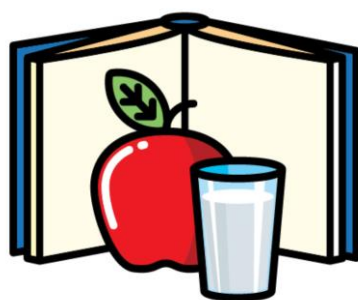


**STRATEGY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHOOL SCHEME IN LATVIA  
FROM 2023/2024 TO 2028/2029 SCHOOL YEAR**

**DATE OF ADOPTION: 28 APRIL, 2023**



**PIENS UN AUGLI  
MANI DRAUGI!**

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## 1. ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION

National	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Regional	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## 2. NEEDS AND RESULTS TO BE ACHIEVED

### 2.1. Identified needs

The evaluation on 2017-2023 period identified that, overall, the scheme was implemented effectively and successfully, while the needs identified for that period remain relevant also for the new period of 2023 – 2029. However, it was also identified that families of children are not sufficiently informed about the school scheme and, in certain cases, also about the role of dairy products in the diet. For the new 2023-2029 period, the identified needs take into account these conclusions.

Also, the priority order of needs has been changed, giving the need to provide free portions of products the highest priority.

Needs to be addressed by the implementation of the support program (in order of priority):

- 1) Provide free portions of fruits, vegetables and milk to preschool and school-age children during the school year, thus increasing the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables and milk, and creating awareness of the basic taste of the product;
- 2) Expand the knowledge of preschool and school-age children about healthy nutrition issues, promoting the formation of healthy eating habits already in childhood;
- 3) To improve the knowledge of preschool and school-age children about agricultural and food production, seasonal and regional products, as well as about local food supply and the fight against food wastage, restoring children's connection with agriculture;
- 4) To improve the awareness of the society, especially the parents of schoolchildren, about the implementation of the school supply program;
- 5) To promote the knowledge and understanding of society, especially the parents of students, about the importance of vegetables, fruits and dairy products in the diet in Latvia ;
- 6) Evaluate the implementation of the school supply program, evaluate its effectiveness and impact on changes in the eating habits of preschool and school-age children, providing proposals for improving the school supply program.

### 2.2. Objectives and indicators

Objectives and indicators (not in order of priority):

No	Objective	Result	Specific objective or measure	Indicator to be achieved (for educational
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				<i>establishments involved in the programme)</i>
1.	Reconnect pre-school and school-age children with agriculture by increasing their understanding of agriculture and food production, seasonal and regional products, food distribution at local level and the fight against food waste.	Lessons, activities or other sessions are being used to develop pre-school and school-age children's understanding of agriculture and food production, seasonal and regional products, food distribution at the local level, the fight against food waste and the importance of a healthy diet, and to reinforce healthy eating habits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handouts and interactive practical teaching materials have been developed for pre-school and school-age children in various age groups. These provide information on, or assist with the development of, practical skills for choosing foods, assessing the impact of those foods on health, upholding the fundamental principles of a healthy diet and dealing with the issue of food waste.</li> <li>• Competitions for pre-school and school-age children have been organised nationwide to promote the school scheme and a healthy diet (for example, creativity competitions, contests in social networks etc.)</li> <li>• Study trips (excursions) to farms organized or plant growing projects implemented to to reconnect children to agriculture, demonstrate the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 80% preschool and school-age children have got have received the handouts and information leaflets</li> </ul>
2.	Improve pre-school and school-age children's knowledge of issues relating to healthy nutrition.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 80% of all pre-school and school-age children have participated in a competition.</li> <li>• At least 60% of all pre-school and school-age children have taken part in educational excursions or a plant-growing project.</li> </ul>

			plant growth cycle from seed to full-grown plant and educate children about plant development and the role of plants in the global ecosystem.	
3.	Ensure that pre-school and school-age children receive fruit and/or vegetables and milk free of charge during the school year, thereby increasing the consumption of fresh fruit, vegetables and milk and creating an awareness of a product's primary taste.	Healthy eating habits for pre-school and school-age children have been formed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-school and school-age children have received seasonally and regionally appropriate fresh fruit and/or vegetables and milk free of charge.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Products are distributed free of charge at least three times a week on at least 30% of school days per year (for fruits and vegetables also the seasonal availability is taken into account).</li> <li>• At least 95% of children in the target group are involved in the school scheme.</li> <li>• At least 3% of distributed fruits and vegetables (together) are organic produce.</li> <li>• At least 5% of distributed milk is organic.</li> </ul>
4.	To inform society, incl. parents, about implementation of the school scheme.	Society informed about the school scheme - through schools, dedicated websites, informative in campaigns etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Printable examples of the informative poster to be provided on the website <a href="http://www.piensaugliskolai.lv">www.piensaugliskolai.lv</a> for educational institutions</li> <li>• Maintained and regularly updated website of the school scheme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% of involved educational institutions have poster (including by digital means)</li> <li>• At least 25,000 visits on the scheme's website annually</li> <li>• 60% of preschools and schools and 70% of children in</li> </ul>

			<a href="http://www.piensaugli.skolai.lv">www.piensaugli.skolai.lv</a> to provide wide range of information to the society about the school scheme. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepared souvenirs, graphic and other materials to increase awareness of the implementation of school scheme.</li> <li>• Informative campaigns organized on TV, in newspapers, seminars organized to popularize the school scheme.</li> </ul>	preschools and schools have received souvenirs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 1 informative campaign implemented during school year.</li> </ul>
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### 2.3. Baseline

Performance indicators achieved in the support program for milk distribution (incl. the "School milk" program until the 2016/2017 school year) by school year:

School year	Number of schools involved in the school scheme	Number of children		Support paid			Products distributed, tonnes
		Involved in school scheme	% of total target group	EU support, EUR	LV co-financing, EUR	Total support, EUR	
2004/05	13	n.d.	n.d.	44 820	285	45 105	26,0
2005/06	786	n.d.	n.d.	62 749	174 302	237 050	953,9
2006/07	459	160 600	46,77%	216 419	560 185	776 603	3 447,6
2007/08	490	120 300	36,43%	412 348	805 772	1 218 121	1 710,9
2008/09	511	20 500	6,44%	130 762	268 496	399 258	715,8
2009/10	37	6 300	2,11%	17 010	0	17 010	93,8
2010/11	456	52 800	18,06%	122 372	270 927	393 299	669,7
2011/12	572	60 600	21,32%	346 283	862 183	1 208 466	1 959,0
2012/13	834	181 300	64,73%	591 503	1 492 456	2 083 959	3 245,8
2013/14	917	192 400	69,44%	679 026	2 034 355	2 713 380	3 650,5
2014/15	1 037	217 600	78,37%	758 024	2 185 441	2 943 465	4 176,6
2015/16	1 086	233 088	82,78%	864 002	1 989 307	2 853 310	4 761,9
2016/2017	1 083	216 530	84,42%	945 492	2 941 772	3 887 264	4 220,33

<b>2017/2018</b>	1 076	229 982	83,45%	745 482	1 549 810	2 295 292	2895,82
<b>2018/2019</b>	1 152	238 247	85,91%	772 986	1 732 107	2 505 092	2914,65
<b>2019/2020</b>	1 124	243 048	87,75%	787 991	1 437 407	2 225 398	2624,55
<b>2020/2021</b>	1 170	246 302	88,40%	736 591	1 421 289	2 157 880	2484,09
<b>2021/2022</b>	1 181	246 733	88,55%	691 524	1 235 892	1 927 417	2068,75

Source - Central Statistical Bureau, Ministry of Education and Science, Rural Support Service

Performance indicators achieved in the support program for the distribution of fruits and vegetables (incl. the "School Fruit" program until the 2016/2017 school year) by school year:

School year	Number of schools involved in the school scheme	Number of children		Support paid			Products distributed, tonnes
		Involved in school scheme	% of total target group	ES atbalsts, EUR	Involved in school scheme	% of total target group	
<b>2010/11</b>	537	68 600	60,35%	299 062	99 687	398 749	235,7
<b>2011/12</b>	708	137 300	81,51%	757 099	304 332	1 061 430	702,1
<b>2012/13</b>	754	151 322	90,41%	855 353	285 118	1 140 471	839,6
<b>2013/14</b>	780	159 941	95,55%	802 500	267 500	1 069 942	635,3
<b>2014/15</b>	793	158 163	92,70%	998 300	110 900	1 109 193	711,7
<b>2015/16</b>	781	164 608	94,39%	845 395	268 667	1 114 062	719,0
<b>2016/2017</b>	780	173 028	98,50%	811 037	273 002	1 084 039	687,5
<b>2017/2018</b>	1 176	247 537	89,80%	813 117	582 195	1 395 311	1065,4
<b>2018/2019</b>	1 242	253 017	91,23%	812 443	652 162	1 464 604	1092,0
<b>2019/2020</b>	1 212	255 091	91,35%	814 975	716 508	1 531 483	1133,3
<b>2020/2021</b>	1 235	255 875	91,83%	769 194	588 144	1 357 338	1023,3
<b>2021/2022</b>	1 234	255 360	91,64%	622 008	636 757	1 227 763	967,6

Source - Central Statistical Bureau, Ministry of Education and Science, Rural Support Service

### 3. BUDGET

#### 3.1. Union aid for the school scheme

EU aid for the school scheme (in EUR) <i>taking into account final allocation for school year 2023/2024 and indicative allocation for each school year from 2024/2025 to 2028/2029</i>	Period 1/8/2023 to 31/7/2029		
	School fruit and vegetables	School milk	Common elements if applicable
Distribution of school fruit and vegetables/school milk	3 808 170	5 065 752	
Accompanying educational measures			206 992
Monitoring, evaluation, publicity <sup>4</sup>			48 298
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 808 170</b>	<b>5 065 752</b>	<b>255 290</b>



Overall total	9 129 211
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<b>3.2. National aid granted, in addition to Union aid, to finance the school scheme<sup>5</sup></b>			
No	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
If yes, amount (in national currency)	Fruit/vegetables	Milk/milk products <sup>6</sup>	
		Milk/milk products other than Annex V	Annex V products
Supply/distribution	4 017 749	12 830 875	0
Accompanying educational measures			393 008
Monitoring, evaluation, publicity			91 702
Total	<b>17 333 334</b>		
<p>Comment:</p> <p>State co-financing in the program is intended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensure distribution of products free of charge for the longest possible period (<i>ie, number of distribution times and weeks</i>) within the school year, taking into account the distribution frequency specified in point 7.2 of the plan;</li> <li>• cover part of the costs related to the implementation of additional educational events and publicity events;</li> <li>• would cover part of the costs related to the evaluation of the school scheme.</li> </ul> <p>The amount of co-financing at the time of adoption of the plan is envisaged to be the same as in the previous 6-year period (2017/2018 – 2022/2023).</p>			

<b>3.3. Existing national schemes</b>	
No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>If yes:</i>	
– Extension of the target group	<input type="checkbox"/>
– Extension of the range of products	<input type="checkbox"/>
– Increased frequency or duration of distribution of products	<input type="checkbox"/>
– Enhanced educational measures (increased number or frequency or duration or target group of those measures)	<input type="checkbox"/>
– Other: please specify (e.g. if products originally not free of charge and that are provided free of charge) ....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comment/explanatory text: None	

#### 4. TARGET GROUP/S

School level	Age range of children	School fruit and vegetables	School milk
Nurseries	Līdz 7 gadu vecumam*	X	X
Pre-schools		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Primary	7 – 15 gadi*	X	X
Secondary	No 15 gadiem*	X	X

Comments: \*- the age range is indicative only. In Latvia, pre-school education is for children up until the age of 7. Basic education is compulsory for children from the age of 7 until completion, or until the age of 18 (the age of majority). Age is not specified for children in secondary education.

#### 5. LIST OF PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTED UNDER THE SCHOOL SCHEME

##### 5.1. Fruit and vegetables

##### 5.1.1. Fresh fruit and vegetables and fresh products of the banana sector - Article 23(3)(a) of the basic act

Apricots, cherries, peaches, nectarines, plums	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carrots, turnips, salad beetroot, salsify, celeriac, Radishes and other edible roots	X
Apples, pears, quinces	X	Cabbages, cauliflowers and other edible brassicas	X
Bananas	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Berries	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cucumbers, gherkins	X
Figs	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lettuces, chicory and other leaf vegetables	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grapes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lentils, peas, other pulses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Melons, watermelons	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tomatoes	X
Citrus fruit	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other vegetables: please specify: • atzīmēto augļu un dārzeņu asorti	X
Tropical fruit <sup>9</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	
Other fruit: please specify • <i>Lielogu dzērvenes</i>	X		
• atzīmēto augļu un dārzeņu asorti	X		

Pursuant to Article 23(3)(a) of Regulation No 1308/2013, only the following fresh fruit and vegetables may be distributed under the scheme in Latvia:

- apples;
- pears;
- large cranberries (i.e. fruit of the species *Vaccinium macrocarpon*) (may only be distributed as part of a mix, and may comprise no more than a fifth of that mix)

- cabbages;
- kohlrabi;
- carrots;
- pumpkins;
- swedes/rutabagas;
- Cucumbers;
- Tomatoes;
- Parsnips;
- mixes (assorti) of these products.

The following additional requirements for fruit and vegetables also apply:

(1) they must be grown in compliance with either integrated cultivation, storage and labelling requirements, the requirements of the organic farming scheme, or the requirements of the national food quality scheme as regards the use of the green colour indication;

(2) they must be transported no further than 300 km from their place of production to the relevant educational establishment.

Average diversity of fresh fruit products envisaged by the strategy, per establishment for one school year:		Average diversity of fresh vegetable products envisaged by the strategy, per establishment for one school year:	
1-6 products	X	1-3 products	X
7-14 products	<input type="checkbox"/>	3-6 products	<input type="checkbox"/>
> 14	<input type="checkbox"/>	7-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
		> 10	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comment: the strategy does not envisage specific requirement for the diversity of products, and the table above is filled, based on statistics of distributed fruit and vegetables during the 2017-2023 period.

### 5.1.2. Processed fruit and vegetable products

No distribution scheme is envisaged in Latvia for the products referred to in Article 23(4)(a) of Regulation No 1308/2013 (processed fruit and vegetables).

Products distributed under the school scheme		Added salt			Added fat			Comments (optional)
		No	Yes		No	Yes		
Fruit juices	<input type="checkbox"/>							
Fruit purées, compotes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>If yes, please indicate the limited quantity</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>If yes, please indicate the limited quantity</i>	
Jams, marmalades	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>			

Dried fruits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>			
Vegetable juices	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>			
Other: please specify	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>			
.....								

## 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	X
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In Latvia within the school scheme only pasteurized (incl. especially high temperature treated or UHT) milk can be distributed, including lactose free milk.

The following additional requirements have been set for pasteurised milk:

- (1) it must have no added sugar, flavourings, sweeteners, fruit, nuts, cocoa or other additives;
- (2) it must be produced in line with the requirements of the organic farming scheme or meet the requirements of the national food quality scheme (not applicable to lactose free milk);
- (3) it must be transported no further than 300 km from its place of production to the relevant educational establishment (not applicable to lactose free milk).

### 5.2.2. Milk products - Article 23(4)b of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013

No distribution scheme is envisaged in Latvia for the products referred to in Article 23(4)(b) of Regulation No 1308/2013.

Products distributed under the school scheme	Added salt			Added fat			Comments (optional)
	No	Yes		No	Yes		
Cheese and curd	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>If yes, please indicate the limited quantity</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>If yes, please indicate the limited quantity</i>
Plain yoghurt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fermented or acidified milk products without added sugar, flavouring, fruits, nuts or cocoa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		

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

No distribution scheme is envisaged in Latvia for the products referred to in Annex V to Regulation No 1308/2013.

Products to be distributed under the school scheme	Added salt		Added fat		Added sugar
	No	Yes	No	Yes	

Category I (milk component $\geq 90\%$ ). Fermented milk products without fruit juice, naturally flavoured	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>If yes, please indicate the limited quantity</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>If yes, please indicate the limited quantity</i>	%
Category I (milk component $\geq 90\%$ ). Fermented milk products with fruit juice, naturally flavoured or non- flavoured	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		%
Category I (milk component $\geq 90\%$ ). Milk-based drinks with cocoa, with fruit juice or naturally flavoured	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		%
Category II (milk component $\geq 75\%$ ). Fermented or non-fermented milk products with fruit, naturally flavoured or non- flavoured	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		%

### 5.3. Prioritisation of fresh fruit and vegetables and drinking milk

No eligible product is assigned a higher priority compared to any other eligible product. However, higher rates of support are envisaged for organic products.

### 5.4. Scheme products & other agricultural products in the educational measures

<b>Scheme products</b>		
<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please list the products:	X
<b>Other agricultural products</b>		
<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please list the products:	X

Comment: the strategy does not envisage specifically the distribution of any product under the additional educational measures, but products eligible for aid may also be included for tasting or distribution under those measures.

<b>5.5. Criteria for the choice of products distributed under the school scheme and any priorities for the choice of those products</b>	
Health considerations	X
Environmental considerations	X
Seasonality	X
Variety of products	X
Availability of local or regional produce	X
<p>Comments:</p> <p>1) Additional quality and transportation distance requirements are described under points 5.1 and 5.2 of the plan;</p> <p>2) List of eligible products in Latvia is defined based on the following objective criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Social – economic criteria</i> – products characteristic for the particular region, suitable for the relevant season.</li> <li>• <i>Criteria of environment protection and benefit for the environment</i> – products produced with environmentally friendly methods and delivered through reduced transporting distance (<i>food miles</i>).</li> <li>• <i>Economic criteria</i> – benefits, like reduced transportation costs, lower risk of product damage or loss during transportation, also higher saturation of nutrients in maximally fresh products.</li> </ul> <p>The approach chosen for products promotes short food chains and provides possibility to supply local products. Also it raises awareness of the place of production.</p> <p><b>Any priority/ies for the choice of products:</b> No mutual priorities are set for eligible products in Latvia.</p>	
Local or regional purchasing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any comments	
Organic products	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any comments	
Short supply chains	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any comments	
Environmental benefits (please specify: <i>e.g. food miles, packaging ...</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any comments	
Products recognised under the quality schemes established by Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any comments	
Fair-trade	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any comments	
Other, please specify:	

## 6. ACCOMPANYING EDUCATIONAL MEASURES

Article 3(2) of Regulation 2017/40 determines obligation for Member states to ensure that all children involved in the school scheme can participate additional educational measures. However, given that the budget for such measures is limited, the strategy envisages that those measures are implemented by schools in cooperation with the aid applicants. Schools will organize and implement accompanying

educational measures as part of the learning process and in line with the available budget.

To ensure the possibilities for implementing such measures, it is envisaged that uniform tools and content (digital, printed, video format, competition, campaign way etc. ) will be developed at the national level.

The scheme envisages the provision of the following means, materials and tools that educational institutions will be able to use to implement additional educational measures:

Nosaukums	Mērķis	Tēmas	Saturs
<p>Handouts and interactive practical teaching materials tailored to pre-school and school children in various age groups.</p>	<p>To provide information on, or assist with the development of, practical skills for choosing food products, assessing the impact of those food products on health, upholding the fundamental principles of a healthy diet and dealing with the issue of food waste..</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy products;</li> <li>• Healthy diet;</li> <li>• Regional products;</li> <li>• Seasonality of products;</li> <li>• Prevention of food waste</li> </ul>	<p>The materials, tailored to pre-school and school-age children and ensuring continuity, must provide information on how to choose food products which are not harmful to health and how to abide by the fundamental principles of a healthy diet by consuming fruit, vegetables and milk.</p> <p>The handouts and interactive practical materials must provide information on environmental considerations in fruit, vegetable and milk production and the issue of food waste. Fruit, vegetables and milk must be attractively described to help reinforce healthy habits.</p> <p>Celebrities and parents may be brought in to help implement the measure by sharing their positive experiences of consuming fruit, vegetables and milk as part of their diet.</p> <p>The activity essentially involves presenting children with a positive example, including with regard to preventing food waste and improving understanding of agriculture and the environment.</p> <p>Visuals and multimedia devices should be used as far as possible to stimulate children's interest and motivation.</p>
<p>Nationwide competitions for pre-school and school-age children.</p>	<p>To promote the scheme and a healthy diet and to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy products;</li> <li>• Healthy diet;</li> </ul>	<p>Various competitions tailored to specific age groups could be organised at national level, such as:</p>

	reconnect with agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional products;</li> <li>• Seasonality of products;</li> <li>• Prevention of food waste</li> <li>• Agriculture and food production</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant-growing competition (for young age groups). the development cycle of a plant from a seed to a full-fledged seedling can be shown, educating about the development of the plant and its role in the global ecosystem.</li> </ul> <p>As part of the event, mini gardens can be established on the territory of educational institutions. Fruit trees (multi-year project) and/or seasonal vegetables – radishes, carrots, cucumbers – are grown in these gardens.</p> <p>Mini-gardens are set up by children together with teachers, attracting technical staff as necessary. The producer of specific product can also participate in the project as a consultant, providing advice on gardening and plant maintenance and care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drawing and/or other creative work competitions for children (with incentive prizes) on subjects covered by the school scheme</li> <li>• Competitions on social network platforms (with encouraging prizes) on the topics covered by the school scheme – for older age groups within the target audience. Parents celebrities and opinion leaders can be involved in the implementation of the event to share their positive experience about the consumption of fruits and vegetables and milk and/or experience related to the topic relevant to the competition.</li> <li>• Publication of contest works and results on the program's website <a href="http://www.piensaugliskolai.lv">www.piensaugliskolai.lv</a></li> </ul>
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			promoting the school scheme.
Visits to farms	Reconnect children with agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture production;</li> <li>• Organic agriculture;</li> <li>• Regional products;</li> <li>• Short supply chains</li> </ul>	Educational institutions can organize (within the limits of their available possibilities) excursions to fruit, vegetable or dairy farms or milk processing companies, which have applied for such visits, in order to introduce school children to how these products are produced (and thereby reconnect them with agriculture) and to the field-to-fork production pathway.
Contests or thematic surveys on social networking platforms for parents of children	Promote parents' knowledge and awareness of the school scheme and the topics it covers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the school scheme;</li> <li>• Healthy products and healthy diet;</li> <li>• Agriculture production;</li> <li>• Regional products</li> </ul>	In social networks (e.g., Facebook , Instagram , TikTok , etc.), as well as in the school management system <a href="http://www.e-klase.lv">www.e-klase.lv</a> , short surveys or small competitions (without prizes) are held, for example, about the implementation of the program, about the information found on the program's website, about knowledge related to food production, healthy diet etc.

Publicity events, as well as various contests and similar events are organized by Rural Support Service and the aid applicant for such measures.

The Rural Support Service will, according to the specifics of each event, select the implementing entity (aid applicant) for each additional educational and/or publicity measure in accordance with the regulatory enactments in the field of public procurement, if necessary, attracting other specialists, including nutritionists and teachers. Additional educational measures are organized and implemented by educational institutions in cooperation with the aid applicant who develops means for the implementation of these events. Educational measures are implemented by educational institutions within the framework of the learning process.

## 7. ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

### 7.1. Price of school fruit and vegetables/milk

Under the school scheme, products are distributed to children free of charge.

### 7.2. Frequency and duration of distribution of school fruit and vegetables/milk and of accompanying educational measures

Envisaged frequency of distribution:

	School fruit and vegetables	School milk
Once per week	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Twice per week	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Three times per week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Four times per week	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Daily	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other : please specify <sup>13</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any comments: None		

Envisaged duration of distribution:

	School fruit and vegetables	School milk
≤ 2 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
> 2 and ≤ 4 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
> 4 and ≤ 12 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
> 12 and ≤ 24 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
> 24 and ≤ 36 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Entire school year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Any comment: Period for product distribution for particular school year begins on 1 <sup>st</sup> October. Distribution period ends no later than 31 <sup>st</sup> of May for students of 1.-9. Grade and no later than 31 <sup>st</sup> of July for pre-schools. The duration of distribution within the indicated period depends on availability of financing and of products.		

Envisaged duration of accompanying educational measures during the school year:

The implementation period for additional educational measures in Latvia is the school year from August 1 until July 31 according to Regulation 2017/39.

### 7.3. Timing of distribution of school fruit and vegetables/milk

Envisaged timing of distribution during the day:

	School fruit and vegetables	School milk
Morning/morning break(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lunchtime	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Afternoon/afternoon break(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Comments:</p> <p>No specific time of day (morning, evening, lunch-time, etc.) is set for the distribution of the products in Latvia.</p> <p>The educational establishment agrees on a time for distribution of the products with the undertaking or person (depending on how the catering is organized in the educational establishment) that provides it with catering services.</p> <p>An educational establishment that provides daily catering free of charge may agree with the catering operator and aid applicant to include the eligible products in the pupils' regular school meal menu if those meals are supplied free of charge pursuant to Article 11 of Regulation No 2017/40, on the proviso that these products may not be used in preparation of meals and a proper visibility of the EU aid scheme is ensured for those products.</p>		

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

No

Yes

#### **7.5. Selection of suppliers**

##### 7.5.1. Product distribution:

Products in the school scheme may be supplied by the producer of such products, including a cooperative society of such producers.

Aid applicants in Latvia, in accordance with the EU legislative acts, may be:

- a producer of eligible products;
- a food operator providing catering services to the relevant educational establishment;
- an educational establishment;
- the local authority within whose jurisdiction the educational establishment is located..

Product suppliers under the school scheme will be selected using the platform maintained by the Rural Support Service.

The Rural Support Service creates, maintains and electronically publishes the following lists on the platform:

- (1) producers of eligible products who apply to the Rural Support Service before the start of every school year, expressing their interest in supplying their products under the school scheme;
- (2) educational institutions delivering pre-school education and general education to grades 1-9;
- (3) aid applicants approved to distribute products.

Aid applicants are approved on the basis of their application for approval.

If the aid applicant is a public entity, selecting supplies also involves the application of public procurement legislation.

Persons on the lists published on the platform agree among themselves before the beginning of the school year as to the specifics of implementation of the school scheme (specific producer, specific products, specific educational establishment, agreement on performance of the functions of the aid applicant) over the course of the upcoming school year.

Products are distributed in the educational establishment during the distribution period on the basis of the rights awarded to aid applicants to distribute to schools:

- the right to distribute to schools is awarded for each group of products ('fruit and vegetables' or 'milk') and for each educational establishment separately;
- given the differences in the number of children among educational establishments, each educational establishment's potential right to be supplied with products from the same group of products will also differ;
- the right to supply schools is awarded by the Rural Support Service on the basis of aid applicants' applications to participate in the school scheme, which indicate the educational establishments to be supplied with the products, the products to be supplied and their producers. The written consent of the educational establishment for participation in the scheme to supply the products indicated must be attached to the application.

##### 7.5.2. Papildu izglītojošie pasākumi:

Aid applicants for the implementation of additional educational measures, as well as publicity measures, will be selected by the Rural Support Service in accordance with the regulatory enactments in the field of public procurement, and Rural Support Service will conclude an agreement on the implementation of the measures with the selected aid applicant.

The aid applicant must receive the approval of the Rural Support Service before the implementation of the measures. Approval is not required in cases where the costs are intended for purchase of presentation materials, advertising souvenirs, printing of information and promotion materials, etc.

After implementation of the measures, the aid applicant submits a detailed report and financial estimate on activities carried out, the supporting documents, and a support application to the Rural Support Service.

Additional educational measures will be implemented by educational institutions in Latvia within the framework of the educational process and the budget available to them, using uniform funds and other materials provided by support applicants within the funding of the school supply program.

Detailed conditions for the implementation of additional educational measures are determined in regulatory acts.

The developed means and other materials for the implementation of additional educational measures are made available to educational institutions by the Rural Support Service. Also, the developed means and materials are posted on the program's website [www.piensaugliskolai.lv](http://www.piensaugliskolai.lv).

### 7.5.3. Izvērtēšana

Evaluation of the school supply program in Latvia is delegated to the Scientific Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment "BIOR".

- Before starting the program evaluation, the support applicant submits the program evaluation plan and financial estimate to the Rural Support Service, dividing the activities to be carried out into several separate stages, if necessary.
- The Rural Support Service evaluates the compliance of the submitted plan and estimate with the conditions of the school scheme, and in case of a positive assessment, sends the documents for approval to the steering committee of the school scheme.
- After the approval of the documents, the Rural Support Service concludes a contract with the "BIOR" institute. After the conclusion of the contract, the "BIOR" institute can start the evaluation of the program according to the approved plan and estimate.
- If the evaluation activities are divided into several separate stages, then no later than one month before the start of the current stage, the institute is entitled to submit a detailed estimate for the relevant stage or all remaining stages, taking into account the current situation regarding cost positions, the epidemiological situation in the country, etc., aspects that may affect the planned carrying out activities.
- After the conclusion of each evaluation stage, the institute submits a support application and report on the activities carried out to the Rural Support Service, adding to it an estimate of the measures and documents certifying the transaction.
- After the conclusion of all the activities provided for in the overall evaluation plan, the institute submits to the Rural Support Service the final report on evaluation.
- The Rural Support Service evaluates the submitted documents according to the terms of the contract and, in case of a positive evaluation, sends them to the steering committee of the school scheme for approval.
- Rural Support Service grants the aid for evaluation activities after the steering committee of the school scheme has approved the report and estimate of the respective performed activities

in the relevant evaluation stage.

## **7.6. Eligible costs**

### **7.6.1. Reimbursement rules**

#### 7.6.1.1. Product distribution:

Support for product distribution is calculated according to the standard scheme of unit costs, setting the same support rate for all aid applicants for the same product.

Aid rates for fruits and vegetables are set per portion (100g), and those are differentiated depending on:

- the quality characteristics of the product (envisaging a higher rate for organic product);
- packaging of the portion (whether the portion is prepackaged or not; if the portion is prepackaged, it must be in accordance with EU regulations on requirements for prepackaged food), and
- composition (whether the portion contains the same type of products or is an assorted portion of at least three different products).

The aid rate for fruit and vegetables is fixed in advance and includes the following eligible costs:

- product price,
- product preparation (processing, washing, peeling, packaging, etc.),
- transportation,
- distribution of products (including storage) in an educational institution.

The aid rate for milk is determined per liter, assuming that one portion is not less than 100 ml and not more than 250 ml, and the rates are differentiated depending on:

- quality characteristics (envisaging a higher rate for organic product);
- packaging volume (whether the product is packaged in a package up to 250 milliliters or larger);
- milk pasteurization methods, distinguishing a separate rate for ultra-high temperature pasteurized (UHT) milk.

The aid rate for milk is fixed in advance and includes the following eligible costs:

- raw material (raw milk) price;
- product production (processing, packaging),
- transportation,
- distribution of products (including storage) in an educational institution,

To take into account the possible fluctuations in the prices of resources and raw materials, the support rates are to be revised during the school year, setting the rates for the period from October 1, January 1 and April 1.

#### 7.6.1.2. Additional educational measures, publicity measures and evaluation:

Aid to cover costs associated with the additional measures and evaluation are calculated using a cost-based system on the basis of the following documents certifying transactions which have been submitted by aid applicants:

- invoices;
- money orders; and
- other documents.

### 7.6.2. Eligibility of certain costs

Considering that support for product distribution is calculated according to the standard scheme of unit costs, the applicable costs for product distribution are mentioned in point 7.6.1. of this plan.

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### 7.7. Involvement of authorities and stakeholders

For ensuring and supervising the implementation of the school scheme in Latvia the Minister of Agriculture establishes the steering committee of the school scheme (hereinafter – the committee), comprising representatives from:

- Ministry of Agriculture,
- Ministry of Education and Science,
- Ministry of Health,
- Rural support Service,
- National Centre for Education,
- Disease prevention and control center.

The goals of the committee are:

- To ensure that the selected additional educational and publicity events are efficient and cost effective;
- To participate in supervision of the school scheme’s implementation, thus promoting efficiency of implementation.

The tasks of the committee are:

- To approve the plans for additional educational and publicity measures for the school year in question;
- To approve reports additional educational and publicity measures;
- To approve evaluation plan and estimate (once in six years);
- To approve evaluation report (once in six years).

The committee can be assigned with other tasks in accordance with regulatory acts.

The committee, in order to perform its task in supervising the implementation of the school scheme, is entitled to provide proposals regarding additional educational and publicity measures, tools for school scheme’s promotion, as well as regarding any other topics related to the school scheme.

Where necessary, the committee is entitled to engage with experts from farmers organizations, especially from fruit, vegetable and milk sectors, as well as with experts from Agriculture data center, Institute for Agro-resources and economics, and other institutions or organizations.

#### ***Authorities and stakeholders involved***

Comment: all institutions listed below are indicated to be involved in all stages of the school scheme, since all institutions are represented in the steering committee of the school scheme.

	Complete Name	Involved in Planning	Involved in Implementation	Involved in Monitoring	Involved in Evaluation	Other (if yes, please specify)

Public authority/ Private stakeholder	Agriculture	Authority	Ministry of Agriculture Republic of Latvia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Stakeholder	None					
	Health and Nutrition	Authority	Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Stakeholder	None					
	Education	Authority	Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Stakeholder	None					
	Other	Authority	Center For Disease Prevention and Control	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Public administration institution directly subordinated to the Minister of Health <a href="https://www.spkc.gov.lv/lv">https://www.spkc.gov.lv/lv</a>
		Authority	National Centre for Education	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Public administration institution directly subordinated to the Minister of Education and Science <a href="https://www.visc.gov.lv/en/about-us">https://www.visc.gov.lv/en/about-us</a>

## 7.8. Information and publicity

To inform the public about the school scheme, the poster is used, prepared by and placed in the educational establishment in accordance with Regulation 2017/40.

Requirements for posters, as well as various printable examples of the poster are published in the school scheme's website [www.piensaugliskolai.lv](http://www.piensaugliskolai.lv).

For achieving the goal of information and publicity, a scheme's banner will be placed on the webpages of the government institutions, as well as information on various additional educational measures implemented within the scheme will be published in electronic school management in the system [www.e-klase.lv](http://www.e-klase.lv).

## 7.10. Administrative and on-the-spot checks

Administrative and on-the-spot checks will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of EU legislation by the Rural Support Service.



### **7.11. Monitoring and evaluation**

The monitoring of the implementation of the school scheme is carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture within the framework of the functions established by the EAGF, by collecting the information provided by the Rural Support Service and the persons involved in the school scheme on the problem issues and solving them.

Annual monitoring of the school scheme in accordance with Regulation 2017/39 and 2017/40 is carried out by the Rural Support Service by preparing annual monitoring reports and annual control reports.

The evaluation of the school supply program is carried out by the Scientific Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment "BIOR", based on an agreement with the Rural Support Service. The institute can also cooperate with the steering committee for the evaluation. Detailed conditions for the evaluation of the school scheme are determined in regulatory acts.