

# The EU school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme



## Annual monitoring report

2022/2023 school year

Country/region: **Malta**

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Information by the country's competent authorities. The report is sent to, but not approved by, the Commission that may make comments.

Non-mandatory information, nevertheless recommended for the quality of the report, in grey.

Figures on budget execution (31 December 2023) are preliminary: corrections are possible and payments may still be made.

# 1. Budget execution

## 1.1. Expenditure for the supply/distribution of products (EUR)

	School fruit and vegetables			School milk				Total
	Fresh	Processed	Total fruits and vegetables	Drinking milk and lactose-free versions	Cheese, curd, yoghurt and other milk products with no added flavouring, fruit, nuts or cocoa	Milk products with added flavouring, fruit, nuts or cocoa	Total milk and milk products	
<b>EU aid</b>	5 337		<b>5 337</b>	3 751			<b>3 751</b>	<b>9 088</b>
<b>National Funds</b>	399 518		<b>399 518</b>	29 669			<b>29 669</b>	<b>429 187</b>
<i>of which: Public</i>								
<i>of which: Private</i>								
<b>Comments</b>	<p>The Fruit and Vegetable Scheme was not implemented due to COVID-19 restrictions in schools during year 2021/2022 as it proved technically difficult to implement the Scheme through a voucher-based system. Moreover, the request for a negotiated procedure was rejected by the Department of Contracts. However, remaining contractual obligations during scholastic year 2022/2023 were fulfilled through an extension of the pre-COVID-19 contract which was granted by the Department of Contracts. These were covered entirely through national funds.</p> <p>A tender was then published for the services and supply of products in relation to educational Roadshows in educational establishments which was concluded in May 2022 and hence implementation started in early June 2022. Pre-financing element was paid of 40% of the project value spanning 2 year period. This shall be reimbursed through EU funds against receipts of actual delivery of services.</p>			<p>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and school closures from March 2020 the School Milk Scheme was halted. ARPA then entered into a Negotiated Procedure with the sole supplier and the School Milk Scheme was implemented as from January 2021 through an off-premises voucher system as approved by the Commission through Ref. Ares (2021)2556975 of 15/04/2021 whereby the milk portion was doubled to 500 ml. National funds served to finance the consumption of portions by students. The voucher-based system ended in April 2022 when L.N 125 of 2022 came into force as of 2 May 2022, repealing S.L. 465.64 which had seen to the closure of Schools. ▣</p> <p>A tender was then published for the services and supply of products in relation to educational Roadshows in educational establishments which was concluded in May 2022 and hence implementation started in early June 2022. Pre-financing element was paid of 40% of the project value spanning 2 year period. This shall be reimbursed through EU funds against receipts of actual delivery of services.</p>				

## 1.2. Expenditure for the educational measures (EUR)

	On school fruit and vegetables	On school milk	Total
<b>EU aid</b>		12 500	<b>12 500</b>
<b>National Funds</b>		239 913	<b>239 913</b>
<i>of which: Public</i>			
<i>of which: Private</i>			
<b>Comments</b>	<p>A tender was published, following the release of restrictions in schools limiting third parties from entering school premises as part of the COVID-19 protocols, for the services and supply of products in relation to educational Roadshows in educational establishments which was concluded in May 2022 and hence implementation started in early June 2022. Pre-financing element was paid of 40% of the project value spanning 2 year period. This shall be reimbursed through EU funds against receipts of actual delivery of services.</p>		

## 1.3. Expenditure for information, monitoring and evaluation (EUR)

	On school fruit and vegetables	On school milk	Total
<b>EU aid</b>		3 167	<b>3 167</b>
<b>National Funds</b>			
<i>of which: Public</i>			
<i>of which: Private</i>			
<b>Comments</b>	<p>These costs relate to the design, production, setting up, dismantling and transportation which are covered by Article 23(1)(c) of Regulation (EU) 1308/2013: to cover certain related costs linked to equipment, publicity, monitoring and evaluation, and, insofar as those costs are not covered by point (a) of this subparagraph, logistics and distribution.</p> <p>A tender was published, following the release of restrictions in schools limiting third parties from entering school premises as part of the COVID-19 protocols, for the services and supply of products in relation to educational Roadshows in educational establishments which was concluded in May 2022 and hence implementation started in early June 2022. Pre-financing element was paid of 40% of the project value spanning 2 year period. This shall be reimbursed through EU funds against receipts of actual delivery of services.</p>		

## 2.1 Participating children

	Participating children		
	Number of children	Number of children who participated in the school fruit and vegetables part	Number of children who participated in the school milk part
<b>Nurseries/Pre-schools</b>			
<i>Of which: Nurseries</i>			
<i>Of which: Pre-schools</i>			
<b>Primary schools</b>	22 951	22 951	2 207
<b>Secondary schools</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>22 951</b>	<b>22 951</b>	<b>2 207</b>
<b>Comments</b>	<p>The Fruit and Vegetable Scheme was not implemented due to COVID-19 restrictions in schools during year 2021/2022 as it proved technically difficult to implement the Scheme through a voucher-based system. Moreover, the request for a negotiated procedure was rejected by the Department of Contracts. However, remaining contractual obligations during scholastic year 2022/2023 were fulfilled through an extension of the pre-COVID-19 contract which was granted by the Department of Contracts. These were covered entirely through national funds.</p> <p>A tender was then published for the services and supply of products in relation to educational Roadshows in educational establishments which was concluded in May 2022 and hence implementation started in early June 2022.</p>		<p>A tender was then published for the services and supply of products in relation to educational Roadshows in educational establishments which was concluded in May 2022 and hence implementation started in early June 2022.</p>

## 2.2 Number of children in the target group

	Number of children in the target group set out in the strategy
<b>Nurseries/Pre-schools</b>	
<i>Of which: Nurseries</i>	
<i>Of which: Pre-schools</i>	
<b>Primary schools</b>	
<b>Secondary schools</b>	
<b>Total</b>	
<b>Comments</b>	<p>The target group as set out in the National Strategy are Primary School Children aged 3-11 years.</p>



## 2.3 Total number of children

	Number of children eligible for the EU school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme
<b>Nurseries/Pre-schools</b>	
<i>Of which: Nurseries</i>	
<i>Of which: Pre-schools</i>	
<b>Primary schools</b>	
<b>Secondary schools</b>	
<b>Total</b>	
<b>Comments</b>	<p>The target group as set out in the National Strategy are Primary School Children aged 3-11 years.</p>



### 3.1 Participating schools

	Participating schools		
	Number of schools	Number of schools that participated in the school fruit and vegetables part	Number of schools that participated in the school milk part
<b>Nurseries/Pre-schools</b>			
<i>Of which: Nurseries</i>			
<i>Of which: Pre-schools</i>			
<b>Primary schools</b>	163	106	57
<b>Secondary schools</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Comments</b>			

### 3.2 Number of schools in the target group

	Number of educational establishments in the target group set out in the strategy
<b>Nurseries/Pre-schools</b>	
<i>Of which: Nurseries</i>	
<i>Of which: Pre-schools</i>	
<b>Primary schools</b>	
<b>Secondary schools</b>	
<b>Total</b>	
<b>Comments</b>	<i>All state and non-state primary schools are eligible to participate as per National Strategy.</i>

### 3.3 Total number of schools

<b>Nurseries/Pre-schools</b>	
<i>Of which: Nurseries</i>	
<i>Of which: Pre-schools</i>	
<b>Primary schools</b>	
<b>Secondary schools</b>	
<b>Total</b>	
<b>Comments</b>	<i>All state and non-state primary schools are eligible to participate as per National Strategy.</i>



**4.1 Products supplied/distributed to schoolchildren and, if applicable, tasted by schoolchildren as part of educational measures**

**4.1.1 Fresh fruit**

	List
Apples	✓
Apricots	
Aromatic Herbs	
Avocados	
Bananas	
Berries	
Cherries	
Citrus Fruit	✓
Figs	
Grapes	✓
Guavas/Mangoes	
Kiwis	
Melons	✓
Nuts	
Peaches/Nectarines	
Pears	✓
Pineapples	✓
Plums	
Quinces	
Strawberries	
Watermelons	✓
Comments	

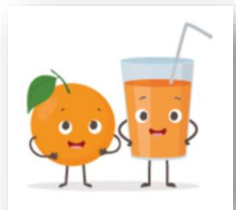


**4.1.2 Fresh vegetables**

	List
Artichokes	
Asparagus	
Aubergines	
Beet	
Broccoli	
Cabbages	
Carrots	✓
Cauliflowers	
Celery	
Chicory	
Courgettes	
Cucumbers	✓
Fennel	
Kohlrabi	
Kale	
Garlic	
Gherkins	
Leeks	
Lettuce	
Mushrooms	
Onions	
Parsnips	
Peas	
Peppers	
Pulses	
Pumpkins	
Radishes	
Rutabagas	
Salad beetroot	
Salsifis	
Spinach	
Tomatoes	✓
Turnips	
Comments	

**4.1.3 Processed fruit and vegetables**

	List
Fruit Juices	
Fruit Purées/Compotes	
Jams/Marmalades	
Dried Fruits	
Vegetable Juices	
Other:	
Comments	



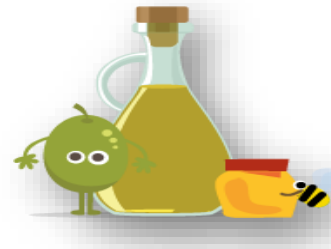
#### 4.1.4 Milk and milk products

	List
Drinking milk or lactose-free versions	✓
Cheese and curd	
Plain yoghurt	
Milk products without added sugar, flavouring, fruit, nuts or cocoa	
Milk products without fruit juice, naturally flavoured	
Milk products with fruit juice, naturally flavoured or non-flavoured	
Milk-based drinks with cocoa, with fruit juice or naturally flavoured	
Fermented or non-fermented milk products with fruit, naturally flavoured or non-flavoured	
Comments	



#### 4.1.5 Other agricultural products that children tasted as part of educational measures

	List
Table olives	
Olive oil	
Honey	
Other:	
Comments	



#### 4.1.a) Priorities for the choice of school fruit, vegetables and milk

	Yes/No	Comments
Local/regional purchasing	Yes	
Organic products	No	
Short supply chains	No	
Quality schemes	No	
Fair trade	No	
Other:		

#### 4.2 Average size of portion of school fruit, vegetables and milk (Kg/Lt)

	School fruit and vegetables	School milk
<b>Kg</b>	0.07	
<b>Liters</b>		0.25
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Each child was entitled to receive a portion of 75g of fruit/vegetables under the previous contract covering the period between February 2023 until June 2023.</p> <p>Under the new modality of the School Scheme Roadshows, each child receives a portion of minimum 60g. This new modality commenced in June 2023.</p>	<p>Each child receives a portion of 250 ml 2.5% fresh milk.</p>

#### 4.3 Average cost of portion of school fruit, vegetables and milk (EUR)

	School fruit and vegetables	School milk
<b>EU aid</b>	1.30	0.85
<b>National aid (private/public)</b>	1.30	0.85
<b>Comments</b>	<p>€0.59 per portion on the previous contract where fruit/vegetables were provided in pieces. This covered the period between February 2023 until June 2023.</p> <p>€1.30 per portion under the School Scheme Roadshows - specifications changed to a whole fruit/vegetables. This new modality commenced in June 2023.</p>	<p>Price is for a portion of 250ml 2.5% fat fresh milk.</p>

#### 4.3.a Average cost of portion of apples in bulk (EUR)

	Portion of apples in bulk
<b>EU aid</b>	
<b>National aid (private/public)</b>	
<b>Comments</b>	

#### 4.3.b Average cost of portion of drinking milk (EUR)

	Portion of drinking milk
<b>EU aid</b>	0.85
<b>National aid (private/public)</b>	0.85
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Price is for a portion of 250 ml 2.5% fat fresh milk</p>



#### 4.4. Frequency of supply/distribution of school fruit, vegetables and milk

	School fruit and vegetables	School milk
Once per week		
Twice per week		
Three times per week		
Four times per week		
Daily		
Other:	✓	✓
Comments	<p><i>The Fruit and Vegetable Scheme was not implemented due to COVID-19 restrictions in schools during year 2021/2022 as it proved technically difficult to implement the Scheme through a voucher-based system. Moreover, the request for a negotiated procedure was rejected by the Department of Contracts. However, remaining contractual obligations during scholastic year 2022/2023 were fulfilled through an extension of the pre-COVID-19 contract which was granted by the Department of Contracts. Portions were provided twice per week. These were covered entirely through national funds.</i></p> <p><i>A tender was then published for the services and supply of products in relation to educational Roadshows in educational establishments which was concluded in May 2022 and hence implementation started in early June 2022.</i></p>	<p><i>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and school closures from March 2020 the School Milk Scheme was halted.</i></p> <p><i>ARPA then entered into a Negotiated Procedure with the sole supplier and the School Milk Scheme was implemented as from January 2021 through an off-premises voucher system as approved by the Commission through Ref. Ares (2021)2556975 of 15/04/2021 whereby the milk portion was doubled to 500 ml. National funds served to finance the consumption of portions by students.</i></p> <p><i>The voucher-based system ended in April 2022 when L.N 125 of 2022 came into force as of 2 May 2022, repealing S.L. 465.64 which had seen to the closure of Schools.</i></p> <p><i>A tender was then published for the services and supply of products in relation to educational Roadshows in educational establishments which was concluded in May 2022 and hence implementation started in early June 2022.</i></p>

#### 4.5. Duration of supply/distribution of fruit, vegetables and milk

	School fruit and vegetables	School milk
≤ 2 weeks		
> 2 and ≤ 4 weeks		✓
> 4 and ≤ 12 weeks		
> 12 and ≤ 24 weeks	✓	
> 24 and ≤ 36 weeks		
Entire school year		
Other: please specify under comments		
Comments		



**4.5.a. Supplied/distributed portions**

	<b>School fruit and vegetables</b>	<b>School milk</b>
<b>Number of portions supplied/distributed per child</b>	4	1
<b>Comments</b>	<p><i>The Fruit and Vegetable Scheme was not implemented due to COVID-19 restrictions in schools during year 2021/2022 as it proved technically difficult to implement the Scheme through a voucher-based system. Moreover, the request for a negotiated procedure was rejected by the Department of Contracts. However, remaining contractual obligations during scholastic year 2022/2023 were fulfilled through an extension of the pre-COVID-19 contract which was granted by the Department of Contracts. These were covered entirely through national funds.</i></p> <p><i>A tender was then published for the services and supply of products in relation to educational Roadshows in educational establishments which was concluded in May 2022 and hence implementation started in early June 2022.</i></p>	<p><i>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and school closures from March 2020 the School Milk Scheme was halted.</i></p> <p><i>ARPA then entered into a Negotiated Procedure with the sole supplier and the School Milk Scheme was implemented as from January 2021 through an off-premises voucher system as approved by the Commission through Ref. Ares (2021)2556975 of 15/04/2021 whereby the milk portion was doubled to 500 ml. National funds served to finance the consumption of portions by students.</i></p> <p><i>The voucher-based system ended in April 2022 when L.N 125 of 2022 came into force as of 2 May 2022, repealing S.L. 465.64 which had seen to the closure of Schools.</i></p> <p><i>A tender was then published for the services and supply of products in relation to educational Roadshows in educational establishments which was concluded in May 2022 and hence implementation started in early June 2022.</i></p>

#### 4.6. Quantities of school fruit, vegetables and milk supplied/distributed and, if applicable, of other agricultural products that children tasted under educational measures

##### 4.6.1 Fresh fruit and vegetables

		Quantity	Of which organic products	Comments
Fresh fruit and vegetables	Quantity in kg	54 348		At least 1% of fruit and/or vegetables, selected according to the seasonality of produce to be used in carrying out the service must be organically produced according to Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.
Of which: Fruit	Quantity in kg			
Of which: Vegetables	Quantity in kg			

##### 4.6.2 Processed fruit and vegetables

		Quantity	Of which organic products	Comments
Processed fruit and vegetables	Quantity in kg			
	Quantity in litres			
Of which: Fruit juices	Quantity in litres			
Of which: Fruit purees/compotes	Quantity in kg			
Of which: Jams/Marmalades	Quantity in kg			
Of which: Dried fruits	Quantity in kg			
Of which: Vegetable juices	Quantity in litres			
Of which: Other	Quantity in kg			

##### 4.6.3 Milk and milk products

		Quantity	Of which organic products	Comments
Drinking milk and lactose-free versions	Quantity in litres	1 103		
Cheese and curd	Quantity in kg			
Plain yoghurt	Quantity in kg			
Milk products without added sugar, flavouring, fruit, nuts or cocoa	Quantity in kg			
	Quantity in litres			
Milk products without fruit juice, naturally flavoured	Quantity in kg			
Milk products with fruit juice, naturally flavoured or non-flavoured	Quantity in kg			
Milk-based drinks with cocoa, with fruit juice or naturally flavoured	Quantity in litres			
Milk products with fruit, naturally flavoured or non-flavoured	Quantity in kg			

##### 4.6.4 Other agricultural products

		Quantity	Of which organic products	Comments
Olive/olive oil	Quantity in kg			
	Quantity in litres			
Honey	Quantity in kg			
Others:	Quantity in kg			

## 5.1 Educational measures carried out

		Number of schoolchildren	Comments
Type of measure	School gardens	0	
	Visits to farms, dairies, famers' markets and similar activities	0	
	Tasting classes, cooking workshops, other	0	
	Lessons, lectures, workshops	4 105	<i>School Scheme Roadshows emphasise the educational aspect of the Scheme through age-appropriate workshops organised in clusters in all participating schools. The Roadshows commenced in June 2023.</i>
	Other activities: competitions, games, themed periods ...	0	

## 5.2 Theme(s) of the educational measures carried out

		Yes/No	Comments
Theme(s)	Reconnection of children to agriculture	Yes	
	Healthy eating habits	Yes	
	Local food chains	Yes	
	Organic	Yes	
	Sustainable production	No	
	Food waste	Yes	
	Other: please specify under comments	No	



## 6. Communication activities carried out

		Yes/No	Comments
Activity carried out/tool used	Poster at school premises	Yes	Posters were distributed during the previous scholastic year but schools will be provided a new poster if necessary.
	Poster at other relevant places	Yes	Roll up banner at the Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency - Agency responsible for the overall management of school scheme.
	Dedicated website(s)	Yes	Information on the Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency website - Agency responsible for the overall management of school scheme.
	Informative graphic material	No	
	Information and awareness campaign (TV, radio, social media)	No	
	Others (e.g. networking activities)	No	



## 7. Authorities and stakeholders involved

			Name	Involved in Planning	Involved in Implementation	Involved in Monitoring	Involved in Evaluation	Responsible for implementation / supervision / advice (if yes, please specify for which of those under comments)	Member of Steering / Consultative or Coordination / Monitoring Committee (if yes, please specify which committee or group under comments)	Participation in regular meetings	Events (conferences/seminars, workshops ...) (if yes, please specify which event/s under comments)	Surveys or other information / communication activities, including through web and social media (if yes, please specify which activity/ies under comments)	Other (if yes, please specify under comments)	Comments	
Public authority/ Private stakeholder	Agriculture	Authority	Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency (ARPA)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	The Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency is responsible for the overall management, control and monitoring of the scheme, including procurement and payment procedures.	
		Stakeholder	N/A	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
	Health and Nutrition	Authority	Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Directorate	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	The Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Directorate within the Superintendence of Public Health certifies that children are receiving top quality healthy products, and plays a very active role in the dissemination of information as regards health benefits in the consumption of fruit, vegetables and milk as part of a healthy diet.
		Stakeholder	N/A	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
	Education	Authority	National School Support Services	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	National School Support Services, within the ministry is responsible for liaising with the educational establishments. The Home Economics Seminar Centre within the Department of Curriculum Research, Innovation and Lifelong Learning, Directorate for Learning and Assessment Programmes, is responsible for promoting the New School Scheme in school curricula. The HESC also co-ordinates and facilitates age-appropriate, interactive, educational activities to promote the health benefits associated with the consumption of fruit, vegetables and milk as part of a healthy diet
		Stakeholder	N/A	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
	Other	Authority	N/A	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
		Stakeholder	N/A	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	