

Frequently asked questions on the European School Milk Scheme (SMS)

1. Who is entitled to receive products in the framework of the European School Milk Scheme?

A child who is in regular attendance at:

- nursery schools, kindergartens or other pre-school establishments,
- primary schools and
- secondary schools

administered or recognized by the Member State's competent authority (for example by the Ministry of Education).

2. What products are available and what is the rate of the Community subsidy given for these products?

Every product that is listed below here is available in the framework of the SMS. However, Member States can decide to exclude certain products or apply stricter standards for the products below.

Category I – subsidy: EUR 18,15/100 kg

- (a) heat-treated milk, including lactose free milk drink;
- (b) heat-treated milk with chocolate, fruit juice or flavoured, containing at least 90% by weight of the milk indicated in point (a) and containing maximum 7% of added sugar and/or honey;
- (c) fermented milk products with or without fruit juice, flavoured or non-flavoured, containing at least 90% by weight of the milk indicated in point (a) and containing maximum 7% of added sugar and/or honey.

Category II – subsidy: EUR 16,34/100 kg

Flavoured and non-flavoured fermented milk products with fruit, containing at least 80% by weight of the milk indicated in Category I point (a) and containing maximum 7% added sugar and/or honey.

Category III – subsidy: EUR 54,45/100 kg

Flavoured and non-flavoured fresh and processed cheeses containing at least 90% by weight of cheese.

Category IV– subsidy: EUR 163,14/100 kg

Grana Padano cheese and Parmigiano Reggiano cheese.

Category V– subsidy: EUR 138,85/100 kg

Flavoured and non-flavoured cheeses, containing at least 90% by weight of cheese, and not falling under categories III and IV.

3. May Member States or local authorities also provide a subsidy?

Yes, they may. In fact, the less pupils will have to pay for the products the higher the expected success rate of the scheme.

4. Are lactose free milk drinks and products eligible?

Yes, they are.

5. Are soya or rice drinks eligible?

No. Soya and rice drinks are not produced from milk; therefore they are excluded from the SMS.

6. Can hot meal be prepared from the products?

No. Preparation of meals involving heat-treatment is not allowed. However, heating of milk and flavoured milk is allowed, meaning that for example hot chocolate can be prepared.

7. Can cold meal be prepared from the products?

Yes. Milk and milk products used in the preparation of meals within the premises of the educational establishment and which do not involve heat treatment may benefit from the aid.

8. What daily quantity of milk or milk product the pupils are entitled to?

They are entitled to have 0.25 litre milk or equivalent milk product per school day.

9. Are holidays included in the SMS?

No. Only school days are included in the scheme. Holidays and any holiday camps are excluded.

10. Who can apply for the aid?

- (a) an educational establishment;
- (b) an education authority in respect of the products distributed to the pupils within its area;
- (c) the supplier of the products, if the Member State so provides;
- (d) an organisation acting on behalf of one or more educational establishments or education authorities and specifically established for that purpose, if the Member State so provides.

11. What is the European School Milk poster?

Educational establishments distributing products in the framework of the SMS shall produce or have produced a poster. The poster should be placed at the main entrance of the educational establishment. The aim of the poster is to create awareness among parents, pupils and teachers that the SMS is subsidized by the European Union.