

STRATEGY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHOOL SCHEME IN CROATIA FROM THE SCHOOL YEARS 2017/2018 TO 2022/2023

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SVJEŽE **VOĆE** I UKUSNO **POVRĆE**
SVAKOG DANA NAŠA JE HRANA.

UZ ČAŠU **MLIJEKA**, ZNAMO
DA NAS DOBRO **ZDRAVLJE ČEKA!**

AGENCIJA ZA PLAĆENJE U
POLJOPRIVRUGI, RIBARSTVU I
RURALNOM RAZVOJU

MINISTARSTVO
POLJOPRIVRUGI, RIBARSTVA
I RURALNOG RAZVOJA

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0. INTRODUCTION

Short justification for the amendments.

By adopting the National Strategy for the implementation of the school scheme for fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products from the school years 2017/2018 to 2022/2023 ('the National Strategy'), Croatia fulfilled the condition for participating in the specific EU aid scheme for the supply of fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products to educational establishments (the school scheme for fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products).

2021 amendments:

The Government of Croatia adopted the amendments to the National Strategy at its 29 July 2021 session. The changes to the National Strategy were made in order to improve the implementation of the school scheme in Croatia, particularly in terms of using the European Commission funds allocated to the scheme more effectively, increasing the scheme's visibility and achieving its purpose and impact, in accordance with the performance indicators listed in point 2 of the National Strategy.

The most important changes to the National Strategy involve further harmonisation with the amendments to the *acquis communautaire*, taking into account the criteria and guidelines for implementation recommended by the European Commission, in particular in terms of:

- improving the transparency of the procedure for selecting suppliers of fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products;
- introducing contractual relations between educational establishments and suppliers in order to raise quality standards for products distributed to students in schools for consumption;
- introducing a maximum acceptable price for the products distributed, to ensure a more transparent and targeted use of funds;
- reallocating funds in accordance with the actual needs observed so far;
- extending the list of approved products so as to include a larger number of suppliers and acceptable products from various sectors of agricultural production, and including a larger number of educational establishments, especially those that could not be included in the milk scheme until now because they did not have a kitchen;
- shortening the time taken to distribute the products under the fruit and vegetable scheme (from 35 to 12–24 weeks) through an increase in funding per student per day of implementation, which should help the scheme have a greater impact;
- increasing the visibility of the school scheme to the public and increasing and fulfilling its objectives among the student population as a scheme promoting a healthy lifestyle, healthy eating habits, and providing a connection with agriculture and environmental protection.

2022 amendments:

Due to the significant increase in the price of all products delivered to students under the School Scheme, especially since the beginning of 2022., and the adverse impact of this increase on the cost-effectiveness of delivery to schools and the engagement of suppliers, the Ministry of Agriculture has considered and revised the existing method of calculating prices in order to align it with the actual market situation.

Based on the Ordinance on the implementation of the National Strategy for the implementation of the school scheme of fruits and vegetables and milk and milk products from the school year 2017/2018 to 2022/2023 (Narodne novine, NN Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia) Nos 93/21, 16/22 and 97/22, the Minister of Agriculture adopted a Decision on 9 November 2022 on declaring the state of Force Majeure in the implementation of the School scheme of fruits and vegetables and milk and milk products in the Republic of Croatia.

<https://www.apprrr.hr/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Odluka-o-proglasenju-stanja-vise-sile.pdf> .

The changes to the strategy concern the method of determining and calculating the highest acceptable prices so as to take into account the price inflation according to the latest published data on the Consumer Price Index maintained by the Croatian Bureau of Statistics)

The following public-sector authorities and private-sector natural and legal persons are involved in implementing the National Strategy:

Public authorities

1. Ministry of Agriculture:

- (a) draws up the National Strategy for implementing the school scheme and other implementing acts jointly with other public authorities;
- (b) sets up working groups and coordinates the monitoring of the National Strategy in order to improve implementation and achieve the objectives of the school scheme (meetings, consultations, workshops);
- (c) submits reports on the implementation of the school scheme to the European Commission and other interested bodies;
- (d) approves applicants for aid under the promotion measure;
- (e) approves applicants for aid under accompanying educational measures.

2. Ministry of Health:

- (a) approves applicants for aid for the monitoring and evaluation measure;
- (b) coordinates activities with the applicants approved for monitoring and evaluation linked to the survey of students' eating habits in order to monitor and determine how effectively the objectives of the school scheme are being achieved (evaluation);
- (c) confirms the list of approved products.

3. Ministry of Science and Education:

- (a) confirms and provides a list of primary and secondary schools that may participate in the school scheme for fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products;
- (b) confirms and provides the number of students in primary and secondary schools that may participate in the school scheme for fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products.

4. Paying Agency for Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development:

- a) approves applicants for aid for the distribution of fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products;
- b) publishes the list of approved schools participating in the school scheme for fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products;
- c) publishes a list of suppliers delivering fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products to schools participating in the school scheme for fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products;
- d) performs administrative and on-the-spot checks on aid applicants;
- e) pays the aid;
- f) monitors implementation of the school scheme in terms of the use of the envelope and other quantitative indicators.

5. State Inspectorate of Croatia:

- (a) performs inspections and checks on compliance by suppliers of fruit and vegetables with marketing standards and performs checks on suppliers of milk and milk products.

Private sector:

6. Natural and legal persons:

- (a) suppliers of fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products participating in the distribution and/or delivery measure.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>The National Strategy for implementation of the school scheme for fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products in Croatia from the school years 2017/2018 to 2022/2023 is adopted pursuant to Article 47 of the Agriculture Act (<i>Narodne novine</i> (NN; Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia) Nos 118/18, 42/20, 127/20 – Decision of the Croatian Constitutional Court, and 52/21).</p> <p>The National Strategy is implemented throughout Croatia from 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2023, in accordance with EU Regulations.</p>
Regional	<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) To increase the intake of fresh fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products and reduce the intake of food with a high fat, sugar and salt content
- (2) To raise awareness of the importance of a healthy diet and the nutritional values of fresh fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products
- (3) To educate students about how to reduce food waste

2.2. Objectives and indicators

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

A survey of eating habits among children in primary schools in Croatia was conducted by the Croatian Institute of Public Health in 2010 under the project Health Behaviour among School-Aged Children. The survey revealed that:

- 66% of students do not eat fruit every day, while
- 76% of students do not eat vegetables every day.

Students consume less fruit and vegetables the older they get. For example, 44% of students aged 11 eat fruit on a daily basis, compared with just 35% of students aged 13. At the same time, only 29% of students aged 11 eat vegetables on a daily basis. At the age of 13, this percentage is even lower, with just 23% of students eating vegetables.

The impact of the school milk scheme on children's eating habits and health was evaluated by means of a questionnaire for both students and parents. The aim was to investigate the following:

- consumption habits and knowledge about milk and milk products;
- knowledge of the scheme and its impact on children's eating habits.

The students surveyed preferred chocolate milk (75.73%), followed by regular milk (71.97%). Instant cocoa was in third place (71.13%), followed by fruit yoghurt, yoghurt and cheese.

Some 75% of students consumed milk or yoghurt at least once a week at home, while 57% of students did so in school.

Since the consumption of fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products decreases as students get older, and in order to shape children's eating habits in this developmental phase and increase the proportion of fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products in their diet, to prevent early obesity and other diseases caused by unsuitable eating habits and reduce the intake of food with a high fat, sugar and salt content, the school scheme will be implemented among primary and secondary schoolchildren.

General objective(s)	Impact indicator(s)	Specific objective(s)	Result Indicator(s)	Output Indicator(s)
To increase the proportion of fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products consumed by children and to shape healthy eating habits	5% change in the direct and indirect consumption of fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products among children after 6 years of shaping eating habits	To increase the consumption of fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products among schoolchildren	50% of children participating in the school scheme per school year out of the total number of children in the target group	The number of children participating in the school scheme per school year
			50% of schools participating in the school scheme per school year out of the total number of schools in the target group	The number of schools participating in the school scheme per school year
				Average consumption in schools of 100-200 g of fruit and vegetables per day, 0.15-0.25 l of milk per day, and 150–200 g of milk products once per week, per child and per school year
	5% increase in awareness among children of the importance of consuming fresh milk and milk products and fruit and vegetables on a regular basis	Raising awareness among children in primary and secondary schools of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the importance of consuming fresh fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products - healthy eating habits 	10% of the children involved in the accompanying educational measures per school year out of the total number of children in the target group	The number of children involved in the accompanying educational measures per school year Expenses for the accompanying educational measures per school year

2.3. Baseline

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

According to data from the *Monitoring report on the school scheme for fruit and vegetables in the school year 2014/2015* produced by the Croatian Institute for Public Health, 45% of students aged 11 eat fruit on a daily basis, compared with just 36% of male and 38% of female students aged 13. Just over 40% of students eat vegetables on a daily basis during the school week, 65% on both days of the weekend.

Most students list apples, strawberries, bananas and watermelons as their favourite fruit. The fruit most often eaten by students is apples, followed by bananas, while most students do not like to eat kiwi, pineapple, grapefruit or melon.

The findings of the questionnaire reveal that students most commonly eat their favourite vegetable, i.e. carrots, tomatoes, lettuce and cucumber. Students' least favourite vegetables are flower vegetables such as broccoli and cauliflower or leafy vegetables (except lettuce) such as kale, spinach or chard.

According to data from the Advisory Service, the milk scheme started to be implemented in Croatian schools among children from 1st to 4th class during the school year 2015/2016. Of 896 schools, 324 were involved in the scheme, or 36.16% of all primary schools in Croatia. The impact of the scheme on the eating habits and health of schoolchildren was evaluated through a questionnaire on the frequency of milk and milk product consumption among students in 4th class of primary school. Milk or yoghurt was consumed at least once a week by some 75% of students at home and by some 57% of students in school. This is not in line with the professional recommendations of the National Guidelines for the Nutrition of Primary School Students, which recommend the daily consumption of an average of 200 g of milk and fermented milk products. The results indicate a need to involve all stakeholders in order to increase the daily consumption of milk and milk products.

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	1 295 232	778 854	
Accompanying educational measures	50 000	8 000	
Monitoring, evaluation, publicity ¹	15 000 <i>(of which: publicity 7 000)</i>	13 500 <i>(of which: publicity 7 000)</i>	
Total	1 360 232	800 354	
Overall total	12 963 513 = 6 x (1 360 232 + 800 354)		

¹ 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 to Union aid, to finance the school scheme²

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 products³	
		Milk/milk products other than Annex V	Annex V products
Supply/distribution	HRK 1 511 047.86	HRK 810 387.56	
Accompanying educational measures			
Monitoring, evaluation, publicity			
Total	HRK 2 321 435.42		

National aid in the form of value added tax for the fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products supplied, pursuant to the Value Added Tax Act (NN Nos 73/13, 99/13, 148/13, 153/13, 143/14, 115/16, 106/18, 121/19 and 138/20) <https://www.zakon.hr/z/186/Zakon-o-porezu-na-dodanu-vrijednost>

² National or regional level

³ The higher level of detail than in table under section 3.1, with a separate category for Annex V products, is meant to capture more precisely information on implementation of the school scheme: the limitation of Union aid to the milk component of Annex V products, set out in Article 23(5) of the basic act, entails per se national aid if a parental contribution is not required. This may not be the case for other milk products, hence the separate column.

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 through⁴:

– 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)

– Other: please specify (eg. if products originally not free of charge and that are provided free of charge)

Comment/explanatory text

⁴ One or more

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		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pre-schools		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Primary	6-15	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Secondary	15-18	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cucumbers, gherkins	
Figs	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Citrus fruit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other vegetables: please specify ⁵	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tropical fruit ⁶	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other fruit: strawberries	<input type="checkbox"/>		
.....			

⁵ 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

⁶ Pineapples, Avocados, Guavas, Mangos and Mangostines

5.1.2. Processed fruit and vegetables – Article 23(4)a of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013⁷

Products distributed under the school scheme		Added salt			Added fat			Comments (optional)
		No	Yes		No	Yes		
Fruit juices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							100% natural juices without added sugar
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			100% natural juices without added sugar
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"/>			
.....								

⁷ 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 Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/40 - 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

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 1308/2013⁸

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 yoghourt	<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"/>			

⁸ 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 Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/40); 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 1308/2013

Products to be distributed under the school scheme		Added salt			Added fat			Added sugar
		No	Yes		No	Yes		
Category I (milk component $\geq 90\%$). Fermented milk products without fruit juice, naturally flavoured	<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>	%
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

In order to develop healthy eating habits among children, it is recommended to include fruit and vegetable juices in addition to fruits and vegetables, which are 100% natural without added sugars. To maintain its priority in terms of distribution, fruit and vegetables should still account for at least 60% of the total quantity of fruit and vegetables and fruit and vegetables juices.

In order to develop healthy eating habits among children, it is recommended to include other fermented milk products along with milk. To maintain its priority in terms of distribution, milk should still account for at least 60% of the total quantity of milk and milk products.

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"/>	<p>Eligible products under accompanying educational measures, which include tasting sessions for fruit and vegetables, fruit and vegetable products, and milk and milk products.</p> <p>Those products are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - olives CN 2001 90 65 - natural honey CN 0409 00 00 - nuts (almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts), dried, shelled CN 0802 	<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>Freshness of products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - for fruit and vegetables in accordance with the general and specific standards laid down in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 of 7 June 2011 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 in respect of the fruit and vegetables and processed fruit and vegetables sectors (OJ L 157, 15.6.2011), as last amended by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2102 of 15 December 2020 approving the checks on conformity to marketing standards for fruit and vegetables carried out by the United Kingdom and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 in respect of the fruit and vegetables and processed fruit and vegetables sectors (OJ L 425, 16.12.2020); <p>for milk and milk products in accordance with Annex III, Section IX, Chapter I, subsections II and III and Chapter II, subsection I of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin (OJ L 139, 30.4.2004), as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1662/2006 of 6 November 2006 amending Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin (OJ L 320/1, 6.11.2006).</p>	
Any priority/ies for the choice of products:	
Local or regional purchasing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Organic products	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Short supply chains	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental benefits (please specify: <i>Food mile concept, compliance with the principle of good environmental practice (cross-compliance, animal welfare)</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Products recognised under the quality schemes established by Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fair-trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other: product traceability	
<p>Any comments</p> <p>Products are selected as part of a transparent process, on the basis of objective criteria in line with the guidelines for implementing the school scheme provided to Member States by the European Commission (Note to delegates 2017/S/4804774). During the selection of suppliers, priority is given to organic products and to products bearing a national or EU quality scheme mark. When selecting suppliers, extra points are awarded to suppliers employing persons with a disability or reintegrating persons with reduced ability to work.</p>	

6. ACCOMPANYING EDUCATIONAL MEASURES

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

Please indicate what educational measures are envisaged to be provided for under the school scheme. The table below provides one example of information on the objective and content for one measure, and a non-exhaustive list of measures that you may consider – it does not prejudge other measures to be listed or other categories/types of measures as defined in the participating Member States

Title	Objective	Content
<i>Sowing, planting and maintaining school gardens</i>	To teach children how to grow plants	Together with their biology teacher, children in primary and secondary schools that have a garden will prepare the soil, sow, plant and pick fruit and vegetables and ensure they are taken care of
<i>Visits to farms producing fruit and vegetables and/or milk and milk products</i>	To connect children with agriculture, plant breeding, and the production of milk and milk products	Visits by students and teachers to agricultural producers, warehouses and processing plants. During the farm visits, students are familiarised with the methods and techniques for producing fruit species and vegetable crops, taking account of their potential negative impact on the environment and the importance of sustainable resource management, and with the methods for preserving, storing, processing and packaging them.
<i>Fruit and vegetable and/or milk and milk</i>	To motivate students to try lesser-known fruit and vegetables and other products. To	Educating children, by trying different types of fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products, about those products' nutritional and health values, raising awareness of the importance of consuming fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products as

<i>product tasting classes</i>	raise awareness of healthy eating habits	extremely nutritious food, extending the list of approved products to include products to be used exclusively in tasting classes under accompanying educational measures (olives, honey, and dried, shelled nuts)
<i>To organise classes, workshops and lectures aimed at educating children about agriculture, healthy eating habits, local food chains, organic production, sustainable production and the prevention of food waste</i>	To connect children with agriculture and environmental protection	Together with professional consultants (agronomists), children attend lectures on how to utilise food and reduce food waste
Other activities (eg. competitions, games; themed periods ⁹ .)		

⁹ Eg. Food dude programme in IE, an evidence-based incentivised behaviour changing programme.

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

Under the school scheme, fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products will be distributed to children in primary and secondary schools free of charge.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: please specify ¹⁰	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Any comments: Fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products will be distributed and/or delivered at least once per week on school days, ranging from a minimum of 12 to a maximum of 24 weeks during the school year.

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

Any comment:

Envisaged duration of accompanying educational measures during the school year:

(please indicate the number of hours or shortly explain/comment)

All accompanying educational measures referred to in point 6 may be implemented for at least 1 school hour during the entire school year.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lunchtime	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Afternoon/afternoon break(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

Students consume products under the school scheme separately from regular school meals, usually during the morning or afternoon break or as part of the fruit and vegetable and/or milk and milk product tasting classes referred to in point 6.

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

¹⁰ Eg. Distribution once every two weeks

7.5. Selection of suppliers

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

The Ministry of Agriculture approves aid applicants for the promotion measure and for accompanying educational measures, the Ministry of Health approves aid applicants for the monitoring and evaluation measure, while the Paying Agency for Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development approves aid applicants for the distribution and/or delivery of fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products measure.

Schools select suppliers of fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products. Suppliers are selected for each product the school wishes to order for distribution to students for consumption.

When selecting suppliers, schools use the following administrative tools:

- list of approved and evaluated suppliers;
- supplier checklist.

The Paying Agency for Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development approves and evaluates suppliers on the basis of objective criteria, in accordance with the guidelines for implementation of the school scheme provided to Member States by the European Commission (Note to delegates 2017/S/4804774), entering them on the list of approved and evaluated suppliers. The criteria are divided into two groups: general criteria and specific criteria.

For each product of interest, the school evaluates the products supplied by each supplier in the same county as the school, filling in the supplier checklist. Once the evaluation process is completed, the school decides on the best supplier and enters into a contract with it to supply the school with the eligible products.

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

The costs incurred in implementing the measures and activities under the school scheme are eligible for reimbursement on the basis of evidence of the costs actually incurred.

The costs incurred in supplying fruit and vegetables and school milk under the school scheme are not eligible for reimbursement if they relate to the purchase, lease or rent of the equipment used to deliver and distribute the products.

Fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products will be distributed and/or delivered at least once per week on school days, ranging from a minimum of 12 to a maximum of 24 weeks during the school year.

If the strategy sets maximum prices to be paid by beneficiaries for the products, materials and services under the school scheme please indicate the fair, equitable and verifiable calculation method used for their establishment (Article 2(2)c of the implementing regulation).

To protect the EU's financial interests, rationalise the use of financial resources and assess the reasonableness of costs, a maximum acceptable price is set for each product distributed under the school scheme. The maximum acceptable price is calculated for each 1-year period of implementation of the school scheme (from October to June), before the start of that period, and is shown on an annualised basis (valid for one school year only) and published. The maximum acceptable price is set according to the 5-year average weighted retail price (excluding VAT).

Taking into account the significant and rapid increase of the prices of all acceptable products, which has been especially expressed since the beginning of the 2022, the existing method of determining and calculating the highest acceptable price is complemented in such a way that the price is calculated, established and published at the end of the month for the following month, by increasing (by multiplication) of the amount of the Highest acceptable prices for the percentage amount of price inflation according to the latest published data on the Consumer Price Index maintained by the Croatian Bureau of Statistics. This amended method of calculating the Highest acceptable prices applies from November 9, 2022. The reasonableness and eligibility of costs are verified by comparing the cost of a particular eligible product for each supplier with the maximum acceptable price for that product.

7.6.2. Eligibility of certain costs

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

The costs incurred when supplying fruit and vegetables and school milk under the school scheme do not include those relating to the purchase, lease or rent of the equipment used to supply and distribute the products.

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 following public-sector authorities and private-sector natural and legal persons are involved in implementing the National Strategy:

Public authorities:

7. Ministry of Agriculture:

- (a) draws up the National Strategy for implementing the school scheme and other implementing acts jointly with other public authorities;
- (b) sets up working groups and coordinates the monitoring of the National Strategy in order to improve implementation and achieve the objectives of the school scheme (meetings, consultations, workshops);
- (c) submits reports on the implementation of the school scheme to the European Commission and other interested bodies;
- (d) approves applicants for aid under the promotion measure;

(e) approves applicants for aid under accompanying educational measures.

8. Ministry of Health:

- (a) approves applicants for aid for the monitoring and evaluation measure;
- (b) coordinates activities with the applicants approved for monitoring and evaluation linked to the survey of students' eating habits in order to monitor and determine how effectively the objectives of the school scheme are being achieved (evaluation);
- (c) confirms the list of approved products.

9. Ministry of Science and Education:

- (a) confirms and provides a list of primary and secondary schools that may participate in the school scheme for fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products;
- (b) confirms and provides the number of students in primary and secondary schools that may participate in the school scheme for fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products.

10. Paying Agency for Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development:

- (a) approves applicants for aid for the distribution of fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products;
- (a) publishes the list of approved schools participating in the school scheme for fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products;
- (c) publishes a list of suppliers delivering fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products to schools participating in the school scheme for fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products;
- (d) performs administrative and on-the-spot checks on applicants for aid under the school scheme for fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products;
- (e) pays the aid;
- (f) monitors implementation of the school scheme in terms of the use of the envelope and other quantitative indicators.

11. State Inspectorate of Croatia:

- (a) performs inspections and checks on compliance by suppliers of fruit and vegetables with market standards and performs checks on suppliers of milk and milk products.

Private sector:

12. Natural and legal persons:

- (a) suppliers of fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products participating in the distribution and/or delivery measure.

7.8. Information and publicity

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

All information related to the school scheme, which is financed by European Union funds, can be found on the website of the Paying Agency for Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development (<https://www.apprrr.hr/skolska-shema-2021-2022/>).

Under the publicity measure, it is planned to create an interactive portal for the school scheme, to record video content aimed at promoting the school scheme, to carry out communication activities through digital services, and to create promotional material for

the school scheme. The target audience are the general public, students, parents and school staff.

All the bodies involved in implementing the school scheme, except for the State Inspectorate, will be involved in promoting the objectives of the school scheme in terms of raising awareness among children, parents, teachers and the general public about the importance of consuming fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products on a daily basis, a healthy lifestyle, reducing waste, and protecting the environment.

7.9. Administrative and on-the-spot checks

Article 2(2)g of the implementing regulation

In accordance with Articles 9 and 10 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/39, the Paying Agency for Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development carries out administrative and on-the-spot checks of applicants for aid under the school scheme.

The on-the-spot checks include verifying the procedure for selecting suppliers referred to in point 7.5 Selection of suppliers.

The State Inspectorate of Croatia carries out inspections and checks on compliance by suppliers of fruit and vegetables and inspections on suppliers of milk and milk products in accordance with national regulations.

7.10. Monitoring and evaluation

Article 2(2)g of the implementing regulation

The Ministry of Health approves applicants for aid for monitoring and evaluation and coordinates activities with them linked to the survey of students' eating habits in order to monitor and determine how effectively the objectives of the school scheme are being achieved (evaluation).

As part of the monitoring and evaluation of the school scheme in accordance with Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2017/40 and Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2017/39, the approved applicant for aid for monitoring and evaluation is required to collect data on the primary and secondary schools involved in the project, to survey the attitudes, opinions and knowledge of students, their parents and the persons responsible in schools for implementing the school scheme, and to monitor its impact on the health and eating habits of schoolchildren.

The approved applicant for aid under the monitoring and evaluation measure is required to submit to the Ministry of Agriculture an annual monitoring report on the impact of the school scheme on the eating habits and health of schoolchildren by 1 December for the previous school year.

Approved applicants for aid under accompanying educational measures are required to produce an annual implementation report, which must include as a minimum information on the accompanying educational measures, the place and date where the various accompanying measures were implemented, the number of participants, the costs, and other information on the activities implemented. The approved aid applicant must submit the annual implementation report to the Ministry of Agriculture by 30 June for the previous school year.

Approved applicants for aid under the promotion measure are required to produce an annual implementation report, which must include as a minimum information on the types of activity implemented and a description of them, the place and date where the various sub-measures were implemented, the number of participants, the costs, and other information on the activities implemented. The approved aid applicant must submit the annual implementation report to the Ministry of Agriculture by 30 June for the previous school year.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Paying Agency for Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development must produce an annual monitoring report on the school scheme, which the Paying Agency must submit to the European Commission.

In accordance with the Annex to and Article 8(2) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/39, the Ministry of Agriculture must produce an evaluation report on the school scheme and submit it to the European Commission.