



ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DE VOLAILLES RURALES
EUROPEAN RURAL POULTRY ASSOCIATION

2018 annual report



GA 2019
Namur

2018 annual report



- Who are ERPA?
- What are rural poultry?
- Who are ERPA members?
- What are ERPA activities?



Who are
ERPA?

🐓 ERPA are the first European network representing (professional) producers of **rural poultry** in Europe

🐓 European association, created in 2007, headquartered in Paris

🐓 Their missions:

- **To make the European rural poultry production well known and represent it** to European and national administrations and other organizations
- To help to **preserve and develop the production of rural poultry** in Europe by recognizing its particularities
- **To defend free range, extensive, and family-based methods of farming, and slow-growth**
- To be a **forum of exchange/dialogue** between European rural poultry players

🐓 Their main challenges:

1. To allow rural poultry to continue to exist in Europe
2. To make the specificities of these rural productions well known

🐓 Since early 2018, ERPA work with the consulting agency





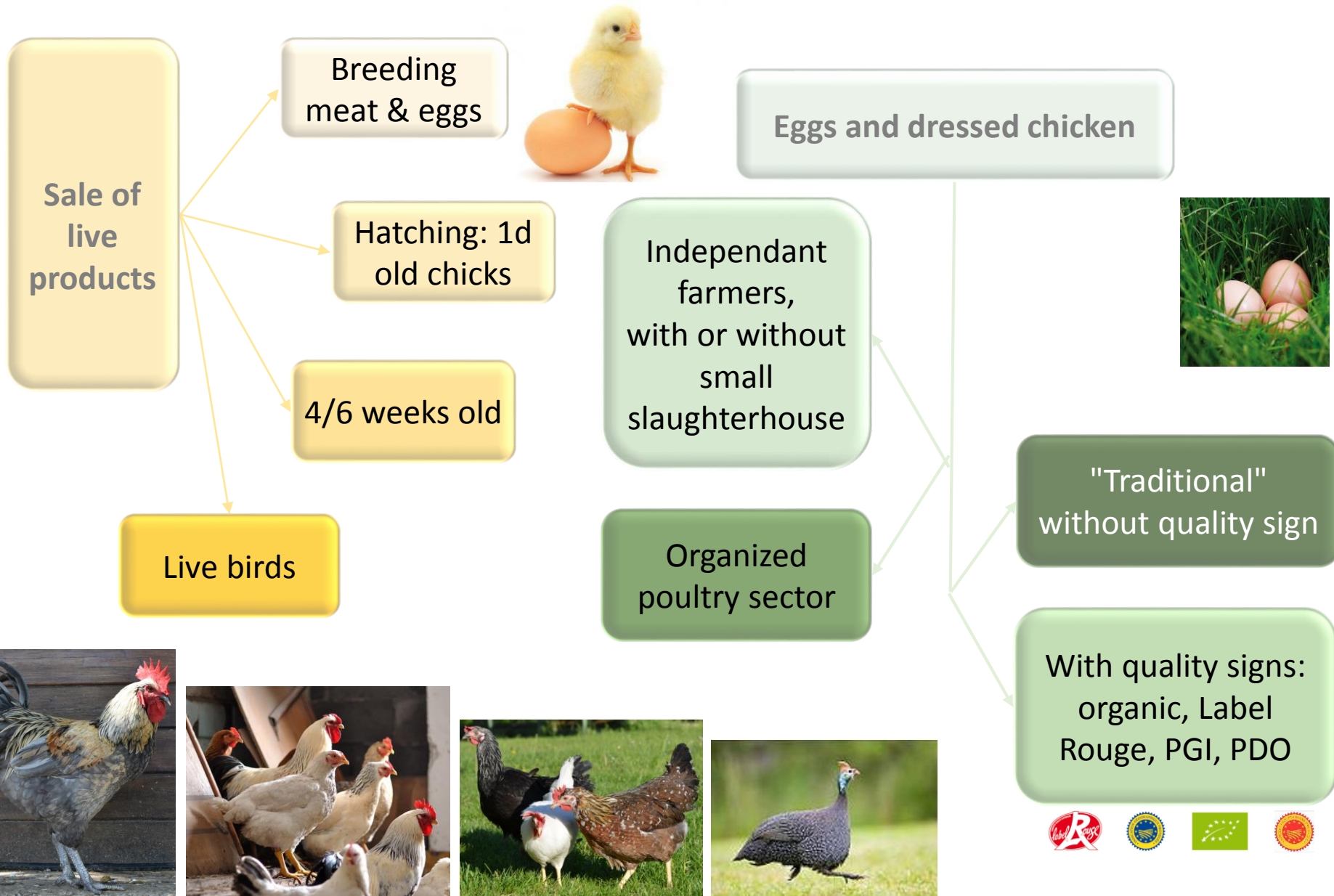
What are rural
poultry?

Diversified productions, with a common ethic

- ✿ **Free range** farming, **extensive farming** respecting animal welfare, use of poultry adapted to free range
- ✿ **Colored birds** from rustic **slow-growing strains**
- ✿ **Farms and poultry houses with limited size**, on a human scale
- ✿ **Local origin of feed** (polyculture)
- ✿ **Family capital**
- ✿ **Quality** products



Diversified productions and producers:



Rural poultry support a large number of producers, mainly in the South and East of Europe



✖ Approximately 2,500,000 colored breeding birds in Europe

= more than **400,000,000 rural poultry** produced annually in Europe

= **thousands of producers**, including **family farms**

✖ For the whole chain: a turnover of about 2 billion euros

✖ A large number of players live directly and indirectly through this sector: hatchers, feed producers, farmers, slaughterhouses
+ indirect ones: transporters, tools, veterinarians, etc.



Estimated volumes of colored chickens produced in Southern and Eastern Europe

Indicative but incomplete data for Europe in 2015:

	Estimated production of colored birds	For organized poultry sector
France	153 000 000	115 M Label Rouge « traditional free range » (81d) and 8 M organic (81j)
Italy	45 000 000	
Portugal	33 000 000	7% of the national production is « traditional free range » (81d)
Spain	30 000 000	1 to 2% of the national production : < 10 M as « free range » (56d) and organic
Hongary	30 000 000	
Greece	7 500 000	
Belgium	3 000 000	About 3 M as organic and traditional free range

Sources : ERPA members and experts



Who are ERPA
members?

ERPA members

- ✓ National associations of producers or companies
- ✓ Breeders, for meat and eggs
- ✓ Our members are from many countries: Belgium, Spain, France, Italy, Czech Republic, Romania, Hungary.



3 new members!

- ✓ **HENDRIX GENETICS LAYERS – ISA**
- ✓ **HY-LINE France**
- ✓ **LOHMANN TIERZUCHT**



What are ERPA
activities?

ERPA: a well known structure



In a few years: a recognition as European Interlocutor with:

- the European Commission (DG AGRI, DG SANTE)
- the European Parliament
- national authorities of member-states

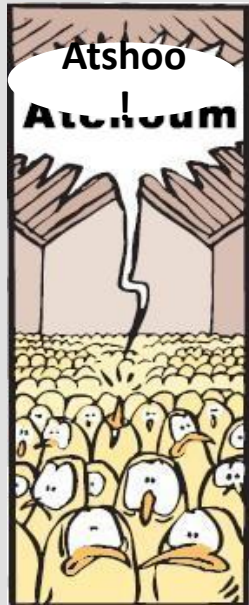


Representation of rural poultry in the European institutions:

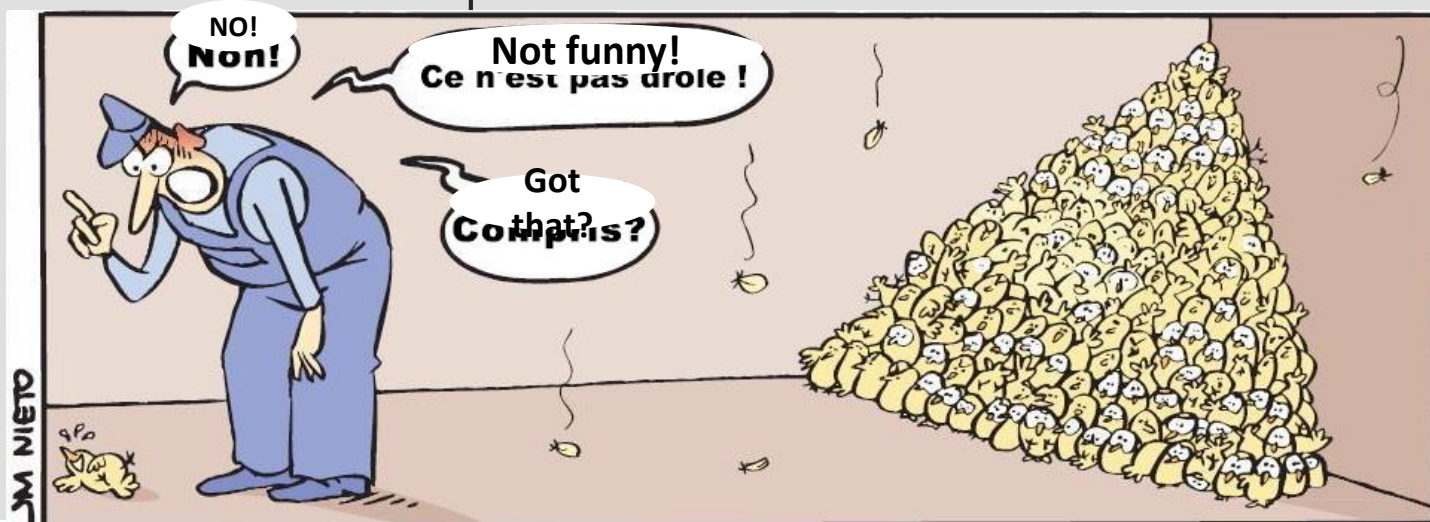
- Member of **3 civil dialogue groups** of DG AGRI (poultry/eggs, organic farming, quality/promotion)
- Member of the **advisory committee on animal health** of the DG SANTE
- And since 2017: member of the **platform on AW** of the EC

Main topics followed by ERPA in 2018





Avian Influenza



Context and challenge for ERPA

- ✿ **A difficult context** in Europe since 2016, with more or less difficult situations depending on the country and the year. Fewer cases on farms in 2018.
- ✿ **Challenge for ERPA:** to preserve free range poultry farming and the specificities of rural productions (young poultry, small units...)
- ✿ **Positions defended by ERPA:**
 - Rural poultry are not more sensitive.
 - We should not stigmatize free range poultry. Confinement may be useful in some situations, but should not be systematic.
 - Specificities of rural poultry could avoid a large spread of AI in some cases: hardiness of poultry, small size of farms, low densities.
 - It is possible and important to implement serious biosecurity measures, including rural poultry.

Some actions carried out by ERPA in 2018

- Follow-up of the AI situation in Europe
- Follow-up of the discussions on the notification of low pathogenic cases
- Dissemination of the 2 sheets drafted in 2017: **recommendations of biosecurity measures for rural poultry farmers in Europe**
- Intervention within the scope of the secondary acts of the Animal Health Law to ensure that free range Gallinacean are not specifically targeted by IA analyzes before movement within the European Union
- Internal exchanges on scientific knowledge and IA analysis results in rural poultry



Recommended biosecurity measures for rural poultry

Manage your production units

You must manage your farm with production units (PU) that are sanitarily independent.

Each PU :

- must be physically limited by walls for barns and nettings for ranging areas
- must contain only one type of poultry : palmipeds or gallinaceans
- should only contain poultry of the same age
- must have a changing room in good shape, which allows the independent sanitary management of the PU.

Examples of production units (PU) :

Farm with open air area
PU = changing room + barn + ranging area



Early rearing farm
PU = changing room + barn



In the case of a barn with several pens
PU = changing room + barn (pens and corridor)



Separate poultry species

Palmipeds (ducks, geese) and gallinaceans (chickens, guinea fowls, turkeys) must not be reared in the same production units.

They must not come into contact with each other because they don't react in the same way with the avian influenza virus.



Protect feed and water

If you have a free-range farming system, the ranging areas must not have water or feed points because that could attract wild birds.

ERPA recommends to feed and water only inside the buildings. If impossible, protect these water/ feed points from wild birds with a roof and netting.



Protect your poultry

In case of an important risk of introduction of avian influenza by wild birds, it is recommended to keep the poultry inside the building (if animal welfare allows it), or to reduce the size of the ranging area (water points must be excluded from the ranging area).

It is important to follow the recommendations of your veterinary authorities on the most appropriate approach for your case.



Available on:

www.erpa-ruralpoultry.eu



Recommended biosecurity measures for rural poultry

Pay attention to visitors' entrances/exits



Your farm must have a clear border that customers or other visitors should not cross.
No visitors or other people who are not essential to the farm should enter the production unit.
The use of chains and warning signs is highly recommended.
In case an outside person has to enter the production unit, it is imperative to use the changing room following the protocol described below.

The steps to use the changing room

Use of the changing room **TO ENTER** the production unit :



- 1 In the external zone :
Take off your shoes and clothes.
Place the feet only in the inner zone or on a slatted floor; e.g. by pivoting on the separation bench or passing over the separation board.
- 2 In the inner zone :
Wash hands with soap or hydro-alcohol gel.
- 3 Put on the outfit and shoes specific to the production unit, put a hair-net on top of the hair.

Use of the changing room **TO EXIT** from the production unit :



- 4 In the inner zone :
Remove clothing and shoes specific to the production unit and take the hair-net off.
- 5 In the inner zone :
Wash hands with soap or hydro-alcohol gel.
- 6 Pivot on the separation bench or pass over the separation board; then, in the inner zone, put on your clothes and shoes.

Example of changing room :



Apply a waiting period

Between the depletion of a flock and the placement of a new one, you must wait for a period of time called "waiting period" that begins after cleaning and disinfection of the houses.

ERPA advises a period of 15 days on average, the houses must be completely dry before the placement of a new house.
This recommendation cannot replace the official regulation that applies in your country.





European Regulation on organic farming

Context: review of the Regulation launched in March 2014 by the EC

What do we wish? An organic farming which gives confidence! And technically consistent!

- 🐔 To **maintain the possibility to use one-day-old chicks from non-organic breeders**, to preserve the current genetic diversity
- 🐔 To have the obligation of **slow growth for broilers**: ADG of 35 g/d maxi, with a minimum age of 70 days to ensure their quality
- 🐔 To have a « traditional » and non-industrial type of farming, by **limiting the farm size**:
 - For laying hens: 24 000 maxi by farm and 12 000 maxi by poultryhouse
 - For poultry for meat: 1600 m² maxi by farm and 480 m² maxi by poultryhouse
- 🐔 To have rules for organic pullets and parents, compatible **with technical and sanitary requirements** = no mandatory access outdoors
- 🐔 To have **organic feed** taking into account technical constraints and supply possibilities:
 - possibility to use 5% of non-organic protein feed
 - to require 40% of local sourcing
 - a clear European definition of « local sourcing »

Many lobbying actions done by ERPA and their members since 2014

🐦 With the **Commission** :

- Meeting with the Commission and the team of Commissioner Hogan
- Intervention on slow growth at the civil dialog group in December 2015 to present the current distortions and ERPA proposals

🐦 With the **European Parliament**: vote of a large number of amendments proposed by ERPA in the report of the Parliament in October 2015!

🐦 With the **Council of Ministers**: diffusion of our positions through the ministries and permanent representation in Brussels

🐦 Contacts with **European organizations**: **ELPHA, COPA-COGECA, IFOAM UE**

🐦 Follow-up of trilogues throughout 2016 and 2017 until the adoption of Regulation 2018/848 in June 2018

🐦 Follow-up of secondary acts secondaires on future rules of production for poultry in 2018

🐦 Support of the particular work of ELPHA on production rules for organic breeders

🐦 **Common letter of European Parliamentarians** to Commissioner Hogan in December 2018 on problematic topics highlighted by ERPA

State of play in February 2019

- 🐔 The EC has just publicized its proposal on which Member States must exchange, then vote
- 🐔 Some ERPA technical proposals have been approved on several points
- 🐔 **NEVERTHELESS there are a lot of unresolved sensitive topics so far:**
 - Limitation of the size of poultryhouses?
 - Free range access and production rules for organic breeding birds (parents)?
 - Production rules for pullets?
 - Production rules for species other than Gallus?
 - Size of the perches?
- 🐔 The Regulation will bring **new constraints for farmers and the entire sector, and will require investments** (mandatory free range access for pullets and parents, mandatory perches...)
- 🐔 Will this regulation instill confidence for consumers and help the organic market to develop??

Other actions of ERPA in 2018

Extension of derogations/100% organic feed & pullets:

- ✦ The derogations should have ended on 31/12/18
- ✦ ERPA request to the EC: to extend the derogations until the application of the new Regulation in 2021
- ✦ EC decision end of 2018: extension until 31/12/20 (Regulation 2018/1584)



Health Regulations:

Official controls and small slaughterhouses

Animal Health Law and traceability of live poultry

Official controls and small slaughterhouses



- ❖ **Context:** publication in March 2017 of the Regulation on "official controls" gathering and clarifying the entire system of official controls throughout the food chain
- ❖ **Issue for rural poultry: presence of official veterinarians in slaughterhouses.** Possibility of delegating ante-mortem and post-mortem official inspections to a trained auxiliary under certain conditions ⇒ criteria and conditions defined by the Commission in 2018 in the secondary acts
- ❖ **Positions defended by ERPA: small slaughterhouses are valuable to ensure the sustainability of rural poultry.** The European regulation must be flexible and adapted to their specificities in order to preserve them = request for flexibility for small slaughterhouses with possibility of modulating the frequency of the veterinarian passage based on a risk analysis; and possibility of inspection by trained staff, under the responsibility of the veterinarian, with strict conditions.
- ❖ **Many actions carried out by ERPA in 2018:**
 - Position papers + exchanges with EC
 - Exchanges with the organizations concerned by the subject: FIA/AVEC, CFA/COPA COGECA, Confédération paysanne/Via Campesina, FNEAP, FEDEV, UECBV
 - ERPA contribution to EC public consultations end of 2018, ERPA position relayed by several contributors
- ❖ **NEVERTHELESS**, the EC considers that inspections in poultry slaughterhouses must occur daily and that the occasional presence of the veterinarian, based on a risk analysis, is not defensible

Animal Health Law

🐔 Context:

- Publication of the European regulation « Animal Health Law » in 2016, gathering all the existing regulations on this subject
- Discussion on the numerous secondary acts in 2018 including:
 - Registration and approval of establishments and identification of kept animals
 - Animal health requirements for movements within the union of kept terrestrial animals and hatching eggs
 - Surveillance, eradication programmes and free status of animal diseases
 - Rules for the prevention and control of certain listed diseases

🐔 **Positions defended by ERPA:** request to take into account the specificities of rural poultry and defense of free range farming

🐔 **Actions carried out by ERPA:** follow-up on the numerous secondary acts and specific interventions with the competent authorities

⇒ To follow in 2019

Traceability of live poultry

- 🐔 **Context:** Traceability systems are specific to each Member State. In particular, the stage of sale to individuals raises problems in terms of registration/identification of players and traceability of poultry movements
- 🐔 **Positions defended by ERPA:** wish for harmonization and simplification of registration procedures for movements of live poultry in the EU
- 🐔 **Actions carried out by ERPA:** **comparison study** on the Regulations and traceability practices regarding live poultry in 3 countries: Belgium, Spain and France
 - ⇒ objective: come up with a proposal for a harmonized system within the scope of the Animal Health Law
 - ⇒ proposition: drafting forms to facilitate the registration of private farming /personal customers and ensure the traceability of poultry to non-professional farmers

Animal welfare

- ♥ **Context:** sensitive subject, particularly pushed by the NGOs, very active in each country and in Brussels
- ♥ **Issues for rural poultry:**
 - To make known their qualities (free range, extensive rearing, low densities, slow growth...) in order to be better valued and cited as examples
 - Not to be overtaken by certification standards on animal welfare, which may erase the real differences between types of farming
- ♥ **Actions carries out by ERPA:**
 - Participation to the EU Platform on animal welfare since 2017
 - ↳ Particularly, active participation to the sub-group on pullets set up in 2018
 - Follow-up of the European discussions, in particular those of the European Parliament's Animal Welfare Intergroup



Marketing
standards



Marketing standards for poultry meat and eggs

- 🐓 These are the European texts defining the types of farming for poultry meat (voluntary) and eggs (mandatory)
- 🐓 **Context:** since the publication of the Single CMO Regulation at the end of 2013, the marketing standards should be revised. Objective of the EC: simplification.
- 🐓 **Position defended by ERPA: to preserve the existing farming methods, because they are fundamental for segmentation and clarity with consumers**

For poultry meat :

- To maintain the current rules and definitions concerning the indication of farming methods
- To maintain the obligation of control of these optional farming methods
- To maintain the possibility of additional national rules to indicate the types of farming.

Marketing standards for poultry meat and eggs

For eggs:

- To maintain current rules and definitions on the different types of farming
- To add an annual mandatory control of all alternative farming methods (codes 1 and 2) to check the correct application of the criteria laid down in the marketing standards
- To require the marking of eggs on the farm, unless exception defined and authorized by each Member State

 **Many activities engaged by ERPA since 2013** with the EC to publicize its positions

⇒ To follow closely: a study must be carried out by an independent organization, for the European Commission, to identify the points of the standards which should evolve.



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