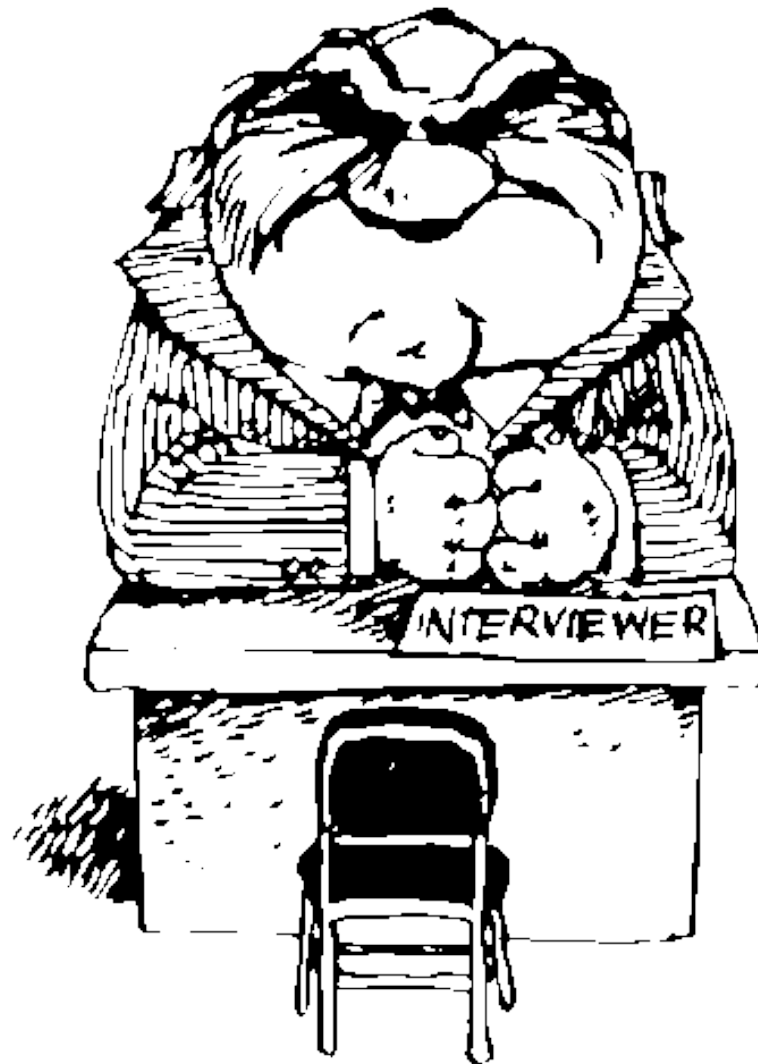


Results of questionnaire



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Introduction

Dear friends,

Enclosed you will find the results of the questions you've answered for us a while ago.

We have tried to summarize your answers as best as we could. It was great that you answered the questions as extensive as you did, but to get an overall view it was better to summarize it a bit. Nonetheless, thanks a lot for your extensive answers: we now have a clear image of your educational system.

What you will find is just a comparison of all the educational systems. We will send you our analyses later, after we've discussed it with several people, and after we've done a background-analysis. Perhaps we'd like to interview some of you with the help of 'Skype' or the chat-application of Facebook. Certain aspects deserve a better look, and if you are willing, we'd love to learn more about some stuff. We will contact you only if necessary, so don't worry if you don't hear from us ;-).

You will probably get the final result at the end of January, but we thought you might like it if we kept you posted. Enjoy reading (or, if you find this a bit static and boring, just wait until January ;-)).

If you note any mistakes we made when we summarized your answers, please let us know, so we can correct them.

We again would like to thank you so much for helping me out, without your help we wouldn't be able to continue with our project.

Best regards,

Mara Soekarjo & Patrick Vermeulen

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Starting at highschool

In the Netherlands most students go to middle school around the age of 12. In the last year of elementary school they do a test, which determines which level of middle school they will follow.

How is it decided in your country to which level students go?	
Austria	You can choose whatever you want, but children are very young, so actually their parents make the decision.
Bayern	It depends on the grades that students get in the last year of elementary school. It's a mixture of maths, German and (history + geography + technic + nature). If you get a 1-2,33, you can go to any school you want. If you get a 2,66-6, you can go to Realschule or Hauptschule. If your grade is not high enough, you can do a written exam.
Bosnia & H	A system of points is used to see which school is appropriate. These points are decided by the final grades in elementary school.
Croatia	By summing all of the points (proportional to your final grades in the last two grades). Each type of school takes different subject's grades.
Denmark	There is no separation between elementary and high school, so when you're 15/16 you can go to secondary education. You have to do a test to choose which school you want (Gymnasium or vocational).
Finland	A test decides where the student goes to. There is not a big difference in schools.
France	From elementary to middle school no test is required. From middle school to lycee a test is devised to monitor the aptitude of the student. If a student does not pass this test the go to VET to learn a more technical job.
Iceland	Used to be nationwide test, but it has been abolished. No way to determine now.
Netherlands	At the end of the last year of elementary school, every student makes a big test. Depending on your score, you can go to one of the three levels of secondary education. Your teacher also has a vote. They have to give you an advise.
Norway	Our education system is systematically from 1st grade in primary school to the 10th in High school. The only qualification you need is to pass the qualifications demanded on each grade.
Slovenia	Decided by grades acquired in 8th and 9th year, and an internal exam in 3 subjects: Math, Slovenian and a foreign language.

How is it decided in your country to which level students go?

Sweden	It depends on the grades you have in compulsory. If you want to go a school where many others also want to go, you need more points to get in, than if you want to go to a school where less people want to go to.
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What do you think of this? Could this be made better?

Austria	It should be later, so children can choose themselves.
Bayern	It's a lot of pressure for children. It should be tested later.
Bosnia & H	A test which decides what school is appropriate is better than what we have.
Croatia	It's not fair. The elementary education system isn't equalised, so it causes inbalance when it comes to entering high school. You could have a C in your elementary school, but if you would have gone to another you would have had a A.
Denmark	There should be more guidance.
Finland	Students shouldn't be split up like that, based on a test. The system seems fair though.
France	A bad counselling system. Students rarely get answers to their question.
Iceland	The old system was too centralized, but this system was better than nothing.
Netherlands	It's alright that there's an 'entering-test', but there should be the possibility to go to a high school which is more difficult than your test-score allows you to go to.
Norway	There should be a system to meet the demands for students with skills and qualifications over and under the 'middle' student.
Slovenia	Fair, objective criteria.
Sweden	It's mostly a good system, but it's good if you can search a program on other competences too. You should be able to search a programme on skills instead of grades. It should be possible with more programmes.

What age are students in your country when they start middle school?

Austria	Children start at 10 years old.
Bayern	Children start at 10 years old.
Bosnia & H	14-15 years old.

What age are students in your country when they start middle school?	
Croatia	14-15 years old.
Denmark	Children are 5 or 6 years when they start pre-school, they are 15/16 when they start gymnasium.
Finland	12-13 years old.
France	11-12 middle 14-15 lycee
Iceland	15-20
Netherlands	Children start at app. 12 years old.
Norway	Usually 10 years old.
Slovenia	14-15 years old.
Sweden	16-17 years old.

Do you think this is a good age to start middle school, or should they be older/ younger?	
Austria	They should be older.
Bayern	It's too early, because children don't know what they want to do yet. If you develop your interests later, you have a disadvantage, because you chose the wrong school.
Bosnia & H	It's OK.
Croatia	It's a good age to start highschool.
Denmark	Children are too young to choose.
Finland	It's a good age to start.
France	Seems fine, but too many dropouts around the age of 16.
Iceland	Kids 15-20 are socially equal.
Netherlands	It's OK.
Norway	Age isn't the problem, but the gap between each student's skills is the matter.
Slovenia	It's OK.
Sweden	It's good!

Different levels of education

In the Netherlands you can do education on different levels. There are 3 levels: VMBO, HAVO, VWO.

VWO is the highest level, it takes 6 years to complete. VWO is the most theoretically oriented, VMBO takes on a more practical approach, and HAVO does a bit of both.

Which levels are there in your country? Which level do you do?	
Austria	You have three different levels: AHS, BMHS and BM.
Bayern	There are three different levels: hauptschule (practical), realschule (middle) and gymnasium (theoretical).
Bosnia & H	No specified levels in educational system.
Croatia	Croatian schools are divided depending on their length 2 or 3 years (vocational schools) and 4 years (vocational schools & grammar schools).
Denmark	You have two kinds: vocational and academic. Vocational does not have any levels. Academic (also called gymnasium) has four levels: business (HG), higher business (HHX), technical (HTX) and general (STX).
Finland	You have the upper primary school, which is regarded as finnish version of high school (level 7-9) After that you have upper secondary school (US), which also takes 3 years. You also have a special US, called VT, which is a more practical approach.
France	2 years middle then lycee or VET
Iceland	No specified levels.
Netherlands	In general, you have 3 different levels: VMBO(lowest), HAVO and VWO(highest). VMBO is divided in 4 different levels (BB, KB, GL and TL).
Norway	You can choose between VET or programmes for general studies.
Slovenia	4 levels: Gimnazija: highest level; takes 4 years. 4 year technical school. 3 or 3+2 year profession school. 2.5 year long profession school.
Sweden	There are 17 national programmes which are all 3 years. All provide a broad general education and eligibility to study at university or college. No levels, just different programmes and specializations.

Do students on different levels get a different education? Or is the only difference in the difficulty of education?	
Austria	AHS = it's general and specialised on humanistic education. BMHS = this is a higher school in which you learn special skills. BS = this is an apprenticeship without general qualification for university.
Bayern	The biggest difference between the levels is the difficulty of education. Hauptschule is preparing for more practical jobs; gymnasium is mostly theoretical.
Bosnia & H	No different levels.
Croatia	Grammar schools give general education, vocational schools are more practical.
Denmark	There is a big difference in what you learn and in the difficulty. Vocational prepares you for a job; academic prepares you for further studies.
Finland	No different levels. Idea of education is totally different.
France	VET is practical, lycee is academic.
Iceland	Depends on the school. Schools have great freedom in deciding lesson difficulty.
Netherlands	VMBO is more practical, VWO is theoretical.
Norway	You get different programmes of study - you get finished in either general studies or a craft certificate.
Slovenia	Students attending 4 year programs go to universities. Others start working in the professions they were trained in
Sweden	Yes, you get different education, but in all programmes you are qualified to study on university and college.

How many years does it take to complete the different levels?	
Austria	AHS: 4 years lower stage, 4 years for upper school BMHS: 5 years BS: 2 years of school + practical part
Bayern	Hauptschule: 5-6 years. Realschule: 6 years. Gymnasium: 8/9 years.
Bosnia & H	4 years, sometimes 3 years (technical school)
Croatia	Grammar: 4 years, vocational 2/3 years.

How many years does it take to complete the different levels?	
Denmark	Gymnasiums: 3(technical and general) of 2 (business) Vocational: 3-5 (depending which job you want to learn)
Finland	3 years primary, then secondary high school.
France	Plaatje!
Iceland	4 years.
Netherlands	VMBO: 4 years, HAVO: 5 years, VWO: 6 years.
Norway	Primary and high-school takes 10 years; secondary and upper secondary takes 3 years.
Slovenia	Gimnazija: 4 years Technical school: 4 years. Profession school:3, 3+2 years or 2.5 years.
Sweden	All 3 years.

How are the students divided among the different levels? For example: are there more students in the lowest level?	
Austria	Depends on parents or first school you went to.
Bayern	40-20-40%
Bosnia & H	Depends on what school you choose.
Croatia	About 75-80% of the 189.000 secondary school students go to vocational schools.
Denmark	Most people go to vocational education.
Finland	The best and worst go to US, the middle class go VT.
France	60% general techno, 30% VET professional, rest are dropouts or repeaters.
Iceland	The school can decide this entirely on their own.
Netherlands	Most people go to VMBO, a little bit more to HAVO and even less people to VWO.
Norway	About 60% of the Norwegian students take the VET studies.
Slovenia	Most people attend gimnazija.
Sweden	-

Grades and tests

On most schools in the Netherlands students make tests throughout the year. The teachers make these small tests to test the knowledge of a certain chapter. A couple times a year we have testweeks. These are the bigger tests. The lowest grade you can get is a 1, the highest a 10.

What kind of tests do students in your country do?	
Austria	We have small tests and big written ones. It depends on the teacher and schoolyear how long the tests are.
Bayern	Little ones (Stegreifaufgaben) and small oral interrogations. We have also big announced ones: Schulaufgaben.
Bosnia & H	Tests throughout the year. Sometimes an oral exam in class, so students should always be prepared.
Croatia	A lot of oral exams (max. 2 per day) and some written exams throughout the year (max. 3 per week).
Denmark	Big test at the end of a semester (6 months) and at the end of a year, which is for the "year-grade". Oral exams are possible in all subjects, and written tests are possible in all subjects and obligatory in A-level subjects.
Finland	Small tests and big tests. The big tests are done after a period. A year is divided in 5 periods. The periods have their own subject within the subject.
France	Smaller tests and bigger tests in testweeks.
Iceland	Small tests and bigger tests.
Netherlands	Small tests (which can be un-announced), and big test that have to be announced.
Norway	Small tests to test the knowlegde and test days with bigger tests.
Slovenia	Oral and written tests. 2 written tests per subject. Oral tests are optional.
Sweden	You have national tests you do in grade 5 and 9 in Swedish, English and maths. Teachers can also evaluate the course as they want.

How are students graded? Which grade is the highest and which is the lowest?	
Austria	Highest = 1, lowest =5
Bayern	Class 3-10: 1(very good) till 6 (very bad) Class 11...: 15 points is the best, 0 is the worst. 15/14/13 points = grade 1, 12/11/10 points = grade 2, 9/8/7 = grade 3, 6/5/4 points = grade 4, 3/2/1 points = grade 5, 0 points = grade 6.
Bosnia & H	Lowest=1 Highest=5
Croatia	5 to 1 (5 is the highest).
Denmark	It's based on the English system. A=12, B=10, C=7, D=4, E=2, F=0, Fx=-3
Finland	Lowest=4 highest=10
France	0-20, 10 being average, 20 being 'perfect'.
Iceland	0-10, 10 being the highest
Netherlands	1 is the lowest, 10 the highest.
Norway	Grades from 1 to 6; 6 is the highest.
Slovenia	Lowest=1 Highest=5
Sweden	1 - not approved, 2 - approved, 3 - well approved, 4 - very well approved. It will be changed in 2011, then it'll be A-F (F the best).

What is your opinion on this grading system? Does it work? Could it be done better?	
Austria	It works bad, because five grades are too few.
Bayern	The system of points is better, because there are more different grades.
Bosnia & H	It works, we're used to it.
Croatia	It's fair and it works. More grades could be an improvement.
Denmark	It's better to let the teacher say something about the development and this system doesn't work because not enough people A's.
Finland	Students need more feedback then just numbers. These grades don't help with your university career.
France	-----
Iceland	Pretty simple, teacher decided it all, it works well.
Netherlands	It's fine.

What is your opinion on this grading system? Does it work? Could it be done better?	
Norway	It's fine, but there should be a bigger understanding in the community of the qualifications behind each grade.
Slovenia	Works well, orals are too subjective though.
Sweden	It's good to change it to a sixgrade scale, because 4 is too few. But the most important is that teachers have the right education to give grades and that the students have right education to give grades.

Are there subjects on which the grades have a heavier grading?	
Austria	No.
Bayern	For main subjects you need to have higher grades. For an exam you choose subjects that count more.
Bosnia & H	No.
Croatia	Maths and physics.
Denmark	All subjects are split in different levels. Level A/B/C (gymnasium) and D/E/F (vocational). A level-A subjects counts more than a level-F subject.
Finland	No.
France	This goes according to section Scientific: maths (9), sciences (6), Biology (8), French (4), 2 nd lang (3), philosophy (3), Hist Geo (3), 3 rd lang (2), sport (2)... Literary: philosophy (7), French (5), literature (4), HG (4), 2 nd lang (4), science (4)...
Iceland	No.
Netherlands	You can only to maths on two levels: A and B, but that's actually just a different kind of maths. And French on VWO is ofcourse heavier than French on HAVO.
Norway	You have subjects with higher qualification demands to get a high grade. You get extra points for the subjects as a supplement to the grade itself.
Slovenia	No, all subjects are equal.
Sweden	No.

Materials

In the Netherlands most students get their books in the beginning of the year from the school. The government pays the school 316 euro per student, and the school has to take care of the quality of books, or what books will be used.

What do you use in your country? Books or..?	
Austria	Books
Bayern	Books
Bosnia & H	Books.
Croatia	Books, workbooks, task books, CDs.
Denmark	Books, copys of books, CD-roms, online files, but mainly books. For the technical gymnasium a laptop is required.
Finland	Books, different material as well, internet and such.
France	Books
Iceland	Books and digital material, booklets made by teachers.
Netherlands	Mainly books, but sometimes you have to do things on the internet.
Norway	Books, with the supplement from computers. At secondary and upper secondary school students get a personal PC among the books.
Slovenia	Books.
Sweden	Mostly books, a lot of schools have started with personal laptops, but not every school has that.

Do parents or the schools pay for the books?	
Austria	Parents pay like 20 euros and school pays the rest.
Bayern	School pays.
Bosnia & H	Parents pay.
Croatia	Before, the government payed for the books. Due to the recession, students have to pay for themselves – only certain groups get their books from the government.
Denmark	Parents pay 350 euro and school pays the rest (but 350 euro in Denmark is not worth as much as it is in the Netherlands).
Finland	Parents usually, but some of the smaller schools buy the books, to make it more attractive for people to go there.

Do parents or the schools pay for the books?	
France	Book prices differ regionally, parents pay.
Iceland	Student and/or parents. Used to be the government.
Netherlands	School gets 316 euro per student per year. They have to pay for everything, except calculators and pens.
Norway	The government finances the books and PC's on public schools. Since the students keep the PC after ending school, they have to pay an amount on an annual basis.
Slovenia	Some books are borrowed, some are bought by parents.
Sweden	Students don't have to pay. School pays and they can choose on their own how much money they want to spend on it.

Do students get education any other way other than books? Do you get any practical lessons?	
Austria	It depends on the teacher
Bayern	Methode = books and listening to teachers In addition: experiments/excursions/internet
Bosnia & H	Sometimes internet or audio.
Croatia	In vocational education there's a lot of practical stuff. Grammar schools have experiments.
Denmark	You have practical lessons in science, sports, arts and music. In senior year of gymnasium you get to do a workshop.
Finland	Teachers have much freedom in shaping the lessons as they see fit. It isn't only books.
France	Practical lessons, usage of digital resources.
Iceland	Many practical lessons, and sometimes we use digital material.
Netherlands	Sometimes we work in workinggroups, but mainly classical lessons. It depends on if you go to a general highschool or if you go to some kind of special education.
Norway	You don't need books for some subjects. Often an excursion is used as a method of study. Teachers see the value of 'learning by doing', so there's also a lot of practical lessons.
Slovenia	Some practical lessons, digital presentation is also becoming popular.

Do students get education any other way other than books? Do you get any practical lessons?

Sweden	Most schools use a lot of different methods like drama, plays and computers, but there are lots of schools so it's hard to tell.
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What do you think of your nations way of teaching on this subject? Can it be improved?

Austria	The teachers have to be motivated more
Bayern	Students should learn to work independant or in working groups.
Bosnia & H	Teaching is very good, students like it.
Croatia	There have been some changes and it's going better nowadays.
Denmark	It should be inproved.
Finland	Books should be paid even after high school. Also students are the victim of publishers constantly changing the books. They are then forced by school and media to buy the new books.
France	-
Iceland	It is different per school.
Netherlands	It's alright, but I think it should be possible for students to choose which way they like. They should discuss this matter with their teacher.
Norway	Norwegian teachers are good, but there should be more.
Slovenia	Not enough practical lessons and a lack of teamwork. Enough individual and team seminar works.
Sweden	I would like schools to be better in using different methods and more use roleplays, exchanges and be in the nature for example.

Choice of sector

In the Netherlands students have to pick a 'sector' after 3 years: A sector is a couple of subjects which go well together. For instance you have the Technology sector, to follow this sector you have to do Math (high-level), Biology, Physics and Chemistry. For the sector Economy, you have to do Math (low-level), Economy, Management, History. Different sectors are needed to do a study in a certain field.

Does everyone get the same subjects? If yes, for how long does everybody follow the same subjects en which subjects are these?	
Austria	There are no sectors. Everyone follows the same subjects, depending on if you go to AHS, BMHS or BS When the schoolform is 'Wahlfächer', you can choose subjects.
Bayern	Mandatory are: German, maths and English You can choose economy, history, physics, religion, sports, biology. At gymnasium, you can also choose chemistry, latin, french, ancient greek, 'Sozialkunde', arts and music.
Bosnia & H	Not answered.
Croatia	All grammar schools have the same, general subjects, but vocational schools have their own subjects, together with Croatian, maths and English.
Denmark	The subjects are the same depending on what education you follow. All the subjects in vocational education and business gymnasium are the same; if you are in technical gymnasium, you can choose one more. You have to choose a "line", and you're in a class with students with the same line.
Finland	Everybody has the same general subjects, 3 practical subjects must be chosen as well; Cooking, Sports, Handicraft, Music, Arts, German or France. Within the general subjects students must follow at least 40 courses (certain subjects within Math, for example).
France	3 sectors: Literary and Scientific. Economical Literary: Concentration in languages and literature with specialization in modern and classical languages, mathematics and arts Economics: Concentration in economics and history/geography with specialization in economics, mathematics and languages Scientific: Concentration in mathematics and science with extra specialization in mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology and natural sciences, and technology
Iceland	Everyone has the same basic subjects during 4 year study period: Icelandic, Math, Science, Danish, a third language, sociology.
Netherlands	The first two (VMBO) or three (HAVO/VWO) years, everyone follows the same subjects. After that 'basis-period' you can choose your own subjects which you add to the obligatory subjects.

Does everyone get the same subjects? If yes, for how long does everybody follow the same subjects en which subjects are these?	
Norway	In primary- and high-school you all get the same subjects. In secondary and upper secondary education you get a package of general studies. The qualifications on these subjects are different in the programme for specialization in General Studies and VET. General studies -> preparing for University, VET makes the baseline for students to take supplementary studies for higher education.
Slovenia	All students do Math, MT and FL.
Sweden	In Sweden, you should have 2500 points, you can choose 300 points yourself.

Which subjects do you have in your country? Which are general, and which can be chosen?	
Austria	General: German, English, Maths. The 'chosen' subjects are depending on which school you go to. BMHS has more job-related subjects than the other schools.
Bayern	You choose a 'path' not subjects. You choose main subjects, and aside subjects. You have to do extra activities, like debat or big band.
Bosnia & H	Not answered.
Croatia	Croatian, maths, English, biology, geography, history, physics, chemistry, religious/ethics, art, music, PE, latin/greek, german/French/Italian, computer science, and a number of vocational subjects.
Denmark	There is a basis for the line, you can add stuff yourself. For instance Danish is mandatory level A, English is mandatory level B In your final exam, you need to have at least 15 subjects and at most 21 subjects.
Finland	Religion, History, Math, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Geography, Swedish, Finnish, English, Civics. Also lot of special courses in which the school specialises. The general subjects are different per school.
France	According to sector.
Iceland	School can decide on extra subjects, they are encouraged to be creative, for example: Poison making, Horseback riding.
Netherlands	Dutch, English, Maths are mandatory. It depends on the sector that you choose which other subjects you (have to) do.

Which subjects do you have in your country? Which are general, and which can be chosen?	
Norway	General: Maths (low and high), English, Norwegian, natural sciences, social sciences and physical education. Chosen: a long list, every study has overlapping and unique subjects.
Slovenia	Depends on program and year. Gimnazija has math, several foreign languages, M.T., PE, biology, chemistry, physics, psychology.
Sweden	Swedish - 100 points, English - 100 points, Maths - 100 points, Physical education - 100 points, social studies - 100 points, religion - 50 points, science - 50 points, aesthetic activities - 50 points, project - 100 points. There are a lot of different courses that students can choose.

Can students decide to stop doing a subject altogether? When can you do this and do you know why?	
Austria	Not really.
Bayern	The last two years, you can drop a language (because you know the basics). You can drop subjects you don't necessarily need to study.
Bosnia & H	No.
Croatia	No, but there are some subjects you can choose to take or not.
Denmark	There are few subjects obligatory, but you have to do some. After 6 months, you can't switch anymore, you do the same subjects as everyone else.
Finland	You can stop with Finnish or Swedish, if you have mixed nationality.
France	Cannot quit. Some are not mandatory; Latin, Greek, Music.
Iceland	Only chosen subjects can be quit. But general subjects can be quit in the first year.
Netherlands	Yes, it is possible, but only if you have enough subjects left (you need to have 7 subjects).
Norway	Students must finish a subject. If you already have a subject that can replace for an other, it's ok.
Slovenia	No.
Sweden	You can't stop a compulsory course. You can do whatever you want, as long as it is 2500 points in the end. Headmasters and teachers aren't glad when you want to do it, because it's a lot of extra work.

Do you have to do certain subjects to follow a certain sector? In the Netherlands, for example, you can only do the sector Technology if you do a higher level of Mathematics.

Austria	No.
Bayern	It depends on what kind of final exam you are about to do. You have to take the classes that suit the path you are taking.
Bosnia & H	No.
Croatia	No.
Denmark	Not really, it's not an issue before University. There are some 'linked' subjects, but not a lot.
Finland	No.
France	Yes. Every sector is linked to certain subjects.
Iceland	It seems similar to the Netherlands.
Netherlands	Every sector has a few obligatory subjects.
Norway	Yes, some sectors have subjects that follow certain sectors.
Slovenia	No sectors, different programs.
Sweden	There are special subjects specific to each programme.

Final exams

In the Netherlands you do your exams after 4 VMBO, 5 HAVO, 6 VWO. In May all students do for example the exam Dutch. This exam is a really big test which is made by the national examination committee. We also call this the Central Written Exams. It counts as half of the total grade. The other half of the final grade is decided by the tests the teachers have made for you. That's what we call the School Exams.

How are students tested in their final year? Do you think this works?	
Austria	The final exam is called 'Matura' - students have to decide which subjects they want to choose except for the general. You have written and oral tests. Either 3 oral and 4 written or contrary.
Bayern	The final exams are made by governments of different federal states. A problem is that there's a difference in the difficulty of the exams every year. You can do oral exams (made by your teacher) to improve your grades. It doesn't work, because students learn for grades instead of knowledge.
Bosnia & H	In the final year everything's the same. If the students don't have high enough marks, a test is made in coordination with the teachers of that subject.
Croatia	Students are tested in their final year of secondary school by the National Centre for Evaluation of Education with Stage Graduation. Vocational students can choose whether to write this or their final exam.
Denmark	Some subjects have written components, some have oral components and others have practical parts; some subjects are a mixture. We also have 24h exams: you get your question, you go home and work on it, and 24h you hand it in at school. You have to pass a total of 10 exams: 1 in the first year, 1-2 in the second year and 7-8 in the final year.
Finland	The averages of the grades from each subject at end of the final year. Also a final test.
France	Final exams are used to decide graduation or not. Practical tests for chemistry and such. Orals for languages. Final exams are spread out, to reduce workload.
Iceland	Teachers make their own 'exams'. They are tested in the same matter as the years before.
Netherlands	The final exam exists of a 'school' part and a 'central' part. The school-part exists of multiple tests; the central-part is one big test, which you make at the end of your senior year.

How are students tested in their final year? Do you think this works?	
Norway	Students are graded by their skills in the last period of every year (if it ends that year). Final grading: they look at the skills of each student in the time the grade is set. You have a big exam then. Final grade and exam grade are separated. It works, because the grades from the final exams and the subjects final grades are separated, and the students skills are measured in the skills he or she has at the end of the subject, not an average through the year.
Slovenia	In the final year students make matura exams made by the national examination committee. The exams are about 5 different subjects.
Sweden	No final exams, only national tests.

Do you have a system where one half of the final grade is decided nationally, and the other half by the school? What do you think of such a system? Do you think it would work in your country?	
Austria	There is no central exam; exams are made by the schools. That would be good though.
Bayern	A part of the final grade is a central exam, another part is an exam made by the school (though it isn't 50%-50%).
Bosnia & H	Only made by school.
Croatia	Schools by themselves examined the students, it worked, but was unequalized.
Denmark	There isn't such a system in Denmark.
Finland	Different marks for different courses/subjects matter for future studies. It isn't decided on a national level.
France	Only examinal achievements count. There is only one national exam.
Iceland	No, the school decides this entirely.
Netherlands	50% of your final exam is your 'school-exam', and 50% is the grade you got for you 'central-exam'.
Norway	No. The teacher has the best insight in students individual skills.
Slovenia	Internal and national 'matura' exams.
Sweden	-

Which subjects are mandatory for the final exams? Which subjects are optional and are dependent on your chosen sector?	
Austria	There are some mandatory subjects, and you can also choose some.
Bayern	In Gymnasium you have 4 subjects (2 - science/social and 2 main (maths/languages/physics/chemistry/politics); you get an oral exam in one of them. It depends on to what kind of school you go, what kind of subjects you can choose for your final exam.
Bosnia & H	It's necessary to pass languages.
Croatia	Mandatory: Croatian, maths, a foreign language (higher and lower level). Optional: every single one you want to, as much as you want.
Denmark	It's like a lottery in Denmark: if the subject you are finishing that year is drawn, you have an exam. Written Danish is mandatory for everyone.
Finland	Mothertongue, and 3 other subjects.
France	The subjects linked to your sector.
Iceland	All general and chosen subjects are mandatory for the final year.
Netherlands	Mandatory are Dutch, English and maths. There's some other subjects which are mandatory depending on your chosen sector.
Norway	Yes, Norwegian is mandatory. The rest is subjects where students may be selected for an exam.
Slovenia	Math, MT, FL.
Sweden	-

How are the exams graded? By a teacher from your own school or multiple teachers from different schools? (In the Netherlands multiple teachers grade the exams, one from your own school, one from another school)	
Austria	If it's a written exam - the responsible teacher checks it, but it has to be rechecked by a principal e.g. If it's an oral exam - a committee of teachers
Bayern	The final exams are graded by the teacher of that subject. Teachers get guidelines/answers from the ministry of education.
Bosnia & H	Multiple teachers from the school you go to.

How are the exams graded? By a teacher from your own school or multiple teachers from different schools? (In the Netherlands multiple teachers grade the exams, one from your own school, one from another school)

Croatia	By the Government's National external centre for evaluation of education.
Denmark	All grades are decided by an external censor and the teacher; they must both agree on the degree.
Finland	By the teacher of the subject, and the national examination committee. Grades are based on the Gaussian Curve. L, E, M, C, B, A and I (abandoned)
France	Papers sent anonymously to national correction center.
Iceland	They are graded by the teacher who made the exam.
Netherlands	The exams of your 'school-exam' are graded by your own teacher. The exams of the 'central-exam' are graded by your own teacher and rechecked by a teacher from another school. There are guidelines for checking the central-exams.
Norway	The teachers grading the exams are anonymous teachers from other parts of the country.
Slovenia	Internal exams are graded by teachers from own school. External exams (matura) are graded by teachers from all over slovenia.
Sweden	National tests are graded by the teachers from other school than your own.

Preparation for the next step

In the Netherlands you can go to three different levels of higher education after middle school. You are prepared for this by a study choice test provided by the Dean, and he prepares you through the last two years of middle school for your choice of study. In the Netherlands it is also required of you to visit multiple Universities, to make your future choice easier.

How are students in your country prepared for the choosing of their studies?	
Austria	There is some information, but actually students have to decide themselves.
Bayern	Not answered.
Bosnia & H	Students decide themselves, along with teachers and parents.
Croatia	They go to the school staff dedicated to those affairs, they can contact Universities with their national exams results and they can propose them where to go.
Denmark	There are info-days with education-fairs and presentations by students guides. You can voluntary visit universities.
Finland	There's a subject called 'student guiding' where students talk about future studies.
France	-
Iceland	No formal preparation. The subjects you did at middle school aren't needed for university.
Netherlands	There's a subject called 'career-inventorising'. You should learn what you like and which study you want to do, but actually it doesn't work.
Norway	There's counselling service. After ending high-school, the students choose their study, also by visiting a series of secondary schools.
Slovenia	2 information days organised by university.
Sweden	There are professional counsellors in all school from the uppergrade schools to high schools.

When does this preparation start? Is this preparing done by the school?	
Austria	School does nothing, actually.
Bayern	Not answered.
Bosnia & H	No formal preparation.

When does this preparation start? Is this preparing done by the school?	
Croatia	It starts a year before students have to choose.
Denmark	From 6th grade you have to make future plans from the first year of gymnasium.
Finland	Last year of high school. Done by school. It differs per school.
France	-
Iceland	It depends on yourself.
Netherlands	School does a bit, but most of the time it doesn't work. School starts half-way your high school with preparation.
Norway	Preparation starts in the last 2 years of high-school. The preparation is made by an initiative from the school.
Slovenia	Not answered.
Sweden	-

Do universities help by letting students see what studies they offer?	
Austria	You have to organise it yourself, but you can visit universities if you want.
Bayern	Not answered.
Bosnia & H	Only brochures.
Croatia	Yes
Denmark	Yes, there are open-visiting days and you can drop-in and follow a lecture on most days; mostly in special weeks.
Finland	Not really. Universities don't help. Some events and such.
France	-
Iceland	They regularly give study tours and such.
Netherlands	No, not really. They organise open days, but that's it.
Norway	Yes, both the universities and secondary schools let students visit the subjects and sectors in the schools.
Slovenia	Information days.
Sweden	-

Do you think this preparation in your country works?	
Austria	There isn't a real preparation.
Bayern	Not answered.
Bosnia & H	There should definitely be some sort of formal preparation.
Croatia	Yes
Denmark	No, students have to do the most themselves. There should be more accessible guidance and counselling for all students.
Finland	It works, but not that well.
France	-
Iceland	You learn it yourself, but a bit more formal preparation could be useful.
Netherlands	No, it is really really bad. You actually have to do everything yourself, so a lot of people make a wrong decision.
Norway	Yes, but there are many students quitting their studies in the secondary school. Many of those have made wrong decisions and are unmotivated.
Slovenia	Not answered.
Sweden	-

Spending time at school

In the Netherlands students have to spend at least 1040 hours at school. In the exam year a minimum of 700 hours is required. If your school doesn't follow this requirement, a fine is issued.

How many hours do students in your country have to be at school? Are there any laws about this? If not, do you think there should be?	
Austria	You have to go to school until you're 18 years old.
Bayern	There is no law about time you have to spend at school. However, it's your duty to go to school till 12yrs old. You go to school about 30 hours per week, and school finishes every day at 13 o'clock.
Bosnia & H	6 hour days mandatory.
Croatia	It is regulated but not so strictly by school classes' plan and national framework curricula. There are 35 weeks of school.
Denmark	The number of hours you have to attend is depending on which subjects you choose. Every subject is designated between 100-250 hours. 20% of the lessons is virtual 'over the internet', no teacher present. You have to attend to 90% of the lessons to pass the subject.
Finland	Students have to follow 75 courses, one course is 36-38 study hours so students spend around 2700 hours at school.
France	-
Iceland	There are no laws about this, the school takes care of attendance and such. You officially have to follow at least 90% of classes.
Netherlands	There's a lot of discussion. You have to go 1000 hours to school per year, which is a lot.
Norway	There's a law that the qualification and skills that the student has provided the teachers through tests and practical lessons. Students have a right to be taught in the amount of hours the curriculum for each subject is defined to.
Slovenia	Students need to attend 80% for each subject.
Sweden	In lower and uppergrade schools you are guaranteed at least 6665 hours according to the law. In high schools there isn't a plan. Education is built on aims and goals to reach. It's good that there is a minimum time that you as student are guaranteed a decided level of hours.

Do all students have to go to school the same amount of hours? Or is this decided depending on how old you are or what level of education you follow?	
Austria	It depends on the level and what kind of education you follow.
Bayern	The older you get, the more hours you have to go to school per week.
Bosnia & H	It's the same for every student.
Croatia	It's depending on how old you are and what level of education you follow. Usually you get more hours in the last two years.
Denmark	It's depending on what education you go to. Technical gymnasium is for instance 700 hours per year.
Finland	Same everywhere.
France	-
Iceland	The percentage is decided by the school.
Netherlands	It's the same, except for the final year. In your final year you have to go less to school.
Norway	The sector and combining of subject matters in the amount of time the students has to be at school.
Slovenia	Depends on year and program.
Sweden	Yes, but only in upper and lower school.

Do you think it's enough? Or too little? Too much?	
Austria	It is too much.
Bayern	It is too much, you have to work too long.
Bosnia & H	It is too much.
Croatia	It's enough.
Denmark	700 is alright. The virtual lessons are not okay. I would suggest more lessons.
Finland	Hard, but it's enough.
France	-
Iceland	Depends, a percentage around 90% is acceptable.
Netherlands	I think it's really too much. There should be a bottomline though.

Do you think it's enough? Or too little? Too much?	
Norway	It's fine.
Slovenia	About right, 2 hours a week would be perfect.
Sweden	-

Do you think some lessons are unnecessary? Are there some lessons designed to fill the hours? This is the case in the Netherlands.	
Austria	Some subjects are not interesting enough.
Bayern	You have to learn too much in not enough time.
Bosnia & H	Some lessons are unnecessary.
Croatia	There aren't a lot of subjects. It depends on the students and their teacher.
Denmark	There aren't any lessons made just for filling the time.
Finland	This is not the case in Finland.
France	-
Iceland	The authorities monitor if the teachers make the lessons interesting or necessary enough.
Netherlands	Some lessons are not necessary, but it's depending on your school.
Norway	All the lessons are used to teach, follow up on the students individual progress and social academic time.
Slovenia	Unneeded lessons and even subjects occur.
Sweden	It's up to the teacher and student how they want to do it.

Additional information

In the Netherlands people protest against the set number of hours you have to be at school. There is also protest against the budget-cuts the government has issued regarding education.

What's going on in your country? Is there something students are unhappy about? What's wrong, why, and how can it be solved?	
Austria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If you have a very bad grade and you fail the test at the end of a year you have to do the whole year again. - There are only 5 grades and no verbal grades. - Because of financial problems some free days cancelled.
Bayern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They're going to introduce a new gymnasium (which is 1 year shorter). - Hauptschule has a bad reputation. - There isn't enough money.
Bosnia & H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some problems, but they're minor. - Too much theory, not enough practical lessons.
Croatia	<p>People are worried about the state graduation cause because it's for the first time.</p> <p>Budget cuts in the field of education.</p>
Denmark	<p>The lack of public investment. Fewer people go into education because the government has been cutting the funds for education.</p> <p>Major budget-cuts on every area of education.</p>
Finland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unhappy about the matriculation system - Too much pressure on students, heavy workloads.
France	-
Iceland	- No good way to check level of student
Netherlands	<p>There are some financial problems, but that's especially on higher education. A problem is the traineeship you have to do, because it has to be something social, but practically it isn't usefull.</p>
Norway	<p>We try to get more funds from the government to improve the counselling service, more teachers in the school.</p> <p>Pushing the government to get better scholarships for students and better physical an psychosocial school buildings.</p> <p>Getting apprenticeship for the VET students is also a big matter.</p>
Slovenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government is removing right of free lunch. - General complaint about everything.

What's going on in your country? Is there something students are unhappy about? What's wrong, why, and how can it be solved?

Sweden	<p>Budget cuts is a big question for students. You can't appeal against your grades - we fight a lot to make it reality. Equality and anit-bullying is a big question. The government is re-writing the school law, we have just hand in consultation response. The new minister of education wants to give teachers more rights and students lesser.</p>
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What do you think really works in the education system of your country? What really works well and should be copied by other countries?

Austria	It works well if students can choose their own subjects.
Bayern	Languages are actually quite well trained.
Bosnia & H	Not answered.
Croatia	<p>Interaction between schools and students' councils. A huge amount of democracy in decision-making processes. Free transportation for elementary schools and textbooks and transportation for some groups of students. A good relationship towards national, ethnic, religious minorities and full freedom of choice.</p>
Denmark	The examination - it works well to have a partial and an impartial teacher grading your exams.
Finland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equality within schools, and common knowledge. - Student councils work well.
France	-
Iceland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open source software systems. - Liberty given to teachers and schools - Not much competition, people can find their own way during research.
Netherlands	I think the final exams are arranged properly.
Norway	Modular based education is good. A student doesn't only get their specific education, but also the wide prospective in each sector to get other similar jobs. It's actually the system the EU wants, but cannot find.
Slovenia	- Matura works well
Sweden	<p>Free school and students don't have to pay for books, food and other stuff. Teaching is focused on goals students should achieve, it makes teaching more open. School is equivalent, there are gaps and differences between schools, but overall schools are equivalent.</p>

What do you think doesn't work in the education system of your country? Why is this so bad, what could improve it?	
Austria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There's no school for all students. - There should be more trainings for the teachers. - There should be a fulltime school for younger students.
Bayern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Everything is strictly regulated. - Some Id-fashioned ideas are still existing. - No working groups/presenting. - Teachers should prepare students for live instead of for the graduation.
Bosnia & H	-
Croatia	Sexual education (there's a lot of Roman Catholic people) and Church.
Denmark	<p>You don't know the right line of study after 5 months. You should be able to change the line of study since you need the same knowledge.</p>
Finland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High pressures and meaningless exams. - no clear goal.
France	-
Iceland	No specific ones.
Netherlands	-
Norway	<p>Teachers have to much to do, and see every student as an individual. Teacher should be teaching and someone else should do the paperwork such as correcting the students test. A carrier counsellor and a social counsellor should get more responsibility for taking care of the students well-being.</p>
Slovenia	- Unnecessary spectrum of knowledge in gimazija.
Sweden	<p>Teachers don't have to be trained to become a teacher, which is very bad for students. Teachers should have a relevent education because they're responsible for grading. Link to the world is poor, there is no means for the practice and connect with college and so on.</p>

Is something missing from this questionnaire? Which feature of a national education system do you think we should research?	
Austria	Something about the social aspect of school.
Bayern	Self-contained learning.
Bosnia & H	-
Croatia	It was enough.
Denmark	Nothing.
Finland	Student councils
France	-
Iceland	Something about student councils and student democracy.
Netherlands	Nothing, we made the questionnaire ourselves ;-)
Norway	You should look more into the Norwegian system, because it's a new system from 2006.
Slovenia	Very theoretical.
Sweden	-