

# Towards Co-Produced Policy Frameworks to enhance animal health and welfare in organic, extensive and small-scale pig and poultry farming systems

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# INTRODUCTION and STUDY AIM

- The **H2020 PPILOW** project
- African Swine Fever and Avian Influenza
- This study explored knowledge, practices and perceptions of “alternative” pig and poultry farming actors’ regarding
  - biosecurity and animal welfare;
  - impact of current biosecurity measures on animal health and welfare.



*“They are organic, vegetarian and they challenge traditional gender roles”*

# METHODS

- online questionnaire with semi-closed question on LimeSurvey (Unipd)
- link distributed via dedicated **PPILOW** mailing lists
- eligible participants included farmers, veterinarians, and experts aged 18 and older, who were involved in small-scale, extensive or organic farming.
- the original version was drafted in English, and disseminated also in Danish, Dutch, French, German, Italian, and Romanian.
- available online from May 1st to July 1st 2024
- dataset exported to SPSS version 29, where all statistical analyses were performed assuming a p-value of 0.05 for significant results.

# RESULTS

## RESPONDENTS CHARACTERISTICS

- **243** full questionnaires
- Italy and Belgium accounted for 50%
- farmers represented 58% of the respondents
- the majority of farmers were rearing poultry (44%), 31 % were rearing pigs and 25% had both species on farm
- certified organic farms (56% pigs and 60% poultry), conventional with outdoor access (25%)
- median pig farm size **40** animals (2-6500) and median poultry farm size **425** animals (10-10.000)

# RESULTS

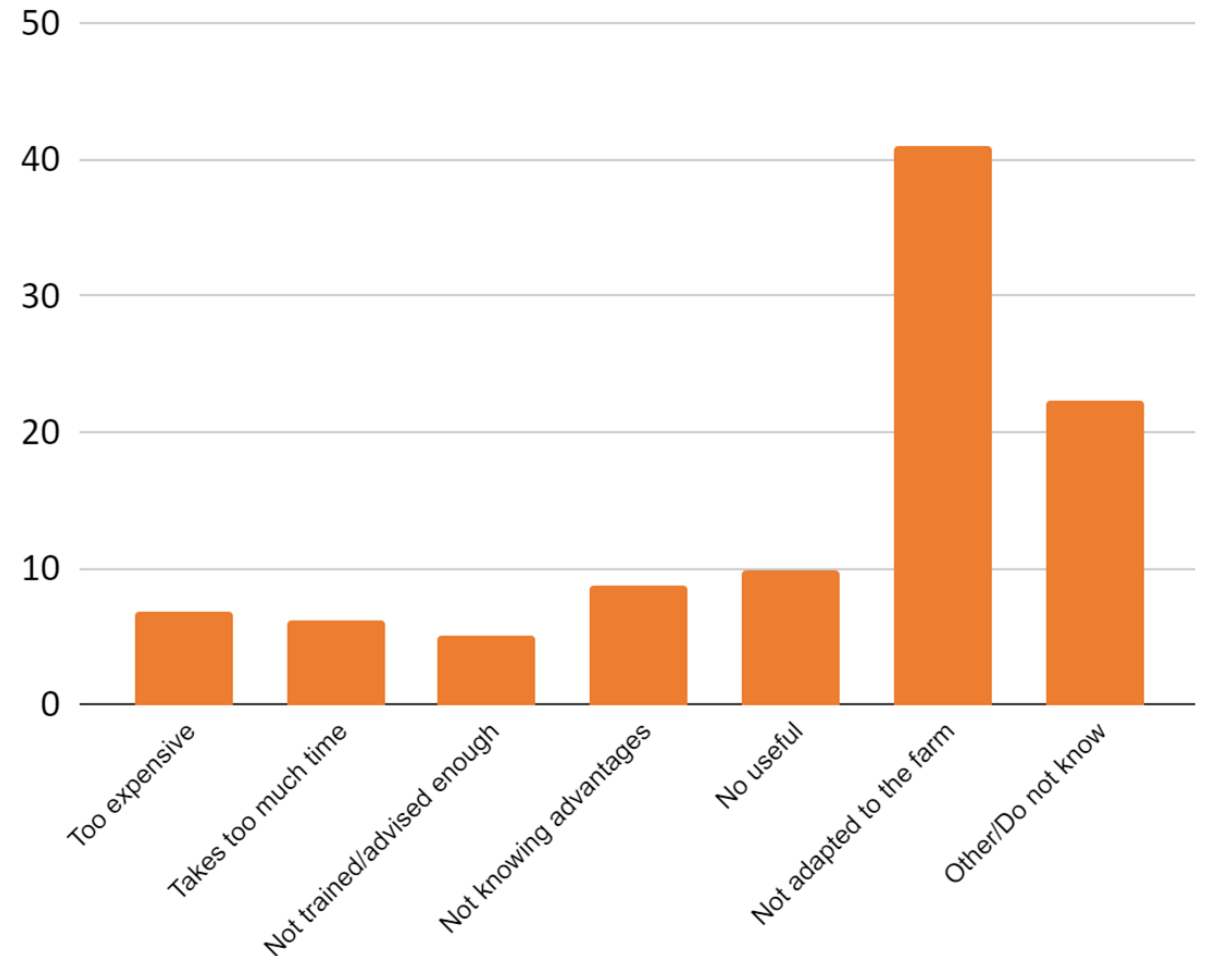
## BIOSECURITY KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTIONS

	AGREE %	DISAGREE %
I am familiar with the term 'biosecurity'	83	17
As a farmer/veterinarian/advisor I feel responsible for 'biosecurity'	85	15
I have sufficient information to apply 'biosecurity' well in practice	72	28
I believe that the level of 'biosecurity' can be improved on my farm/the farms I visit* <small>*Farmers display lower confidence than vets/advisors</small>	56	44

# RESULTS

## BIOSECURITY MEASURES' IMPLEMENTATION

- Implementation ranges from 48% to 91% (average 75%)
- there are differences in the way farmers and vets/advisors consider the measure implemented
- reasons for not implementing are mostly because measures are not adapted to the farm

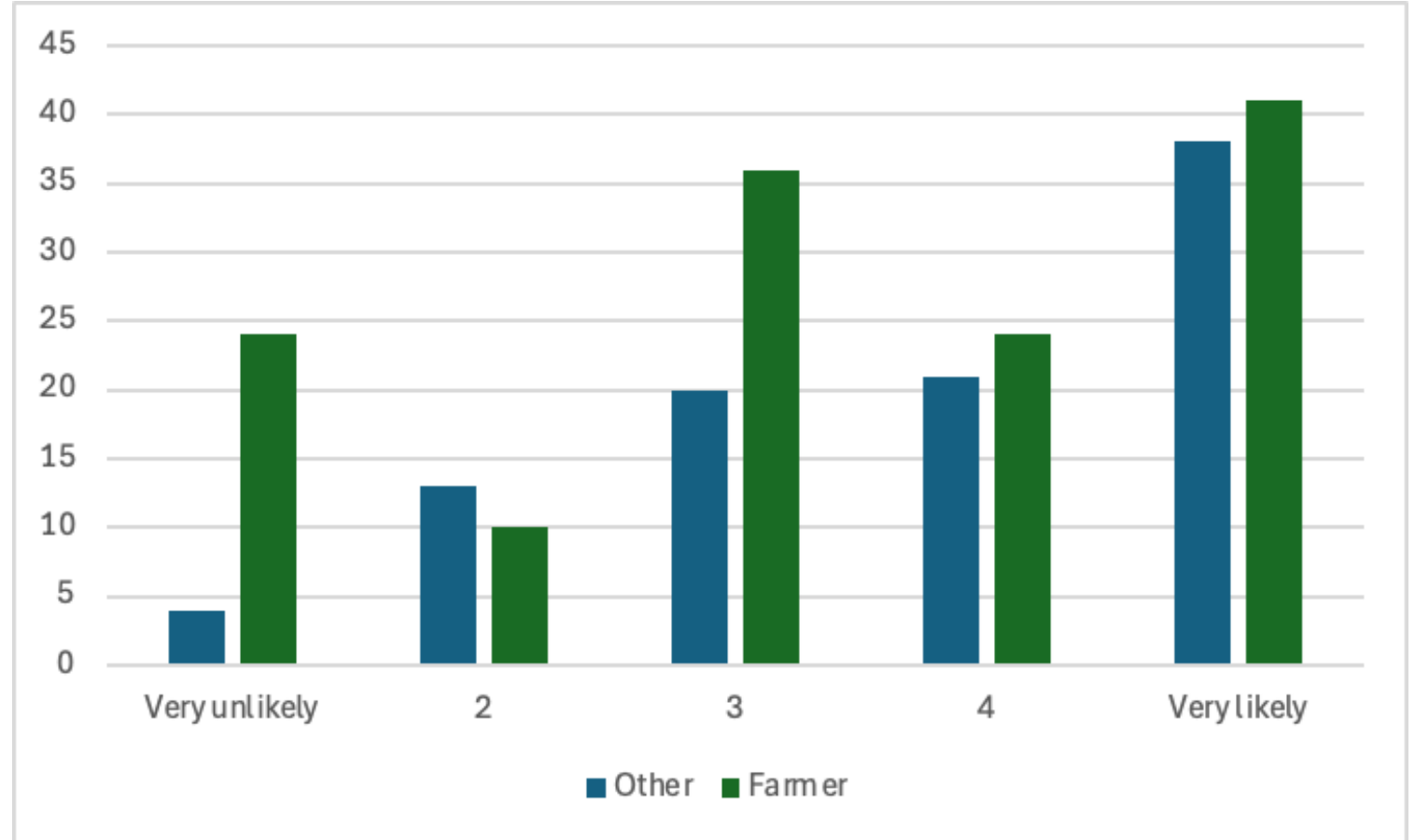


Laconi et al., 2023

# RESULTS

## REPORTING NON-COMPLIANCES

- Willingness to report non-compliance is low
- There are differences in the way farmers and vets/advisors see the matter



# RESULTS

## RESPONDENTS' FEARS

	<b>PIGS</b> %	<b>POULTRY</b> %
<b>Ban on export</b>	23	15,4
<b>Stamping out</b>	60,4	60,9
<b>Stop outdoor farming</b>	67,6	67,9
<b>Stop farming</b>	36,7	42,3
<b>No compensation</b>	32,4	37,8
<b>Local transport/slaughter restrictions</b>	32,4	28,8
<b>Loss of farm animal genetic lines</b>	31,7	21,8

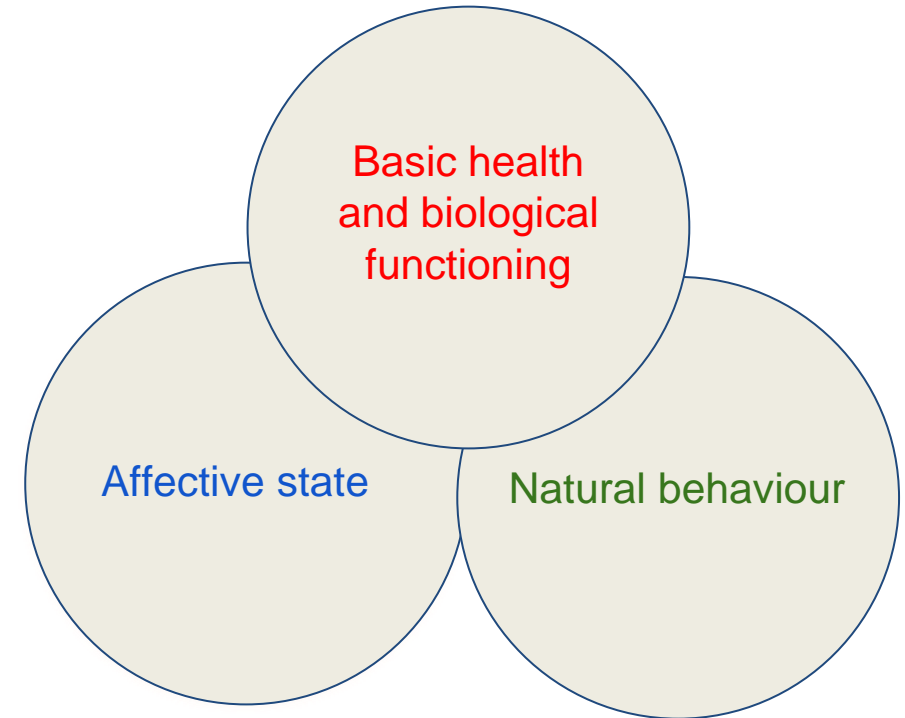
Klein et al., 2023



# RESULTS

## PERCEPTIONS ON ANIMAL WELFARE

- All criteria have high scores but **health and biological functioning** is higher
- **Farmers** and vets/advisors differ in the importance attributed to criteria freedom of movement and **natural behaviour** component



# RESULTS

## PERCEPTIONS OF IMPACT

Respondents perceive a **difference** in the way biosecurity measures impact on animal health, **AH** and animal welfare, **AW**

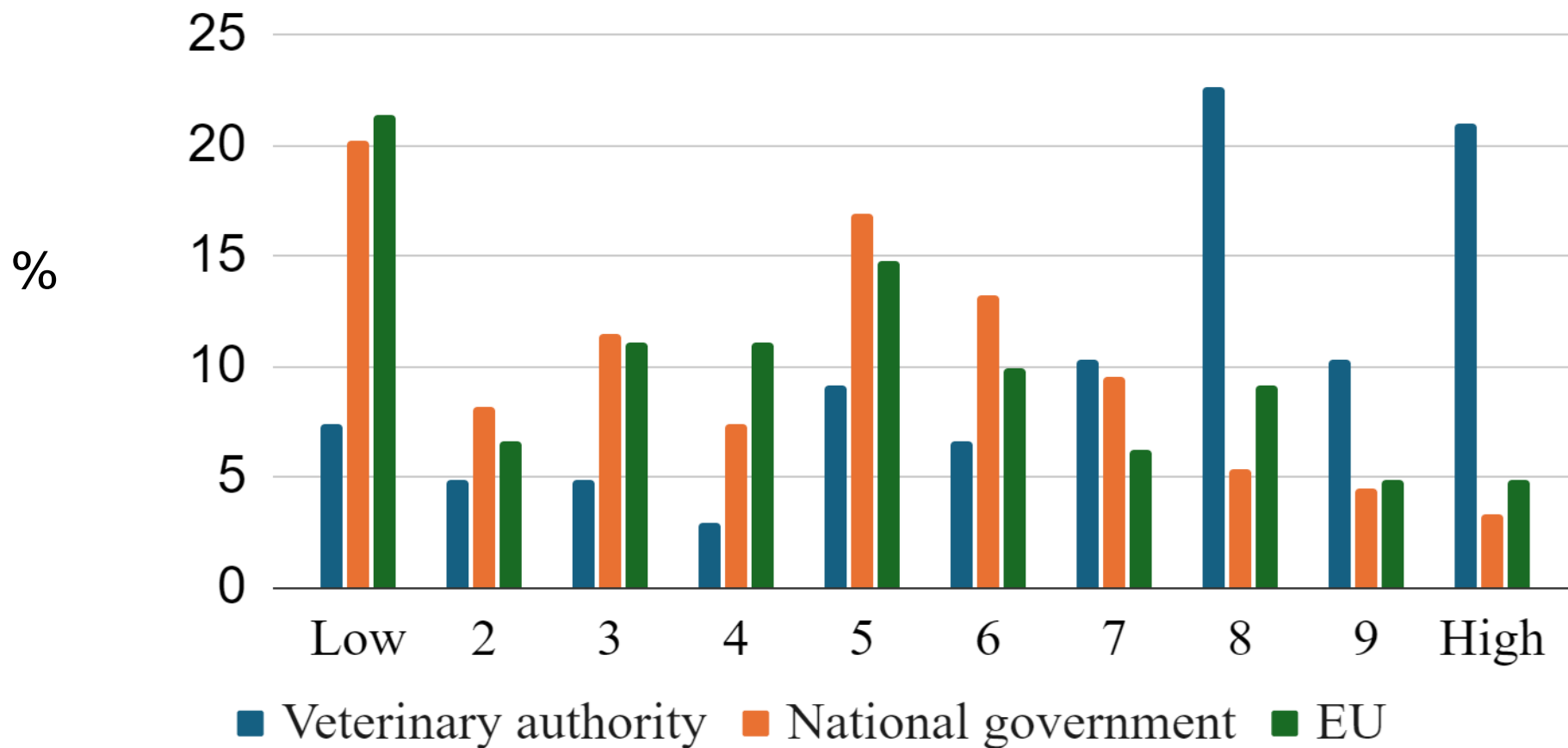
Respondents disagree/strongly disagree that biosecurity measures as currently required are leading and will lead to better AH (37-40%) and AW (40-45%)

Farmers have a stronger negative perception than vets/advisors on the impact of biosecurity as currently required by competent authorities on AH and AW



# RESULTS

## TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS



Farmers have significant lower trust in EU/national government compared to vets/advisors.

# DISCUSSION

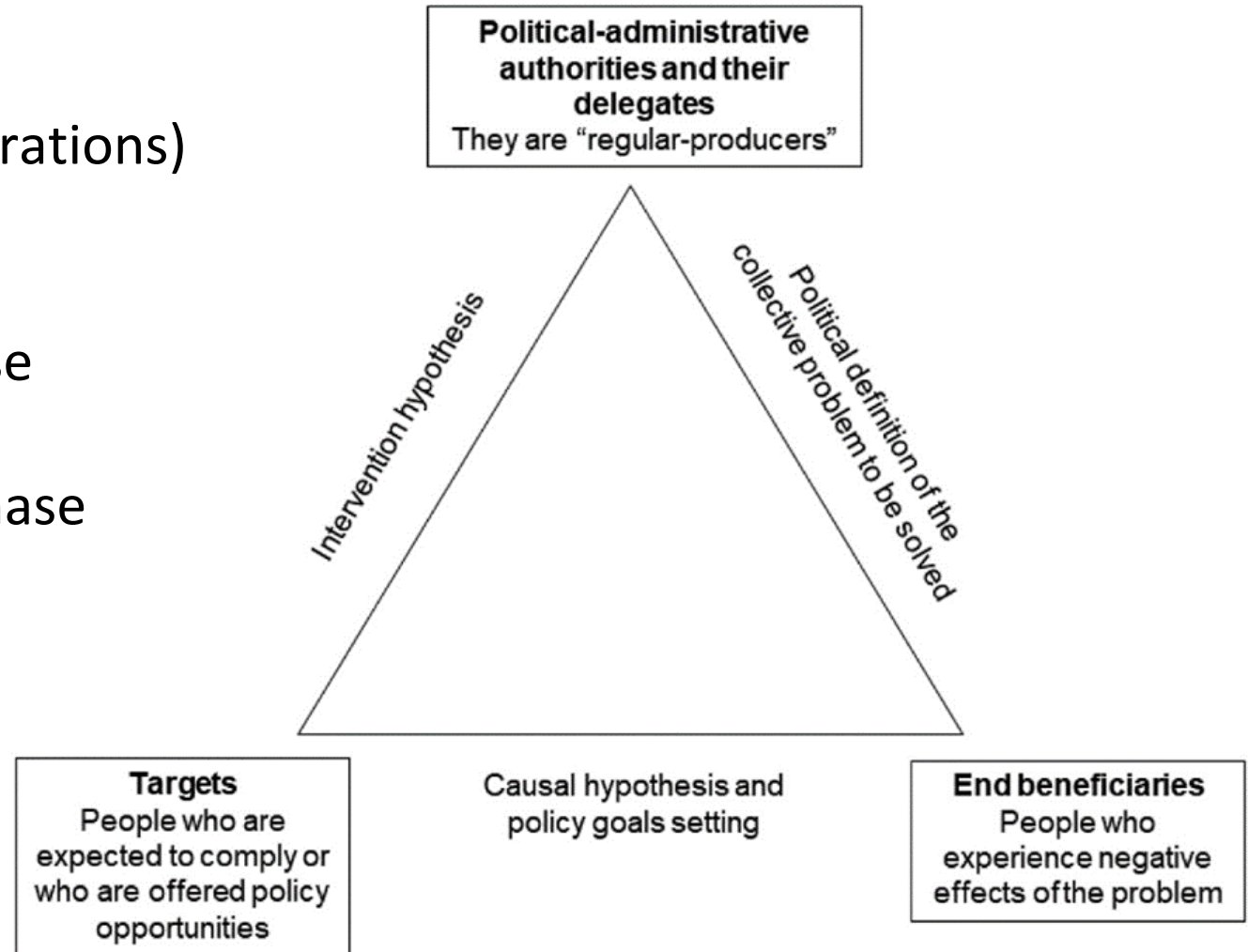
This is an exploratory study

- respondents feel responsible about biosecurity, don't believe they can improve much
- when they do not implement the measure it's because they believe it doesn't fit their farm type
- they fear stopping outdoor farming more than anything else
- while health/biological functioning is believed to be an important welfare aspect, behavioural/emotional components are kept in high consideration
- Farmers are negative regarding the impact of current biosecurity measures on AW and AH
- Most respondents trust veterinary institutions, rather than the national government and the EU

# DISCUSSION

...AND POLICY CO-PRODUCTION?

- **CO** = state actors (public administrations)  
+ lay actors
- **DESIGN** = policy formulation phase
- **PRODUCTION** = policy delivery phase



# DISCUSSION

...AND POLICY CO-PRODUCTION?

- The level of compliance is low and willingness to report non-compliance is low
- Measures are considered not suitable for small scale/extensive/organic farming systems and trust in the institution that design policies is low
- The engagement of the representatives of small scale/extensive/organic farming system in policy design is low

## **Policy co-design is needed to**

- improve biosecurity measures' fit to small scale/extensive/organic farms
- increase policy co-production and policy compliance
- improve animal health and welfare.

# PPILOW PARTNERS



Fondazione Slow Food  
per la Biodiversità  
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*Thank you for your attention*

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