Paediatric Nurse Education across Europe 2010
Summary of key findings

Austria

There is a specific paediatric nursing education programme which can be accessed as direct entry (3 years of duration) or after qualifying as a general nurse completes additional paediatric nursing education of 12 months duration to be recognised as a paediatric nurse.

In Austria there is not a specific national register for paediatric nurses.

Length in hours
1 year after qualifying as a general nurse or for direct entry programmes – 3 years and 4,480 hours

Level
Diploma

Theoretical content
600 hours or 2,000 hours for direct entry

Practical placement experiences
1,000 hours or 2,480 hours for direct entry

Belgium

There was a specific paediatric nursing education programme required until 1996. Nurse education was reorganised in 1996 and although there is no decree for a paediatric nursing education there is specialised training in paediatric nursing. The professional nursing association reports that there will be registration for qualified nurses in 2010. After qualifying as a general nurse a nurse completes additional paediatric nursing education of 12 months duration to be recognised as a paediatric nurse.

In Belgium there is a specific national register for paediatric nurses. Nurses have to have completed a specific paediatric nursing education programme to be recorded on this register.

Length in hours
1 year, 900 hours

Level
Not stated

Theoretical content
27 credits (450 hours)

Practical placement experiences
27 credits (450 hours)
**Croatia**

Nurse education has been a 3 year programme to qualify as a general nurse only. The Ministry of Health has recognised the need for specific education for paediatric nurses. In the future there will be a one year course for paediatric nursing.

In Croatia there is not a specific national register for paediatric nurses.

*Length in hours*

4 years, 4600 hours

*Level*

Diploma

*Theoretical content*

50%

*Practical placement experiences*

50%

**Cyprus**

There is no specific paediatric nurse education or national register for paediatric nurses.

Nursing education programmes are to qualify as a general nurse only.

**Czech Republic**

There is a specific nursing education programme for paediatric nursing which involves postgraduate study.

There is a specific national register for paediatric nurses that is held by the Ministry of Health.

*Length in hours*

36 months - part-time/external studies = diploma paediatric nurse

*Level*

Diploma

*Theoretical content*

50%

*Practical placement experiences*

50%
**Denmark**

There is no specific paediatric nursing education programme or national register for paediatric nurses.

Nurse education programmes prepare nurses as general nurses only.

**Estonia**

Until 2000 Estonia had a 3 ½ year programme that prepared nurses as a general nurse only. After 2 years work experience a nurse can specialise as a clinical nurse, intensive care nurse, mental health nurse and community nurse. Paediatric nurses are specialised as clinical nurse specialist. In 2011 there will be specific studies in clinical specialist field and in paediatric nursing. The latter may be run on alternate years.

There is a specific national register for paediatric nurses in Estonia. There is an on-line searchable public access register for all health care workers including paediatric nurses.

Up until 2002 it was possible to be registered as a paediatric nurse if you had worked five years as a nurse in a children’s hospital. Now it is only possible to be registered as general nurse and as a nurse specialist (clinical nurse, intensive care nurse, mental health nurse and community nurse) after a 1600 hours specific nursing course.

After qualifying as a general nurse completes additional paediatric nursing education to be recognised as a Paediatric Nurse

*Length in hours*
1600 hours paediatric nursing programme

*Level*
Diploma

*Theoretical content*
300 hours theoretical work, 900 hours independent work and 400 hours practice

*Practical placement experiences*
Two years full time in paediatric setting after general nurse diploma

The PNAE 2008 statement knowledge, skill and values are included in the new curriculum.

**Finland**

Nurse education programmes prepare nurses as general nurses only.
There is no special register for paediatric nurses available. All new nurses are licensed and registered in a national registry.

**Length in hours**
Nursing education is 210 ECTs from which 30 ECTs are for paediatric nursing.

**Level**
Degree

**Theoretical content**
The paediatric nursing course includes family centred care, child development, child psychiatry and paediatrics.

**Practical placement experiences**
All students practice of ECTs/unit including paediatric course – during the latter they have to select two units (together 18ECTs).

The need for a greater paediatric nurse education programme content is not recognised.

**France**

Paediatric nursing is recognised as a speciality after initial nurse education.

There is a specific national paediatric nursing register. Paediatric nurses are registered on health professionals listing French (ADELI) and the College of nursing (Ordre des Infirmiers).

Completion of a specific 12 month programme, certified by a state diploma is required in order to be registered as a paediatric nurse.

**Length in hours**
Paediatric nurse is a nurse speciality after qualifying as nurse state diploma. To get the diploma, students must validate 3 testing of theoretical knowledge, 1 development work situation, 1 information and educative health action, 1 professional project. The specific paediatric nursing training program dates from 1983. Training takes 12 months, 1 500 hours as follows:
- theoretical: 650 hours
- clinical practice: 710 hours
- tutorials and evaluations: 140 hours

**Level**
State diploma

**Theoretical content**
Introductory training 140 hours
Health policy
Administrative health and social Law 20 hours
Education training and relationship 70 hours
The profession 25 hours
Sociology 55hours
Physiology of the Child 23hours
Pathology 117hours: 25 hours for neonatal period and 86 hours/1 month to adolescence
Dietetics 60hours
Psychology and social psychology 50hours
Pedagogic psychology 40hours
Management and organisation 50hours

Practical placement experiences
Students can practice in the five paediatric nurse areas:
- neonatology
- maternity
- maternal and infant protection (community health)
- nurseries
- paediatric
Each clinical practice lasts 4 weeks of 35 hours

Discussions are currently taking place with the Ministry of Health for paediatric nursing to become advanced practice nurses at Masters level.

Germany

There is a direct entry specific paediatric nursing education programme in Germany.

There is no specific national register for paediatric nurses.

Length in hours
3 years, 4,600 hours

Level
Certificate

Theoretical content
Knowledge of nursing, paediatric nursing and nursing and health sciences 950 hours
Nursing relevant knowledge – natural sciences and medicine 500 hours
Nursing relevant knowledge – humanities and social sciences 300 hours
Nursing relevant knowledge – law, politics and economics 150 hours
To be allocated 200 hours

Practical placement experiences
I. general area
- Nursing of persons of all age groups receiving inpatient care in curative areas in the specialities of internal medicine, geriatrics, neurology, surgery, gynaecology, paediatrics, maternity and neonatal care and in at least two of these subjects in rehabilitative and palliative fields 800 hours;
- Nursing of persons of all age groups receiving outpatient care in preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative fields 500 hours
II differentiation area

- Nursing and paediatric nursing - inpatient nursing care in the subjects of paediatrics, neonatology, paediatric surgery, neuropaediatrics, child and adolescent psychiatry  700 hours;

III for allocation to the areas I and II  500 hours

**Greece**

In Greece all Greek Nurses complete the basic nursing education and training for nurses responsible for general care of 4 years duration. This program is offered either in the Technological Educational Institutes (TEI) or in the University and provides education in all fields of nursing including paediatric nursing (one semester).

The general care nurses (R.Ns) are obliged to register on the single National Register in order to get a professional license and to be able to work in any public or private hospital and in any health institute or organization and in any field of nursing including paediatric.

There is not a specific register for paediatric nurses.

Paediatric nursing is a specialisation.

General care nurses (R.Ns) wishing to specialise in paediatric nursing can attend one of the paediatric nursing education programs to become a Specialised paediatric Nurse.

**Paediatric Nursing programmes**

There are paediatric specialization programs since 1985 in hospitals. The two major general public paediatric hospitals in Athens which provide this program are the “Agia Sofia” hospital and the “P & A Kyriakou” hospital.

**Length and hours**

The program covers a period of 12 months fulltime studies and consists of 1500 hours of theory and practice.

**Theoretical content (500) hours**

Paediatric nursing basics and clinical skill, family care, management of paediatric care, neonatology, intensive and emergency paediatric care, etc.

**Practical placement experience (1,000) hours**

Approximately 1,000 hours (24 hours per week) of clinical practice.

**Title**

Certificate of specialisation in paediatric nursing

Post Graduate Programs (Master Degree) in Paediatric Nursing.
A. University of Athens (Faculty of Nursing)

Length and hours
4 Semesters
(180 - 200) educational hours (1st semester)
(180 – 200) educational hours (2nd semester)
(100) hours of clinical practice (3rd semester)
Master Thesis (Research protocols are only accepted) (4th semester)

Theoretical content
Research methodology, paediatric nursing, emergency paediatric nursing, biostatistics, paediatric psychology, informatics, family centered care and paediatric clinical practice.

Practical placement experience
During the last semester students follow a clinical educational Program in a paediatric hospital in Greece or in another European country.

Title: Masters Degree in Paediatric Nursing
Post-Graduate Students after granting their Master in Paediatric Nursing they can continue their studies to PhD level.

B. Medical School of Athens – Nursing Department A – TEI Athens

Length and hours
4 Semesters (130 – 140 ECTS)

On the 4th Semester students follow their clinical practice and start working on their dissertation which they may finish within a year.

Theoretical content
Paediatric nursing basics, research methodology and statistics, paediatric clinical research, clinical practice specialization.

Practical placement experience
During the last semester students follow a clinical educational Program in a paediatric hospital in Greece or in another European country.

Title: Master Degree in Clinical Paediatric and Nursing - Research

Hungary

After qualifying as a general nurse completes additional paediatric nursing education to be recognised as a Paediatric Nurse

In Hungary there is a specific national register for paediatric nurses.
Iceland

There is not a requirement to have a specific qualification to work as a registered nurse with children. Paediatric/children’s nursing is however a core curriculum content (total: 18 ECTs in children’s nursing and development).

There is a register of those nurses who have a legitimisation as specialist in children's/paediatric nursing. To be able to gain/apply for legitimisation as a specialist in Iceland in nursing you have to have a 4 year BSc degree in nursing and a two year Ms degree (or PhD) and be licenced registered nurse. Post MS studies the legislator requires 2 years of specialist training in the speciality in qualifying clinical institution. Half of the MS curriculum must be in the area of specialisation.

Many nurses who work in children's nursing have diplomas and courses post BS some on the graduate level and also MPH without having a specialist licence.

Length in hours

Level
Masters

Theoretical content
50 ECTS core content and 70 ECTS child/paed content

Practical placement experiences
350 hours in the masters program and 2 working years training in the speciality post masters

Ireland

There is a specific paediatric nursing education programme and a specific national register for paediatric nurses.

After qualifying as a general nurse completes additional paediatric nursing education to be recognised as a Paediatric Nurse.

The specific paediatric nursing education programme is 4.5 years duration and is an integrated Children’s and General Nursing Programme.

Children’s and General Integrated:
Length of the undergraduate (direct entry) programme:
4.5 years

Theoretical Instruction:
70 weeks

Clinical Instruction:
54 weeks
Internship:
36 weeks
Other:
10 weeks
Total:
170 weeks

Level

Honors Degree – Registration as a general nurse/RGN and a Children’s Nurse/RCN

Post Registration Children’s Programme
There is also a post registration for Children’s nursing. A nurse who is registered as an RGN may enter the post registration RCN programme which is 12 months full time in duration. Successful completion leads to an award of Higher Diploma and registration as a Children’s nurse in addition to the original registration as a general nurse.

Italy

Nurses with a general nursing degree can practice in paediatric wards. After qualifying as a general nurse completes additional paediatric nursing education to be recognised as a Paediatric Nurse

There is a specific national register for paediatric nurses. To be registered as a paediatric nurse the nurse must have completed a specific paediatric nursing education programme.

There are two educational paths to practice paediatric nursing:

- General nursing degree. After qualifying as a general nurse it is possible, but not mandatory, to attend additional paediatric nursing education to be recognised as a Paediatric Nurse.
- Pediatric nursing degree (three years university degree)

Length in hours
There is a branch 3 years degree - or one-two years at Masters degree (1800 hours/60 University credits; for this the total hours are the same, but they could distribute in different manner in one or two years).

Level
Degree or Masters

Theoretical content
Pediatric anatomy and physiology, Paediatrics, General paediatric nursing (Pediatric nursing assessment, planning and evaluation of care), Neonatal nursing, Cardiac surgical nursing, Surgical nursing, Neonatal and Pediatric intensive care nursing, psychology, sociology, statistics and research methodology, Ethics, Models of care.

Practical placement experiences
Practical experience is based in paediatric and neonatal wards, or in community settings and is ongoing during the three year program.

Lithuania

Information not received

Luxemburg

There is specific paediatric nursing education and a specific national register for paediatric nurses. After qualifying as a general nurse completes additional paediatric nurse education to be recognised as a paediatric nurse

Length in hours
2 years, 2,340 hours

Level
BTS

Theoretical content
Not provided

Practical placement experiences
Not provided

Malta

There is no specific paediatric nurse education programme. There is a specific national register for paediatric nurses.

Netherlands

There is a specific paediatric nursing education programme and a specific national register for paediatric nurses. The nurse is responsible to register herself as a paediatric nurse at the Dutch nursing organization and to be registered. After qualifying as a general nurse completes additional paediatric nursing education to be recognised as a Paediatric Nurse

To be registered as a paediatric nurse the nurse must have completed a specific paediatric nursing education programme. All nurses will have completed the general nursing education. Some will have had some
paediatric courses during their basic training. Others will not. In some nursing schools they can now do a minor in paediatrics during their basic training. All registered paediatric nurses have to complete the post graduate course and have a nationally recognised diploma. In the future (within 5 years) they will have to show how they keep their competencies going in the years after receiving their diploma.

*Length in hours*
210 hours school

*Level*
Diploma

*Theoretical content*
Medical, nursing and social studies on the healthy children and the sick children in hospital. This is from age 0 to 18 years old. Care of children in the community is not done by Paediatric nurses in Holland

*Practical placement experiences*
12 months practical training on children’s wards in hospital. This is if they work full time. If they work part time the length of their training is longer.

The hospitals that train paediatric nurses are required to prove to the national board that they meet the national requirements to train a Paediatric nurse for the national diploma. If they don’t serve all groups of sick children the student has to do part of the practical hours at a bigger hospital.

**Norway**

Some nurses caring for children and young people have specialized training and qualifications in working with children. Some have a regular bachelor degree in nursing. Most paediatric units have a large number of qualified paediatric nurses.

There is no specific national register of paediatric nurses. Each school educating paediatric nurses has a register. To be registered as a paediatric nurse the nurse must have to have completed a specific paediatric nursing course.

After qualifying as a general nurse completes additional paediatric nursing education to be recognised as a Paediatric Nurse

*Length in hours*
90 credits, 3 semesters full-time study

*Level*
Certificate

*Theoretical content*
Physiology, pathophysiology, pharmacology, childrens physical, psychological and social development, neonatology, immunology, microbiology, nutrition, oncology, pain in children…

**Practical placement experiences**
Each student must have a minimum of 50% practical training. The students rotate in Newborn ICU, Paediatric ICU, Surgical and Medical Paediatric units and paediatric ER.

**Poland**

After qualifying as a general nurse, completes additional paediatric nursing education to be recognised as a Paediatric Nurse. There is no specific national register for paediatric nurses. To be registered as a paediatric nurse the nurse has to have completed a specific paediatric nursing course.

**Portugal**

General Nursing Education in Portugal is 4 yrs long and all nurses have theoretical and practice experience in caring of children during their undergraduate education. Specialized education is obtained at a post-graduation level and it is not compulsory to work in paediatric settings. In this moment the Portuguese Regulatory Board of Nursing (Ordem dos Enfermeiros) is planning changes concerning nursing specialization in all areas of nursing care.

There is a national register of paediatric nurses. The title of Paediatric Nurse is awarded by the Portuguese Regulatory Board of Nursing (Ordem dos Enfermeiros). A nurse has to have completed a specific paediatric nursing course in order to be registered as a paediatric nurse.

**Length in hours**
1 year: 900h and minimum of 540h practice

**Level**
Certificate

**Theoretical content**
Conceptual framework of Child Health and Paediatric Nursing
- Family Process - Impact of children’s illness in family
- Continuity of care in child health and paediatrics
- Infant- Parent Relations and Bonding
- Growth and development of infants and adolescents
- Chronic illness in children and impact on family - Diagnosis and Nursing Intervention
- Neonatology - Diagnosis and Nursing Intervention
- Acute illness in Children / Emergencies - Diagnosis and Nursing Intervention

**Practical placement experiences**
Practice of nursing care in child health and pediatrics in the following settings:
- Medical and surgical units
- Paediatric Emergency Room
- Neonatal Intensive Care Units
- Health Centre - Child Health Outpatient Departments
- Cerebral Palsy Centre/ Development Units

Romania

Nurse education programmes prepare nurses to qualify as a general nurse only.

Republic Serbia

Nurses working with children and young people have a specific nursing qualification in paediatric nursing. Nurse education in Serbia has been: 8+4+3(or4). After elementary school (8 years), enrol for high school-medical which last 4 years. He/she obtains a diploma as a paediatric nurse To then become a registered nurse she/he has to complete six months of clinical practice after she/he takes the exam. Today the College of Nurses have a general nursing program that lasts three years, or academic which is four years, with no specialization for paediatrics nurses or other speciality.

There is a specific national register for paediatric nurses. From 2006 when it was formed Chamber of nurses and medical technicians of the Republic of Serbia, there is a register of all nurses, midwives and other health workers Profile and paediatric nurses in the republic of Serbia.

To be registered as a paediatric nurse the nurse has to have completed a specific paediatric nursing course.

Formal education of medical 4.godine in high school, paediatric directions apprenticeship for a period of 6 months, taking the internship course and receives permission licenses. So 8 +4 + 3: eight years of primary school + four year medical school, paediatric directions + sisterhood three years of study for general nurse or four years of general academic studies at the Faculty of Medicine in Novi Sad.

In Serbia, the harmonization of education of nurses with the educational standards of the European Union of Nurses is a process that will take some time. The current situation is as follows:

General nursing training is conducted at the nursing studies on three or four levels:
Three-year study of nurses is characterized by inequality of theoretical and practical training, and differs from school to school. The total number of hours during the studies range from 1850 to 2595 hours. Lectures range from 950 to 1185 hours of practical exercises from 900 to 1380 hours practical training from 30 to 120 hours during the three-year study. After completing three years of study 180 ECTS obtained and the Diploma with the addition, which
indicated that the trained nurse jobs during their studies. They are open and specialist professional studies in public health and methods of teaching that last a year.

Studies of nursing for a period of four years are undertaken only in the medical school in Novi Sad. At this university, department of health care, a total of 3335 hours, lectures are achieved with 1485 hours, 1650 hours of practice, professional practice for 80 hours, and the research work is done 120 hours. After completion of the study 240 ECTS is obtained and the Diploma with the addition, which indicated that the trained nurse jobs during the four-year study. The Medical Faculty in Belgrade were opened and two years of general postgraduate masters degree. Postgraduate study in Pediatrics does not yet exist.

Length in hours
The scope and duration: 8 +4 +3 + or 4 years. After finishing elementary school, young people enrolled in the secondary medical school paediatric directions. After the end of the school acquired the title paediatric nurses, it can enter the academic study of nurses in the Faculty for a period of 4.godine or high medical school of professional studies - three-year study.

Level
Medical High school-pediatrics nurse-diploma
Bachelor-diploma
Master / NO
Specialization/ NO

Theoretical content
Medical paediatrics High school- 3950 hours

Practical placement experiences
1250 hours -Clinical Medical paediatrics High school- 935 hours
College of nurses: 1500 sati

Reform of education and achieving credits for both the theoretical and clinical practical are ahead in Serbia-in accordance with the European qualification framework

Paediatric nurses in Serbia perform all tasks and duties as stated in PNAE recommendation: health promotion, mental health and welfare, prevention of injuries and illnesses, child protection, care of infant, child and adolescent with: injuries, acute, chronic conditions; mental health problems in all conditions and environments. Paediatric nurses with high education in Serbia have competence in accordance with the level of education generally is not independent in decision-making and decision-making, and often work under doctors orders.
**Slovakia**

Nurses working with children and young people have a specific nursing qualification in paediatric nursing.

Before Slovakian legislation was harmonized with European sectoral directives, on secondary health schools was activated study programme *paediatric nurse*.

Now as a member state of the EU Slovakia are obliged to keep all minimal requirements for nursing education and training specified by Directives 77/452/EEC and 77/453/EEC. Every old study programme that was not in accordance whit these minimal requirements was to the date of our Accession to the EU stopped. From 1 may 2004 in Slovak republic there are only study nursing programmes that are in accordance with minimal requirements of EU Directives and can be automatically and unconditionally recognised in all EEA Countries.

Nowadays, at the secondary health schools is provided advanced vocational study in study program certificated general nurse. After successful ending of absolutory students achieve diploma with the title „diplomovaná všeobecná sestra“. At the universitites is provided Bachelor study program „ošetrovateľstvo“ (nursing), that takes time 3 years most 4 with minimum duration of 4 600 hours, during which time the practical component part of education predominates. The holders of this qualification can use the academic title (Bc.).

After these two kinds of study and after 2 years of practice, general nurse can absolve a specialized study *Nursing care in paediatry*.

There is a national register of paediatric nurses. In Slovakia, there is a register of nurses and register of midwives. Within the register of nurses, we register also paediatric nurses (nurses with adequate qualification – see above).

After qualifying as a general nurse completes additional paediatric nursing education to be recognised as a Paediatric Nurse

*Length in hours*
1 year specialized programme: *Nursing care in paediatry*.

*Level*
Diploma

*Theoretical content*
Nursing process in paediatry, rights of hospitalised child, clinic psychology, sociology, nursing research, emergency nursing care in paediatry, models of nursing care in paediatry, complex and specific nursing care in paediatry, pharmacology in paediatry – specifics, nursing rehabilitation in paediatry...etc.
Practical placement experiences
To handle specific nursing skills, services and methods in nursing care in pediatrics

Slovenia

There is no specific paediatric nursing education programme. There is a national register of nurses for all nurses including paediatric nurses.

There is only a general nurse education programme.

Length in hours
2 years, 40 hours per week

Level

Theoretical content
Pending final approval

Practical placement experiences

Spain

The title specialist in paediatric nursing exists and it is regulated by the Decree 450/2005. The nurses are trained in 2 years like an internal nurse resident (INR). The royal Decree is now being implemented but still has no formed the first specialist in this area. Nevertheless at postgraduate level has been promoted diplomas in paediatric nursing

After qualifying as a general nurse, completes additional paediatric nursing education to be recognised as a Paediatric Nurse. This can be complemented by postgraduate education and continuing education

There is a national register for paediatric nurses. To be registered as a paediatric nurse must have completed a recognised paediatric nursing education programme.

Length in hours
2 years, 40 hours per week

Level
Masters – specialist

Theoretical content
Pending final approval

Practical placement experiences
Pending final approval
**Sweden**

There is a specific paediatric nursing education programme. After qualifying as a general nurse completes additional paediatric nursing education to be recognised as a paediatric nurse.

There is no national register of paediatric nurses but a register for all nurses.

*Length in hours*
One year

*Level*
Masters

*Theoretical content*
Information not provided

*Practical placement experiences*
Information not provided

**Switzerland**

There used to be a specific paediatric nursing education programme up to the end of 2008.

There is a national register for all nurses but not for specific disciplines.

*Length in hours*
In Bachelor degree around 40 hours in theoretical education (it depends and is different at each University of applied science)
MAS paediatric care: according to 60 ECTS only after finishing Bachelor degree

*Level*
Bachelor and MAS as well as HF (higher education)

*Theoretical content*
Development and growth as well as related factors to this from pregnancy, birth up to adolescence, professional relationship to a sick child, professional relationship and working together with the involved family and all it's members, chronically ill children and their special needs, EACH Charter, typically diagnosis in pregnancy, birth, neonatal period and during childhood as well as in gynaecology, as well as special training to paediatric aspects related knowledge

*Practical placement experiences*
At least 6 month practical experiences in the field
**Turkey**

There is a paediatric nursing education programme in Turkey. After qualifying as a general nurse completes additional paediatric nursing education to be recognised as a Paediatric Nurse.

There is a national register of paediatric nurses. To be registered as a paediatric nurse the nurse has to have completed a specific paediatric nursing course.

*Length in hours*
240 hours for the first year second year is for theses

*Level*
Masters

*Theoretical content*
120 HOURS

*Practical placement experiences*
120 HOURS

**United Kingdom**

There is a specific paediatric (Children’s) nursing programme at direct entry. Adult, mental health or learning disability nurses can undertake additional nursing education to become a registered children’s nurse.

*Length in hours*
3 years, 4,600 hours

*Level*
Diploma, degree and masters

*Theoretical content*
Detailed information can be found at [http://standards.nmc-uk.org/Pages/Welcome.aspx](http://standards.nmc-uk.org/Pages/Welcome.aspx)

*Practical placement experiences*
Detailed information can be found at [http://standards.nmc-uk.org/Pages/Welcome.aspx](http://standards.nmc-uk.org/Pages/Welcome.aspx)

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