

**STRATEGY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHOOL SCHEME IN FINLAND
FROM 2017/2018 TO 2022/2023 SCHOOL YEAR**

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TOC1.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL

National	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>The school scheme is being implemented throughout Finland. The Strategy is drawn up by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Agency of Rural Affairs is responsible for implementing it.</p> <p>Municipalities and inter-municipal associations are responsible for organising school meals and decide independently on whether to apply for aid for distribution to schools and participate in the programme.</p>
Regional	<input type="checkbox"/>	

2. NEEDS AND RESULTS TO BE ACHIEVED

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

2.1. Identified needs

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

- 1) Encourage healthy dietary habits among children and young people and improve their welfare.
- 2) Help implement the National Nutrition Council's nutritional recommendations for children and young people.
- 3) Improve children's and young people's knowledge about food and improve food education in line with the objectives of the curriculum devised by the Finnish National Board of Education.
- 4) Diversify the consumption of vegetables and increase appreciation thereof and stabilize the school fruit scheme.
- 5) Maintain the level of consumption of low-fat dairy products.
- 6) Increase children's and young people's awareness of food production, environmental impacts, sustainable living and organic production.

2.2. Objectives and indicators

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

General objective(s)	Impact indicator(s)	Specific objective(s)	Result Indicator(s)	Output Indicator(s)
<p>Encourage the consumption of balanced school meals.</p> <p>Encourage the supply and consumption of healthy snacks.</p> <p>Encourage healthy dietary habits among children and young people.</p> <p>Improve children's and young people's knowledge about food and the food chain.</p>	<p>Impact of the aid on the consumption of milk, vegetables, fruit and berries.</p> <p>We have in preparation a Baseline study. Target group is pupils on the 6th and 8th grades (11-12 y & 13-14 y). Study clarifies children's eating habits.</p> <p>We already have information about the consumption of milk & fresh salad (school health survey).</p> <p>The identified needs 3 ja 6 will be met with accompanying educational measures. We clarify how teacher's utilize the information already existing.</p>	<p>Maintain consumption of low-fat dairy products in educational institutions.</p> <p>Increase the supply and consumption of vegetables, fruit and berries in schools.</p> <p>Government's organic production scheme's target is that 20 % of public consumption of food (for example school catering) is organic.</p>	<p>The proportion of them who eat all parts of their school meal increases.</p> <p>The frequency of consumption of vegetables, fruit and berries increases.</p> <p>The drinking of milk along with school lunches remains at least at the same level.</p> <p>Schoolchildren choose healthy snacks more often.</p> <p>The Baseline will be ready in 2018. In addition there is already statistical information about number of children taking part in the scheme, consumption of produce etc.</p>	
<p>Raising of awareness of organically farmed products and an increase in demand for those products.</p>			<p>The School Scheme is following the school nutrition recommendations of the National Nutrition Council.</p>	<p>Share of organically farmed products in the distribution to schools.</p>

2.3. Baseline

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

regulation *Current situation as regards milk consumption in Finland*

Milk plays a key role in Finnish cuisine. In recent years, however, the consumption of liquid milk products in Finland has declined, and the consumption of low-fat milk has

fallen for the second year in a row. According to the Food Balance Sheet, a total of 123 litres of milk and buttermilk were consumed per capita in Finland in 2015, which is 3% less than that for the previous year. The consumption of cheese, on the other hand, is increasing and is on average 27 kilograms per person per year. (Luke, 2016)

Milk is an essential part of Finnish school meals and has both nutritional and educational consequences. Each pupil drinks an average of 1.5 dl of milk per day (Maito ja Terveys, 2015). 15-20% of Finns are lactose-intolerant, which is taken into account in school meals by providing lactose-free products (Terveyskirjasto, 2015).

Milk products are good sources of energy nutrients, vitamins and minerals. Milk and milk products are also the main sources of calcium, iodine and vitamin D in Finnish children's and young people's diet (VRN, 2014). Thanks to the D vitaminisation of milk, Finns' intake of vitamin D has increased to the target level in nearly all age groups (THL, 2012). Since September 2016, fat-free homogenised milk must also be supplemented with vitamin D, which may contribute to the consumption in kindergartens and schools of milk produced on organic farms.

Finnish nutritional recommendations (VRN, 2014) recommend the consumption of 5-6 dl of liquid milk products and 2-3 slices of cheese per day. Fatty milk products contain large amounts of saturated fats, because 2/3 of milk fats are saturated. It has therefore been decided to recommend fat-free or low-fat milk products.

Current situation as regards vegetable consumption in Finland

Finnish nutritional recommendations (VRN, 2014) recommend an increase in the amount of vegetables, legumes, berries and fruit in the diet. At least 500 g of these should be consumed per day. Adult Finnish women eat an average of around 420 grams of vegetables, fruit, berries and legumes per day, whereas the corresponding figure for adult Finnish males is 380 grams (Finravinto, 2012). Around 30% of the adult population of Finland eats some fruit every day and around 40% consumes some vegetables, which is one of the poorest results when seen in an international context (OECD, 2015). Gender differences in vegetable consumption are considerable. (See also FAOSTAT, EPIC-study)

Children's consumption of vegetables in Finland was looked at in various studies in the 2000s. Both the STRIP study (Talvia et al., 2006) and Pro Greens study (Lehto et al., 2013) showed that children aged between 10 and 11 consumed around 100 grams of vegetables and 100 grams of fruit per day.

The consumption of vegetables in Finland has, however, increased in recent years and is four times as much as it was 60 years ago. According to the Food Balance Sheet, a total of 58 kilograms of fresh fruit were consumed per capita in Finland in 2015, which is 4 kilograms more than in the previous year. A total of 62 kilograms of fresh vegetables were consumed per person. (Luke, 2016)

There are considerable differences in vegetable consumption depending on socioeconomic status and there appears to be a particular link between mothers' education and the quality of children's diets. Children of mothers with higher education consume more vegetables and low-fat milk products than children of less-educated mothers (THL).

Children's consumption of vegetables is influenced by availability of vegetables, children's tastes, the example set by their parents and awareness of recommendations (Evans et al., 2012). Vegetables contain plenty of fibre, vitamins, minerals and bio-active components, but do not generate much energy. A vegetable-based diet has been linked to a number of health benefits.

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

Current situation as regards legislation concerning school scheme and the recommendations for school meals

Common organisation of the markets in agricultural products Act (999/2012)

Government's Degree of the school scheme aid of milk products, fruits and vegetables in the autumn term of 2017 (402/2017).

Recommendations for school meals:

http://www.julkari.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/134867/URN_ISBN_978-952-302-844-9.pdf?sequence=1

https://www.evira.fi/globalassets/vrn/pdf/school_meals_in_finland.pdf

3. BUDGET

3.1. Union aid for the school scheme

Finland spends up to 10% of annual funding on accompanying measures, monitoring, evaluation and publicity. Of these resources, 60% is estimated to be used for joint accompanying measures.

EU aid for the school scheme (in EUR)	Period 1/8/2017 to 31/7/2023		
	School fruit and vegetables	School milk	Common elements if applicable
Distribution of school fruit and vegetables/school milk	8 994 282	21 148 134	
Accompanying educational measures	510 000	1 590 000	1 800 000
Monitoring, evaluation, publicity	90 000	210 000	300 000
Total	9 594 282	22 948 134	
Overall total	32 542 416		

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

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

No

Yes <i>Comment/explanatory text (eg. name of the national aid, legal basis, duration)</i> If yes, amount (in national currency)	Milk/milk products		
	Fruit/vegetables	Milk/milk products other than Annex V	Annex V products
Supply/distribution			
Accompanying educational measures			
Monitoring, evaluation, publicity			
Total			

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

3.3. Existing national schemes	
Article 23a(5) of the basic act and Article 2(2)e of the implementing regulation	
No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Municipalities have legally provided appropriately planned, balanced and free meals to all state school students in the education system in Finland for over sixty years (Section 31 of the Basic Education Act).</p> <p>School meals play a key role in schools' educational and development activities. They are considered to contribute to students' welfare and health. The school scheme supported by the EU is a good complement to Finnish school meals.</p> <p><i>If yes (=existing 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:⁸</i></p>	
- Extension of the target group	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Extension of the range of products	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
- Increased frequency or duration of distribution of products	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
- Enhanced educational measures (increased number or frequency or duration or target group of those measures)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
- Other: please specify (eg. if products originally not free of charge and that are provided free of charge) - - provision of organic products. - food education - awareness of where food comes from	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

⁸ *One or more*

4. TARGET GROUP/S

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

- The target groups for the school milk component are all the children and young people involved in the competent authority's ordinary scheme or approved education and are enrolled in either daycare, pre-school education, primary education or secondary education at the start of a term (1- to 18-year-olds).

The target group for the school fruit component is limited to children and young people within the above target groups who are enrolled in primary education at the start of a term (age range 6-16).

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	✓	Carrots, turnips, salad beetroot, salsify, celeriac, radishes and other edible roots	✓
Apples, pears, quinces	✓	Cabbages, cauliflowers and other edible brassicas	✓
Bananas	✓		
Berries	✓	Cucumbers, gherkins	x
Figs	✓	Lettuces, chicory and other leaf vegetables	✓
Grapes	✓	Lentils, peas, other pulses	✓
Melons, watermelons	✓	Tomatoes	✓
Citrus fruit	✓	Other vegetables: please specify ⁹	✓
Tropical fruit	✓		
Other fruit: please specify	✓		

The strategy period begins with ten different products or product groups. The list of products may later change. Eligible products vary, for example, according to the season.

At the moment following products are eligible: peas, cucumber, swede, carrot, tomato, currants, strawberry, blueberry, bilberry & lingonberry.

‘Other fruit’ can be for example forest berries (lingonberry, cloud berry & bilberry), swede, salad or herbs in pot.

⁹ Other agricultural products than fruit and vegetables, as referred to in Article 23(7) of the basic act (eg. olives), should not be reported here but under section 5.3.1

5.1.2. Processed fruit and vegetables - Article 23(4)a of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013¹⁰

Products distributed under the school scheme		Added salt			Added fat			Comments (optional)
		No	Yes		No	Yes		
Fruit juices	<input type="checkbox"/>							
Fruit purees, 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"/>			
Vegetable soups	<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"/>			

¹⁰ 1) Please tick the box for the products to be distributed under the school scheme (eg. 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 delegated regulation - and remove the box for added salt and/or fat where not relevant (eg. 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.

5.2. Milk and milk products

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

Fat-free milk, low-fat milk, buttermilk and the corresponding lactose-free milk drinks ✓

5.2.2. Milk products - Article 23(4)b of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013¹¹

Products distributed under the school scheme		Added salt			Added fat			Comments (optional)
		No	Yes		No	Yes		
Cheese and curd	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<i>max. 1.4% salt</i>		✓	<i>max. 17% fat</i>	
Plain yoghurt	✓	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>		✓	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Fermented or acidified milk products without added sugar, flavouring, fruits, nuts or cocoa	✓	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>		✓			

Initially we will only be providing EU aid for liquid products (fat free milk and sour milk); depending on the demand for aid, we can extend the scope of eligibility to other healthy milk products (cheese and yoghurts). Priority for liquid products is ensured by aid level and by national legislation. The aid for liquid products is higher than for Annex V products. All products distributed within the school scheme must also fulfil the requirements of the Finnish official school meal recommendations.

11. Please tick the box for the products to be distributed under the school scheme and the box no/yes to indicate if they may contain added salt and/or fat (the table does not mention added sugar, to reflect Article 10 of the draft delegated regulation on the school scheme laying down it shall be 0; please remove the box for added salt and/or fat where not relevant). If yes, please indicate the percentage of added salt and/or fat on total weight (where such a percentage is set according to national provisions or for the purposes of the scheme) or comment.

5.2.3. Milk products - Annex V to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013¹²

Products to be distributed under the school scheme	Added salt				Added fat			Added sugar
	No	Yes	If yes, please indicate the limited quantity		No	Yes	If yes, please indicate the limited quantity	
Category I (milk component >90%). Fermented milk products without fruit juice, naturally flavoured	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		7%
Category I (milk component >90%). Fermented milk products with fruit juice, naturally flavoured or non-flavoured	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		7%
Category I (milk component >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 >75%). Fermented or non-fermented milk products with fruit, naturally flavoured or non-flavoured	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		7%

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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accompanying measures are implemented as special projects. Agricultural products provided as part of accompanying measures should, as a rule, fulfil the criteria of the nutritional recommendations; no other limits to the range of products are	<input type="checkbox"/>

¹² Please tick the box for the products to be distributed under the school scheme and the box no/yes to indicate if they may contain added salt and/or fat - remove the box for added salt and/or fat where not relevant - by specifying as relevant the percentage (where such a percentage is set according to national provisions or for the purposes of the scheme) or commenting. Please indicate the percentage of added sugar, which may be lower than the percentage of 7% in Article 11 of the delegated regulation on the school scheme.

5.4. Criteria for the choice of products distributed under the school scheme

Article 23(11) of the basic act and Article 2(2)a of the implementing regulation

Health and environmental considerations	✓
Seasonality	✓
Variety of products	✓
Availability of local or regional produce	✓
<i>Any comments - including on the required quality of products</i>	
Any priority/ies for the choice of products:	
Local or regional purchasing	✓
Organic products	✓
Short supply chains	✓
Environmental benefits (<i>eg. seasonal products, reducing food loss</i>)	✓
Products recognised under the quality schemes established by Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012	□
Fair-trade	□
Other: please specify	
Organic products are accorded a higher aid rate than conventionally produced goods.	

6. ACCOMPANYING EDUCATIONAL MEASURES

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

Accompanying measures create added value because they make it possible to produce useful material which municipalities or schools couldn't otherwise afford. In addition the accompanying measures are a tool for teacher. Accompanying measures are implemented as projects. The following is a list of the expected priority areas specified in connection with a project application. The aim of the projects is to achieve the objectives referred to under point 2.1, rather than to restrict achievement of those objectives.

Title	Objective	Content
Agricultural production	Familiarise children with food production and the countryside	Educational resources and possible visits
Food education in schools	Familiarise children with food production	Teach children and young people about a healthy diet and the social and cultural significance of food. Accustom children to a range of vegetables (e.g. with the help of food tasting workshops), the environment and sustainability, food appreciation.
Knowledge about food	Improve children's and young people's knowledge about food.	Knowledge about food means knowledge and know-how in relation to food paths, food quality, food preparation processes and cuisine and gastronomy.
Food tasting workshops	acquaint children with new flavours	Children get to taste various agricultural products.
Use of social media	education, familiarisation with food production	games, exchange of information

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

Products under the school scheme are distributed to children and young people free of charge. Only part of the cost of the product is covered by the scheme; the municipality or school pays the rest.

7.2. Frequency and duration of distribution of school fruit 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 of school fruit and vegetables/milk¹⁴

- Once per week
- Twice per week
- Three or four times per week
- Daily

Aid can be granted for delivering max. 0,25 litres of milk products and 150 grams of fruits & vegetables per pupil or child and per school or daycare day.

According to the present Governments degree aid can be granted for delivering fruits and vegetables only max. 10 school days. For the spring the period will be longer.

Envisaged duration of distribution of school fruit and vegetables/milk throughout the school year¹⁵

- < 2 weeks
- > 2 and < 4 weeks
- > 4 and < 12 weeks > 12 and < 24 weeks
- > 24 and 36 weeks
- Entire school year

School milk is distributed to pupils on a daily basis throughout the school year. Educational institutions decide on how school fruit is distributed. Fruit and vegetables may, for example, be distributed every day for a few weeks during term time.

Envisaged duration of accompanying educational measures during the school year:

- (please indicate the number of hours or shortly explain)

Comments

¹⁴ If the envisaged frequency is different in function of the products, target groups, etc, please specify.

¹⁵ If the duration is different in function of the products, target groups, etc, please specify.

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 of school fruit and vegetables/milk during the day
(please tick one or more of the checkboxes below):

- Morning
- Lunchtime
- Afternoon

School milk is distributed to pupils together with the school meal and together with a meal in daycare centres.

Educational institutions decide on how school fruit is distributed ; this is done as a dessert, with each school meal (as a separate part of the salad) or as a snack. Distribution is cost efficient because there is already a delivery channel. In Finland all pupils get a free school meal (reg. 1308/2013 art. 26.4).

Products procured under the school scheme are not used in food preparation. The implementation of school scheme is controlled by The Agency for Rural Affairs according the reg. 2017/39. In the schools taking part to the school scheme there is on a visible place on the wall near the main entrance a poster with information of EU's input to the scheme. The Agency for Rural Affairs has informed previous aid applicants about the new scheme. Accompanying measures will increase publicity of the scheme.

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

The max. fat content of cheese is 17 % and of salt 1,4 %.

The max sugar content of yoghurts is 7 %.

The ICT system of the Agency for Rural Affairs will calculate, when needed, the amount of aid to the milk component.

7.5 Selection of suppliers (MAVI)

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

In the Finnish school scheme, aid applicants procure eligible products themselves in accordance with the procurement legislation in force. The national implementing authority does not procure the products intended for distribution. The applicant can be a distributor (eg. dairy), or municipality, joint municipal authority, company, foundation or association that owns the schools and/or daycare centres.

Accompanying measures and any potential publicity and evaluation measures are procured by order of the national implementing authority. Procurements are run in accordance with the procurement legislation in force.

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

In the school milk component of the scheme, aid is paid at a rate of 1 EUR/litre for a maximum of 0.25 litres per pupil per school day. The aid rate is higher for organic products than conventionally produced goods. The aid rate does not exceed the purchase price of the products.

In the school fruit/vegetables component of the scheme, aid is paid as a percentage share of the purchase price, exclusive of VAT. The aid applicant notifies the lowest purchase price and the number of kilograms of products on the basis of which the percentage share is calculated. Aid is paid for at most 0.15 kilos per pupil per school day.

There is no max. price for the fruit and vegetable products, but it may not exceed normal market price. Limitations are made by quantities: 2,5 dl/pupil/day milk products or 150 gr/pupil/day fruits & vegetables.

The prices are controlled from the invoices. Public procurements are tendered according to the act (1397/2016) on public procurements.

7.6.2. Eligibility of certain costs

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

Please indicate if the costs of the school fruit and vegetables and the school milk supplied under the school scheme include the costs of purchasing, renting, hiring and leasing of the equipment used in the supply and distribution of products.

Please refer to any specific conditions for eligibility established at national level, on top of those in the EU regulations (eg. thresholds for some categories of costs such as transport where invoiced separately; exclusion of some costs).

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

Under the Act on the Organisation of Markets in Agricultural Products, the national strategy associated with school milk aid is set by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and the implementing authority is the Agency for Rural Affairs. The Ministry of Education and Culture and the Finnish National Board of Education is responsible, together with education and training providers, for the incorporation of the education-related objectives and measures of the strategy into the principles and implementing measures of curricula.

Other entities participating in the scheme are the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the Government of Åland, municipalities, schools, daycare centres, producers, suppliers of products and catering companies. The school scheme strategy is made in cooperation with all above mentioned authorities. In addition, all have been asked official opinions on the strategy and the Governments Degree. The eligible products are approved by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.

7.8. Information and publicity

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

Launch of the school meal recommendations, workshops, poster, dedicated web pages for the accompanying measures and the use of the EU logo in relation to them, etc.

7.9 Administrative and on-the-spot checks

Article 2(2)g of the implementing regulation

The Agency for Rural Affairs performs an administrative check on all aid applications received. Applications are received either electronically or on paper and all decisions are registered in an electronic database. The database contains checksum algorithms bolstering the administrative check, and each application is dealt with by an official who follows a checklist.

The Agency for Rural Affairs is responsible for annual on-the-spot checks pursuant to Article 10 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 2017/39.

7.10 Monitoring and evaluation

Article 2(2)g of the implementing regulation

At the end of the strategy period, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry assesses the operation and effectiveness of the scheme.

The Agency for Rural Affairs conducts annual follow-up and control reports according to the Commission regulations. The electronic database makes the greatest contribution to meeting the reporting obligations under Article 9(3) of Commission Regulation (EU) No 2017/40. Other data is collected from on-the-spot checks, other payment systems of the Agency for Rural Affairs, or other public sources of information.