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Rīga

COMMITMENT DOCUMENT FOR LATVIA

School Meals Coalition

Nutrition, Health and Education for Every Child

The Government of Latvia expresses its strong support for school meal program as a policy lever to drive and strengthen human capital, social and economic growth and sustainable food systems.

We are convinced that this program is a systemic solution that helps combat child hunger and poverty; supports child nutrition, learning, long-term well-being and health equity; strengthens food systems and local economies; and promotes gender equality by keeping girls in school.

We believe school meals program is about much more than food in school. It helps to improve and diversify children's diets, teach children how to eat better and support national and local markets and food systems by using locally grown food where possible, improving opportunities for smallholder farmers and local catering businesses, many led by women.

At a time in which world leaders are having to tackle several crises as once, such as the education, the food and the climate crisis, school meals should be positioned as a central, cross-cutting intervention that will contribute to a more sustainable and equitable future.

Latvia as a proud member of the School Meals Coalition announces the following commitments towards its goals:

1. Acquire more precise data about the main quantity and quality characteristics of the supply and demand in school meals system. Consequent to the acquisition of this data after consulting all the stakeholders we will define measurable results on Latvia's direction towards objectives of the School meals coalition;
2. promote the choice of seasonal products;
3. dialogues with municipalities, schools, farming and food producer organizations about:
 - a. production of products for which there is not sufficient supply, in particular in vegetable and meat sectors;
 - b. more active use of the green public procurement;

4. evaluate and improve the impact of the school meals on environment by increasing the supply of local food, especially with higher quality and by reducing the food waste and loss;
5. will support all actors involved in the school meals process in order to organise the school meals more effectively across all the chain, in particular with organizations representing farmers, food companies, caterers and parents;
6. will promote the connection between the content of the education and healthy nutrition.

Raivis Kronbergs
State Secretary



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