

# Interim Evaluation of the European Capital of Culture action of the European Union

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

## About you

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### \* Language of my contribution

- ☐ Bulgarian
- ☐ Croatian
- ☐ Czech
- ☐ Danish
- ☐ Dutch
- ☒ English
- ☐ Estonian
- ☐ Finnish
- ☐ French
- ☐ German
- ☐ Greek
- ☐ Hungarian
- ☐ Irish
- ☐ Italian
- ☐ Latvian
- ☐ Lithuanian
- ☐ Maltese
- ☐ Polish
- ☐ Portuguese
- ☐ Romanian
- ☐ Slovak
- ☐ Slovenian
- ☐ Spanish

☐ Swedish

\* I am giving my contribution as

- ☐ Academic/research institution
- ☐ Business association
- ☐ Company/business
- ☐ Consumer organisation
- ☐ EU citizen
- ☐ Environmental organisation
- ☐ Non-EU citizen
- ☐ Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- ☒ Public authority
- ☐ Trade union
- ☐ Other

\* First name

Kadri

\* Surname

Jauram

\* Email (this won't be published)

kadri.jauram@kul.ee

\* Scope

- ☐ International
- ☐ Local
- ☒ National
- ☐ Regional

\* Level of governance

- ☐ Parliament
- ☒ Authority
- ☐ Agency

\* Organisation name

Estonian Ministry of Culture

\* Organisation size

- ☐ Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- ☐ Small (10 to 49 employees)
- ☒ Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- ☐ Large (250 or more)

Transparency register number

Check if your organisation is on the transparency register. It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

\* Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

*This list does not represent the official position of the European institutions with regard to the legal status or policy of the entities mentioned. It is a harmonisation of often divergent lists and practices.*

- |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Afghanistan         | <input type="radio"/> Djibouti           | <input type="radio"/> Libya            | <input type="radio"/> Saint Martin                     |
| <input type="radio"/> Åland Islands       | <input type="radio"/> Dominica           | <input type="radio"/> Liechtenstein    | <input type="radio"/> Saint Pierre and Miquelon        |
| <input type="radio"/> Albania             | <input type="radio"/> Dominican Republic | <input type="radio"/> Lithuania        | <input type="radio"/> Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |
| <input type="radio"/> Algeria             | <input type="radio"/> Ecuador            | <input type="radio"/> Luxembourg       | <input type="radio"/> Samoa                            |
| <input type="radio"/> American Samoa      | <input type="radio"/> Egypt              | <input type="radio"/> Macau            | <input type="radio"/> San Marino                       |
| <input type="radio"/> Andorra             | <input type="radio"/> El Salvador        | <input type="radio"/> Madagascar       | <input type="radio"/> São Tomé and Príncipe            |
| <input type="radio"/> Angola              | <input type="radio"/> Equatorial Guinea  | <input type="radio"/> Malawi           | <input type="radio"/> Saudi Arabia                     |
| <input type="radio"/> Anguilla            | <input type="radio"/> Eritrea            | <input type="radio"/> Malaysia         | <input type="radio"/> Senegal                          |
| <input type="radio"/> Antarctica          | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Estonia | <input type="radio"/> Maldives         | <input type="radio"/> Serbia                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Antigua and Barbuda | <input type="radio"/> Eswatini           | <input type="radio"/> Mali             | <input type="radio"/> Seychelles                       |
| <input type="radio"/> Argentina           | <input type="radio"/> Ethiopia           | <input type="radio"/> Malta            | <input type="radio"/> Sierra Leone                     |
| <input type="radio"/> Armenia             | <input type="radio"/> Falkland Islands   | <input type="radio"/> Marshall Islands | <input type="radio"/> Singapore                        |
| <input type="radio"/> Aruba               | <input type="radio"/> Faroe Islands      | <input type="radio"/> Martinique       | <input type="radio"/> Sint Maarten                     |

- |  |   |                  |   |
|--|---|------------------|---|
| ○ Australia                              | ○ Fiji                                      | ○ Mauritania     | ○ Slovakia  |
| ○ Austria                                | ○ Finland                                   | ○ Mauritius      | ○ Slovenia  |
| ○ Azerbaijan                             | ○ France                                    | ○ Mayotte        | ○ Solomon Islands                                       |
| ○ Bahamas                                | ○ French Guiana                             | ○ Mexico         | ○ Somalia   |
| ○ Bahrain                                | ○ French Polynesia                          | ○ Micronesia     | ○ South Africa  |
| ○ Bangladesh                             | ○ French Southern<br>and Antarctic<br>Lands | ○ Moldova        | ○ South Georgia<br>and the South<br>Sandwich<br>Islands |
| ○ Barbados                               | ○ Gabon                                     | ○ Monaco         | ○ South Korea   |
| ○ Belarus                                | ○ Georgia                                   | ○ Mongolia       | ○ South Sudan   |
| ○ Belgium                                | ○ Germany                                   | ○ Montenegro     | ○ Spain   |
| ○ Belize                                 | ○ Ghana                                     | ○ Montserrat     | ○ Sri Lanka   |
| ○ Benin                                  | ○ Gibraltar                                 | ○ Morocco        | ○ Sudan   |
| ○ Bermuda                                | ○ Greece                                    | ○ Mozambique     | ○ Suriname  |
| ○ Bhutan                                 | ○ Greenland                                 | ○ Myanmar/Burma  | ○ Svalbard and<br>Jan Mayen                             |
| ○ Bolivia                                | ○ Grenada                                   | ○ Namibia        | ○ Sweden  |
| ○ Bonaire Saint<br>Eustatius and<br>Saba | ○ Guadeloupe                                | ○ Nauru          | ○ Switzerland   |
| ○ Bosnia and<br>Herzegovina              | ○ Guam                                      | ○ Nepal          | ○ Syria   |
| ○ Botswana                               | ○ Guatemala                                 | ○ Netherlands    | ○ Taiwan  |
| ○ Bouvet Island                          | ○ Guernsey                                  | ○ New Caledonia  | ○ Tajikistan  |
| ○ Brazil                                 | ○ Guinea                                    | ○ New Zealand    | ○ Tanzania  |
| ○ British Indian<br>Ocean Territory      | ○ Guinea-Bissau                             | ○ Nicaragua      | ○ Thailand  |
| ○ British Virgin<br>Islands              | ○ Guyana                                    | ○ Niger          | ○ The Gambia  |
| ○ Brunei                                 | ○ Haiti                                     | ○ Nigeria        | ○ Timor-Leste   |
| ○ Bulgaria                               | ○ Heard Island and<br>McDonald Islands      | ○ Niue           | ○ Togo  |
| ○ Burkina Faso                           | ○ Honduras                                  | ○ Norfolk Island | ○ Tokelau   |

- Burundi
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Cape Verde
- Cayman Islands
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Chile
- China
- Christmas Island
- Clipperton
- Cocos (Keeling) Islands
- Colombia
- Comoros
- Congo
- Cook Islands
- Costa Rica
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Croatia
- Cuba
- Curaçao
- Cyprus
- Czechia
- Hong Kong
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Isle of Man
- Israel
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jersey
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Kosovo
- Kuwait
- Kyrgyzstan
- Laos
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Northern Mariana Islands
- North Korea
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palau
- Palestine
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Pitcairn Islands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Puerto Rico
- Qatar
- Réunion
- Romania
- Russia
- Rwanda
- Saint Barthélemy
- Saint Helena Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
- Tonga
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Tunisia
- Türkiye
- Turkmenistan
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- Tuvalu
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States
- United States Minor Outlying Islands
- Uruguay
- US Virgin Islands
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu
- Vatican City
- Venezuela
- Vietnam
- Wallis and Futuna
- Western Sahara
- Yemen
- Zambia

- ☐ Democratic Republic of the Congo
- ☐ Lesotho
- ☐ Saint Kitts and Nevis
- ☐ Zimbabwe
- ☐ Denmark
- ☐ Liberia
- ☐ Saint Lucia

The Commission will publish all contributions to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. **For the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association', 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published.** Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

### \* Contribution publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

#### ☐ Anonymous

Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

#### ☒ Public

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

☒ I agree with the [personal data protection provisions](#)

## Introduction

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The European Capital of Culture (ECoC) initiative was first launched in 1985 and over 60 cities have now been awarded the title over the last 40 years. In its current form it has been designed to promote the diversity of cultures in Europe as well as to increase European citizens' sense of belonging to a common cultural area. It also contributes to the regeneration of cities, raising their international profile, boosting tourism, and breathing new life into a city's culture offer as well as enhancing the image of cities for both inhabitants and visitors alike. There are two title-holding cities every year, in two different Member States of the Union, and in given years, a third one in a city from an EFTA/EEA country, candidate country or

potential candidate.

The European Commission is undertaking the first interim evaluation of the ECoC action 2020-2033. The evaluation will look back at the implementation of the action since the adoption of its current legal framework in 2014, but also at the impact on title-holding cities from 2013 to 2019 (selected and monitored under a previous legal basis). It seeks to identify the impacts the action has made in the last ten years, understand the full potential of the legacy of hosting an ECoC, and to provide lessons that future ECoC cities and cities interested in developing their culture strategies can learn from.

This public consultation will serve as an integral part of the evaluation of the initiative. It seeks feedback from all stakeholders involved in the implementation, management, and delivery of the European Capital of Culture scheme as well as from the wider public who are either interested or participate in culture.

## Why this consultation?

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The purpose of this evaluation is to:

- Assess the European Capitals of Culture action as a whole, including the efficiency of the processes running it, as well as the effectiveness, relevance, coherence, and EU added value of the action
- Draw comparisons and provide lessons learnt for future European Capitals of Culture as well as for all European cities interested in boosting their cultural offer
- Identify impacts of the European Capitals of Culture action and areas for improvement
- Gather views on the successor scheme for the European Capitals of Culture beyond 2033

## Who is invited to contribute to this consultation?

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All citizens and organisations are invited to contribute to this consultation.

Contributions are particularly sought from:

- Representatives from local authorities and organisations (e.g. civil society organisations, networks and associations, private sector organisations), from cities that have been involved in the ECoC action;
- Representatives from local authorities and organisations (e.g. civil society organisations, networks and associations, private sector organisations) from cities that have not yet been involved the ECoC action;
- Citizens, whether or not they have actively been involved in the ECoC action;
- Any organisation or citizen with specific expertise or interest in the fields of culture, urban development, tourism and socio-economic policy.

## General information about respondents

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\* How important is investment in the cultural sector to you?

- ☒ Very important

- ☐ Moderately important
- ☐ Not very important
- ☐ Not important at all
- ☐ I don't know

To what extent are you familiar with the following:

	Very familiar	Quite familiar	A little familiar	Not familiar at all
* EU cultural policy and priorities	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* The European Capital of Culture action in general	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* The process to select the cities hosting the ECoC	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* The monitoring process in selected cities leading to the ECoC year	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

\* Are you representing or are you related to a city that has been selected as a European Capital of Culture in the past?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, but my city has bid for ECoC status
- ☒ No, neither a selected city nor a bidding city
- ☐ I don't know/ prefer not to answer

To what extent do you think the overall ECoC action managed to achieve the following objectives in the period 2013 – 2023:

	To a large extent	To some extent	To a limited extent	Not at all	Don't know
* Encourage the implementation of a large number of cultural activities with a strong European dimension, involving European artists and developed through international partnerships	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Contribute to raise citizens' awareness of the diversity of European cultures and the common features they share	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Strengthen the cultural offer in the title-holding cities through better cultural strategies and increased spending on culture	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Led to increased access to and participation in culture by traditional and non-traditional audience	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



* Encouraged the development of a long-term cultural strategy in the title-holding cities	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Encouraged the allocation of private and public funding to the development of cultural infrastructures in the title-holding cities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Supported the provision of training to cultural professionals	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Overall strengthened the cultural sector in the local and regional area of title-holding cities	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Led to an increase in the number of national and international tourists to the title-holding cities	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Contributed to increasing the international recognition of the title-holding cities	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

When it comes to the ECOC brand and visibility, in your opinion:

	To a large extent	To some extent	To a limited extent	Not at all	Don't know
* To what extent are citizens aware of the existence of the ECoC action?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* To what extent are citizens aware that the ECoC is an EU initiative?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* To what extent is the ECoC brand recognised as a seal of quality for title holding cities?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please rank the following factors from the most relevant (1) to the least relevant (6) to the success of the ECoC action:

*Use drag&drop or the up/down buttons to change the order or accept the initial order.*

☐ Capacity of city authorities to run an ECoC

☐ Capacity of cultural organisations to host an ECoC related activity

☐ Political will and support for culture

☐ Available finances to fund an ECoC

☐ Other policies areas (e.g. education, employment, health, etc) being seen as more important

☐ A lack of understanding of how culture can support social and economic development

Are there other factors able to affect the success of the ECoC action?

reachability, connectivity, number of visits. Innovation - approaches of organising culture including in public spaces. Finding balance between local engagement as well as international.

To what extent are the following criteria for the selection of the cities hosting the European Capital of Culture title relevant to the issues affecting cities in the EU?

	Very relevant	Moderately relevant	Slightly relevant	Not relevant at all	Don't know/ Not applicable
* City regeneration	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Development of quality tourism	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Image enhancement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Social inclusion	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Environmental sustainability	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What other criteria, if any, should be used for the selection of cities for the ECoC title?

Ability to include region in international cooperation, connectivity, accessibility, among other by digital means.

\* In your opinion, to what extent do you think the selection procedure established in 2014 works well to select the best candidate city to host the European Capital of Culture?

- ☐ Works very well
- ☒ Works quite well
- ☐ Does not work that well
- ☐ Does not work at all
- ☐ I don't know

\* Please explain your answer, in particular, mention any factors that could positively or negatively affect the selection process:

Covid interrupted the eye-to-eye meetings.

\* In your opinion, to what extent are four years sufficient to ensure the successful planning of the European Capital of Culture year?

Please take into account the development of a longer-term cultural strategy, engaging with citizens about the cultural activities to take place, and preparation of adequate infrastructure.

- ☒ Largely sufficient
- ☐ Moderately sufficient
- ☐ Hardly sufficient
- ☐ Not at all sufficient
- ☐ I don't know

\* Please explain your answer and add concrete examples if possible:

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\* On certain years, cities in an EFTA/EEA country, candidate country or potential candidate have been eligible to apply for the ECoC title in addition to two EU cities. In your opinion, to what extent does extending the title to these non-EU cities align with the general objective of the ECoC action to safeguard and promote the diversity of cultures in Europe and to highlight the common features they share?

- ☒ To a large extent
- ☐ To a moderate extent
- ☐ To a small extent
- ☐ Not at all - non-EU cities should not be included in the ECoC action
- ☐ I don't know

\* In your opinion, should the action be extended to additional non-EU countries beyond EFTA/EEA countries, candidate countries, or potential candidates?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I don't know

\* In your opinion, at which frequency should cities in EFTA/EEA countries, candidate countries or potential candidates be eligible to apply for the ECoC title?

- ☐ Every year
- ☐ Every two years

- ☒ Every three years
- ☐ Other

\* In your opinion, to what extent do you think the monitoring procedure established in 2014 works well to ensure the best implementation of the European Capital of Culture event?

- ☐ Works very well
- ☒ Works quite well
- ☐ Does not work that well
- ☐ Does not work well at all
- ☐ I don't know

\* Please explain your answer, in particular thinking of any factors that could positively or negatively affect the monitoring process:

To what extent do you think the ECoC action is relevant to:

	Highly relevant	Moderately relevant	Somewhat relevant	Not relevant at all	Don't know
* Cities' needs and overall objectives	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Different Member States' needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Needs across the EU, such as in relation to the digital and green transition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

To what extent do you think the objectives and criteria of the ECoC action promote gender equality and inclusion for all:

	To a large extent	To a moderate extent	To some extent	Not at all	Don't know
* Gender equality	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Inclusion for all, particularly people with disabilities, people belonging to minorities, and people experiencing social marginalisation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

To what extent do you think the ECoC action is complementary or overlapping with other EU and national initiatives linked to promoting culture in cities:

	Largely complementary	Complementary	Overlapping	Largely overlapping	Don't know
* EU initiatives and policies	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* National initiatives and policies	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

\* Please elaborate on your answer and provide examples if possible:

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In your opinion, to what extent did the ECoC title have a longer-term legacy and impact on selected cities?

	To a large extent	To a moderate extent	To some extent	Not at all	Don't know
* Improved the longer-term cultural offer of cities	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Supported city regeneration	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Supported the development of quality tourism	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Enhanced the image of the city	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Supported social inclusion	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Promoted environmental sustainability	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

\* Can you identify any areas where the longer-term legacy of the European Capital of Culture title is still evident in selected cities today? Please provide concrete examples if possible.

International cultural ties, attention by international media.

\* In your opinion, what issues hindered the ability of the European Capital of Culture title to have longer-term impacts on selected cities? Please select all that apply.



Financial or budgetary constraints linked to culture at the city/regional or national level

- ☐ Other policy areas being prioritised over culture
- ☒ A lack of longer-term legacy planning by the ECoC title holder
- ☒ A lack of city strategies setting out longer-term plans
- ☐ A loss of interest in culture among stakeholders following the ECoC year
- ☒ The difficulty to maintain cultural networking at EU level
- ☒ Other
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ None

\* Please specify:

all the mentioned aspects are related to budget constraints.

\* In your opinion, should the European Capital of Culture action continue?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know

Please explain your answer:

Do you have any final remarks or suggestions for improvement beyond 2033 regarding the European Capital of Culture action that were not covered in the questionnaire?

we would like to underline the importance of European values and putting them in practice in the local context. the importance of local people feeling part of Europe.

## Contact

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