SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)
School year: 2020–2021
- School Feeding (Prehrana u školama)
- National Strategy for the Implementation of the School Scheme from 2017/2023

Lead Agency: Ministry of Healthcare

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS
- National school feeding policy
- Nutrition
- Food safety
- Health
- Agriculture
- Private sector involvement

Line item in the national budget...
- Yes
- No
- No response

BUDGET
Total: Unknown*
- Government: USD 205,873
- International donors: USD 1,709,666**
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0

Includes funding from the United States Department of Agriculture
- Yes
- No
- No response

* The available budget information is inclusive only of funding for the National Strategy for the Implementation of the School Scheme, which totals USD 1,915,539. The total funding for school feeding in Croatia is not known.

** This includes support from the European Union’s school fruit, vegetables, and milk scheme. International donations by United Nations agencies or non-governmental organizations often represent funding from multiple donors.

INFRASTRUCTURE
All schools in Croatia have electricity, piped and clean water, and gender-private flush toilets, while most have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias and kitchens. School meals/snacks are prepared on-site (on school grounds) and off-site in both centralized kitchens as well as private facilities (i.e., by caterers). Kitchens are typically equipped with refrigeration, storage facilities, and gas or electric stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES
None

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY
- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Snacks
- Take-home rations
- Other

- Grains, cereals
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Dairy products
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Fish
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Oil
- Salt
- Sugar
- Dairy milk
- Yogurt drink
- Fruit juice
- Tea
- Water
- Other

Prohibited food items: Foods that are high in fat and/or sugar, including trans fats and animal fat; artificial drinks; highly processed foods

FOOD SOURCES
- Purchased (domestic)
- In-kind (domestic)
- Purchased (foreign)
- In-kind (foreign)

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES
- Handwashing with soap
- Height measurement
- Weight measurement
- Testing for anemia
- Deworming treatment
- Eye testing/eyeglasses
- Hearing testing/treatment
- Dental cleaning/testing
- Menstrual hygiene
- Drinking water
- Water purification

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS
- Food and nutrition
- Health
- Agriculture
- Reproductive health
- School gardens
- HIV prevention
- Hygiene
- Physical education

The checked items were provided in most or all participating schools.

INFRASTRUCTURE
- 3 years prior
- 1 year prior
- 2020–2021

COVERAGE:
- 66% of primary and secondary school-age children
- Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 456,259
- Receiving school food: 301,136

Food was also provided to some students in...
- Pre-schools
- Vocational/trade schools
- Other
NUTRITION
School feeding program(s) included/involved the following:
☐ Fortified foods
☐ Bio-fortified foods
☐ Micronutrient supplements
☐ Nutritionists involved
☐ Special training for cooks/caterers in nutrition
☐ Objective to meet nutritional goals
☐ Objective to reduce obesity

Food items fortified/biofortified:
Dairy products, salt

Micronutrients:
Iron, iodine, folic acid, vitamin B12, vitamin B6, vitamin D

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION
Jobs created by school feeding programs*

1,220
Cooks and food preparers
Transporters
Off-site processors
Food packagers and handlers
Monitoring
Food service management
Safety and quality inspectors
Other

*If blank, no response was provided.

Farmers were involved with the school feeding program(s)...
☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ No response

Other private sector (for profit) actors were involved...
☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ No response

There was a focus on creating jobs or leadership or income-generating opportunities for...
☐ Women  ☐ Other groups
☐ Youth  ☐ No response

There was community engagement (by parents or others) in the school feeding program(s)...
☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ No response

Were there links between food banks and the school feeding program(s)?
☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ There are no food banks in this country.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Food was purchased through open-bid, competitive tendering procedures with preferential treatment for small-scale farmers/small farmer organizations/small companies. Food preparation is done by school employees (cooks) whose salary is provided by the government.

CONTACTS: CROATIA
Agency:  Ministry of Science and Education
Website:  mzo.gov.hr

SUCCESES AND CHALLENGES
Recent successes related to school feeding in Croatia include the expansion of program coverage to almost all children, the adaptability to children’s needs and preferences, and the possibility of free meals for children from low-income households.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC
The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a temporary change in venue (location) of distributing/receiving food. Nevertheless, schools in Croatia were open most of the 2020–2021 school year, with only minor changes to the schedule, and students had uninterrupted access to the School Feeding program. In addition to the pandemic, Croatia was also affected by an earthquake that demolished some schools. This caused some students to attend classes in other schools which were then overcrowded, making it difficult to comply with public health measures to control the spread of COVID-19.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
At least two nutritionists are involved with Croatia’s E.U. School Scheme. Special training is required for cooks and caterers in nutrition, food safety/hygiene, portion measurements, menu planning, and business management.

STUDIES CONDUCTED
None

RESEARCH NEEDED
Not specified
SCHOOL FEEDING
PREHRANA U .KOLI

Lead implementer(s): No lead agency due to decentralized management

OBJECTIVES:
• To meet nutritional and/or health goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:
• In-school meals
• In-school snacks

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:
• 5 times per week during the school year

TARGETING:
Universal (in pre-schools and primary schools)

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School level</th>
<th># Students</th>
<th>% Girls</th>
<th>% Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>104,000</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>199,720</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>303,720</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:
Grains, cereals
Roots, tubers
Legumes, pulses, nuts
Dairy products*
Eggs
Meat
Poultry
* fortified
Fish
Green, leafy vegetables
Other vegetables
Fruits
Oil
Salt*
Sugar
Dairy milk
Yogurt drink
Fruit juice
Tea
Water

FOOD SOURCES:
Schools have full autonomy in food sourcing; therefore, food sources are not known at the national level.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Croatia's School Feeding program began operating around 1880. In the 2020–2021 school year, this program operated in 902 public schools and 12 private schools. To limit food waste, sealed food storage and fumigation/pest control measures are utilized, alongside efforts to raise awareness of students.

NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHOOL SCHEME FROM 2017/2023

Lead implementer(s): Paying Agency for Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development

OBJECTIVES:
• To meet educational goals
• To meet nutritional and/or health goals
• Objective to prevent or mitigate obesity

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:
• In-school snacks

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:
• 1 times per week during the school year

TARGETING:
Intended to be universal

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School level</th>
<th># Students</th>
<th>% Girls</th>
<th>% Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>23,220</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>203,183</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>97,953*</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>324,356</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This is inclusive of some vocational school students.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:
Dairy products
Fruits
* fortified
Dairy milk
Yogurt drink
Fruit juice
Tea
Water

FOOD SOURCES:
90% Purchased (domestic)
10% Purchased (foreign)
0% In-kind (domestic)
0% In-kind (foreign)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
In the 2020/2021 school year, this program reached 843 schools. Some leftover products from school gardens are made into jams, dried fruit, and vegetable preserves.