

# Supra-regional partnerships – what can they contribute to innovative regional development



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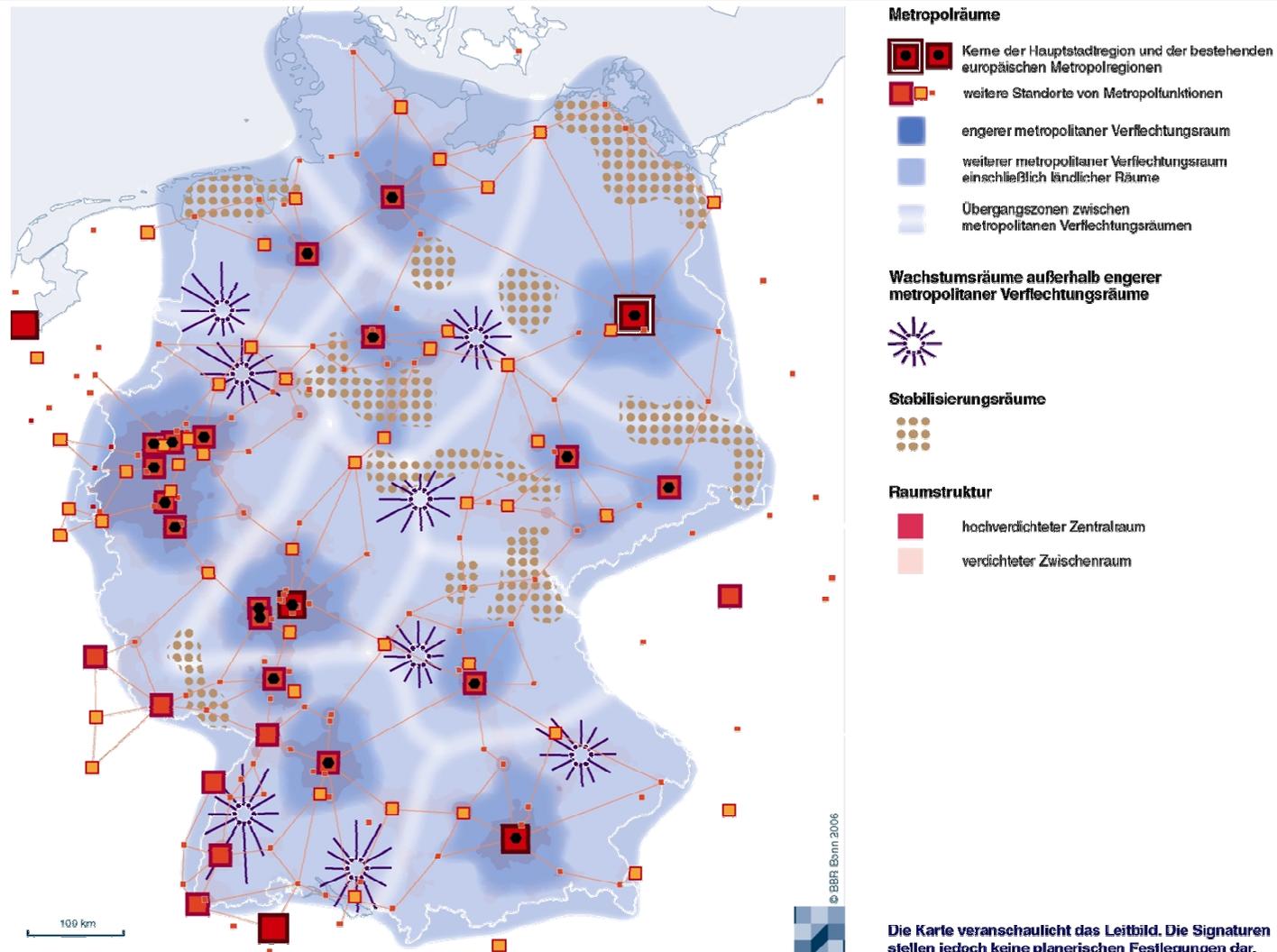
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- Introduction and Background
- Study design and Case Studies
- Supra-regional partnerships – qualified for peripheral and structurally weak regions
- Supra-regional partnerships and regional value added chains
- Constraints and requirements
- Contribution to innovative regional development
- Prospects

# Introduction and Background

- Spatial concept „Growth and Innovation“ => strengthening regional governance by (supra-)regional partnership
  - Urban/metropolitan regions and rural regions
  - Peripheral regions and central regions
  - Engines of growth and stabilization regions
  
- New issues compared to regional cooperation as it is known:
  - Large-scale approach
  - Partnership between metropolitan areas and peripheral areas and also between structurally strong and weak areas

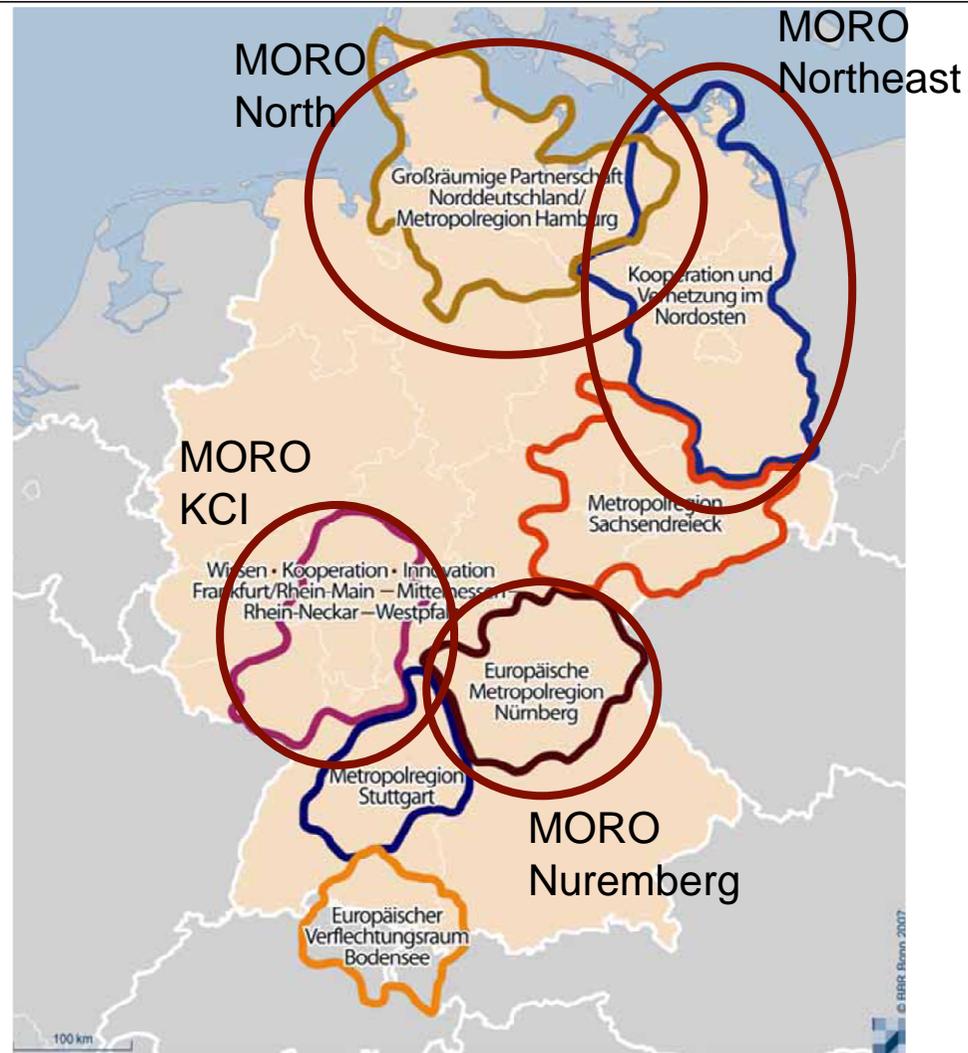
# Study design and Case Studies



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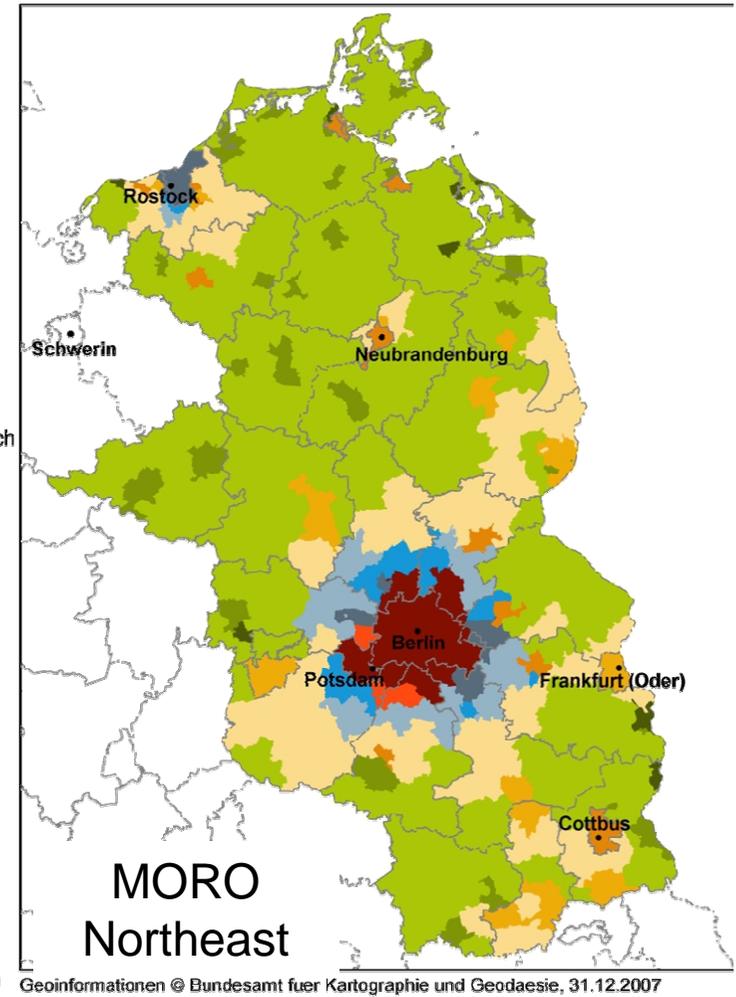
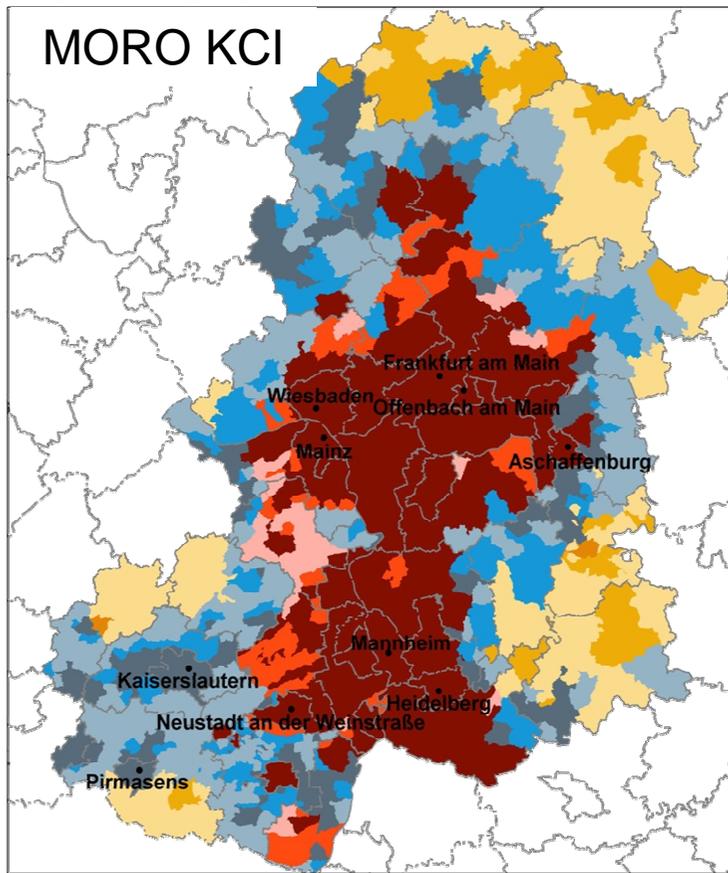
- Study design with four categories of research questions:
  - Structure and rules
  - Actors and actor constellations
  - Contents
  - Area
  
- Case Studies
  - 2007 a demonstration project of spatial planning (Modellvorhaben der Raumordnung MORO) was started
  - Seven model-regions were selected to test supra-regional partnerships
  - Four model-regions out of these were selected to analyze the research questions, particularly with focus on the role and participation of rural and peripheral areas

# Case Studies



# Case Studies

## Spatial structure

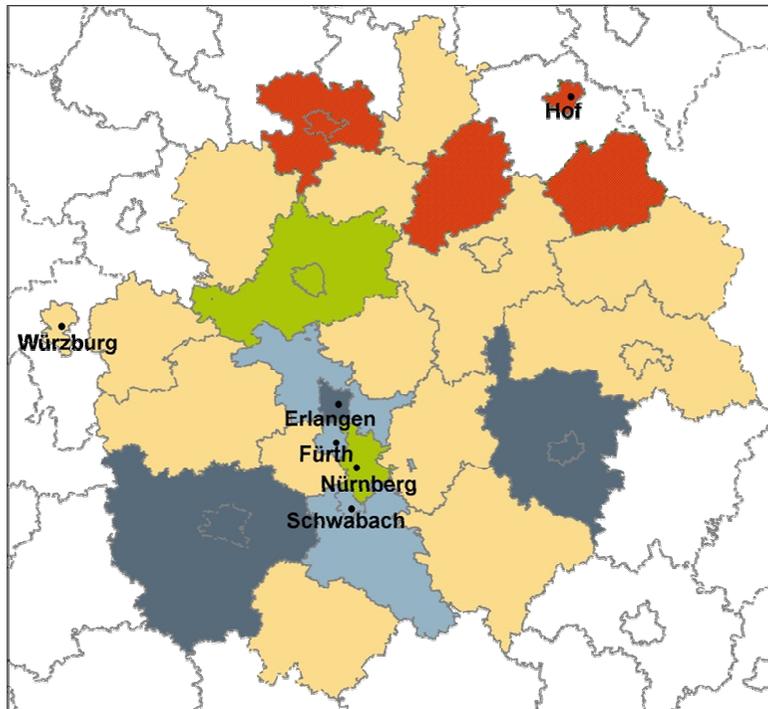


Datengrundlage: BBSR 2009

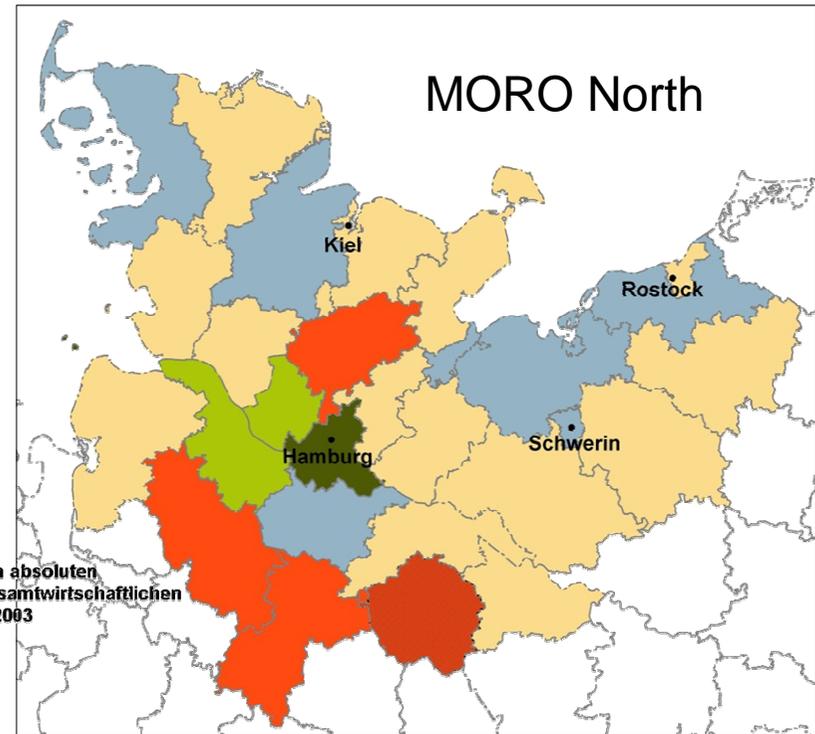
# Case Studies

„Engines of growth“

MORO Nuremberg



Geoinformationen © Bundesamt fuer Kartographie und Geodaesie, 31.12.2007



Geoinformationen © Bundesamt fuer Kartographie und Geodaesie, 31.12.2007

Datengrundlage: Kawka 2007

# Supra-regional partnerships – qualified for peripheral and structurally weak regions



- Issues within the case studies:
  - Cluster promotion in several sectors (e.g. maritime cluster, automotive cluster)
  - Regional economic cycles
  - Qualified employees
  - Networks of sciences and economy
  - Traffic and logistic concepts
  
- Issues are neutral concerning type of region

# Supra-regional partnerships – qualified for peripheral and structurally weak regions



- Is this attractive to peripheral and structurally weak regions?
  - Very different opinions about the concept of supra-regional partnerships:
    - „that’s what we were waiting for“ – „it is not worth to discuss / will not help“
    - Every rural district acts with its own policy: active role, passive like „wait and see“, negative
    - No concerted strategy by rural areas, peripheral areas, structurally weak areas
    - Actors: often from the regional level
    - Participation in every stage of the partnerships (brainstorming, project definition, implementation etc.)

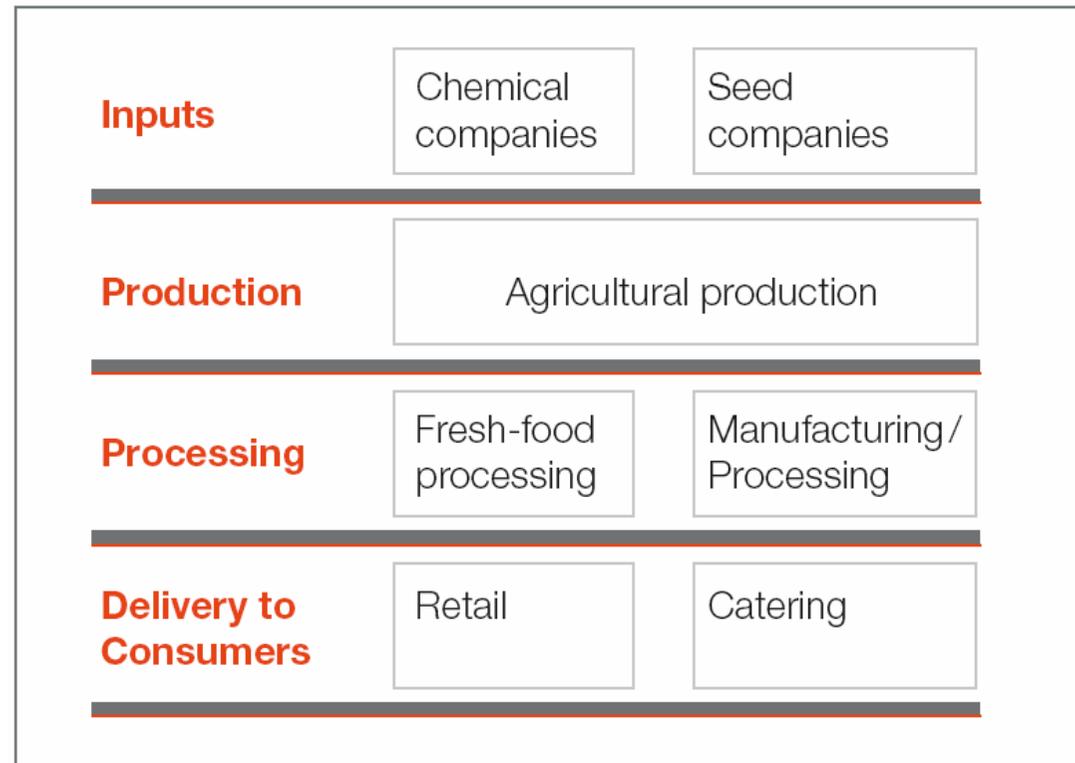
# Supra-regional partnerships – qualified for peripheral and structurally weak regions



- Are these regions attractive to be a partner?
  - No generell designation of contributions of peripheral or structural weak regions
  - Kind of contribution within a partnership depends on economic structures and development paths
  - Analyzed model-regions:
    - Agriculture and food industry (production, development of marketing and services)
    - Energy industry (energy production, services)
    - Logistics (availability of land, logistics hub)
    - Small and medium sized business, „hidden champions“ (cluster, sector networks, qualified employees)
  - The integration of structurally weak regions needs promotion (like it was done with the demonstration project), as Zimmermann explains normally there are no stimuli for strong regions to integrate weak regions within a partnership at a voluntary basis

# Supra-regional partnerships and regional value added chains

- Value-added steps



- Supra-regional partnership:

- no creation of new value added chains in the first line
- Meta-layer, combining different activities in the subregions
- Trying to pick up existing approaches and promote them

(RKW 2008)

# Supra-regional partnerships and regional value added chains



(www.flickr.com)

- Aims MORO Nuremberg („Origin...“)
  - The label started already in the 1990th
  - Adresses different value added chains, food industry is very advanced
  - Others: energy, milk, wood
  - Develop common quality criteria (what is meant by „regional production“ etc.)
  - Meta-level to coordinate different initiatives

# Supra-regional partnerships and regional value added chains



- Within MORO no evaluation
- Other studies and expectations of experts:
  - Economic advantages in respect of income and labour
  - Important to stabilize development in peripheral / structurally weak regions (keeping labour, promoting small enterprises)
  - Initiate learning processes:
    - In urban areas about regional and seasonal products, sustainable consumption
    - In rural areas about cooperations to open new markets, sustainable production
  - Climate debate highlights further aspects like short distances, production conditions, CO<sub>2</sub>-balance

# Constraints and requirements

- Supra-regional partnerships need rules that every partner acts on a par
- Supra-regional partnerships need time to discuss mutual ideas for the whole region
- Supra-regional partnerships need strong partners from peripheral and weak regions, discussion about the importance and relevance of such areas within partnerships
- Actors of rural areas have to know strengths and potentials (need for regional forums)
- Actors of metropolitan areas must be open for proposals from rural areas, generell willingness to engage in dialog, willingness to accept rural areas as independent economic areas
- No balancing of regional disparities!

# Contribution to innovative regional development



- The demonstration project initiated a lot of discussions and learning processes within the supra-regions
  - Discussions about the position of rural areas within the “fever” of metropolitan development
  - Changing the self-perception of rural areas concerning their relationship to metropolitan areas
  - Changing the perception of rural areas by metropolitan areas
  - Realizing the differences between actors from rural and metropolitan areas
  - New capabilities and resources by new contacts and networks
  - New spatial and functional perspectives

# Contribution to innovative regional development



- Supra-regional partnerships can
  - Create adaptation capacity by strategic discourses
  - Create new alliances and new agenda
  - Create new arenas with new rules of participation
  - Create open and flexible networks
  - Motivate to think outside the box
  
- If these discussions are fruitful and successful they can be the basis to realize relevant critical factors of economic development in a broader spatial and functional context – in future as well concerning the demographic change

# Prospects

- Supra-regional partnerships
  - are very ambitious
  - Need broad encouragement in politics and economy
  
- Critical point is after the first motivation from the demonstration project has gone
- Critical aspects e.g.
  - the finances
  - the balancing of flexibility and structure
  - the evaluation of effects concerning growth and innovation

# Thanks for your attention!



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