## STRATEGY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHOOL SCHEME IN GERMANY

## FROM 2017/2018 TO 2022/2023 SCHOOL YEAR

REGION: THURINGIA

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## 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

1) Developing healthy eating habits,

- 2) Familiarising children with the natural taste of fruit, vegetables and milk,
- 3) Achieving acceptance, appreciation and a positive attitude among children towards fresh fruit and vegetables and milk,
- 4) Offering fruit, vegetables and milk regularly and in an appealing way for shared consumption by children as part of nursery and school life, and
- 5) Developing skills relating to fruit, vegetables and milk, e.g. relating to production and the importance of a balanced diet or handling and preparing food.

## 2.2. Objectives and indicators

General	Impact	Specific	Result	Output
objective(s)	indicator(s)	objective(s)	Indicator(s)	Indicator(s)
Helping children develop balanced eating habits	At least a third of children in the target group participate in the scheme and thereby regularly receive an extra portion or fruit & vegetables or milk free of charge	Regular joint consumption of fruit / vegetables / milk by children in participating educational establishments	Percentage of children participating in the school scheme per school year compared to the total number of children in the target group (see under 4.)	Number of children participating in the school scheme per school year
Increasing children's skills in relation to balanced eating habits, the variety of agricultural products and their production	Increasing the number of educational establishments that make the subject of health and nutrition an integral part of their establishment profile and of everyday life	Increasing the knowledge of participating children (according to their age), for example, of balanced eating habits, the variety of products and where food comes from	Percentage of educational establishments participating in the school scheme per school year compared to the total number of educational establishments in the target group (see under 4.)	Number of educational establishments participating in the school scheme per school year
Increasing children's acceptance of fruit / vegetables / milk and encouraging them to have a positive opinion towards fruit / vegetables / milk		Increasing the skills of participating children in handling food.		Average quantity of fruit / vegetables / milk (quantity or portions) distributed per child per school year under the scheme
		Increasing participating children's acceptance of fruit / vegetables / milk and encouraging them to have a positive opinion towards fruit / vegetables / milk		Number of parents per school year who receive information on the promotion of balanced eating habits in their children.
				Number of educational establishments / children / educational staff per school year participating in educational measures

		accompanying the school scheme.

#### 2.3. Baseline

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

There are no representative data on the consumption of fruit and vegetables and of milk and milk products by children in Thuringia. Data from the nationwide Health Survey for Children and Adolescents (KiGGS) are therefore used.

The KiGGS study shows that the majority of children and adolescents in Germany do not eat enough fruit and vegetables and do not drink enough milk and milk products: Only 12% of girls and 9.4% of boys between the ages of 3 and 17 eat the recommended five portions of fruit and vegetables each day. As far as milk and milk products are concerned, less than half of children and adolescents consume the recommended amount. With regard to both the consumption of fruit and vegetables and the consumption of milk and milk products, primary school age is a crucial time. There is a fall in the average number of portions of fruit and vegetables consumed per day when children go from nursery school to primary school. As far as milk and milk products are concerned, the proportion of those who consume the recommended amount of milk and milk products is very low, particularly among girls between 6 and 11 years of age. This is also reflected in the provision of calcium: The median level of calcium provision is too low, particularly among girls between 6 and 11 years of age.<sup>1</sup>

Eating habits are influenced by a number of factors. Alongside environment-related influences such as the meals offered at nurseries and in schools, and social influences such as meals offered at home, individual factors also play a role. Individual influences include knowledge, attitude towards diet and skills in handling food. They can be promoted by implementing nutritional and consumer education measures. For the teaching of nutrition in nurseries, day care centres and schools, the Thuringia curricula and teaching plan are used for children up to the age of 18.

## Initial position in relation to the fruit and vegetable component of the scheme

The percentage of children participating in the EU school fruit and vegetable scheme per school year (approx. 41 000) in Thuringia compared to the total number of children in the target group (see under 4.) is currently about 58%.

<sup>1</sup> Borrmann et al (2015): Obst- und Gemüseverzehr von Kindern und Jugendlichen in Deutschland. Ergebnisse der KiGGS-Welle 1; Bundesgesundheitsblatt 2015:58 1005-1014; http://www.kiggsstudie. de/ergebnisse.html

The percentage of educational establishments participating in the EU school fruit and vegetable scheme per school year (approx. 320) compared to the total number of educational establishments in the target group is currently about 60%.

On average, 55 portions of fruit or vegetables were distributed per child per school year under the EU school fruit and vegetable scheme.

#### Initial position in relation to the milk component of the scheme

Thuringia has been offering the EU school milk scheme since the 1990s. A total of 759 establishments (263 schools and homes; 496 day care centres) took part in the scheme in the 2016/17 school year. That constituted 27% of all schools and homes and 38% of all day care centres in the Federal State.

During the above period, nearly 79 000 children and pupils were involved in the scheme, with about 1 000 tonnes of milk and milk products being supplied.

Overall take-up of the EU school milk scheme has been falling for many years. Compared to the 2006/2007 school year, the number of participating establishments and the number of participating children and pupils fell by about 40%, with the consumption of school milk falling by nearly half over the 10-year period.

#### 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	1 €3 368 214.88	€1 553 317.22				
Accompanying educational measures						
Monitoring, evaluation publicity <sup>2</sup>	,					
Total	€3 368 214.88	€1 553 317.22				
Overall total	€4 921	532.10				

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Member States wishing to provide a more detailed breakdown (monitoring, evaluation, publicity, costs for

transport and distribution insofar as they are not covered by expenditure for the supply/distribution of school fruit and vegetables/milk) may add lines for the estimated sub-total expenditure.

3.2. National aid granted, in addition	on to Union aid, to	finance the sch	ool scheme			
Article 23a(6) of the basic act and Artic	le 2(2)d of the impl	ementing regula	tion			
No		$\boxtimes$				
Yes						
If yes, amount (in national currency)		Milk/milk ]	products			
	Fruit/vegetables	Milk/milk products other than Annex V	Annex V products			
Supply/distribution	€320 000					
Accompanying educational measures	€960 000					
Monitoring, evaluation, publicity Total	€100 000					
Total	€1 380 000					
No national aid is granted under the school milk component of the scheme.						
The level of funding available depends on future decisions made by the Federal State budgetary legislator and can therefore only be roughly estimated.  Some accompanying educational measures are subsidised using Federal State funds. Establishments also provide their own resources to support the EU school scheme. For such measures, school authorities can request funds provided these measures meet the requirements stipulated under Article 23(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 in conjunction with Article 3 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2017/40 and Article 4 of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2017/39.  The implementation of the educational measures is an eligibility condition for the participation of educational institutions. These have to implement the above measure under the own responsibility and budget neutral for the EU school scheme in question.						
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 <sup>3</sup> :						
- Extension of the target group						
- Extension of the range of products						
- Increased frequency or duration of distribution of products						
Enhanced educational measures (increased number or frequency or duration or target group of those measures)						
<ul> <li>Other: please specify (e.g. if products originally not free of charge and that are provided free of charge)</li> </ul>						
Comment/explanatory text						

## 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			
Pre-schools			
Primary			
Secondary		$\boxtimes$	

## Comments

The target group for the <u>school fruit and vegetable component of the scheme</u> in Thuringia consists of pupils in Years 1-4 of primary and interdenominational schools and all pupils at special schools and special centres in all school years.

The target group for the <u>milk component of the scheme</u> in Thuringia consists of children at day care centres and pupils in Years 1 to 4 of primary and interdenominational schools and pupils at special schools and special centres.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> One or more

## 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	
Bananas	$\boxtimes$		
Berries	$\boxtimes$	Cucumbers, gherkins	$\boxtimes$
Figs	$\boxtimes$	Lettuces, chicory and other leaf vegetables	$\boxtimes$
Grapes	$\boxtimes$	Lentils, peas, other pulses	
Melons, watermelons	$\boxtimes$	Tomatoes	$\boxtimes$
Citrus fruit	$\boxtimes$	Other vegetables: please specify <sup>4</sup>	
Pineapple, mangoes	$\boxtimes$		
Persimmon, kiwis,	$\boxtimes$		
pomeloes, sharon fruit and			
star fruit			

# 5.1.2. Processed fruit and vegetables – Article 23(4)a of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013<sup>5</sup>

Products distributed u the school scheme	ınder	A	dded salt	A	dded fat	Comments (optional)
		No	Yes	No	Yes	
Fruit juices						

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Other agricultural products than fruit and vegetables, as referred to in Article 23(7) of the basic act (e.g. olives), should not be reported here but under section 5.3.1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 1) Please tick the box for the products to be distributed under the school scheme (e.g. soups) and 2) please tick the box no/yes to indicate if they may contain added salt and/or fat – nb. added sugar is not allowed for those products, according to Article 10 of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/40 - and remove the box for added salt and/or fat where not relevant (e.g. fruit juices). 3) If yes, please indicate the percentage of added salt and/or fat on the total weight of the product, where such a percentage is set at national level, according to national provisions or for the purposes of the school scheme, or comment.

Fruit purées, compotes				
Jams, marmalades				
Dried fruits				
Vegetable juices				
Vegetable soups				
Other: please specify				

Fresh fruit and vegetables, including bananas, and ripe fruit and vegetable products prepared and/or packed in individual pieces are eligible for aid. However, processed products made of fruit and vegetables according to Article 23(4)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 are not eligible for aid.

## 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		

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

Products distribution under the school school	Added salt		ed salt		Added fat		Comments (optional)
	No		Yes	No		Yes	
Cheese and curd							
Plain yoghourt							
Fermented or acidified milk products without added sugar, flavouring, fruits, nuts or cocoa							

Milk products according to Article 23(4)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 are not subsidised in Thuringia under the milk component of the EU school scheme.

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

Products to be distributed		Added salt		\dded fat		Added		
under the school schem		No Yes		No	No Yes		sugar	
Category I (milk component □90%). Fermented milk products without fruit juice, naturally flavoured				If y es, please indicate the limited quantity			If yes, please indicate the limited quantity	%
Category I (milk component \$\preceip 90\%).  Fermented milk products with fruit juice, naturally flavoured or nonflavoured								%
Category I (milk component \$\Pi90\%). Milkbased drinks with cocoa, with fruit juice or naturally flavoured								%
Category II (milk component \$\pi75\%). Fermented or nonfermented milk products with fruit, naturally flavoured or nonflavoured								%

Milk products according to Article 23(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 are not subsidised in Thuringia under the milk component of the EU school scheme.

## 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 Thuringia, 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 school scheme and any priorities for the choice of those products		
Article 23(11) of the basic act and Article 2(2)a of the implementing regulation	on	
Health considerations	$\boxtimes$	
Environmental considerations		
Seasonality	$\boxtimes$	
Variety of products	$\boxtimes$	
Availability of local or regional produce	$\boxtimes$	
Any comments – including e.g. on the required quality of products		
Any priority/ies for the choice of products:		
Local or regional purchasing	$\boxtimes$	
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	$\boxtimes$	
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

Title	Objective	Content
Information for pupils	Raising children's awareness of German agriculture and the cultivation and origin of school scheme products.	Excursions, project days and events with external speakers

Information for pupils	Learning the basics of sustainable consumption and a healthy diet	School gardens, ecological school projects with longterm effect
Information to be passed on to the parents of all participating children	Information on the aim and substance of the EU school scheme  Help in promoting balanced eating habits among children at home	Tips on increasing the consumption of fruit, vegetables and milk by children at home  Advice on sources of information on food for children and on nutritional education
Information for all participating establishments and their teaching staff	Information on the aim and substance of the EU school scheme  Help in promoting balanced eating habits among children at the establishment	Tips on implementing the EU school scheme at the establishment, e.g. relating to organisation and educational support  Advice on sources of information on food for children and on nutritional education
Information on support offered by the school system and by external providers (offer of support)	Help with the educational support of the EU school scheme  Raising children's awareness of German agriculture, the cultivation and origin of school scheme products and their production processes	Information on support offered by the school system and external providers, such as the Federal Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition, Consumer Advice Centres and the German Nutrition Society

## 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

The school fruit and vegetables and the school milk are distributed to children free of charge under the school scheme.

The maximum amounts of aid per portion are notified to participating school authorities / suppliers before the start of the school year.

## Fruit and vegetable component of the scheme:

Each portion of fruit and vegetables is subsidised through EU funds at a maximum fixed subsidy rate. The school authorities submit applications for aid to the relevant payment

office. The amounts of aid per portion are notified to participating school authorities before the start of the school year.

The costs of products exceeding the EU funding are paid for using Federal State funds. A further contribution from the school authority may also be required in certain cases.

## Milk component of the scheme:

Each portion of milk is subsidised through EU funds at a fixed subsidy rate. The product suppliers according to Article 5(2)(c) of Regulation (EU) 2017/40 submit applications for aid to the relevant payment office. The amounts of aid per portion are notified to the licensed product suppliers and participating establishments before the start of the school year.

Any costs of products exceeding the EU funding are not paid for using Federal State financial resources.

and vegetables/milk and of accompanying educational measures Article 23(8) of the basic act and Article 2(2)b of the implementing regulation Envisaged frequency of distribution: School fruit and vegetables School milk Once per week  $\Box$ П Twice per week Three times per week Four times per week Daily Other: please specify<sup>6</sup>  $\boxtimes$  $\boxtimes$ Any comments: The school authority decides how frequently fruit and vegetables and school milk are distributed according to the requirements of the scheme. Envisaged duration of distribution: School fruit and vegetables School milk ≤ 2 weeks  $\square$  2 and  $\leq$  4 weeks  $\square$  4 and  $\leq$  12 weeks  $\square$  12 and  $\leq$  24 weeks  $\square$  24 and  $\leq$  36 weeks Entire school year  $\boxtimes$  $\boxtimes$ Any comment: Envisaged duration of accompanying educational measures during the school year: ☐ Teachers carry out various accompanying educational measures that are not eligible for funding: Teachers are obliged here to include the substance of the scheme in their

7.2. Frequency and

duration

of

distribution of

school fruit

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> E.g. Distribution once every two weeks

teaching and also to use any available accompanying teaching material.

Irrespective of the EU school scheme, the subjects of health and nutrition form an integral part of the curriculum. The substance of accompanying educational measures that are offered under the school scheme cannot be defined by the Federal State authority in advance here. The school authorities (administrative districts, free cities, boards of trustees and trustee organisations such as churches) decide on their own which accompanying educational measures to offer beyond coverage of the substance of the scheme as part of their teaching.

Educational accompaniment in terms school scheme activity days take up between one and five days of the school year. The actual time spent is left to the discretion of the establishment concerned.

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

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)		
Lunchtime		
Afternoon/afternoon break(s)		

Comments: The school authority decides when fruit and vegetables and school milk are distributed according to the requirements of the scheme. The distribution is not made in connection with regular school meals.

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 implementing regulation
⊠ No
□ Yes

#### 7.5. Selection of suppliers

Article 23(8) of the basic act and Article 2(1)l of the implementing regulation Suppliers are chosen on the basis of an invitation to tender.

## 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

## Fruit and vegetable component of the scheme:

- The costs of providing school fruit and vegetables are reimbursed on the basis of maximum amounts. The maximum funding rates are set according to market conditions in funding guidelines, set by the authority in charge of healthy nutrition.
- Sufficient funding amounts are based on a competition carried out by the school authority under an invitation to tender.
- At least 100 g is set as the portion size for school fruit and vegetables.

#### Milk component of the scheme:

- To set portion prices for milk, net production costs ex works are derived from two sides. Firstly, from the cost side in relation to production and, secondly, through retroactive accounting based on existing sale prices for comparable products being sold. Standard estimates for the portion prices of milk are determined from the results of these two processes. Prices are differentiated in the calculations in respect of portion and packet sizes. On the other hand, there is no arithmetic differentiation between fresh and UHT milk or with respect to the fat content.
- Logistical costs, consisting of vehicle and hire costs, are also taken into account. The
  average is calculated on the basis of varying routes, transport costs (refrigerated,
  unrefrigerated) and the number of establishments to be supplied.

• Portion sizes for milk are set at 200 ml for day care centres and 250 ml for primary, interdenominational and special schools.

## 7.6.2. Eligibility of certain costs

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

The funding rates calculated include all costs associated with the supply and provision of products to the establishment. They include all of the costs of supplier equipment and vehicles. Not included are expenses incurred by the establishment for the receipt of products and any equipment that may be required, such as storage space, refrigerators, etc.

## 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

7 Huele 23(0	Nature of the involve				
	step				
	Planning	Implementation	Monitoring	Evaluation	
Thuringia Ministry for Migration, Justice and Consumer Protection	Managing the school fruit and vegetable component of the scheme  Managing the elaboration of a Federal State strategy	Funding guidelines	Technical monitoring of the relevant implementing authority	Overall coordination Evaluation of the school fruit and vegetable component of the scheme	
Thuringia Ministry for Infrastructure and Agriculture	Management of the school milk component of the scheme  Involvement in the elaboration of a Federal State strategy	Decree	Technical monitoring of the relevant implementing authority	Evaluation of the milk component of the scheme	
Thuringia Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport	Involvement in coordination meetings  Involvement in drawing up funding guidelines and elaboration of a Federal State strategy	Producing informational material for parents		Assistance with preparation and implementation	
Thuringia State Administration Office	Involvement in coordination meetings  Involvement in drawing up funding guidelines and elaboration of a Federal State strategy	Relevant implementing authority	On-the-spot checks  Administrative checks  Proof of use checks	Assistance with preparation and implementation	

The authority in charge of health and nutrition has been involved in drafting the strategy and endorsing the list of products, and it is involved in implementation of the scheme.

## 7.8. Information and publicity

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

Target group	Measures
General public	Homepages on the EU school scheme
	• Fruit and vegetable component of the scheme <a href="http://www.thueringen.de/th4/tmmjv/verbraucherschutz/schulobst/indexx.aspx">http://www.thueringen.de/th4/tmmjv/verbraucherschutz/schulobst/indexx.aspx</a>
	• Milk component of the scheme <a href="http://www.thueringen.de/th3/tlvwa/wirtschaft/zahlstelle_egfl_eler/eu_schulmilchprogramm/">http://www.thueringen.de/th3/tlvwa/wirtschaft/zahlstelle_egfl_eler/eu_schulmilchprogramm/</a>
	• EU school scheme poster
	• EU school scheme activity days
School authorities, suppliers	Information events for participating school authorities, particularly relating to funding conditions and terms of invitations to tender

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

Article 2(2)g of the implementing regulation

Administrative and on-the-spot checks are carried out by the Thuringia State Administration Office.

The certifying body is the Thuringia Ministry for Infrastructure and Agriculture.

## 7.10. Monitoring and evaluation

Article 2(2)g of the implementing regulation

Written reports are drawn up on the respective checks carried out. Beneficiaries do not have specific reporting duties.

In accordance with the requirements of the scheme, the Federal State of Thuringia will, in 2022, carry out a comprehensive evaluation of whether the objectives specified under 2.1 have been achieved.