

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

DATE: 25.7.2017

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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 implementing regulation

Nationally	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>A national strategy and a single law, promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, jointly with the Ministry of Health (Ministerul Sănătății) and the Ministry of National Education (Ministerul Educației Naționale), have been prepared for the implementation of the Programme in schools.</i> <i>The programme is implemented in every county, where aid applicants, i.e. county councils, have their registered office and where stakeholders are also involved.</i>
Regionally	<input type="checkbox"/>	

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. Maintaining and increasing consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables and milk.*
- 2. Acquiring knowledge of a healthy lifestyle.*

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><i>Increasing the fruit/vegetables/milk consumption rate in the children's diet and acquiring healthy eating habits</i></p>	<p><i>Changing consumption habits by increasing consumption of fruit/vegetables/milk among children after six years of programme implementation</i></p>	<p><i>Increasing by at least 10% the consumption of fruit/vegetables/milk distributed in schools and kindergartens until the evaluation of the scheme according to article 8 of R39/2017</i></p>	<p><i>Increasing by 10% the number of participating children/school year until the evaluation of the scheme</i></p>	<p><i>Number of children benefitting from the scheme/school year</i></p>
			<p><i>Increasing by at least 5% the number of participating schools and kindergartens/school year until the evaluation of the scheme</i></p>	<p><i>Number of participating schools and kindergartens/school year</i></p>
				<p><i>Average consumption of fruit, vegetables and milk/child/school year (quantity or portions)</i></p>
		<p><i>Raising children's awareness of the variety of agricultural products and of healthy eating habits</i></p>	<p><i>Increasing by 10% the number of children participating in educational measures/school year by the evaluation of the scheme</i></p>	<p><i>Number of children participating in educational measures/school year</i></p> <p><i>Expenses incurred with educational measures/school year</i></p>

2.3. Baseline

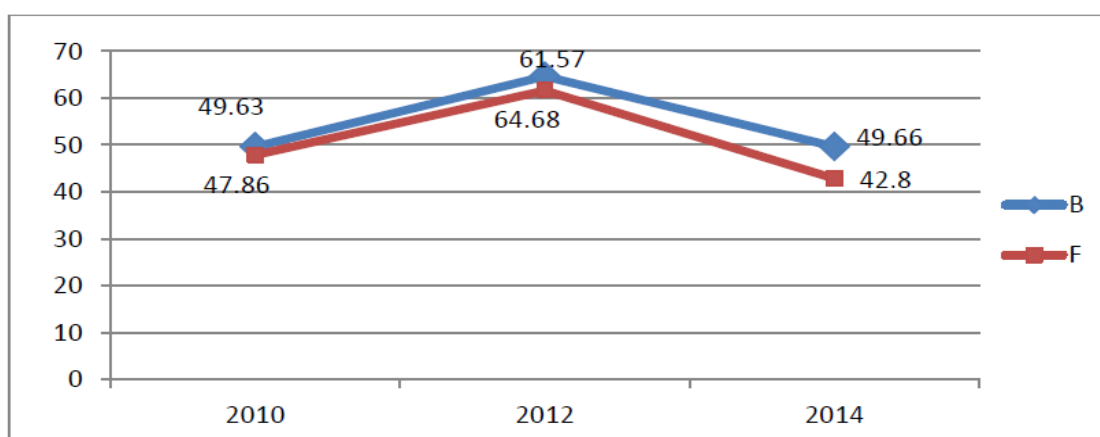
Article 23(8) of the basic act and Article 2(1)d of the implementing regulation:

The national report on the health of children and young people in Romania for 2016 presents, among other things, fruit and milk consumption habits among children aged between 11 and 15.

Compared to the reference period, i.e. 2010, the number of girls consuming 1-6 portions of fruit/week dropped by 5.02 percentage points. For boys, the increase is insignificant, which may reflect a constant number of boys consuming 1-6 portions of fruit/week.

In contrast, compared to the interim period, i.e. 2012, a significant decrease in the number of girls and boys, by 21.88 and 11.91 percentage points, respectively, has been recorded.

FRUIT CONSUMPTION
- percentage of children who consumed fruit once to six times in the past seven days -



Source: The national report on the health of children and young people in Romania for 2016

The report on the evaluation of the scheme fostering consumption of fresh fruit in schools in the period between school years 2010/2011 and 2015/2016 shows a decrease in fruit consumption by a few times per day in the hot season and in the cold season. With reference to the scheme evaluation in the school year 2010/2011, consumption dropped from 59 % to 54 % in the hot season and from 37 % to 33 % in the cold season. However, fruit consumption a few times a week increased in both seasons with reference to the initial situation - from 30 % to 38 % in the hot season and from 47 % to 48 % in the cold season.

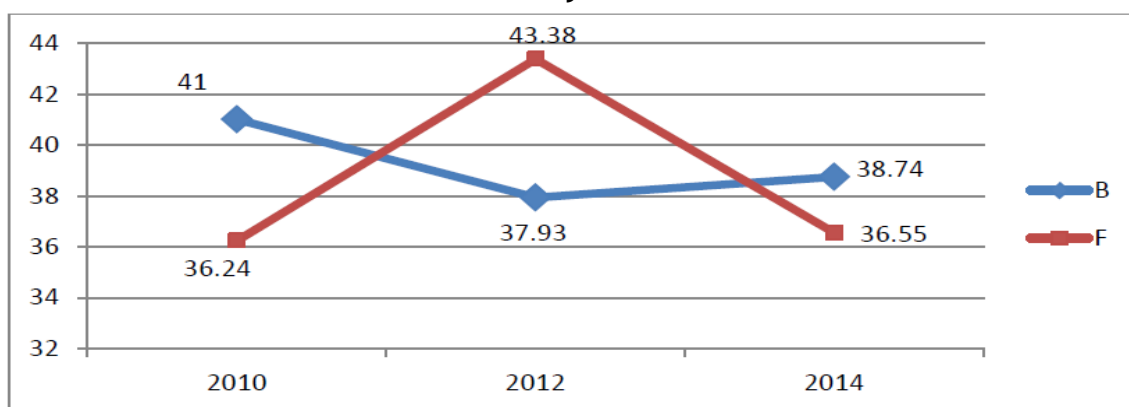
The consumption of home-grown fruit, i.e. consumption a few times a day and a few times a week, also increased to 38 % compared to 34 % and to 29 % compared to 23 %. Also, the number of children who never consume home-grown fruit dropped from 20 % to 10 %.

For consumption of milk, the national report on the health of children and young people in Romania for 2016 shows different trends for the two

genders. For girls, the number of consumers in 2010 and 2014 was relatively constant; however, in the interim period, i.e. 2012, a maximum number of consumers was recorded, decreasing by 6.83 percentage points. Among boys, the maximum value was reached in 2010, with a drop of 3.07 percentage points recorded in 2012, and in 2014 the value increased slightly, by less than 1 percentage point.

MILK CONSUMPTION

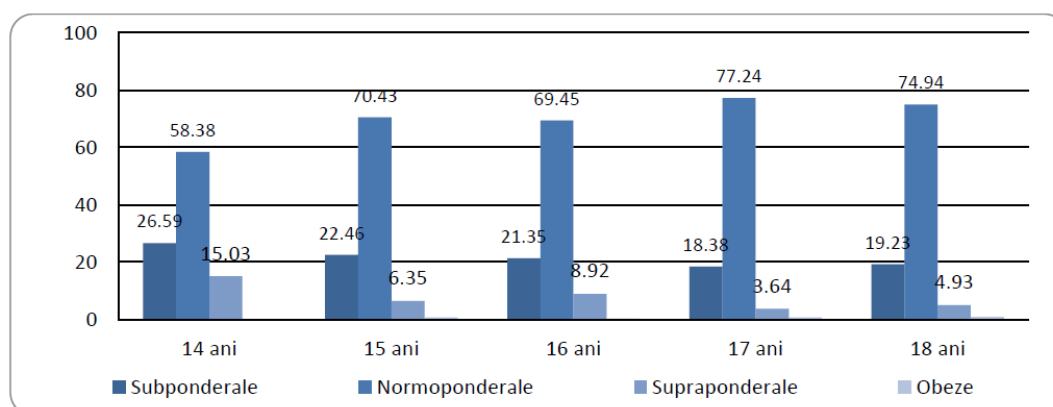
- percentage of children who consumed 1-6 glasses of milk in the past seven days -



Source: The national report on the health of children and young people in Romania for 2016

Overweight and obesity among children are worrisome also in Romania, considering the health of future adults. Even if the levels in other countries have not been reached, there is reason to be concerned about the increased frequency of obesity among teenagers.

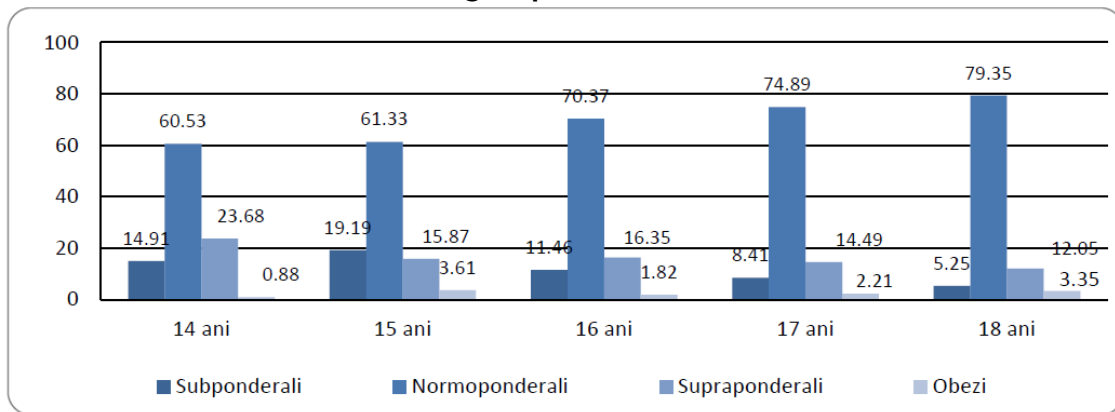
Physical development in girls according to the BMI (body mass index) by age groups in 2014



Source: The national report on the health of children and young people in Romania for 2016

Romanian	English
ani	Years
Subponderale	Underweight
Normoponderale	Normal weight
Supraponderale	Overweight
Obeze	Obese

Physical development in boys according to the BMI (body mass index) by age groups in 2014



Source: The national report on the health of children and young people in Romania for 2016

Romanian	English
ani	Years
Subponderali	Underweight
Normoponderali	Normal weight
Supraponderali	Overweight
Obezi	Obese

Obesity has recorded subunits values in Romania among girls aged between 14 and 18 in 2014 and among boys aged between 15 and 18 it was rated to 3.61 % and 3.35 % respectively.

The number of overweight girls is significantly smaller than that of overweight boys, the largest number of overweight persons being recorded for both genders among teens aged 14 and 16.

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

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	34 986 590.56	52 985 931.43	
Accompanying educational measures	6 180 163.2	9 359 634.6	
Monitoring, evaluation, publicity	34 334.24	51 997.97	
Total	41 201 088	62 397 564	
Overall total	103 598 652		

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	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
If yes, amount (in national currency)	Fruit/vegetables	Milk/milk products	
		Milk/milk products other than Annex V	Annex V products
Supply/distribution	56.913.660	194.113.770	
Accompanying educational measures	47.830.320	44.231.430	
Monitoring, evaluation, publicity			
Total	104.716.980	238.345.200	

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

Government Ordinance n°13/2017 approving the participation of Romania at the European Union School Scheme and Government Decision n°640/2017 approving Romania's School Scheme for the period between 2017-2023 and establishing the budget for its implementation in 2017-2018 school year.

Please note that the figures above are estimated on the basis of the national aid granted for the scheme in 2017-2018 school year. The national aid may vary each school year depending on the number of children and on the authorities' decision regarding the value of the portions and their frequency, and of course regarding the allocation of national aid for other types of costs.

3.3. Existing national schemes	
Article 23a(5) of the basic act and Article 2(2)e of the implementing regulation	
No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>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:</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 (eg. if products originally not free of charge and that are provided free of charge)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Comment/explanatory text</p> <p><i>A pilot scheme was carried out in Romania in the school year 2016-2017 in 50 educational establishments, providing to all the pupils and pre-school children food support in the form of a food package or a hot meal. The pupils and pre-school children in the educational establishments enrolled in the pilot scheme do not benefit any more from the scheme that encourages fruit and vegetable consumption and from the milk and dairy distribution scheme. The Ministry of National Education is currently reviewing the possibility of extending the scheme to the national level.</i></p>	

4. TARGET GROUP/S

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

The target group of the Scheme comprises pre-school children in kindergartens with a normal 4-hour schedule and pupils in the preparatory and first to eighth grades aged between 3 and 14.

The Scheme is addressed to all children, irrespective of their social status.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carrots, turnips, salad beetroot, salsify, celeriac, radishes and other edible roots	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Apples, pears, quinces	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cabbages, cauliflowers and other edible brassicas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bananas	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Berries	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cucumbers, gherkins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Figs	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lettuces, chicory and other leaf vegetables	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grapes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lentils, peas, other pulses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Melons, watermelons	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tomatoes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Citrus fruit	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other vegetables: <i>Sweet peppers</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tropical fruit	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other fruit: please specify (eg. kiwis, persimmons, nuts)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
.....			

The list of products has been extended to include other fruits and varieties of vegetables as well. The decision was based on the recommendation in the last report on the evaluation of the Scheme fostering consumption of fruit in schools (2010/2011-2015/2016) to diversify the distributed products, and on the recommendations of the Ministry of Health to provide seasonal fruit and vegetables. Diversification and alternation of distributed products can acquaint children with the various fruit and vegetable varieties and can break the monotony of consuming fruit and vegetables on a daily basis.

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

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"/>			
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"/>			
.....								

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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5.2.2. Milk products - Article 23(4)b of Regulation (EU) 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Fermented or acidified milk products without added sugar, flavouring, fruits, nuts or cocoa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

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

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 $\geq 90\%$). Fermented milk products without fruit juice, naturally flavoured	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	%
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"/>		%

5.2.4. Prioritisation of fresh fruit and vegetables and drinking milk

Article 23(3) of the basic act:

According to the selected products under subchapters 5.1.1. and 5.1.2., Romania will only distribute fresh fruit and vegetables.

As for consumption milk, the Government Decision n°640/2017 states that the distribution will consist of 2 portions of drinking milk and one portion of dairy per week. If the storage facilities in schools do not allow it, the dairy portion will be replaced with a drinking milk portion.

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"/>	Please list the products: Honey	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Health considerations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental considerations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Seasonality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Variety of products	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Availability of local or regional produce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Any comments - including eg. on the required quality of products</p> <p><i>For regularly distributed products, when it prepared the list, the Ministry of Health invoked health-related reasons against the background of a decrease in the daily consumption of fruit; more specifically, the seasonality of products and their local origin, considering that the distributed products should be consumed fresh and as close as possible to the harvesting time. It also invoked environmental arguments in the sense that distribution of local products reduces the harmful effect on the environment due to smaller transport distances and lower fuel consumption.</i></p> <p><i>As regards the products consumed under the educational measures, the Ministry of Health agrees that the beneficiaries of the scheme should get acquainted with honey and that they can consume 1-3 g/kg/body of it (approximately one teaspoonful).</i></p> <p><i>The distributed fruit and vegetables will be extra and first quality products and will comply with the specific marketing rules set out in the legislation in force. Milk and dairy products must comply with the health and veterinary rules and the specific legislation.</i></p>	
Any priority/ies for the choice of products:	
Local or regional purchasing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Organic products	<input type="checkbox"/>
Short supply chains	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental benefits (please specify: eg. food miles, packaging ...)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Products recognised under the quality schemes established by Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fair-trade	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: please specify	

<p>Any comments <i>Romania aims at encouraging the purchase of local/regional products and of products originating in the short supply chain in order to ensure distribution of fresh quality products providing environmental advantages with the reduction of transport distances.</i></p>	
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6. ACCOMPANYING EDUCATIONAL MEASURES

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

Title	Objective	Content
<i>School gardens</i>	<i>Make children aware of the origin/growing process</i>	The gardening sessions and visits to farms as well as participation in various agricultural events, fairs, exhibitions and research institute visits are aimed at raising children's awareness of the origin of the products they consume, of their cultivation on the farm or their preparation in processing plants.
<i>Visits to farms/ farmers' markets/dairies; to dairy farms and processing units; to agricultural fairs and exhibitions/research institutes</i>		These activities are designed for all the children, irrespective of age, and are established at county level with the selection of participating schools and kindergartens. Children are accompanied or assisted, as the case may be, by teachers/kindergarten teachers.
<i>Tasting classes/cooking workshops...</i>	<i>Children become familiar with the variety of products, their taste; informing children about the benefits of fresh produce consumption and ways of purchasing these products</i>	The educational establishments may organise, alongside teachers/kindergarten teachers, tasting events, competitions, theme days and any other practical activities such as cooking workshops.
<i>Other activities (eg. competitions, games; themed periods.)</i>		

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 products will be distributed free of charge, with no contribution from parents.

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:

	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Four times per week	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other: please specify	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any comments:		

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
> 24 and ≤ 36 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Entire school year	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Any comment:		

Envisaged duration of accompanying educational measures during the school year:

Depending on the type of educational measure, it can be implemented at any time during the school year (thematic competitions, tasting events, cooking workshops, theme days) or during certain periods of time, in autumn or in spring (visiting farms, research resorts, attending agricultural events, carrying out gardening activities in the school yard).

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

	School fruit and vegetables	School milk
Morning/morning break(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lunchtime	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Afternoon/afternoon break(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

The fruit and vegetables are to be distributed during the break preceding the last class, which is before lunch or, for afternoon classes, before the last meal of the day.

Milk and dairy products are distributed during the first break.

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: *The suppliers of products in the educational establishments are selected under a public procurement procedure initiated at county council level (aid applicants). The same procedure is applied to the educational measures for which public funds are requested under the school scheme. The scheme evaluator will also be selected under a public procurement procedure.*

The Paying and Intervention Agency for Agriculture (Agenția de Plăți și Intervenție pentru Agricultură) will conduct the annual monitoring.

For the means of providing information on the scheme, e.g. poster, website, brochures etc., a centralised public procurement procedure may also be initiated at country level.

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 Romania, the law provides for a daily limit/pupil. Aid applicants, i.e. county councils, organise public procurement procedures as a result of which they set the contract price for the distribution of products. It is a cost-based system with invoice-based reimbursement.

For accompanying educational measures, there is no budget/pupil, but budget/aid applicant. The budget/aid applicant was calculated on the basis of average cost/pupil/accompanying measure in 2015-2016 school year which includes also the cost of tasting 122 grams of honey/pupil/semester. .

For 2017-2018 school year, the daily limit/pupil for fruit and vegetables is 0,6 lei and for drinking milk and dairy products is 0,88 lei. The daily limit/pupil may vary each school year.

7.6.2. Eligibility of certain costs

Article 23(8) of the basic act and Article 2(2)b of the implementing regulation
Not applicable.

7.7. Involvement of authorities and stakeholders

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

The implementation of this scheme is based on a partnership between the agricultural, education and health sectors, the three stakeholders collaborating as follows:

- ***distribution of products:** The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Ministerul Agriculturii și Dezvoltării Rurale) is involved in the regulation of procurement procedures for products by setting minimal criteria for product quality, presentation and labelling.*
- ***educational measures:** The County Directorates for Agriculture and the Directorate for Agriculture in Bucharest Municipality within the Ministry of Agriculture will coordinate contacts with fruit farmers/vegetable growers for the purpose of organising visits to farms, gardening events etc. The County School Inspectorates and the School Inspectorate for Bucharest Municipality of the Ministry of National Education and the County Public Health Directorates and the Public Health Directorate in Bucharest Municipality within the Ministry of Health are involved in the implementation of accompanying educational measures. The Ministry of Health proposes the list of products eligible for distribution under the scheme on a regular basis and under educational measures.*

Both the education and health sectors are key partners, through the relevant institutions, in ensuring the effectiveness of the accompanying educational measures and, implicitly, the achievement of the Scheme objectives. In an organized framework for the implementation of accompanying educational measures, they will engage in promoting a healthy lifestyle and eating habits based on consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables; they will also participate in raising awareness of the health benefits of fruit and vegetables.

An inter-ministerial working group was set up in order to establish the list of products to be distributed under the scheme and the educational measures to be put in place. Both education and health authorities will support the aid applicants and the schools in implementing the educational measures - e.g. by the presence of nutritionists, lecturers during Education for health classes.

7.8. Information and publicity

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

In Romania, the School Scheme will be made public through regular press releases both at central - at least once/semester and county level - monthly.

7.9. Administrative and on-the-spot checks

Article 2(2)g of the implementing regulation

Control measures are implemented by the Paying and Intervention Agency for Agriculture.

1. Control measures for distribution of products

In accordance with Article 9 of Commission Implementing Regulation 2017/39, all aid applications submitted by the applicants approved by the Paying and Intervention Agency for Agriculture (PIAA) are subject to full administrative checking supplemented by on-the-spot checks.

The officers of the Paying and Intervention Agency for Agriculture will conduct administrative checking of the existence of supporting documents in accordance with the European and national rules and with the procedure manuals in force. Failure to submit these documents, incomplete or inconsistent data in the documents, as well as any case of misrepresentation, are likely to affect the value of the financial aid granted and the approval of the applicant.

*In accordance with Article 10 of Commission Implementing Regulation 2017/39, the on-the-spot check carried out on the premises of the applicant shall be supplemented by on-the-spot checks **on the premises of at least two educational establishments or at least 1 % of the educational establishments recorded by the applicant**, whichever is the greater.*

For one applicant, educational establishments are selected within 5 % of the total number of establishments listed in that applicant's records and the selected educational establishments must include at least 5 % of the total number of pupils and at least 5 % of the requested amount.

The current aid application sample with selected educational establishments is to include educational establishments where non-compliances were identified during the previous on-the-spot check and at the level of the applicant.

In accordance with Article 59(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013, the sampling procedure was supplemented by the above-mentioned procedures.

*Apart from the initial 5 % control sample from the list of educational establishments, the 5 % sample of beneficiary pupils and 5 % sample from the total amount requested, **a 1 % random check sample will be established from the total educational establishments.***

In order to establish the 1 % random check sample, a calculation will be made to identify the value of the 1 % sample from the total number of educational establishments for which the applicant requests the financial aid.

If the number of beneficiary educational establishments is a subunit value after the 1 % rate has been applied, then at least two educational establishments will have to be checked.

The risk factors will be determined for the purposes of the random sampling based on the assessment and findings of the last on-the-spot checks on the applicant and educational establishments, the recurrent nature of errors etc.

The control sampling from educational establishments is followed by a decision to conduct the on-the-spot check on the applicant and selected

educational establishments.

In addition, during the checks conducted on the educational establishments sampled, the PIAA inspectors will verify the pupils' class attendance rate, comparing the data in the records kept by each beneficiary school with regard to the number of attending pupils and the number of portions consumed with the data on the pupils' attendance recorded in the catalogue. For each month related to the aid application, they will select a day with the maximum pupil attendance rate according to the records kept by each school. Where differences are recorded, the extra quantities indicated in the aid application will be reduced in relation to the number of attending pupils. Where the reduction in quantities for the days checked with the catalogue exceeds by 20 % the quantities requested for the days subject to checks, said checks will be extended to all the days in the period covered by the aid application.

After the on-the-spot check the Control/ Extra Control Report shall be prepared for the applicant and for the educational establishments based on the verification of the data listed in the records and supporting documents. According to the findings and comments in the Control/Extra Control Reports the financial aid may be rejected or reduced or, if the results in the Control/Extra Control Reports are consistent, a preliminary calculation is made to determine the total value of payment to which the applicant is entitled.

2. Control measures for the implementation of educational measures

For educational measures, the administrative check is conducted for all the financial aid applications and includes verifying all the supporting documents.

The PIAA inspectors perform the on-the-spot check on the premises of **all the applicants** and, for beneficiary educational establishments, checks are performed on **5 % of their total number**.

If, after having applied the 5 % rate, the total number of educational establishments selected is less than two, at least two such establishments must be inspected.

In accordance with Article 59(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013, the sampling procedure was supplemented by the above-mentioned procedures.

Apart from the initial 5 % control sample from the list of educational establishments, a **1 % random check sample will be established from the total educational establishments**.

In order to establish the 1 % random check sample, a calculation will be made to identify the value of the 1 % sample from the total number of educational establishments for which the applicant requests the financial aid.

If the number of beneficiary educational establishments is a subunit value after the 1 % rate has been applied, then at least two educational establishments will have to be checked.

During the on-the-spot checks, the APJA inspectors will check the accuracy of the data listed in the records as the rate of pupils attending classes (which must be kept by each educational establishment where educational measures have been established) against the pupils' attendance rate recorded in the catalogue by comparing the data in the two documents (records and

catalogue) for all the classes in primary and lower secondary education that benefitted from the accompanying measures.

In the conduct of this control, account will be taken of the date when the adjacent measures were implemented and the number of pupils recorded as beneficiary pupils will be verified against the attending pupils in the catalogue, as well as the date when the adjacent measures were implemented. In order to confirm the verified data, the reports indicating the number of pupils benefitting from educational measures will also be checked.

For the organisation of competitions, the day when the prizes, honours and attendance prizes were awarded will be checked.

After the on-the-spot check the Control/Extra Control Report shall be prepared for the applicant as well as the Annex to the Control/Extra Control Report for the educational establishments based on the verification of the data listed in the records and supporting documents.

According to the findings and comments in the Control/Extra Control Reports the financial aid may be rejected or reduced or, if the results in the Control/Extra Control Reports are consistent, a preliminary calculation is made to determine the total value of payment to which the applicant is entitled.

According to art. 58 (2) of Regulation (EU) No. 1306/2013, the PIAA should establish efficient management and control systems to ensure compliance with the legislation governing Union support schemes in order to minimize the risk for the Union to suffer financial losses.

Administrative controls are carried out on all applications prior to payment and are aiming to:

- Check the period covered by the payment application (maximum 5 months) and the deadline for submission of payment application. Payment applications are submitted at the end of each school semester*
- Check the completion of the payment application form and of the amount claimed for payment.*
- Check the documents accompanying the payment request and the matching information from the payment application form and the supporting documents.*
- Check the invoices and the payment proofs (payment orders and bank statements).*
- Verify whether payment amounts requested, are covered by the annual ceilings, allocated through the Government Decision for each budgetary year.*

The checking of procurement procedures is based on a sampling principle conducted by the Public Procurement Agency in accordance with public procurement law in force.

PIAA receives the reports on checks carried out by the Public Procurement Agency in order to implement sanctions on financial aid, as appropriate.

Where on the spot checks are carried out field inspectors are verifying the documents submitted as regards the recording of invoices and proof of payment (payment orders and bank statements) and the participation of schools and children to actions covered by payment requests.

7.10. Monitoring and evaluation

Article 2(2)g of the implementing regulation

The Paying and Intervention Agency for Agriculture will conduct the monitoring.

The Scheme is assessed every six years in accordance with Article 8(2) of Commission Implementing Regulation 2017/39 and it is an outsourced activity.

8.ANNEX

Lessons learnt from implementation and envisaged improvements in the design and implementation of the scheme, taking into account as well the evaluation findings and recommendations.

Regarding the fruit and vegetables component of the new scheme, Romania has decided to extend the list of distributed products from only apples to pears, plums, grapes, carrots, cucumbers, sweet peppers, celery, beetroot. The Ministry of National Education is now more involved in the implementation of the educational measures - the new legislation states that the educational measures are to be put in place whether through extra-curricular and extra-class activities, whether within the national curriculum or the school curriculum - Education for health class.