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# Finland: Health System Summary

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Finnish Institute for  
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# Health system in Finland

## Universal, largely tax-funded health system

Tax-funding and social insurance contributions

Some 80% from public sources

The share of out of pocket payments larger than in other Nordic countries

## Emphasis on

Local and regional autonomy

Public provision

Integration between health care and social services

## Parallel systems to universal health system exist

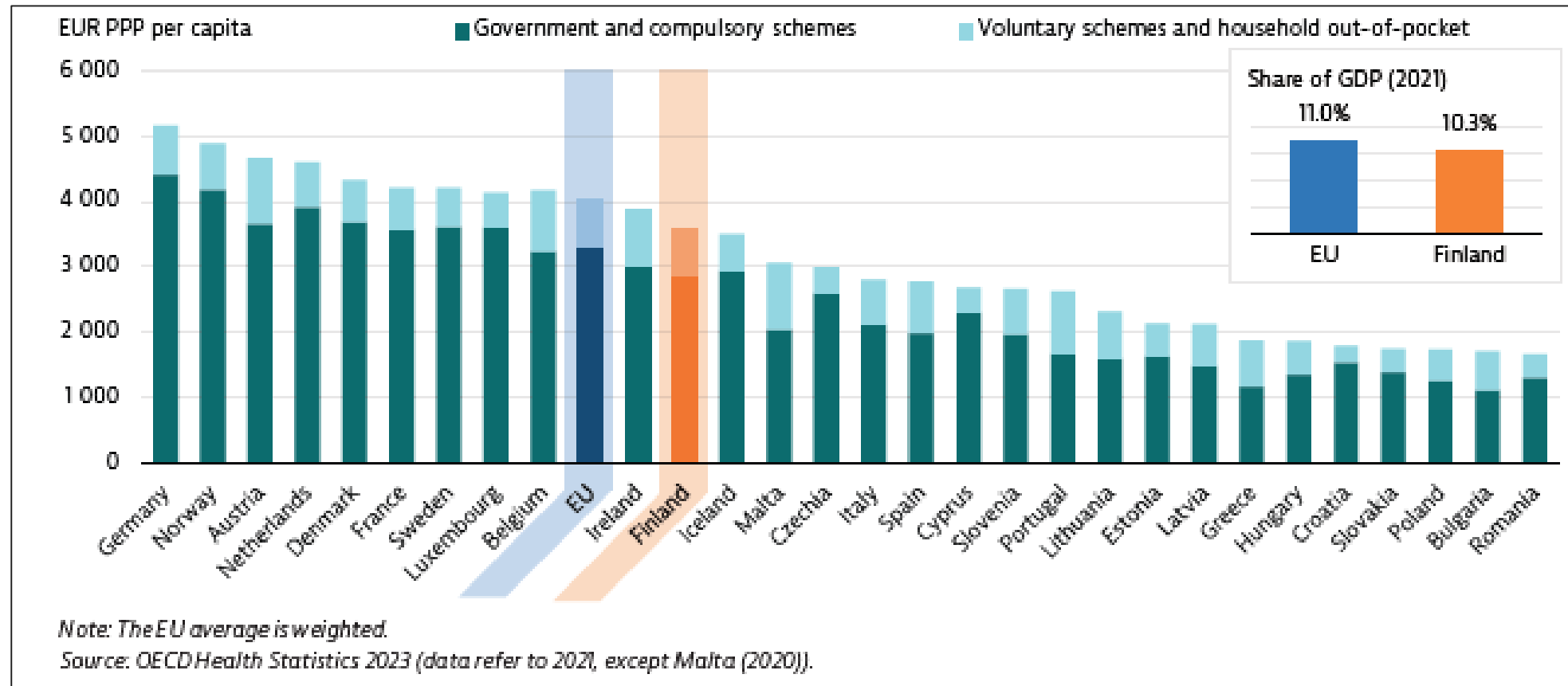
Also employers organise primary care through occupational health scheme

National Health Insurance reimburses the use of private health services, medicine and travel

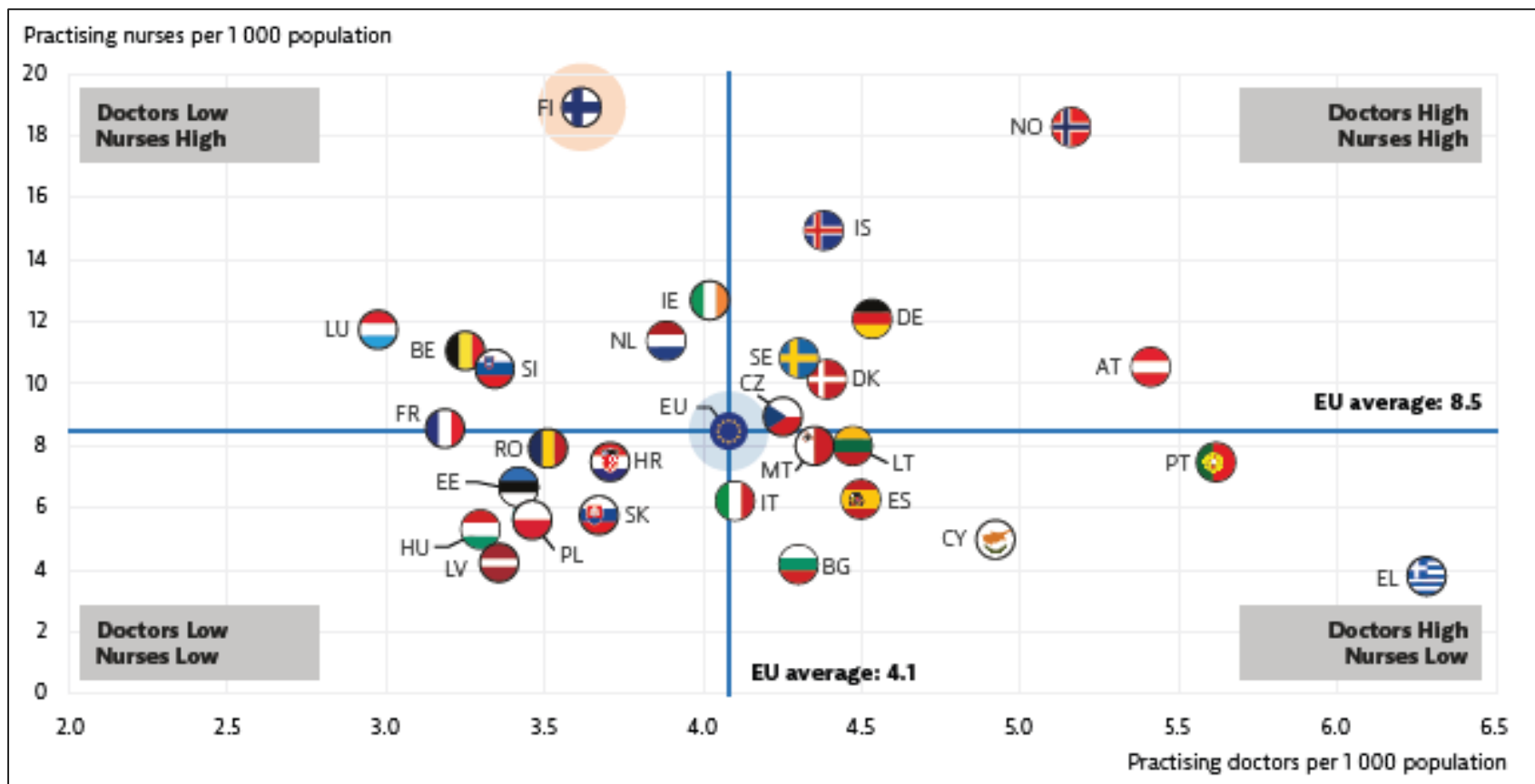
Some 20 % population has voluntary private health insurance



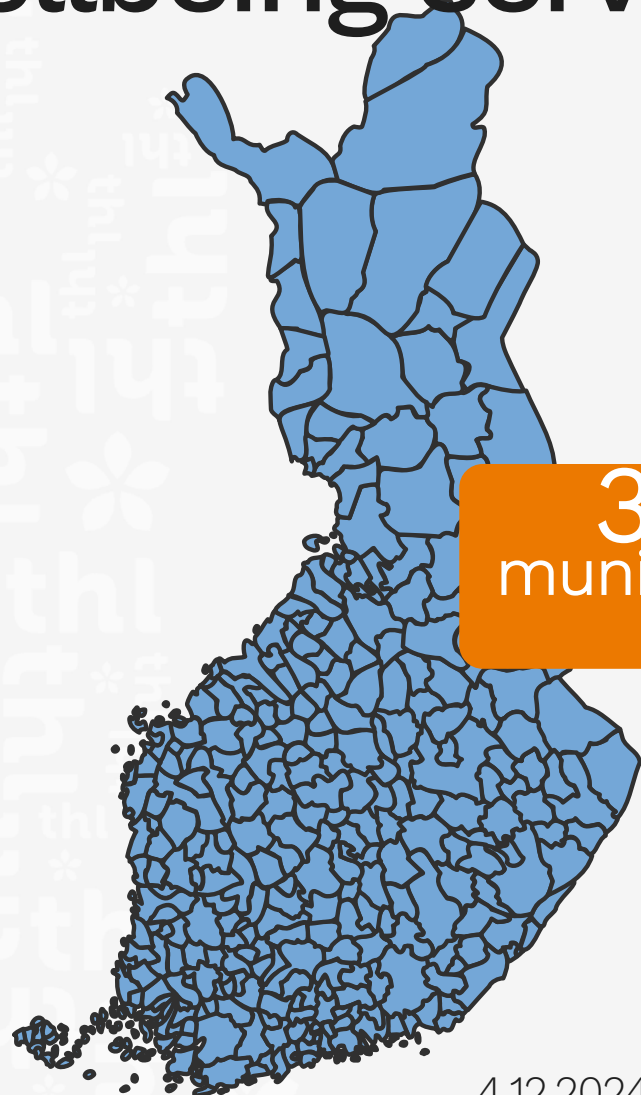
# Finland spends less on health than the EU average and other Nordic countries



# Finland has more nurses than other EU countries, but fewer doctors



# Transition from 309 municipalities to 21 wellbeing services counties in 2023



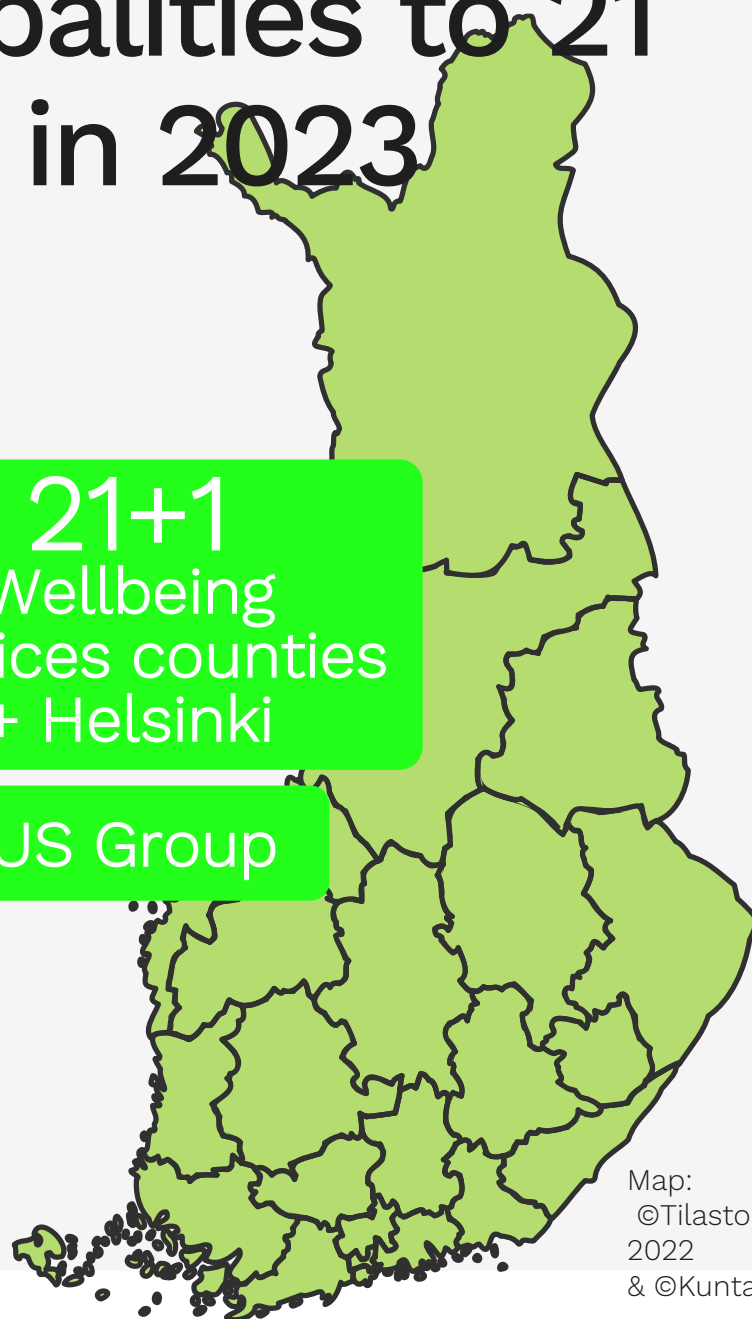
309  
municipalities



21+1

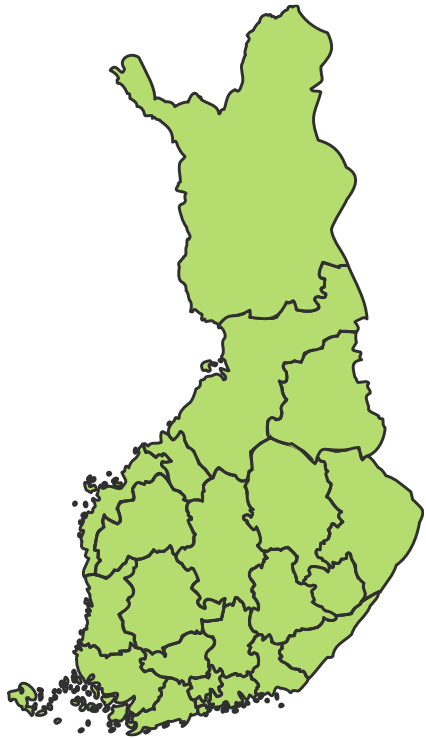
Wellbeing  
services counties  
+ Helsinki

+ HUS Group

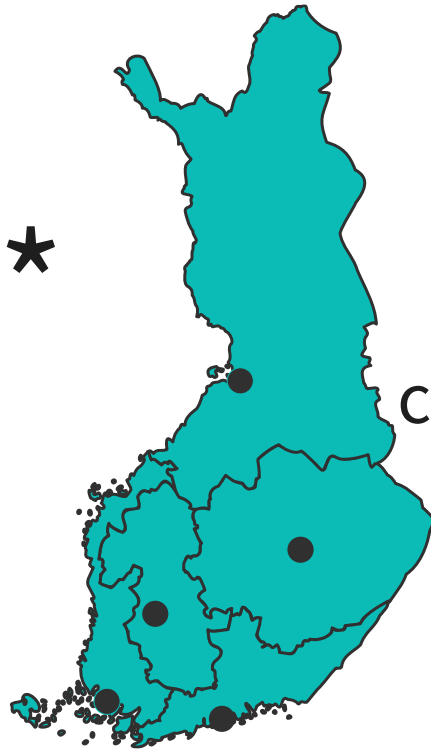


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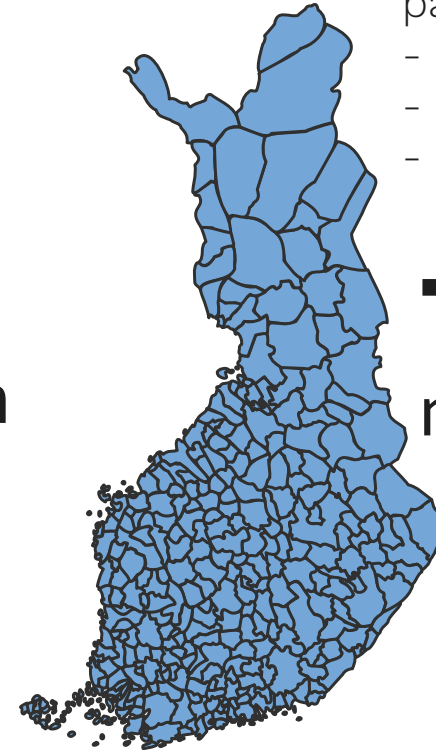
# Finland's health care and social services system



**21+1\***  
wellbeing  
services  
counties



**5**  
cooperation  
areas



**+300**  
municipalities

Municipalities:  
partial responsibility for  
- health promotion  
- health protection  
- environmental health

**+** private  
services



\* City of Helsinki

04/12/2024



# Division of duties since 1.1.2023

## State

- guidance and direction
- funding

## 22+1

health, social and rescue services organisations  
+ Hospital District of Helsinki and Uusimaa

## 5

**collaborative areas**  
division of responsibilities in specialised services

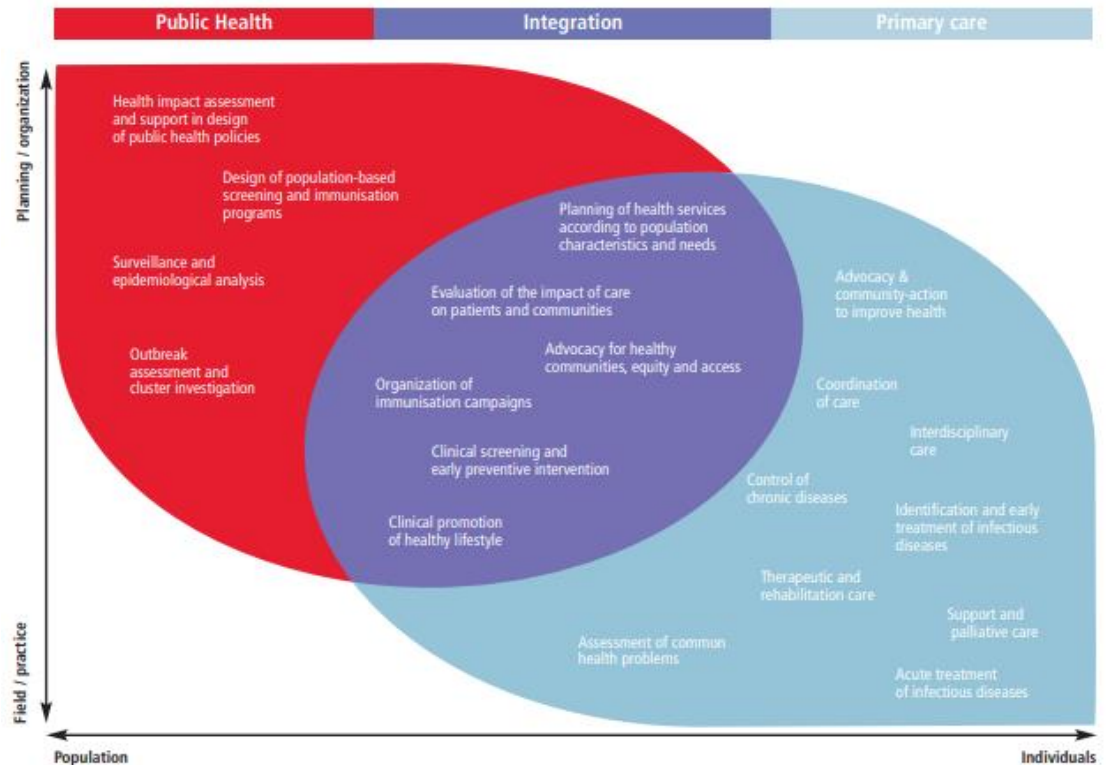
## Strong role for the public sector

Private and third sectors complement public services





# Primary health care at health and social care centres



Levesque et al. 2013

- Monitoring of the population's health
- Health counselling, including health education and contraception advice
- Maternity and child health clinic services
- School and student healthcare
- Screening for specified diseases and vaccinations against infectious diseases
- Oral healthcare
- Mental health and substance abuse services
- Appointments with doctors and other healthcare professionals
- First aid and urgent care
- Inpatient care for those requiring hospital care
- Home care services



# 12 facts about the Finnish health and social care system

1. **Universal Coverage:** Every resident of Finland is entitled to healthcare services, as guaranteed by the Finnish
2. **Wellbeing Services Counties:** Since 2023, healthcare and social services are organised by 21 Wellbeing Services Counties (WBSCs) and the city of Helsinki
3. **State Financing:** The WBSCs are financed from the state budget, centralizing the funding of healthcare services
4. **Democratic Governance (?):** The WBSCs are governed by democratically elected councils, ensuring local representation in decision-making
5. **Primary and Specialised and Social Care:** The system offers comprehensive health and social care, including primary care, specialised medical care, and services for all age groups
6. **Preventive Focus:** Finnish health policy emphasizes health promotion and disease prevention, with services like health education, screenings, and vaccinations
7. **High Satisfaction (?):** Finland's healthcare system is highly rated among OECD countries for its scope, accessibility, and quality
8. **Public and Private Services:** While public health care is predominant, ambulatory services provided by occupational health care and private health services have a significant role
9. **Low Costs:** Public healthcare is mainly funded through taxes, making it very affordable for residents
10. **Health Outcomes (?):** Finland achieves good health outcomes, such as high life expectancy and low perinatal death rates
11. **Ongoing Reform (?):** After the administrative Reform in 2023 the system continues to evolve
12. **Focus on Equity (?):** The reform aims to reduce socioeconomic and geographic inequalities, ensuring equal access to high-quality health and social services across the country



# Thank you!



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