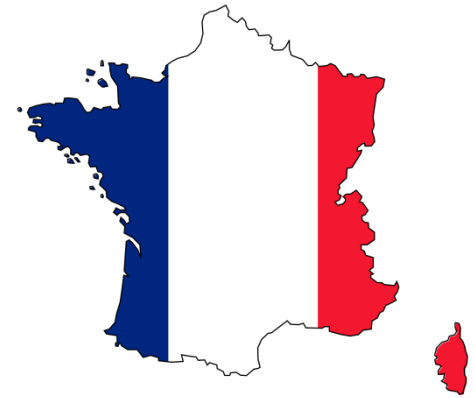
10 years (56%)

$\bar{x} = 4.2$



Our compulsory education school systems:

- * 6-10 (Primary school)
- * 11 – 14 (Collège)
- * 15 – 17 (Lycée)



- After collège, at the age of 14, you choose if you want to do professional or academic studies in lycée (or rather, your results decide for you).
- There are public schools and private schools. Private schools have religious education, whereas public schools don't.
- The private schools are partly subsidized by the government, but still cost around 2000 Euros per year for the families.

Our compulsory education school systems:

Compulsory education includes one year of mandatory preschool education before children start primary school at the age of 6-7.

Education is compulsory until the age of 16.

Education at state-owned schools is free of charge, except for the higher education schools, colleges and universities.

Children usually start primary education at the age of 7, but may start at the age of 6 at the parents' request.

- 6/7 – 10/11 Primary school – primary education (grades 1 – 4)
- 13/14 Middle school – elementary education (grades 5 – 7)

Certificate for primary education and certificate for elementary education are obtained upon successful completion of grade 4 and 7 respectively. High schools use grades from the certificate for elementary education as a major admission criterion.



Our compulsory education school systems:

- 4 – 12 Primary school
- 12 – 16 Three different types of school for secondary education:

- mavo (4 years)

Students going to the mavo will go to intermediate vocational education after these four years .

- havo (5 years)

Students visiting the havo will go to university of professional education after these five years.

- vwo (6 years).

Students visiting the vwo department will visit the university of science after their six years.

Where you go to, has to do with what capacities you have.



Our compulsory education school systems:

Primary and lower secondary school:

- * 6 – 8 (I. Educational cycle: 1. – 3. grade)
- * 9 – 11 (II. Educational cycle: 4. – 6. grade)
- * 12 – 14 (III. Educational cycle: 7. – 9. grade)



Students at our school get basic education and can register at different secondary schools, regarding the level of their grades. Then they can go to different technical secondary schools, vocational schools or grammar schools. After that they start work or go to the university.

Among basic compulsory subjects, students can choose mandatory school subjects. They're free: English (1st grade), French (4 – 9th grade), German, Sport, Technology or Art (4 – 6th grade). Students from 7 – 9th grade have to choose compulsory extra lessons (2 – 3 per week).

We have flexible homogeneous differentiation in 5th grade in Slovenian (1 lesson per week). However, we also have heterogeneous differentiation in a form of smaller learning groups in Slovenian, Math and English from 7 – 9th grade (all lessons).

Our compulsory education school systems:

- * 5 Kindergarden (1year)
- * 6 – 12 Primary school (6 years)
- * 12 – 15 Junior high school (3 years)



Our compulsory education school systems:

Portuguese compulsory system is divided into 3 study cycles plus high school:

- * 5 – 9 1st study cycle (1-4 grade)
- * 9 – 11 2nd study cycle (5-6 grade)
- * 11 – 14 3rd study cycle (7-9 grade)
- * 14 – 17 High school/Secondary education (10-12 grade)



Our compulsory education school systems:

- * 7 – 13 Primary school (6 years):

 - * 1st study cycle (3 years)

 - * 2nd study cycle (3 years)

- * 13 – 16 Lower Secondary Education / Middle school

- * 16 – 19 Upper secondary education: general secondary school (3 years)

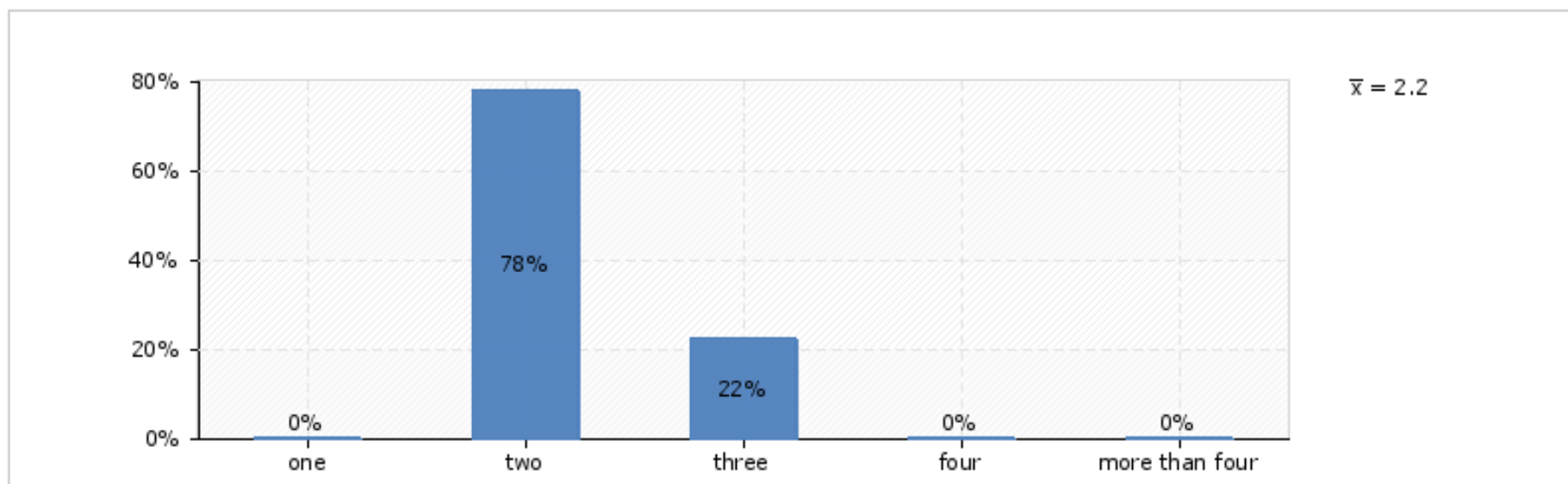
- * 16 – 20 Technical school (4 years)

- * 16 – 19 Vocational school (3 years)



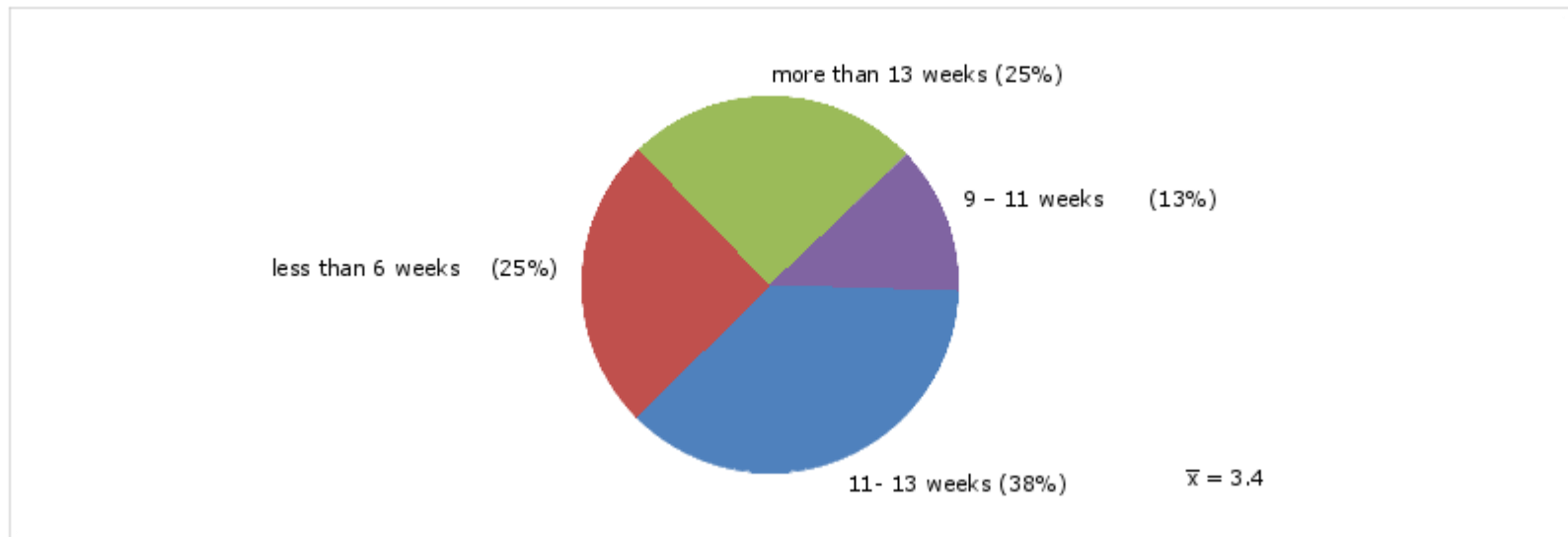
How many terms are there in the school year? N=9

France	Bulgaria	Portugal	Netherlands	Greece	Poland	Slovenia
3	2	3	2	2	2	2



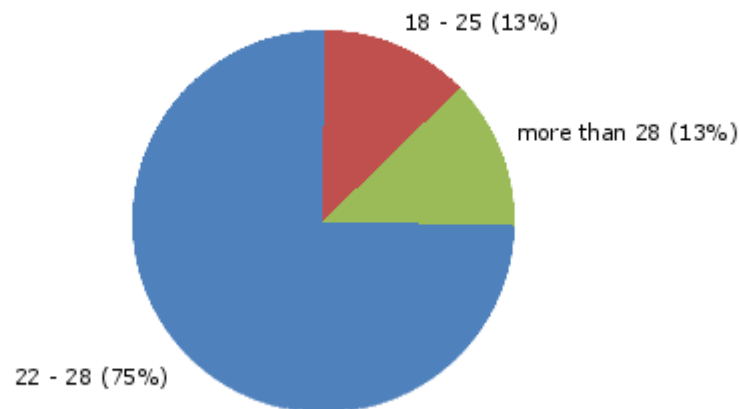
How many weeks of holidays do the learners have per year? N=8

France	Bulgaria	Portugal	Netherlands	Greece	Poland	Slovenia
more than 13 weeks	11 – 13 weeks	more than 13 weeks	11 – 13 weeks	less than 6 weeks	9 – 11 weeks	11 – 13 weeks

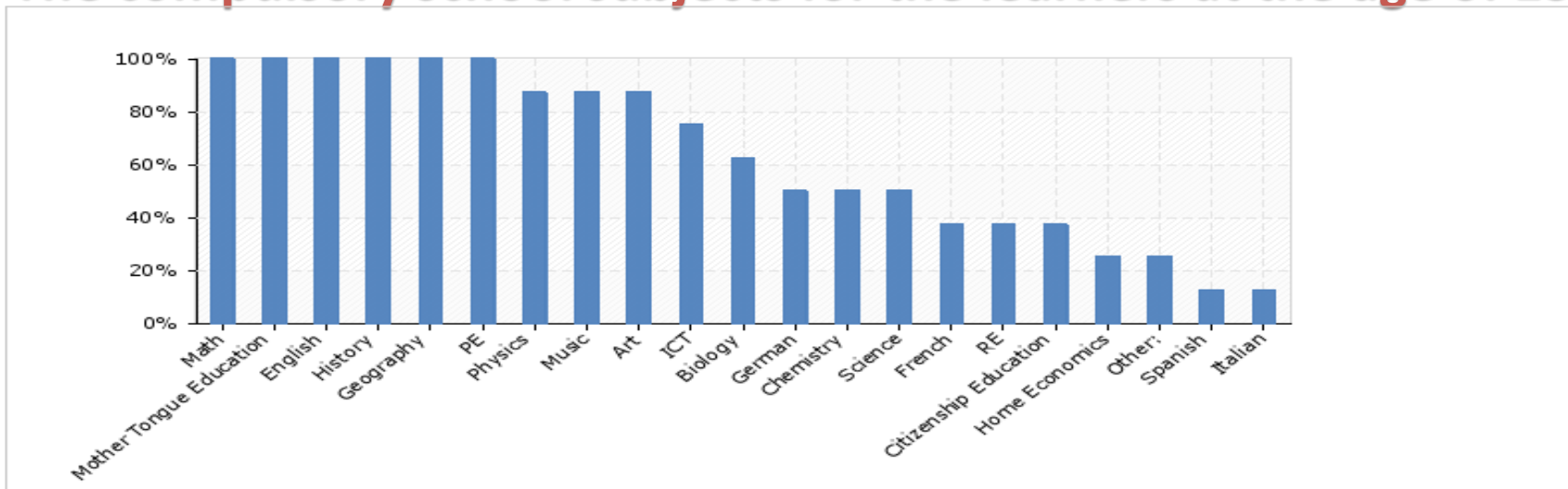


What's the average number of students per class group? N=8

France	Bulgaria	Portugal	Netherlands	Greece	Poland	Slovenia
22 - 28	22 - 28	more than 28	22 - 28	22 - 28	11 - 25	22 - 28

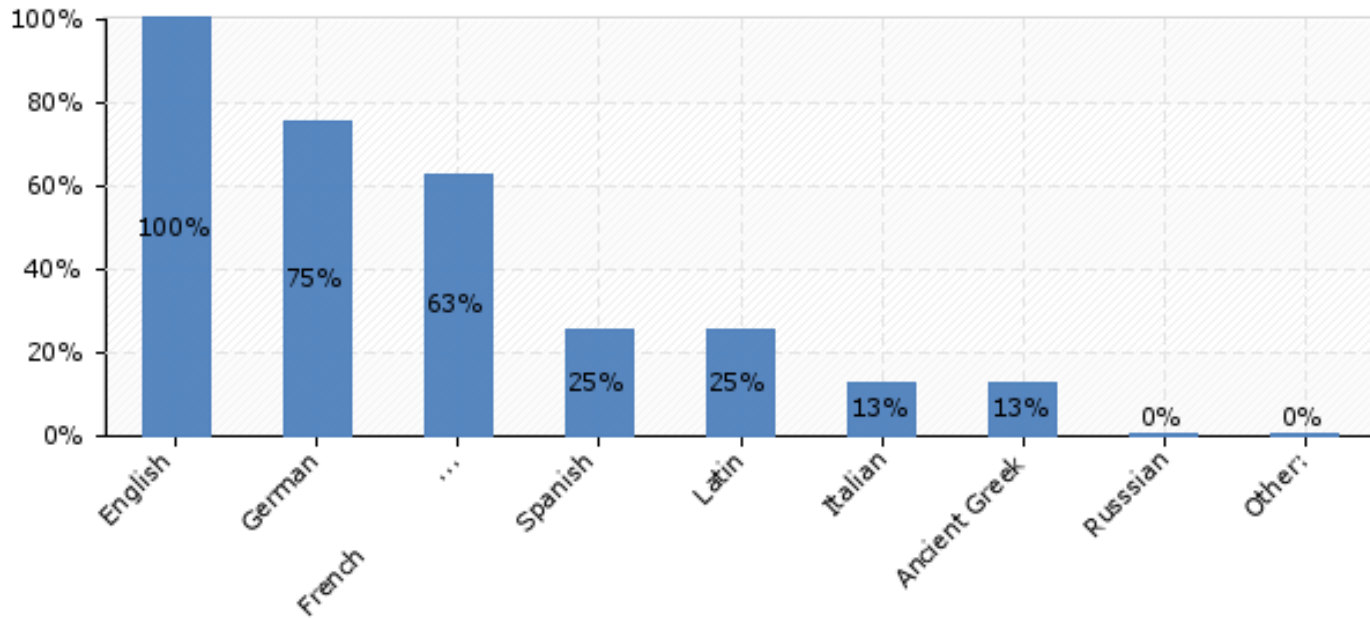


The compulsory school subjects for the learners at the age of 13:



France	Bulgaria	Portugal	Netherlands	Greece	Poland	Slovenia
Spanish Italian Science ICT	ICT Physies Chemistry Biology Citizenship Education	ICT Music Art Biology Citizenship Education	German French Science Chemistry ICT Citizenship Education RE	ancient greek language, ancient literature (translation in modern greek), greek literature, German French Science Chemistry Home Economics RE ICT Citizenship Education	German RE ICT	ICT

What foreign languages can learners learn at your school? N=8



France	Bulgaria	Portugal	Netherlands	Greece	Poland	Slovenia
English Spanish Italian Latin	English French German	English French Spanish	English German Ancient Greek Latin	English French German	English German	English French German

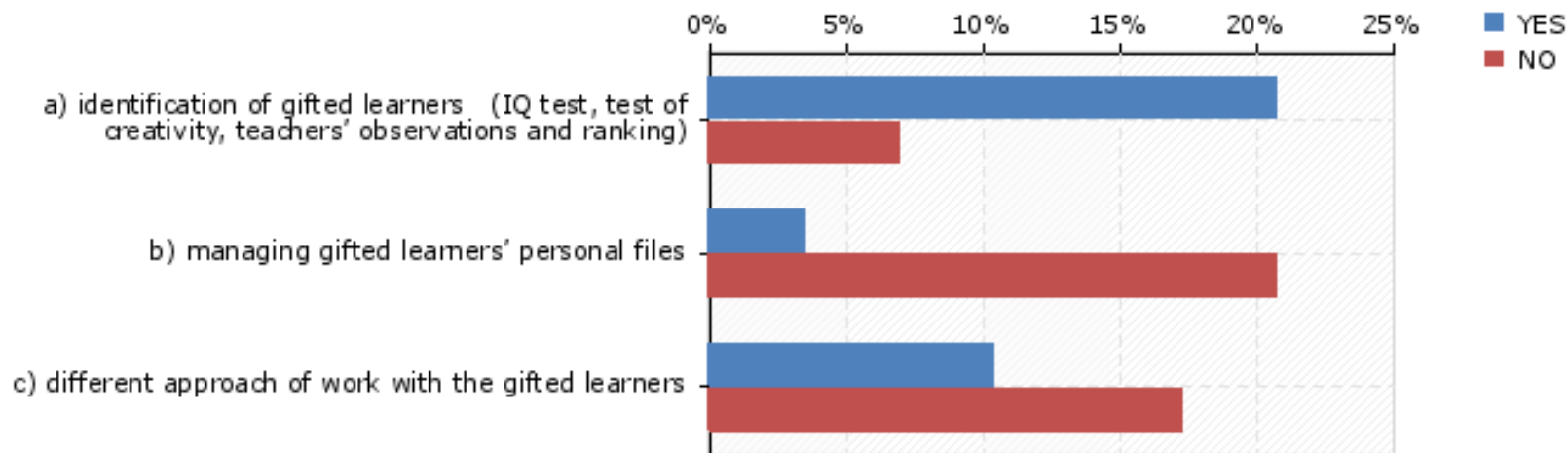
What optional school subject 'fields' can learners choose from? N=8

France	Bulgaria	Portugal	Netherlands	Greece	Poland	Slovenia
Foreign Languages Sports	Foreign Languages Art and design Music IT Sports	Religious Education Music	Theatre	-	Religious Education Education for family life	Religious Education (no one chooses it) Science Foreign Languages Home Economics Astronomy IT Art and Design Philosophy for Children Sports Music History and Geography Media (press, radio) Technology, School Journalism, Tourist Education

How do you manage different educational levels in your class? N=8

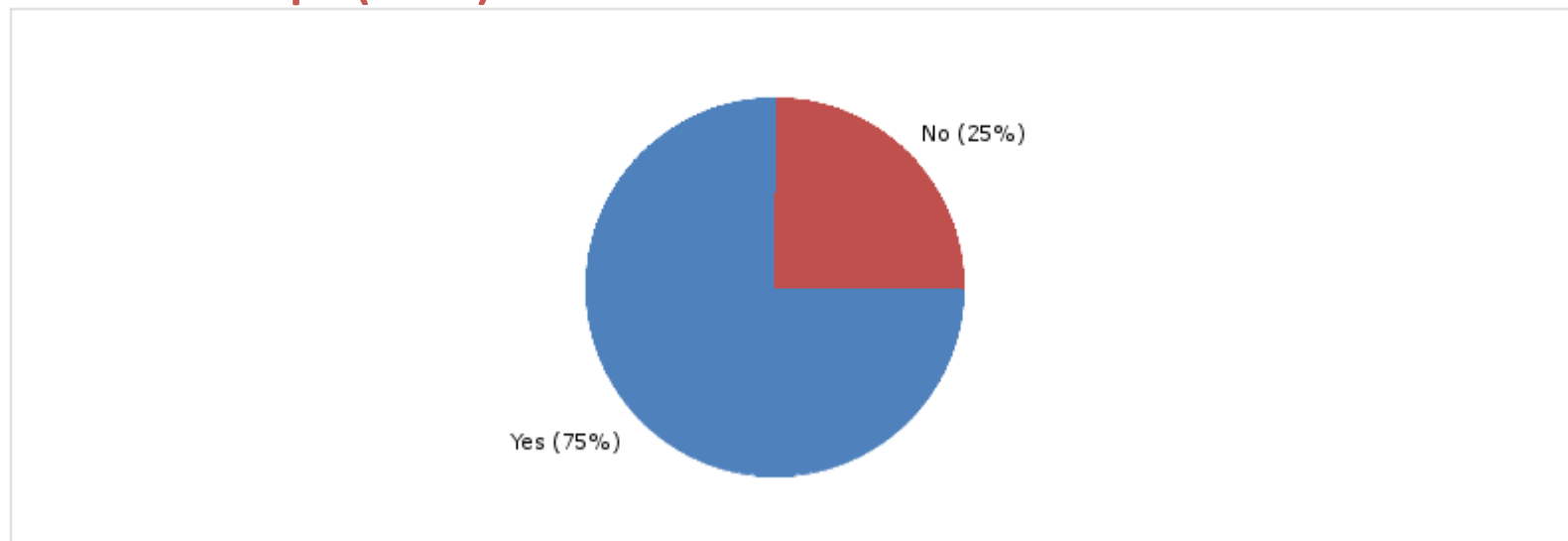
France	Bulgaria	Portugal	Netherlands	Greece	Poland	Slovenia
Learners work in <u>mixed - ability</u> groups and the teachers <u>sometimes differentiate</u> the tasks.	Learners work in <u>mixed - ability</u> groups and the teachers <u>sometimes differentiate</u> the tasks.	Learners work in <u>mixed - ability</u> groups and the teachers <u>don't differentiate</u> the tasks.	Learners are put in different class groups according to their <u>abilities</u> in all school subjects.	Learners work in <u>mixed - ability groups</u> and the teachers <u>sometimes differentiate</u> the tasks. Only for English , learners are put in different class groups (Beginners-Advanced) according to their assessment in a diagnostic Test at the age of 13.	Learners are put in different class groups according to their <u>foreign language skills</u> and <u>abilities</u> .	5th grade (Slovenian): Learners are put in different class groups according to their <u>abilities</u> a <u>few lessons per week</u> . Learners work in <u>mixed - ability groups</u> and the teachers <u>sometimes differentiate</u> the tasks. 7 - 9th grade (Slovenian, Math, English): Learners are put into <u>smaller mixed ability groups</u> .

Does your educational programme include:



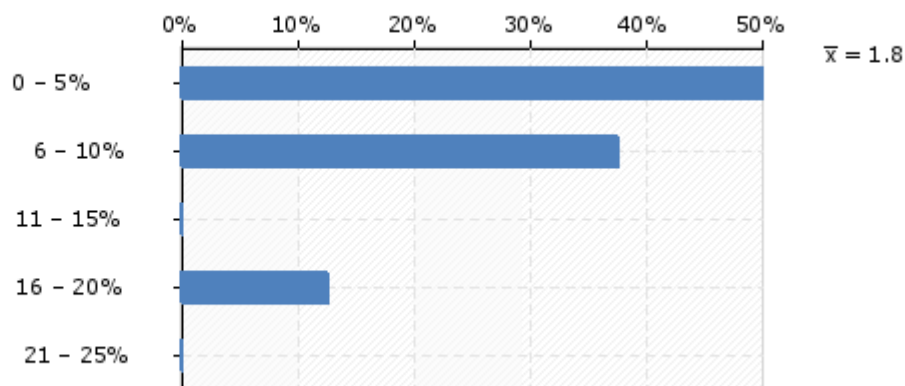
France	Bulgaria	Portugal	Netherlands	Greece	Poland	Slovenia
YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES

Does your educational programme include learners with special needs, that require adapted implementation of the educational programmes with extra professional help? (n = 8)



France	Bulgaria	Portugal	Netherlands	Greece	Poland	Slovenia
YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES

How many learners in your educational programme are learners with special needs? (n = 8)

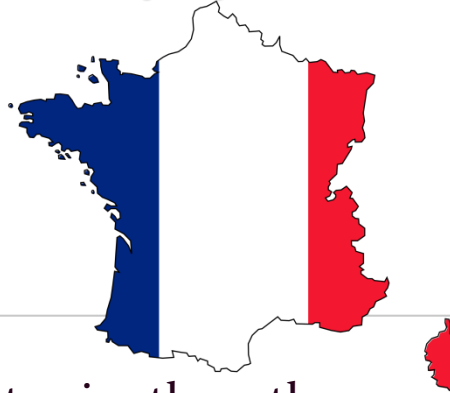


France	Bulgaria	Portugal	Netherlands	Greece	Poland	Slovenia
0 - 5%	0 - 5%	0 - 5%	6 - 10%	6 - 10%	16 - 20%	6 - 10%

Non-standard, extra-curricular activities that schools provide for the students during their compulsory education (n = 8)

France	Bulgaria	Portugal	Netherlands	Greece	Poland	Slovenia
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) school / regional / national and international competitions in different fields c) nature schools e) field trips and excursions g) career orientation p) ICT projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) competitions in different school subject fields b) school / regional / national and international competitions in different fields e) field trips and excursions g) career orientation h) school dances 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) fund-raising events b) celebrations on national anniversaries & religious holidays i) events for social gathering l) cooperation with non-governmental institution n) charity projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n) charity projects a) competitions in different school subjects, e) field trips and excursions, g) career orientation, p) ICT projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) competitions in different school subject fields b) school / regional / national and international competitions in different fields c) nature schools d) different workshops e) field trips and excursions f) learning / art / sports camps g) career orientation h) school dances i) events for social gathering j) reading badges k) intergenerational learning l) cooperation with non-governmental institution m) research projects n) charity projects

What is your school's philosophy of education?



To include each pupil and try to give them the support they need even though we might not have the resources nor the training.

To give opportunities to worse-off family children, such as travels, study help, cinema, excursions.

We also have a boarding school, which nowadays tends to host pupils who have been through quite a few other schools and who need a certain routine to manage homework, meals time tables etc.

There has been a new reform recently and we are enticed to work more across subjects and work around projects in order for our education to make more sense to the pupils.

What is your school's philosophy of education?



For our school it is very important that students feel safe at school.

Very important for us is also the triangle learner - parent - teacher. These three parties are important for all contacts so that every students can study in the right way.

Teachers have to "know" their students.

What is your school's philosophy of education?



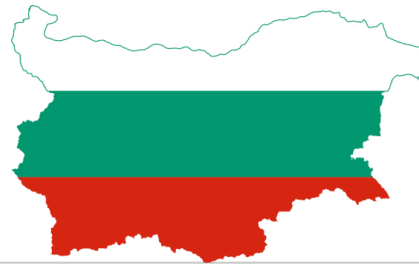
Cooperation, intellectual improvement, creativity.

What is your school's philosophy of education?



Preparing well-educated students for being responsible and tolerant in their adult lives, we also prepare students for their future career.

What is your school's philosophy of education?



Student-directed learning in all its forms. Motivate students to experience repeated learning success.

Treat them as active participants in the learning process, providing them with skills, such as: how to study, how to take notes, how to memorize, how to express themselves effectively.

Use pre-tests to find a starting point for learning and post-tests to determine the students' increase in performance level as well as the teachers' effectiveness.

Create an exciting learning environment.

Motivate students to collaborate and cooperate with peers.

The mission of the Agrupamento de Escolas de Barcelos is to carry out its educational and formative function, permanently seeking the quality of the work done, to promote and encourage the intellectual, physical, social and moral development of all students through:

- teaching of essential academic skills, preparing them for the pursuit of higher education or for insertion in the active life;
- establishment of high academic standards that inspire students to strive for success and strive for excellence and development to their full potential;
- promotion of an educational, curricular and extracurricular offer that promotes an integral education of the student (development of critical spirit, creative thought and personality);
- development of students\' habits of cooperation and adaptability and principles of honesty, respect and responsibility;
- promotion of citizenship, social integration and value of people (local, regional, national and also the european and global community), in the respect of values, cultures, human rights and fundamental freedoms ;
- promotion of the values of knowledge, of the thoroughness of communication, of respect, solidarity, responsibility;
- valorization of work, personal effort, autonomy, aesthetic sense, critical thinking , health, safety and the preservation of the environment;
- creation of a safe and stimulating school environment, privileging a humanist conception of education and the promotion of democratic principles;
- establishing partnerships and protocols that develop shared responsibility between family, school and community;
- appreciation of each student as a unique and capable individual.





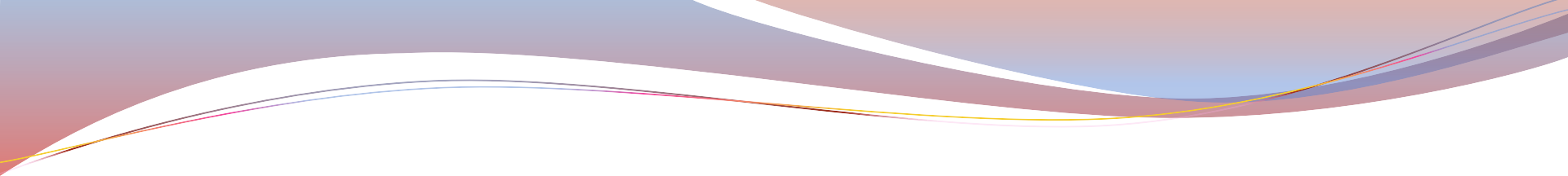
Enhancing the responsibility in
the students, parents and school
staff by means of professional
and creative process of
education.

Is there a career guidance offered at your school as a part of the curriculum? N=8

France	Bulgaria	Portugal	Netherlands	Greece	Poland	Slovenia
YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES

Is there a coherent link with the labour market opportunities? (N = 8)

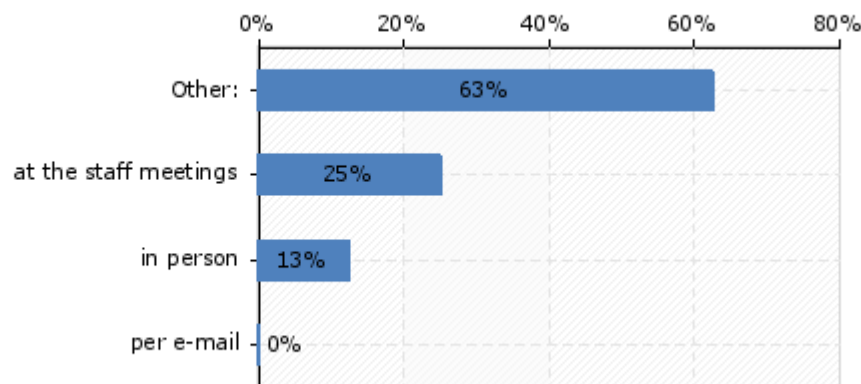
France	Bulgaria	Portugal	Netherlands	Greece	Poland	Slovenia
NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES



Country:	The link with the labour market opportunities:
France	<p>When the pupils are 13, they are invited to a job forum to incite them to think about future careers. They can also go and see the job counsellor at our school (but this is normally not encouraged so the pupils might not even be aware he exists). When the pupils are 14, they do some work related exercises, work training for a week and also have a meeting with parents, counsellor, principal and pupils in order to decide which lycée to go to.</p>
Bulgaria	<p>The class teacher organizes discussions. There are career counsellors at the regional inspectorates of education.</p>
Portugal	<p>There are professional courses specifically orientated to the labour market.</p>

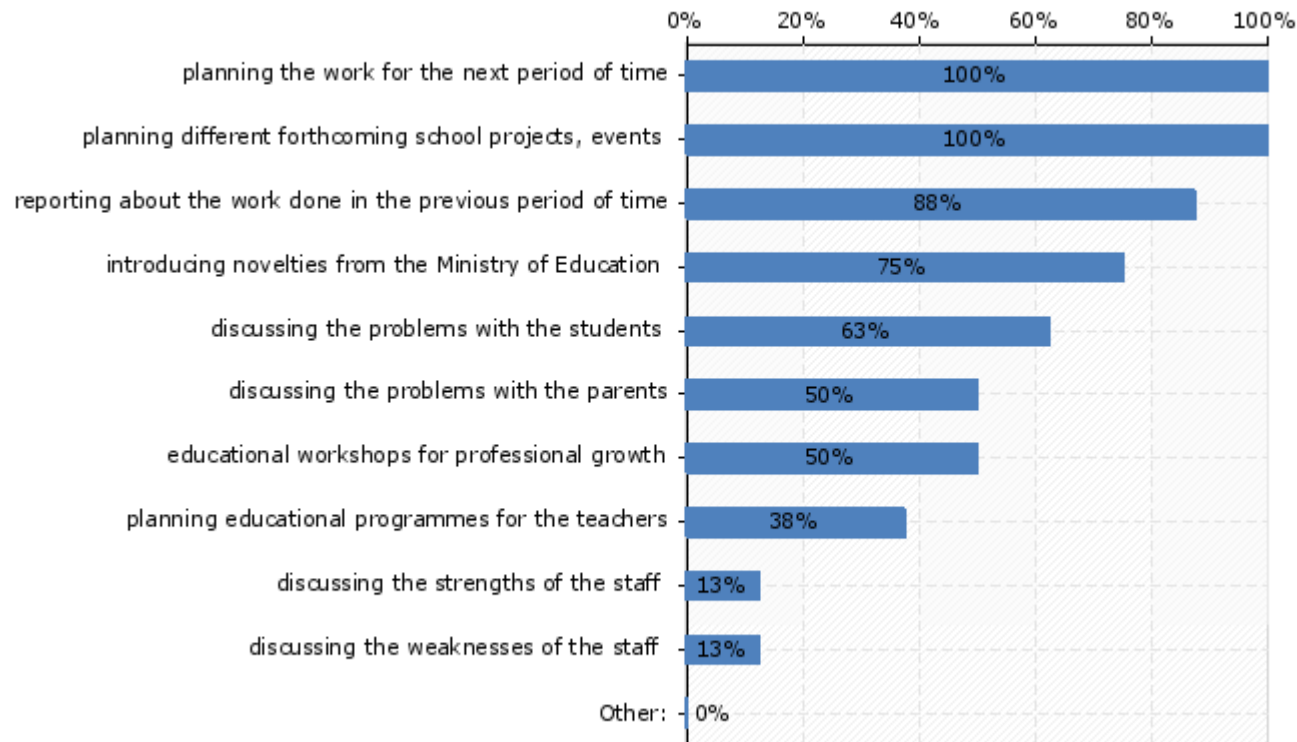
Country:	The link with the labour market opportunities:
Poland	<p>Our students have the opportunity to take part in different educational projects, which develop their job awareness and focus them on their future career.</p>
The Netherlands	<p>In every department of our school (we have three different departments : mavo – havo - vwo), students have special lessons in which they will be prepared for their next study/school, like university.</p> <p>They also have special projects in which they, for example, go out of school and work in a company for one or more weeks.</p>
Slovenia	<p>Every year in the process of career guidance, the teachers and school advisory service (school pedagogue) introduce the needs of the labour market and the opportunities available to students. There are even special career days and lectures for parents and students. However, it seems that the parents and the children do not take that into consideration and choose the secondary schooling according to their wishes and ambitions.</p>

How does the head teacher communicate with the board of teachers? You may choose more than one answer. (N = 8)

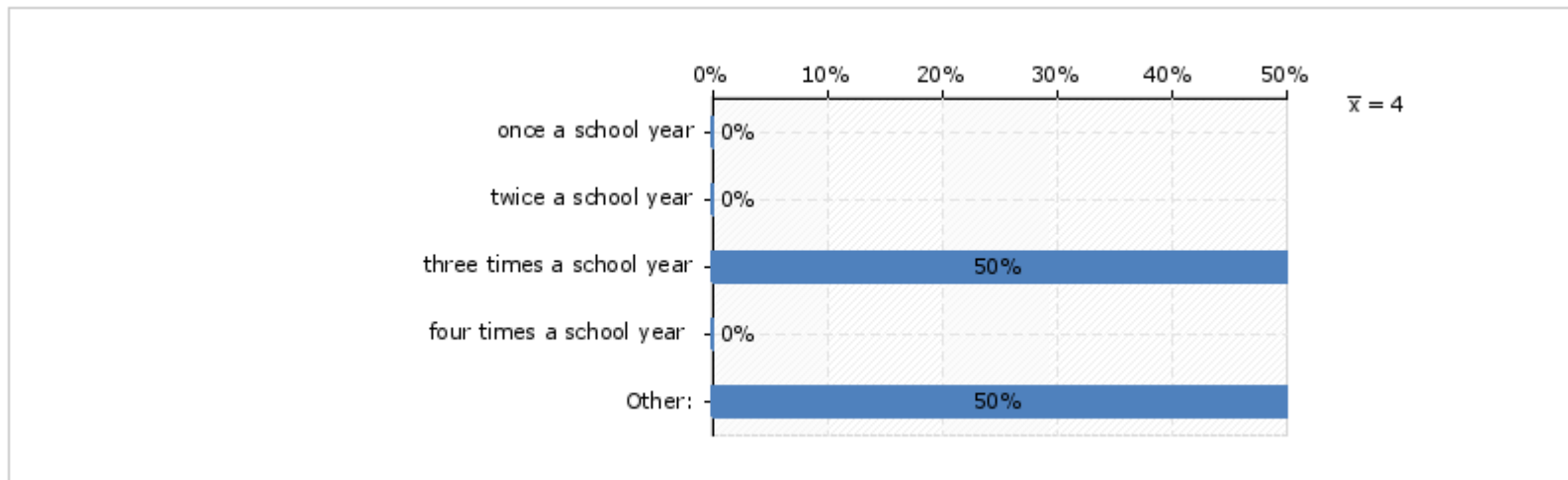


France	Bulgaria	Portugal	Netherlands	Greece	Poland	Slovenia
-in person	- in person -per e-mail -staff meetings	- in person -per e-mail -staff meetings	-per e-mail -staff meetings	- in person -per e-mail -staff meetings	-staff meetings - in person	- in person -per e-mail -staff meetings - informal talks during breaks

What is the content of staff meetings? (N = 8)



How often are there parents – teacher meetings? (N = 8)



France	Bulgaria	Portugal	Netherlands	Greece	Poland	Slovenia
3 times per year	3 times per year	3 times per year	3 times per year	one day a week for every teacher (all parents?)	alost every month of a school year	3 – 4 times per year

What is the content of parents – teacher meetings?

Country:	
France	<p>In the beginning of each school year, we invite parents of the youngest and new pupils to come and meet the teachers who explain how they work, what is expected... and where the parents can ask questions. These are group meetings.</p> <p>Twice during the school year, at the end of the first and second term, all teachers receive parents individually (but not on a schedule, parents have to line up outside our classrooms for hours between 17 and 20 in the evening) to talk about the individual pupils.</p> <p>We are also available for meetings with parents upon request.</p>
The Netherlands	<p>Normally, we speak to the parents when it comes to the results of the students. Parents also come to school, for example, when it comes to projects in which their children take part in.</p> <p>There are also parents' meetings, in which they discuss the daily life at school with members of the staff.</p>

What is the content of parents – teacher meetings?

Country:	
Bulgaria	<p>Reporting about the students' achievements and behavior in the previous period of time.</p> <p>Planning the interaction between the class tutor and the parents in order to support students for the next period of time.</p> <p>Discussing the problems in the class.</p>
Greece	<p>Briefing on their children's school achievement, behaviour, absences, grades. (these are separate parent – teacher meetings, I assume)</p>
Portugal	<p>Hand out the students' grades and talk about eventual conflict situations.</p>
Poland	<p>Teachers provide parents with information referring to students' behaviour and educational results (grades), they also inform parents about school exams procedures.</p>

What is the content of parents – teacher meetings?

Country:	
Slovenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- educational development/improvement of students- informing parents about current class situation / events /students' activities- educating parents about topical/present themes

Our grading systems

Country:	Type of grades:
France	<p>Numerical grading, grades from 1-20.</p> <p>It is generally the tests that decide the grade.</p> <p>In general, teachers tend to mark the tests on a scale from 1-20 (or dividable by 20) and the grading software automatically calculates the average grade.</p>
Bulgaria	<p>Numerical grading, grades from 2 – 6.</p> <p>2 is poor, 3 is satisfactory, 4 is good, 5 is very good, 6 is excellent.</p>
Portugal	<p>Qualitative and quantitative assessment.</p>
The Netherlands	<p>Numerical grading, grades 1 – 10.</p> <p>1 is the lowest and 10 is the highest grade.</p>

Our grading systems

Country:	Type of grades:
Greece	Numerical grading, grades 1 – 20. 1-20 (10 for passing a subject, 20 for excellent achievement).
Poland	Numerical grading, grades 1 – 6. 1 - unsatisfactory; the lowest grade, 2 - passing, 3 - satisfactory, 4 - good, 5 - very good, 6- excellent ; the highest grade.
Slovenia	* 1st - 2nd grade: narrative grading * 3rd – 9th grade: numerical grading Grades from 1 – 5 (1 – insufficient, 2 – sufficient, 3 – good, 4 very good, 5 – excellent).

Our grading systems

Country:	Number of grades:
France	3
Bulgaria	<p>For a subject, which is taught 4 or more classes a week - 4 grades for oral presentations and 6 grades for written tests.</p> <p>For a subject, which is taught 3 classes a week - 4 grades for oral presentations and 4 grades for written tests.</p> <p>For a subject, which is taught 2 classes a week – 4 grades for oral presentations and 2 grades for written tests.</p> <p>For a subject, which is taught 1 class a week – 2 grades for oral presentations and 2 grades for written tests.</p> <p>PE – 6 grades for practical tests.</p>
The Netherlands	<p>It depends on the subject.</p> <p>Some subjects like Math or languages have many grades during the year. Art has not so many grades, for example.</p>

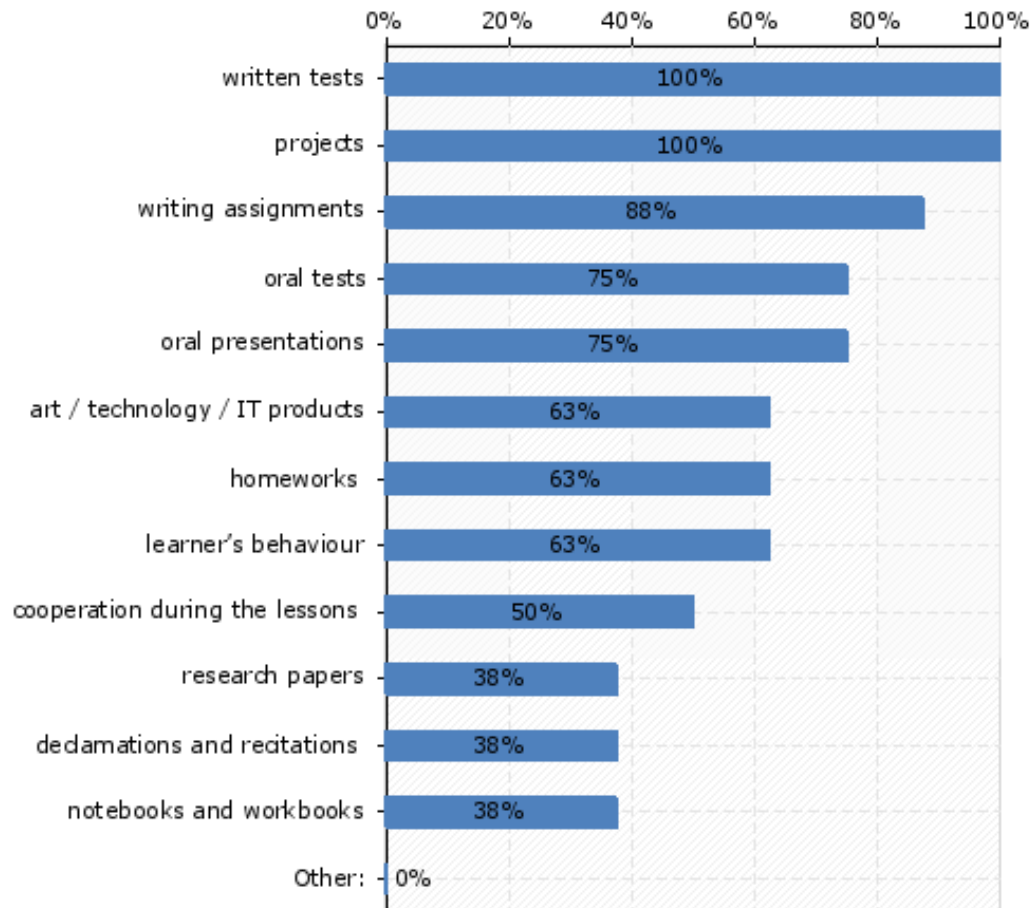
Our grading systems

Country:	Number of grades:
Portugal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1st year of primary school: children don't fail• from year 2 to 8 (primary and elementary level): students can fail, but teachers need to justify (there is pedagogical orientation in our school to keep in the same level the students that show too many difficulties – more than 3 low grades)• 9th grade: students have 2 exams (Portuguese and Math); they cannot proceed to secondary level if they are unsuccessful in any 3 subjects or port. and math together.• secondary level: students fail the year if they are unsuccessful in 2 subjects• 12th year - end of secondary education – students must be successful in all subjects (including the ones they have national exams)

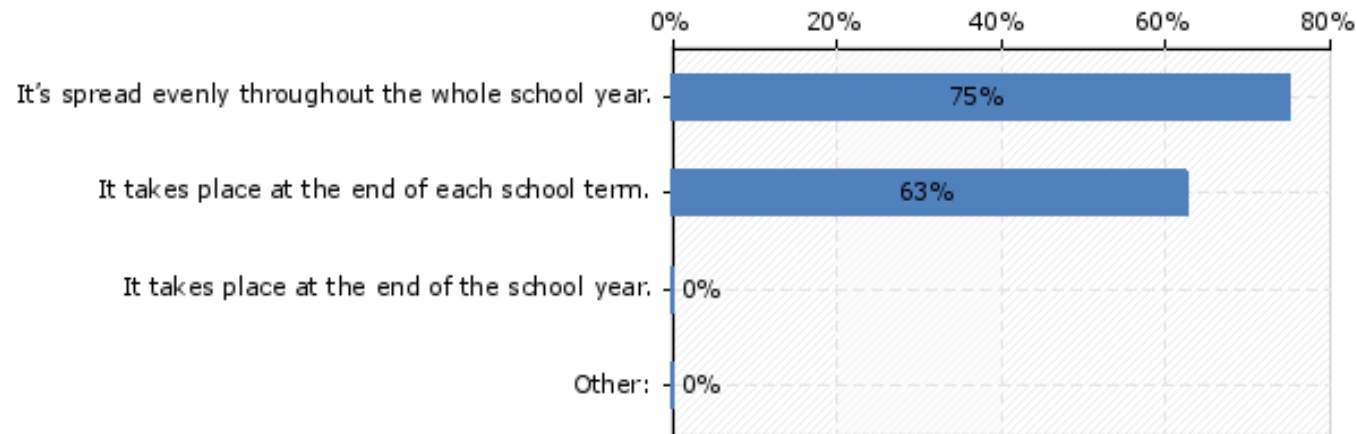
Our grading systems

Country:	Number of grades:
Greece	2 (4 core subjects are examined at the end of each school year - Modern Greek Language, History, Maths, Physics)
Poland	All school subjects compulsory on every class levels are graded. At the end of lower secondary education- students must be successful in all subjects.
Slovenia	If there are 2 lessons per week: 3 grades are compulsory. If there are more than 2 lessons per week: 6 grades are compulsory. However, there should be more grades gained with oral examinations than with written tests.

What do you grade? (n = 8)



How often does the grading take place (N = 8)



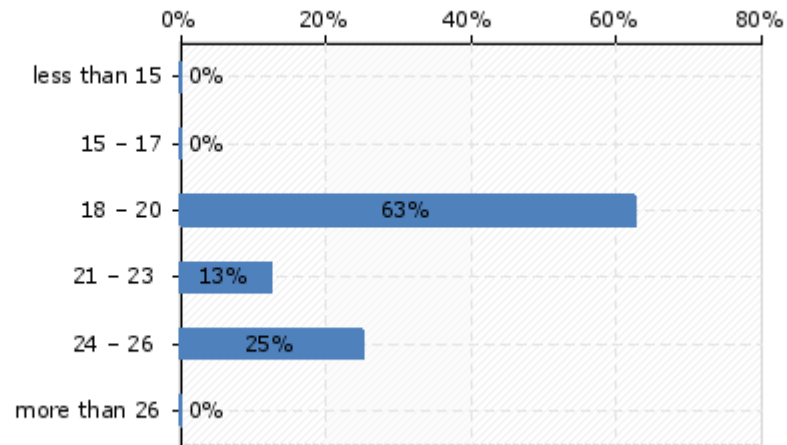
France	Bulgaria	Portugal	Netherlands	Greece	Poland	Slovenia
spread evenly / all year	spread evenly / all year	spread evenly / all year	spread evenly / all year		spread evenly / all year	spread evenly / all year
at the end of each school term	at the end of each school term	at the end of each school term		at the end of each school term		

Are there any national achievement tests during the compulsory education? (N = 8)

Country:	National achievement tests
France	<p>DNB: at the end of collège, all pupils must take this national test. Its main reason is diagnostic, but it also counts at the pupils' final grade.</p> <p>Around 95 % of pupils pass this exam, which only takes into consideration French, History&Geography, Math and Science.</p>
Bulgaria	<p>At the end of: the primary school, the elementary school, and high school.</p>
Poland	<p>National tests in Poland are used to monitor school and the education system.</p>

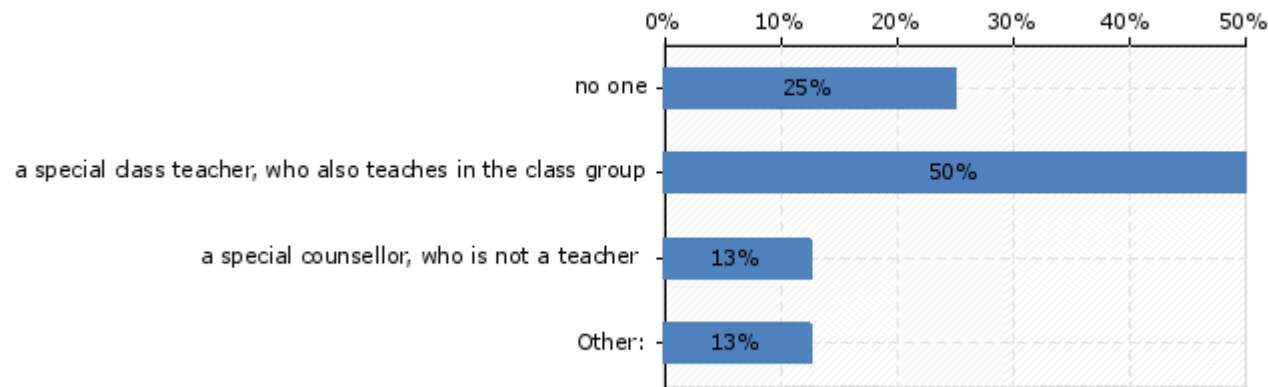
Country:	National achievement tests
The Netherlands	There are several tests when it comes to mother tongue subject, Math and English. At the end of each type of school there is the final examination.
Portugal	Mother Tongue and Math
Slovenia	<p>There are two national achievement tests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -the first one takes place at the end of the second cycle (at the age of 11). Children take tests in Math, Slovenian and English. -the second one takes place at the end of the third cycle (at the age of 14). Children take tests in Math, Slovenian and a random subject that is chosen by computer for each school in Slovenia. <p>The random subject can be any subjects taught in the last year of basic education. The results of the national achievement test don't count when it comes to entering secondary education. It may have some meaning if there is an even number of students enrolling in the same secondary programme. In that case, only the results of the last national achievement test in Math and Slovenian count.</p>

How many lessons does a teacher teach on average every week? (N = 8)



France	Bulgaria	Portugal	Netherlands	Greece	Poland	Slovenia
18 - 20	18 - 20	24 - 26	24 - 26	18 - 20	18 - 20	21 - 23

Who has the role of a counsellor for each class group at your school? (N = 8)



France	Bulgaria	Portugal	Netherlands	Greece	Poland	Slovenia
class teacher	class teacher	class teacher	class teacher	no one	a special counsellor, who is not a teacher	class teacher + school advisory service (two school pedagogues) who are counselling all the students

Do you have extra – tutoring after lessons at your school?
(N = 8)

France	Bulgaria	Portugal	Netherlands	Greece	Poland	Slovenia
No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes, but not all the teachers.

If your previous answer was 'Yes', then answer: Does it take a lot of extra time? (N = 5)

France	Bulgaria	Portugal	Netherlands	Greece	Poland	Slovenia
No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes

Do teachers have 'watch duty' during the breaks and at lunch time in the canteen? (N = 8)

France	Bulgaria	Portugal	Netherlands	Greece	Poland	Slovenia
NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
	once a week		once a week	2 times a week	2 times a week	3 – 4 times a week

What's the number of students at your school? What's the type of your school?

France	Bulgaria	Portugal	Netherlands	Greece	Poland	Slovenia
230	500	1250	1250	280	700	550
11 – 14 years old students	7 – 18 years old students	12 – 17 years old students	12 – 18 years old students	13 – 15 years old	6 – 12 and 13 – 16 years old	6 – 15 years old students