



EMWIS Flash - December 2004

Euro-Mediterranean Information System on the know-how in the Water Sector

EMWIS is a program of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

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*******HAPPY NEW YEAR 2005*******

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1. The 10th seminar of **EMWIS National Focal Points** (NFP) was held in Madrid from 22nd and 25th of November 2004. The 13 NFP data managers, who took part in this workshop; built common foundations for exchanging water information in the Euro-Med area: common metadata were defined for the main information resources managed by EMWIS (water news, calendar of events, projects, multimedia documents, water laws, documentary information). A consensus was also reached for the set-up of a **multilingual inland water thesaurus** and the related glossary. The implementation process will take place in 2005. [Click here](#) to view the conclusions and the presentations of this meeting.

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IN BRIEF

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2. **The Euro-Mediterranean Meeting of Foreign Ministers** in The Hague, 29-30 November, took place at a time of increasing engagement between the EU and the Mediterranean partners. Ministers confirmed that the [Barcelona Process](#), enhanced by the **European Neighbourhood Policy**, is the main initiative for the Mediterranean in which the EU and the Mediterranean partners jointly participate. The Euromed Report issue n°84 has published the conclusions of this meeting. This report mentions in the part of sustainability, that Improvement of **Water Supply & Management** has been the focus of new [MEDA](#) funded bilateral programmes, notably in **Jordan & Morocco**, and that MEDA regional projects involving universities, research institutes, & specialised agencies have started actions in early 2004 as part of the Regional Programme for Local Water Management.

3. In 2004, the EC is providing, under the **MEDA Programme**, **€709 million** for co-operation and external aid operations with its Mediterranean partners. This assistance illustrates the EUs commitment to support development in the region focused on reforms based on common values. Algeria (55 million), Egypt (164.5 million), Jordan (36.5 million), Lebanon (19.5 million), Morocco (156 million), Syria (55 million), Tunisia (24 million), and the West Bank and Gaza Strip (73.5 million) and the region as a whole (125.5 million), are benefiting from this new package that brings the MEDA assistance to the region to over **€6.156 billion** in bilateral and regional co-operation programmes since the Barcelona Process was launched in 1995. For more information, [click here](#).

4. The Communication "Environmental Technology Action Plan" has identified the **water supply and sanitation technologies** as a topic to be supported through a European Technology Platform. The multi-stakeholder Working Groups of the Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform (WSSTP) continue their work around the development of a common Vision Document, a Strategic Research Agenda and its Implementation Plan; intermediate results shall be presented in an open stakeholder event in the beginning of 2005. For more information with regard to the objectives and organisational setup of the WSSTP view the recently launched [website](#).

5. An international Forum on **Food Security under Water Scarcity in the Middle East: Problems & Solutions**, has been held in Como (Italy) the last November 24th-27th, 2004. This Forum was for the purpose of identifying measures for water management and coastal areas to address social and economical choices of development. Mr. Renato Scognamiglio presented during this meeting the Italian experience in Basilicata and Apulia on **Transboundary Management of Water Resources**. More information about this forum is available on the following website ([click here](#)).

6. The Sicily Joint Workshop "**Drought and water deficiency: from research to policy making**" was jointly organised by the EC (DG Research and DG Environment) & France, and was supported by the [ARID Cluster](#). Following the 2003 drought, the Water Directors have decided to examine the type of action necessary in this field at the European level. The organisation of a workshop, consecutively after the ARID Cluster Workshop, organised on October 6th and 7th, has been decided in the latest meeting of the Water Directors. [Click here](#) to find the presentations of this workshop.

7. The Austrian Development Cooperation and Cooperation with Eastern Europe (OEZA), or rather the Austrian Development Agency/ADA, has spent approximately **€4.26 million** on the rehabilitation of the **water supply** of the North-Albanian city of Shkodra. Initially, measures were taken at the pumping stations and the mains, which have already mitigated the situation considerably. For more information, [click here](#).

8. The co-operation between **the Slovakia and the Poland** in the **boundary rivers** of Poprad and Dunajec covers particularly the issues of treatment of rivers, announcement and forecast services, exploitation of boundary waters, and last but not least, protection thereof against contamination. This co-operation is developed under the Agreement between the Slovak Government and the Polish Government on Water Management in Boundary Waters. For more information, [click here](#).

9. The Dobsina water work system lies in **the river basin** of Hnilec and Slana (Slovakia), exploiting its slope conditions. The construction started in 1948 in the waters supply canal to the hydro-electric power plant in the valley Vlčia dolina and was completed in 1960 by delivery of the compensation reservoir below Dobsina. For more information, [click here](#).

10. [ARCADIS](#) the international consultancy and engineering company, announced that a consortium in which it is a partner has been awarded a contract for the hydraulic design of one of **Europe's biggest water projects**: a channel that will link the harbours of Antwerp and Paris. The consortium will conduct a hydraulic & water management survey and is responsible for the design of the locks. The total project value is **€2.6 billion**. The contract value for the consortium will be **€3 million** with a contract time until **August 2006**. Beside ARCADIS, the consortium also consists of the French consultancy firms Sogreah and Ingerop and a couple of Dutch partners. For more information, [click here](#).

11. FAO and the Government of the Netherlands are organising an **International Conference on Water for Food and Ecosystems**, from January 31st to February 5th, 2005 in the Hague. The conference will provide a high level platform for around 350 participants around the globe, including a ministerial segment. The prime objective of the **WFE** Conference is: to help governments identify management practices, practical lessons learned and the necessary enabling environments that lead to sustainable water use at the river-basin level and the harmonization of food production and ecosystem management

with a view to implementing already internationally agreed commitments. For more information, [click here](#).

12. The Joint mission report by the expert team of the EC & International Conventions of their visit to the "**Bystroe project**" in the Ukrainian part of the Danube Delta has been launched on October 6th-8th 2004. The Bystroe arm is located close to the small town of Vilkovovo on the left bank of the Chilia arm of the Danube River, in the active part of the Danube Delta. The site is in the heart of the **Danube Delta transboundary** biosphere reserve. For more information, [click here](#).

13. In August 2004, the EU-funded project **IMAGE-TRAIN (Innovative Management of Groundwater Resources in Europe - Training and RTD Co-ordination Project)** ended. IMAGE-TRAIN aimed at improving co-operation and interaction between ongoing research projects in the field of soil and groundwater contamination, and at communicating new technology achievements to young scientists by means of training courses. The last issue of the IMAGE-TRAIN Newsletter informs about all IMAGE-TRAIN activities and publications. [Click here](#) for more information.

14. The [WEKNOW \(Web-based European Knowledge Network on Water\)](#) project has several objectives and those of the Expert Working Groups are to identify and prioritize problematic issues and emerging topics of common interest and define knowledge gaps and needs for studies and further research on these topics. The Expert Working Group on Chemical Quality (EWG-CQ) of drinking water will held the 3rd workshop in Prague on January 13th-14th 2005. One of the topics to be discussed is the actual needs of most of the European stakeholders in the field of drinking water. [Click here](#) for more information.

15. Urban sanitation and **the use of waste water** for urban agriculture are gaining interest and attention. This the reason why IWMI, STREAMS and IRC decided to link up in an initiative called [WASPA](#) (Waste Water, Agriculture and Sanitation for Poverty Alleviation). [Click here](#) for more information.

16. **The European Water Framework Directive (WFD)** requires progressive protection and enhancement to rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters and wetlands by the year 2015. In this sense, an [international conference](#) supported by the Directorate-General Environment of the EC, will be held in Budapest (Hungary) on May 19th & 20th 2005. It will focus on the fresh water components of the Directive and will give delegates the ideal opportunity to share experiences, and identify any possible issues, with those already engaged in the process. [Click here](#) for more information.

17. The world's first multi-billion dollar green marketplace was launched in 11 October 2004, aiming to connect buyers and sellers of a contentious - but likely lucrative - commodity, the environment. The internet-based [Ecosystem Marketplace](#) is an online public forum, aiming to create a more efficient and transparent trade in environmental goods such as **water rights** and carbon credits, bringing together government agencies, communities and private enterprise from across the globe. [Click here](#) to download the document about the water markets, and [click here](#) for further information.

18. **The Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) Unit (RS GIS Unit)** of the **International Water Management Institute (IWMI)**, is a centralized facility for all spatial data related activities of IWMI. Although the emphasis is on IWMI benchmark river basins, large volumes of data are also available at National, Regional, & Global

levels. These data are catalogued, streamlined, and released to the public through the IWMI Data Storehouse Pathway (DSP). The following link ([click here](#)) is a detailed document on the advances & enhancement made on this database. [Click here](#) to go through IWMI website, and [here](#) for further GIS & remote sensing data resources on our Forum.

19. The newly released NASA Research Announcement (NRA) **NASA Energy- & WATER-Cycle** seeks to support the NASA-ESE Global Water and Energy Cycle focus area by soliciting participants for NASA Energy- and Water-cycle Study (NEWS) sponsored research. The goal of NEWS is to enable improved, observationally based, predictions of water and energy cycle consequences of Earth System variability and change. This NRA will also solicit participants for NEWS "product-driven" investigations that are performed in direct cooperation with NASA, as well as "discovery driven" investigations that may include independent NEWS, THP, LCLUC, and WMP. [Click here](#) for more information.

20. Flanked by imposing mountains, **one of Europe's principal rivers** reaches its end in [Envisat](#) satellite image. The Lower Danube River flows east then north to empty into the Black Sea its triangular Delta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Lower Danube region is an important European wetland ecosystem that has lost nearly 80% of its wetlands in the last century due to attempts at river dredging, land reclamation and flood control. Now Romania, Bulgaria, Moldavia and Ukraine have joined together to preserve and restore wetlands with a project called **the Lower Danube Green Corridor project**, Europe's largest international wetland preservation effort. For more information, [click here](#).

21. The severe droughts and forest fires of recent years underline Mediterranean Europe's continuing vulnerability to **desertification**. 300.000 square kilometres of territory are currently affected, threatening the livelihoods of 16.5 million Europeans. The total area affected by soil erosion in Turkey mainly due to water but also wind is 57.6 million hectares, more than two thirds of the country. A new satellite-based service is set to provide a continuous monitoring of regions most at risk. For more information, [click here](#).

22. **Waterbase** is the generic name given to the EEA's (**The European Environment Agency**) databases on the status and quality of **Europe's rivers, lakes, groundwater bodies and transitional, coastal and marine waters**, and on the quantity of **Europe's water resources**. Waterbase contains timely, reliable and policy-relevant data collected from EEA member countries through the [Eurowaternet](#) (EWN) process. EWN selects validated monitoring data from national databases and adds information on the physical characteristics of the water bodies being monitored and on the pressures potentially affecting water quality. For more information, [click here](#). ([Click here](#) to check the maps and graphs service containing most published analytical results made by and for EEA).

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NOMINATIONS & VACANCIES
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23. **Algeria:** Mr. **El Hachemi Bouandel** has been nominated new **Director of Studies & Hydraulic installations**.

24. **Mr. Günther Hanreich** has been appointed to the post of **Director General of Eurostat**, the European Union's statistical office. Eurostat is the statistical office of the European Union. It produces regular statistics on economic indicators such as inflation, employment and trade and also on more general themes like agriculture, environment, population and social conditions, energy, etc. For more information, [click here](#).

25. The **IWMI PhD Fellowships program** provides partial financial support to candidates from developing countries for PhD research in the field of management of water and land resources for food, poverty and nature. Current IWMI research areas include: integrated water resource management for agriculture (IWMA); smallholder land and water management (SLWM); sustainable ground water management (SGM); water resource institutions and policies (WRIP); water for health and environment (WHE); and comprehensive assessment. The deadline is **31 of December 2004**. For more information, [click here](#).

26. The [IUCN](#) (The World Conservation Union) Regional Office for Europe (ROfE) in Brussels is seeking to recruit as soon as possible a new team member (**Countdown 2010 Senior Advisor**) to implement the [Countdown 2010](#). This pan-European initiative brings together a broad alliance of IUCN members and partner organisations with the goal to ensure that all European governments, at every level, have taken the necessary actions to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010. Applicants are asked to submit their CV and a letter of motivation in English before **15th January 2005** by [email](#), with the subject heading "Countdown 2010 Senior Advisor". For detailed information, [click here](#).

27. The **FAO** (Food & Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations), announced a professional vacancy for a position of **Land & water development engineer**. The duration of the job is of 3 years, and the duty station is Rome (Italy). The deadline for application is the **5th January 2005**. For detailed information, [click here](#).

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PUBLICATIONS
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28. A Handbook for governments on the practical steps for making **national water management strategies** needed in support their efforts towards the sustainable economic development required to reach the 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), was released in Tokyo by the Global Water Partnership (GWP).

29. **UNESCO-IHE** has published a new report "[Water Footprints of Nations](#)". The report contains a comprehensive assessment of the water needs for consumer goods, the average water needs of people per country, **the virtual water flows** between countries and the water import dependency per country. [Click here](#) to download the main report, and [here](#) to download the appendices. For more information, [click here](#).

30. A new issue of "Dialogue Bulletin" on a new format has been published. This Bulletin is dealing with the **dialogue on water**, food & environment in the frame of WWF international's projects. [Click here](#) to download it.

31. A new guide: "**VALUE - Counting ecosystems as water infrastructure**" has been published. This practical guide that explains the most important steps and techniques for the valuation of ecosystem services, and the incorporation of its results in decision-making. It explains, step by step,

how to generate persuasive arguments for more sustainable and equitable development decisions in water resources management. [Click here](#) to download it.

32. World Bank Watch is a quarterly newsletter, produced by the NGO Public Citizen, which proposes an analysis of the World Bank proposed (pipeline) loans in the water and sanitation sector. New and back issues are available on the following [website](#).

33. Change, Adaptation of water resources management to climate change, is the title of a new book published by [IUCN](#) (the World Conservation Union). This book outlines a new management approach that moves beyond technical quick fixes towards a more adaptive style that is inclusive and innovative. Only by thinking, working and learning together can we tackle **the impacts on water resources** and uncertainties induced by climate change. [Click here](#) to download it.

34. "**Externalities of surface irrigation**" is the title of a student thesis. The author Marwan Ladki considers that we need to enlarge the stake of an irrigation water associations' income diversification through positive externalities retribution, to the definition of a new governance system, based on stakeholders' contracting for "externalities services", through the increase/maintain/reduction of positive/negative externalities. [Click here](#) to download the document (in French, with summary in English). (Reference: DWFE-CA)

35. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment's Synthesis Report for the Ramsar Convention is now available for comment. The Ramsar synthesis report, to be entitled "**Wetlands and Water: Ecosystem Services and Human Well-being**", has been drafted by a synthesis team. [Click here](#) for further information.

36. The NGO background paper for the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 13), is now finalised. It forms part of the official documentation for the UN meeting on how to progress implementation of **international commitments in water**, sanitation and human settlements. [Click here](#) to download this paper.

37. **The 4th World Water Forum** Website has been launched. The 4th WWF will take place in Mexico in 2006 with the theme "Local Actions for a Global Challenge". To view the website [click here](#).

38. The new official **World Water Week** in Stockholm website is now on-line. At this website the preliminary **programme** for the 2005 World Water Week in Stockholm, information on submitting an abstract for the 2005 Stockholm Water Symposium, downloads and much more are available. [Click here](#) to view it.

39. The educational documentary "**A Dream of Water**" was presented to water experts & country delegations at UNESCO Headquarters on 30 November 2004. The city of Zaragoza ([EXPO ZARAGOZA 2008](#)) financed this 58 minute "Bausan Films" educational documentary under the auspices of UNESCO & World Water Assessment Programme ([WWAP](#)). "A Dream of Water" will raise awareness on the sustainable uses of water resources within the framework of the upcoming International Decade for Action, "**Water for Life**", 2005-2015. For more information, [click here](#).

40. The Final Report of the **16th Session of the International Hydrological Programme** (IHP) Intergovernmental Council which took place at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, 20-24 September 2004, has finally been completed. [Click here](#) to download it.

41. "**Phosphorus in Environmental Technology**" is a new book of IWA publishing. It provides a definitive and detailed presentation of state-of-the-art knowledge on the environmental behaviour of phosphorus and its applications to the treatment of waters and soils. For more information, [click here](#).

42. "**Water Quality Trading Assessment Handbook**" is the title of a new publication at [EPA](#) (Environmental Protection Agency) website. For more information, [click here](#).

43. The Handbook of **Groundwater Remediation** Using Permeable Reactive Barriers: Applications to Radionuclides, Trace Metals, and Nutrients, is a new book of [Stan J. Morrison](#) and is considered one of the first references specifically on this topic. It is an excellent fit for graduate students entering this emerging field as well as professionals conducting research or implementing this technology. For more information, [click here](#).

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CALL FOR TENDERS and PROPOSALS
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44. Call for proposals: The EU has launched its **€500 million Water Facility for ACP** (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific) countries. It will hopefully drive progress towards achievement of the water and sanitation MDGs. The deadline for proposals is **extended to 31st January 2005** and civil society organizations from the region or the EU can apply. For more information, visit the [website](#).

45. The Environmental Statistics Programme **MEDSTAT** in its Statistical cooperation Phase II (Mediterranean Region) announced a call for tender. MEDSTAT II aims at improving the sustainable capacity of the Mediterranean Partners to produce and publish comprehensive, reliable, timely and relevant statistics in different sectors to meet international standards and to answer users' needs. Reference: [EuropeAid/120096/C/SV/Multi](#). Maximum budget: **€19.3 M** (Lot1 & Lot2). The deadline is **14 of January 2005**. [Click here](#) for more information.

46. Call for proposals for indirect RTD actions under the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration: "[Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area](#)" has been launched. The deadline is **15 March 2005**. Budget: **€205 M**. Funding for the participation of researchers teams and institutions from third countries (i.e. states that are neither Member States nor states associated to the Framework Programme) can be made available in most cases in the same way as for EU partners (see [here](#) for conditions). Further information can be found [here](#).

47. The EC launches **new consultation on FP7 themes**: The EC is calling for contributions as it works to identify thematic areas for funding under the next research Framework Programme (FP7). The deadline for contributions is **31 December 2004**. For more information, visit the [website](#).

48. [The IPP \(Indicators for Integrated Product Policy of the DG Environment of the EC\) website](#) has been updated with the Invitation to a workshop within the framework of the study "[Development of Indicators for Integrated Product Policy](#)" for **21 January 2005**.

The aim of the workshop is to receive feedback from experts. Stakeholders interested in participating in the workshop should send a curriculum vitae and letter explaining why they consider themselves to be an expert to [Orsolya CSORBA](#) by **2nd January 2005**. For more information, [click here](#).

49. A new **SMAP III** financing proposal has been presented for a **€15 million** environmental programme that will concentrate on technical assistance for the furthering of sustainable development policy as well as the preparation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management plans. This concentration on more limited goals than previous [SMAP](#) funding programmes was proposed in an effort of improving the effectiveness of SMAP funding. The first component is foreseen to be launched by the end of 2004, while the second during 2005. [Click here](#) to view the current programme summary.

50. **The International Foundation for Science (IFS) and the Challenge Program on Water and Food (CPWF)** announced a call for research proposals open to young scientists. The purpose of the grants is to provide opportunities for young researchers to contribute to the generation of scientific knowledge relevant for achieving food security and poverty alleviation as expressed in the formulation of the Challenge Program on Water and Food. Applications for this first round of research grants must be received by IFS no later than **31 December 2004**. For more information, [click here](#).

51. **EU FP6 call for proposal** on Scientific Support to Policies has been published with a budget of **€77.8 million**. The work programme covers more than thirty environmental topics. Project Proposals by **MEDA Countries** entities and international organisations are welcome to participate. The deadline for submission of proposals is **1 February 2005 at 17.00 (Brussels local time)**. More information on the call available through the following [website](#).

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CALL FOR PAPERS
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52. The **2005 World Water Week** in Stockholm First Announcement and **Call for Abstracts** is now available. The World Water Week in Stockholm takes place August 21-27, 2005, and will be a global gathering of leading experts from the business, civil society, governmental, inter-governmental, science and water management sectors. The complete programme can be found at the newly-launched home page. Until **February 1, 2005**, abstracts are being accepted for presentation during the World Water Week's Stockholm Water Symposium workshops under the overall theme "Drainage Basin Management Hard and Soft Solutions in Regional Development." For more information, [click here](#).

53. The organizing committee of the International Conference on Water Economics, Statistics & Finance, that will be held in Rethymno, Crete on July 8th-10th 2005, has decided to extend the deadline for **full manuscript submissions**. There is no abstract evaluation; therefore there is still time to get involved. The new deadline is **31 of December 2004**. For more information, [click here](#).

54. The **Second Mediterranean Conference on Water Resources in Mediterranean Basin** (WATMED2) that will be held in Marrakech (Morocco) on 14-17 November 2005, announced a **call for papers**. The persons desiring to attend the congress are invited to register [online](#). The abstracts of the communications must be composed according to the [furnished model](#). They should be sent as a formatted Word file, by [e-mail](#), before **31 January 2005**. For more information, [click here](#).

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EVENTS
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2004-12-12/14 - The 6th meeting of the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee (MedWet/Com6), Tipaza, Algeria.
For more information, [click here](#).

2004-12-13/14 - UNECE Seminar on the role of ecosystems as water suppliers, Geneva, Switzerland.
For more information, [click here](#).

2004-12-15 - UNECE Meeting of the Working Group on IWRM, Geneva, Switzerland.
For more information, [click here](#).

2004-12-18/19 - The first National Seminar on Environmental Policy Integration and SMAP III, Cairo, Egypt.
[Click here](#) for more information.

2005-01-15 - European Water Resources Association 6th International Conference: Sharing a common vision for our water resources, Menton, France.
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-01-24/28 - International Conference: Biodiversity : Science & governance, Paris, France.
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-01-26/02-01 - International Conference and Exhibition on Geo-Resources in the Middle East and North Africa, Cairo, Egypt.
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-01-30/02-02 - Environment, Water and Energy 2005 - the 3rd exhibition and conference for the GCC region, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE).
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-01-31/02-01 - World Wetland Day, London, England.
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-01-31/02-05 - FAO/Netherlands International Conference on Water for Food and Ecosystems, The Hague, The Netherlands.
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-02-01/02 - Management and Economics of Water Desalination Units, Alexandria, Egypt.

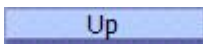
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-02-12/17 - EMPOWERS / INWRDAM Training Workshop on Participatory Integrated Water Resources Management, Beirut, Lebanon.

For more information, [click here](#).

2005-02-23/25 - Integrated Assessment and Management of Water Resources: A North-South Analysis, Bonn, Germany.

For more information, [click here](#).



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BRIEF EMWIS SITE MAP
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