

**Strategy of the Slovak Republic for the implementation of the
school scheme for the 2017/2018-2022/2023 school years**

DATE: JULY 2017, AMENDED IN JULY 2019¹

¹ Amendment to the target group, aligned under the two parts of the scheme as from the beginning of the 2019/2020 school year. Under the new national legislation, school milk is provided to secondary schools only for pupils with special educational needs. The target group for school fruit and vegetables is extended to pupils with special educational needs in secondary schools. These changes have been discussed with the authorities/stakeholders indicated in part 7.

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1. ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL

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

National	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
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

- to increase the consumption of fruit, vegetables and milk and products made from them by children and pupils (hereinafter referred to as ‘children’),
- to help to change the eating habits of children with regard to nutritional recommendations, to reduce the risk of the prevalence of chronic non-communicable diseases by increasing nutritional literacy, and to help instil the right eating habits in children
- to increase awareness by children of the health effects of fruit, vegetables and milk and products made from them,
- to provide accompanying measures, for example visits by children to agricultural enterprises, fruit orchards and processing plants in the form of field trips, lectures, tastings etc.,
- to use educational activities to reduce food waste and thereby protect the environment.

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)	Specific objective(s)	Result indicator(s)	Output indicator(s)
Increased consumption of fruit/vegetables/milk and milk products in children's diets.	5 % increase in direct consumption of fruit/vegetables/milk and milk products by children after 6 years of application of the scheme,	Increase in the % consumption of fruit/vegetables/milk and milk products by children in schools.	40 % of children involved in the School Fruit and Vegetable part of the Scheme during the school year out of the total number of children in the target group.	Number of children participating in the School Fruit and Vegetable part of the Scheme during the school year.
			40 % of children involved in the School Milk part of the Scheme during the school year out of the total number of children in the target group.	Number of children participating in the School Milk part of the Scheme during the school year.
			40 % of schools involved in the School Fruit and Vegetable part of the scheme during the school year out of the total number of schools in the target group.	Number of schools involved in the school scheme during the school year.
				Average consumption of fruit and vegetables per child and school year (quantity in kg/l).
	5 % increase in the number of children in schools with better knowledge of agriculture and agricultural products, healthy eating habits and combatting food waste after 6 years of application of the scheme.	Increase in the % of children in schools involved in educational measures. Education on healthy eating habits and combatting food waste.	40 % of schools involved in the School Milk part of the Scheme during the school year out of the total number of schools in the target group.	Number of schools involved in the school scheme during the school year.
				Average consumption of milk per child and school year (quantity in kg/l).
			20 % of children involved in accompanying educational measures during the school year out of the total number of children in the target group.	Number of children involved in educational measures per school year.
				Expenditure on educational measures during school year.
			Number of activities during the school year.	

2.3. Baseline

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

Fruit, vegetables, milk and milk products

The initial situation for the evaluation of the objectives of the scheme is based on consumption of products in the first school year 2017/2018 by the children involved in the scheme. This means that evaluations take into account the data from the monitoring of the first school year of the scheme as well as the data from the initial questionnaire conducted by the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic according to the point 7.10. (baseline data) in order to compare these data to the yearly consumption and other obtained information.

The methods of the evaluation can be a subject to possible changes due to the fact that the EU guidelines have not been provided yet.

Previous School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme:

The Slovak Republic has been involved in the scheme since it was introduced in the European Union.

Target group

Guide capacity – the number of children aged 6-10 years is 262,703 according to Regulation (EU) No 288/2009, as amended.

The Slovak Republic has supported – children aged 3-15 years (the numbers of supported children in this target group in each year are given in Table 1).

Target group comprises: – nursery-school children (3-5),
– primary-school children (6-15),
– including disabled and gifted children.

Means of funding:

2014/2015 – 80% allocated amount from the EU,
– 20% national funds – paid as a parental contribution or by the pupil.

Served: morning or afternoon break, using school catering facilities – predominantly after lunch.

Eligible products: temperate fruit and vegetables from domestic or EU production: apples, pears, peaches, apricots, plums, cherries, strawberries, small fruits, tomatoes, peppers, radishes, kohlrabies, carrots, peas, dried apple chips, 100% natural fruit and vegetable juices, fruit purees.

Requirement: starting in the 2014/2015 school year, the national strategy and national legal regulations have introduced a ratio of fresh to processed fruit and vegetables supplied that favours fresh fruit and vegetables. The processed fruit and vegetables supplied by one supplier during each implementation period cannot exceed 50% of the total volume supplied of fruit, vegetables and products made from them.

Non-eligible products: added sugar, fat, salt, artificial sweeteners, juices from concentrates, nectars and citrus fruits, sweetened purees.

Recommended portion: 0.12-0.2 kg of fresh fruit, vegetables or purees, and up to 0.2 l of fruit juice. In the case of fruit chips, up to 0.03 kg, i.e. up to 30 g/portion.

The price of one portion and price of 1 kg or 1 l was set in Slovak Government Regulation No 341/2009, as amended, and in the National Strategy of the Slovak Republic for the School Fruit and Scheme.

A comparison of the individual school years from 2011/2012 to 2015/2016 shows an increase in the total number of schools (average growth 15.11%), children (average growth 11.58%) and suppliers (average growth 8.08%) involved in the scheme.

Comparison of the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme budget by school year

Table 1

School year	EU funds allocated (EUR)	Drawdown of EU funds during the school year (EUR)	Drawdown of EU funds (%)	Funds allocated from the SR budget (EUR)	Drawdown of SR funds during the school year (EUR)	Drawdown of SR funds (%)
2011/2012	2,193,452.00	2,068,161.70	94.29	0.00	0.00	0.00
2012/2013	2,536,966.00	2,376,587.00	93.68	0.00	0.00	0.00
2013/2014	1,891,050.00	1,882,161.60	99.53	600,000.00	588,917.23	98.15
2014/2015	3,001,526.00	2,983,503.00	99.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
2015/2016	2,646,843.00	2,646,842.98	100.00	645,178.00	567,921.93	88.03

Source: Agricultural Paying Agency

Comparison of the number of schools, children and suppliers involved by school year

Table 2

School year	Number of involved schools in the target group	Increase (%)	Number of children involved	Increase (%)	Number of suppliers	Increase (%)
2011/2012	1,694.00	0.00	341,843.00	0.00	28	0.00
2012/2013	1,917.00	13.16	393,851.00	15.21	32	14.29
2013/2014	2,358.00	23.00	445,522.00	13.12	34	6.25
2014/2015	2,719.00	15.31	494,829.00	11.07	34	0.00
2015/2016	2,963.00	8.97	529,123.00	6.93	38	11.76

Source: Agricultural Paying Agency

Overview of fresh and processed fruit and vegetables by school year

Table 3

School year	Fresh fruit (t)	Fresh fruit in portions	Processed fruit (l)	Processed fruit (t)	Processed fruit and vegetables in portions	% fresh fruit and vegetables	% processed fruit and vegetables
2011/2012	899.76	4,498,806.40	847,322.36	31.99	4,396,537.30	50.57	49.43
2012/2013	1,015.66	5,077,801.85	974,668.25	37.50	5,060,790.85	50.08	49.92
2013/2014	1,062.61	5,313,058.90	1,026,352.46	30.79	5,285,716.10	50.13	49.87
2014/2015	1,256.81	6,284,082.30	1,077,013.24	34.88	5,559,464.30	53.06	46.94
2015/2016	1,234.02	6,170,098.65	1,002,048.06	32.57	5,254,047.15	54.01	45.99

Source: Agricultural Paying Agency

Accompanying Educational Measures 2011 – 2016

The accompanying educational measures were carried out by the suppliers and involved ministries - the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic according to their competences.

Realized accompanying educational measures like lectures and discussions and educational materials, leaflets on healthy nutrition and on improving the dietary habits of children were prepared in cooperation with the relevant authorities. An important

element was cooperation with parents of children who were acquainted with the importance of the School Fruit and Vegetables project during Parents evenings.

Suppliers of fruit and vegetables carried out accompanying educational activities like including visits to orchards, where children were educated, familiarized with cultivation, storage and processing of fruit and vegetables. Further activities were organized such as interactive games and competitions focusing on the health benefits of eating fruit and vegetables.

For evaluation of the program a questionnaire survey on the impact of the School Fruit and Vegetables program on the dietary habits of children was carried out through the Regional Public Health authorities in the nursery-schools, primary-schools including the establishments for disabled and gifted children. An anonymous questionnaire was completed by parents. The survey found that fruit and vegetables are a daily part of the diet of most children. Children who are attending participating schools are more likely to consume fruit and vegetables. More than half of children consume fruits and vegetables once or twice a day, the frequency of fruit consumption has not changed significantly from 2010 to 2016. According to the previous survey in 2010/2011 children eat vegetables mostly three or more times a week. According to the questionnaire, the consumption of vegetables increased in the period from 2010 to 2016. The parents said that their children consumed vegetable once to twice a day.

Previous School Milk Scheme:

Implementation of the scheme began in 2004, when Slovakia acceded to the European Union. In 2004, nursery and primary schools could become involved in the scheme, and the product range consisted of milk and unflavoured milk products. At that time, approximately 100 schools were involved in the scheme. In order to increase the consumption of milk and milk products and to make the scheme more attractive, milk and milk products were also provided at secondary schools from the 2008/2009 school year. The scheme offered secondary schools the same access as primary and nursery schools. The range of products was also gradually broadened to include flavoured milk products, fermented milk products, cheeses and curds, which children like. The increased success of the School Milk Scheme is also borne out by the fact that the number of schools involved in the scheme grew to 2,303 in the 2015/2016 school year. The number of children and pupils involved in the scheme is also gradually increasing.

Target group:

The Slovak Republic has supported children aged 3-18 years (the numbers of supported children in this target group in each year are given in Table 5).

Target group comprises:

- nursery-school children (3-5 years),
- primary-school pupils (6-15 years),
- secondary-school pupils (15-18 years),
- nursery-school children and primary-school pupils with special educational needs.

Overview of the number of schools, children and pupils involved and the quantity of supported products by school year

Table 5

School year	Number of schools involved	Trend (%)	Number of children and pupils involved (estimate)	Trend (%)	Number of supported products	Trend (%)	Quantity of supported products (t)	Trend (%)
2011/2012	1,679	8.32	225,046	8.16	26	4.00	3,160.60	6.80
2012/2013	1,863	10.96	245,727	9.19	31	19.23	3,504.10	10.87
2013/2014	1,923	3.22	262,018	6.63	37	19.35	3,610.80	3.05
2014/2015	2,292	19.19	275,455	5.13	43	16.22	3,756.70	4.04
2015/2016	2,303	0.48	301,749	9.55	47	9.30	3,717.90	-1.03

Source: Agricultural Paying Agency

Funding for the scheme had three components: EU funds, state budget funds, and amounts paid by pupils. The ratio of EU aid to aid from national sources was 1 : 2.13.

Table 6

School year	National funds (EUR)	European funds (EUR)	Total funds (EUR)
2011/2012	1,427,785.27	572,701.05	2,000,486.32,
2012/2013	1,392,756.78	638,579.07	2,031,335.85,
2013/2014	1,426,380.90	660,510.27	2,086,891.17,
2014/2015	1,489,286.27	689,636.66	2,178,922.93,
2015/2016	1,473,996.85	684,078.19	2,158,075.04

Source: Agricultural Paying Agency

The daily portion per child and pupil was 0.25 l of milk or product converted to milk equivalent for which aid was granted. A list of eligible products and maximum prices per portion were drawn up every year.

It is clear from Table 5 that the numbers of involved schools and pupils have grown in recent school years. An exception was the quantity of products supplied, which showed a slight decrease of 1.03 % between the 2014/15 and 2015/16 school years.

3. BUDGET

3.1. Union aid for the school scheme

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

EU aid for the school scheme (in EUR)	Period 1/8/2017 to 31/7/2023		
	School fruit and vegetables	School milk	Common elements if applicable
Distribution of school fruit and vegetables/school milk	8.583.112,8	4.417.932	
Accompanying educational measures	1.072.889,1	552.241,5	
Monitoring, evaluation, publicity	1.072.889,1	552.241,5	
Total	10.728.891	5.522.415	
Overall total	16.251.306*		

* Definitive allocation for 2017/2018 school year + indicative allocation for school years 2018/2019 to 2022/2023.

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 products	
		Milk/milk products other than Annex V	Annex V products
Supply/distribution			
Accompanying educational measures			
Monitoring, evaluation, publicity			
Total	18,463,462*		

Comment/explanatory text	
*Estimate of the state budget contribution to the common school scheme (fruit, vegetables and milk and products made from them) for the period from 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2023.	
The amount of national aid for the common school scheme is approved every year and may be changed, and its quantification is therefore merely indicative.	
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 (=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 through:</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	3-5 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Primary	6-15 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Secondary*	15-18 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

* Only schools and vocational training centres catering for children with special educational needs - under Part 7 of Act No 245/2008 as amended.

Comments

Based on objective criteria and the proposal by the national authorities concerned, the Slovak Republic commits to **provide** fresh and processed **fruit and vegetables** to the target group of children aged 3-18 years, specifically:

- pre-school children (3-5 years),
- primary-school pupils (6-15 years),
- pre-school, primary-school and secondary-school pupils with special educational needs – schools and vocational training centres under Part Seven of Act No 245/2008 on education and training, as amended.

The Slovak Republic will also continue to **provide milk and milk products** to support the target group of children aged 3-18 years, specifically:

- pre-school children (3-5 years),
- primary-school pupils (6-15 years),
- pre-school, primary-school and secondary-school pupils with special educational needs – schools and vocational training centres under Part Seven of Act No 245/2008 on education and training, as amended

The target groups were established according to the experience in the previous school schemes, taking into consideration the well-functioning systems. They will be subject to monitoring and evaluation during the duration of the school scheme and adjusted where appropriate.

5. LIST OF PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTED UNDER THE SCHOOL SCHEME

Article 23(9) of the Basic Act and Article 2(1) g of the Implementing Regulation

5.1. Fruit and vegetables

5.1.1. Fresh fruit and vegetables – Article 23(3)a of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013

Apricots, cherries, peaches, nectarines, plums	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carrots, turnips, salad beetroot, salsify, celeriac, radishes and other edible roots	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Apples, pears, quinces	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cabbages, cauliflowers and other edible brassicas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bananas	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Berries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cucumbers, gherkins	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Melons, watermelons	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tomatoes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Citrus fruit	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other vegetables: please specify ² Paprika/capsicum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tropical fruit ³	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other fruit: Strawberry Small berries (currants, raspberries, blueberries)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

² Other agricultural products than fruit and vegetables, as referred to in Article 23(7) of the Basic Act (e.g. olives), should not be reported here but under section 5.3.1

³ Pineapples, Avocados, Guavas, Mangos and Mangostines

List of eligible products:

Fresh fruit: apples, pears, peaches, apricots, plums, cherries, small berries (blackcurrants, raspberries, blueberries), strawberries;

Fresh vegetables: tomatoes, peppers, radishes, kohlrabies, carrots, green peas (unshelled).

The list of eligible fresh fruit and vegetable products - set out above is laid down in national legislation.

5.1.2. 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 juice*
Fruit purées	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	0% added sugar*
Jams, marmalades	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Dried fruits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		0% added sugar*
Vegetable juices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		0% added sugar*
Vegetable soups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other: please specify	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		

*specified in more detail in point 5.3.

5.2. Milk and milk products

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

Drinking milk and lactose-free versions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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5.2.2. Milk products - Article 23(4)b of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013

Products distributed under the school scheme		Added salt		Added fat		Comments (optional)	
		No	Yes	No	Yes		
Cheese and curd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	≤ 25,000 mg/kg*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	*Added salt applies only to cheese, not curd.
Plain yoghurt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fermented or acidified milk products without added sugar, flavouring, fruits, nuts or cocoa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		$\leq 7\%^*$
Category I (milk component $\geq 90\%$). Fermented milk products with fruit juice, naturally flavoured or non-flavoured	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		$\leq 7\%^*$
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"/>		$\leq 7\%^*$
Category II (milk component $\geq 75\%$). Fermented or non-fermented milk products with fruit, naturally flavoured or non-flavoured	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		$\leq 7\%^*$

*During school years, the maximum content of added sugar in milk products will progressively be reduced within the meaning of recommendations of the World Health Organisation, the European Commission, national strategic documents (e.g. Action Plan for the Prevention of Obesity 2015-2025) and other scientific knowledge, as follows:

2017/18-2018/19: $\leq 7\%$

2019/20-2020/21: $\leq 6\%$

2021/22-2022/23: $\leq 5\%$

5.2.4. Prioritisation of fresh fruit and vegetables and drinking milk

Article 23(3) of the Basic Act

Fruit and vegetables

- varied range of products,
- the share of portions of processed fruit and vegetables in fruit and vegetables supplied to a school establishment does not exceed 50 % of the total number of portions supplied;

Milk

- in order to motivate parents and children to the prioritisation of drinking milk and its non-lactose variations, these products are favoured as regards their price for parents in comparison to other milk products beyond the EU legislation,
- the proportion of drinking milk from all distributed products is at least 65 % of the total number of portions supplied.

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 type="checkbox"/>	Please list the products	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.4. Criteria for the choice of products distributed under the school scheme and any priorities for the choice of those products

Article 23(11) of the Basic Act and Article 2(2)a of the Implementing Regulation

Health considerations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental considerations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Seasonality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Variety of products	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Availability of local or regional produce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Any comments – including e.g. on the required quality of products	
Any priority/ies for the choice of products:	
Local or regional purchasing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Organic products	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Short supply chains	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental benefits (please specify: <i>e.g. food miles, packaging ...</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Products recognised under the quality schemes established by Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fair-trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other: please specify	

Any comments

Criteria for products:

Fruit and vegetables:

- fruit and vegetable juices: 100% natural juice without the addition of disallowed substances pursuant to Article 23(6) of the Basic Act
Disallowed substances are juices from concentrates and nectars or from citrus fruits
- fruit purees: 0% sugar, fat, salt, artificial sweeteners, without preservatives and without the addition of disallowed substances pursuant to Article 23(6) of the Basic Act
- dried fruit: 0% added sugar, without the addition of sulphur-based (SO₂) preservatives and without the addition of disallowed substances pursuant to Article 23(6) of the Basic Act

Milk and milk products:

- the products are without added fat, salt (except for cheeses, see part 5.2.2), sweeteners and aroma and flavour enhancers E620 to E650 pursuant to Article 23(6) of the Basic Act
- the content of added sugar in milk products pursuant to Annex V to the Basic Act must not exceed 7% in the 2017/18-2018/19 school years. The progressive reduction of the added sugar content in the school years is given in point 5.2.3
 - a protocol of ingredients must be issued by an accredited laboratory for every milk product. The protocol constitutes an annex to an application for the supply of milk products, to be submitted by the applicant to the Agricultural Paying Agency (hereafter referred to as "PA") by 31 March preceding the school year in which the applicant wishes to supply the products.

Environmental benefits in both sectors – packaging modification (reduction of quantity of packaging material), reduction of food waste, separated waste management.

6. ACCOMPANYING EDUCATIONAL MEASURES

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

Title	Objective	Content
Field trips and visits to orchards, agricultural businesses and dairies, including direct farmer stores etc.	Creation of a positive relationship between children and agriculture, acquisition of knowledge about the production and processing of fruit, vegetables and milk, acquisition of knowledge about the health benefits of school scheme products.	Visits and field trips associated with competitions and the organisation of tastings of fruit, vegetables, milk and milk products; familiarisation of children with the origin of fruit, vegetables and milk (cultivation and processing of individual types of fruit and vegetable, dairy farming and the obtaining and processing of milk etc.); making agricultural production more attractive for children, education of children on environmental protection.
Information seminars/lectures, healthy eating exhibitions to create healthy eating habits and combat food waste.	Creation of healthy eating habits and focusing the attention of pupils on the issue of food waste.	Information seminars/lectures, exhibitions on healthy eating in conjunction with tastings of fruit and vegetables, milk and milk products (tastings, competitions). Information seminars/lectures on food waste. (Instructional) games focusing on the positive influence of fruit, vegetables and milk and correct nutrition, and on the importance of eating them to prevent diseases.
Provision of promotional and educational materials on fruit, vegetables, milk and milk products.	Creation of healthy eating habits. Close cooperation with parents, with the possibility of involving the general public.	Information, promotional and educational materials on the cultivation and processing of fruit and vegetables, healthy nutrition and the nutritional properties of fruit, vegetables, milk and milk products; creation of healthy eating habits (composition of the daily diet, recipes etc.), promotional materials to reduce food waste.
School gardens.	Creation of knowledge and practical skills in children for the cultivation of individual types of fruit and vegetables.	Collaboration in material and theoretical fields, joint activities by suppliers, teachers and pupils in cultivating fruit and vegetables in school gardens.

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

Fruit and vegetables

There are two components to the funding of school fruit and vegetables: public funds contribute to the price comprising aid from the EU and the state budget, and the other component consists of contributions from pupils.

The pupil's contribution includes VAT.

The amount of the pupil's contribution is rounded to two decimal places.

The amount of public aid and the amount of the pupil's contribution for different product types is published in a national legal regulation.

The unit price of school fruit and vegetables for the 2017/2018 school year takes into account the price of the individual fruit and vegetable from Agrarian Market Information of Slovakia and also take account of the prices applied during the previous years of the scheme's operation.

Milk and milk products

There are two components to the funding of milk products: public funds contribute to the price comprising aid from the EU and the state budget, and the other component consists of contributions from pupils.

The pupil's contribution includes VAT.

In case of flavoured products (Annex V to the Basic Act), the maximum amount of EU aid is EUR 27/100 kg of milk component; the aid may be set at a flat rate, that is, a rate may be used for products with a milk component of at least 90 % of \leq EUR 0.243/kg of milk component, and for products with a milk component of at least 75 %, of \leq EUR 0.2025/kg of milk component.

When converting litres into kilograms, 1 l of milk weighs 1.03 kg.

The amount of the pupil's contribution is rounded to two decimal places.

The amount of public aid and the amount of the pupil's contribution for different product types is published in a national legal regulation.

7.2. Frequency and duration of distribution of school fruit and vegetables/milk and of accompanying educational measures

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

Envisaged frequency of distribution:

	School fruit and vegetables	School milk
Once per week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Any comments:

Based on the maximum amount of aid allocated, a supplier is required to spread supplies out to ensure that school scheme products are delivered to involved schools during a minimum of two supply periods in the school year concerned (the school year is divided into three terms).

Frequency of supply for school fruit and vegetables during the school year is most often once a week or once a fortnight to one school.

Regarding the funding of the school scheme, distribution is limited by the pupil's entitlement to one portion of school fruit/vegetables and one portion of milk/milk products per day.

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

Any comment:

Envisaged duration of accompanying educational measures during the school year:

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

Accompanying educational measures can take place throughout the school year. Field trips, visits, lectures, seminars and tastings can take place throughout the school year, while fruit and vegetable cultivation activities in school gardens (sowing, planting, growing and harvesting) are limited by the seasonality of the fruit or vegetable type.

7.3. Timing of distribution of school fruit and vegetables/milk

Article 23(8) – and 23a(8) if supply in relation to the provision of other meals – of the Basic Act and Article 2(2)b of the Implementing Regulation

Envisaged timing of distribution during the day:

	School fruit and vegetables	School milk
Morning/morning break(s)	☒	☒
Lunchtime	☒	☒
Afternoon/afternoon break(s)	☒	☒

Comments:

Time of serving: As a morning snack, lunch or afternoon snack (nursery-school children), or as a morning or afternoon snack served directly in the classroom or after lunch (primary and secondary schools).

In order to make the distribution of school scheme products more efficient and effective and to ensure that those serving food in schools are authorised to do so, school scheme products can be distributed in connection with school catering, with its menu specifying the day on which school scheme products are distributed.

Distribution points of school scheme products, including vending machines, must be appropriately marked, making it clear that the products come under the school scheme with EU financial assistance. If a supplier also distributes products through a vending machine other than school scheme products, information about those products must not give the impression that they are linked to the school scheme. The information stating the clear breakdown into products under EU school scheme and other products is placed on vending machine.

Pupils can take products from vending machines at any time of the specified day. Pupils are entitled to only one portion of a milk product per day of operation of the school scheme in their school, regardless of the method of distribution. The suppliers must submit to the paying agency the description of the vending machine mechanism, which allows the distribution of no more than one subsidised portion per pupil per day.

Distribution of school scheme products together with school catering:

According to the national legislation the children have access to catering establishments/canteens if their parents wish so. The reasons for distribution school scheme products together with school catering are namely good accessibility, suitable storage facilities, health certification of school canteen staff, reduced production of waste (larger packaging of milk products), and maintaining the traditional distribution based on former experience.

If milk products and fruits and vegetables are distributed to pupils together with school catering, the school is obliged to publish information about the distributed milk products and fruits and vegetables in its menu as well as at the distribution point. Other rules are in line with the EU rules, as follows:

Products distributed under the school scheme

- are not used for the preparation of meals provided as part of regular school catering,
- meals provided as part of regular school catering are not substituted by the school scheme products, which means that fruit and vegetables and milk products are distributed in addition to the regular school meals,
- have distribution points that are properly marked, the markings making it clear that the EU aid is involved.

7.4. Distribution of milk products in Annex V to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013

Article 23(5) of the Basic Act, Article 5(3) of the fixing regulation (No 1370/2013), Article 2(2)f of the Implementing Regulation

No

Yes

There must be a protocol issued by an accredited laboratory for each milk product specifying the composition of the milk product. The protocol is an annex to an application for the approval of aid submitted to the PA by the applicant by the 31 March preceding the start of the school year in which it intends to provide the products. Products that do not comply with the requirement for a milk component of $\geq 90\%$ by weight or $\geq 75\%$ by weight will not be included in the school scheme. The amount of EU aid for the milk component of products does not exceed EUR 27/100 kg of the product concerned.

Regarding the pupils' supplement, products in Annex V are disadvantaged for pupils in comparison to unflavoured products.

All milk products are subject to inspection of their composition in order to prove that they comply with the mandatory parameters.

7.5. Selection of suppliers

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

Entrepreneurs can be applicants for the supply and distribution of products to involved schools.

Natural persons registered as an entrepreneur and legal persons can be applicants for aid to carry out accompanying educational measures and information/publicity. Applicants for aid for all the above activities are approved by the PA. Applicants submit their approval request by 31 March for the following school year, except for the 2017/2018 school year, when transitional provisions concerning the implementation of a new system of connected educational schemes are applied.

The PA approves applicants for a period of one school year or several consecutive school years, and the approval remains valid until 31 July 2023 if the applicant has satisfied the conditions of the approval and has appended to the application all supporting documents required under EU and Slovak rules.

Applicants are obliged to supply and distribute fruit and vegetables or milk and milk products, for at least two implementation periods, where the following three implementation periods apply during the school year:

- (a) the period from 1 September to 31 December,
- (b) the period from 1 January to 31 March,
- (c) the period from 1 April to 30 June.

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

Based on an application submitted by approved applicants to the PA by 30 September, the PA issues a decision on the allocated maximum amount of aid for the school year, based on the declared number of pupils involved.

To an application for the payment of aid, a supplier also appends a declaration by a school of the quantities received and consumed of fruit, vegetables, milk and products made from them that were supplied or distributed by the supplier.

The PA grants approved applicants aid in the amount of the costs incurred in supplying school scheme products to educational establishments on the basis of the actual amounts shown on invoices after deduction of the VAT, and on the basis of the specified rates of aid for individual products according to national regulations. Flat-rate reimbursement is not used in the school scheme.

7.6.2. Eligibility of certain costs

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

The costs specified in Article 4 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/40 are eligible for EU aid.

Eligible costs do not include the cost of buying, leasing or renting equipment used for the supply and distribution of products.

Transport costs relating to the supply of school scheme products are included in the price of the products.

7.7. Involvement of authorities and stakeholders

Article 23(6) and (9) of the Basic Act and Article 2(1)k of the Implementing Regulation

The following participate in the fulfilment of the objectives of the school scheme:

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic – administrator of the scheme:

- coordinates the activities of all authorities and stakeholders in the scheme and arranges working meetings with authorities and stakeholders,
- draws up and approves the school scheme strategy and draws up the relevant legal regulations,
- fulfils the notification obligation pursuant to the applicable EU legal regulations and communicates with the European Commission as necessary,

- draws up evaluation reports using data provided by other bodies and stakeholders and assesses the effectiveness of the school scheme in line with the Ministry's strategic documents,
- performs on-the-spot financial checks of the transactions specified in Title V Chapter III of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013.

Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic

- provides legislative solutions and guidelines in the area of activities for the implementation of the scheme in schools and school establishments as part of the updating of the Healthier Eating Programme of the Slovak Republic,
- acts as a consultant with regard to accompanying measures and information materials,
- provides support for the promotion of school scheme,
- provides training and seminars for employees of school catering facilities and teaching staff, makes it possible for the legal representatives of children and pupils to participate in educational activities under the school scheme, and provides interactive games that help children to familiarise themselves with the food pyramid and teach them correct eating habits,
- incorporates data into evaluation reports on educational establishments and assesses the effectiveness of the school scheme in line with the Ministry's strategic documents.

Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic

- provides training and evaluation of scheme, assesses its effectiveness in terms of the nutritional literacy of children and parents, and acts as a consultant with regard to accompanying measures and promotional materials,
- serves as a consultation authority as regards the list of products and the maximum limits for added salt, fat, sugar,
- disseminates information on rules for the safe processing and consumption of fruit, vegetable, milk and milk products,
- the Health Ministry collaborates with the Education Ministry with regard to educational activities,
- organises a 'healthy eating week' in establishments for children and young people. It continues with educational activities relating to public health, since the activities are planned for the long term,
- prepares questionnaires and conducts research into awareness among children and parents and into the effect of the school scheme on changing eating habits, incorporates data into evaluation reports on educational establishments and assesses the effectiveness of the school scheme in line with the Ministry's strategic documents
- The Ministry of Health carries out the activities through the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic and the regional public health authorities.

Agricultural Paying Agency (PA)

- administers the school scheme, approves applicants and other requests from approved entities under the school scheme, and carries out administrative checks and on-the-spot checks,
- incorporates data into evaluation reports,
- fulfils the notification obligation pursuant to the applicable EU legal regulations.

State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic

- performs checks of the quality and health safety of products and identifies the presence of unauthorised substances pursuant to EU legal regulations.

Authorised educational establishments (nursery schools, primary schools, secondary schools, special educational needs schools).

Municipalities and founders of schools (Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia – self-governing).

Suppliers and distributors of fruit, vegetables, milk and products made from them that are entrepreneurs, regardless of their legal form.

Persons providing accompanying and information/publicity measures that are legal persons or natural persons registered as an entrepreneur.

7.8. Information and publicity

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

Legal persons and natural persons registered as an entrepreneur may be approved for the provision of information and publicity activities. Measures serving these purposes are in particular: production of posters, electronic communications including, for example, the creation of websites and online applications, implementing promotional activities aiming to raise awareness among children, parents, teachers and the general public about the importance of fruit and vegetables and milk products in the daily diet.

A supplier and a school establishment involved in the scheme provide information on the involvement of that school and display in the school an information poster that satisfies the requirements laid down in the applicable legislation (Annex to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2017/40).

Where milk products or fruit and vegetables are distributed to pupils together with school catering, the school is obliged to publish information about the distributed milk products or fruit and vegetables in its menu as well as at the distribution point. The PA will publish on its website a template for information provided at the distribution point.

If milk products are distributed through vending machines, the supplier is obliged to ensure that the vending machine is marked with information on the milk products distributed under the school scheme. The PA will publish a template for such information on its website. If a supplier also distributes products through a vending machine other than school scheme products, information about those products must not give the impression that they are linked to the school scheme.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development website publishes information on the school scheme. All bodies and stakeholders that have a website publish on it the internet address with a link to this information from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Stakeholders publish further information relating to their participation in the scheme on their own initiative.

7.9. Administrative and on-the-spot checks

Article 2(2)g of the Implementing Regulation

Checks carried out by the PA

Every application submitted under the school scheme undergoes a 100% administrative check, which in particular checks that the deadline for the submission of applications has been adhered to, that the application form is up-to-date and correctly completed, and that all required supporting documents according to national legislation and current guidelines for applicants have been submitted.

On-the-spot checks:

- are not mandatory for applications for the allocation of the maximum amount; checks can be carried out at the premises of the establishment to verify storage capacity and to verify that the information provided in the application accords with reality, or on the basis of a risk analysis or additional facts that would be inconsistent with the scheme,
- are carried out on the basis of a risk analysis of applicants for applications for the payment of aid, and are carried out within the scope of Article 10 of the Implementing Regulation. On-the-spot checks should verify adherence to the applicable provisions, and include checks of supporting documents for the supply of products and adherence to the maximum quantities for which aid can be paid. They further include verification of approval for the food product production and supply operation – adherence to the chilling of products during transport and storage, and verification of vending machine documentation if they are used to supply products. On-the-spot checks performed at the supplier's premises are accompanied by on-the-spot checks conducted at a minimum of two schools, or at least 1 % of schools specified in the applicant's list, whichever is greater.

A check report is a result of on-the-spot checks. The report contains all information required by legislation and sets out the individually checked items and confirmations or rejections of the eligibility of expenditure, checked items etc.

Other details of the carrying out of checks are set out in the applicants' handbook.

Checks carried out by the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic

Staff of the Department of Children's and Young People's Hygiene perform checks in schools, which include the hygiene conditions under which school scheme products are served.

Checks of compliance and health safety performed by the State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic

The State Veterinary and Food Administration performs checks upon request by the PA within the meaning of national legal regulations.

In the fruit and vegetable sector, checks are carried out of suppliers and in wholesale warehouses and in suppliers' storage spaces, as well as in participating educational establishments. Checks of fresh fruit and vegetables consist of checking commercial quality. Checked and supplied products must comply with special or general quality standards within the meaning the applicable EU and national legal regulations. In the case of processed products, quality, packaging, labelling and the composition of the products are checked.

In the milk and milk product sector, checks are performed of suppliers and in wholesale stores, as well as in participating educational establishments.

Checks of the composition of milk products are performed by examining composition data specified on the product labels and comparing them with the results of laboratory analyses of the products. In the case of the products listed in Annex V to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, as amended by Regulation (EU) No 2016/971, the minimum mandatory content of milk components is also checked. For all products, the presence/content of added sugar, added fat, added salt, added sweeteners and aroma and flavour enhancers is also checked.

After on-the-spot checks and laboratory analyses have been performed, the State Veterinary and Food Administration sends the PA official records of the checks and assessments of the quality of fruit and vegetables and of milk and milk products performed at the supplier's premises.

7.10. Monitoring and evaluation

Article 2(2)g of the Implementing Regulation

Monitoring and evaluation are performed for the fruit and vegetable sector and for the milk and milk product sector separately.

Monitoring and evaluation of measurable indicators by the PA

- number of children/pupils involved in the scheme – annual monitoring,
- number of schools – annual monitoring,
- number of suppliers, their legal form and the means of distribution in the case of milk products – annual monitoring,
- quantities supplied and the frequency of supply – the share of supplies is measured for processed fruit and vegetables (at the supplier's premises) – annual monitoring,
- type and quantity of supplied products and the number of schools to which school scheme products were supplied – monitoring of the supply period,
- consumption monitored on the basis of declarations made by schools on the quantities of milk, fruit, vegetables and products made from them received and consumed – monitoring of the supply period,
- consumption of milk products on the basis of vending machine outputs – monitoring of the supply period,
- average portion size per pupil in the case of fruit and vegetables,
- average price per portion,
- budget and its drawdown from EU and Slovak sources,
- types of measures for promoting the school scheme,
- types of accompanying measures,
- other relevant indicators (number of schools provided with a poster etc.).

Monitoring and evaluation of measurable indicators by the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic

Evaluations of the scheme to raise awareness of health and a change to healthy eating habits will be carried out by the regional public health authorities in the Slovak Republic. The evaluation during the 2017/2018 school year will be conducted in the form of an initial questionnaire.

The questionnaire will relate to preferences for fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products in families, as well as awareness within families of the importance of the daily intake of fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products. The questionnaire will also incorporate an evaluation to gauge changes in eating habits. The evaluation will include a final summary and recommendations for any amendment of the strategy.

Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic

The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport monitors and evaluates implemented educational, sporting and movement activities.

Every year, it monitors activities implemented to support the scheme through district school authorities in regional capitals. It obtains data on the funds spent to support accompanying activities under the scheme from information on school budgets.

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic

The Ministry draws up final evaluation reports on the basis of data from stakeholders and sends the reports and other communications to the European Commission.

Lessons learnt from implementation of the current school scheme:

- Reducing the administrative burden and simplification, e.g.:
 - removing some excessive notifications and reports from the schools and suppliers to the PA
 - granting the approval of the supplier is linked to the duration of the school scheme up to school year 2022/2023 under the condition the supplier meets all requirements for the duration of the school scheme
- Improving the implementation of accompanying educational measures based on the experiences over previous school years, adding new measures, e.g. establishing and maintaining school gardens.