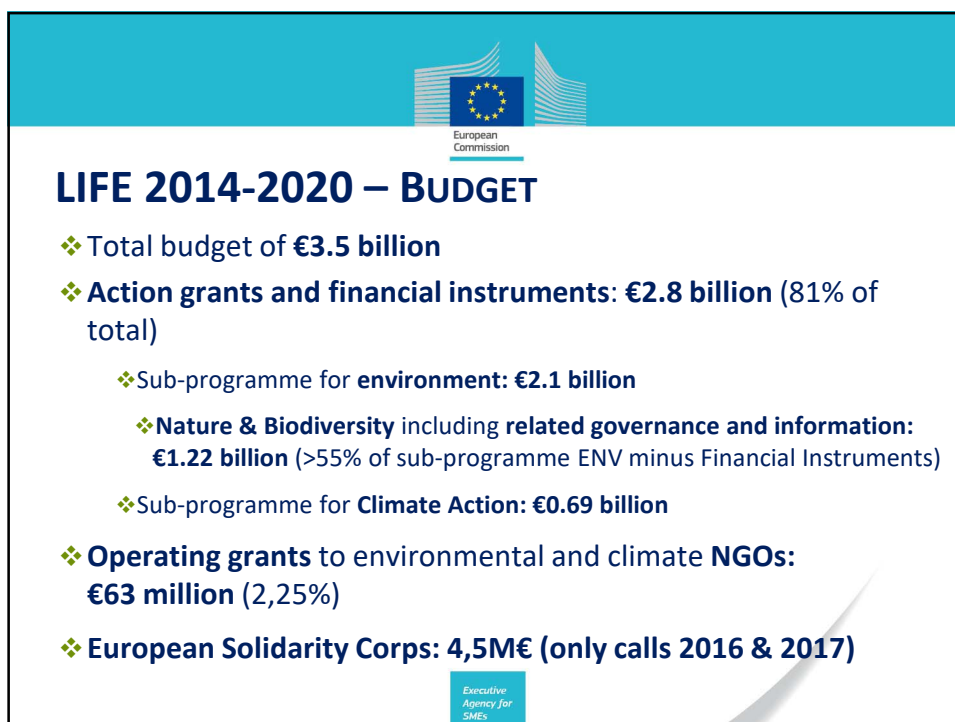European Commission

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ENVIRONMENT

THE LIFE PROGRAMME
2014-2020

Michel Quicheron
Project Adviser

LIFE Info Day Bulgaria
26 April 2018 / Sofia

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LIFE 2014-2020 – BUDGET

❖ Total budget of **€3.5 billion**

❖ **Action grants and financial instruments**: **€2.8 billion** (81% of total)

  ❖ Sub-programme for **environment: €2.1 billion**

   ❖ **Nature & Biodiversity** including **related governance and information: €1.22 billion** (>55% of sub-programme ENV minus Financial Instruments)

  ❖ Sub-programme for **Climate Action: €0.69 billion**

❖ **Operating grants** to environmental and climate **NGOs: €63 million** (2,25%)

❖ **European Solidarity Corps: 4,5M€ (only calls 2016 & 2017)**

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LIFE 2018-2020 MAWP– Remaining Budget

❖ Remaining allocation for MAWP2: **€1.66 billion**

   ❖ **€1,24 billion for ENV Sub-programme (mean: €413 million/year)**
   ❖ **€0,41 billion for CLIMA Sub-programme (mean: €137 million/year)**

LIFE08 NAT/BG/000279   LIFE09 ENV/AT/000226   LIFE08 NAT/RO/000500   LIFE07 ENV/ES/000829   LIFE08 ENV/E/000135

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LIFE Mid-Term Evaluation recommendations

❖ **Simplifying grant management procedure**, in particular the application and reporting processes;

❖ **Increasing the strategic focus of the demand-driven part of the programme**, e.g. by targeting topics not covered by the projects funded in previous years;

❖ **Doing more to reproduce the projects and transfer of their results**, e.g. by developing the capacity to plan and implement investments and addressing the lack of financial resources;

❖ **Improving the communication strategy** to better target audiences, deliver more objective-specific and target-specific key messages and ensure more structured coordination between players.

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LIFE - GENERAL FEATURES

❖ Applicants - Companies, research institutes, NGOs, public administrations active in the field of environment and climate protection ; **all legal persons registered in the EU**

❖ Emphasis on **replicability/transferability, long-term sustainability, and an EU added value** of the project results

❖ **Not** focused on **research** (⇔ H2020)

❖ No large infrastructure; **not** focused on **rural or regional development** (⇔ agricultural, structural funds)

❖ Support and monitoring: from Contracting Authority (EASME or European Commission) and external monitoring team

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WHO DOES WHAT IN LIFE?

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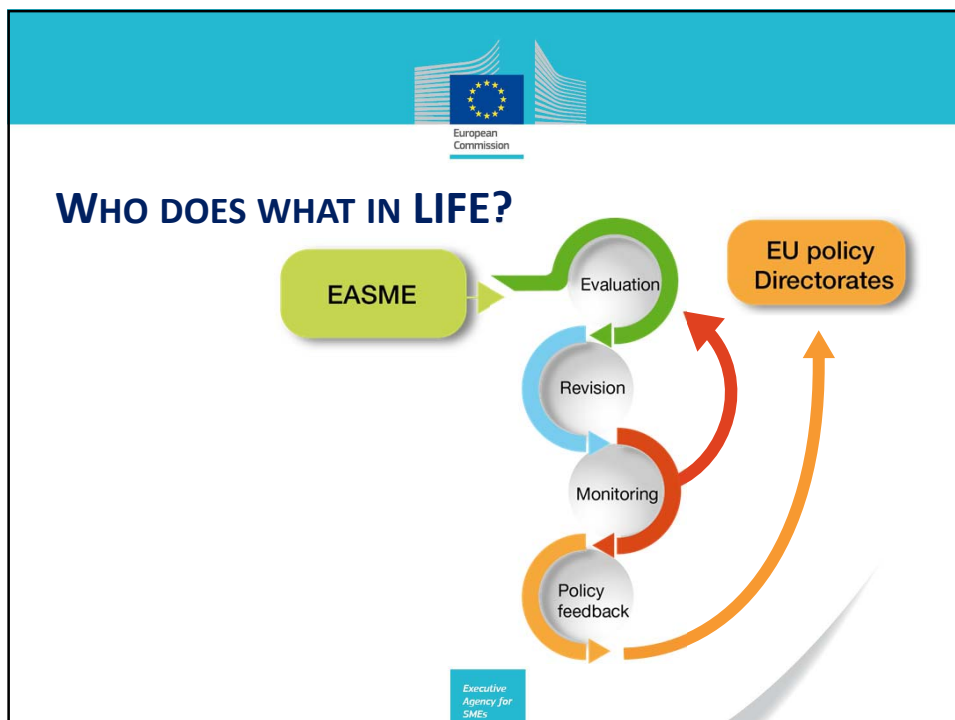
LIFE GENERAL FEATURES

❖ *Funding types:* *Action grants, Operating grants,* Innovative financial instruments (NCFF, PF4EE)

❖ *Project types:* traditional, integrated, technical assistance, capacity building, preparatory projects, ESC projects

❖ *Project topics:* only for traditional projects under the sub-programme for environment

❖ *Work areas:* only for traditional projects under the sub-programme for climate action

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LIFE GENERAL FEATURES

❖ *Funding rate:* in general, 55% of eligible costs in the MAWP 2018-2020;

❖ *Actors:* **EASME** for **all grants** except preparatory projects, and; **EIB/intermediary banks** for **financial instruments**; intervention of **NCPs only if desired**

❖ *National allocations:* do not apply in MAWP 2018-2020.

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LIFE 2018 – BUDGET

LIFE Call 2018 opening: 18 April 2018				
AREA	**CLOSING C.N.**	**CLOSING Full P.**	**BUDGET 18**	**~ % vs 2017**
CLIMATE	n.a.	12-Sep-18	€ 48.7 Mill.	- 7%
ENV-RE	12-Jun-18	End Jan-19	€ 80 Mill.	-4%
NAT	14-Jun-18	End Jan-19	€ 128 Mill.	+20%
GIE	14-Jun-18	End Jan-19	€ 9 Mill.	+88%
IPE	5-Sep-18	14 March-19	€ 94 Mill.	+ 9%
IPC	5-Sep-18	14 March-19	€ 30 Mill.	+ 0%
TAE	n.a.	08-Jun-18 (tbc)	€ 930k	+5%
TAC	n.a.	08-Jun-18 (tbc)	€ 300k	+ 0%

LIFE MAWP 2018-2020

❖ **As in MAWP1, strong emphasis on:**

- ❖ Long term sustainability of the project: continuation, replication and transfer
- ❖ EU added value
- ❖ Indicators

- ❖ **New priority topics and evaluation criteria**
- ❖ **Consider findings of the Mid-Term evaluation:**
  - ❖ Simplification of the application & reporting processes
  - ❖ Replication of project results
  - ❖ Improving the communication strategy

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LIFE MAWP 2018-2020 (II)

❖ **Takes up recent development in EU policy: e.g.**

- ❖ Circular Economy Action Plan
- ❖ Action Plan for nature, people and the economy

❖ **For ENV Sub-programme:**

- ❖ Reduced number of topics (87 to 42) and stronger focus to EU policy priorities
- ❖ Reorientation of GI project topics to focus on more specific awareness raising and governance-related issues

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LIFE MAWP 2018-2020 (III)

❖ **For both Sub-Programmes:**
  - ❖ Further enhancement of the results-orientation by introducing the requirement to produce measurable effects under all priority areas
  - ❖ Encouragement to further engage private entities by highlighting the advantages of the Close-to-Market approaches
  - ❖ Simplification of the grant management procedure

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EU ADDED VALUE: LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY

- ❖ Sustainability of project results should be built in the proposal
- ❖ Potential to use project results beyond the project life time
- ❖ Particularly important for Award Criterion 4: EU-Added value – Sustainability

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EU ADDED VALUE: LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY

❖ Go beyond dissemination of project results and sharing of knowledge

❖ Include activities and approaches integrated in project actions which aim to facilitate their continuation, the replication and/or transfer of the project results beyond the project, including in other sectors, regions or countries

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EU ADDED VALUE

❖ Each project should demonstrate EU Added Value in terms of:

- ❖ Extent and quality of the contribution to the specific objectives of the priority areas of the LIFE Sub-Programme.
- ❖ Multi-purpose, synergies and integration
- ❖ Transnational scope (if necessary for achieving project results)

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IMPACT INDICATORS

- ❖ LIFE Programme 2014-2020 puts an emphasis on impact indicators – to measure impact of each individual project
- ❖ Each applicant has to identify indicators relevant for the project and fill in a simple, one-page excel form
- ❖ Once selected, each project has to report on key project indicators (KPIs) during and after the project end (KPI database)
- ❖ Social and economic indicators mandatory for ALL projects!

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FACTS OF THE LIFE PROGRAMME

FACT 1: THERE IS SIGNIFICANT COMPETITION FOR LIFE FUNDS

LIFE Call 2017: Number of Proposals per EU Member State

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS – CALL 2017

❖ 626 proposals received:
  ❖ 272 Environment and Resource Efficiency
  ❖ 151 Nature and Biodiversity
  ❖ 81 Governance and Information
  ❖ 122 Climate sub-programme
    (38 CCA, 59 CCM, 25 GIC)

AWARD PHASE AND SELTEC◊ - CALL 2017

❖ 190 Projects passed Award phase (2017 Call)
   ❖ 55 Environment and Resource Efficiency (20%*)
   ❖ 64 Nature and Biodiversity (42%*)
   ❖ 17 Governance and Information (21%*)
   ❖ 54 Climate sub-programme (44%) (17 CCA, 28 CCM, 9 GIC)

❖ ◊ SELTEC after award phase
❖ * Survival rate (total submissions vs passed)

FACT 2: YOU CAN'T GET A GRANT IF YOU DON'T SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

❖ Two application procedures for the 2018 call:

   ❖ **two-stage approach** based on a concept note followed by a full proposal – **Sub-Programme ENV**
   ❖ **one-stage approach** based only on a full proposal – **Sub-Programme CLIMATE ACTION**

FACT 2: YOU CAN'T GET A GRANT IF YOU DON'T SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

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FACT 3: IT TAKES TIME AND MONEY TO PREPARE A CONCEPT NOTE AND AND THE FULL APPLICATION

FACT 4: PROPOSALS THAT FAIL ARE POORLY PREPARED OR SIMPLY NOT AS GOOD AS THE OTHERS; FUNDING IS LIMITED

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INFORMATION SOURCES

- ❖ LIFE Web site – It contains everything you need:
  http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm
- ❖ LIFE Regulation – priority areas
- ❖ MAWP (Multi-annual work programme) – project topics
- ❖ Application Packages
- ❖ Guides for evaluation of LIFE project proposals
- ❖ Specific information, guidelines designed
  by your National Contact Point: www.life-bulgaria.bg

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FEW TIPS

BE AWARE

❖ It takes **TIME to read** the application guidelines:
  ❖ Verify that LIFE is the appropriate funding programme for you
❖ **Be AWARE** of all the exceptions that may apply to you
❖ Financial coherence is a key issue , check systematically **COST EFFECTIVENESS**
❖ **Avoid to** include actions not related to the objective of your proposal
❖ Remember the up extra points bonus you will get if your project fits the **priority project topics** or if your project has **international character**

The SELECTION procedure will definitely consider these elements when evaluating your proposal

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PROJECT BUDGET (I)

Only costs incurred for actions implemented during project life-time can be eligible!

❖Personnel – 2% rule for public bodies

❖Daily rate – based on gross salary + contributions according to the national legislation (social security, pension, etc.)

❖Travel costs – according to internal rules of project beneficiaries

❖External assistance – not more than 35% of the total budget

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PROJECT BUDGET (II)

Only costs incurred for actions implemented during project life-time can be eligible!

❖Durable goods – 100% for NAT projects, for the rest, only depreciation costs can be financed (up to 25% for infrastructure, up to 50% for equipment),

❖Prototypes – 100% if developed specifically for the LIFE project – no commercialisation during the project's life.

❖Public tender – mandatory for contracts above 130,000 €

❖Public entities must comply with national legislation

❖Good value for money has to be demonstrated even if public tender is not necessary

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2% RULE - EXAMPLE

Example of budget:

- Personnel
  - Non-additional   105 €
  - Additional staff   20 €
- External Assistance   50 €
- Equipment   25 €
- **Total**   200 €

➤

LIFE contribution ▶ **60%**
but
Minimum own contribution
from public beneficiaries
= 105 € + 2% ▶ **107,10 €**

Maximum LIFE contribution
▶ **92,90 €**

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INTRODUCTION TO THE 2-STAGES APPLICATION

MORE ABOUT THE 2 STAGE APPLICATION

- ❖ **why?** rationale for introducing two stage application
- ❖ **what?** 2 stages: concept note and full proposal
- ❖ **how?** selection, award criteria
- ❖ **when?** indicative calendar

RATIONALE FOR THE 2 STAGE APPLICATION

❖ Simplification of the application process and evaluation of LIFE traditional projects

❖ Easier procedure & faster feedback

❖ Need to address the decreasing number of applications for LIFE co-financing in recent years

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What is LIFE 2 stage application approach?

❖ **New simplified two-stage approach**

1 Concept note   **2** Full proposal

❖ **Only** for Environment sub-programme

❖ **Only** for traditional projects

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Stage 1. Concept Note

What should the concept note include ? (i)

❖ Information about the Coordinating Beneficiary

❖ Description of the environmental problem targeted (for environment and information & governance strands) / description of species, habitats, biodiversity issues targeted by the project (for nature and biodiversity strands)

❖ Project objectives

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Stage 1. Concept Note

What should the concept note include ? (ii)

❖ The project partners (information on the coordinating and associated beneficiaries, and co-financers of the project)

❖ Description of the project actions

❖ Expected results and impacts of the project

❖ The sustainability of project results

❖ Project risks and constraints

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Stage 1. Concept Note

What should the concept note include ? (iii)

- ❖ The EU added value of the project (understood at this stage as the contribution to LIFE priorities and objectives)
- ❖ The pilot or demonstration character of the project (and/or best practice for nature and biodiversity strand)
- ❖ An indicative budget for the project limited to main budget items and repartition between EU contribution, partners own contributions and co-financers.

10 pages in total ! – via eProposal

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Stage 1. Concept Note for ENV subprogramme

Concept note should NOT include ?

✓ Signed commitments (mandates, etc)

✓ Maps, pictures, attachments

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Be aware – at the evaluation stage the concept note must fulfil the same elibility criteria than those of the full proposal

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- ❖ How, where and when to submit a proposal?
- ❖ Project submission procedure will be organised in two stages:

  Stage 1: Concept note

  Stage 2: Full proposal
- ❖ Applicants must submit their concept notes to the Contracting Authority via eProposal before 12 or the 14/06/2018, 16:00 Brussels local time.

The concept note can be modified, validated and (re)submitted as many times as needed until 12-14/06/2018, 16:00 Brussels local time. Each subsequent submission overwrites the previously submitted version (earlier versions are not archived and are therefore not available anymore).

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CONCEPT NOTE AWARD CRITERIA	MINIMUM PASS SCORE*	MAXIMUM SCORE
1. Overall quality of the proposal	5	20
2. Overall EU added value	10	30
OVERALL (PASS) SCORES	**15**	**50**

EVALUATION CRITERIA – STAGE 1: CONCEPT NOTE

❖ **Overall quality of the proposal**: clarity of the proposals (including the description of the pre-operational context), its feasibility and the indicative value for money. (max. 20 – passing score: min 5)

❖ **Overall EU added value**: project's contribution to the LIFE priorities, expected impact, and sustainability of the project results. (max. 30 – passing score: min 10)

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IF THE APPLICATION IS ADMITTED TO STAGE 2...

... the applicant will be notified in eProposal and will have access to the full application.

eProposal will contain the elements included at the concept note stage and the applicant will be able to expand the contents of the forms.

Changes can be introduced to the application including for the budget as long as the total EU contribution does not increase by more than 10%).

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IF THE APPLICATION IS ADMITTED TO STAGE 2…

Be aware that any changes introduced at the level of the full proposal shall not question the selection and award at the concept note in term of:

objective and results expected;

capacity of the partnership to implement the actions

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INDICATIVE TIMETABLE :
APPLICATION ENVIRONMENT SUB-PROGRAMME

Timeline	Phases
12 June 2018 (tbc)	✈ Submission of concept note *Max 10 pages + high-level budget*
June-September 2018	≣ Evaluation of concept note
October 2018	👍 Invitation for full proposal
End of January 2019	✈ Submission of full **e**-proposal
July 2019	📝 Signature of grants

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EVALUATION OF LIFE PROPOSALS: COMMON PITFALLS

Michel Quicheron
Project Adviser

LIFE Info Day Bulgaria
26 April 2018 / Sofia

ENVIRONMENT

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THE BASELINE IS INCOMPLETE

- ❖ What is **the problem** you want to address
- ❖ What are the challenges **in your specific context**
- ❖ What has been done so far – **value added of the project**
- ❖ **Baseline data** (surveys, results of tests, etc.) → provide the data source and, when relevant, maps

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TARGET GROUP, STAKEHOLDERS, PARTNERSHIP NOT APPROPRIATE

❖ Who is **affected by the problem**? Who will use the solutions/tools developed?

❖ **Local authorities** involved? How? Ensure active participation of key stakeholders

❖ **Partnership based on expertise** needed in the project

UNCLEAR LINK BETWEEN ACTIONS AND OBJECTIVES

❖ **Are the actions appropriate** to address the problem identified? Use **logical framework**

❖ Clearly present **who does what and when**

❖ Tools/strategies/methodologies→ needed for **concrete implementation**

❖ **Transnational?**

SUSTAINABILITY NOT ENSURED

❖ Technical sustainability **should be built in the project** ex. scale up pilot, uptake of policy recommendations/tools
❖ Responsibilities – who will do the job afterwards? **Who will use the tool/ products developed**?
❖ Financial sustainability

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LOW IMPACT/LITTLE EU ADDED VALUE

❖ What are the **changes achieved**?
❖ **Value for the EU**: policy update, **new legislation**, changes in **behaviour, new product on the market**
❖ **Indicators** of impact – n. of people trained is not an impact indicator
❖ Negative impact on environment

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REPLICATION AND TRANSFER OF RESULTS NOT DEVELOPED

- ❖ Replication in **another area/sector**
- ❖ Only a replication strategy or final workshop is not sufficient
- ❖ Transfer but **adapted to the new context**
- ❖ **Should be built in** the project

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CLOSE TO MARKET STRATEGY NOT WELL DEVELOPED

- ❖ What is the **state of art of the solution** /process? Technical readiness – **no research** (accepted if strictly needed)
- ❖ Quantification of **environmental benefits** - LCA
- ❖ **Market positioning**/ commercialisation can start within the project
- ❖ **Business plan**/ licences

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