



ECNAIS

European Council of National Associations of Independent Schools

QUESTIONNAIRE ELTERNLOBBY.CH (SWITZERLAND) FOR ECNAIS MEMBERS

The elternlobby.ch stands up for the rights of parents of school choice for all and educational diversity and freedom of education in Switzerland. The association is politically, religiously and educationally neutral.

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Portugal

NAME OF SCHOOL

1. What types of schools are there in your country?

There are:

State schools

Private schools (funded by the government)

Private schools (not funded by the government)

Cooperatives

2. How much% of students attend which schools?

State schools : 80%

Private Schools: 20%. 47% of these students have some kind of state support for their education at a private school

Religious schools:

Independent schools (charter schools, alternative schools):

3. Do "Religious Schools" and "free schools" belong to the group of private schools or do they belong to their own group?

Yes, all non state schools are called private schools (even cooperatives)

CURRICULUM AND EVALUATION

State schools

1. Is the education system centrally or regionally organized?

The educational system is centrally organized (exception for the two autonomous regions: Azores and Madeira – archipelagos in the Atlantic, where is regional)

2. How detailed and obligatory is the curriculum?

There is a detailed compulsory national curriculum, with set goals and with timetables/ weekly workload per subject defined by the Ministry of Education.

Different rules for VAT. A national catalogue defines the profiles (content and workload) of VAT training.

New developments on the amount of curricular autonomy in the Independent/private sector.

DL 152/2013 4/11 <http://dre.pt/pdf1sdip/2013/11/21300/0634006354.pdf>

Port 59/2014 7/03 <https://dre.pt/pdf1sdip/2014/03/04700/0178601787.pdf>

In the case of private/independent schools the possibility to manage up to 25% of the workload, exception to Portuguese and Math.

Therefore it is possible to make use of 'own plans' (direct translation of a curriculum set by a school) and/or other curriculum profiles like IB.

3. Who created the curriculum and determines the textbooks?

Majority of curriculum is (still) created by the state – Ministry of Education.

Books are school choice (either in public as in private schools).

4. Who evaluates the schools and how are they evaluated?

Schools are inspected by the Inspection of Education



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As for the pupils, they have to perform national examinations at the ages of 10, 12, 15 and at the end of secondary education (18).

5. Does the inspectorate only has an advisory role?
Yes

6. Who will know the results of the evaluation?
Depending on the type of action undertaken by inspection

Private schools, independent schools, religious schools

1. Can these schools create their own curriculum and have their own textbooks? **Yes, under the conditions mentioned above**
2. Who evaluates the schools and how are they evaluated? **Parents do. For the public schools there is an external evaluation from the Inspection**
3. How big is the freedom of education (religious, philosophical, pedagogical)?
The freedom is set within the frame of the constitution and law

FINANCING

1. Who finances the different types of schools?
2. Please specify in%.
3. How are the different types of schools financed?
4. Financed by global budgets or with per-child packages or training voucher?

Around 47% of students attending private schools have some sort of state support. This support varies according to the different contracts the schools has with the state. There are:

- (i) simple contracts - the State grants money to pay part of the tuition. This support is for poor students and covers no more than 50% of the tuition - this is for the general curriculum;
- (ii) association contracts - the students do not pay tuition. The state pays a fixed sum per class to the school that covers all expenses – this is for the general curriculum;
- (iii) patronage contracts –the students do not pay tuition. The state pays a fixed sum per student to the school that covers all expenses – this is for music schools;
- (iv) funding by european social fund grants - the students do not pay tuition. The schools get a fixed sum per class that covers all expenses – this is for vocational courses. In the case of the other 53% of students attending private schools, the parents pay tuition. In state owned and run schools, the ministry of education pays directly the teachers gives money to the school for all other expenses.

PARENTAL RIGHTS

State School

1. Can parents choose freely wherever they live every state school? **Yes**
If so, how will the choice be made and who has priority in case there is not enough place for all?
The marks of the children are the criteria of selection in the public schools

2. How big are the co-determination and participation rights of parents?
Parents have a sit at the school board/general council. Most schools have parents' associations

Private Schools, Religious Schools, Free Schools

1. Can parents choose any school in private without financial and religious restriction?



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In the early 70s, there was a school boom. The state built schools all over the country and hired teachers. Even where there was a private school that could educate children as long as the state paid (they were poor children).

Nowadays, the governments say that if the state aided parents at private schools, it would be paying two times because it has to pay state school teachers anyway (public servants may not be fired). On the other hand, the left wing parties are every strong in Portugal and these parties defend that the state has an obligation to have schools for everyone and no more. So, if families want to send their kids to a private school, they must pay.

2. How big are the co-determination and participation rights of parents?
Depending very much on each school project and ethos

Homeschooling

1. Is homeschooling allowed? **Yes**

If so, Do the parents need a teacher training? Parents address a formal demand to the Ministry of Education.

2. Do the children have to be taught according to the state curriculum?

3. Is "Free Learning" allowed?

4. Do parents receive financial support from the state? **No**

If so, how much?

For further general information about the Portuguese educational system,

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/documents/key_data_series/134EN.pdf