



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
COURT OF AUDIT

SUMMARY REPORT

Handling food at primary schools

Cross-sectional audit of regularity and efficiency
of handling food at six primary schools



How primary schools handle food?

The audit covered handling of food at 6 primary schools

balanced diet guidelines



food scraps



€ 64 mio

cost of foodstuffs for school meals in 2017*

€ 38

parents pay monthly for school meals on average

adjusting purchase of foodstuffs

18 kg

food waste per pupil in 2017



Ordering and purchasing foodstuffs



Public procurement procedures were too complicated for schools, their implementation was thus outsourced, nevertheless, irregularities occurred.



- Schools purchased **less than 10% of organic food**.
- Foodstuffs were **not always purchased from best-cost suppliers** and at agreed prices.
- When selecting suppliers the **criteria “more organic foodstuffs” and “packaging” were not applied**.
- **Schools purchased local foodstuffs but contrary to the regulations.**

Preparation and serving



The amount of food scraps depends also on
FAMILY HABITS.



Meals were mostly prepared **in line with the balanced diet guidelines.**



A SCHOOL MEAL



Schools were raising awareness among pupils and their parents of the importance **of healthy diet.**



WHAT A PUPIL EATS



The audit identified **several examples of good practice** contributing to food scraps reduction.



FOOD SCRAPS



A **system is efficient** if it enables **parents to cancel a meal in the morning** for the current day



Meal satisfaction surveys were carried out among pupils and their parents but **did not bring about any significant changes**



Approach applied for **monitoring food scraps** was not systematic enough

Average meal prices

Breakfast	€ 0.73
Mid-morning snack	€ 0.80
Small lunch (1.-5. grade)	€ 2.32
Large lunch (6.-9. grade)	€ 2.59
Afternoon snack.....	€ 0.63



Some schools did **not monitor whether the prices of meals cover the total costs.**



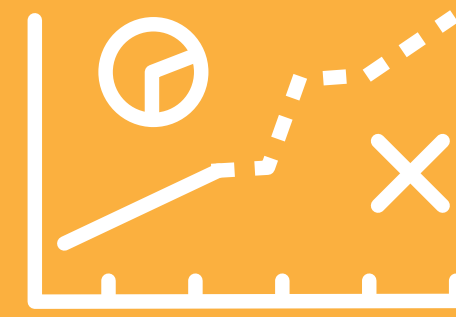
In some cases **not all meal prices were adopted by a school council.**

All schools prepared meals in their own kitchens.

All schools offered mid-morning snack and lunch, 5 offered afternoon snack and 3 breakfast.



Food waste



There are no accurate and complete data on the amount of food waste at primary schools in Slovenia



Pupils were offered the remaining food



It was not monitored what foodstuffs remained and what happened with the remained food



Other ways of food remains reuse were mostly not applied



Some schools separate food waste incorrectly

72,239 kg

of food waste in total produced by 6 primary schools under audit in 2017

OPINION OF THE COURT OF AUDIT

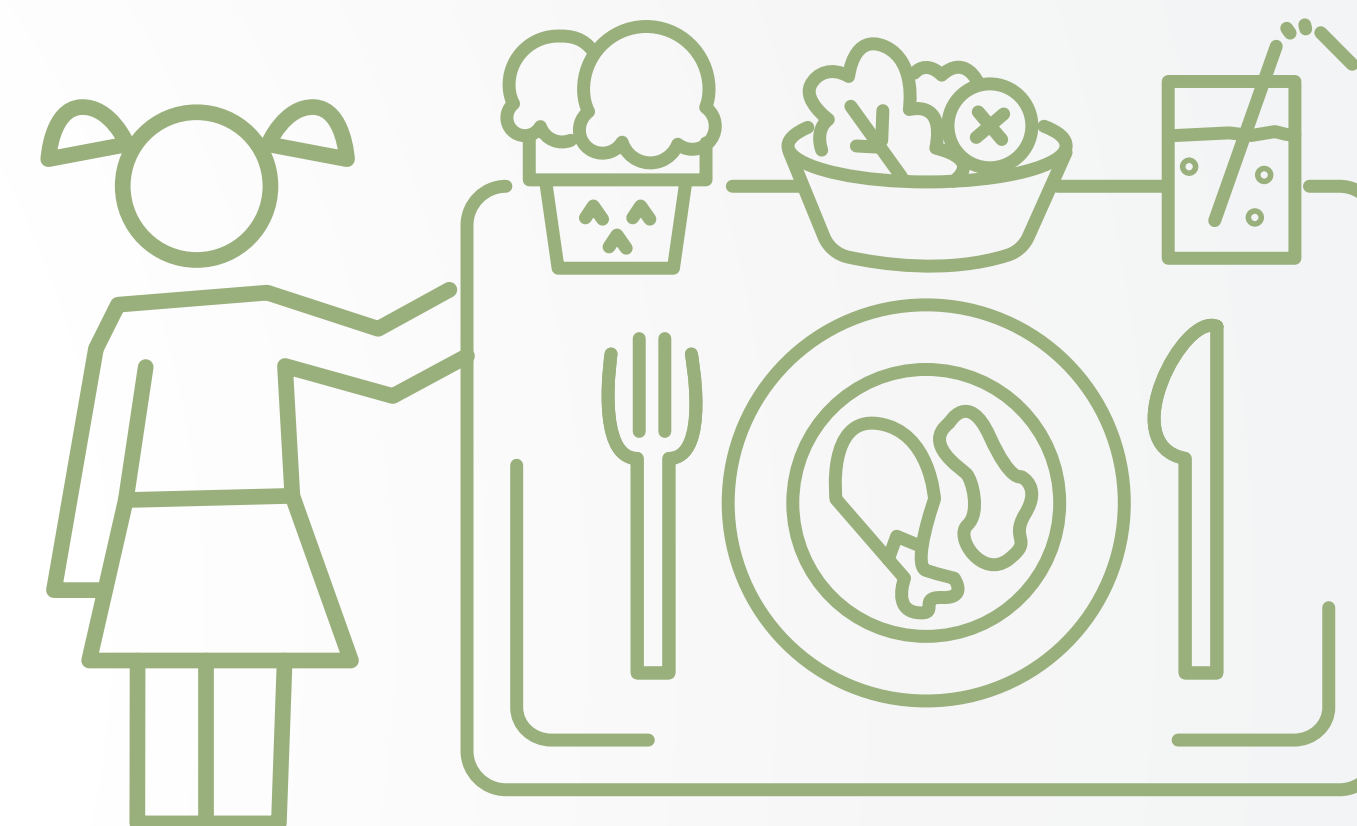


Five schools were expressed a **qualified opinion** on the regularity of handling food and **one school an adverse opinion**.



Handling food at all schools was assessed as **partially efficient**.

The Court of Audit demanded a submission of response reports and issued recommendations.



Bine Volčič



Luka Jezeršek



In the summary report, the **recommendations were given by two renowned chefs**.

For the purpose of audit, the Court of Audit cooperated with the National Institute of Public Health and consulted with Ecologists without Borders and society DOVES FEE SLOVENIA which carries out the Eco-school programme.

Schools offer pupils a balanced diet but could **do more to encourage children** to actually eat their meals and **to handle food waste more efficiently**.



Yet, **foundations regarding responsibility for respect for the environment, personal health and appropriate eating habits are laid at home**.