

Enabling Tech-driven Entrepreneurship in the Arab region.

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UNITED NATIONS

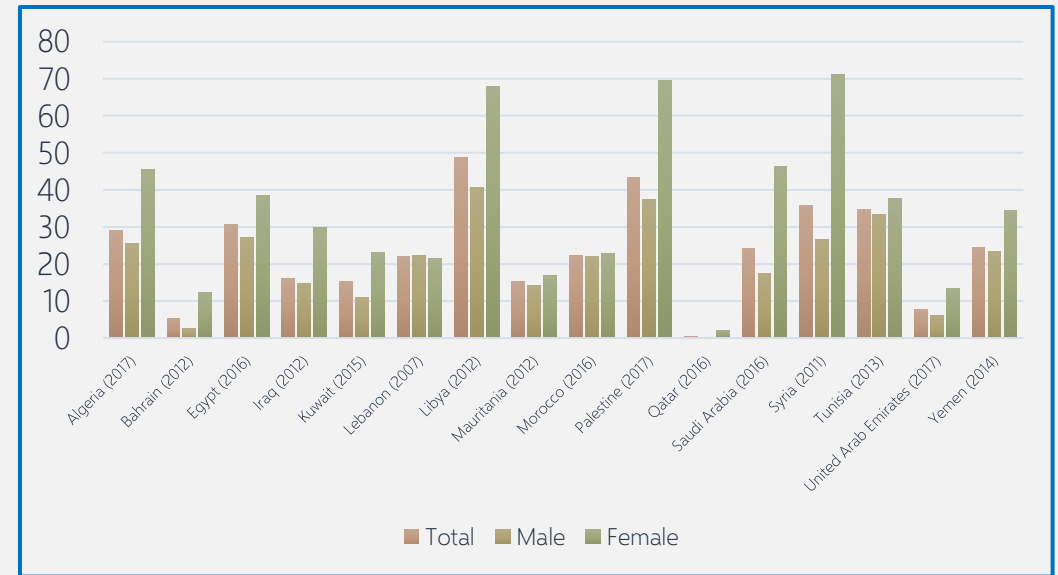
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Arab Youth and Women Labor Force Participation

- Youth bulge and brain drain in many Arab countries
- Arab youth unemployment is at around 30%. It is highest among world regions and 3-4 times higher than total unemployment.
- **Unemployment affects the educated even more, as they are not willing to accept any employment**
- Arab Youth total Labor Force Participation rate is lowest among world's region and highlights the **highest gender gap with south Asia**
- Arab Women total Labor Force Participation rate lowest among all world regions. It is 3.5 times lower than for men.



In Africa.....the situation of youth is better

- Youth unemployment remains below the world average for both women and men

World Average 14.9%

Africa Average 12.7%

12.3% among men

13.3% among women

ILO: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/documents/briefingnote/wcms_853322.pdf

- Labor under-utilization rate

World average 23.3%

Africa Average 23.8%

21.7% among men

26% among women

- Youth labor force participation rate

World Average 40.1% (2022)

Africa 43.9%

46.9% among men

40.9% among women

Policy Support for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Policy dialogue with decision-makers in the Arab region:

- Study on “Innovation Policy for Inclusive Sustainable Development”
- Study on “Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development - Promising Perspectives for the Arab Region”
- Studies on “Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Opportunities and Challenges for Arab Youth and Women”, and on “Community-based innovation and technology for improved social well-being in the Arab region”
- Many expert group meetings to discuss the challenges and opportunities for Innovation and entrepreneurship



Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development - Promising Perspectives for the Arab Region

Various Innovation Models are needed for accelerating the achievement of SDGs

- Linear innovation
- Mission-oriented innovation
- Open innovation
- Technology-driven innovation



- Grassroot innovation;
- Inclusive Innovation
- Social innovation
- Frugal Innovation
- Reversed innovation

**The adoption of various
Innovation models require
different working mechanisms,
and these mechanisms should
be reflected and integrated in the
STI policies.**

Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development - Promising Perspectives for the Arab Region

Four Packages of Recommendations for Arab countries

First Package

Stimulating the adoption of **new technology** in economic and social development

Second Package

Establishing **incentive financing measures** to support the national innovation and entrepreneurship system

Third Package

Supporting the building of a **national innovation system** and stimulating grassroots innovation approaches

Fourth Package

Building **specialized institutions** and providing technological infrastructure to stimulate grassroots innovation



The hand was 3D-printed in carbon fiber-reinforced co-polyester material for under \$75 on a \$1700 Ultimaker 3D printer by Asem Hasna, a Syrian refugee on the ROW team who learned 3D printing in three weeks. (image via 3ders.org)

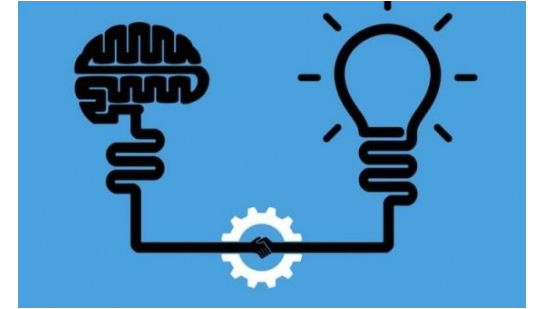
Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Opportunities and Challenges for Arab Youth and Women

Challenges

1. Innovation level in most countries
2. Entrepreneurship eco-system
3. Technology readiness and technology absorption
4. Financing mechanism
5. Education on entrepreneurship
6. Intellectual property
7. Doing business environment



Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Opportunities and Challenges for Arab Youth and Women



Recommendations

1. Implement **regulatory reforms** that favor entrepreneurship
2. Integrate **comprehensive entrepreneurship education** in national curriculums for all levels to embrace entrepreneurship.
3. **Enhancing Entrepreneurship Potential in advanced technology:** Facilitate the acquiring of new technologies, and offer entrepreneurs a safe place experiment with innovative technologies
3. **Social Entrepreneurship:** Allow the registration of SE and encourage investments in SE
4. **Digital Platforms and Content:** to support entrepreneurship in the Arab countries

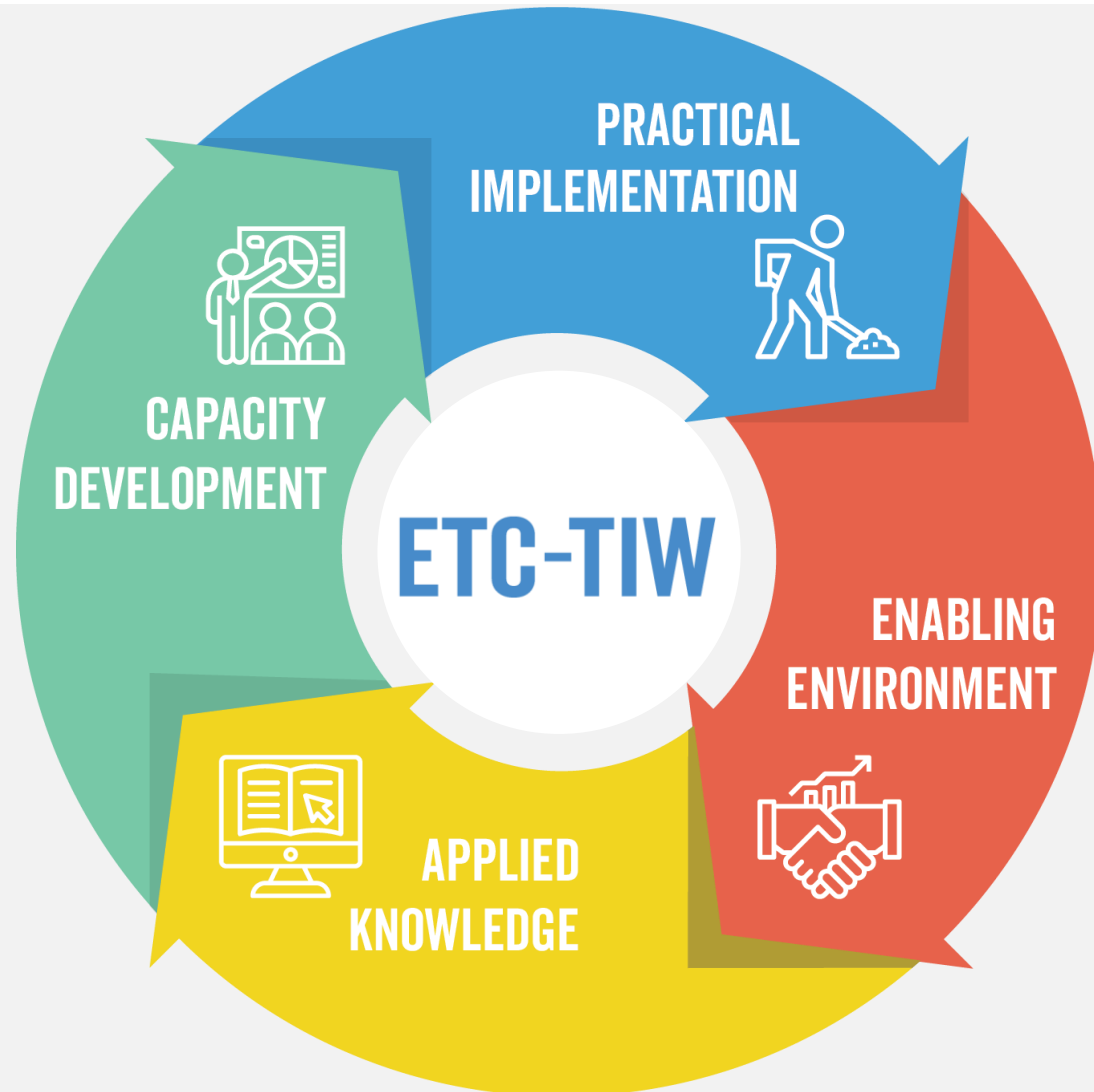


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ESCWA Technology Center Focuses on Entrepreneurship and SMEs in the Arab region

ESCWA Technology Center Pillars focused on Entrepreneurship



ETC conceptual approach is based on 4 main pillars that shape its wheel:

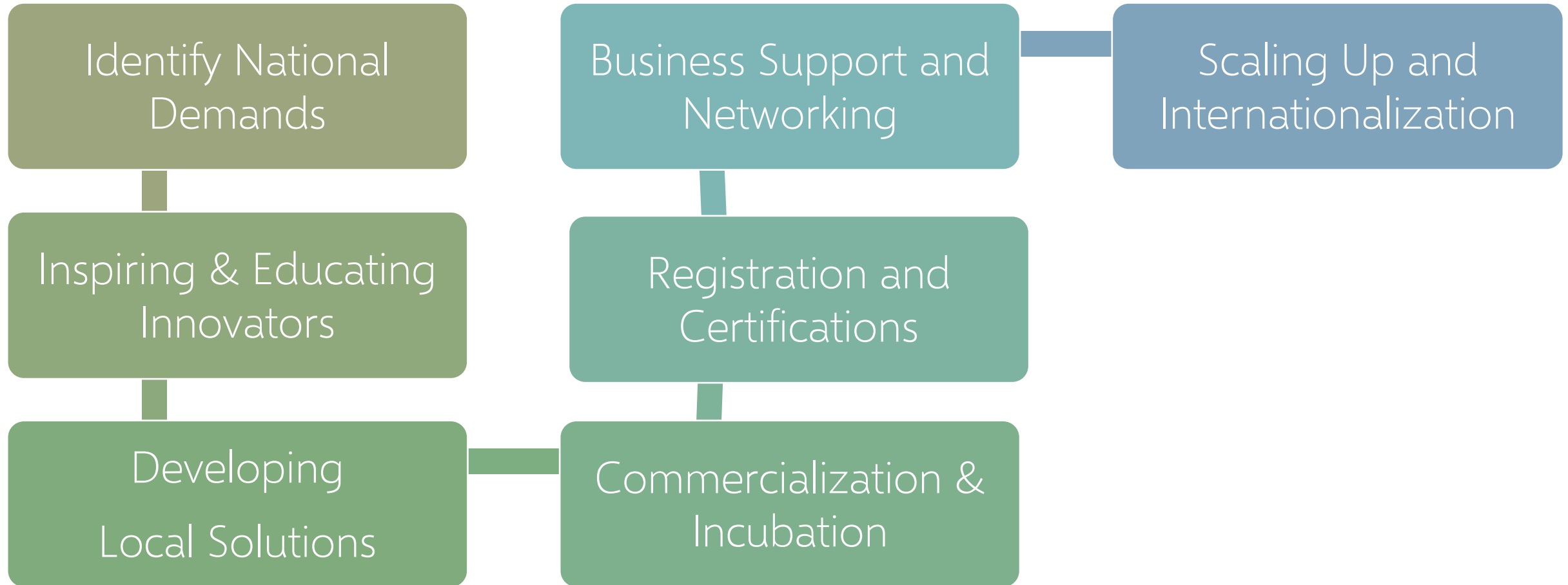
Pillar 1: Promoting open applied knowledge.

Pillar 2: Emboldening the local technological capacities.

Pillar 3: Encouraging the implementation of appropriate technologies.

Pillar 4: Advocating local and regional enabling environments.

Tech-driven Entrepreneurship Journey

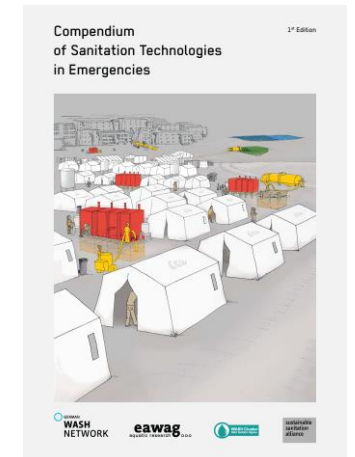
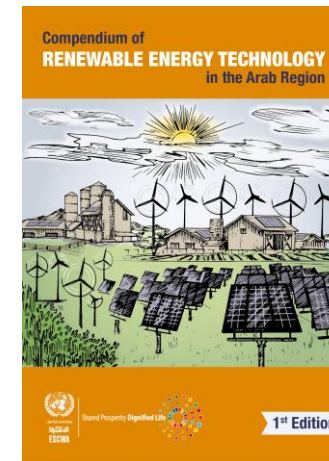
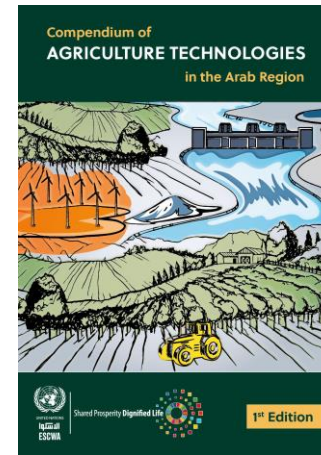


Educating Innovators

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Compendiums of Technologies

Guidelines and reports about the use of technology in specific sectors such as: agriculture, renewable energy and sanitation technology.



Technologies Compendiums info-sessions

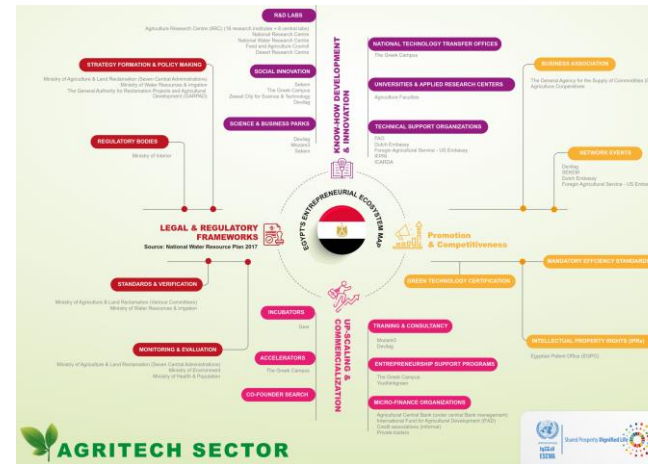
Capacity building workshops at regional and national levels.



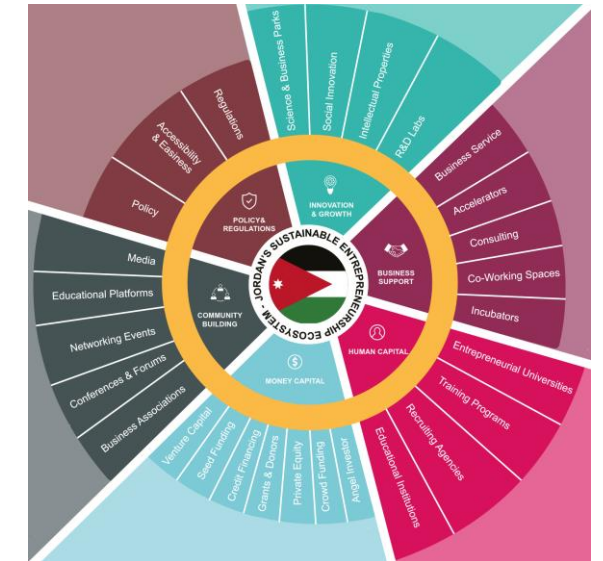
Business Support and Networking

Ecosystem Mapping

- Developing the entrepreneurship eco-systems for Arab countries
- Identifying the entrepreneurship eco-system for specific sectors in selected countries

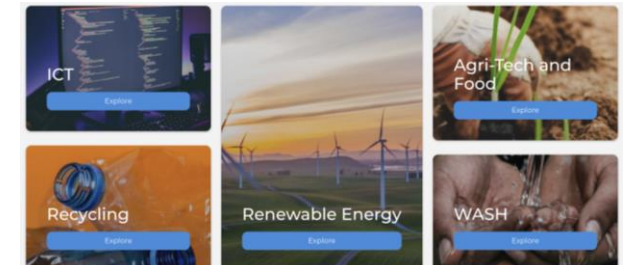
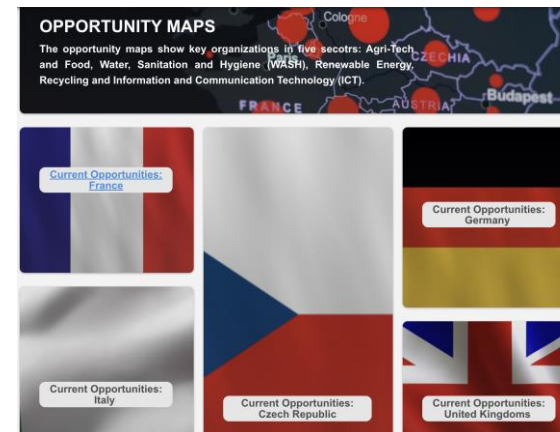


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Scaling-up and Internationalization

- Opportunities in various countries
- Opportunities in various tech-driven domains
- Tech-driven entrepreneurship conferences



The Arab SMEs Summit : 30 October – 1 November 2022



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- The Summit was organized by ESCWA in cooperation with the Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation.
- It included **policy dialogue segment** and **capacity building workshops**
- It aimed to help Arab SMEs (especially Start-ups) to **access regional and international markets, mobilize diverse financial resources**, benefit from regional and international networks, and increase their ability to scale up.
- The Summit brought together some **650 selected participants**, including entrepreneurs, investors, business influencers, political leaders, economists, journalists, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and donors for **20 main sessions and 10 side events**.



The Arab SMEs Summit : 30 October – 1 November 2022



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At the conclusion of the summit, ESCWA and its partners committed to launch initiatives for providing:

- funding to SMEs to the tune of \$130 million;
- digitizing 100 enterprises;
- training for 40,000 young men and women;
- technical assistance to over 400 SMES in the areas of quality compliance, digital transformation, energy efficiency and environment.



Also launch of two centres of entrepreneurship in Morocco and Saudi Arabia.



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Thank You!

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