



Czech Republic

10.5 million inhabitants



Organic production + biodiversity protection

Small farmers + social integration of disadvantaged groups

GHG emission reduction

Nutrition, quality, taste, freshness, seasonality

Market Dialogues between Canteen Managers and Procurers

What? To educate school canteen managers about the procurement of fresh, seasonal (organic) produce, from local or regional sources. And to support dialogue between school canteen managers and food procurers.

When? 2023 - 2025

Who? 100 schools located in different Czech cities.

"At the heart of our programme is a commitment to sourcing food directly from local farmers and food businesses."

The challenge?

Across the country, school meals often rely on processed foods with long supply chains, disconnecting children from the origins of their meals. Meanwhile, local farmers struggle to find stable markets. All of this undermines children's health, sustainability goals, and community cohesion.

The solution!

The Skutečně zdravá škola programme takes a whole-school approach to transform how schools think about food, linking school kitchens, classrooms, and communities to a rich culture of healthy, sustainable eating. Schools serve fresh, seasonal meals sourced from local farmers and integrate food education into everyday learning, from gardening and cooking to farm visits and nutrition lessons.

The results:

The "Skutečně zdravá škola" programme transforms school food culture by linking kitchens, classrooms, and communities. Through fresh, local, seasonal meals and practical food education, schools earn awards that set clear quality standards, requiring 5–10% organic food at higher tiers.

- **Economic impact:** Boosts regional economies by creating reliable customers for local farmers, supporting shorter supply chains, and keeping public funds circulating locally.
- **Social impact:** Fosters healthier children, happier families, and stronger communities by giving parents and local producers a direct voice through collaborative workshops and events.
- **Environmental impact:** Promotes eco-friendly farming practices and lowers transport emissions. By fulfilling 15 of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals, it drives long-term sustainability leadership.



Photo by Nick Night on Unsplash

Key Takeaways for Cities:

Set specific goals and align with national and EU strategies to leverage support.



Build strong partnerships that embed initiatives into the community.

Invest in capacity building and pilot projects and make sure to provide trainings and monitor results!

