

**STRATEGY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHOOL SCHEME (SCHOOL FRUIT,
VEGETABLES AND MILK) IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC
FOR THE 2017/2018 TO 2022/2023 SCHOOL YEARS**

DATE: 26 JULY 2017

Ref. No 40270/2017-MZE-17222

AMENDED ON: 21ST AUGUST 2018¹, 23RD JUNE 2020², 31 AUGUST 2021³ AND AUGUST 2022⁴

¹ From the beginning of the school year 2018/2019, the target group for the milk part of the scheme is amended. Students in secondary schools are excluded, based on new national legislation. The target group in both parts of the school scheme is thereby unified. After the first year of implementation, given the national financial resources it was considered more effective to focus on children in primary schools, as there is higher potential in influencing healthy eating habits.

² Amendments regarding specification of fruit and vegetables (chapter 5.1.) and publicity and evaluation (chapters 7.8. and 7.10). There has been a specification for the products – for example the deletion of lentils, which can't be consumed raw, addition of fruit-vegetable purée and dried vegetables (unified with Czech legislation). Also fruit and fruit-vegetables bars made of fruit or vegetables without added sugar and other additives and preservatives were added (based on experience). In the past, the Ministry of Education was involved with evaluation. Currently, the evaluation is carried out by the National Institute of Public Health that has its own methods for sending and obtaining the required data.

³ Amendment of the maximum amount of aid for the supply of products, possibility to supply flavoured milk products only under accompanying educational measures, and obligation to implement accompanying educational measures for all applicants. The amendments were based on changes in legislation and experience in the application and administration of the scheme. The aim was also to reduce the administrative burden. The paying agency and the approved applicants were consulted on the amendments.

⁴ The amendment concerns the adjustment of the accompanying educational measures to the EU regulation, the types of fruit and vegetables that can be used under the accompanying educational measures, the compulsory proportion of organic products, the adjustment of the frequency of supply and the adjustment of the target group.

Contents

1.	ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL	4
2.	NEEDS AND RESULTS TO BE ACHIEVED	5
2.1.	Identified needs	5
2.2.	Objectives and indicators.....	5
2.3.	Baseline.....	8
3.	BUDGET.....	10
3.1.	Union aid for the school scheme	10
3.2.	National aid granted, in addition to Union aid, to finance the school scheme	11
3.3.	Existing national schemes.....	12
4.	TARGET GROUP/S	13
5.	LIST OF PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTED UNDER THE SCHOOL SCHEME.....	14
5.1.	Fruit and vegetables.....	14
5.1.1.	Fresh fruit and vegetables- Article 23(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013	14
5.1.2.	Products made from processed fruit and vegetables – Article 23(4)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013	15
5.2.	Milk and dairy products.....	16
5.2.1.	Milk - Article 23(3)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013... 16	
5.2.2.	Dairy products - Article 23(4)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013	16
5.2.3.	Flavoured dairy products – Annex V to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013	17
5.2.4.	Prioritising the supply of fresh fruit and vegetables and drinking milk	18
5.3.	Other agricultural products in the educational measures.....	18
5.4.	Criteria for the choice of products distributed under the school scheme and any priorities for the choice of those products	19
6.	ACCOMPANYING EDUCATIONAL MEASURES	20
7.	ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION	22
7.1.	Price of School Fruit and Vegetables/Milk.....	22
7.2.	Frequency and duration of the supply of School Fruit and Vegetables/Milk and of accompanying educational measures	23

7.3.	Timetable for the supply of School Fruit and Vegetables/School Milk	25
7.4.	Supply of the dairy products in Annex V to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013	26
7.5.	Selection of suppliers.....	27
7.6.	Eligible costs	28
7.6.1.	Reimbursement rules.....	28
7.6.2.	Eligibility of certain costs.....	29
7.7.	Involvement of authorities and stakeholders	30
7.8.	Information and publicity	30
7.9.	Administrative and on-the-spot checks	31
7.10.	Monitoring and evaluation.....	31

Abbreviations:

AEM	Accompanying Educational Measures
CR	Czech Republic
CSO	Czech Statistical Office
EU	European Union
IAEI	Institute of Agricultural Economics and Information
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
MoH	Ministry of Health
NIPH	National Institute of Public Health
SAIF	State Agricultural Intervention Fund (Paying Agency)

1. ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL

Act No 23(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, as amended by Regulation (EU) No 2016/791 (hereinafter referred to as 'Basic Act'), and Article 2(1)(a) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2017/39 (hereinafter referred to as 'Implementing Regulation')

National	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In the Czech Republic, the scheme is implemented at national level. The Ministry of Agriculture is the manager of the scheme. The State Agricultural Intervention Fund (the Paying Agency) is the administrator of the scheme.
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) Improvement of the health of children by increasing the consumption of fruit, vegetables and dairy products
- 2) Improvement of children's eating habits - increased consumption in particular of fresh fruit and vegetables, non-flavoured milk and dairy products
- 3) Promotion of the consumption of fruit and vegetables, milk and dairy products
- 4) Education of future consumers - strengthening educational activities relating to healthy eating habits and target groups covered by the scheme
- 5) Support for the production and processing of fruit, vegetables and milk

2.2. Objectives and indicators

Article 23(8) of the Basic Act and Article 2(1)(c) of the Implementing Regulation

The objective of the school scheme is to improve the eating habits of children so they become used to regularly eating more fresh fruit, vegetables, milk and dairy products. This will improve the health of children.

Fresh fruit and vegetables are rich in vitamins and is therefore essential component of the children's diet. It is recommended to consume at least 5 portions of fruit/vegetables per day.

NIPH studies show that consumption of calcium and, in winter, the consumption of vitamin D are often weak spots in the nutrition of the Czech population. By increasing the consumption of dairy products under the school scheme, the Czech Republic wants to increase the intake of calcium in children, and consequently reduce illnesses resulting from calcium deficiency. A clear benefit will be the education of children at an age when their eating habits are being formed, and the eating habits of their parents may also change. The school scheme is a systematic solution to this problem.

Another objective is to increase the number of children involved in the school milk component, which is low in the present scheme.

To achieve the desired objectives, the scheme will also focus on accompanying educational measures not only for fruit and vegetables, but also for milk and dairy products. It will build on experience in applying accompanying measures under the School Fruit and Vegetables Scheme in previous school years.

Improvements in eating habits will be achieved by setting the scheme to give priority to the supply of fruit and vegetables and drinking milk. They are mandatory in the supply of products. In order to maintain the variety of the products offered and the attractiveness of the scheme, the Czech Republic allows the supply of unflavoured dairy products for free and, as part of accompanying educational measures, flavoured milk products.

By enhancing accompanying educational measures and promotional activities, we want to raise awareness among children and parents of healthy eating habits and agricultural production. The indicators used to measure the achievement of objectives will be the numbers of schools and children involved in the scheme, the number of children involved in the accompanying educational measures, and the increase in the consumption of the promoted products.

General objectives	Impact indicators	Specific objectives	Result indicators	Output indicators
Improved health of children and their eating habits, and education of children in the area of healthy nutrition	Increased consumption of fruit, vegetables, milk and dairy products by children in the target group	Increased consumption of fruit, vegetables, milk and dairy products by children in the school establishments	Increase of 5% in the number of children involved in the scheme during the strategy implementation period	Number of children involved in the scheme during the strategy implementation period
			Increase of 5% in the number of schools involved in the scheme during the strategy implementation period	Number of schools involved in the scheme during the strategy implementation period
			Increase of 2% in the consumption of fruit, vegetables, milk and dairy products in the educational establishments during the strategy implementation period	Number of portions of fruit, vegetables, milk and dairy products consumed in schools by children during the strategy implementation period
				Total consumption of fruit, vegetables, milk and dairy products per capita
		Increased knowledge of pupils of different agricultural products and their health benefits	Increase of 5% in the number of pupils involved in accompanying educational measures during the strategy implementation period	Number of pupils involved in accompanying educational measures during the strategy implementation period

<i>General objectives</i>	<i>Impact indicators</i>	<i>Specific objectives</i>	<i>Result indicators</i>	<i>Output indicators</i>
			Increase in knowledge of children involved in accompanying educational measures	Output from the evaluation of implementation of the School Scheme indicating better knowledges of the involved children about healthy diet and products supplied in the Scheme.

2.3. Baseline

Article 23(8) of the Basic Act and Article 2(1)(d) of the Implementing Regulation

The Czech Republic has changed the specifications of the scheme, starting in the 2017/2018 school year, compared to the previous period. For School Fruit and Vegetables, the target group has been expanded to include pupils of the second tier of primary schools. For School Milk, on the other hand, the original target group has been reduced to exclude nursery and secondary school children, so that the resulting target group comprises primary school pupils.

Number of children involved in the 2015/2016 school year:

School Fruit and Vegetables: 539,747

School Milk: 625,636

Number of schools involved in the 2015/2016 school year:

School Fruit and Vegetables: 3,810

School Milk: 3,018

Number of children participating in accompanying educational measures: 495,644

Number of portions of products supplied in the 2015/2016 school year (the number of portion depends on the amount of funding):

School Fruit and Vegetables: 17,883,980

School Milk: 13,836,437

(Source: data from the Paying Agency, SAIF)

Consumption of fruit, vegetables and milk (CSO, NIPH, Ministry of Agriculture data):

Consumption of fruit is rising again in the Czech Republic following a fall in 2012 (74.6 kg/person/per year). In 2013, consumption grew by 3% to 76.8 kg/person, while in 2014 there was a further increase to 78.1 kg/person. Consumption also rose in 2015, when 82.4 kg/person was consumed, but this is still short of consumption in 2009, when 90.4 kg of fruit per year was consumed per capita. In recent years, consumption has been affected by a reduction in people's purchasing power due to the economic crisis and higher prices of fruit in shops.

Consumption of vegetables in 2009-2012 varied from 77.8 kg/person/year (2012) to 85.4 kg/person/year (2011). In 2013, consumption was 82.9 kg/person; it rose to 86.4 kg/person in 2014 and fell slightly to 84.4 kg/person in 2015. Compared to previous years, 2015 saw an increase in the consumption of salad cucumbers, peppers and lettuce, while the consumption of tomatoes, cabbage, onions, carrots, gherkins and garlic decreased.

Although the consumption of milk and dairy products has grown slightly in the Czech Republic in recent years, per capita consumption is lower in the Czech Republic than the EU average. In 2016, consumption of milk and dairy products increased by 2.1% year-on-year, to 247.5 kg. Greatest consumption was of drinking milk – 60.1 litres. 15 kg of soured products, 17.9 kg of cheese and curd cheese, 5.4 kg of butter, 3.1 kg of milk desserts and 2 kg of tinned milk products were consumed per person per year in the Czech Republic in 2016.

The results of an international study conducted by HBSC in the 2013-2014 school year, which focused on the lifestyle of the young generation in Europe, repeatedly confirmed the inappropriate eating habits of Czech girls and boys. About 35% of 11-year-olds, 45% of 13-year-olds and 50% of 15-year-olds do not eat breakfast regularly, making the Czech Republic significantly below the international average in the HBSC study. At the same time, most children, about 70%, do eat an evening meal with their family, and the Czech Republic is close to the bottom in the international comparison. Czech children do not differ significantly in their consumption of fruit compared to the international average, but they do consume less vegetable. Regular consumption of vegetables accounts for about 27% of 11- and 13-year-olds, and 24% of 15-year-olds. Moreover, primary school pupils are in an age group in which basic eating habits are created that will subsequently affect their health, not only in childhood but also in adulthood.

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 from 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	min. 14,054,535 (min. 2,342,422 for one school year)	min. 7,203,182 (min. 1,200,530 for one school year)	
Accompanying educational measures	2,810,907 (468,485 for one school year)	1,440,636 (240,106 for one school year)	
Monitoring, evaluation, promotion	max. 1,873,938 (max. 312,323 for one school year)	max. 960,424 (max. 160,071 for one school year)	2,834,362 (472,394 for one school year)
Total	18,739,380 (3,123,230 for one school year)	9,604,242 (1,600,707 for one school year)	
Grand total	In total, it is EUR 4,723,937 per school year For six school years, the total preliminary allocation is EUR 28,343,622		

The Czech Republic has been allocated EUR 3,123,230 (approx. CZK 84.3 million) from the EU budget for School Fruit and Vegetables, and EUR 1,600,707 (approx. CZK 43.2 million) for School Milk per school year. **The Czech Republic is willing to use more funds** than the preliminary allocation of Union aid, and will thus request an increase in the allocation of Union aid both School Fruit and Vegetables and School Milk for each school year.

The budget for the scheme is divided into:

- Accompanying educational measures – a maximum of 15% of the total annual final aid allocation.
- Related costs (promotion, monitoring and evaluation only) – about 1%, can be increased up to a maximum of 10% of the total annual final aid allocation. The costs of transport, logistics and distribution are not separately reimbursed: they are included in the aid rates per portion.
- The remaining 75-84% is intended to finance the supply of the products.

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, the amount (in CZK)	Fruit/vegetables	Milk/dairy products	
		Milk/dairy products other than those listed in Annex V	Products in Annex V
Supply/distribution	186 150 000	227 650 000	0
Accompanying educational measures	33 850 000	20 675 000	20 675 000
Monitoring, evaluation, promotion	1 000 000	500 000	500 000
Total	Fruit and vegetables – up to CZK 220 million per school year Milk – up to CZK 270 million per school year		

Comments/explanations of the text (e.g. name of the national aid, legal basis, duration):

The legal framework for granting national support for a school scheme in the 2017/2018 school year is Government Regulation No 74/2017. The Czech Republic will contribute to both components of the school scheme from the national budget, up to CZK 490 million per school year to maintain a varied range of supported products and to extend the target group for School Fruit and Vegetables and maintain the same number of portions per pupil as in previous years. Up to 15% of the total amount may be earmarked for accompanying educational measures, and up to 10% for related costs. Related costs can include an amount earmarked for school scheme evaluations by an independent organisation.

Reasons for increasing the allocation:

- There is a constant increase in the number of children involved in the scheme due to growing interest by children/schools in the scheme as the total number of primary school pupils rises (populous age-groups are entering school; the number of children in the Czech Republic six to ten years of age already exceeds by more than 80,000 the absolute number of these children, i.e. 480,000, for which the EU has set the preliminary allocation of aid),
- the funds intended for the scheme also cover accompanying educational measures, thereby reducing funds that can be used to supply products; it is desirable to maintain at least the annual limit on products per pupil compared to previous school years, and the frequency of supply.

For the 2022/2023 school year, due to the current lack of funding for the Czech Republic, the contribution from the national budget to the School Milk part of the Scheme will be reduced to approximately CZK 90 million and to the School Fruit and Vegetables part of the Scheme to approximately CZK 50 million.

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:</i>	
- Expansion of the target group	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Expansion of the range of products	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Increasing the frequency or duration of product distribution	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Improvement of educational measures (increasing the number or frequency or duration or target group of these measures)	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Other: please specify (e.g. if the products are not originally free of charge but are provided free of charge) ...	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments/explanations of the text	

4. TARGET GROUP/S

Article 23(8) of the Basic Act and Article 2(1)(f) of the Implementing Regulation

School	Age range of children	School Fruit and Vegetables	School Milk
Facilities for children under 3 years of age (day nursery)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
nursery schools		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
primary schools	6-10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
secondary schools		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

In the 2022/2023 school year, due to a lack of funding from the Czech national budget, the target group for both parts of the scheme is limited to pupils attending the first level of primary schools, including the preparatory classes of primary schools or the preparatory stage of special primary schools, i.e. pupils aged 6-10 years old.

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) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013

apricots, cherries, peaches, nectarines, plums	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	carrots, turnips, beetroot, black salsify, celery, radishes, kohlrabi and other edible roots	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
apples, pears, quinces	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	cabbage, cauliflower and other edible cruciferous vegetables	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bananas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Berries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	cucumbers, gherkins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
figs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	salads, chicory and other leafy vegetables	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
grapes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	peas and other legumes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
melons and water melons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	tomatoes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
citrus fruit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other vegetables: peppers + other vegetables*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
tropical fruits such as pineapples, avocados, guavas, mangoes and mangosteens, kaki	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	onions (only under accompanying educational measures)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other fruit: Strawberries + other fruit, fresh**	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	herbs (only under accompanying educational measures)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dates (only as a part of the accompanying measures)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Eligible products are those types listed in Parts IX and XI (only fresh products) of Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as amended. *: 'other vegetables, fresh or chilled, Combined Nomenclature code ex 0709 and **: other fruit, fresh, Combined Nomenclature code 0810.

Kiwifruit can only be supplied mixed with several types of fruit and vegetables or, together with pineapple, as part of an accompanying educational measure.

Fruits and vegetables are supplied completely free of charge. Fresh fruits and vegetables are given preference; Government Regulation No 74/2017 sets a limit of at least 75% of fresh fruit and vegetables for schools. Fresh fruit and vegetables are supplied whole.

Priority is given to short supply chains and local or regional production. Organic products benefit from a higher rate of aid and, as from school year 2023/2024, must represent at least 10% of the total number of portions per school year. Product selection takes into account health and nutritional aspects, seasonality, variety offered, availability of local and regional production and environmental protection.

The choice of products offered for consumption by pupils is in line with the nutrition recommendations for the Czech population issued by the Ministry of Health. The selection of fresh fruit and vegetables should be as varied as possible, with preference given to fruits and vegetables from our climate zone, especially local products. The inclusion of exotic

fruit may be regarded as diversification and the expansion of knowledge within the curriculum by introducing children to fruit from other climate zones, e.g. in connection with the teaching of science and geography subjects. Products must be stored in accordance with good hygiene practice. Children should not be given pieces of fruit or vegetable that have signs of mould or rotting or are damaged in some other way affecting the safety of the products, and any such damaged pieces of fruit or vegetable should not be further processed by slicing or grating.

Eligible products are approved by the Ministry of Health.

5.1.2. Products made from 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>					100% natural juices without added sugar	
Fruit and fruit/vegetable purées	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Only purees without added sugar, no tinned fruit
Jams, marmalades	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Dried fruits and vegetables	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Only as part of accompanying educational measures, no added sugar
Vegetable juices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Vegetable soups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

In Czech legislation, Government Regulation No 74/2017 sets a maximum of 25% of portions of processed fruit and vegetable products (natural fruit and vegetable juices and fruit juices and fruit purees) supplied of the total number of portions per school.

Processed fruit and vegetable products are approved by a Ministry of Agriculture committee for the approval of products supplied as part of the school scheme, consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health and the SAIF (Paying Agency).

5.2. Milk and dairy products

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

Drinking milk and lactose-reduced/lactose-free variants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
---	-------------------------------------

5.2.2. Dairy 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 cheese	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Curd cheese 0.5% Cheeses 2%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Curd cheese 10% Cheeses 30%	Maximum permissible value in the product, i.e. including added
Unflavoured yoghurt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5%	Maximum permissible value in the product, i.e. including added
Fermented or soured dairy products without added sugar, flavourings, fruits, nuts or cocoa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5%	Maximum permissible value in the product, i.e. including added

The supported products are based on the Nutrition Recommendations for the Czech Population issued by the Ministry of Health, according to which children in the target group should consume two to three portions of milk and dairy products per day. Supported products must not be in conflict with Czech Implementing Decree No 282/2016 on requirements for food, as amended, the advertising and sale of which are permitted in schools and school establishments. When choosing supported products, their health and nutrition aspects and variety were considered. The scheme supplies only drinking milk and non-flavoured dairy products, which are provided to pupils free of charge. As part of the accompanying educational measures, flavoured products may be provided. Short supply chains and local or regional production are also priorities. Organic farming products are favoured by a higher rate of aid and, as from school year 2023/2024, their proportion must be at least 10% of the total number of portions per school year. The range of supported products has been consulted with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports during the drafting of the national legislation and is presented with this strategy.

Milk and milk products are approved by a Commission of the Ministry of Agriculture for the approval of products supplied as part of the school scheme, consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health and SAIF (the Paying Agency).

5.2.3. Flavoured dairy products – Annex V to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013

Products distributed under the school scheme		Added salt			Added fat			Added sugar
		No	Yes		No	Yes		
Category I (milk component $\geq 90\%$). Fermented dairy products without fruit juice, flavoured with natural flavouring	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5%	Max. 7%
Category I (milk component $\geq 90\%$). Fermented dairy products with fruit juice, flavoured with natural flavouring or non-flavoured	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5%	Max. 7%
Category I (milk component $\geq 90\%$). Dairy drinks with cocoa, fruit juice or flavoured with natural flavouring	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5%	Max. 7%
Category II (milk component $\geq 75\%$). Fermented or non-fermented dairy products with fruit, flavoured with natural flavouring or non-flavoured	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5%	Max. 7%

5.2.4. Prioritising the supply of fresh fruit and vegetables and drinking milk

Article 23(3) of the Basic Act

(1) Under the scheme, fruit and vegetables are delivered to children completely free of charge. The priority is fresh fruit and vegetables; Czech legislation (Government Regulation 74/2017) lays down the proportion of processed products (juices, purees) that can be delivered to each school per year under the scheme. This proportion is set at a maximum of 25% of processed products.

(2) For milk, priority is given to drinking milk by compulsory inclusion in the supply of products, the proportion of which is determined together with a minimum number of deliveries of milk products before the start of the school year on the basis of the financial resources available. Products are supplied free of charge.

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>Occasional supplies of other agricultural products can only be delivered under accompanying educational measures involving the tasting of fruit and vegetables, fruit and vegetable products, and milk and dairy products.</p> <p>These products are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- honey- dry shell fruit, including coconuts	<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

With regard to health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
With regard to the environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Seasonality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Variety of products	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Availability of local or regional production	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other comments – including, for example, required product quality: Products must be of adequate quality, according to commercial standards	
Other priorities for the choice of products:	
Local or regional purchase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Organic farming products	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Short supply chains	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental benefits (e.g. please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>
Products recognised under quality schemes pursuant to Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fair-trade	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	
Comments Organic farming products are favoured by a higher rate and, as from school year 2023/2024, the proportion of organic products must be at least 10% of the number of portions per school year. Fair-trade products or products recognised under quality schemes pursuant to Regulation 1151/2012 are not banned/restricted, but e they are not favoured.	

6. ACCOMPANYING EDUCATIONAL MEASURES

Article 23(10) of the Basic Act and Article 2(1)(j) of the Implementing Regulation

Accompanying educational measures are intended to promote the distribution and consumption of fruit, vegetables, milk and dairy products, increase the short- and long-term consumption of these products, and help to create healthy eating habits among children. In order to make them accessible to as many pupils as possible from the target group, accompanying educational measures are not limited to a particular geographical area or type of educational establishment. They are intended for primary school pupils, and teachers can also take part in the events.

Under the school scheme, accompanying educational measures are provided by approved applicants on the basis of an accompanying educational plan submitted by them, which is approved at the beginning of the school year by the SAIF in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and the Ministry of Health. The SAIF also publishes a Notice on the eligibility of proposed accompanying educational measures for aid for the given school year, including an indication of the type of accompanying educational measures and the costs to be reimbursed (and up to what amount) or not reimbursed because they do not satisfy some requirement of the school scheme. The specific means of implementing accompanying measures are discussed by approved applicants with individual schools where the implementation of the accompanying educational measures is based primarily on the conditions and special educational needs of the pupils in those schools. Accompanying measures can also be used as recommendations for schools on how to guide pupils to eat fruit and vegetables, milk and milk products. Applicants can also take into account the issue of organic farming.

In view of the newly introduced compulsory percentage of organic products, applicants should take into account the issue of organic agricultural production in the accompanying educational measures as from the school year 2023/2024.

School heads can use the document ‘Quality criteria for accompanying measures of the “School Fruit and Vegetables Scheme” and “School Milk Scheme”, in which the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports has formulated general, basic requirements on how, and under what circumstances, the accompanying measure should be implemented, and who should implement them. These criteria are understood to be a tool to enable school heads to evaluate the extent to which the defined requirements are met, in order to distinguish between high quality and low quality measures. This should, among other things, help to exert pressure on their providers to monitor, evaluate and increase the quality of measures.

Accompanying educational measures under the school scheme may form part of the basic education areas People and Health (in the area of Health Education) and People’s World, which are part of the framework educational programmes for the respective levels of education. School Scheme educational activities carried out as a part of above mentioned educational areas are beyond the common activities covered by these educational areas.

Since the 2022/2023 school year, the applicant’s approval includes a commitment to implement accompanying educational measures.

Applicants who are involved in both parts of the school scheme are allowed to combine accompanying educational measures for fruit and vegetables and for milk in one action (e.g. a visit to a farm dedicated to crop and livestock production) in order to have a higher financial contribution for the implementation of the accompanying measure.

Accompanying educational measures are governed by European legislation, aimed at bringing children directly into contact with agriculture and the diversity of agricultural products, especially those produced in their region. Examples of accompanying educational measures are given in the table below.

Name:	Target	Content
meal preparation, cooking and tasting hours, workshops, laboratories and other similar activities	to motivate pupils to taste less familiar fruits and vegetables and to teach them how to prepare and store the presented products as well as the hygiene rules for preparing and consuming them	tastings of fruit and vegetables and processed fruit and vegetable products – tastings of different varieties (e.g. of apples) and less familiar fruits and vegetables, tastings of milk and dairy products, preparation of meals from products (e.g. spreads, soups, etc.), tastings of other agricultural products such as honey, dry shell fruit, including coconuts, dried fruits and vegetables
visits to farms, networks of orchards, producer organisations, milk processing establishments, agricultural markets, warehouses, sorting and packaging centres for fruit and vegetables, agricultural museums and other similar activities	to expand pupils' knowledge and skills in the cultivation, processing and further use of fruit, vegetables and milk, in line with the principles of education for sustainable development	field trips to agricultural and horticultural establishments, farms and establishments focusing on production, distribution, processing or sale of fruit, vegetables or milk and dairy products, agricultural museums or similar institutions

Name:	Target	Content
lessons, seminars, conferences, workshops and other similar activities	to introduce children to the importance of eating fruit, vegetables, milk and especially unflavoured dairy products, and to rules for the safe preparation and consumption of fruits, vegetables and milk (hygiene rules for preparation, quality assessment, rules for the appropriate choice of fruits and vegetables in terms of quality etc.).	Educational actions, including teaching materials, about products supplied under the school scheme, about healthy eating habits and organic production, and about environmental protection related to the production, distribution and consumption of fruits and vegetables and milk and dairy products, with the exception of the creation and use of internet presentations
teaching materials, competitions, games, educational quizzes, thematic days or weeks and other similar activities	to promote fruit, vegetables, milk and dairy products and their consumption in a fun way	organisation of school competitions, games, educational commissions, thematic days to promote consumption of fruits, vegetables or milk and dairy products, competitions within or between classes or schools that belong to the same applicant using the themes of fruit, vegetables, milk and dairy products, including teaching material
establishment and maintenance of school gardens and orchards	teaching and broadening practical activities on school grounds, in wildlife corners, in laboratories etc. give pupils the chance to acquire practical skills that can be applied in real life (laboratory observations, cultivation etc.)	support for equipment for school grounds, in particular the acquisition of tools, composts or seedlings, linked to pupils' work on the school grounds, and support for small-scale gardening activities

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 scheme, fresh fruit and vegetables, fruit and vegetable juices and purees, drinking milk and unflavoured dairy products are supplied free of charge.

Since school year 2021/2022, a system of fixed aid per portion is in place to be paid from the scheme budget. This fixed amount of aid per portion covers both the cost of the products and all ancillary costs associated to their supply. More information is provided in chapter 7.6.

Accompanying educational measures are also provided to children free of charge. For these measures, a cost-based system is applied, whereby the approved applicant submits the invoices for the actions carried out to the paying agency.

7.2. Frequency and duration of the supply 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

Expected frequency of distribution (supply)

	School Fruit and Vegetables	School Milk
Once a week	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Twice a week	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Three times a week	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Four times a week	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Daily	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: once every 2 weeks or once a month	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

The SAIF provides notification of the minimum number of deliveries of products per month before the start of the school year with respect to the amount of funds earmarked for the scheme in the school year.

In the school years 2017/2018 to 2021/2022, they were set at a minimum of 2 deliveries per month. In the 2022/2023 school year, given the lack of financial resources from the Czech budget, a minimum number of deliveries per month will be set.

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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whole school year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

The applicant must ensure the supply of fruit, vegetables, milk and dairy products throughout the school year.

Expected duration of accompanying educational measures during the school year:

(please provide the number of hours or a short explanation/comment)

Accompanying educational measures are carried out by applicants in a particular school year either as one-off, separate measures (e.g. tastings, field trips, educational events, purchases of gardening tools) or as several types of accompanying educational measures performed at the same time (e.g. a tasting + educational events etc.), depending on the limit amount limit per pupil (i.e. the amount of funds allocated for the implementation of the accompanying educational measures per pupil per school year). Pupils then work on school grounds or tend to plants supplied under these measures (without further intervention by the applicant/supplier of accompanying events) continuously throughout the school year.

7.3. Timetable for the supply of School Fruit and Vegetables/School Milk

Article 23(8) – and Article 23a(8) if deliveries are made with other food – of the Basic Act and Article 2(2)(b) of the Implementing Regulation

Expected timetable for distribution during the day:

	School Fruit and Vegetables	School Milk
Morning/morning breaks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
During lunch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Afternoon/afternoon breaks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

Pupils receive products outside the main course, most often during breaks between lessons. In some cases, pupils receive products during a lesson, when it is accompanied by instruction.

All product packaging must be labelled with the words ‘School Scheme’ to distinguish it from other products sold or supplied to schools.

Products supplied under the school scheme must not be used for food preparation for state-subsidised school meals.

7.4. Supply of the dairy 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, and Article 2(2)(f) of the Implementing Regulation

No

Yes

Flavoured dairy products are supplied only as part of accompanying educational measures and the aid is paid only from Czech funds.

EU support does not reimburse distribution/transport costs.

7.5. Selection of suppliers

Article 23(8) of the Basic Act and Article 2(1)(l) of the Implementing Regulation

For products, the supplier of fruit, vegetables, milk and dairy products to schools is a private entity (= approved applicant), which supplies products directly to schools (e.g. grower, dairy, distributor). The approval of an applicant is conditional upon fulfilment of the requirements set out in § 6 of Government Regulation No 74/2017, that is:

- to furnish a list of names of products and other necessary documentation.

An approved applicant must then:

- furnish proof of a contract concluded with the school,
- fulfil the obligation to make the minimum number of deliveries of products to the school as determined by the paying agency,
- fulfil the obligation to supply products throughout the school year
- fulfil the commitment to implement accompanying educational measures (applicable from school year 2022/2023).

An applicant submits an application for approval to the Paying Agency (SAIF), which approves it if it satisfies the requirements laid down by EU and Czech legislation. This is an administrative procedure. Publicity takes the form of publication of the national legislation in the Collection of Laws and publication of information on the websites of the Paying Agency and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Accompanying educational measures are carried out only by approved applicants, which can outsource this service.

Monitoring and evaluation take place at the national level and are provided by the SAIF. Evaluation is carried out using a questionnaire survey of approved applicants, head teachers of participating schools, and the parents of pupils. The evaluation will be carried out every five years and may be elaborated by the independent body.

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

As from the 2021/2022 school year, the Czech Republic applies a flat-rate system for the the supply of products. Fresh fruit and vegetables, drinking milk and unflavoured dairy products are supplied free of charge. Annex V products are partly paid by parents.

Applicants submit oan overview of their monthly deliveries of products to each school to which they deliver the products, and a general overview of the individual types of delivered product, including price and quantity and total number of pupils for whom aid is requested for the products during the delivery period, including the quantity and the total number of pupils for whom support is requested for the products during the delivery period, according to § 9 of Government Regulation No 74/2017.

The basis for calculating the amount of aid has been determined by the Institute for Agricultural Economics and Information (ÚZEI), based on the prices of agricultural products, the prices of industrial products, consumer prices and data obtained from questionnaires completed by applicants. On that basis, the purchase price was determined, along with the costs of transportation, packaging and packaging technology, product completion, administrative costs and margins. The level of support for individual products was subsequently calculated on the basis of those costs⁵:

Fruit and vegetables: $P + O \times i_{CZV} + D \times i_{\check{C}esmad} + (K + Kr) \times i_{mn} + Ax i_{mn} + M$

Dairy products: $P + O \times i_{CPV} + D \times i_{\check{C}esmad} + (K + Kr) \times i_{mn} + Ax i_{mn} + M$

where:

P = costs of purchasing a product including the reserve

O = costs of purchasing packaging including the margin

K = costs of completion in the storeroom including the margin

Kr = costs of cutting and portioning including the margin

D = transportation price (price of the service including the margin)

A = administrative costs

i_{CPV} = industrial producers' price index with the 2020 basis

i_{mn} = labour costs index with the 2020 basis

$i_{\check{C}esmad}$ = $\check{C}esmad$ index

CZV = price of agricultural products

CPV = price of industrial products

⁵ Calculations and formulae from the ÚZEI study.

M = margin of 10%, calculated from the basic price

The flat-rate system for products is set out in Annexes 1 and 2 to Government Regulation No 74/2017. This amount of aid shall be regularly updated.

For the accompanying educational measures the Czech Republic applies a cost-based system. Costs are reimbursed on the basis of costs actually incurred, supported by invoices that the approved applicant submit to the paying agency.

In order to keep within the financial budget for a given school year, a limit is also set per pupil for the products and the accompanying educational measures for that school year. These limits are calculated from the amount available for projects during the school year, divided by the number of pupils registered for that project in that year. Of the total amount, around 15 % is earmarked for the accompanying educational measures, while the remaining 74 – 84 % or so is earmarked for the products (1 to 10 % goes towards associated costs). These limits are set before the start of the 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

Leasing and rental costs are not reimbursed. Distribution costs are reimbursed up to the fixed aid amount for product in which they are included.

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 Ministry of Agriculture draws up strategies and applications for the scheme, which are sent every school year, and national legislation (Government Regulations). It co-decides on a list of eligible products and accompanying educational measures.

The Ministry of Health and SAIF are involved in the preparation of national legislation and the development of the strategy, co-decide on a list of eligible products and participate in the approval of plans for the accompanying educational measures.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports participates in the preparation of national legislation, and the creation of strategies and as part of evaluations, it may collaborate on communication with schools.

The SAIF is responsible for administration and monitoring of compliance with scheme-related legislation.

Private entities manage the distribution of products (fruit, vegetables, milk and dairy products) and the accompanying educational measures in the educational establishments participating in the scheme.

The fruit and vegetable sector (e.g. producers) and the dairy sector (dairies) participate in the scheme either by distributing and supplying products or by implementing accompanying educational measures. Growers' and dairy associations are consulted on legislation.

Approved applicants, associations and unions participate in the preparation of national legislation (they have the opportunity to comment).

Schools and parents participate in the evaluation of the school scheme by means of questionnaire surveys.

7.8. Information and publicity

Article 23a(8) of the Basic Act and Article 2(1)(m) of the Implementing Regulation

There is a website concerning the school scheme <http://www.skolniprojekty.info/>, the signpost for links to:

- School Fruit and Vegetables - <https://ovocedoskol.szif.cz/web> and
- School Milk - <https://mlekodoskol.szif.cz/>

All information on the school schemes can be also found at <http://www.szif.cz/cs/skolni-projekty>, where there are links to the School Fruit and Vegetables part (<http://www.szif.cz/cs/ovoce-do-skol>) and the School Milk part (<https://www.szif.cz/cs/mleko-do-skol>).

Links to the school scheme are also found at websites of the Ministry of Agriculture <http://eagri.cz/public/web/mze/zemedelstvi/roslinna-vyroba/ovoce-do-skol-1/>.

SAIF and the Ministry of Agriculture publish promotional items on which is stated that it is an EU school scheme.

7.9. Administrative and on-the-spot checks

Article 2(2)(g) of the Implementing Regulation

On-the-spot checks are carried out on the basis of risk analyses. The SAIF carries out physical on-the-spot checks to verify compliance with the conditions of the ‘school scheme’ as defined by EU and Czech legislation concerning aid applicants and schools. Physical on-the-spot checks verify whether the data declared by the applicant in its application for approval and application for aid correspond to reality, and whether all commitments and obligations of the applicant arising from contractual arrangements and the applicable legislation that can be verified at the time of the check are met. On-the-spot checks are carried out on the basis of risk analyses. On-the-spot checks are performed by authorised field inspectors working for SAIF regional offices. Checks can also be performed by authorised officials of other state authorities (CAFIA) and officials of EU bodies. In principle, checks are unannounced, but if the purpose of the check is not compromised, a field inspector can announce that a check will take place.

Administrative checks are carried out on all applications for aid under a school scheme. Because of the broad scope of administration involved, the representative sample principle pursuant to Article 9(2) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/39 is used when performing administrative checks of supporting documents submitted together with an aid application.

The SAIF is responsible for administrative and on-the-spot checks, and performs them at the national level.

7.10. Monitoring and evaluation

Article 2(2)(g) of the Implementing Regulation

Annual monitoring to be sent to the European Commission is prepared by the SAIF.

The evaluation of the scheme is provided by the SAIF. This evaluation will be carried out every five years and may be elaborated by the independent body. For the evaluation to be submitted to the European Commission by the 1 March 2023, SAIF concluded a contract with the National Institute of Public Health.

Monitoring and evaluation take place at the national level.