



The European Economic and Social Committee perspective

Presentation of the EESC DRAFT EVALUATION REPORT NAT/855 on
the Evaluation of the EU school scheme



*Mr Arnold Puech d'Alissac, rapporteur
Member of the European Economic and Social Committee*

EC conference “An EU school scheme fit for the future”
Brussels, 24/11/2022



THE EESC REPRESENTS ORGANISED CIVIL SOCIETY

The EESC members are ordinary Europeans from a variety of organisations, divided into 3 groups:

Employers

Group I
Employers federations,
Chambers of Commerce,
SME organisations...

Workers

Group II
Trade Unions

Civil Society Organisations

Group III
Farmers, Consumers, NGOs,
Professions, Disabilities,
Academics, Cooperatives...

The 3 groups provide a *bridge* between the EU and civil society:
they are committed to defending the public's interests at EU level



Key characteristics of the EESC evaluation report

- ❑ Feed into the ongoing evaluation of the Commission (complementary)
- ❑ Aims at making visible the views of civil society organizations across the EU (EESC's added value: access to European civil society network)
- ❑ Data collection tools:
 - **Missions in 5 EU countries (FR/RO/LT/FI/IE):** structured interviews
 - **Online questionnaire:** complementing the missions in the 5 MS
- ❑ Evaluation criteria: effectiveness, relevance, inclusion of civil society and added value



Format of the EESC Evaluation Report

- ❑ 7 pages of clearly distinguished **conclusions** and **recommendations** based on the findings of the country missions and questionnaire
- ❑ **Technical annex** including information from the virtual meetings and questionnaire, and a list of the organisations consulted



European Economic
and Social Committee

NAT/855

Evaluation of the EU school scheme

DRAFT EVALUATION REPORT

Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment

Evaluation of the EU school scheme

Rapporteur: **Arnold PUECH d'ALISSAC**



More information on our webpage:

<https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions-reports/information-reports/evaluation-eu-school-scheme>

(final report will be available after 15/12/2022)



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- News & Media
- Members & Groups
- Sections & Other Bodies

HOME | OUR WORK | OPINIONS AND INFORMATION REPORTS | INFORMATION REPORTS | EVALUATION OF THE EU SCHOOL SCHEME

Evaluation of the EU school scheme

This page is also available in [fr](#)

Ongoing (updated on 19/10/2022) - Bureau decision date: 07/12/2021
Reference: NAT/855-EESC-2022
Opinion Type: **Information report**(impact assessment)
Rapporteur: [Arnold PUECH d'ALISSAC](#) (Employers - GR I / France)
Plenary session: 574 - Dec 14, 2022 - Dec 15, 2022

RELATED BODIES

- > Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment (NAT)

- > Presentation
- > Timeline
- > Related opinions
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Practical information

1. [Composition of the study group](#)
2. Administrators / Assistants in charge : Martine DELANOY / Laura ERNSTEINA / Anna KHATCHATRIAN / Fatima CABRAL
3. [Contact](#)

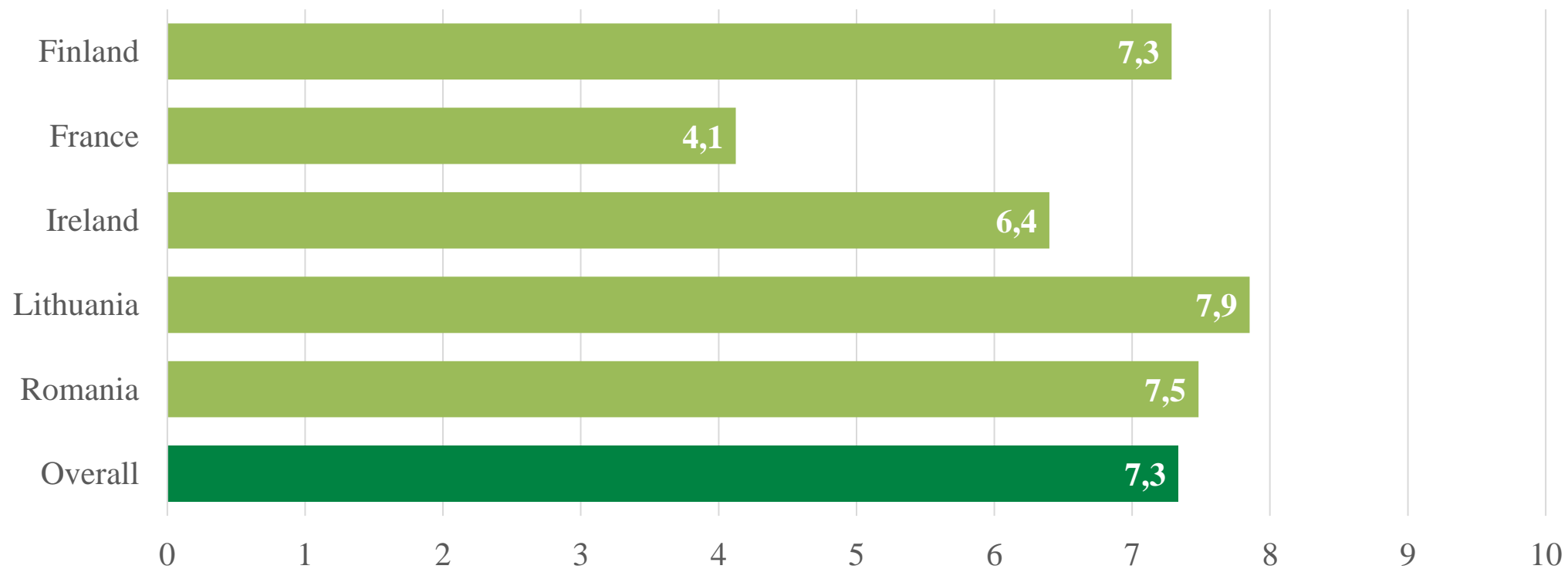
Background

As of 1 August 2017, the EU combined the EU school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme under a single legal framework:



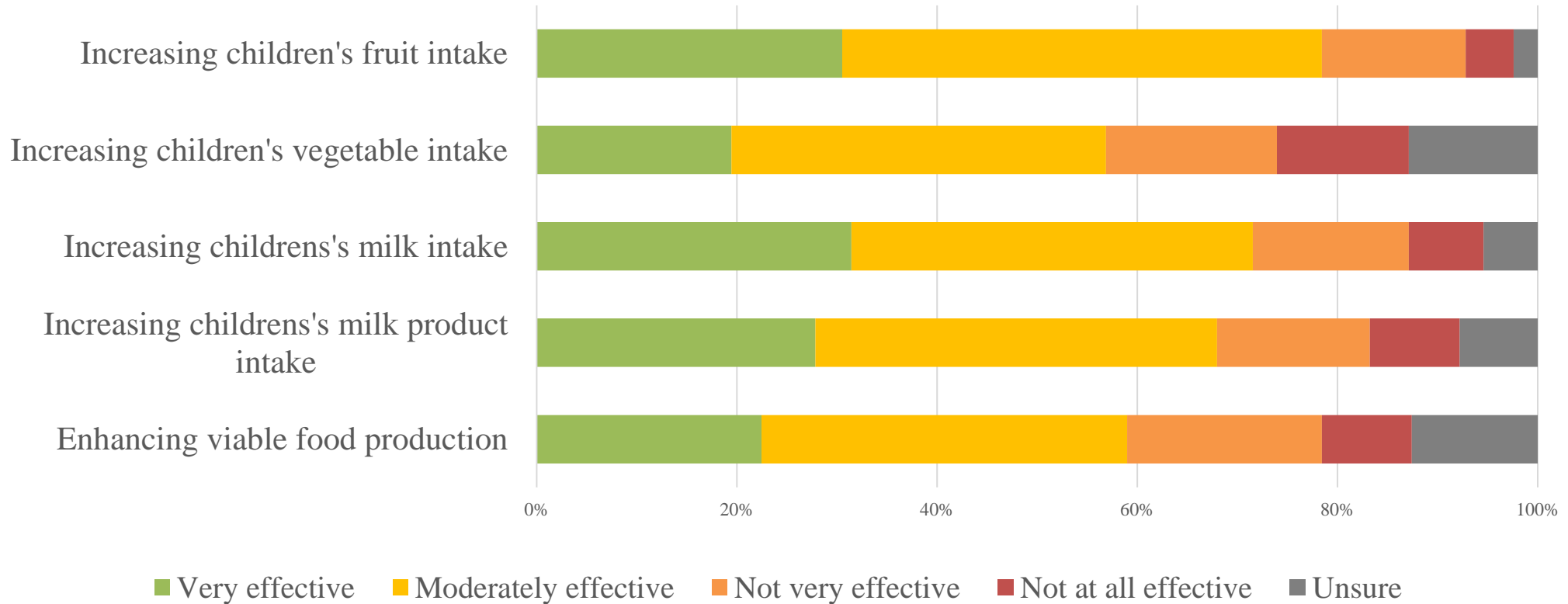
Results in brief

How would you rate the EU school scheme in your country in terms of effectiveness, ranging from 1 to 10?





In your opinion, how effective has the EU school scheme been in achieving the following horizontal objectives:





EESC's key recommendations to make the scheme more effective/ relevant

- ❑ **considerable simplification** of the general procedure by Member States (digitalisation, centralisation of public procurement and administrative documents, mobilisation of existing systems,...),
- ❑ improve the **promotion and communication** of the scheme to relevant stakeholders, (EC and MS), **monitor and evaluate**, and integrate the scheme into **regional or national food policies**,
- ❑ The EC to create a **guide to best practice**, including specific support for school staff
- ❑ increase the possibilities for spending the **allocated funds**, especially on education, boost the funds dedicated to the scheme and give Member States more flexibility

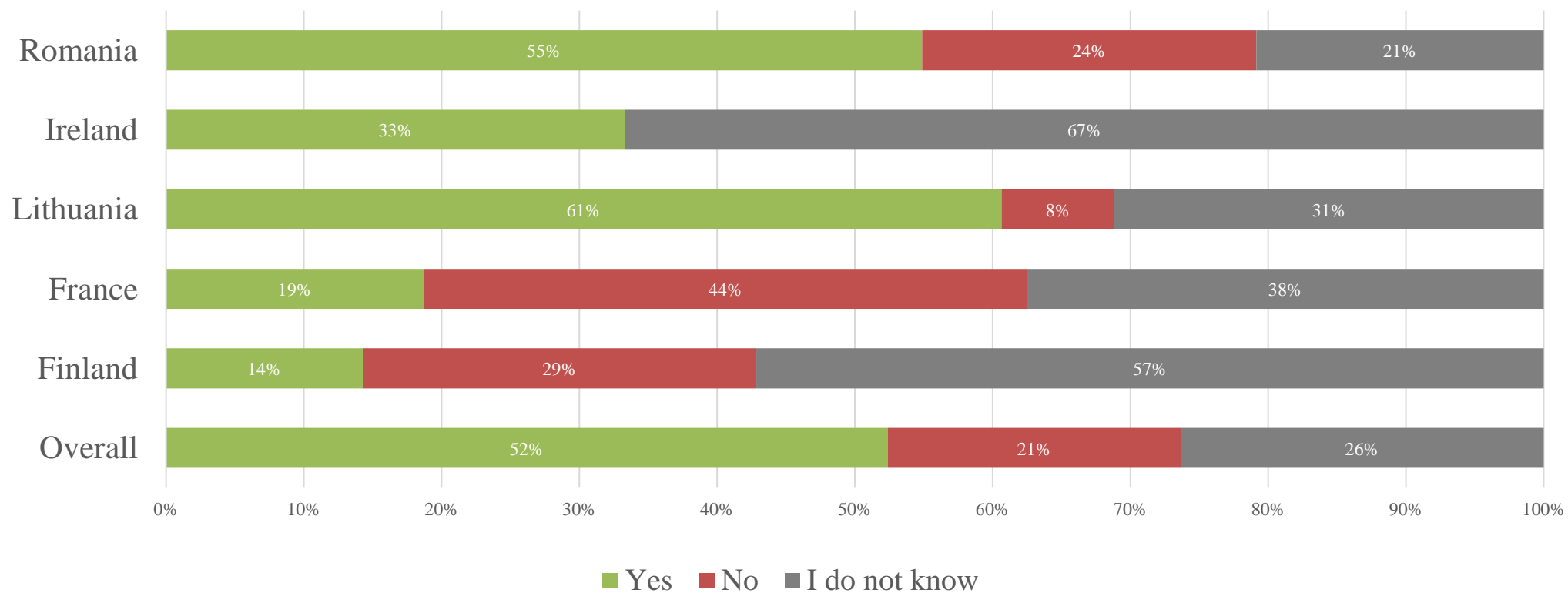


EESC's key recommendations to make the scheme more effective/ relevant

- ❑ Member States' health authorities to **broaden the scope of allowed products** (e.g. sweet products for yoghurts and fats for raw vegetables) to combat **food waste**, and promote more **environmentally-friendly packaging**
- ❑ include social factors in the scheme to improve support for **disadvantaged children**,
- ❑ MS to considerably strengthen **support for producers** :
 - ❑ Use updated prices taking production costs into account and shorter deadlines for payment
 - ❑ strengthen the supply of local products (including origin, short supply chain and quality criteria in calls to tender)
 - ❑ promote associations of producer groups to make farmers more competitive and better able to respond to calls for tender;



Do the public authorities in your Member State include the social partners and civil society organisations in the design and implementation of the EU school scheme?





EESC's key recommendations to better include civil society

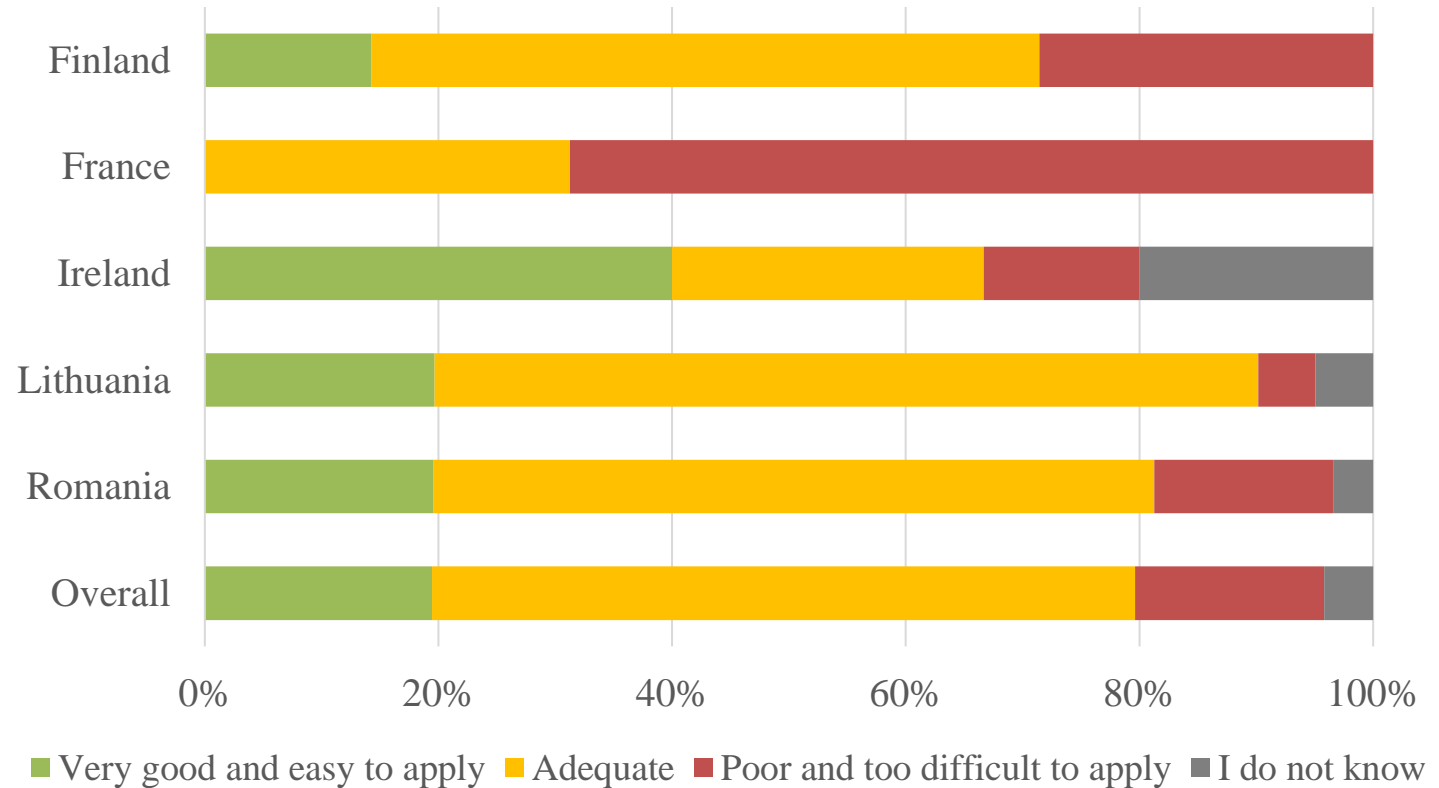
- ❑ Need to improve the **communication** about the scheme as the participation of civil society, including parents and families, is generally insufficient,
- ❑ Provide technical tools for **teachers and school staff responsible** for the scheme, enabling them to get parents involved,
- ❑ Member States to identify representative **civil society organisations and the social partners**, and provide them with all the necessary elements and information related to the scheme in order to motivate them and improve their participation,
- ❑ at school level, set up **regular meetings** to inform and consult parents about this scheme and the major challenges it has to address.



Take away messages:

- Simplify the procedures/ administrative burden
- More flexibility for the products and link to regional food policies (local producers)
- Expand the educational component, new tools

What is your opinion of the EU school scheme in your country?





Għandkom xi mistoqsijiet?

Spørgsmål?

Имате ли въпроси?

Avez-vous des questions à poser?

Domande?

Kysymyksiä?

Έχετε ερωτήσεις;

Kas on veel küsimusi?

Vannak-e kérdések?

An bhfuil aon cheist agat?

Any questions?

Perguntas?

Máte dotazy?

¿Alguna pregunta?

Haben Sie noch Fragen?

Întrebări?

Czy mają Państwo jakieś pytania?

Frågor?

Ima li pitanja?

Jautājumi?

Otázky?

Vprašanja?

Vragen?

Ar turite klausimų?