

**STRATEGY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHOOL SCHEME IN LUXEMBOURG
FROM 2023/2024 TO 2028/2029 SCHOOL YEAR**

SCHOULMËLLECH- A SCHOULUEBSTPROGRAMM

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Notre établissement scolaire participe au programme de l'Union européenne à destination des écoles, mis en oeuvre avec le soutien financier de l'Union européenne.

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SERVICES

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1 ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION

- Article 23(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 (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"/> | The school scheme is being implemented throughout Luxembourg. The Strategy is drawn up by the Ministry of Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development. The School Fruit and Vegetables component of the scheme is managed by the Administration of Technical Agricultural Services (ASTA), whilst the School Milk component of the scheme is managed by the Rural Economy Department (SER). |
| 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

Identified needs ranked according to their priority

- 1.) The majority of children's consumption of fruit, vegetables and milk is still below recommended amounts¹. The school scheme is in first line intended to help ensure schoolchildren having a healthy diet by supplying fruit, vegetables, milk and milk products (especially drinking milk and plain yoghurt) to increase consumption of these foods
- 2.) Children are partly lacking knowledge about food, the diversity of agricultural products and their production process, certainly with regard to milk, fruit and vegetables¹. The school scheme is intended to increase children's awareness of food, food production, product diversity, regional produce, seasonality and healthy eating habits.
- 3.) To further increase participation rates in the School Milk Scheme, and to maintain the high level of participation in the Fruit and Vegetable Scheme.

¹ Schoulmëllch- an Schouluebstopprogramm – Evaluierung des EU-Schulprogramms in Luxemburg. Abschlussbericht; Co-Concept S.A.R.L.; Luxemburg 2022

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) | Result Indicator(s) | Output Indicator(s) |
|---|--|---|--|
| Increase share of fruit/vegetables/milk consumption in children's diets and achieve healthy eating habits | Change in direct and indirect consumption of fruit / vegetables / milk / milk products in the target population | % of children participating in the school scheme (fruit scheme part / milk scheme part) per school year on total number of children in the target group | Number of children participating in the school scheme (fruit scheme part / milk scheme part) per school year |
| | | % of schools participating in the school scheme (fruit scheme part / milk scheme part) per school year on total number of schools in the target group | Number of schools participating in the school scheme (fruit scheme part / milk scheme part) per school year |
| | | | Average consumption of school fruit and vegetables/milk per child and per school year (quantity or portions) |
| Increase knowledge by children in schools about food, food production, product diversity, regional products and seasonality and about healthy eating habits | Change of school children who show knowledge about food, food production, product diversity, regional products and seasonality | % of children involved in accompanying educational measures per school year on total number of children in the target group | Number of children involved in educational measures per school year |
| | Change of school children who show knowledge about healthy eating habits | | |
| Increase participation rates in the School Milk part | Change in participation rates of schools/school children in the school milk part | % of children participating in the school milk part per school year on total number of children in the target group | Number of children participating in the school milk part per school year |

2.3 Baseline

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

The baseline for measuring the results achieved by implementing the school scheme in the period 2023-2029 will be compared with:

- The evaluation of the implementation of the EU school scheme in Luxemburg from 2017/18 to 2021/2022.²
- The monitoring reports referred to in Article 9(3) of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/40 for the school years prior to the school year 2023/2024.
- Results for the “Health Behaviour in School-aged Children” study³ from 2022 and earlier may be used as an additional comparison for comparing the uptake of fruit and vegetables.

Comment: If a school does not participate in the subsidized scheme or does only participate in one part of the subsidized scheme that does not mean that the school does not take any measures in that area. A number of schools provide for example milk/milk products using other funds. This means that the figures listed in the evaluation report must be interpreted with care.

² Schoulmëlch- an Schouluebstprogramm – Evaluierung des EU-Schulprogramms in Luxemburg. Abschlussbericht; Co-Concept S.A.R.L.; Luxemburg 2022.

³ <https://hbcs.uni.lu/>

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 1/8/2023 to 31/7/2029 | | |
|---|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | School fruit and Vegetables [#] | School milk [#] | Common elements if applicable |
| Distribution of school fruit and vegetables/school milk | 1 740 000 | 1 158 000 | |
| Accompanying educational measures | | | |
| Monitoring, evaluation, publicity | | | |
| Total | 1 740 000 | 1 158 000 | |
| Overall total | 2 898 000 | | |

[#] If unused funds from other member states are available, more EU aid will be requested.

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 products⁶ | |
| | | Milk/milk products other than Annex V | Annex V products |
| Supply/distribution | 6.932.000€ | 1 226 000 | |
| Accompanying educational measures | 35 000/year** | | |
| Monitoring, evaluation, publicity | 100 000 € | | |
| Total | 8 468 000 | | |

For both, school fruit and vegetables and for milk and milk products, national aid will be granted according to article 217 of regulation (EU) 1308/2013.

**Please note that there are several initiatives, partly integrated in the regular school year curriculum, providing accompanying educational measures intended to increase children's knowledge on food, food production, product diversity, regional products, seasonality, waste and/or about healthy eating habits. The used funds for these other initiatives are not taken into consideration here.

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 3.3 Existing national schemes | |
| - Article 23a(5) of the basic act and Article 2(2)(e) of the implementing regulation | |
| No | ✓ |
| 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 through⁷:</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 (e.g. if products originally not free of charge and that are provided free of charge) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Comment/explanatory text | |

4 TARGET GROUP/S

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

| School level | Age range of children | School fruit and vegetables | School milk |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Nurseries | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pre-schools ^{&} | 3-6 | √ | √ |
| Primary ^{&} | 6-12 | √ | √ |
| Secondary | 12-19 | √ | √ |

[&] In Luxemburg, no difference is made between “Pre-schools” and “Primary schools”, but all these classes are referred to as being “elementary school”. This applies also for the statistics.

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 and fresh products of the banana sector

- Article 23(3)(a) of the basic act

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Berries | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cucumbers, gherkins | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Figs | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lettuces, chicory and other leaf vegetables | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Grapes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lentils, peas, other pulses | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Melons, watermelons | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tomatoes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Citrus fruit | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other vegetables: please specify | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tropical fruit | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Other fruit: please specify (e.g. <i>kiwis, persimmons, nuts</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| | | | |

| Average diversity of fresh fruit products envisaged by the strategy, per establishment for one school year: | | Average diversity of fresh vegetable products envisaged by the strategy, per establishment for one school year: | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1-6 products | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a) | 1-3 products | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b) |
| 7-14 products | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b) | 3-6 products | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| > 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | > 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

a) Secondary schools

b) Elementary schools

5.1.2 Processed fruit and vegetable products

- Article 23(4)(a) of the basic act

| 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"/> | | | |
| 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 | √ |
|---|---|

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"/> | <i>If yes, please indicate the limited quantity</i> | √ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>If yes, please indicate the limited quantity</i> | Eventually curd cheese but only at specific occasions |
| Plain yoghurt | √ | √ | <input type="checkbox"/> | | √ | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Weekly |
| Fermented or acidified milk products without added sugar, flavouring, fruits, nuts or cocoa | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Drinking milk and lactose-free versions and plain yoghurt are the products distributed weekly through the school scheme.

To raise awareness and allow children to taste also other milk products than the one distributed weekly through the school scheme, it is planned to offer for example during a thematic week on milk and milk products, or with another accompanying educational measure, occasionally also curd cheese (see 5.4).

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <7% |
| 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"/> | | % |

5.3 Priorisation of fresh fruit and vegetables and vegetables and drinking milk

- Article 23(3) of the basic act

Only fresh fruit and vegetables are distributed through the program.

The distribution of drinking milk is a pre-requisite for schools to participate in the program. Primary school might additionally to drinking milk also distribute plain yoghurt. Secondary schools, might additionally to the distribution of drinking milk offer chocolate milk, whereby plain milk is distributed free of charge to the children and chocolate milk is sold at a reduced fixed price.

5.4 Scheme products & other agricultural products in the educational measures

- Article 23(7) of the basic act and Article 2(1)(g) of the implementing regulation

| Scheme products | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Yes | | No |
| ✓ | Please list the products: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Milk: Drinking milk, plain yoghurt, quark - Fresh fruit & vegetables: (they may be transformed during cooking classes etc) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other agricultural products | | |
| Yes | | No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Please list the products: | ✓ |

So far, no other agricultural products other than fruit, vegetables, milk and milk products had been distributed in educational measures. If this choice is revised the strategy will be amended accordingly.

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 5.5 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 | ✓ |
| Environmental considerations | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Seasonality | ✓ |
| Variety of products | ✓ |
| Availability of local or regional produce | ✓ |
| Any comments – including e.g. on the required quality of products | |
| Any priority/ies for the choice of products: | |
| Local or regional purchasing | ✓ |
| Milk: The distributed drinking milk and milk products have a reduced shelf life, the shortest delivery time is therefore one criterion of several selection criteria in the tendering procedure, favoring local/regional purchasing. Fruits and vegetables: Part of the products are sourced from producers that have to show and explain the production to school classes | |
| Organic products | ✓ |
| Milk: Being able to offer (part of) the demanded quantities of milk/milk products issued from organic agriculture is one criterion of several selection criteria in the tendering procedure, favoring the distribution of organic milk and milk products. Fruit and vegetables :Minimum % of organic products is imposed to distributors. The tendering criteria favor organic products. | |
| Short supply chains | ✓ |
| MILK: The distributed drinking milk and milk products have a reduced shelf life, short distance between production and distribution site is therefore one criterion of several selection criteria in the tendering procedure, favoring short supply chains. | |
| Environmental benefits (please specify: <i>e.g. food miles, packaging ...</i>) | ✓ |
| Milk: schools have the choice to order and distribute milk and milk products either as one-person pre-packed product or in large packaging, the later helps reducing food waste and reduce packaging material. | |
| Products recognised under the quality schemes established by Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Any comments | |
| Fair-trade | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Any comments | |
| Other, please specify: | |

6 ACCOMPANYING EDUCATIONAL MEASURES

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

| Title | Objective | Topics | Description |
|----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| School gardens | Make children Aware of the origin/growing process, improve knowledge on how to use fruit and vegetables, improve knowledge on dietary benefits of fruit and vegetables | Reconnection of children to horticulture, healthy eating habits, local food chains, organic production, sustainable production, food waste, other... | Setting up and maintenance of a school garden, mainly children in primary schools with their teachers. |
| Visits to farms | Make children aware of the origin of diverse agricultural products and their production process | Reconnection of children to agriculture, and show them to origin of their foods | Currently in development (and planned to be ready for school year 2024/2025) is an online platform that will facilitate to connect schools with farms for organizing farm visits; divers farm types will be present; Together with the platform will also pedagogical material be developed for the different production; |
| Possible brochure on agriculture | Educate children on where their food comes from; eventually together with the Ministry of Education | Reconnection of children to agriculture, and show them to origin of their foods | Teaching material on agriculture does not exist in every school or is outdated. There is a need to have some updated material on it with the help of the education ministry. Possibly make a brochure agriculture or school programs to raise awareness of agricultural products and the programs. |

Comment: Please note that there are several initiatives, including school gardens, - partly integrated in the regular school year curriculum -, aiming to increase children's knowledge on food, food production, product diversity, regional products, seasonality, waste and/or about healthy eating habits. Participating schools in the school scheme have the obligation to participate in such initiatives, or make use of those proposed by the school scheme itself.

7 ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

7.1 Price of school fruit and vegetables/milk

- Article 2(2) of Delegated Regulation 2017/40.

Fruits and vegetables are distributed free of charge to all children in the target group.

Milk and milk products are distributed free of charge to all children in the elementary schools.

For secondary schools, drinking milk is distributed free of charge. Drinking milk and milk products that might be distributed during an accompanying educational measure are also free of charge. For chocolate milk distributed in secondary schools, an aid on the composition of milk is given, and chocolate milk is distributed at a fixed price defined in the tendering process.

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 type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other: please specify | √ | √ |

In elementary schools, fruits or vegetables are distributed once a week. In secondary education establishments, one type of fruit is made available throughout the week. School milk is delivered minimum once a week to schools. Schools are responsible for the distribution within their establishment. Frequency of distribution within schools varies from once per week up to daily.

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 type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| > 24 and ≤ 36 weeks | √ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Entire school year | <input type="checkbox"/> | √ |
| Any comment: Entire school year: ca 31 weeks. Distribution not during school holidays | | |

Envisaged duration of accompanying educational measures during the school year:
(please indicate the number of hours or shortly explain/comment):

In both, elementary schools and secondary schools accompanying measures are mostly managed by the school themselves; therefore, it is difficult to give a general answer. Measures might take place throughout the school year from a short activity of 1-2 hours, a whole day activity, up to regular part of the regular school year curriculum, so it is not possible to give a minimum numbers of hours.

7.3 Timing of distribution of school fruit and vegetables/milk

- Article 23(8) – and 23a(8) of the basic act 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) | √ | √ |
| Lunchtime ^{a)} | √ | √ |
| Afternoon/afternoon break(s) | √ | √ |

a) Only in secondary schools

Elementary schools

In elementary schools, milk and yoghurt are distributed during breaks, and mostly in the class itself, whereby teachers/school personal take the responsibility for the distribution in the school.

Fruit and vegetables are distributed in a similar way. Additionally, elementary schools may place the fruits on strategic places in the school premises, where school children can take the fruits freely during breaks.

Secondary schools

In secondary schools, the most efficient and cost-effective way to distribute the products was with the help of the school canteens personal, as already a distribution channel and storage facilities are in place.

Milk and milk products of the school scheme are therefore distributed in school canteens, cafeteria or via a lunch bag, and seldom in the class. Liquid milk is not part of the average Luxemburgish lunch diet, but by using the same distributions points where students go for buying their lunch meal, children might also grab a free milk rather than buying sugared soft drinks either to accompany their lunch meal, or as snack for the afternoon break.

School fruits are distributed in a similar way. However, school fruits are always placed separately from food that is being sold to pupils. Moreover fruits may distributed on strategic places in the school premises, where pupils can take the fruits freely during breaks.

Moreover canteens in public secondary schools are regularly inspected by the ministry of education. During these inspections, proper handling of the school fruit and milk distribution is also checked.

Products procured under the school scheme are not used in food preparation, or to replace part of a regular meal. The implementation of school scheme is controlled by the national authorities: SER for the milk part; ASTA for the fruit and vegetable part.

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 Regulation (EU) No 1370/2013 ('the fixing regulation'), Article 2(2)(f) of the implementing regulation

No

Yes

If yes, please describe the system for granting Union aid only to the milk component of those products (= if it varies across products according to the milk component or by fixed rates set at national level; is 27 €/100 kg paid or less or does it vary)

It depends on the winner of the tendering procedure. The tendering procedure includes provisions on fixing an aid for the milk component in chocolate milk, and the fixation of a maximum price for chocolate milk. For example if the milk component is 92% in chocolate milk, so the aid will be 0.2484€/kg.

7.5 Selection of suppliers

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

Suppliers of school fruit and vegetables are selected through an open European public procurement procedure, using the online platform "Portail des marches publics - Luxembourg"⁴. Distributors purchase themselves part of the fruit/vegetables and distribute all the products to the educational establishments involved in the program.

Local fruit/vegetables are purchased from producers that have an obligation to accept school classes on their premises for farm visits, or are obliged to go to schools and explain their business.

Suppliers of school milk and milk products are selected through an open European public procurement according to the legislation in force, with the help of the online platform "Portail des marches publics - Luxembourg"⁴. There are two separated lots for school milk and milk products, one for the elementary schools and one for the secondary schools. Beneficiaries are the suppliers of products, who either produce (i.e. dairy industry) or purchase milk and milk products and distribute them to the educational establishments involved in the program.

A checklist is used to verify the respect of relevant criteria of EU public procurement legislation. The ministry of agriculture supervises the public procurement for the school programs.

⁴ The platform was set up in 2006 and is available at: <https://marches.public.lu/fr.html> (Accessed on: 27-04-2023).

For smaller blocks of work (for example evaluation; accompanying measures) the choice is made based on three competitive quotes, using national funds.

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 of the school scheme products supplied do not include the costs of purchasing, renting, hiring and leasing of the equipment used in the supply and distribution of products.

Suppliers of school fruits are reimbursed based on invoices. The specifications in the public procurement procedures make sure that costs are reasonable. The program relies on a cost-based system (invoices). Prices are fixed by tendering. To further check the reasonableness of costs, market prices of similar products are monitored on a regular basis, taking into account unexpected market developments.

Suppliers of school milk are reimbursed based a cost-based system using invoices. As regards the reasonability of prices, those are fixed in the contract after tendering and are set for the whole school year, as is the aid paid for chocolate milk. There is no maximum price for milk and milk products. However, for controlling if prices in the offer are reasonable are they compared with consumer-prices of similar products, whereby taking also into consideration actual market development if predictable to have an influence on future costs (i.e. Ukraine war). SER is collecting consumer-prices of similar products in supermarkets as in the school scheme, and has in house data on prices/prices indexes on agricultural input and output. So far did the prices never exceed normal market prices of similar products, and were hence considered to be reasonable. One of the major criteria in the public procurement procedure is also the best price-quality ratio. The costs of the milk and milk products supplied under the school scheme do not include costs of purchasing, renting, hiring and leasing of the equipment used in the supply and distribution of products

7.6.1 Eligibility of certain costs

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

In general, only supply costs are covered. The costs of the products offered in the school scheme do not include costs of purchasing, renting, hiring and leasing of the equipment used in the supply and distribution of products.

For school fruits and vegetables transport costs for local fruit supply is covered by national aid in order to incentivize local purchase.

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 authorities were/are involved in the implementation of the program:

- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health

Several meetings have been held during the beginning of 2017 with the responsible persons of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Sports, where a compromise was found w.r.t. the implementation and the distribution of milk products, and problems of the programs were discussed. The compromise between the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture has been formalized in a written note the 05.07.2017.

Smaller changes in the program thereafter occurred in consideration with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. The set-up of the evaluation and the reference terms/questionnaires for the evaluation were elaborated in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health. This collaboration will be continued for the time period 2023-2029.

The ministry of Education played an active role in the implementation when setting up the program and plays an active role in the distribution of the products within the schools. Teachers and other educational personal in elementary schools, and the school canteen staff in secondary school are in charge of the reception of the school scheme products and their distribution.

There is a cooperation with the representatives of the Ministry of Education in order to work on accompanying educational measures.

Authorities and stakeholders involved

| | | | Complete Name | Involved in Planning | Involved in Implementation | Involved in Monitoring | Involved in Evaluation | Other (if yes, please specify) |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|---|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Public authority/ Private stakeholder | Agriculture | Authority | Ministry of Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development; Administrations in charge: ASTA & SER | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| | | Stakeholder | Lëtzebuenger Landjugend a Jongbaueren asbl; Centrale Paysanne Service Jeunesse – Lëtzebuenger Bauerejugend; APFAPL Société nationale d'Arboriculture et d'Horticulture (SNAH) | No | No | No | No | In previous years were in close co-operation with two young farmers organizations (Lëtzebuenger Landjugend a Jongbaueren asbl & Centrale Paysanne Service Jeunesse – Lëtzebuenger Bauerejugend) and the luxemburgish association of educational farms (APFAPL) farm visits organized, and it is foreseen to continue this collaboration, which is currently under review (i.e. development of an online platform to connect schools and farmers/producers).; The persons in charge of managing both parts of the program are regularly in contact with representatives of the producers. |
| | Health and Nutrition | Authority | Ministry of Health – « Direction de la Santé » : Service coordination plans nationaux – GIMB ; Division de la médecine scolaire et de la santé des enfants et adolescents ; | Yes | No | No | Yes | And during the COVID 19 pandemic also with other divisions from the Ministry of Health |
| | | Stakeholder | | No | No | No | No | |
| | Education | Authority | Ministry of Education, children and youth, “Directions de l’enseignement fondamentale” & “Direction générale de l’enseignement secondaire”; Restopolis | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | |
| | | Stakeholder | Elementary schools: – school personal/ teachers; Canteen personal; Divers private schools & international/European schools and their school personal | No | Yes | No | No | Schools were contacted for distributing questionnaires w.r.t. divers evaluations |
| | Other | Authority | Ministry of Sport | Yes | No | No | No | Were informed in 2017 |
| | | Stakeholder | | No | No | No | No | |

7.8 Information and publicity

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

The EU's role in the school scheme is clearly indicated in all participating educational establishments by the means of posters (for illustration, see poster on the first page).

Information on the program is available via the website of the ministry of Agriculture (portail de l'agriculture)⁵.

7.9 Administrative and on-the-spot checks

- Article 2(2)(g) of the implementing regulation

For the school fruit and vegetables, administrative checks as well as on the spot checks are carried out by the Service de horticulture of the Administration des services techniques de agriculture (ASTA).

For the school milk, administrative and on the spot checks are carried out by the Service d'économie rurale (SER).

Both checks are carried out in relation to the requirements laid down in the Regulation and are described in internal procedures, one for the milk part and one for the fruit and vegetable part. Checklists are used to ensure that the checks are uniform and adequate. Spot checks of the product suppliers occur previous to each payment and at the end of the administrative checks. On the basis of a risk analysis, a number of schools are selected where on the spot checks are carried out. On the spot checks are carried out SER for milk and ASTA for fruit. Administrative checks are always carried out by two staff members, followed by additional controls by the hierarchy, as well as additional controls by the paying agency/financial controller of the government.

7.10 Monitoring and evaluation

Article 2(2)(g) of the implementing regulation

Annual monitoring is performed by national authorities responsible for the two parts of the school scheme, namely ASTA for the fruit and vegetable part, and SER for the milk part.

The evaluation of the scheme will be outsourced, after having fixed the terms of reference in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health.

⁵ <https://agriculture.public.lu/de/beihilfen/beihilfen-bis-2022/sonstige-fordermassnahmen/schulmilch-schulobst.html> ; downloaded on 27-04-2023; Please note that the "portail de l'agriculture" is undergoing a complete review, why this link might no longer work in the future.