

# Annual Report

2019



Fundația Sf. Dimitrie

# EFFORT, THE POOR RELATIVE OF EDUCATION?



My message to the Community finds us all in a difficult and unprecedented situation for the whole country and humanity. Taken out from the fast rhythm and crazy daily rush, we have found ourselves facing a silence (otherwise wanted in our moments of stress and tiredness) we did not know what to do with in the first moments.

For us, the PEOPLE from St. Dimitrie Foundation, the state of perplexity did not last long. Forced to suspend work contracts in order to survive, we left aside our personal worries and mobilized our forces in order **to be of use to the children and their families**, according to our mission.

At this time of assessment of the foundation's activities from 2019, I want to tell you about the challenges the team faces, about EFFORT, as endeavor of the human being to defeat a resistance, external or internal, in order to deal with a difficulty or to meet a goal. Moreover, the bypassed obstacle shuts you in the present time, whilst the effort, which requires an action from you in order to get something, takes you out of the immediate and orients you towards the future.

Most of the children we are working with abandon the task at the smallest difficulty, are demotivated and, in a society of performance and competition, school failure is inevitable. We live in the era of speed, of "everything and now", of immediate performance, while EFFORT is old-fashioned, chased away, unwanted. How can one pass on the taste for effort when TV shows promote at least questionable games and competitions, which give as prizes huge sums of money? Children think success is a matter of charm, seduction, luck and not work, perseverance, patience. Yes, we live under the sign of ephemeral, the idols from shows and sports are quickly overthrown, everything gives the impression that glory is acquired with the help of a magic wand, no effort, in order to disappear as quickly as it appeared. How can one convince the children, in these conditions, that time, effort, focus are absolutely necessary in order to become good, whether in sport, music or other jobs?

The taste for effort does not come from itself, but it is the result of an apprenticeship, of an awareness which cannot be built in the absence of grown-ups.

This is the EFFORT belonging to the team from the Center for Education and Community Support, education in the spirit of true values, increasing school motivation, which is the expression of the child's investment in life.

**Laurenția ȘERBAN**  
**President**

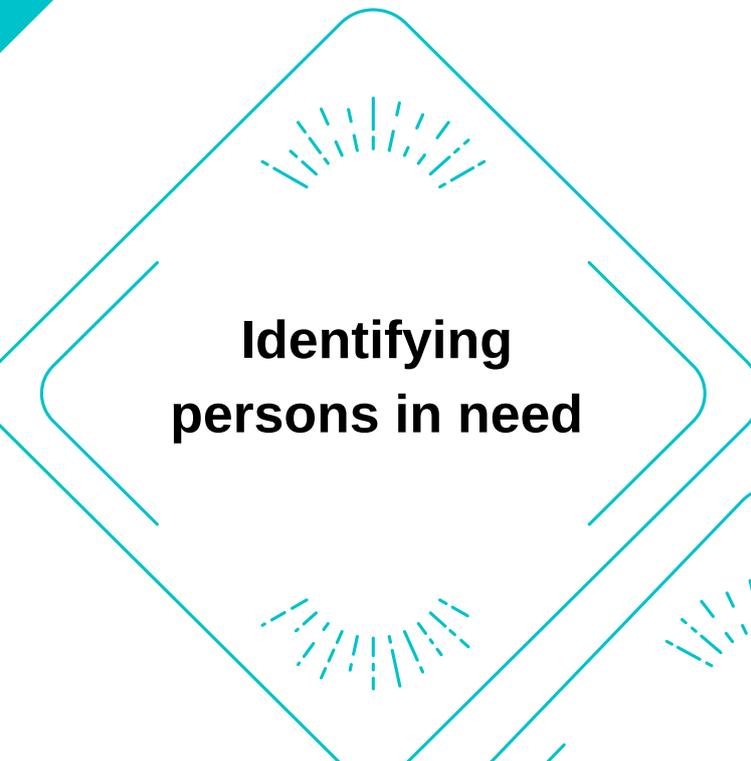
Thank you to everyone supporting us!

# Priorities for 2019

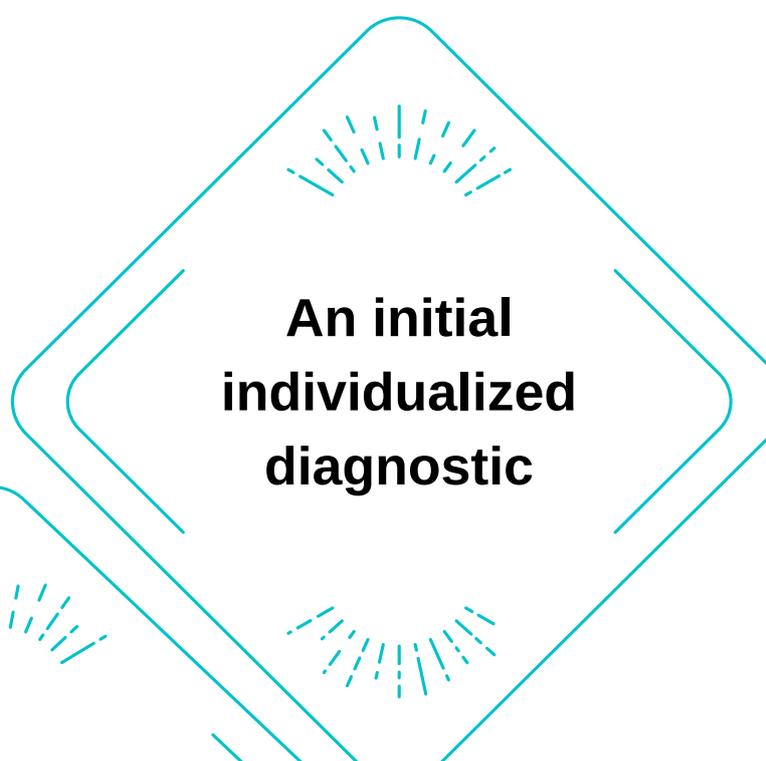
In accordance with our mission of being of use to the children and to their families in order for them to remain together, in 2019 we have continued to have as number one priority facilitating equal access to education and cultural values as a form of fighting back the isolation and marginalization caused by poverty.



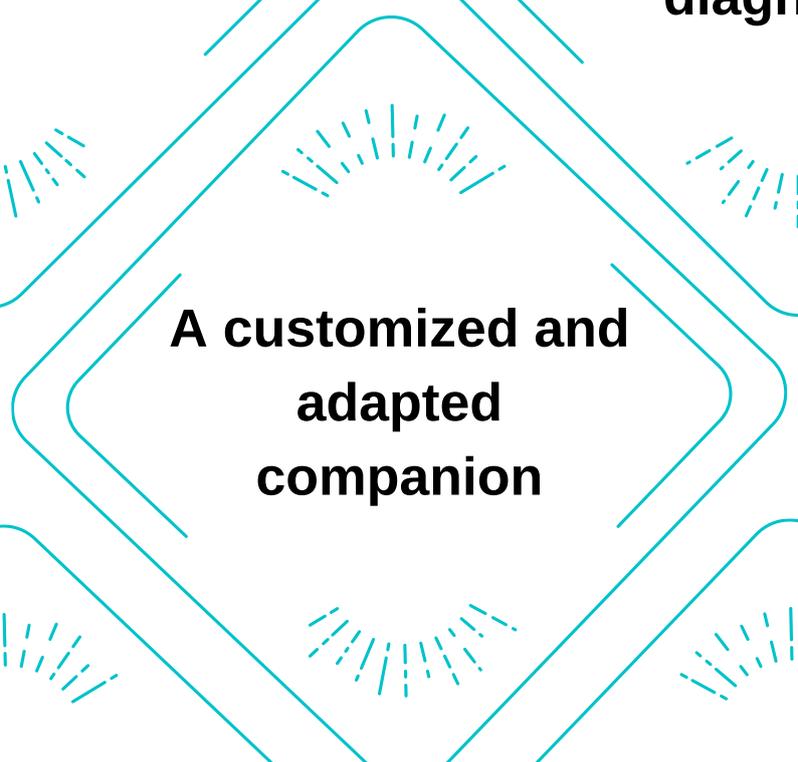
# **DIRECTIONS OF INTERVENTION FOR THIS YEAR**



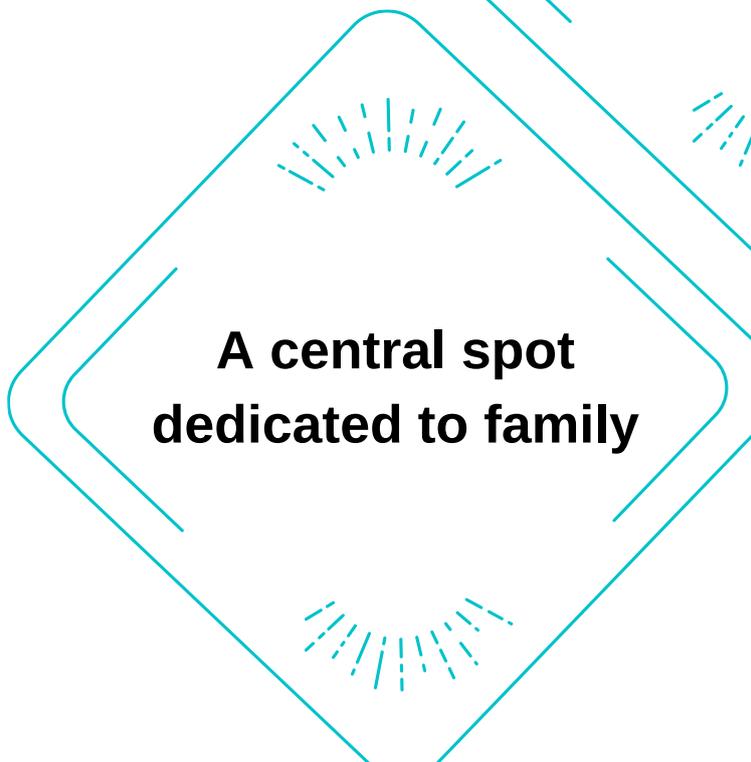
**Identifying  
persons in need**



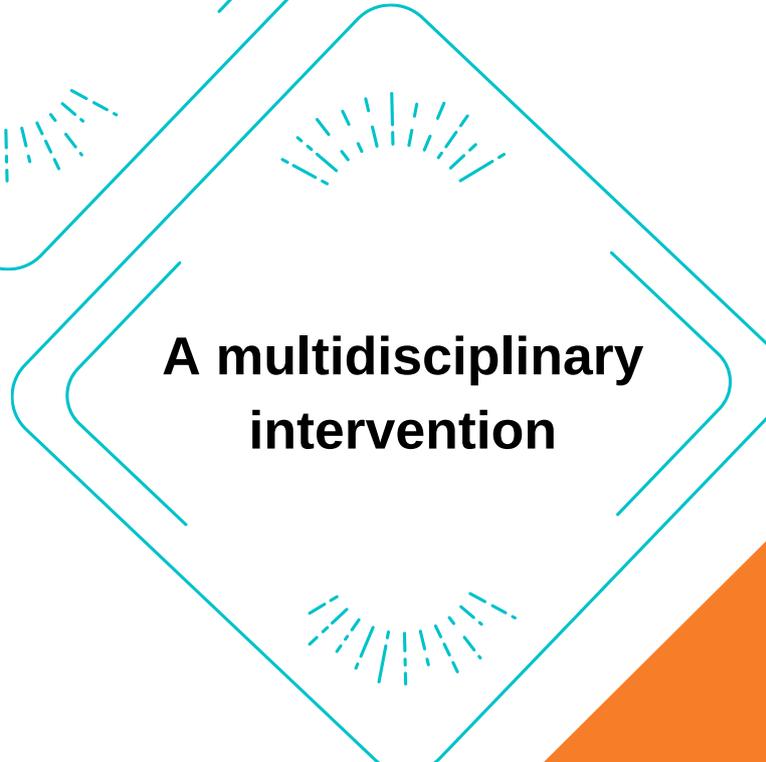
**An initial  
individualized  
diagnostic**



**A customized and  
adapted  
companion**



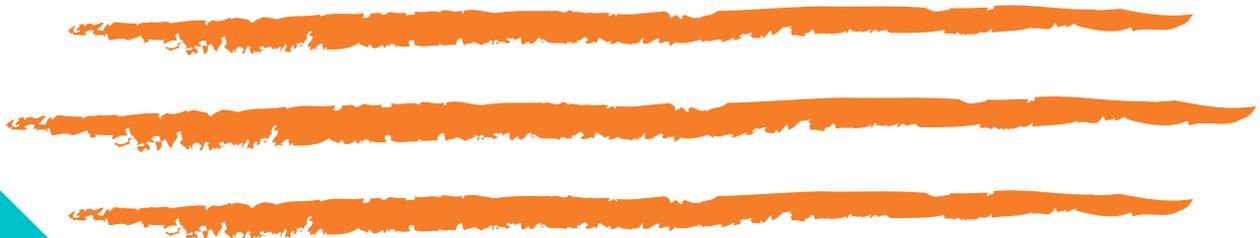
**A central spot  
dedicated to family**



**A multidisciplinary  
intervention**

# **The Center for Education and Community Support**

**We have  
continued to  
act from the  
heart, the  
same way we  
have been  
doing since  
the beginning,  
and we  
have offered  
daily services  
to the 46  
children and to  
their families.**



# EFFECTS OF THE PROVIDED SERVICES



## PREVENTING SCHOOL DROPOUT AND EDUCATIONAL FAILURE

✓ All 4 beneficiaries who have finished middle school, will continue their studies in highschool.



We have done this by offering daily assistance for homework, by organizing classes and workshops for general knowledge and by providing, with the help of two math teachers and two special education teachers, specialized individual support in order to fill in the children's cognitive gaps.



## MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION



Material needs are those the most acutely felt by families. With the support of private donors and companies, we have managed to compensate the families' shortcomings in providing a decent living for the kids.

- ✓ Kids received daily a hot meal at lunch.
- ✓ We offered school supplies, toys, clothes and shoes.
- ✓ We supported the families, financially and materially, to improve their housing conditions.



## DEVELOPING CONFIDENCE IN THEIR OWN STRENGTHS



- ✓ Organizing weekly two sessions of Jiu Jitsu martial arts.
- ✓ Services of individual and group counseling.

We develop the children's self-esteem by encouraging activities of self-discovery, of practicing the ability to sustain an effort and of being in a position to take decisions.



## IMPROVING SOCIAL BEHAVIOR



The social environment from the center has always created learning opportunities for the kids. Starting with great actions of friendship or fellowship and going to conflict solving or rule violation situations, each day offers empirical teaching material.





## IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN

We offer individualized support for the parents and specialized advice, we look together for solutions, we remind them the most important things they can give to their children are love and care.



- ✓ We offered counseling for parents.
- ✓ We organized two workshops where we created opportunities for parents to spend time in a fun way with their kids.



## DEVELOPING CULTURAL EXPRESSION AND SENSITIVITY



Experiencing with different ways of expression is a challenge we address permanently to the kids. We introduce them to fascinating elements from the art world and then we place them in the position of creators – and even they are surprised by the results.



# Travelers through Europe

## Activities Review



Without any luggage, we embarked the kids on a trip of developing their knowledge about the world around them. We started locally and then we “traveled” through Europe in countries like Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Germany, France, Russia, Greece, Bulgaria, Netherlands, Belgium.

In the Journey Book, we wrote for each country: the capital, official language, relief, climate, main regions and cities, tourist attractions, specific food, celebrities, customs and traditions, festivals, curiosities. For each country, we added impressive photos, short movies or traditional songs.



The moments filled with most enthusiasm were:



The one-month cultural exchange when the center hosted two students from France, who came here with the Erasmus Programme



The traditional visit of the students from ROC van Twente Netherlands

# Activities Review

# Future Path

What do you want to be when you grow up?

bank director  
hotel tester  
stewardess agent  
football player artist  
IT specialist shark  
architect  
SWAT member



In order to be capable of choosing, you have to know the options. This is why the theme “Future Path” was included in our 2019 project.



57 jobs presented

The educator spoke with the kids about each job, about the specific tasks each profession has, about the work climate depending on the job and last but not least about the studies and certifications required for each area of work.

## Visits at profile institutions

- FlorOne Professional Academy – beauty salon and training center
- “La Stupina” – with their support we received the visit of a beekeeper with his hive
- “Cristal Bakery” where we had sweet surprises
- National Museum of the Romanian Bank – a visit in the fascinating world of money



# Energy for good with the support of CEZ

## Activities Review

### Researchers at the “Experiment House”

27 children tested 80 exhibits, attended the presentation of some experiments by the hosts, and then they themselves carried out an experiment participating in the two workshops “Balloons and engines” and “My perfume”.



### Meeting with the sea

During July 1st-4th, we organized a camp at the seaside for 25 children, for many of them being the first meeting with the sea and the first camp.

Fun in the water, contests and games on the beach during the day, dancing and painting in the evening: this was the recipe for the wonderful days at the seaside.

# Activities Review

## Trip to the Salt Land and the Clocks Palace

On one July morning, 23 children, along with 3 employees of the centre, 4 parents and 4 CEZ volunteers set off for the Prahova Saline. They explored the attractions of the salt mines, enjoyed a few team games, a delicious meal and away they went again on the way to the Clock Museum in Ploiești.



## A day at the movie and a day at a playground

In the first week of school, in a large group, of 30 children, along with a few volunteers, we went with enthusiasm to “Angry Birds 2”. The children ate popcorn, danced with the characters in the film, learned lessons about friendship and applauded at the end. At the playground there were 14 children from the young group and the time there was an explosion of joy!

## Picnic in Comana

We wanted the last day of the holiday to be special, to charge the children with a lot of energy for the school year, and the people from CEZ also supported us for this activity. So we organized a picnic attended by 30 children and 10 parents.

# Travelers among words

## Activities Review

In 2019 we continued the project which has as main objective the improvement of kids' capacity of written and spoken communications skills. This year, besides the hours of individual or group lecture, we organized workshops for the development of vocabulary, for knowing the literary genres and for creative writing. The workshops were organized in a fun and interactive manner, the purpose being that of forming language skills. During these workshops the children became treasure hunters for synonyms, antonyms, diminutives, homonyms; poem and theater creators; movie writers and actors.



# Better informed parents – better raised children



The becoming of the child as future adult depends on the way parents behave in society and relate to it.

During the counseling sessions, the specialists from the Center support children's relatives to focus on the present situation, the only one they can control, on identifying existing resources and possible actions. The relationship of trust between parent – psychologist, social worker, educator, doctor – is in a permanent dynamic and we do constant efforts of building and reinforcing it.

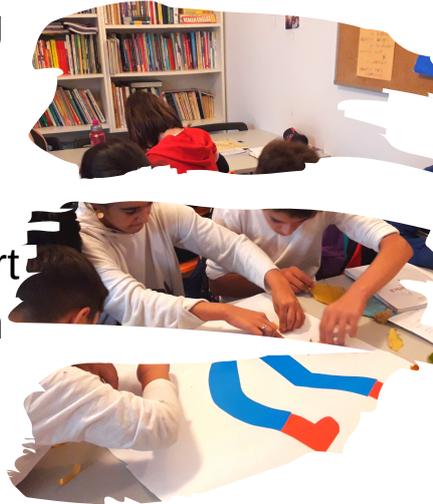


# Education through culture and for culture

Activities  
Review



We introduce art to children by organizing visits to different cultural centers, but also with the help of classes and workshops for knowing the artistic heritage. After these interactions happen, we offer to the children instruments in order to become themselves authors of an art work. Art is the “magic wand” which can transform a reality.



In August, the month we dedicated to art, the Centre turned into a creativity workshop, the children being initiated by the plastic artist Irina Grigore in the abstract world seen through Piet Mondrian's eyes and the static nature of Giorgio Morandi.

The last workshop was clay modelling and was held at Decoart.



## Civic Education

Guiding children means more than supporting school education – it involves sustaining their growth as people and citizens. Part of this complex approach are the weekly workshops of civic education we have organized with the help of a great volunteer.



During the activities, through games and discovery, interactive presentations and short movies, the children were presented with information about the constitution, forms of government, separation of powers, the institution of the president and its role, as well as about the methods of election.

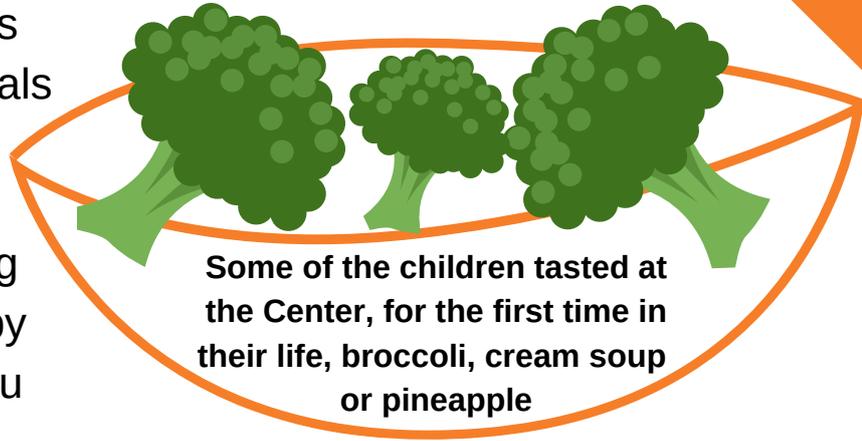


For a better understanding of all these, we even organized an electoral campaign during which three kids run for the position of Children's President.



# Health Education

We continued to focus on children's health by providing them healthy meals at the Center, by encouraging and supporting them with the personal hygiene habits, by offering free consults and workshops held by our volunteer pediatrician Alexandru Voropanov.



Doctor Voropanov continued to organize monthly workshops for parents and for children in order to support the development of healthy habits. Also, he trained the whole team in offering first aid.

This year, MEDICOVER employees supported us once again in providing a healthy environment for the kids. Besides offering materials and painting the walls inside the Center, they gave children a complete hygiene kit and showed them basic first aid information.



# The joy of being together



An underlying principle for the Center's activity is that of **BEING TOGETHER** – of connecting children, of integrating them in a group and in society.



Volunteers are one of our most important resources and we are always grateful to them. We are very happy for being part of the project “Ajungem Mari” from Lindenfeld Association that recruits and coordinates the Center's volunteers.

This year we also initiated a collaboration with St. Nicolae Center, an organization offering similar services to ours. This collaboration has the purpose of helping the two groups of children interact.

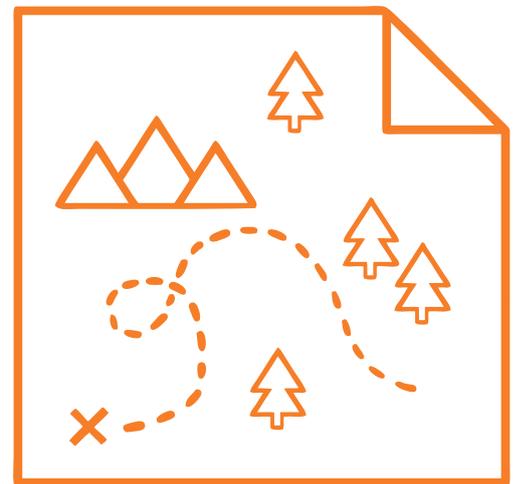


# Objectives for 2020



**In 2020 we want to continue pursuing the same objectives by adding new activities in order to strengthen and develop the achieved individual progresses.**

**In addition we want to have an environmental focus in our activities to help children become responsible towards the environment and the society.**



# **We thank our sponsors and donors:**

**ALBATROS Foundation/ Switzerland**  
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**Synevo Romania**  
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**Help Net Foundation**  
**Mihai Cristian Bailiff Office**  
**NWF Forest Products**  
**Lawyers Association Soltan & Şoimulescu**

**Tublorom**  
**Farmexim**  
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**Ministry of Labour Subsidy**

## **Partners:**

**DGASPC – Sector 2**  
**DGASPC – Sector 3**  
**Lindenfeld Association / Ajungem Mari**  
**Sf. Silvestru Secondary School**  
**Iancului Secondary School**  
**Secondary School no. 85**  
**Iovan Ducici Secondary School no. 71**  
**Barbu Delavrancea Secondary School**  
**Food Bank**  
**General Police Bucharest**  
**Faculty of Sociology and Social Work Bucharest**  
**National University of Theatre and Cinematography**  
**I.L.Caragiale**  
**National Music University Bucharest**

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