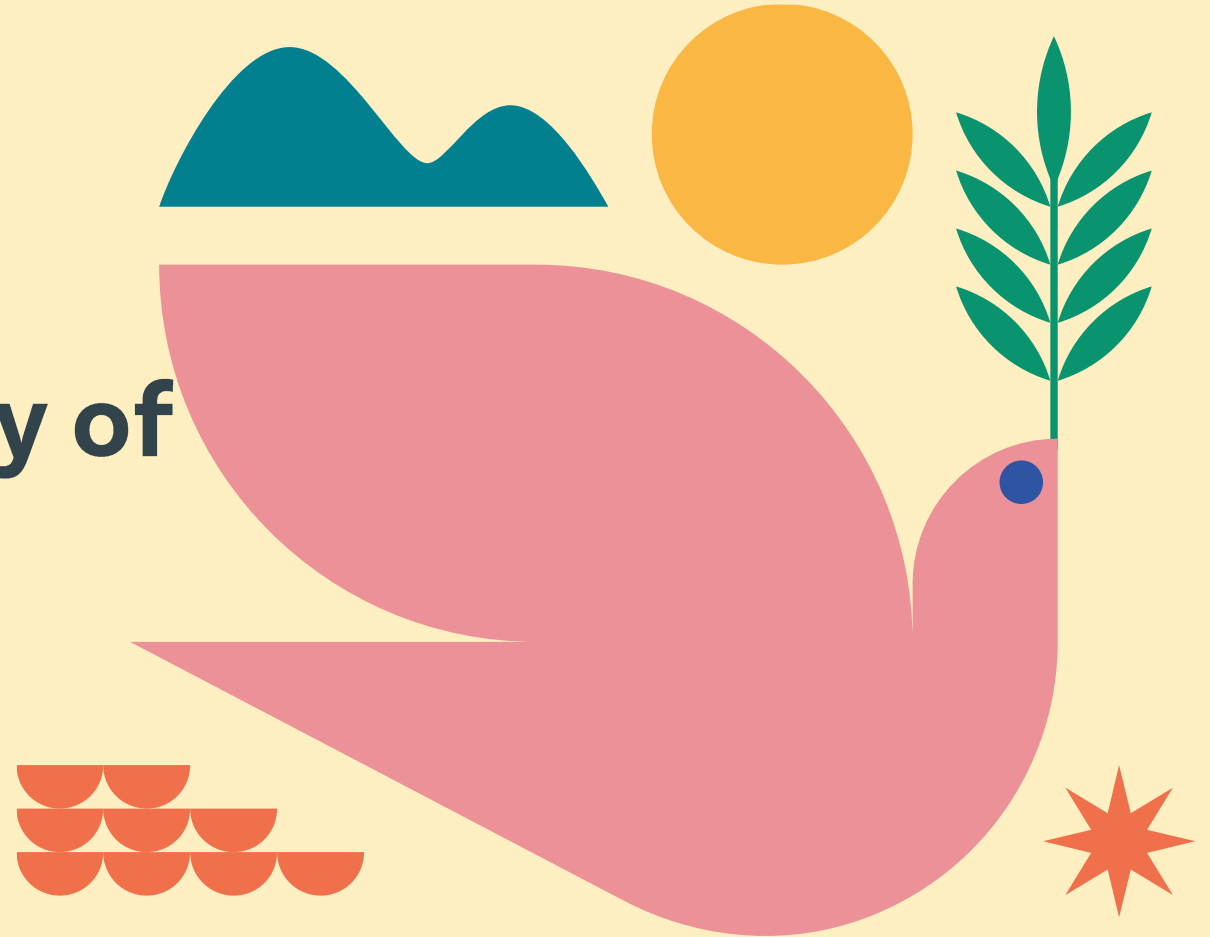


# Democracy in the City of Reykjavík

- History and Future
- Policy and Projects

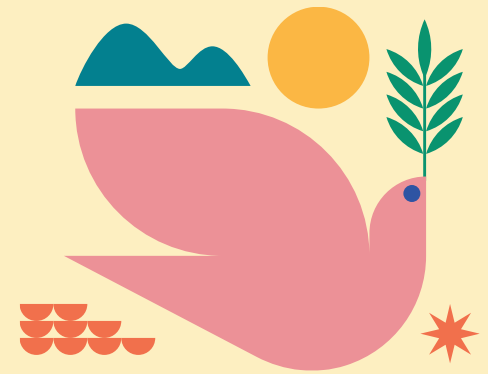


**Sigurlaug Anna Jóhannsdóttir**  
Democracy advisor  
Human rights and democracy office  
Reykjavíkurborg



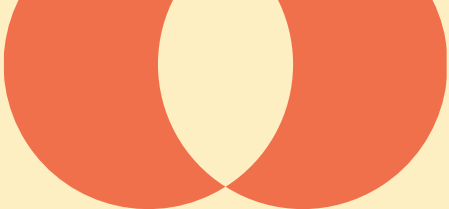


# Experience and partnership

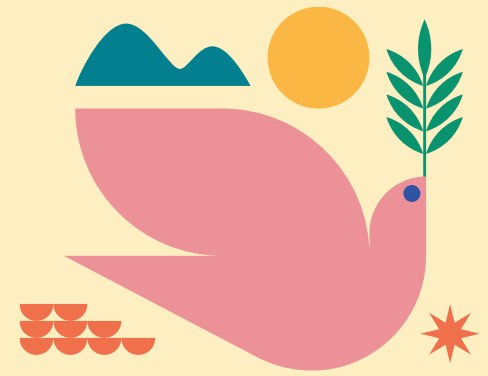


- Reykjavík city's experience in operating the PB project My district
- With Active Citizenship for better self government
- Different status of Democracy – different projects
- Sharing experience is always very useful – you never know what you might learn
- Democracy is an international language
- NEVER take Democracy for granted!





# History and culture

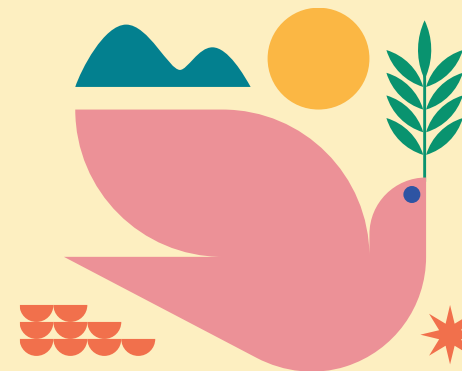


- Iceland is a young democratic state its history started with the claim for Democracy from Danmark.
- Economic crises 2008
- People demanded Democracy and transparency
- New political party's promised change
- The people voted for the new parties
- The new political parties did what they promised



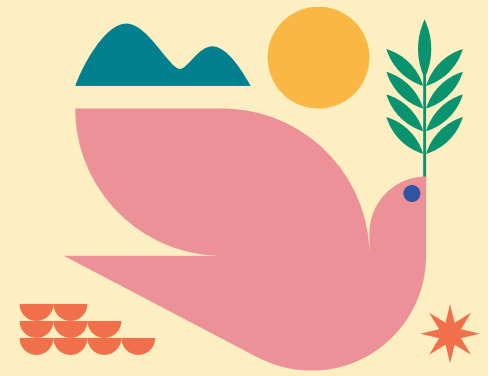


# City of Reykjavík Democracy Policy 2021-2030



The main goal of the City of Reykjavík Democracy Policy is to increase citizen participation. The policy is aimed at making it possible for every citizen to have a say in what matters to them. Access to information is a key factor in decision making and the opinions and views of citizens are important indicators. Gaining greater insights into the views and concerns of the people who live in the city helps inform the decision making of elected leaders.





# Action plan 2021-2024

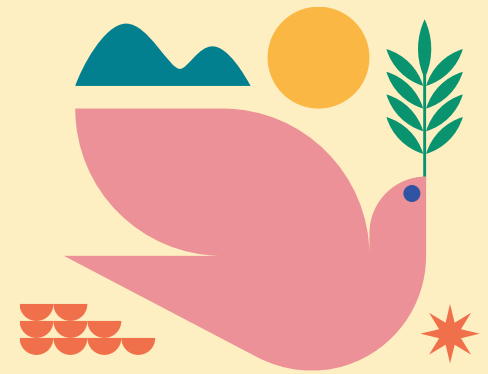
- 21 action
- 22 mesurable goals
- Implementation – working group

New action plan will be ready at the end of the period  
for the next 3 years.





# Threefold Statement of Purpose



- For Residents
- For Elected Representatives
- For the Administration

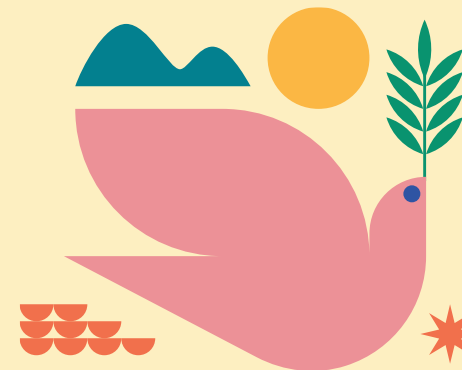
**Effective collaboration between the above factors leads to a successful outcome in a democratic city.**

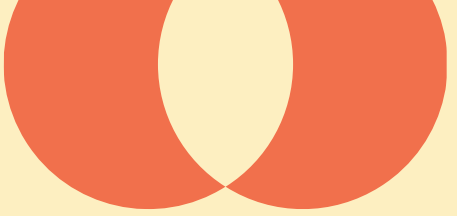




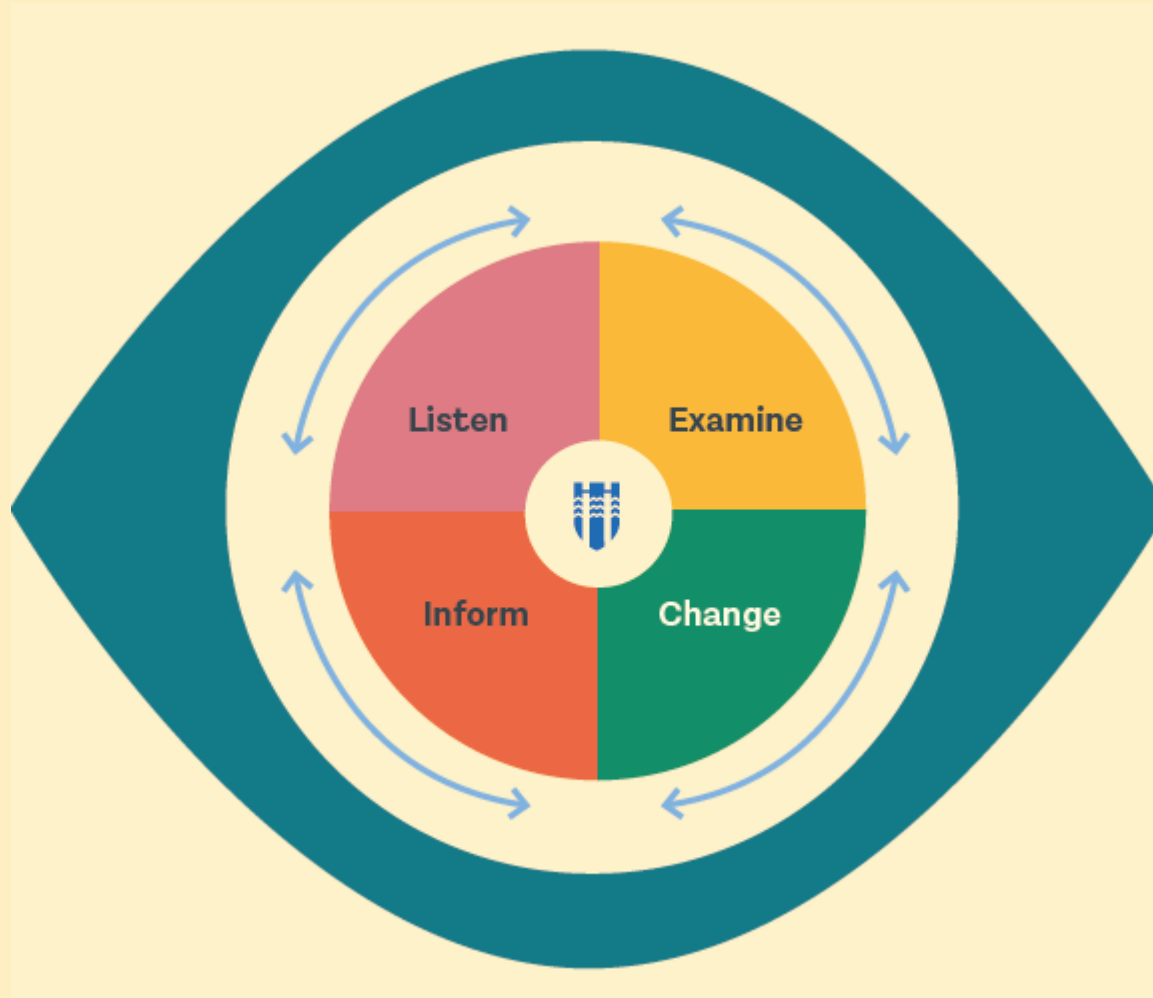
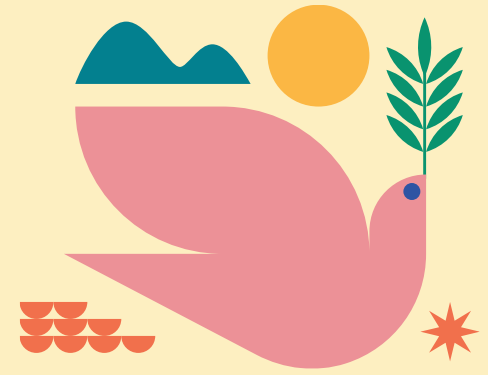
# Vision

- To **motivate** all residents to participate in policy and decision-making.
- To lay the foundations for **innovation** that can strengthen democracy in the city for the future.
- To **increase trust** in city administration through clear and transparent working practices.
- To **improve quality** of decision-making by finding out and considering various points of view and interests.
- To **meet people** as they are by ensuring participation in democracy for different groups.
- To always consider the best way to **consult residents** on major decisions.
- To submit all policy to the appropriate **consultation procedure** at all stages.





# City of Reykjavík Democracy Policy Main Objectives

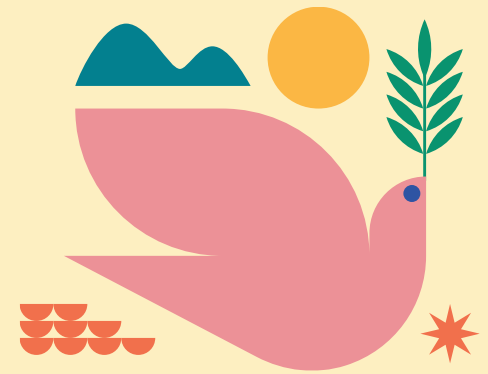




# From paper to practice

- The Policy lays the foundation and expresses the commitment
- Different projects throughout the city
  - My District
  - Residents councils
  - Suggestion Portal
  - Consultation Portal
  - Neighbourhood planning

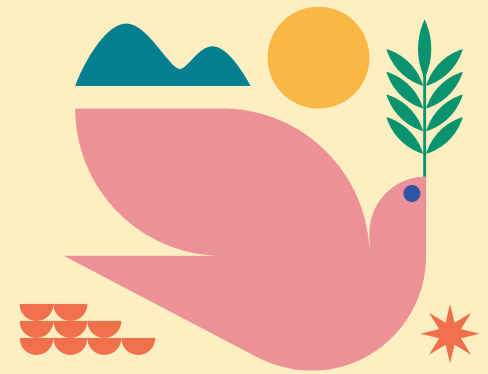
[www.reykjavik.is/en/democracy-policy](http://www.reykjavik.is/en/democracy-policy)





# My District

- Started 2011 – first election 2012
- Total of ideas executed 797
- 6 million euros allocated every other year
- Turnout 16,4% last voting, Oktober 2021
- 2 year timeline:
  - Idea collection fall year 1
  - Review process winter year 1-2
  - Choosing ideas on the ballot (Resident's councils) early spring year 2
  - Voting spring year 2

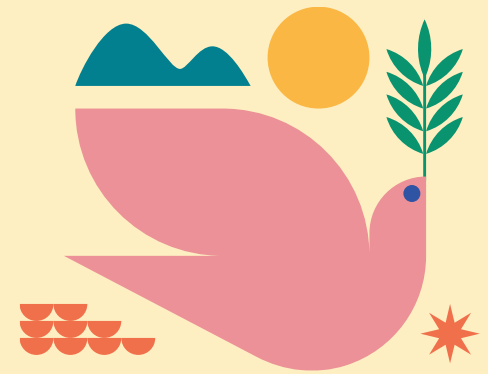




# My District - rules

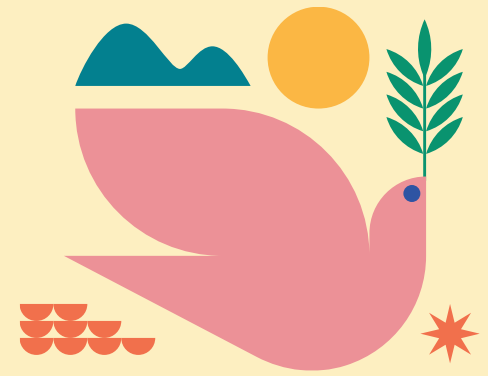
In order for ideas to be approved, they must follow the rules of the project

- Must make Reykjavik better
- Need to create something new
- Should not be about fixing what is old
- Should not have annual operating cost
- Should fall within the subject matter and strategy of the city of Reykjavík
- Should cost less than the total amount the district can use
- Must be implementable within one year and on city owned land





# My District – Promotion Campaign



- Social media ads
- Newspaper ads
- Advertising in bus stops
- Visits to swimming pools
- School visits
- Visits to senior citizens' homes

Very much value in the physical presence and conversations during this period



69 milljónir í boði Notaðu + til að velja hugmyndir

Seljagarður – Litill  
fjölskyldugarður í hjarta  
Seljahverfis

10 milljónir



Göngustígar neðra Breiðholt

8 milljónir

Stökkpallar fyrir hjól og skíði í  
skíðabrekku

7 milljónir

Endurbætur á leikvelli milli  
Staðar - Stafna- og Stuðlasels

8 milljónir

Endurnýja leikvöll milli  
Réttarbakka og Staðarbakka

6 milljónir

Hraðatakmarkandi aðgerðir við  
Engjasel

4 milljónir



Frisbígolfkörfur við skóla

5 milljónir

Lýsing á göngustíg/tröppur frá  
Grjótaseli niður í Seljadal

3 milljónir

Endurbætur á torginu fyrir  
framan Gerðuberg

20 milljónir



Bekkir og ruslatunnur í Bakkana

4 milljónir





**HVAÐ  
KÝST  
ÞÚ?**



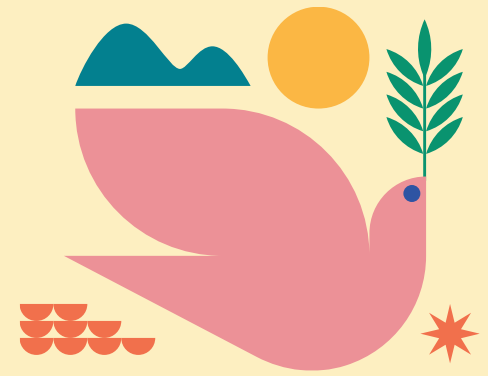
[hverfidmitt.is](http://hverfidmitt.is)

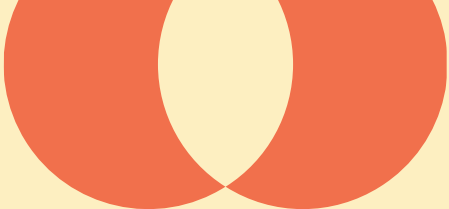




# Residents Councils

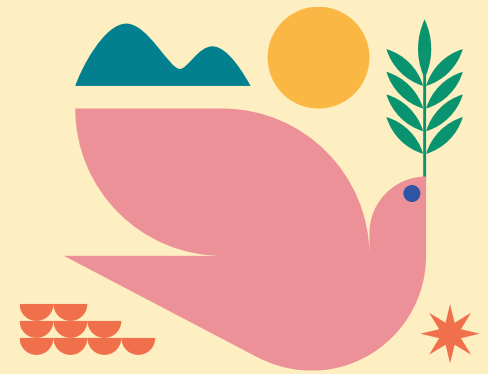
- Started 1997
- Serve as a point of contact between the city government and its residents, organizations and businesses
- Information sharing
- Platform for discussion about challenges and hopes for districts
- Social capital





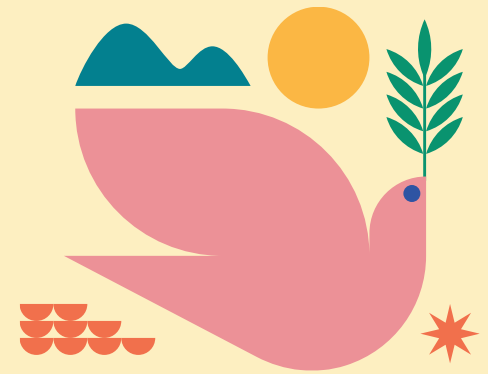
# Residents Councils – practical

- 6 members – 3 from city council- 1 from the parent’s association – 1 from the residents organization and 1 randomly selected.
- 9 councils for the whole city
- Meet 1x every month in the winter
- Open meetings – All are welcome
- Online during covid and in the future
- <https://reykjavik.is/en/ibuarad> (minutes, recordings and contact info)





# Suggestion Portal



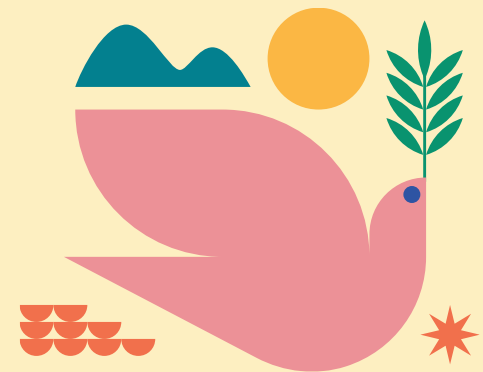
Website text:

Send us a tip about anything! Whether it's something that needs to be fixed, something that could be better served in the city's services, or something else you want to convey.





# Consultation Portal – Better Reykjavík

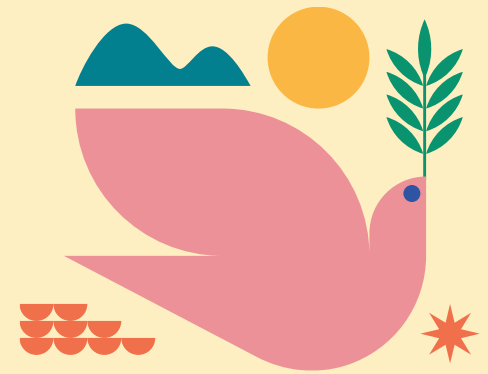


Reykjavík City's consultation Portal is also known as Better Reykjavik. The site is used to collect ideas, comments, opinions, and position of residents to the various projects being implemented at any given time, not least in policymaking.



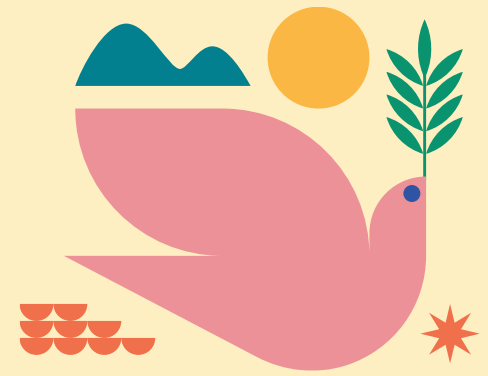


# Neighborhood Plan



Neighborhood Plan is a new planning device that is based on the Reykjavik Municipal Plan 2010–2030. It is meant to ensure a positive future for the city by encouraging modern urban development while also making the city’s districts more sustainable and environmentally conscious.

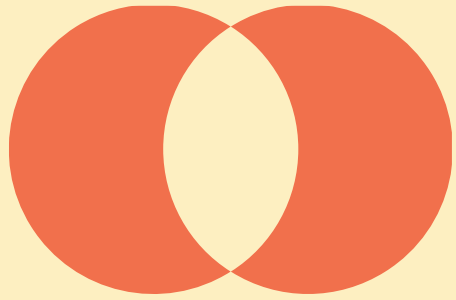




## Websites

- Policy in Polish <https://reykjavik.is/pl/polityka-demokratyczna>
- Policy EN <https://reykjavik.is/en/democracy-policy>
- My District EN <https://reykjavik.is/en/my-district>
- Resident Councils <https://reykjavik.is/en/ibuarad>
- Neighborhood plan <https://skipulag.reykjavik.is/hverfisskipulag/en/>





# The End

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