

Sexual Education Policies in Several Eastern and Western EU Countries

Data from 2006

<i>Country</i>	<i>Sexual Education Curriculum</i>	<i>Is Sexual Education Compulsive or Facultative?</i>	<i>Level of Schooling at Onset of Sexual Education</i>	<i>Type of Program and Topics Covered</i>
<i>Belgium</i>	Nationwide curriculum	Compulsive	Secondary school	Comprehensive; Topics include relationships, sexual harassment, various forms of abuse, negotiation skills, various aspects of family planning, pregnancy, abortion, HIV/AIDS, STIs, and sexuality
<i>Cyprus</i>	Individual schools create curriculum; pilot comprehensive program being introduced	Facultative	Varies	Non-comprehensive; Topics may include anatomy, biology, reproduction, contraception, HIV/AIDS, and family and personal relationships
<i>Denmark</i>	Nationwide curriculum	Compulsive	Primary school	Comprehensive; Topics include biology, anatomy, reproduction, reproduction technologies, contraception, and STIs
<i>Ireland</i>	“Relationships and Sexuality Education”	Compulsive	Primary school	Non-comprehensive; Topics include relationships, conception, pregnancy, birth, anatomy, STIs, HIV/AIDS, sexual orientation, family roles and responsibilities, family planning (no specification) and sexual harassment and abuse
<i>Netherlands</i>	Nationwide guidelines; Curriculum decided by individual schools	Compulsive	Varies; Most students in primary school; Nearly all students in secondary school	Comprehensive; Topics covered include anatomy, biology, reproduction, contraception, STIs, abortion, negotiation skills, relationships, and sexuality, etc.
<i>Poland</i>	“Preparation for Family Life”	Facultative	Varies	Non-comprehensive; Program promotes abstinence until marriage, portrays modern contraception as unhealthy and immoral, abortion as wrong, and masturbation and homosexuality as deviant activities
<i>Slovakia</i>	Individual schools create curriculum	Facultative	Varies	Non-comprehensive; Topics include abstinence until marriage and natural family planning methods
<i>Sweden</i>	Nationwide guidelines; Curriculum decided by individual schools	Compulsive	Varies; Most students in primary school; Nearly all students in secondary school	Comprehensive; Topics covered include anatomy, biology, reproduction, contraception, STIs, abortion, negotiation skills, relationships, and sexuality, etc.
<i>UK</i>	“Personal, Social, and Health Education”; Nationwide biological curriculum	Compulsive; Parents can withdraw their children from sexual education, not the nationwide curriculum	Primary school, usually 10 or 11 years of age	Non-comprehensive; National curriculum only includes biological aspects of HIV/AIDS, STIs, and sexual behavior; Individual schools can choose to add more

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