STRATEGY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHOOL SCHEME IN GERMANY REGION: SAXONY-ANHALT FROM 2017/2018 TO 2022/2023 SCHOOL YEAR

DATE: 01.07.2017, AMENDED ON 20.09.2017 AND 04.12.2017

Contents

1.	ADN	MINISTE	RATIVE LEVEL	4
2.	NEE	DS ANI	O RESULTS TO BE ACHIEVED	5
	2.1.	Identif	ied needs	5
	2.2.	Object	ives and indicators	7
	2.3.	Baselir	ne	7
3.	BUD	GET		10
	3.1.	Union	aid for the school scheme	10
	3.2.		al aid granted, in addition to Union aid, to finance the school	11
	3.3.	Existin	g national schemes	12
4.	TAR	GET GF	ROUP/S	13
5.	LIST	OF PR	ODUCTS DISTRIBUTED UNDER THE SCHOOL SCHEME	14
	5.1.	Fruit a	nd vegetables	14
		5.1.1.	Fresh fruit and vegetables - Article 23(3)a of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013	14
		5.1.2.	Processed fruit and vegetables – Article 23(4)a of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013	15
	5.2.	Milk a	nd milk products	16
		5.2.1.	Milk - Article 23(3)b of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013	16
		5.2.2.	Milk products - Article 23(4)b of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013	16
		5.2.3.	Milk products - Annex V to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013	17
		5.2.4.	Prioritisation of fresh fruit and vegetables and drinking milk	17
	5.3.	Other a	agricultural products in the educational measures	18
	5.4.		a for the choice of products distributed under the school scheme y priorities for the choice of those products	18
6.	ACC	COMPA	NYING EDUCATIONAL MEASURES	19
7.	ARR	ANGEN	MENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION	20
	7.1.	Price o	f school fruit and vegetables/milk	20
	7.2.		ncy and duration of distribution of school fruit and bles/milk and of accompanying educational measures	21
	7.3.	Timing	g of distribution of school fruit and vegetables/milk	22

7.4.	Distribution of milk products in Annex V to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013	22
7.5.	Selection of suppliers	23
7.6.	Eligible costs	24
	7.6.1. Reimbursement rules	24
	7.6.2. Eligibility of certain costs	24
7.7.	Involvement of authorities and stakeholders	24
7.8.	Information and publicity	25
7.9.	Administrative and on-the-spot checks	26
7.10.	Monitoring and evaluation	26

1. ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL

Article 23(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 as amended by Regulation (EU) 2016/791 (hereafter, the basic act) and Article 2(1)a of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/39 (hereafter, implementing regulation)

National	
Regional	1) In Germany, 15 of the 16 Federal States are participating in either one or both components of the EU school scheme from the 2017/2018 school year onwards. In addition to the provisions of European law, the German Act for the Implementation of Provisions of Union Law on the School Fruit, Vegetables and Milk Scheme (Agricultural products - School Scheme Act - LwErzgSchulproG) and the Regulation Implementing Participation by the Federal States in the School Agricultural Product Scheme (Agricultural products - School scheme - Participation Regulation - LwErzgSchulpro - TeilnV) have been adopted as a legal basis for the participation of Federal States and coordination of the EU school scheme in Germany. Regular meetings of experts are also held at Federal and State level under the chairmanship of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture to clarify issues over the implementation and performance of the EU school scheme and ensure that information is shared between Federal States The Federal States submit their regional strategies to the EU Commission via the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture. 2) Central contact for relations with the Commission: Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture Department 212 - Nutritional Prevention, Nutritional Information

2. NEEDS AND RESULTS TO BE ACHIEVED

2.1. Identified needs

Article 23(8) of the basic act and Article 2(1)b of the implementing regulation

Health problems among children and young people have increased noticeably owing to the lack of a balanced diet and insufficient exercise in our society. According to a study on the health of children and young people in Germany (the KIGGS study)¹, 15% of children between the ages of 3 and 17 are considered to be overweight and 6.3% of these are considered to be morbidly overweight.

"The results of the health report drawn up by the State of Saxony-Anhalt show a greater prevalence of overweight and obese school children compared to the national average. A comparison of cumulative data from the school enrolment examination (SEU), Year 3 health screening (SR3) and Year 6 health screening (SR6) between 2008 and 2013 (SEU) and between 2008/2009 and 2012/2013 (SR3, SR6) also shows that the proportion of overweight and obese children rises significantly with increasing age. There are probably two reasons for this: firstly, children who already had an unhealthy lifestyle at pre-school age (an unhealthy diet and a lack of exercise) and who have maintained this lifestyle become increasingly overweight and obese when they reach school age and, secondly, some children who were still being protected against or were resistant to unhealthy lifestyles at pre-school age are now becoming increasingly susceptible to the temptations of an unhealthy lifestyle when they reach school age (malnutrition through fast food and confectionery, a lack of exercise as a result of increasing amounts of time being devoted to electronic media)".²

Preventing malnutrition in childhood and adolescence is therefore a very important aspect of health policy. This is the main focus of the national health target "Grow up healthy" and the Federal State health target "Promoting healthy eating habits and healthy food for the people" in Saxony-Anhalt. In this context, increasing the availability of healthy food every day, particularly at nurseries and schools, constitutes an important health-promoting and preventative measure.

-

¹ http://www.kiggs-studie.de/deutsch/home.html

 $^{2 \\} https://verbraucherschutz.sachsen-anhalt.de/hygiene/gesundheitsberichterstattung/gesundheitsindikatoren-kitaschulen \\ (2) \\ (3) \\ (4$

Implementing the EU school scheme is intended to achieve the following objectives with the following priorities in Saxony-Anhalt:

1. Increasing the consumption of school fruit and vegetables and/or school milk

Offering free fruit, vegetables and milk in nurseries and primary and special schools through the new EU school scheme is intended to increase the overall consumption of fruit, vegetables and milk by children in Saxony-Anhalt.

School fruit and vegetables

According to a Swedish study³ carried out in 2014, children in Europe eat 220 g to 345 g of fruit and/or vegetables a day. During the course of the scheme, each participating child eats about 10 kg more fruit and vegetables a year (about 100 portions of 0.10 kg). If the additional amount eaten by children each year as a result of the school scheme is added to their basic consumption, each child will be consuming about an additional 8 to 13% of fruit and vegetables during their year of participation.

An assessment of the evaluation results for the previous school fruit and vegetable scheme shows that children were eating more fruit than vegetables. Participating nurseries and schools are therefore recommended to offer children vegetables twice a week and fruit once a week.

School milk

In the same way, the slight downward trend in the demand for school milk by children that was previously identified on implementation of the EU school milk subsidy in Saxony-Anhalt is intended to be turned around under the new scheme.

2. Increasing knowledge and raising awareness of healthy eating and increasing the acceptance and appreciation of healthy products

Knowledge of and familiarity with fruit, vegetables and milk by children are to be increased, particularly knowledge of the positive effects of a healthy diet and the regionality of products. Children's knowledge of healthy eating habits and of the variety of agricultural products is to be broadened and deepened. The relationships between producers of agricultural products and children, their parents and teachers, particularly those in urban areas, are also to be improved.

The aim is also to enable socially disadvantaged children to catch up in terms of their knowledge of and familiarity with fruit, vegetables and milk. This effect was also found to have occurred in the present evaluations of the school fruit- and vegetable scheme that is coming to an end in Saxony-Anhalt. Influencing the attitudes of children participating in the scheme in terms of their diet and purchasing behaviour when they are with their families is a desirable side-effect.

The intention is also to get adolescents used to consuming fruit, vegetables and milk on a regular basis. This effect was confirmed in studies carried out as part of the evaluation of the school fruit and vegetable scheme. The majority of teachers questioned confirmed a high learning effect among children as a result of the scheme (2016: 65.2%) and permanent changes to their eating habits.

³https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridgecore/content/view/0CAB4BAA4747F62E556B487B20D7F098/S1368980014001347a.pdf/fruit_and_vegetable_consumption_in_a_sample_of_11yearold_children_in_ten_european_countries_the_pro_greens_crosssectional_survey.pdf

2.2. Objectives and indicators

Article 23(8) of the basic act and Article 2(1)c of the implementing regulation

General objective(s)	Impact indicator(s)	Specific objective(s)	Result Indicator(s)	Out
Increasing the proportion of fruit/vegetables/milk in children's diets and developing healthy eating habits	Increase in the direct consumption of fruit/vegetables/milk by children during the promotion period - At least 5% of the total financial resources available for the two product components should be used for the promotion of organic products.	Stabilising/maintaining the level of consumption of fruit/vegetables/milk achieved during the previous promotion period	Percentage of children participating in the school scheme per school year compared to the total number of children in the target group - for school fruit and vegetables • in nurseries • in primary and special schools - for school milk • in nurseries • in primary and special schools	Numb schoo - for s (≥ init - for s (= init) Avera per sc • for f • for s
		Increasing children's knowledge of the variety of agricultural products and of healthy eating habits	Percentage of children participating in accompanying educational measures per school year compared to the total number of children in the target group - for school fruit and vegetables • in nurseries • in primary and special schools - for school milk • in nurseries • in primary and special schools	Numb school accom - for s (≥ init - for s

2.3. Baseline

Article 23(8) of the basic act and Article 2(1)d of the implementing regulation

The EU school fruit and vegetable scheme and the EU school milk scheme have been implemented in Saxony-Anhalt following the Federal State Parliament decision of 03.09.2009.

Implementation of the EU school fruit and vegetable scheme

Saxony-Anhalt has been carrying out the school fruit and vegetable scheme that is cofinanced by the EU since the 2010/11 school year. Using licensed suppliers, the nurseries, primary schools and special schools concerned have been provided with school fruit and vegetables free of charge. Each child at the participating establishments (from 4 years of age to School Year 4) has been given at least 120 g of fresh fruit or vegetables on 3 days of the school week (excluding holidays) initially for a year since the 2010/11 school year. The establishments taking part could initially only take part in the school fruit and vegetable scheme for a year each.

A change was then made to the participating educational establishments according to district and applicant so that as many establishments as possible could benefit from the

scheme and all relevant educational establishments could take part in it over time. In this context, from the 2016/2017 school year onwards, the previous portion sizes were also reduced from at least 120 g to at least 100 g of fruit/vegetables.

From the 2015/2016 school year onwards, educational establishments that had already participated were allowed to participate for one year again.

About 10 to 18% of children at nurseries and primary and special schools were reached each year.

Table: Participating establishments, children reached and age structure

	Pre-schools	Primary and	Total
		special schools	
Number of establishments	782	484	1 266
Children reached	34 787	60 233	95 020
Age structure	From 4 years of	School Years 1	4 to usually 10
	age to school age	to 4 (usually 6 to	years of age
		10 years of age)	
Percentage of children	9.5%	18.2%	
reached out of the total	(reference year	(reference year	
number of children	2016)	2016)	

Source: "Report by the State of Saxony-Anhalt (MULE) on the evaluation of educational establishments participating in the EU school fruit and vegetable scheme in the 2011/2012 – 2015/2016 school years"

Use of the EU school milk scheme

Since 1977, the sale of certain milk and milk products has been promoted by the EU under the school milk scheme with the aim of introducing children and young people to a healthy and balanced diet including milk products as early as possible.

At the end of the 2015/2016 school year, a total of nine suppliers were licensed in Saxony-Anhalt under the regulation implementing the EU school milk scheme, these suppliers assuming responsibility for applying for payment of the school milk subsidy each month and for meeting all requirements associated with the process for the establishments, schools and caterers supplied by them.

During the 2015/16 reporting period, EUR 187 011 of EU funds were made available to provide 1 030 tonnes of eligible school milk products.

Only category I(a) and (b) school milk products (heat-treated pure milk or milk with added sugar and cocoa or fruit flavouring) were requested.

The growth in demand for school milk aid by children and establishments in Saxony-Anhalt for the 2009/10 - 2015/16 school years was as follows:

Increase in the demand for school milk aid for the 2009/10 – 2015/16 school years

	School year	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
A Nurseries	total	1 470	1 460	1 456	1 451	1 411	no details	1 393
	Number of children	85 181	85 776	86 511	87 305	*	*	no details
	of which establishments participating in the school milk scheme with % children drinking milk	580 / 39.5% 33.0	580 /39.7% 32.5	570 / 39.1% 32.0	530 / 36.5% 30.5	510 / 36.1% 32.2	488 / - 32.1	446 / 32.0% 31.9
B Primary sch	nools total	555	552	549	544	537	510	503
•	Number of pupils	66 245	65 644	65 724	65 798	66 453	67 667	69 198
	of which establishments participating in the school milk scheme with % children drinking milk	245 / 44.1% 32.5	235 / 42.6% 31.0	230 / 41.9% 34.0	210 / 38.6% 30.0	184 / 34.3% 30.9	162 / 31.8% 27.6	127 / 25.3% 28.5
C Secondary s	schools/Gymnasien/special schools total	389	385	384	380	381	368	367
	Number of pupils	101 050	103 159	150 462	107 337	114 570	116 183	117 530
	of which establishments participating in the school milk scheme with % children drinking milk	28 / 7.1% 12.1	25 / 6.4% 12.0	20 / 5.2% 12.7	18 / 4.7% 11.6	17 / 4.4% 11.3	14 / 3.8% 12.0	12 / 3.4% 12.5

^{**}Data are not comparable owing to the changed responsibilities and survey sizes Source: "EU school milk aid - Statistical assessment for the 2015/16 school year"; own calculations, MULE 2017

3. BUDGET

3.1. Union aid for the school scheme

Article 23a of the basic act and Article 2(1)e of the implementing regulation

	Period 1/8/2017 to 31/7/2023					
EU aid for the school scheme (in EUR)	School fruit and vegetables	School milk	Common elements if applicable			
Distribution of school fruit and vegetables/school milk	3 375 572.10	1 540 985.77				
Accompanying educational measures						
Monitoring, evaluation, publicity						
Total	3 375 572.10	1 540 985.77				
Overall total	4 916 557.87					

3.2. National aid granted, in addition to Union aid, to finance the school scheme⁴

Article 23a(6) of the basic act and Article 2(2)d of the implementing regulation

No					
Yes					
If yes, amount (in national currency)		Milk/milk p	products ⁵		
	Fruit/vegetables	Milk/milk products other than Annex V	Annex V products		
Supply/distribution	€100 0	000			
Accompanying educational measures	€200 0	000			
Monitoring, evaluation, publicity	€300 0	000			
Total					

Comment/explanatory text (e.g. name of the national aid, legal basis, duration).

NB:

The estimated Federal State funds are subject to final budgetary allocations under future budget plans.

The amounts for the accompanying education measures/monitoring and evaluation activities were estimated for both components, for school fruit and vegetables and for school milk.

⁴ National or regional level

_

The higher level of detail than in table under section 3.1, with a separate category for Annex V products, is meant to capture more precisely information on implementation of the school scheme: the limitation of Union aid to the milk component of Annex V products, set out in Article 23(5) of the basic act, entails per se national aid if a parental contribution is not required. This may not be the case for other milk products, hence the separate column.

3.3. Existing national schemes Article 23a(5) of the basic act and Article 2(2)e of the implementing regulation								
No 🖂								
Yes								
If yes (=existing national schemes extended or made more effective through Union aid under the school scheme), please indicate the arrangements to ensure added value of the school scheme through ⁶ :								
Extension of the target group								
Extension of the range of production	− Extension of the range of products □							
Increased frequency or duration of the control	of distribution of products							
	− Enhanced educational measures (increased number or frequency or duration or target group of those measures)							
Other: please specify (e.g. if proceedings and that are provided freedings).	<u> </u>							
Comment/explanatory text								

⁶ One or more

4. TARGET GROUP/S

Article 23(8) of the basic act and Article 2(1)f of the implementing regulation

School level	Age range of children	School fruit and vegetables	School milk
Nurseries	from 3 years of age	\boxtimes	\boxtimes
Primary and special schools	School Years 1-4		\boxtimes

Comments

Primary and special schools (School Years 1 to 4) and nurseries (children from 3 years of age) can participate in the EU school scheme in Saxony-Anhalt.

5. LIST OF PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTED UNDER THE SCHOOL SCHEME

Article 23(9) of the basic act and Article 2(1)g of the implementing regulation

5.1. Fruit and vegetables

5.1.1. Fresh fruit and vegetables - Article 23(3)a of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013

Apricots, cherries, peaches, nectarines, plums	\boxtimes	Carrots, turnips, salad beetroot, salsify, celeriac, radishes and other edible roots	\boxtimes
Apples, pears, quinces	\boxtimes	Cabbages, cauliflowers and other edible brassicas	\boxtimes
Bananas	\boxtimes		
Berries	\boxtimes	Cucumbers, gherkins	
Figs	\boxtimes	Lettuces, chicory and other leaf vegetables	\boxtimes
Grapes	\boxtimes	Lentils, peas, other pulses	\boxtimes
Melons, watermelons	\boxtimes	Tomatoes	\boxtimes
Citrus fruit	\boxtimes	Other vegetables:	\boxtimes
Tropical fruit ⁷	\boxtimes	Peppers, pumpkins/courgettes	
Other fruit:	\boxtimes		
Kiwi, persimmon			

_

⁷ Pineapples, Avocados, Guavas, Mangos and Mangostines

5.1.2. Processed fruit and vegetables – Article 23(4)a of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013

Products distributed u	Added salt		Added fat			Comments (optional)		
the school scheme	No Yes		No	No Yes		(optional)		
Fruit juices			,					
Fruit purées, compotes				If yes, please indicate the limited quantity			If yes, please indicate the limited quantity	
Jams, marmalades								
Dried fruits								
Vegetable juices								
Vegetable soups								
Other: please specify								

not applicable

5.2. Milk and milk products

5.2.1. Milk - Article 23(3)b of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013

Drinking milk and lactose-free versions	\boxtimes

5.2.2. Milk products - Article 23(4)b of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 **Not applicable**

Products distrib under the school sch	Added salt No Yes			No	Ado	Comments (optional)		
Cheese and curd				If yes, please indicate the limited quantity			If yes, please indicate the limited quantity	
Plain yoghourt								
Fermented or acidified milk products without added sugar, flavouring, fruits, nuts or cocoa								

5.2.3. Milk products - Annex V to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013

Not applicable

Products to be distributed under the school scheme		Added salt			P	Added sugar		
		No	No Yes		No Yes		G	
Category I (milk component ≥90%). Fermented milk products without fruit juice, naturally flavoured				If yes, please indicate the limited quantity			If yes, please indicate the limited quantity	%
Category I (milk component ≥90%). Fermented milk products with fruit juice, naturally flavoured or non-flavoured								%
Category I (milk component ≥90%). Milk-based drinks with cocoa, with fruit juice or naturally flavoured								%
Category II (milk component ≥75%). Fermented or non-fermented milk products with fruit, naturally flavoured or non-flavoured								%

5.2.4. Prioritisation of fresh fruit and vegetables and drinking milk Article 23(3) of the basic act

Since only fresh unprocessed fruit and vegetables (Section 5.1.1 of the strategy) and drinking milk – including lactose-free milk – (Section 5.2.1 of the strategy) are included in the scheme in Saxony-Anhalt, there is no need for any explanation of the prioritisation or preference in the strategy.

5.3. Other agricultural products in the educational measures

Article 23(7) of the basic act and Article 2(1)g of the implementing regulation

Yes	No
Please list the products	\boxtimes

5.4. Criteria for the choice of products distributed under the scho any priorities for the choice of those products	ol scheme and
Article 23(11) of the basic act and Article 2(2)a of the implementing regulation	on
Health considerations	\boxtimes
Environmental considerations	
Seasonality	
Variety of products	\boxtimes
Availability of local or regional produce	
Any comments – including e.g. on the required quality of products	
Any priority/ies for the choice of products:	
Local or regional purchasing	
Organic products	\boxtimes
Short supply chains	
Environmental benefits (please specify: e.g. food miles, packaging)	
Products recognised under the quality schemes established by Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012	
Fair-trade	
Other: please specify	
Any comments	

6. ACCOMPANYING EDUCATIONAL MEASURES

Article 23(10) of the basic act and Article 2(1)j of the implementing regulation

The EU school scheme has to be accompanied by <u>at least</u> one educational measure on nutritional provided by participating educational establishments. Support for accompanying measures is financed using national funds in Saxony-Anhalt. Information materials/brochures (e.g. AID textbooks), for example, are provided free of charge. Establishments that do not provide any accompanying measure are not entitled to participate in the EU scheme.

As part of the application process, participating establishments have to describe in an appropriate form, using the following list examples, what accompanying measure they are implementing and how they are going to do so in order to promote healthy eating habits among children and help raise their awareness. Establishments that do not provide any accompanying measure are not entitled to participate in the EU school scheme.

The subject of nutrition with respect to the scheme is also accentuated in the schools' teaching. In addition, all establishments are asked to support the aims of the scheme (better knowledge of the agricultural sector and agricultural products, healthy diet) through various optional measures.

The following accompanying measures, for example, may be considered:

No:	List of examples for the implementation of accompanying measures
1	Thematic look at the use of fruit, vegetables and milk using AID textbooks
	provided:
	for fruit and vegetables: "For vegetable researchers and fruit detectives, a
	module on nutritional education at primary
	school"
	for milk: "Exploring milk with inclusive children's
	groups"
2	Curriculum-related project days/accentuating teaching about fruit, vegetables
	and milk and a healthy diet (e.g. "School garden" working group)
3	Designing a project on fruit, vegetables, milk and their use (e.g. school garden,
	herb beds, tasting classes, holding events such as a strawberry/pumpkin
4	festival, cooking workshops)
4	Use of learning centres outside school (e.g. visits to agricultural, horticultural
	or food processing businesses)
5	Carrying out already established measures on healthy eating, such as: - aid Nutrition Licence
	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
	(https://www.aid.de/inhalt/aidernaehrungsfuehrerschein-3773.html) - aid Esspedition Schule
	(www.aid.de http://shop.aid.de/3826/esspedition-schulematerialien-zur-
	ernaehrung-klasse-1-6)
	- Activities organised by the Saxony-Anhalt Consumer Advice Centre
	(https://www.vzsa.de/Beratung-und-Aktionen)
6	Increasing cooperation on the subject of healthy eating between the family
	home and the establishment concerned (e.g. parents evenings, joint organisation
	of activities or projects)
7	Activities which go further than the measures specified on the above list are
	also possible

7. ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

7.1. Price of school fruit and vegetables/milk

Article 24(6) of the basic act and Article 2(1)h of the implementing regulation

Fresh fruit and vegetables and fresh banana products and school milk (drinking milk or lactose-free drinking milk) produced organically and/or conventionally are eligible for funding and intended for <u>free</u> distribution.

7.2. Frequency and duration of distribution of school fruit vegetables/milk and of accompanying educational measures Article 23(8) of the basic act and Article 2(2)b of the implementing regulation Envisaged <u>frequency</u> of distribution: School fruit and vegetables School milk Once per week П Twice per week П Three times per week \boxtimes \boxtimes Four times per week Daily Other: please specify⁸ Any comments: Envisaged <u>duration</u> of distribution: School fruit and vegetables School milk ≤2 weeks > 2 and ≤ 4 weeks > 4 and ≤ 12 weeks > 12 and ≤ 24 weeks > 24 and ≤ 36 weeks Entire school year \boxtimes \boxtimes Any comment: Envisaged duration of accompanying educational measures during the school year: ☐ (please indicate the number of hours or shortly explain/comment)

⁸ E.g. Distribution once every two weeks

7.3.	Timing of	distribution	of school	fruit and	vegetables/milk
			OI DUILOUI	II WIL WILL	

Article 23(8) – and 23a(8) if supply in relation to the provision of other meals – of the basic act and Article 2(2)b of the implementing regulation

Envisaged timing of distribution during the day (please tick one or more of the checkboxes below):

	School fruit and vegetables	School milk
Morning/morning break(s)	\boxtimes	\boxtimes
Lunchtime		
Afternoon/afternoon break(s)		

Comments: Fruit, vegetables and milk are to be consumed by children outside school mealtimes. Whether accompanying measures are carried out or, for example, project days or weeks are organised at the time of consumption is left to the discretion of the establishment concerned.

7.4.	Distribution	of	milk	products	in	Annex V	to	Regulation	(EU)
	No 1308/2013	}							

Article 23(5)	of the	basic	act,	Article 5(3)	of	the	fixing	regulation	(No	1370/2013),
Article 2(2)f	of the ir	nplem	entin								

⊠ No

☐ Yes

7.5. Selection of suppliers

Article 23(8) of the basic act and Article 2(1)l of the implementing regulation

The EU school scheme is set up in Saxony-Anhalt as what is referred to as a "supplier model". The EU funding provided is distributed according to the following criteria:

- 1. Regional allocation: Budgeting according to district
- 2. Establishment of a priority quota for organic suppliers
- 3. Selection according to the timely receipt of applications

The scheme is organised as a three-stage administrative process:

1. Licensing of suppliers

The free distribution of fruit, vegetables and milk to establishments is carried out by licensed suppliers. Each business registered as a food business operator can apply for a licence to supply school fruit and vegetables and school milk.

2. Application to participate

An application is then made for yearly participation in the scheme. (Institutions must participate in the programme for two consecutive years. It is not possible to promote more than 2 consecutive years.)

In advance thereof, the supplier signs an agreement with the participating establishments over supply and range. Interested establishments are obliged to choose between school milk and/or school fruit and vegetables.

If participation is confirmed by the relevant office, fruit, vegetables and milk can begin to be delivered to children.

3. Application for aid

In a last step, an application is retrospectively made for payment of the aid and this is claimed by the supplier each month.

7.6. Eligible costs

7.6.1. Reimbursement rules

Article 23(8) of the basic act and Article 2(1)i of the implementing regulation

The aid is net aid. This means that value added tax is not covered by the aid and so is not reimbursed (Art. 4(3) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/40 of 3 November 2016).

Funding will be provided on the basis of a flat-rate sum (excluding value added tax) per standard (conventional/organic) portion:

- fruit/vegetables \rightarrow at least 100 g
- drinking milk \rightarrow 250 ml

according to the price calculated by the Saxony-Anhalt State Office for Agriculture and Horticulture (Business Administration Department). The calculation is adjusted at least every 3 years.

Subsidies are paid in respect of different portion sizes for organically and conventionally produced products. Since organic products are more expensive than conventional products, the subsidy for supply is above the portion price set for conventional goods.

If the strategy sets maximum prices to be paid by beneficiaries for the products, materials and services under the school scheme please indicate the fair, equitable and verifiable calculation method used for their establishment (Article 2(2)c of the implementing regulation).

7.6.2. Eligibility of certain costs

Article 23(8) of the basic act and Article 2(2)b of the implementing regulation

Funding through Union aid is limited to the free provision of products from the product groups of fruit, vegetables and milk. No further costs according to Art. 23(8) of the Basic Act and Article 2(2)(b) of the Implementing Regulation are covered.

7.7. Involvement of authorities and stakeholders

Article 23(6) and (9) of the basic act and Article 2(1)k of the implementing regulation

The Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Energy (MULE) is responsible for substantive organisation and for setting up the administrative procedure of the scheme in Saxony-Anhalt. The Office for Agriculture, Reorganisation of Land and Forestry South has been given responsibility for handling the administrative process under the supervision of the Federal State Administration Office.

There is an inter-ministerial working group within the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Energy (MULE), which provides technical support during the coordination and implementation of the EU school scheme. The working group is made up of representatives of the Ministries of the Interior and Sport (as representatives of school authorities), for Social Affairs and Integration (as representatives of nurseries and as the health authority) and the Ministry of Education (as representatives of schools).

In principle, based on experience gained in carrying out the EU school fruit and vegetable scheme which is coming to an end and of EU school milk aid, the EU school scheme is implemented in Saxony-Anhalt with the involvement and coordination of interested parties and those technically affected, such as parents' and pupils' representatives, representatives of professional associations and nutrition and health experts.

7.8. Information and publicity

Article 23a(8) of the basic act and Article 2(1)m of the implementing regulation

The EU scheme is to be extensively publicised. Details of how the EU school scheme will be implemented are to be published on the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Energy (MULE) website. Annual press releases on the scheme are to be made by the managing Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Energy. Up-to-date information is also to be provided on the Federal State's citizens' portal. Various trade events on the subject of nutrition are to be used as a platform for publicising the scheme.

The inter-ministerial working group set up within the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Energy, made up of representatives of the Ministries of the Interior and Sport (as representatives of school authorities), for Social Affairs and Integration (as representatives of nurseries and as the health authority) and the Ministry of Education (as representatives of schools), also acts as a multiplier.

At the start of the scheme, parents and guardians of participating children are to be given letters and leaflets providing tips on how to support the scheme. The official poster for school fruit and vegetables and/or school milk is to be printed out by establishments participating in the EU school scheme and displayed somewhere in the main entrance of the establishment (at least in A3 format) so that is can easily be seen and read.

7.9. Administrative and on-the-spot checks

Article 2(2)g of the implementing regulation

In accordance with applicable law, extensive checks are carried out in Saxony-Anhalt. For example, all applications for aid are to undergo administrative checks. Based on risk analysis, certain suppliers and establishments are selected for on-the-spot checks. The offices responsible carry out the specified checks at the premises of both companies and participating establishments.

7.10. Monitoring and evaluation

Article 2(2)g of the implementing regulation

Saxony-Anhalt monitors the implementation of the EU school scheme each year. Monitoring is based on data gathered in the meeting of administrative and checking obligations, including applications for aid and the payment of aid. European Commission models are used for regular monitoring.

The scheme is assessed over the entire term. To do so, data are collected, surveys and evaluations are carried out and monitoring reports are drawn up each year. These elements are compiled over the six-year period. The intention is to outsource evaluation. Evaluation is carried out using "Commission guidelines".