



3

Chapter 3

ISCED 2011 level 1:

Primary education

Primary education usually begins at age 5, 6 or 7, and has a typical duration of six years. Programmes at ISCED level 1 are normally designed to give pupils a sound basic education in reading, writing and mathematics, along with an elementary understanding of other subjects such as history, geography, natural science, social sciences, art and music. The commencement of reading activities alone is not a sufficient criterion for classification of an education programme at ISCED level 1.

Programmes classified at ISCED level 1 may be referred to in many ways, for example: primary education, elementary education or basic education (stage 1 or lower grades if an education system has one programme that spans ISCED levels 1 and 2). For international comparability purposes, the term 'primary education' is used to label ISCED level 1.



DESCRIPTION

Definition

(§120)¹ Programmes at ISCED level 1, or primary education, are typically designed to provide students with fundamental skills in reading, writing and mathematics (i.e. literacy and numeracy) and establish a solid foundation for learning and understanding core areas of knowledge, personal and social development, in preparation for lower secondary education. It focuses on learning at a basic level of complexity with little, if any, specialisation.

(§121) Educational activities at ISCED level 1 (particularly in the early grades) are often organized around units, projects or broad learning areas, often with an integrated approach rather than providing instruction in specific subjects.

Classification criteria (§124)

Main criteria

- a. Systematic instruction in fundamental knowledge, skills and competencies

(§125) The boundary between ISCED level 0 and level 1 coincide with the transition point in an education system where systematic teaching and learning in reading, writing and mathematics begins.

- b. Typical entrance age and duration

(§122) Age is typically the only entry requirement at this level. The customary or legal age of entry is usually not below 5 years old nor above 7 years old. This level typically lasts six years, although its duration can range between four and seven years. Primary education typically lasts until age 10 to 12.

- c. Instruction organised typically by one main class teacher

(§126) Typically, one main teacher is responsible for a group of children and facilitates the learning process. However, a class may have other teachers, especially for certain specialised subjects. Teachers at ISCED level 1 are typically trained in pedagogical approaches for core subjects.

Subsidiary criteria

- a. Part of compulsory education

(§127) The beginning of primary education often coincides with the beginning of compulsory education, except for education systems where some or all of pre-primary education is already compulsory. Therefore, where compulsory education is legislated, it starts with ISCED level 1 or before.

Complementary dimensions

(§131) None.

All education programmes at ISCED level 1 are coded as ISCED-P 100. There are no categories or sub-categories to be differentiated by the second digit. (§135)

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN ISCED 2011 AND ISCED 1997

(§276) Level 1, primary education, in ISCED 2011 corresponds to level 1 in ISCED 1997.



GUIDELINES FOR CLASSIFYING PROGRAMMES AND THEIR RELATED RECOGNISED QUALIFICATIONS AT ISCED LEVEL 1

Primary education usually begins at age 5, 6 or 7, and has a typical duration of six years. Programmes at ISCED level 1 are normally designed to give students a sound basic education in reading, writing and mathematics, along with an elementary understanding of other subjects such as history, geography, natural science, social science, art and music. The commencement of reading activities alone is not a sufficient criterion for classification of an education programme at ISCED level 1. Usually there is one main class teacher at this level, although there may be other teachers for certain specialised subjects. Primary education teachers are usually trained in pedagogical methods for teaching a wide variety of subjects. See **Examples Group 1** for examples of typical primary education programmes.

Age is usually the only minimum entry requirement at ISCED level 1. Programmes at the primary level generally require no previous formal education, although it is increasingly common for children to have attended a pre-primary programme before entering primary education. The starting age for primary education often coincides with the starting age of compulsory education, although in some countries compulsory education starts at the pre-primary level.

While the typical duration of primary education is six years, it can last between four and seven years in different countries. Further, the duration of primary education may also vary within countries, in particular in federal countries with more decentralised education systems by regions (see **Examples Group 2**).

ISCED level 1 includes programmes suited to individuals with special educational needs (disabilities, difficulties or disadvantages) if the content of the instruction is broadly similar to that of other ISCED level 1 programmes (i.e. systematic teaching and learning in the fundamental skills of reading, writing and mathematics), even if the students are not of the typical age for ISCED level 1 (§132) (**Examples Group 3**).

Some education systems may offer primary-level second chance or re-integration programmes. Such education programmes usually target individuals who:

- i) left school before completing primary education, allowing them to re-enter the education system and complete primary education; or
- ii) completed primary education but wish to enter an education programme or occupation for which they are not yet qualified. Participants are typically older than the target age group for ISCED level 1 (but not necessarily adults). (§133)

Literacy or basic skills programmes within or outside the school system which are similar in content to programmes in primary education but aimed at those considered too old to enter school are also included at this level because they require no previous formal education. These literacy programmes may be formal or non-formal (§134). See **Examples Group 4** for examples of programmes for youngsters or adults outside of the typical age for primary education.

An additional proxy criterion for classification at ISCED level 1 could be entry into the nationally designated primary institutions or programmes. However, in countries where primary education starts at an early age (e.g. age 4 or 4½), children enrolled in these programmes should be classified at ISCED level 1 only if the duration of the school day, the qualifications of the staff, and the level of content of the programme is similar to the grades where children of age 6 are enrolled. Otherwise, any of the earlier grades that correspond more to ISCED level 0 should be classified as pre-primary rather than primary education.

Although the start of compulsory education is a subsidiary criterion for the boundary between ISCED levels 0 and 1, this criterion is not useful in countries where the start of compulsory schooling is not necessarily related to the beginning of systematic studies. In countries where the age of compulsory attendance (or at least the age at which virtually all students begin their education) comes after the beginning of systematic study for some pupils in the subjects noted above, the first year of compulsory attendance could be used to determine the boundary between ISCED level 0 and ISCED level 1. This latter criterion can be useful when the start of ISCED level 1 reflects the point at which the start of systematic studies in the above subjects starts for all students, not just a select few.

Programmes that span primary education and another ISCED level

Special consideration is needed for very long programmes (i.e. eight years or more) that span primary education and the levels before or after. In these cases, only those grades, stages or cycles that correspond to the criteria for the respective levels (ISCED levels 0, 1 or 2) should be attributed to those levels. (§128)



For instructions for cases when the use of the classification criteria does not result in a clear boundary between ISCED levels 0 and 1, see the ISCED level 0 chapter of the operational manual.

In most countries, ISCED level 1 will correspond to nationally-designated primary education. In countries where 'basic education' covers the entire compulsory school period (e.g. where there is no system break between primary and lower secondary education, and possibly also part of early childhood education), only those grades corresponding to the criteria for ISCED level 1 should be classified as primary education.

If use of the classification criteria does not result in a clear boundary between ISCED levels 1 and 2, the following is recommended: (§130)

- i) for programmes spanning ISCED levels 1 and 2 that are organised in stages, the end of the stage closest to six years after the start of ISCED level 1 should be used as the transition point between ISCED levels 1 and 2; and
- ii) for programmes spanning ISCED levels 1 and 2 that are not divided into stages, only the first six years should be classified as ISCED level 1, while the remaining years are classified as ISCED level 2.

See **Examples Group 5** for programmes that span ISCED levels 1 and 2.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AT ISCED LEVEL 1

When coding educational attainment, special consideration is required for the classification of individuals who attended but did not successfully complete primary education. (§136). These individuals have the educational attainment code ISCED-A 030 "Some primary education (without level completion)" (**Examples Group 6**).

Students who have successfully completed ISCED level 1 have the educational attainment code ISCED-A 100.

For educational attainment, recognised qualifications from ISCED level 2 programmes which are not considered sufficient for (full) completion or partial completion of ISCED level 2 (i.e. ISCED-P 241 or 251) are classified at ISCED level 1 (ISCED-A 100). These programmes typically represent a total duration of less than two years at ISCED level 2 or less than eight cumulative years since the start of ISCED level 1 (§137).

EXAMPLES OF PROGRAMMES AND QUALIFICATIONS CLASSIFIED AT ISCED LEVEL 1

(§123) Programmes classified at ISCED level 1 may be referred to in many ways, for example: primary education, elementary education, basic education (stage 1 or lower grades if an education system has one programme that spans ISCED levels 1 and 2). For international comparability purposes, the term 'primary education' is used to label ISCED level 1.

Examples Group 1:

Typical primary education programmes [ISCED-P: 100; ISCED A: 100]

Austria – Volksschule, 1-4 schulstufe (primary school, Grades 1 to 4). Primary education is compulsory for all children from the age of 6 years. It covers four years and is provided in primary school (*Volksschule*). Primary education is normally organised into two levels, the first two years (level I) and years 3 and 4 (level II). Upon completion of Grade 4, pupils receive a certificate. Primary education lays the basis for a successful learning experience in secondary education. On the basis of pupils' individual backgrounds, primary school is expected to: strengthen and build social competences, improve language skills, develop and convey elementary knowledge, skills, insights and attitudes leading to the acquisition of the "three Rs" skills (reading, writing, arithmetic). (ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100)

Belgium (Flemish Community) – Gewoon lager onderwijs (mainstream primary education). Mainstream primary education is aimed at children from age 6 to 12 and typically comprises six years of cumulative study (though can vary from four to eight years). In the first year the systematic learning of reading, writing and mathematics starts. Every group of pupils has its own class teacher who teaches most (or even all) subjects. A separate teacher may be appointed for religious instruction, music and physical education. Mainstream primary education starts in September of the year in which the child turns 6. For a child who progresses normally, the start of compulsory education coincides with the start of primary education. Upon successful completion of primary education, pupils receive the certificate of primary education. (ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100)



France – *Enseignement primaire* (Primary education). Primary education is five years long and is compulsory from the age of 6. The programme begins with a cycle of fundamental learning including: one year of preparatory classes (*cours préparatoire* – CP) and the first year of elementary classes (*cours élémentaire* – CE1). The last three years of primary education includes the second year of elementary classes (CE2) and two years of middle-level classes (*cours moyen* – CM1 and CM2). At the end of each cycle there is a national evaluation to assess the level of learning of pupils. However, no certificates are awarded at the end of primary education. Following the successful completion of primary education, pupils enter secondary education. (ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100)

Greece – *Dimotiko Scholeio* (Elementary schools). Primary education is compulsory and lasts six years (Grades 1 to 6) starting from the age of 6. It helps pupils to build up strategies to assimilate knowledge; develop their physical and mental health and cultivate their motor skills; learn the most basic concepts and gradually acquire the ability to derive abstract thoughts from concrete data; acquire the ability to express themselves in oral and written form; become familiar with ethical, religious, national, humanistic values; and cultivate their artistic abilities. Upon completion of Grade 6, pupils receive the primary school-leaving certificate (*Titulos spoudon*) which gives access to lower secondary school (*gymnasium*). (ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100)

India – *Primary education*. India has a variety of education systems. The most common primary education in the states and territories lasts for five years (Classes I-V) starting from the age of 5. This free and compulsory programme leads to the primary certificate, which provides access to lower secondary education. (ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100)

Italy – *Scuola primaria* (Primary school). Primary education is the first five years of the first cycle of education. Attendance is compulsory for all children aged 6 to 10 years. Primary education comprises three cycles: a first year (Grade 1), which serves to ensure a smooth transition from pre-primary education (*scuola dell'infanzia*), followed by two two-year cycles (Grades 2 and 3, and Grades 4 and 5). At the end of primary education pupils receive a personal assessment paper, which specifies whether the pupil can be admitted to the first grade of lower secondary education (*scuola secondaria di primo grado*), together with a certification of the competences acquired by the pupil upon completion of primary school (*Certificati e/o Attestati*). (ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100)

Japan – *Shogakko* (Elementary school). Elementary education is the first stage of compulsory schooling. All children attend elementary school for six years starting from the age of 6. The goals of elementary education include: understanding and use of Japanese and mathematics, basic understanding of skills required for daily life, scientific observation of nature, appreciation of history, art and music. Following successful completion of elementary school, pupils progress to lower secondary school (*Chugakko*). (ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100)

Korea² – *Chodeung-hakgyo* (Elementary school). Primary education is provided in elementary schools for children aged 6 to 11 years (Grades 1 to 6). The general objective of elementary education is to cultivate healthy, self-reliant, creative and morally sound Korean individuals. This includes developing the ability to express feelings and ideas, solve problems, and appreciate culture and diversity, and the acquisition of the basic skills for life. Upon successful completion of elementary school, pupils receive a certificate (*Joleopjang*), and may continue to middle school (*Jung-hakgyo*) (ISCED 2). (ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100)

Lebanon – *التعليم الابتدائي* (Primary education). Primary education covers the first two cycles of compulsory basic education which lasts nine years in total. Each of these two cycles is made up of three grades. The primary education programme normally targets children from age 6, who are expected to learn the basic skills in reading and mathematics. A foreign language (either English or French) is also introduced at this level. Upon successful completion, pupils may continue to the third cycle of basic education (lower secondary education). (ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100)

Solomon Islands – *Standard Education*. Standard education starts at the age of 6 and lasts for six years, from Standard 1 to Standard 6. At the end of Standard 6, students take a formal examination marking the end of primary school. The curriculum includes writing, reading, mathematics, community studies, science, agriculture, art, music, physical education and Christian education. (ISCED-P/ISCED A: 100)

Ukraine – *Початкова загальна освіта* (Primary education). This is a four-year compulsory education programme for children from age 6 and takes place in elementary schools. Every group of pupils has its own teacher who teaches most subjects. A special teacher may be appointed for music and physical education. Upon successful completion of the programme, pupils receive the certificate of elementary education. (ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100)



Examples Group 2:

Countries with national variability in the length of primary programmes [ISCED-P: 100; ISCED A: 100]

Canada and the United States – *Elementary/primary schools*. Primary and secondary education form a continuum, with the duration of elementary or primary school primarily based on institutional characteristics that can differ by province/state or locality (ranging from three grades to as many as eight). In these countries, the elementary-secondary continuum will be split at the end of Grade 6 for reporting at ISCED level 1, so that the grades contained in each level facilitate cross-country comparability. This method of reporting programme data will also ensure that, in a national context, comparable programmes are allocated at each level as the level of content is broadly similar at a particular grade across the provinces and states. (ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100)

Germany – *Primarbereich* (Primary education). Primary education is the first step of compulsory schooling and covers Grades 1 to 4 in most of Germany, or Grades 1 to 6 in Berlin and Brandenburg. All children attend primary school (*Grundschulen*) as part of their compulsory schooling between the ages of 6 and 10 (in Berlin and Brandenburg between the ages of 6 and 12). The primary school's role is to lead its pupils from more play-oriented forms of learning at pre-school level to the more systematic forms of school learning, providing pupils with the basis for the next educational level (*Sekundarbereich I*: lower secondary education) and lifelong learning. Lessons at primary school focus on reading, writing, arithmetic, science and a foreign language. Teaching takes place both in lessons concentrating on a specific subject area and in cross-disciplinary classes. The principle of single class teachers covering all or nearly all subjects is used to ensure a consistent pedagogical approach. From Grade 3 onwards children increasingly encounter subject teachers, which helps them prepare for the transition to secondary school, where subject teachers are the rule. For the purpose of international reporting, the duration of ISCED 1 in Germany is reported as four years (i.e. Grades 1 to 4). (ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100)

Switzerland – *Primarschule, école primaire, scuola elementare* (Primary school). The entry age to primary education is either 6 years (4 cantons), 6 ½ years (2 cantons) or 7 years (17 cantons). One canton leaves the decision whether to start school at 6 or 7 years to the communes (local authorities). Since the length of the primary and lower secondary levels combined is a uniform nine years, the differences in the entrance ages translate into different entrance ages all through the school careers of the students. Primary education lasts between four and six years (depending on the canton). Reforms under way will reduce the share of students in four-year programmes. For comparability purposes, the first six years of primary/lower secondary education will be allocated to ISCED level 1. (ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100)

United Kingdom – *Primary school*. The starting age of primary school is 5 years in England, Scotland and Wales, and 4 years in Northern Ireland whilst the duration varies between six years (England and Wales) and seven years (Northern Ireland and Scotland). (ISCED-P/ISCED-A 100)

Examples Group 3:

Primary education programmes designed for children with special educational needs [ISCED-P: 100; ISCED-A: 100]

Belgium (Flemish Community) – *Buitengewoon lager onderwijs* (Special primary education). Special primary education is aimed at children who need special help, temporarily or permanently. This may be due to a physical or mental disability, serious behavioural or emotional problems, or serious learning difficulties. Entry to special primary education is based on the age of the pupil: 6 years old before the 1st of January of the school year. Entry is also possible at the age of 5, which parents may decide based on advice from the class committee and the pupil guidance centre. In special education, a special school statement is drawn up (indicating the type of education for the pupil, based upon the type of disability experienced). Upon completion of the seven-year programme, pupils receive a certificate of primary education (*Getuigschrift Basisonderwijs*) and may continue to *Gewoon secundair onderwijs – 1ste grad* (first grade of secondary education, ISCED 2). (ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100)

Slovak Republic³ – *Špeciálna základná škola – 1 stupeň* (Special basic school – first stage). There are various education programmes for students with special educational needs which are offered in parallel to the regular primary education (*Základná škola – 1, stupeň* / basic school – first stage, ISCED 1). The special basic school is for children with physical disabilities. There are also variants of basic education programmes for children with learning disabilities and mental handicaps. At age 6, which is the start of ten years of compulsory education, students may enter the four-year full-time



special basic school programme. Upon successful completion, students receive a *Vysvedčenie* (certificate) and may continue to the second stage of basic school (ISCED 2). (ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100)

Examples Group 4:
Primary education programmes for individuals outside of the typical age of primary schooling
[ISCED-P: 100; ISCED-A: 100]

Belgium (Flemish Community) – *Basiseducatie* (Adult basic education). In the Flemish Community of Belgium, adult basic education focuses on improving the general level of literacy, numeracy, Dutch as a second language, the basics of French and English, societal integration and basic ICT skills. Adult basic education is only organised by adult basic education centres. These basic skills courses are allocated at the level of primary education and the first stage of secondary education (ISCED 1 and ISCED 2) according to their content levels. (ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100).

Egypt – *التعليم المجتمعي* (Community education). This programme, which is led by the Ministry of Education and supported by local communities and local and international NGOs, targets out-of-school children between the ages of 6 and 14. It provides a second chance to children who have never been enrolled in formal education and those who left school before completing primary education. In community schools, classes are usually limited to 30 students in a multi-age group supervised by two facilitators. Pupils are organised according to ability and the pace at which they learn, but within the same classroom. Although the programme is designed as per initial primary education – six years of duration – higher-paced students may complete the programme in only three years. After successful completions graduates receive a primary school certificate and may continue to preparatory school. (ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100).

Hungary – *Általános iskola 1-4, évfolyam, felnőttoktatás* (Primary-level general school, Grades 1 to 4, part-time education, adult literacy course). Programme for students from age 16, providing literacy skills and similar education to that provided in the four-year full-time general primary-level programme (ISCED 1). Upon successful completion of the programme, students receive a certificate (*Bizonyítvány*) and may enter the lower secondary level general school (ISCED 2). (ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100)

Kuwait – *التعليم الابتدائي للكبار* (Primary education for adults). The primary education for adults programme is designed for youth aged 15 years and older who have either never enrolled in formal education or who dropped out at a younger age. The programme aims at providing a second chance and re-integrating youth into initial education. Unlike the initial primary programme which lasts for five years, the adult programme spans three years only. Upon completion of this formal programme, learners are awarded a primary certificate and they may continue to the intermediate stage for adults (ISCED 2). (ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100)

South Sudan – *Accelerated Learning Programme* (ALP) at primary level. This programme is offered within the framework of the Alternative Education System. It is designed to assist early school leavers, children or adults, to accelerate their learning either to (re)join the initial education system or to gain some skills for a productive life. The ALP programme compresses eight years of primary education into four years. The majority of learners are above 10 years of age, while the official entrance age to primary education is 6 years. Upon completion of the programme, learners are awarded a primary education certificate and may progress to secondary education. (ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100)

Spain – *Enseñanzas Iniciales de Educación Básica para personas en edad adulta* (Adult education programme at the primary level). These are second chance programmes for people above the ages of compulsory schooling. They are specifically aimed at literacy and to consolidate the basic knowledge of participants. There is no defined theoretical duration, nor restrictions of maximum and minimum duration. The education provided is similar to that of the six-year full-time primary education (*Educación primaria*, ISCED 1), therefore the theoretical duration is considered equivalent to the ordinary primary education. Upon successful completion of the programme, students may continue to *Educación secundaria* (lower secondary education). (ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100)

Sweden – *Svenska för vuxna invandrare* (Swedish for adult immigrants). This one-year programme teaches the Swedish language and general information about life in Sweden to adult immigrants, aged 16 years or older. It is classified at the level of primary education in the country. Upon completion of the programme, students have the same level of educational attainment as they had before entering. (ISCED-P: 100; ISCED-A: same as before entering)



Examples Group 5: **Programmes that span ISCED levels 1 and 2**

Czech Republic – *Základní škola* (Basic school). Basic schools provide nine years of basic, compulsory education, usually beginning when the child is 6 years old. It is divided into two stages. The first stage of basic school covers Grades 1 to 5 (primary education, ISCED 1) and the second stage, Grades 6 to 9 (lower secondary, ISCED 2). In Grades 1 to 5 (the first stage of basic school), the teaching and learning process aims to facilitate pupils' transition from pre-school education (ISCED 0) and family care to compulsory, regular and systematic education. With its activity-based and practical nature, the educational process motivates pupils to further learning, guides them to active learning and teaches skills for problem solving. The first stage of the basic education programme is designed to teach a foundational knowledge of general, polytechnical, physical and aesthetic education. (Grades 1 to 5: ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100; Grades 6 to 9: ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 244)

Denmark – *Grundskole* (Comprehensive school). *Grundskole* consists of ten grades. It is compulsory to follow ten years of education at the *grundskole* level. It is however not obligatory to follow the education in formal school settings. The *grundskole* consists of a pre-school class (*bornehaveklasse*) for 6-year-olds followed by nine grades of basic school. In ISCED 2011, the preschool class and Grades 1 to 6 of basic school (*grundskole, 1-6 klasse*) are classified as primary education (ISCED level 1) and Grades 7 to 9 of basic school (*grundskole, 7-9 klasse*) are considered as lower secondary education (ISCED level 2). The ten years of comprehensive school are organised around three subject clusters (humanities, practical/creative, and science subjects), supplemented by elective subjects in the last three years (ISCED 2), in which there is some choice of additional subjects that pupils can learn. (Preschool to Grade 6: ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100; Grades 7 to 9: ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 244)

Estonia – *Põhikool*, *põhikooli* (Basic education). Basic education is compulsory for all children from age 7 and lasts nine years (Grades 1 to 9). Basic education is organised into three stages each lasting three years: Grades 1 to 3, Grades 4 to 6 and Grades 7 to 9. Students in Grades 7 to 9 also have the opportunity to obtain pre-vocational training in basic schools. In ISCED 2011, the first two stages of basic education (Grades 1 to 6) are classified as primary education (ISCED 1) and the third stage as lower secondary education (ISCED 2). According to the national curriculum, the school must assist in raising young people to be creative, harmonious individuals, who can operate well in different areas of life such as family and society. (Grades 1 to 6: ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100; Grades 7 to 9: ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 244)

Fiji – *Primary School*. Primary school starts at age 6 and covers eight grades (Years 1 to 8). The programme is not nationally divided into stages. For international reporting purposes, the programme is considered as spanning ISCED levels 1 and 2. The first six grades are classified as ISCED 1 while the remaining two grades are classified as ISCED 2. (Grades 1 to 6: ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100; Grades 7 to 8: ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 244)

Finland – *Peruskoulu* (Comprehensive school). Comprehensive school provides nine years of compulsory general, basic education (primary and lower secondary) starting from the age of 7. The comprehensive school is divided into two stages: lower stage (Grades 1 to 6) and upper stage (Grades 7 to 9). During the first six years, instruction is usually given by a single class teacher. According to the Basic Education Act, the general objective of basic education is to support pupils' growth towards humane and ethically responsible membership of society and to provide them with the knowledge and skills needed in life. Pupils who complete the nine-year comprehensive school receive the basic education certificate. Within ISCED 2011, the lower stage (Grades 1 to 6) is classified as primary education (ISCED 1) and the upper stage as lower secondary (ISCED 2). (Grades 1 to 6: ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100; Grades 7 to 9: ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 244)

Iceland – *Grunnskolar* (Compulsory school). Compulsory school covers ten years (Grades 1 to 10) in Iceland. There is no division between primary and lower secondary education at the national level; they form part of the same school level and normally take place in the same school. Generally Grades 1 to 7 are considered the primary grades (ISCED 1) and Grades 8 to 10 the lower secondary grades (ISCED 2). Upon completion of compulsory school pupils receive a certificate. (Grades 1 to 7: ISCED-P/ISCED-A 100; Grades 8 to 10: ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 244)

Kenya – *Primary education*. National primary education targets children from the age of 6. It consists of eight grades grouped into two stages: the first stage covers Grades 1 to 3 and the second stage includes Grades 4 to 8. Grades 1 to 6 are classified as primary education (ISCED 1) and Grades 7 to 8 are considered as lower secondary education (ISCED 2). (Grades 1 to 6: ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100; Grades 7 to 8: ISCED-P: 244/ISCED-A: 244)



Malawi – *Primary education*. The duration of primary education is eight years. The official entry age is 6 years old. In ISCED 2011, Grades 1 to 6 are classified as primary education (ISCED 1) and Grades 7 and 8 as the first two grades of lower secondary education (ISCED 2). These two grades together with the first years of secondary education make up lower secondary education. (Grades 1 to 6: ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100; Grades 7 to 8: ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 242)

Oman – *التعليم الأساسي* (Basic education). The basic education programme spans ten years of education starting from the age of 6 years. It is organised into two cycles: the first cycle covers Grades 1 to 4 and the second cycle covers Grades 5 to 10. These two cycles are followed by two years of post-basic education (secondary education). In ISCED 2011, the first six grades are classified at ISCED 1 and the remaining four grades at ISCED 2. (Grades 1 to 6: ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100; Grades 7 to 10: ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 244)

Syrian Arab Republic – *التعليم الأساسي* (Basic education). The basic education programme lasts nine years (Grades 1 to 9) starting at the age of 6. It is organised into two stages: stage 1 covers the first four grades (1 to 4) and the second stage covers Grades 5 to 9. Upon successful completion, students receive the basic education certificate and may continue to upper secondary education. In ISCED 2011, the first stage is classified as ISCED 1 and the second stage forms ISCED 2. (Grades 1 to 4: ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100. Grades 5 to 9: ISCED-P / ISCED-A 244)

Timor-Leste – *Ensino basico Filial* (Basic education). Basic education covers the first nine years of schooling. It consists of three cycles. The first cycle covers the first four grades, the second cycle includes Grades 5 and 6, and the third cycle covers the last three grades. For cross-country comparability, the first two cycles (Grades 1 to 6) are classified as primary education and the last cycle (Grades 7 to 9) is considered as lower secondary general education. (Grades 1 to 6: ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 100; Grades 7 to 9: ISCED-P/ISCED-A: 244)

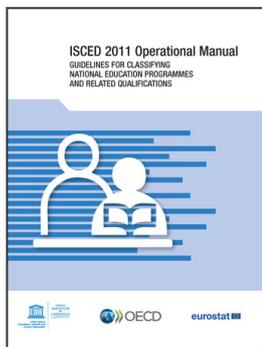
Examples Group 6:

Programmes at ISCED level 1 insufficient for level completion, therefore with educational attainment of some primary education (without level completion) [ISCED-P: 100; ISCED-A: 030]

Ethiopia – *Alternative Basic Education programme* (ABE). The programme is designed to be an accelerated mode for the achievement of universal primary education. The ABE has the same entrance age as regular primary education (6 years old), but it offers a curriculum that compresses the first four grades into three. Upon successful completion of the third grade, students proceed to Grade 5 of regular primary education. (ISCED-P: 100/ISCED-A: 030)

Notes

1. Paragraph numbers are references to the main ISCED 2011 classification document. See more details in the Reader's Guide.
2. The UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) and the European Union (EU) use "Republic of Korea" as the official name of "Korea".
3. The UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) and the European Union (EU) use "Slovakia" as the official name of "Slovak Republic".



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