

15 May 1985

## PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE COMMUNITY IN 1981

Education and training financed by central and local governments in the Community of Nine and carried out in both public and private institutions amounted to 120.6 billion ECU in 1981. This represented 11.5% of total public expenditure and 5.4% of gross domestic product, with variations about these figures in individual Member States.

Compared with the previous year, public expenditure on education and training rose by 11.9% at current prices and by 1.2% at constant prices, i.e. in real terms. Particularly high increases in real terms were made in Italy (9.6%), Ireland (9.2%) and Luxembourg (7.3%), whilst in the Netherlands and Belgium expenditure in real terms actually fell slightly.

This expenditure corresponded to 461 ECU per inhabitant. However, comparisons between countries are better made in Purchasing Power Standards (PPS), which reflect approximately the same purchasing power in each country (see explanatory notes, page 7). Figures per inhabitant ranged from 412 PPS in Ireland to 716 PPS in Denmark, with a Community average of 496 PPS.

Approximately 93% of the expenditure was absorbed by the school system (including technical colleges, universities, etc.) whilst the remaining 7% was spent outside the school system on vocational training and adult education generally of a part-time or short duration nature. Altogether vocational training, both within and outside the school system, accounted for over 15% of total expenditure (see explanatory notes concerning national interpretation of vocational training).

Analysis is given in the tables of this bulletin mainly in the form of percentages of total expenditure so that the reader can calculate figures for himself either in ECU, in PPS or in national currencies.

It has not yet been found possible to include figures for Greece.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING

		BR DEUTSCH- LAND	FRANCE	ITALIA	NEDER- LAND	BELGIQUE BELGIE	LUXEM- BOURG	UNITED KINGDOM	IRLAND	DANMARK	EUR 9
	National currency:	Mio DM	Mio FF	Mrd Lit	Mio Hfl	Mio Bfr	Mio Lfr	Mio UKL	Mio IrL	Mio DKr	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING</b>											
In national currency	1978	62430	111491	10797	21525	193222	5473	9320	398	17657	
	1979	68115	121638	14400	22610	202005	6109	10689	503	23072	
	1980	73949	139299	17961	23662	204591	8178	12893	604	26483	
	1981	78462	156769	23296	24034	209479	9464	14420	773	30229	
In million ECU	1978	24424	19424	9995	7816	4823	137	14038	600	2515	83772
	1979	27128	20866	12648	8226	5029	152	16537	751	3200	94538
	1980	29296	23735	15104	8572	5039	201	21542	894	3383	107767
	1981	31211	25956	18442	8661	5073	229	26071	1118	3816	120577
In million PPS	1978	20672	19026	14377	6748	4146	132	18981	808	2002	66891
	1979	23900	20722	18227	7512	4560	155	20960	991	2677	99704
	1980	27905	23812	21206	8391	5014	212	23744	1176	3198	14657
	1981	31511	26437	25713	8935	5385	248	26314	1418	3669	129629
<b>PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>											
At current prices in national currency	1979/78	9.1	9.1	33.4	5.0	4.5	11.6	14.7	26.2	30.7	12.9
	1980/79	8.6	14.5	24.7	4.7	11.3	33.9	20.6	20.2	14.8	14.0
	1981/80	6.1	12.5	29.7	1.6	2.4	15.7	11.8	27.9	14.1	11.9
At constant prices in national currency (1)	1979/78	4.9	-1.2	15.0	1.2	-0	5.5	.1	11.4	21.5	2.4
	1980/79	4.0	2.0	3.4	-1.0	-2.6	24.1	.7	5.3	6.1	1.2
	1981/80	1.9	.4	9.6	-3.7	-2.8	7.3	.1	9.2	3.7	1.2
<b>EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMPARED WITH CERTAIN NATIONAL AGGREGATES</b>											
% of total public expenditure	1978	10.7	12.4	10.1	13.7	12.3	10.5	14.3	13.9	11.9	11.9
	1979	10.8	11.8	11.8	13.2	11.8	10.4	14.1	14.1	13.3	12.0
	1980	10.9	11.8	11.2	12.5	10.8	12.3	13.8	13.1	13.3	11.9
	1981	11.0	11.0	10.6	11.8	9.8	12.5	13.6	13.2	13.0	11.5
% of gross domestic product	1978	4.9	5.2	4.9	7.2	6.5	4.9	5.6	6.2	5.7	5.3
	1979	4.9	5.0	5.3	7.2	6.3	5.0	5.5	6.7	6.7	5.3
	1980	5.0	5.0	5.3	7.0	6.0	6.0	5.7	6.8	7.1	5.3
	1981	5.1	5.0	5.8	6.8	5.9	6.6	5.8	7.3	7.4	5.4
<b>EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING PER INHABITANT</b>											
In national currency (units)*	1978	1018	2093	192	1544	19657	15107	166	120	3459	
	1979	1110	2274	256	1611	20535	16797	190	149	4509	
	1980	1201	2593	318	1672	20777	22399	229	178	5169	
	1981	1272	2905	412	1687	21262	25880	256	224	5902	
In ECU	1978	398	365	178	561	491	377	250	181	493	323
	1979	442	390	225	586	511	418	294	223	625	363
	1980	476	442	268	606	512	552	383	263	660	413
	1981	506	481	326	608	515	627	462	325	745	461
In PPS	1978	337	357	256	484	422	363	338	244	392	335
	1979	390	387	324	535	464	426	373	294	523	383
	1980	453	443	376	593	509	580	422	346	624	439
	1981	511	490	455	627	547	677	467	412	716	496

(1) Deflation by the GDP price index  
\* ITALIA x1000

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING

		BR DEUTSCH- LAND	FRANCE	ITALIA	NEDER- LAND	BELGIQUE BELGIE	LUXEM- BOURG	UNITED KINGDOM	IRELAND	DANMARK	EUR 9
National currency:		DM	FF	1000 Lit	Hfl	BFr	LFr	UKL	IrL	Dkr	
<b>EXPENDITURE BY INSTITUTIONAL FRAME- WORK AS % OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>											
Within the school system	1978	93.5	93.0	94.0	95.5	95.7	98.0	90.7	95.8	97.0	93.4
	1979	92.6	94.1	94.7	94.9	95.6	98.1	89.8	95.9	97.5	93.3
	1980	91.9	94.2	94.0	94.8	95.6	98.5	89.9	95.4	97.6	92.9
	1981	90.8	94.7	94.5	95.0	95.7	98.6	89.9	95.4	97.7	92.8
Outside the school system	1978	6.5	7.0	6.0	4.5	4.3	2.0	9.3	4.2	3.0	6.6
	1979	7.4	5.9	5.3	5.1	4.4	1.9	10.2	4.1	2.5*	6.7
	1980	8.1*	5.8	6.0	5.2	4.4	1.5	10.1	4.6	2.4*	7.1
	1981	9.2*	5.3	5.5	5.0	4.3	1.4	10.1*	4.6	2.3*	7.2
<b>EXPENDITURE WITHIN THE SCHOOL SYS- TEM PER INHABITANT AGED 5-24 YEARS</b>											
In national currency	1978	3179	6128	582	4314	61012	50906	488	303	11235	
	1979	3460	6779	778	4517	64338	56964	555	377	14766	
	1980	3747	7817	960	4744	65859	76769	674	447	16986	
	1981	3964	8915	1253	4863	68451	90846	762	567	19496	
In ECU	1978	1244	1068	539	1566	1523	1271	735	456	1601	970
	1979	1378	1163	683	1643	1602	1418	859	563	2048	1094
	1980	1484	1332	808	1719	1622	1691	1127	661	2170	1247
	1981	1577	1476	992	1752	1658	2200	1377	820	2461	1403
In PPS	1978	1053	1046	775	1352	1309	1224	994	615	1274	1004
	1979	1214	1155	985	1501	1452	1446	1089	744	1713	1153
	1980	1414	1336	1134	1682	1614	1989	1242	869	2051	1327
	1981	1592	1503	1383	1808	1760	2378	1390	1039	2366	1510
<b>EXPENDITURE OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL SYS- TEM PER INHABITANT AGED 15-64 YEARS</b>											
In national currency	1978	103	230	18	107	1306	443	25	9	163	
	1979	125	212	21	126	1371	474	30	10	178	
	1980	148*	236	29	131	1406	507	36	14	193	
	1981	174*	239	34	127	1380	541	40*	16	208	
In ECU	1978	40	40	17	39	33	11	37	13	23	33
	1979	50	36	18	46	34	12	47	15	25*	38
	1980	58*	40	24	47	35	12	61	20	25*	45
	1981	69*	40	27	46	33	13	73*	25	26*	51
In PPS	1978	34	39	24	33	28	11	50	18	18	35
	1979	44	36	27	42	31	12	60	20	21*	40
	1980	56*	40	34	46	34	13	67	27	23*	48
	1981	70*	40	38	47	35	14	73*	32	25*	54

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING

		FR	FRANCE	ITALIA	NEDER-	BELGIE	LUXEM-	UNITED	IRELAND	DANMARK	EUR 9
		DEUTSCH-			LAND	BELGIE	BOURG	KINGDOM			
		LAND									
<b>CURRENT EXPENDITURE AS % OF TOTAL</b>											
<b>a) Within the school system</b>											
- Teaching and administration	1978	74.9	74.6	81.0	81.5	89.2	86.8	71.8	76.0	89.6	77.0
	1979	74.8	76.5	79.7	83.1	91.9	85.7	72.1	77.3	89.9	77.6
	1980	73.4	76.3	83.3	82.9	91.5	79.9	73.1	77.3	91.9	77.6
	1981	73.5	78.7	84.4	83.0	93.5	85.7	72.1	77.9	89.6	78.1
- Transfers to households	1978	4.8	2.3	1.2	3.5	1.3	1.2	4.2	.4	4.5	3.3
	1979	4.7	2.2	.5	3.8	1.3	1.3	4.7	1.1	4.5	3.3
	1980	5.2	2.0	.6	4.3	1.3	1.7	4.7	1.2	4.8	3.4
	1981	4.9	1.9	.6	4.9	.4	1.7	8.6	1.1	5.1	4.2
- Supplementary expenditure of a social nature	1978	2.2	8.5	1.8	1.3	1.1	1.7	8.2	2.3	.7	4.4
	1979	2.2	8.3	1.7	1.3	1.0	1.7	7.9	4.4	.7	4.3
	1980	2.3	9.5	1.7	1.4	.9	1.5	6.9	4.3	.7	4.6
	1981	2.4	8.5	1.8	1.5	.4	1.5	4.9	4.2	.8	4.0
<b>b) Outside the school system</b>											
- Teaching and administration	1978	3.1	3.1	5.9	4.2	4.0	2.0	7.2	2.5	1.3	4.4
	1979	3.1	3.0	5.3	4.7	3.3	1.9	7.5	2.4	1.1*	4.4
	1980	3.4*	2.9	5.5	4.8	3.3	1.5	7.5	2.6	1.0*	4.4
	1981	3.9*	2.1	5.1	4.6	3.4	1.4	7.5*	2.4	1.0*	4.4
- Transfers to households	1978	1.4	3.7	0.0	.3	.2	0.0	1.8	.9	1.4	1.7
	1979	1.5	2.7	0.0	.3	.9	0.0	2.1	.9	1.2*	1.5
	1980	1.7*	2.8	0.0	.3	.9	0.0	2.0	.9	1.1*	1.6
	1981	1.9*	3.1	0.0	.3	.6	0.0	2.0*	1.0	1.1*	1.7
- Supplementary expenditure of a social nature	1978	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	.0	0.0	0.0	.1	.1	.5
	1979	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	.0	0.0	.1	.1	.1*	.7
	1980	2.5*	0.0	0.0	0.0	.1	0.0	.1	.1	.1*	.7
	1981	2.8*	0.0	0.0	0.0	.0	0.0	.1*	.1	.1*	.8
<b>TOTAL CURRENT EXPENDITURE</b>	1978	88.0	92.1	89.9	90.8	95.8	91.6	93.2	84.3	97.6	91.0
	1979	88.6	92.7	87.2	93.2	98.5	90.6	94.3	86.1	97.5	91.6
	1980	86.4	93.4	91.2	93.8	98.0	84.7	94.4	86.4	97.6	92.2
	1981	89.5	94.2	91.9	94.3	98.4	90.4	95.1	86.7	97.6	93.0
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AS % OF TOTAL</b>											
<b>Within the school system</b>											
	1978	11.5	7.7	10.0	9.1	4.1	8.4	6.5	15.0	2.2	8.7
	1979	10.9	7.0	12.8	6.7	1.4	9.4	5.2	13.1	2.3	8.2
	1980	11.0	6.4	8.3	6.1	1.9	15.3	5.2	12.6	2.2	7.4
	1981	9.9	5.7	7.7	5.6	1.4	9.6	4.4	12.2	2.2	6.6
<b>Outside the school system</b>											
	1978	.4	.2	.1	.0	.1	.0	.4	.7	.2	.1
	1979	.5	.2	.0	.1	.1	.0	.4	.8	.2*	.1
	1980	.5*	.2	.5	.1	.2	.0	.5	1.0	.2*	.4
	1981	.6*	.1	.4	.1	.2	.0	.5*	1.2	.2*	.4
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>	1978	12.0	7.9	10.1	9.2	4.2	8.4	6.8	15.7	2.4	9.0
	1979	11.4	7.3	12.8	6.8	1.5	9.4	5.7	13.9	2.5	8.4
	1980	11.6	6.6	8.8	6.2	2.0	15.3	5.6	13.6	2.4	7.8
	1981	10.5	5.8	8.1	5.7	1.6	9.6	4.9	13.3	2.4	7.0

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING

		BR DEUTSCH- LAND	FRANCE	ITALIA	NEDER- LAND	BELGIE BELGIE	LUXEM- BOURG	UNITED KINGDOM	IRELAND	DANMARK	EUR 9
EXPENDITURE (current and capital) ON THE SCHOOL SYSTEM AS % OF TOTAL, BY LEVEL											
- Preprimary	1978	3.2	8.0	5.7	7.0	7.2	(2)	.4	8.2	(2)	5.0
	1979	3.3	8.8	6.2	6.5	7.2	(2)	.4	7.8	(2)	5.0
	1980	3.2	8.6	6.2	6.4	4.3	(2)	.4	8.1	(2)	4.7
	1981	3.3	9.0	6.5	6.6	4.5	(2)	2.4	7.9	(2)	5.4
- 1st level	1978	15.7	22.5	27.1	23.9	16.9	50.0	26.4	24.5	53.2	21.9
	1979	15.0	22.6	27.5	22.0	17.0	49.4	25.7	23.4	62.1	22.0
	1980	14.4	23.8	27.3	21.7	21.2	55.7	25.0	24.3	51.5	21.7
	1981	13.9	22.5	26.5	21.6	22.1	50.9	22.3	23.6	55.0	21.3
- 2nd level: 1st stage	1978	33.7	19.7	22.1	24.4	27.3	:	16.4	22.0	(2)	24.0
	1979	33.2	20.8	18.5	27.2	28.0	:	15.9	21.9	(2)	23.9
	1980	32.4	21.2	15.1	26.7	29.5	:	15.9	21.0	(2)	23.2
	1981	31.8	21.7	15.0	27.1	31.3	:	19.2	21.1	(2)	23.1
: 2nd stage	1978	17.3	18.8	22.6	10.6	16.9	:	19.4	16.7	15.6	17.9
	1979	17.9	20.7	25.5	8.5	17.7	:	19.7	17.1	9.4	18.7
	1980	18.6	20.3	28.5	8.6	18.9	:	19.8	17.4	20.5	19.9
	1981	18.6	20.5	28.4	9.4	19.9	:	17.2	17.8	15.0	19.5
: Total	1978	51.0	38.6	44.7	35.0	44.2	39.6	35.9	38.7	:	42.0
	1979	51.1	41.5	44.0	35.7	45.7	40.9	35.6	38.9	:	42.6
	1980	51.0	41.5	43.6	35.2	48.4	36.1	35.8	38.4	:	43.1
	1981	50.4	42.2	43.3	36.5	51.2	34.5	36.3	38.9	:	42.5
- 3rd level	1978	15.3	11.6	9.7	19.4	17.9	2.0	18.2	18.0	15.0	14.8
	1979	14.7	12.5	8.2	19.4	18.1	2.0	18.3	18.9	18.1	14.7
	1980	14.8	12.6	8.6	19.4	12.4	1.8	18.8	17.5	17.2	14.6
	1981	14.4	12.2	9.0	18.7	9.0	1.9	18.7	17.8	16.6	14.2
- Special education	1978	4.8	3.1	.0	5.0	4.6	4.7	3.3	2.6	7.3	3.6
	1979	4.7	2.7	.0	5.0	5.1	4.1	3.4	2.4	2.7	3.4
	1980	4.7	2.7	.0	5.2	5.5	3.6	3.5	2.4	4.7	3.4
	1981	4.8	2.8	.0	5.1	5.7	3.3	3.5	2.7	5.0	3.4
- Not itemised by level (1)	1978	3.7	9.2	6.8	5.3	4.9	1.6	6.4	3.8	5.9	6.1
	1979	3.8	5.9	8.8	6.2	2.4	1.7	6.4	4.5	5.1	5.6
	1980	3.8	5.0	8.4	6.8	3.7	1.3	6.4	4.7	3.7	5.4
	1981	3.9	6.0	9.1	6.5	3.3	8.0	6.6	4.5	6.1	6.0
TOTAL WITHIN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM	1978	93.5	93.0	94.0	95.5	95.7	98.0	90.7	95.8	97.0	93.4
	1979	92.6	94.1	94.7	94.9	95.6	98.1	89.8	95.9	97.5	93.3
	1980	91.9	94.2	94.0	94.8	95.6	98.5	89.9	95.4	97.6	92.9
	1981	90.8	94.7	94.5	95.0	95.7	98.6	89.9	95.4	97.7	92.8
of which: for vocational trainings	1978	9.8	21.2	1.3	21.7	1.1	:	:	23.3	7.6	10.4
	1979	10.3	20.8	2.6	21.5	1.1	:	:	23.3	9.7	10.3
	1980	10.5	17.4	1.9	21.4	1.1	20.9	:	21.0	11.1	9.3
	1981	10.5	20.9	1.9	21.9	1.1	19.2	:	21.2	11.9	9.7

(1) Including general administration

(2) Included in 1st level

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING

		BR DEUTSCH- LAND	FRANCE	ITALIA	NEDER- LAND	BELGIE BELGIE	LUXEM- BOURG	UNITED KINGDOM	IRELAND	DANMARK	EUR 9
EXPENDITURE (current and capital) OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL SYSTEM AS % OF TOTAL, BY TYPE OF INSTRUCTION											
- Initial vocational trainings	1978	1.4	.9	:	1.7	.6	0.0	:	1.1	0.0	1.2
	1979	1.4	.9	:	1.9	.5	0.0	:	1.1	0.0*	1.4
	1980	1.6*	.9	:	1.8	.7	0.0	:	1.5	0.0*	1.5
	1981	1.8*	0.0	:	1.5	.5	.9	:	1.5	0.0*	1.4
- Adult vocational trainings	1978	4.0	6.1	:	1.5	3.7	1.7	:	3.1	2.7	4.2
	1979	4.8	5.0	:	1.9	3.8	1.6	:	3.0	2.2*	4.2
	1980	5.3*	4.9	:	2.0	3.4	1.3	:	3.1	2.1*	4.3
	1981	6.0*	5.3	:	2.1	3.7	.3	:	3.1	2.0*	4.5
- General education	1978	1.1	0.0	:	1.3	.0	.3	:	0.0	.4	1.2
	1979	1.1	0.0	:	1.4	.1	.3	:	0.0	.3*	1.2
	1980	1.3*	0.0	:	1.4	.3	.2	:	0.0	.3*	1.3
	1981	1.4*	0.0	:	1.4	.1	.2	:	0.0	.3*	1.3
TOTAL OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL SYST.	1978	6.5	7.0	6.0	4.5	4.3	2.0	9.3	4.2	3.0	6.6
	1979	7.4	5.9	5.3	5.1	4.4	1.9	10.2	4.1	2.5*	6.7
	1980	8.1*	5.8	6.0	5.2	4.4	1.5	10.1	4.6	2.4*	7.1
	1981	9.2*	5.3	5.5	5.0	4.3	1.4	10.1*	4.6	2.3*	7.2
EXPENDITURE (current and capital) ON VOCATIONAL TRAINING AS % OF TOTAL											
- Initial vocational trainings	1978	11.2	22.1	:	23.4	1.7	:	:	24.4	7.6	11.6
	1979	11.7	21.7	:	23.4	1.6	:	:	24.4	9.7	11.7
	1980	12.0	18.3	:	23.1	1.9	20.9	:	22.6	11.1	10.8
	1981	12.2	20.9	:	23.5	1.6	20.0	:	22.7	11.9	11.1
of which: within the school system	1978	9.8	21.2	1.3	21.7	1.1	:	:	23.3	7.6	10.4
	1979	10.3	20.8	2.6	21.5	1.1	:	:	23.3	9.7	10.3
	1980	10.5	17.4	1.9	21.4	1.1	20.9	:	21.0	11.1	9.3
	1981	10.5	20.9	1.9	21.9	1.1	19.2	:	21.2	11.9	9.7
- Adult vocational trainings	1978	4.0	6.1	:	1.5	3.7	1.7	6.9	3.1	2.7	4.2
	1979	4.8	5.0	:	1.9	3.8	1.6	6.9	3.0	2.2*	4.2
	1980	5.3*	4.9	:	2.0	3.4	1.3	6.6	3.1	2.1*	4.3
	1981	6.0*	5.3	:	2.1	3.7	.3	6.5*	3.1	2.0*	4.5
TOTAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING	1978	15.2	28.2	:	24.9	5.4	:	:	27.5	10.3	15.6
	1979	16.5	26.8	:	25.3	5.4	:	:	27.4	12.0	15.9
	1980	17.3	23.3	:	25.2	5.3	22.2	:	25.6	13.3	15.1
	1981	18.2	26.2	:	25.5	5.3	20.4	:	25.8	14.0	15.6
EXPENDITURE (current and capital) ON GENERAL EDUCATION AS % OF TOTAL											
	1978	84.8	71.8	:	75.1	94.6	:	:	72.5	89.7	84.2
	1979	83.5	73.2	:	74.7	94.6	:	:	72.6	88.0	84.1
	1980	82.7	76.7	:	74.8	94.7	77.8	:	74.4	86.7	84.9
	1981	81.8	73.8	:	74.5	94.7	79.6	:	74.2	86.0	84.4

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

Total public expenditure is the total expenditure on goods and services, salaries, transfers, etc. by general government, comprising central government, local government and social security funds (ESA code S60).

Public expenditure on education and training is the expenditure of central government and local government on education and training, in principle net of fees or other contributions paid by students or their parents. It comprises the following items:

- Teaching and administration

a) current expenditure includes salaries and social security contributions of teachers and other persons, the purchase of goods and services, rents, etc.

b) capital expenditure comprises the purchase of land, buildings and durable equipment.

- Transfers to households: scholarships, loans and other forms of direct assistance.

- Supplementary expenditure of a social nature: school transport, medical services, meals and accommodation, etc.

The European Currency Unit (ECU) and the Purchasing Power Standard (PPS) are means by which national currencies may be converted to a common unit. The ECU is a 'basket' of currencies and conversions depend on monetary exchange rates. Because the purchasing value on one national currency relative to another is not necessarily reflected by the exchange rate, the concept of a Purchasing Power Standard has been introduced. When national currencies are converted to PPS the figures indicate approximately corresponding purchasing powers. The parities used in this bulletin are based on gross domestic product; for a more complete description see "Comparison in real values of the aggregates of ESA-1980"; EUROSTAT, 1983.

The School System includes technical colleges, universities, etc. and covers children from whatever age they start school up to the minimum legal leaving age and beyond it for those who remain at school then may or may not continue in higher education. Attendance is for the most part full-time and continuous, but there are exceptions.

The school system comprises:

- Pre-school level: education prior to the beginning of compulsory schooling.

- First level: elementary education, generally lasting about five years.

- Second level, first stage: approximately the next three years and is compulsory.

- Second level, second stage: lasts for about three years in the majority of cases and leads up to the standard required for entry into higher education. Depending on the country, it may begin when compulsory schooling ends or the initial part may still be compulsory.
- Third level: universities and all other forms of higher education.
- Special education: for physically or mentally handicapped children.

For the correspondence between these levels and national types of institution see "Education and Training 1970/71 - 1977/78": EUROSTAT 1980.

Vocational training has no internationally accepted definition to distinguish it from general education. The distinction in this bulletin is therefore subject to national interpretation. The following types, however, are generally recognised:

- Initial vocational training: for those who have not yet started a regular job, including apprentices.
- Adult vocational training: for those who are in or have had a regular job, whether or not they received initial vocational training.

Sources: Ministries of Education and other Government services in the Member States.

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Symbols: 0.0 less than 0.05  
: not available or included elsewhere  
\* partially estimated by EUROSTAT  
— break in series