



ERS

EUROPEAN
RESPIRATORY
SOCIETY

every breath counts

Annual Report

2023-2024



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ERS PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD



MONIKA GAPPA
ERS President

“ It has been my privilege to lead the European Respiratory Society (ERS) during the financial period 2023-2024, continuing where my predecessor Prof. Carlos Ribero Cordeiro left off. We have again seen many great accomplishments and achievements this year; we have provided our community with access to the latest knowledge in respiratory medicine and science through our wide range of educational and scientific resources, we have facilitated and supported scientific research, we have linked the professional and patient community to strengthen our output and impact, and we have advocated passionately for respiratory health to be a priority on the political agenda. As a result of the continued commitment of ERS's officers, staff and members, we continue to thrive as the world's largest respiratory society, offering one of the most highly-regarded annual congresses in our field. I am pleased to present the ERS Annual Report for this period. ”

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE



JUDITH GARCIA-AYMERICH
ERS Secretary General

ERS offers membership to clinicians, researchers, scientists and allied healthcare professionals with a focus on respiratory health. These professionals can join ERS as a direct member or through a partnered national society. ERS is proud to be partnered with national respiratory societies worldwide.

Membership of ERS provides access to a global network of respiratory professionals, access to all the latest educational and scientific resources and events, discounts on ERS activities, free access to ERS's highly-regarded publications, and opportunities which aim to support professional career development or further scientific research.

Achievements during this period:

33,102 MEMBERS

from across 160 countries worldwide.

11 NEW AGREEMENTS

with other societies, meaning a total of 109 active agreements.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



PETER WIJKSTRA
ERS Treasurer



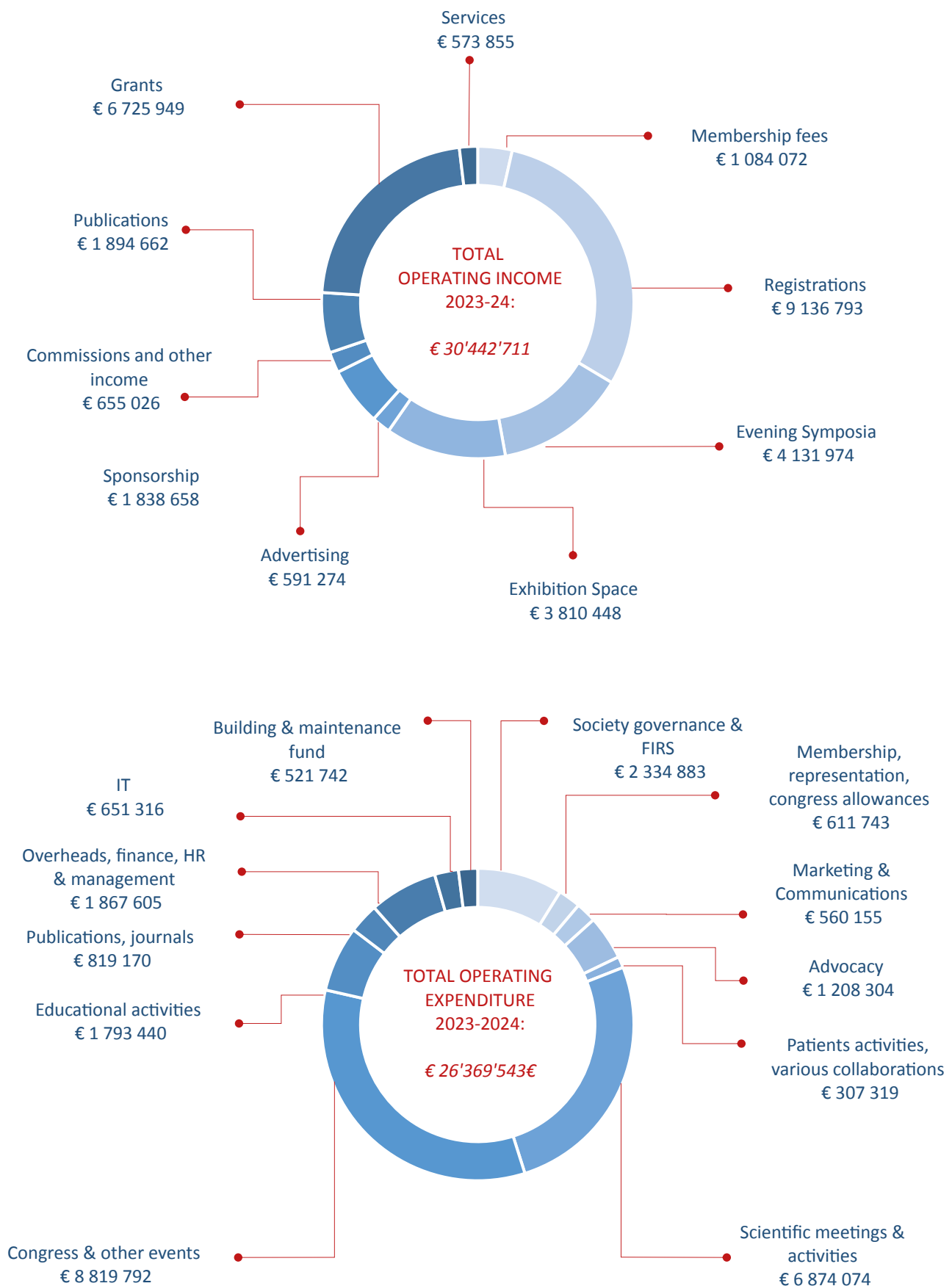
DOWNLOAD APPENDICES

Appendix 1: **ERS Income Statement and Balance Sheet**

Appendix 2: **ERS Commercial Partners**

Appendix 3: **ERS Audit Report**

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



ERS CONGRESS 2023



The ERS Congress is the Society's flagship event and a highly anticipated meeting on the respiratory calendar. It attracts a global audience for its scientific and educational programme, which is designed to address the needs of clinicians, scientists, allied health professionals and patients.

The 33rd annual ERS Congress took place in Milan, Italy and was accessible to both an in person and online audience.

- **20,608** delegates
- **401** scientific and educational sessions
- **5,074** submitted and **4,135** accepted abstracts
- **62** sponsored delegates and **41** grants and awards offered

CONGRESS THEME

The ERS Congress 2023 theme was: 'Pollution, climate change and sustainable developments', which meant that alongside the full spectrum of respiratory topics, we had a range of sessions and activities directly focused on this important topic.

OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES

Other notable features of the ERS Congress 2023 were:

- The introduction of a Wednesday special programme. This programme offered an opportunity to learn about and discuss ERS projects, meet experts involved in ERS activities and network with members of the Society through discussions and workshops.
- The return of onsite postgraduate courses. For several years, postgraduate courses were available online only. The return of in person postgraduate courses provided a valuable educational option for onsite attendees – in this case an opportunity to align their current procedures with the latest clinical practice.
- A continuation of the annual Network Excellence Training (NEXT) programme, designed to support and develop promising early-career clinicians, researchers, and allied health professionals in the field of respiratory medicine.

ERS CONFERENCES



ADULT CYSTIC FIBROSIS CONFERENCE

The first Adult Cystic Fibrosis Conference took place from 1–2 December, 2023 in Milan, Italy and online. Organised by ERS in partnership with the European Cystic Fibrosis Society, it provided an overview of diagnosis, treatment, and continuous management of cystic fibrosis in adults including the transition from paediatric to adult cystic fibrosis care.

It was attended by **261** delegates and faculty (**147** onsite and **114** online) representing **40** countries.

ERS CONFERENCES



RESPIRATORY FAILURE AND MECHANICAL VENTILATION CONFERENCE

The Respiratory Failure and Mechanical Ventilation (RFMV) Conference takes place every two years, bringing together professionals from both acute and chronic care.

The February 2024 event united more than **588** (an increase from 360 in 2022) participants and faculty in Berlin and online, representing **58** countries.

ERS CONFERENCES



LUNG SCIENCE CONFERENCE

The ERS Lung Science Conference (LSC) is an annual event. It primarily targets early career professionals and aims to showcase all the latest research and its translation into clinical solutions. There is also a unique emphasis on mentoring for younger delegates at this event.

The 22nd LSC took place on 14–17 March in Estoril, Portugal and offered both in person and online attendance. Nearly **300** delegates joined us for the event. The theme for the conference was 'Development of chronic lung diseases: from life-spanning mechanisms to preventive therapy'. **11** awards were presented, including the William MacNee (young investigator), the Geoffrey Laurent Award (oral presentation) and **9** Distinguished Poster Awards.

New in 2024: The Sunday pass. A Sunday morning programme looked at preventive and regenerative strategies for chronic lung diseases and was designed to bring clinicians together with researchers to discuss their needs, problems, and gaps in knowledge as part of ERS's wider translational science initiative.

ERS CONFERENCES



SLEEP AND BREATHING CONFERENCE

The Sleep and Breathing Conference takes place every two years and is organised by ERS in partnership with the European Sleep Research Society. The Conference is the largest pan-European meeting of its kind and offers an integrated approach to the investigation and treatment of sleep disorders – with a focus on professional development and education. The 2023 event took place on 20-22 April in Prague and for the first time offered an online option. The event welcomed a record number of delegates, with more than **1,000** people participating.

ENDORSEMENT OF EVENTS



ERS is frequently asked to endorse educational and scientific meetings that fulfil standards of performance and scientific quality.

In 2023–2024: **16** requests were received, and **9** event programmes were endorsed.

ACTIVITIES UNDER OUR THREE MAIN PILLARS

SCIENCE

EDUCATION

ADVOCACY

ERS has three main pillars of activity:
science, education and advocacy.
Each pillar has a dedicated council.

Presenting the achievements under each pillar over
the 2023-2024 period

SCIENCE



NICOLAS ROCHE
ERS Science Council Chair

ERS scientific activities put an emphasis on respiratory disease research and strengthening the clinical evidence base. This mission spans a range of activities including: fellowship opportunities; scientific conferences and seminars; publications; endorsement of pragmatic trials; funding for guidelines, statements and technical standards; Clinical Research Collaborations; and the ERS Research Agency, which facilitates respiratory research through the coordination and support of the respiratory research community – assisting its efforts to obtain funding.

- ***European Respiratory Journal (ERJ) 2023*** impact factor is **16.6**
- ***ERJ Open Research 2023*** impact factor is **4.3**
- ***European Respiratory Review (ERR) 2023*** impact factor is **9.0**
- ***Breathe 2023*** impact factor is **2.3**
- **9** published guidelines, statements and technical standards
- **3** research seminars
- **1** online scientific workshop

EDUCATION



HILARY PINNOCK

ERS Education Council Chair

ERS aims to provide medical professionals across Europe with access to high-quality training and educational resources. This includes a range of activities from curriculum development courses, online learning assessments and publications.

- **4** face-to-face courses
- **8** virtual schools/academies
- **2** virtual ERS HERMES self-assessment courses
- **8** hands-on skills courses
- **3** certified training programmes (Thoracic ultrasound, EBUS and Respiratory sleep)
- **3** ERS HERMES exams delivered (online and in Egypt) with **390** participants in total
- **53** webinars with **20,754** registrations
- **1** short video discussion
- **4** 'Time to Breathe' videos – generating **1,128** views
- **5** CME online modules – generating **37,875** views
- **8** new Interactive case reports – accessed **24'466** times

ADVOCACY



BARBARA HOFFMANN
ERS Advocacy Council Chair

Through our advocacy efforts, ERS raises the profile of respiratory issues and promotes lung health. We work to shape EU policies by engaging directly with policymakers to secure the allocation of vital resources that can deliver better lung health, and we build coalitions focused on prevention, research, environment, tobacco control, public health, patients and respiratory disease areas.

Key achievements during this period:

- More than **38** high-level meetings with governments, agencies and health-related organisations
- **37** statements and positions launched together with partners and alliances
- Maintained the MEP Lung Health Group and engaged with the MEPs and supporting organisations through several events
- The MEP Lung Health Group held online and physical events focused on lung cancer, access to medicines, prevention, antimicrobial resistance, childhood respiratory health, European Health Data Space, pharmaceutical legislation, air quality and climate change
- ERS retained its high-level positions on the European Medicines Agency and Health Emergency Response Authority and was successful in getting a position on the Critical Medicines Alliance

ADVOCACY

- The Advocacy Council launched the Childhood Respiratory Health campaign with an event in the European Parliament and developed important statements on the European Health Data Space, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), the Pharmaceutical Strategy
- ERS is involved in joint action on chronic respiratory diseases of the EU Member States via the Lungs Europe collaboration
- The revision of the EU Ambient Air Quality Directive (AAQD) has been the key topic for the Environment and Health Committee. The Committee responded to the EU consultations on the NEC Directive, the EU Environment law implementation report, ecodesign requirements for solid fuel boilers and space heaters. The Committee also put together a statement on COP28, the AAQD, EURO7 (car emissions) and EU Climate Target for 2040. It submitted amendments for the AAQD legislative proposal and had dedicated meetings with the MEPs. The Committee published position papers and factsheet on climate change, EURO 7 and Canada wildfires
- The Tobacco Control Committee produced a factsheet on the Tobacco 21+ policy which was used in advocacy activities of ERS as well as in the manifestos of partner organisations. The Committee also published its new position statement on novel products and harm reduction and hosted a Tobacco Endgame event in London following the announcement of the Tobacco-free Generation in the UK
- ERS continued its role as an active key member of the Biomed Alliance, European Chronic Disease Alliance, European Public Health Alliance and the Health and Environment Alliance, and became a founding member of the EU Healthy Air Coalition

EUROPEAN LUNG FOUNDATION



DIMITRIS KONTOPIDIS
European Lung Foundation Chair

The European Lung Foundation (ELF) is dedicated to bringing patients and the public together with respiratory professionals to improve lung health and advance diagnosis, treatment, and care. ELF actively involved patients in healthcare by ensuring the patient voice is incorporated at every level of ERS activities, as well as disseminating the highest quality patient resources and communicating and translating the work of ERS to those outside the respiratory field.

This year's achievements include:

- Growing the range of co-planned and produced patient conferences
- Developing the partnership of ELF and ERS in Brussels via Lungs Europe
- Working more in the field of European advocacy, contributing to more consultations and producing more position statements
- Introduced new working groups which bring together patients and professionals on key cross-disease topics. New groups include climate change and air pollution, digital health, youth, mental health and transplantation.
- Continued involvement in EU projects in strategically important areas such as digital health, breathlessness and AMR

EUROPEAN LUNG FOUNDATION

- Working to increase patient participation at ERS Congress and ERS webinars/events. In Milan 2023, **14** patients and carers were invited to be a part of ERS Congress sessions
- New and/or updated resources produced on:
 - Pulmonary hypertension
 - Transition from child to adult care
 - Lung Transplant
 - Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
 - Breathlessness (Better-B)
 - E-cigarettes, heated tobacco and smokeless tobacco products (from new ERS position paper)
 - Pulmonary fibrosis: a supportive guide
 - Bronchiectasis information update
- **3** lay guidelines and resources based on ERS guidelines and statements – Treating Graft-vs-host disease, frailty in adults with chronic lung disease, and palliative care
- **10** contributions to ERS publications (ERM, guidelines, statements)
- Patient conferences held on bronchiectasis and air pollution with almost **950** (797+150) attendees /over **2100** (1811+338) registrations
- **1.3** million website views (108,000 visitors to the ELF website each month)
- Social media following growth of **72%** on LinkedIn and **34%** on Instagram

Note: Financial information for ELF can be found on the ELF [website](#)

LUNGS EUROPE



Lungs Europe is an official partnership of the European Respiratory Society (ERS) and the European Lung Foundation (ELF). Though ERS and ELF work together continuously across multiple projects – bringing together patient and professional perspectives – Lungs Europe focuses specifically on EU projects and EU funding programmes related to respiratory health and disease.

As a Brussels-based entity, Lungs Europe is ideally placed to play a significant role at EU level by advocating for funding, identifying opportunities, supporting applications, project management, stakeholder engagement and communications in respiratory-focused EU projects. It also ensures key messages of the EU and European policy reach all stakeholders, including the ELF and ERS networks of healthcare professionals and patients, patient associations and the public.

Key achievements during the 2023/24 financial period:

- Project LH4L got accepted for financing by the EU. LungHealth4Life brings together lung function testing, health promotion and disease prevention in schools
- DRAGON project ended successfully in March 2024
- SOLACE project started. SOLACE (Strengthening the Screening of Lung Cancer in Europe) is an EU project funded under the EU4Health programme. The aim of the project is to create clear, concise and practical guidelines on implementing a lung cancer screening programme at a national level
- FRESHAIR4LIFE project started. FRESHAIR4Life (FA4Life) is a four-year implementation science research programme that commenced in January 2023 in five countries with 13 partners. The project focuses on five countries: Greece, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Romania and Uganda. All face a high NCD burden, but their contexts differ significantly
- EU PAL-COPD started. EU PAL-COPD is a five-year research project funded by Horizon Europe. It aims to advance the integration of palliative care in the treatment routine of people with advanced Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) in different healthcare systems in Europe
- Lungs Europe was awarded an operating grant at the end March 2024, enabling to scale up operations in the following financial year
- Lungs Europe supported on ERS MEP Lung Health Group activities

Note: Financial information for Lungs Europe can be found on the Lungs Europe [website](#)

HEALTHY LUNGS FOR LIFE



Healthy Lungs for Life is a lung health campaign raising awareness of the importance of healthy lungs to healthcare professionals, scientists, primary care patients, policymakers and the public through a full range of events, projects and promotional activities.

Highlights include:

- Strengthened our 'clean air' messaging and campaigning around the AAQD, working with partners in the health and environment space which enabled us to increase our reach and amplify our message. (HEAL, C40, Forestami)
- Continuation of the Healthy Lungs for Life for Schools initiative – taking the Healthy Lungs for Life messaging to young people in partnership with the ERS CADSET CRC
- **500** people attended the 2-day public event with Forestami in Milan where we offered members of the public free lung tests during the ERS Congress 2023
- The Congress/Milan activities also included a press launch with the Mayor Sala of Milan and President of Lombardy Attilio Fontana.
- ELF Award presented to Stefano Boeri, an Italian architect, urban planner and academic, for his inspirational work to improve air quality in urban environments. [More info](#)
- **18** international grants awarded for Healthy Lungs for Life events in collaboration with the Forum of International Respiratory Societies and Clean Air Fund – events held in Cameroon, Nigeria, Mexico, Kenya, Brazil, Nepal, Greece and Cyprus (one project), Spain, France, Ghana, Pakistan, Serbia, Slovenia, Greece, Italy and Turkey

ERS RESPIRATORY CHANNEL



The ERS Respiratory Channel is an online resource offered by ERS to members and the wider professional respiratory community. It offers a wide range of content, varying from free-to-access video, podcast and learning resources, to free and paid for event access. Originally launched in 2021, the Channel continues to evolve. During this financial period, developments have been:

- The appointment of an official ERS Respiratory Channel Editor to ensure future content developments are well-considered and valuable to our audience. As this financial period comes to an end, the Editor is progressing with the appointment of a board to support this work
- Technical developments applied during this period have included:
 - The introduction of a digital library of content previously housed on the old e-learning site.
 - The integration of capabilities for hosting online live mid-sized events. This means the Channel supports multi-day and multi-room live events, offering functionality including live streaming, programme details, practical information, access to abstracts and presentations
- Key statistics during this period include:
 - A consistent increase in monthly page views (35,000 in April 2023 and 90,000 in March 2024, with an average of **56,000**).
 - An increase in monthly media views (13,000 in April 2023 up to 31,000 in March 2024, with an average of **19,000**)
 - We achieved an average **590** new 'logged in' users per month

ERS'S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY



During this financial period, ERS has highlighted 'sustainability' as one of six core areas for strategic development.

Following the introduction of processes to measure ERS's environmental impact, ERS is outlining short, mid and long-term plans to ensure that positive changes are made year by year.

ERS remains committed to social sustainability and records the work it does towards the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals annually.



See 'Our Commitment to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals'.

Some notable achievements during this period:

- Prioritisation of sustainability as part of the ERS strategy review
- Introduction of the ERS Eco-Team – an internal group who lead on related initiatives. They aim to raise awareness, educate employees, and embed sustainable practices into the organisation's culture
- Continued partnership with myclimate, a climate protection foundation who support us in measuring our environmental impact to guide future developments to reduce it
- Awarded the 'Engaged for Impact' label by myclimate for the 2023/24 period. This label signifies that ERS has taken actions to improve the sustainability of the Society and its associated activities, alongside contributing financially to climate improvement projects
- Contributed financially to climate protection projects in the Himalayas and Burundi, focusing on reforestation and the provision of efficient cookstoves to reduce deforestation and CO2 emissions
- The ERS Congress 2023 theme was 'Pollution, climate change and sustainable developments'. Alongside education to the medical/scientific community on this theme, ERS engaged delegates and the local Milan community with several activities aimed to raise awareness around sustainability, air pollution and lung health – and the link between all three



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