

Academic Consultancy Training (ACT) the *One*-Wageningen course

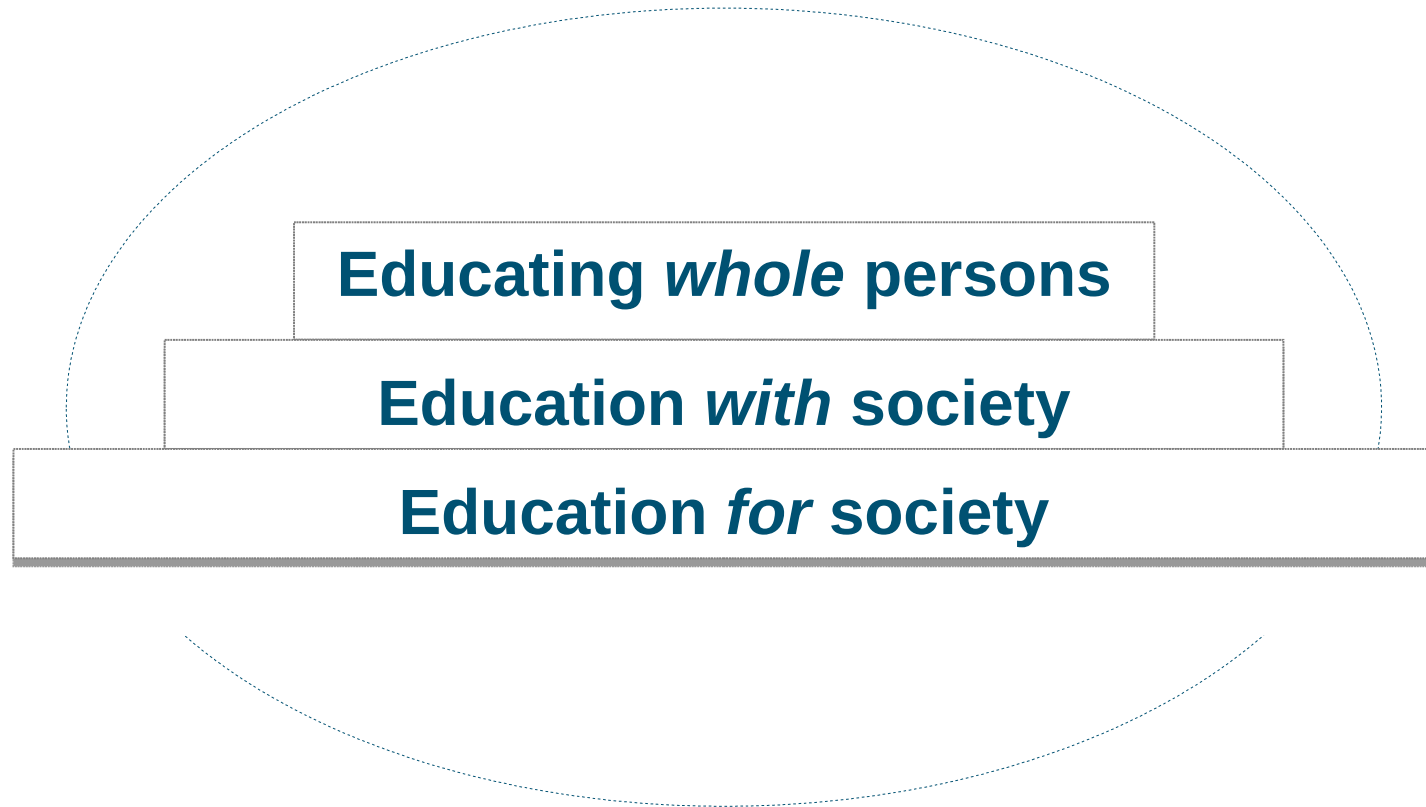
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Education for Responsibility



ACADEMIC CONSULTANCY TRAINING (ACT)

WHY? (The Aim)

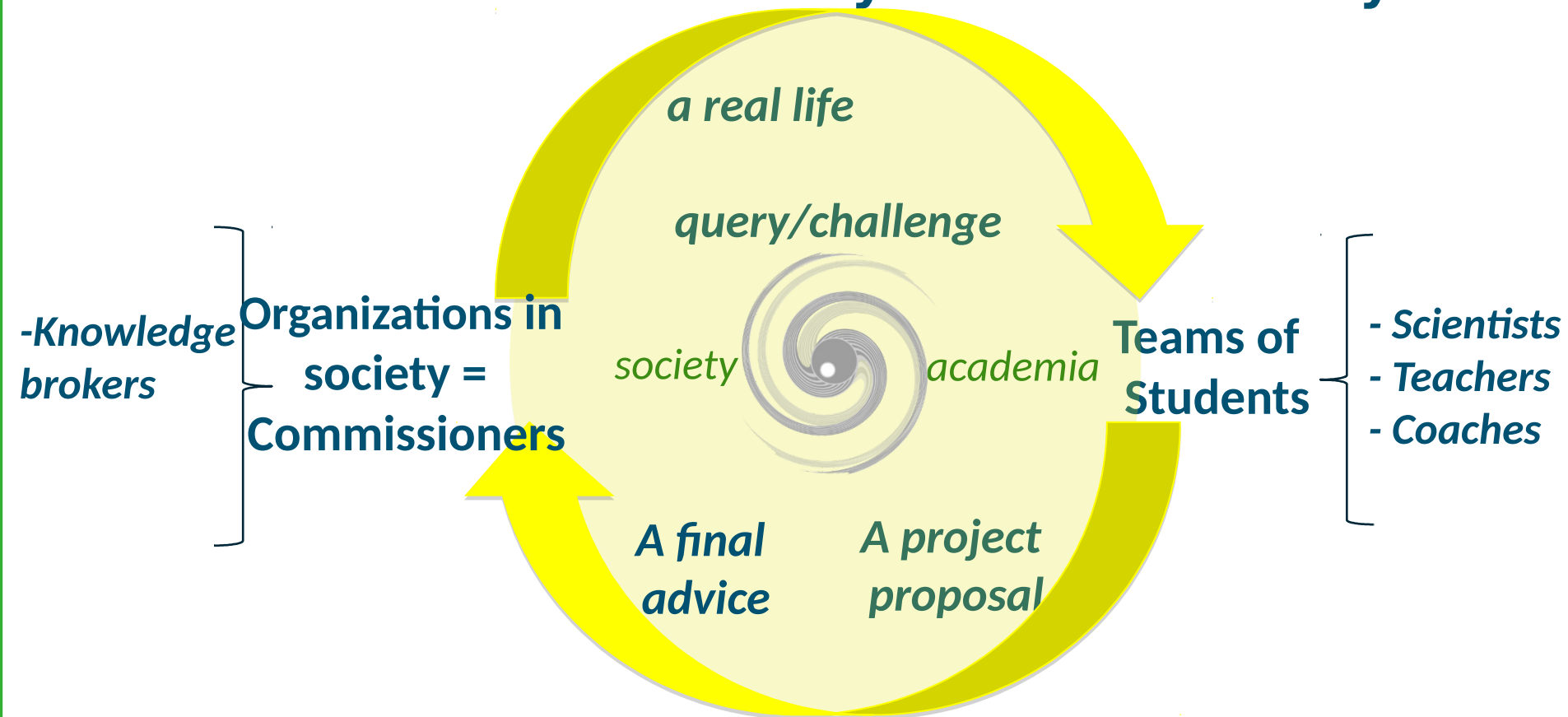
**ACT engages students in executing
transdisciplinary-oriented real life projects
within academic consultancy
collaborative environments**



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WHAT? (The Course Design)

Education *for* society and *with* society

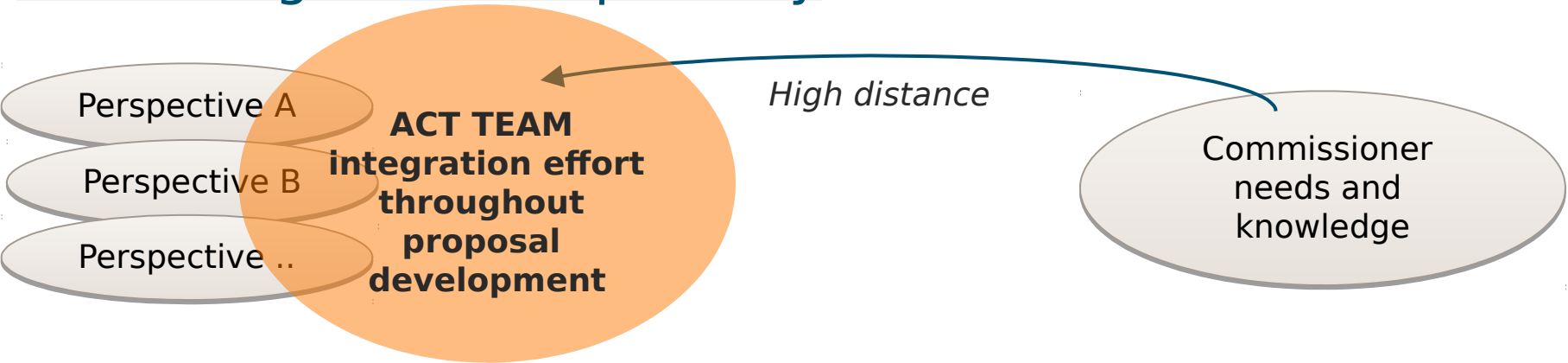


ACT = 9 ECTS course, engaging 1,000 students from 19 MSc programmes. It runs every period.

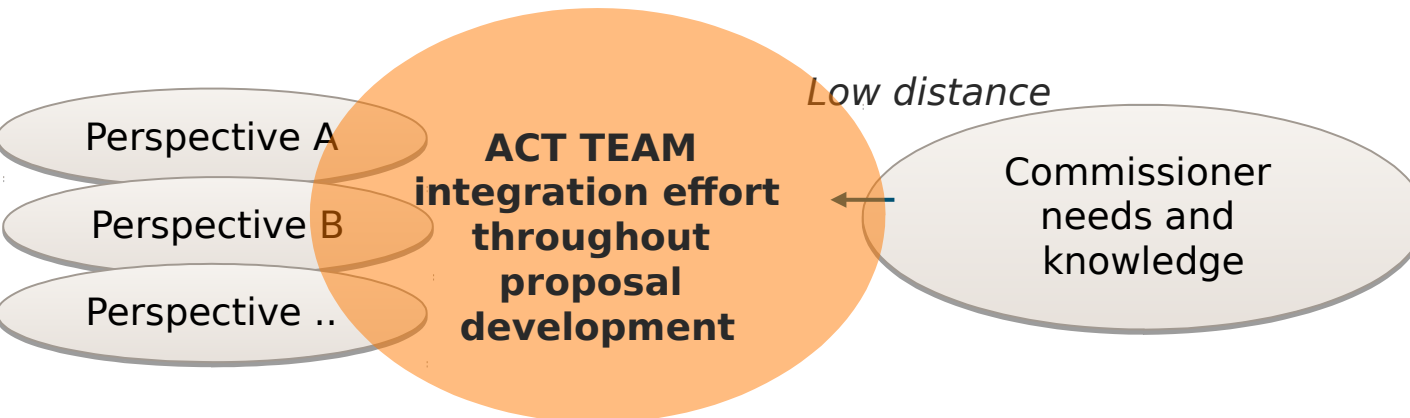
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WHAT? (Transdisciplinarity in ACT)

Consulting transdisciplinarity



Participatory transdisciplinarity



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WHAT? (The Learning Outcomes)

Summary of ACT learning outcomes

Design and execute a transdisciplinary-oriented academic consultancy project

Communicate viewpoints and findings

Reflect and give feedback

Demonstrate attitude and skills for working within real life complex collaborative contexts

Full list of ACT learning outcomes is available in the study guide



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WHAT? (The Pedagogical Approach)

Transmissive



Emancipatory



Transferring knowledge
and training skills



Fostering autonomy,
collaboration and
experimentation



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WHAT? (Students Skills)

Educating *whole* persons
Example:

Learning to know: transdisciplinary thinking
Learning to be: collaboration/situational awareness
learning to do : team project management

ENtRANCE study:
24 NL civil society organizations
say they find relevant:

- General research skills
- Transdisciplinary collaboration
- Situational awareness



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HOW? (Learning Process and Activities)



➤ *Support from a Coach (process)*

➤ *Interaction with Commissioner*

➤ *Support from Academic Advisor (content)*

➤ *Proposal Writing Team workshop*

➤ *Communication & Personal Development workshops*

➤ *Meeting skills workshop*

➤ *Info meeting: methods on social research, info meeting controllers, etc.*

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HOW? (The Setting)

- ✓ **A consultancy setting:** an office - submission CV & application letter - formalised functions - performance interviews - etc.

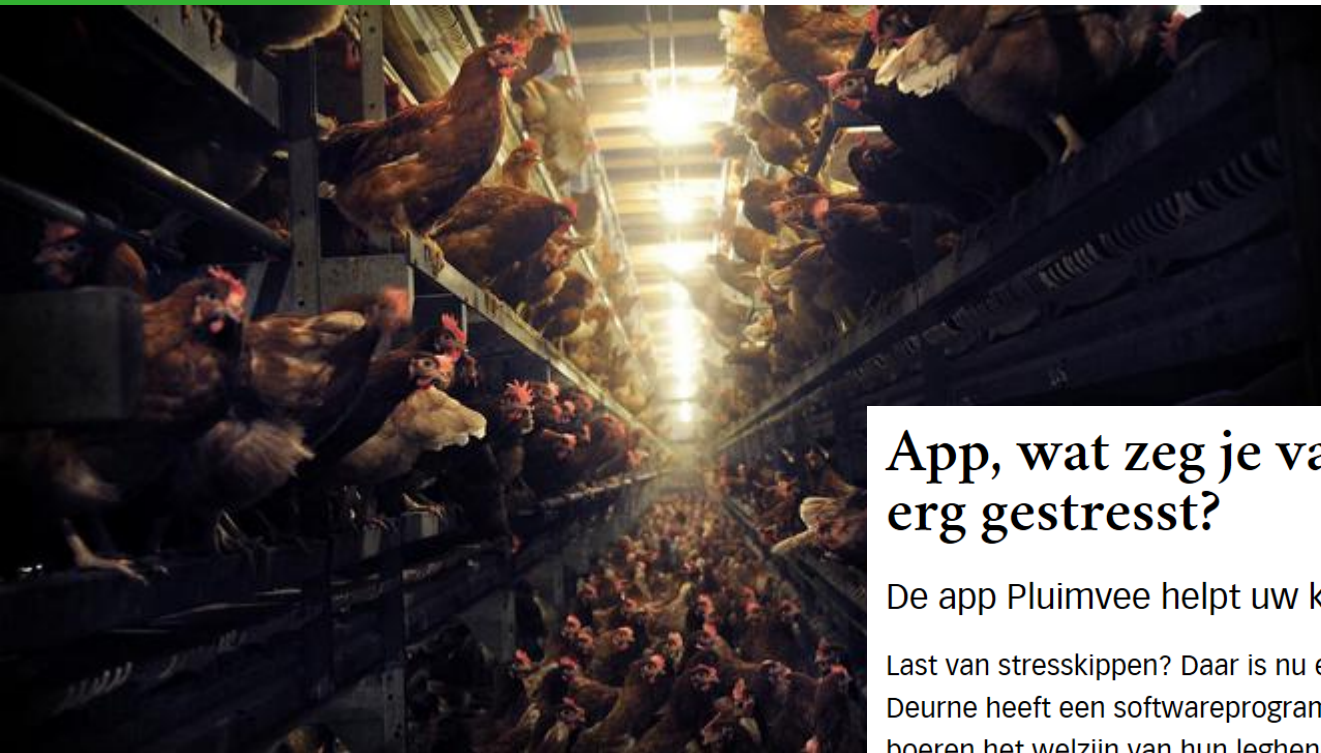


HOW: Assessment

- ✓ **Project proposal** (15%) (*100% coach*);
- ✓ **Product** (42.5%) (*of which 50% assigned expert, 25% coach and 25% commissioner*);
- ✓ **Team process** (10%) (*100% coach*)
- ✓ **Individual process** (32.5%) (*of which 50% coach and 50% mutual assessment team*);

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HOW? (Example of ACT students projects)



App, wat zeg je van mijn kippen, zijn ze erg gestresst?

De app Pluimvee helpt uw kippen kalm te houden

Last van stresskippen? Daar is nu een app voor. Een veevoederspecialist uit Deurne heeft een softwareprogramma voor smartphones ontwikkeld waarmee boeren het welzijn van hun leghennen kunnen monitoren. De app moet voorkomen dat kippen elkaar pikken en verwonden. De app is gratis en kan ook hobbyboeren en kinderboerderijen van advies dienen.

Door: Peter van Ammelrooy 11 april 2017, 02:00



Pikkerij is een groot probleem in de commerciële pluimveehouderij. 'Pikken is natuurlijk gedrag', zegt Thea van Niekerk van de Wageningen Universiteit, 'maar het kan in extreme gevallen ontaarden in verwondingen en zelfs



**HENGELO E.O.**

>> Hengelo

>> Borne

>> Hof van Twente

**NET BINNEN**

13:43 Informatiebijeenkomst over plan ou...

11:42 Zij zijn er bij: dolle vreugde bij Tukk...

11:11 Wie redt zeilschip de Tukker?



Als het aan deze studenten ligt, wordt Goor een stuk groener

GOOR - Beplante bushokjes, groene parkeerplaatsen en fruitbomen door de hele stad. Als het aan deze zes studenten ligt, wordt Goor een stuk groener.

Laurien van Ulzen 12-05-17, 09:32 Laatste update: 09:35



8



„Als je een boom wilt gaan planten, waarom dan niet een appelboom?” Vanuit die gedachte werkten zes studenten aan de Wageningen Universiteit aan een plan om Goor Groen en Eetbaar te maken. De opdracht kregen ze vanuit de Groene Kennispoort Twente en gemeente Hof van Twente. Donderdag presenteerden ze hun ideeën in het gemeentehuis.

„Twente heeft qua toerisme veel te bieden, maar Goor mist een echte trekpleister,” begint Quirine ten Kate, studente toxicologie, de presentatie. Een groen karakter moet daar verandering in brengen. Maar dat is nu nog niet het geval, concluderen de

**MEEST GELEZEN**

Het trieste verhaal achter een tentje in een Twents bos

23.608 keer gelezen



Twee Twentse bedrijven failliet

5.769 keer gelezen



Rudi uit Bentelo leeft al 9 jaar met ALS: 'Ik blijf liever positief'

4.085 keer gelezen



Golfbaan Weleveld failliet, Borne staat voor tonnen borg

4.036 keer gelezen



Band uit Diepenheim steelt show bij DWDD met muziek én

3.265 keer gelezen

**MEEST GEDEELD**

Rudi uit Bentelo leeft al 9 jaar met ALS: 'Ik blijf liever positief'



RESOURCE [EN]

For everyone at Wageningen University & Research

no 7 - 16 November 2017 - 12th Volume

Weed killer under fire

| p.12

student << 27



PHOTO: MICHEL HUPKES

Students investigate potential of poop pots

Disposing of manure costs pig farmers money. So one farmer had the bright idea of turning his excess manure into flowerpots. Is there a market for this? Is it legal? And is it financially viable? He approached WUR with these questions and six Wageningen students got to work on answering them as part of their ACT (Academic Consultancy Training).

Pig farmer Laurens Stevelink had been considering the flowerpot idea for a while. 'I think sustainability is important and I want to help achieve a circular economy. I was inspired by a company in the US that makes pots from cow manure.' Because his pigs root around on straw and sawdust, the manure is relatively dry and suitable for processing into a product.

The students first tried to find out whether there is even a mar-

ket for biodegradable flowerpots made from poop. Plant nurseries and garden centres said they were interested if the pots lasted long enough — at least one year. 'The potential buyers also want to know how safe it is because they are afraid of getting pathogens,' says Stefan ten Pierik, Master's student in Animal Sciences.

Based on these requirements, the students came up with two options: compostable pots and pots you can plant. Both are biodegradable, but the compostable pots are sturdier and last longer. They are not suitable for putting into the soil together with the plant. 'To get an estimate of the costs of the production process, we looked at a similar product in the US,' explains Ten Pierik. The calculations showed that only the compostable pots would be financially viable. The machinery for pro-



These WUR students investigated whether farmer Laurens Stevelink (third from the left) could manufacture flowerpots from pig manure.

ducing the pots you can plant is too expensive for small-scale production.

Stevelink is enthusiastic about the result. 'Although they had to make a lot of assumptions, so we

need to work the concept out in more detail first.' His pigs produce enough manure for around half a million compostable pots or two million plantable pots a year. **TL**

Prize Groenpact event 2018 – ACT teams develops the Biodyeing technique- for producing fabrics with bacterial pigment



REFLECTION ACADEMIC CONSULTANCY TRAINING

“A most interesting thing was to work in a multi-disciplinary team. I would not have been able to develop the same project output on my own”.

“I wanted to prepare myself for the working life after my Master graduation. I got pretty close to this through ACT”.

“I was frustrated at the start. So much attention on team building and reflection, while I wanted to work on the project. But at the end, it made some sense”.

ACT in 2017:

***Awarded with a Wageningen University
Excellent Education Prize***



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Commissioners comments

“I received an exploration that indicated exactly what I needed.”

“The project gave rise to a continuing discussion and gave ideas for solutions.”

“They answered my question, so I was satisfied. However, I had expected more from university students...”



Questions?

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