

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING SITUATION IN PRI-SEC-CO PARTNERS' COUNTRIES: A GENERAL OVERVIEW

	<i>Austria</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Hungary¹</i>	<i>Spain¹</i>	<i>Sweden</i>	<i>Switzerland¹</i>
At what age does compulsory schooling begin?	6 year olds	6 year olds	6 year olds	6 year olds	3 year olds	7 year olds	6 year olds
When and at what age did FLT become compulsory?	1983 - 9 year olds 2002 - 7 year olds	2002 - 9 year olds 2007 - 7 year olds	1960s -10 year olds 1995-2001 - 6 or 8 year olds	until1989 Russian – 10 year olds 1989 mostly E or G - 9 year olds ² .	1990 - E 8 year olds 2002 – E 6 year olds	1969 from 4 th year- 11 year olds	1990 F - 11 year olds 2004 E – 8 year olds
Is there a National Curriculum for FL in primary?	Yes	Yes ¹	No. Curricula of the different federal states	Yes ³	Yes ²	Yes ¹	Yes (regional) ²
Is there a National Curriculum for FL in secondary?	Yes	Yes ²	No ¹	Yes	Yes	Yes ² .	Yes ³
Does the NC establish aims and objectives for FL in primary and secondary	Yes for both	Yes for both	No, but federal curricula do	Yes or both	Yes for both	Yes for both	Yes for both but see note3
Does the NC recommend methodological guidelines?	Yes for both	Yes for both	No, but federal curricula do	No for both	Yes for both	No for both	Yes for primary No for secondary
Which foreign languages are taught in primary?	E & F	E, G, ES & I ³	E & F	E,G, F (optional) ⁴	E ³ (compulsory)	E (compulsory)	E & F (compulsory)
Which foreign languages are taught in secondary?	E & F (see note 1)	E, G, ES, I, A, R,Ch, H, P ⁴ .	E (compulsory); F, ES, L & R	E, G, F, I, ES & L (optional))	E (compulsory.); F & G (optional)	E (compulsory) F, G, ES, D (optional)	E & F (compulsory); I (optional); L ⁴
How many hours per week/year in primary?	10 min/day in years 1 and 2, 32 hours/year; 50 min/week in years 3 and 4 (+ 10 min/day optional) 32/ 64 hours/year	1½ hours/week 54 hours/year	2 periods of 45'/week, ca. 75 hours/year	2/3 periods of 45' /week 60/30 hours/year	3 periods of 50'/week 90 hours/year	E: 480 hours; Elective language: 320 hours ³	E: 2 periods of 45'/week F: 2 periods of 45'/week 60 hours/year
How many hours per week/year in secondary?	3/4periods of 50'min/week 80/130/hours a year	3-4 hours/week 140 hours/year	4-5 hours/week ca. 170 hours/year	1st FL (5-8): 3-5 periods of 45'/ week. 2nd FL (9-12): 3-5 lessons of 45'.	E: 3 periods 50'/weeks 90 hours/ year F&G:2 periods 50' week 60 hours/year	See note 3	E: 3 periods of 45'/week, 90 hours/year F: 4 periods of 45'/week, 120 hours/year
Type of assessment/ evaluation for primary	Continuous evaluation	Continuous evaluation + testing in the 1st year of secondary	Continuous evaluation	Continuous evaluation ⁵	Continuous evaluation ⁴	Continuous evaluation + National Texts in years 5 (age 12)	Continuous evaluation ⁵

Type of assessment/evaluation for secondary	Formal evaluation	Continuous evaluation	Continuous evaluation; formal assessment at the end of secondary	Continuous evaluation	Continuous evaluation ⁴	Continuous evaluation + National Texts in year 9 (age 16)	Continuous evaluation
Is the ELP used in FL classrooms?	Being phased in lower sec; piloted in primary	Piloting	Mentioned in the curricula both for primary & second.	Piloting	Piloting	Yes – but sparsely used	Being phased in currently
Are there CLIL/Bilingual teaching programs?	Yes	Yes ⁵	Yes	Yes	Yes ⁵	Yes	Yes ⁶
Teacher training for primary EFL teachers	Bachelor in Education (BEd) (only part of it)	Bachelor degree + national exam; qualification in FL teaching required since 2005	English <i>can</i> be one of the subjects in teacher training in most federal states.	Bachelor in Education (only part of it) or FL Master degree (for primary and secondary level)	3 year university diploma ⁶	Optional 15hp (or 30hp) credit points	Additional qualification, class teachers
Teacher training for secondary EFL teachers	BEd. for lower sec. or Mag .Phil (university ²)	English degree + national teaching qualification	English <i>has to be</i> one of two/three subjects in teacher training	FL teacher Master degree	Bachelor degree + specific course ⁷	270hp BEd with English as major; or B. Degree + 90hp teacher training	Master level, 4 to 5 subjects ⁷
When does transition from primary to secondary take place?	10 year olds (Year 4)	11 year olds (Year 6)	10 year olds after Year 4	See note 6	11/12 year olds (after Year 6)	Year 7 (14 year olds) but it is changing to Year 6 (13 year olds)	12 year olds (Year 6)
Are there specific materials for transition?	No	Summary of competencies; testing at start of Year 6	Some publishing houses offer additional material for the beginning of Year 5.	No	No	Optional diagnostic materials for Years 6-9	No
Are there means of assuring continuity?	Very little, two separated curricula	Transition docs; teachers' meetings	No means of assuring continuity ²	The National Curriculum and meth. approach	The National Curriculum ⁸	The National Curriculum and the National Tests	Curriculum, meth. approach ⁸

Legend for Languages: A (Arabic); Ch (Chinese); D (Danish); E (English); G (German); L (Latin); ES (Spanish); F (French); H (Hebrew); I (Italian); P(Portuguese); R Russian

Notes

Austria

1 Also languages of neighbouring countries are taught.

2 This will change due to the Bologna process.

France

1 <http://www.education.gouv.fr/bo/2007/hs8/default.htm> - there are slight variations in orientations and priorities adopted in each of the 30 Académies.

2 http://trf.education.gouv.fr/pub/edutel/bo/2005/hs6/MENE0501647A_annexe03.pdf new programme for first stage of secondary school to provide continuity.

3 Officially also Chinese, Arabic, Russian & Portuguese, but these not taught as often as the others. Regional languages also form an important part of the programme.

4 According to the official programmes – whether or not they're taught will depend on the demand and the availability of teachers.

5 There are not many bilingual programmes in primary; the number is growing in secondary.

Germany

- 1 Curricula of the different federal states. There are common standards for English as a foreign language after Year 10.
- 2 There is a heightened awareness and it has been brought up more often recently; teacher training courses are being organized.

Hungary

- 1 This information can be applied to most Hungarian schools but FLT may have specific features. In schools where the local conditions make it possible, FLT begins earlier
- 2 Russian was the official FL until 1989 - 10 year olds.
- 3 <http://www.mek.iif.hu/porta/szint/tarsad/pedagog/oktpol/nat/>
- 4 French is not usually taught but there are some examples.
- 5 Informal and formal assessment is carried out throughout the year.
- 6 There are different forms of secondary school. 11 year olds (Year 5) – 8 classes generally school; 11 year olds +13 year olds (Year 6. sec. school); 11 year olds +15 year olds (Year 4 Secondary school)(5).

Spain

- 1 This information can be applied to most Spanish Communities but FLT may have specific features in some of them as a number of educational competencies have been transferred to the communities from the Ministry of Education (e.g. Vasque Country and Catalonia).
- 2 <http://www.mec.es/educa/sistema-educativo/loe/files/educacion-primaria.pdf> (pages 38-43); <http://www.mec.es/educa/sistema-educativo/loe/files/idiomas.pdf>
- 3 French has disappeared gradually from Primary Education.
- 4 Informal and formal assessment (formative and summative evaluation) carried out throughout the year.
- 5 A total of 140 primary schools and 10 secondary schools are involved in a bilingual project in the Community of Madrid. Initiatives of this type are also being undertaken in the most Spanish communities.
- 6 This will change to a 4 year (with mention or itinerary in FL) due to Bologna process.
- 7 This will change to 4 year + MA due to Bologna process.
- 8 The NC assures continuity in terms of contents but not concerning methodology.

Sweden

- 1 Link to National Curriculum (called the syllabus for English and modern languages) in English: <http://www3.skolverket.se/ki/eng/comp.pdf>
- 2 One syllabus covers both primary and secondary.
- 3 Pupils must have a total of 480 hours of English in compulsory school (years 1-9) and 320 of language options. Schools divide these hours as they wish across the primary/secondary range.

Switzerland

- 1 Most of this information can only be applied to cantons in eastern German-speaking Switzerland. 15 of these are currently implementing English in the primary school. The exact figures and info given relate to the Canton of Zurich. In cantons along the language border, French precedes English provision.
- 2 English for primary schools (2006): http://www.vsa.zh.ch/file_uploads/bibliothek/k_268_LehrplanLP/3211_0_englischprimarlp-erg.pdf; French and English for secondary schools (2000): http://www.vsa.zh.ch/file_uploads/bibliothek/k_268_LehrplanLP/2368_0_2368_0_lp_sprache_aktuell.pdf
- 3 The English curriculum for secondary schools will soon be out of date; it is based on three years' beginners courses. In 2009 a new curriculum will be published to accommodate pupils entering with primary English.
- 4 Latin is taught to Gymnasium / lycée students for at least 3 years in lower secondary school.
- 5 Formative and summative assessment carried out throughout the year. Assessment packs available for teachers as from December 2007 for primary French and English.
- 6 Materials and teacher training emphasising cross-curricular teaching (a 'mild' form of CLIL) are being introduced in Zurich primary schools for English.
- 7 The official training course for secondary teachers in Zurich is now an MA course, students have to choose 4 subjects and get methodology training. English language competence level is C2 / Certificate of Proficiency.
- 8 For French, there are the course materials Envol, which run from Year 5 to 9 across the divide. The HarmoS project, now under way, aims to define minimum standards for 2 foreign languages at Years 6 and 9. The testing instruments are now being validated.