

The EU school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme



Annual monitoring report

2021/2022 school year

Country: **Malta**

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Information by the country's competent authorities. The report is sent to, but not approved by, the Commission that may make comments.

Non-mandatory information, nevertheless recommended for the quality of the report, in grey.

Figures on budget execution (31 December 2021) are preliminary: corrections are possible and payments may still be made.

1. Budget execution

1.1. Expenditure for the supply/distribution of products (EUR)

	School fruit and vegetables			School milk			Total
	Fresh	Processed	Total fruits and vegetables	Drinking milk and lactose-free versions	Cheese, curd, yoghurt and other milk products with no added flavouring, fruit, nuts or cocoa	Milk products with added flavouring, fruit, nuts or cocoa	
EU aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
National Funds	0	0	0	168 220	0	0	168 220
<i>of which: Public</i>			0				0
<i>of which: Private</i>			0				0
Comments	<p>The Fruit and Vegetable Scheme was not implemented due to COVID-19 restrictions in schools during year 2021/2022 as it proved technically difficult to implement the Scheme through a voucher-based system. Moreover, the request for a negotiated procedure was rejected by the Department of Contracts.</p>			<p>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and school closures from March 2020 the School Milk Scheme was halted. ARPA then entered into a Negotiated Procedure with the sole supplier and the School Milk Scheme was implemented as from January 2021 through an off-premises voucher system as approved by the Commission through Ref. Ares (2021)2556975 of 15/04/2021 whereby the milk portion was doubled to 500 ml. National funds served to finance the consumption of portions by students.</p> <p>The voucher-based system ended in April 2022 when L.N 125 of 2022 came into force as of 2 May 2022, repealing S.L. 465.64 which had seen to the closure of Schools.</p> <p>DG AGRI's reply dated 15 April 2021 Ref. Ares(2021)2556975, indicated acceptance of the off-premises voucher-based system only for Scholastic Year 2020/2021 with reservations. In view of the late reply of the Commission due to the uncertainties linked to this modality and the expectation that the situation would normalise following Summer 2021, Malta had already decided to implement the School Scheme through this new modality with or without EU funding as the aims of the Scheme would still be achieved. Given the reservations held by the Commission of the off-premises voucher-based system as well as the categorical decision that the acceptance would only be by way of an exception for Scholastic Year 2020/2021, Malta did not consider submitting a similar request for Scholastic Year 2021/2022.</p>			

1.2. Expenditure for the educational measures (EUR)

	On school fruit and vegetables	On school milk	Total
EU aid	0	0	0
National Funds	0	0	0
<i>of which: Public</i>			
<i>of which: Private</i>			
Comments	<p>The Fruit and Vegetable Scheme was not implemented due to COVID-19 restrictions in schools during year 2021/2022 as it proved technically difficult to implement the Scheme through a voucher-based system. Moreover, the request for a negotiated procedure was rejected by the Department of Contracts.</p>	<p>Accompanying Measures are a tender specification on the supplier to provide at no extra cost. Having said that, due to COVID-19 restrictions, no accompanying educational measures were implemented during Scholastic Year 2021/2022.</p>	

1.3. Expenditure for information, monitoring and evaluation (EUR)

	On school fruit and vegetables	On school milk	Total
EU aid	0	0	0
National Funds	0	67 793	67 793
<i>of which: Public</i>	0	67 793	
<i>of which: Private</i>			
Comments	<p>The Fruit and Vegetable Scheme was not implemented due to COVID-19 restrictions in schools during year 2021/2022 as it proved technically difficult to implement the Scheme through a voucher-based system. Moreover, the request for a negotiated procedure was rejected by the Department of Contracts.</p>	<p>Due to COVID-19 restrictions, promotional items could not be distributed on school premises hence an information pamphlet was published and distributed directly to the student population by post.</p>	

2.1 Participating children

	Participating children		
	Number of children	Number of children who participated in the school fruit and vegetables part	Number of children who participated in the school milk part
Nurseries/Pre-schools	0	0	0
<i>Of which: Nurseries</i>			
<i>Of which: Pre-schools</i>			
Primary schools	9 735	0	9 735
Secondary schools	0	0	0
Total	9 735	0	9 735
Comments	<i>During Scholastic Year 2021/2022, the School Milk Scheme was implemented through an off-premises voucher system. National funds served to finance the consumption of portions by students.</i>	<i>The Fruit and Vegetable Scheme was not implemented due to COVID-19 restrictions in schools during year 2021/2022 as it proved technically difficult to implement the Scheme through a voucher-based system. Moreover, the request for a negotiated procedure was rejected by the Department of Contracts.</i>	<i>During Scholastic Year 2021/2022, the School Milk Scheme was implemented through an off-premises voucher system. National funds served to finance the consumption of portions by students.</i>

2.2 Number of children in the target group

	Number of children in the target group set out in the strategy
Nurseries/Pre-schools	
<i>Of which: Nurseries</i>	
<i>Of which: Pre-schools</i>	
Primary schools	
Secondary schools	
Total	
Comments	



2.3 Total number of children

	Number of children eligible for the EU school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme
Nurseries/Pre-schools	
<i>Of which: Nurseries</i>	
<i>Of which: Pre-schools</i>	
Primary schools	
Secondary schools	
Total	
Comments	



3.1 Participating schools

	Participating schools		
	Number of schools	Number of schools that participated in the school fruit and vegetables part	Number of schools that participated in the school milk part
Nurseries/Pre-schools	0	0	0
<i>Of which: Nurseries</i>			
<i>Of which: Pre-schools</i>			
Primary schools	129	0	129
Secondary schools	0	0	0
Total	129	0	129
Comments			<i>Based on data collected during the submission of participation forms for Scholastic Year 2021/2022.</i>

3.2 Number of schools in the target group

	Number of educational establishments in the target group set out in the strategy
Nurseries/Pre-schools	
<i>Of which: Nurseries</i>	
<i>Of which: Pre-schools</i>	
Primary schools	
Secondary schools	
Total	
Comments	

3.3 Total number of schools

Nurseries/Pre-schools	
<i>Of which: Nurseries</i>	
<i>Of which: Pre-schools</i>	
Primary schools	
Secondary schools	
Total	
Comments	



4.1 Products supplied/distributed to schoolchildren and, if applicable, tasted by schoolchildren as part of educational measures

4.1.1 Fresh fruit

	List
Apples	
Apricots	
Aromatic Herbs	
Avocados	
Bananas	
Berries	
Cherries	
Citrus Fruit	
Figs	
Grapes	
Guavas/Mangoes	
Kiwis	
Melons	
Nuts	
Peaches/Nectarines	
Pears	
Pineapples	
Plums	
Quinces	
Strawberries	
Watermelons	
Comments	

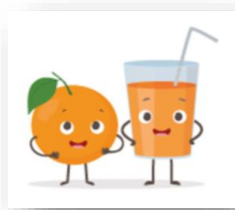


4.1.2 Fresh vegetables

	List
Artichokes	
Asparagus	
Aubergines	
Beet	
Broccoli	
Cabbages	
Carrots	
Cauliflowers	
Celery	
Chicory	
Courgettes	
Cucumbers	
Fennel	
Kohlrabi	
Kale	
Garlic	
Gherkins	
Leeks	
Lettuce	
Mushrooms	
Onions	
Parsnips	
Peas	
Peppers	
Pulses	
Pumpkins	
Radishes	
Rutabagas	
Salad beetroot	
Salsifis	
Spinach	
Tomatoes	
Turnips	
Comments	<i>During Scholastic Year 2021/2022, the School Fruit & Vegetable Scheme was not implemented due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.</i>

4.1.3 Processed fruit and vegetables

	List
Fruit Juices	
Fruit Purées/Compotes	
Jams/Marmalades	
Dried Fruits	
Vegetable Juices	
Vegetables Soups	
Other:	
Comments	



4.1.4 Milk and milk products

	List
Drinking milk or lactose-free versions	✓
Cheese and curd	
Plain yoghurt	
Milk products without added sugar, flavouring, fruit, nuts or cocoa	
Milk products without fruit juice, naturally flavoured	
Milk products with fruit juice, naturally flavoured or non-flavoured	
Milk-based drinks with cocoa, with fruit juice or naturally flavoured	
Fermented or non-fermented milk products with fruit, naturally flavoured or non-flavoured	
Comments	<i>During Scholastic Year 2021/2022, due to COVID-19 restrictions, each child received a weekly portion of 500 ml drinking milk.</i>



4.1.5 Other agricultural products that children tasted as part of educational measures

	List
Table olives	
Olive oil	
Honey	
Other:	
Comments	N/A



4.1.a) Priorities for the choice of school fruit, vegetables and milk

	Yes/No	Comments
Local/regional purchasing	Yes	<i>Milk supplied is fresh milk produced the day</i>
Organic products		
Short supply chains		
Quality schemes		
Fair trade		
Other:		

4.2 Average size of portion of school fruit, vegetables and milk (Kg/Lt)

	School fruit and vegetables	School milk
Kg	0.00	0.00
Liters	0.00	0.50
Comments	<i>The School Fruit & Vegetable Scheme was not implemented due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.</i>	<i>During Scholastic Year 2021/2022, due to COVID-19 restrictions, each child received a weekly portion of 500 ml drinking milk.</i>

4.3 Average cost of portion of school fruit, vegetables and milk (EUR)

	School fruit and vegetables	School milk
EU aid	0.00	0.00
National aid (private/public)		0.54
Comments	<i>The School Fruit & Vegetable Scheme was not implemented due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.</i>	<i>During Scholastic Year 2021/2022, due to COVID-19 restrictions, each child received a weekly portion of 500 ml drinking milk.</i>

4.3.a Average cost of portion of apples in bulk (EUR)

	Portion of apples in bulk
EU aid	
National aid (private/public)	
Comments	N/A

4.3.b Average cost of portion of drinking milk (EUR)

	Portion of drinking milk
EU aid	0
National aid (private/public)	0.54
Comments	<i>During Scholastic Year 2021/2022, due to COVID-19 restrictions, each child received a weekly portion of 500 ml drinking milk.</i>



4.4. Frequency of supply/distribution of school fruit, vegetables and milk

	School fruit and vegetables	School milk
Once per week	✓	✓
Twice per week		
Three times per week		
Four times per week		
Daily		
Other:		
Comments	<i>The School Fruit & Vegetable Scheme was not implemented due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.</i>	<i>School Milk Scheme was implemented during Scholastic Year 2021/2022 whereby milk portions were distributed through an off-premises system of a set of 4 vouchers per month to all participating eligible primary school children aged 3-11.</i>

4.5. Duration of supply/distribution of fruit, vegetables and milk

	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		
Other: please specify under comments		
Comments		<i>School Milk Scheme was implemented during Scholastic Year 2021/2022 whereby milk portions were distributed through an off-premises system of a set of 4 vouchers per month to all participating eligible primary school children aged 3-11.</i>

4.5.a. Supplied/distributed portions

	School fruit and vegetables	School milk
Number of portions supplied/distributed per child	0	32
Comments	<i>The School Fruit & Vegetable Scheme was not implemented due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.</i>	

4.6. Quantities of school fruit, vegetables and milk supplied/distributed and, if applicable, of other agricultural products that children tasted under educational measures

4.6.1 Fresh fruit and vegetables

		Quantity	Of which organic products	Comments
Fresh fruit and vegetables	Quantity in kg	0		The School Fruit & Vegetable Scheme was not implemented due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.
Of which: Fruit	Quantity in kg	0		
Of which: Vegetables	Quantity in kg	0		

4.6.2 Processed fruit and vegetables

		Quantity	Of which organic products	Comments
Processed fruit and vegetables	Quantity in kg	0		
	Quantity in litres	0		
Of which: Fruit juices	Quantity in litres	0		
Of which: Fruit purees/compotes	Quantity in kg	0		
Of which: Jams/Marmalades	Quantity in kg	0		
Of which: Dried fruits	Quantity in kg	0		
Of which: Vegetable juices	Quantity in litres	0		
Of which: Vegetable soups	Quantity in litres	0		
Of which: Other	Quantity in kg	0		

4.6.3 Milk and milk products

		Quantity	Of which organic products	Comments
Drinking milk and lactose-free versions	Quantity in litres	155 760		Portions provided to all eligible participating students aged 3-11. During Scholastic Year 2021/2022, due to COVID-19 restrictions, each child received a weekly portion of 500 ml drinking milk.
Cheese and curd	Quantity in kg	0		
Plain yoghurt	Quantity in kg	0		
Milk products without added sugar, flavouring, fruit, nuts or cocoa	Quantity in kg	0		
	Quantity in litres	0		
Milk products without fruit juice, naturally flavoured	Quantity in kg	0		
Milk products with fruit juice, naturally flavoured or non-flavoured	Quantity in kg	0		
Milk-based drinks with cocoa, with fruit juice or naturally flavoured	Quantity in litres	0		
Milk products with fruit, naturally flavoured or non-flavoured	Quantity in kg	0		

4.6.4 Other agricultural products

		Quantity	Of which organic products	Comments
Olive/olive oil	Quantity in kg	0		
	Quantity in litres	0		
Honey	Quantity in kg	0		
Others:	Quantity in kg	0		

5.1 Educational measures carried out

		Number of schoolchildren	Comments
Type of measure	School gardens	0	Due to Covid-19 pandemic, no educational measures could be scheduled due to the ever-changing restrictions imposed by the Public Health Authority and school closures throughout the Scholastic Year.
	Visits to farms, dairies, famers' markets and similar activities	0	
	Tasting classes, cooking workshops, other	0	
	Lessons, lectures, workshops	0	
	Other activities: competitions, games, themed periods ...	0	

5.2 Theme(s) of the educational measures carried out

		Yes/No	Comments
Theme(s)	Reconnection of children to agriculture		
	Healthy eating habits		
	Local food chains		
	Organic		
	Sustainable production		
	Food waste		
	Other: please specify under comments		



6. Communication activities carried out

		Yes/No	Comments
Activity carried out/tool used	Poster at school premises	Yes	Posters were distributed during the previous scholastic year.
	Poster at other relevant places	Yes	Roll up banner at the Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency - Agency responsible for the overall management of school scheme.
	Dedicated website(s)	Yes	Information on at the Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency website- Agency responsible for the overall management of school scheme.
	Informative graphic material	Yes	Provided information pamphlets to children by post used to distribute the milk vouchers during Scholastic Year 2021/2022.
	Information and awareness campaign (TV, radio, social media)	No	
	Others (e.g. networking activities)	No	



7. Authorities and stakeholders involved

			Name	Involved in Planning	Involved in Implementation	Involved in Monitoring	Involved in Evaluation	Responsible for implementation / supervision /advice (if yes, please specify for which of those under comments)	Member of Steering / Consultative or Coordination / Monitoring Committee (if yes, please specify which committee or group under comments)	Participation in regular meetings	Events (conferences/seminars, workshops ...) (if yes, please specify which event/s under comments)	Surveys or other information / communication activities, including through web and social media (if yes, please specify which activity/ies under comments)	Other (if yes, please specify under comments)	Comments	
Public authority/ Private stakeholder	Agriculture	Authority	Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	The Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency is responsible for the overall management, control and monitoring of the scheme, including procurement and payment procedures.	
		Stakeholder	N/A	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
	Health and Nutrition	Authority	Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Directorate	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	The Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Directorate within the Superintendence of Public Health certifies that children are receiving top quality healthy products, and plays a very active role in the dissemination of information as regards health benefits in the consumption of fruit, vegetables and milk as part of a healthy diet.
		Stakeholder	N/A	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
	Education	Authority	National School Support Services	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	National School Support Services, within the ministry is responsible for liaising with the educational establishments. The Home Economics Seminar Center within the Department of Curriculum Research, Innovation and Lifelong Learning, Directorate for Learning and Assessment Programmes, is responsible for promoting the New School Scheme in school curricula. The HESC also coordinates and facilitates age-appropriate, interactive, educational activities to promote the health benefits associated with the consumption of fruit, vegetables and milk as part of a healthy diet.
		Stakeholder	N/A	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
	Other	Authority	N/A	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
		Stakeholder	N/A	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	