



## Activity Highlights

October - December 2020

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# Foreword

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Welcome to this 4th edition of the KAS Newsletter!

2020 has been filled with challenges that have pushed us into uncharted waters, and in response, KAS has demonstrated its resilience through adopting new formats and deploying digital solutions.

We hosted the third Kampala Geopolitics Conference-our first-ever virtual conference has been one of our largest and most successful endeavors this year. We brought together experts from Africa and Europe and engaged them into universal dialogue on geopolitics and international relations. A special thank you to our Co-partners and all the supporters of this event!

This newsletter edition highlights more of the activities and projects implemented between October and December with support from our partners and friends. You can learn more about the same on our official website and social media channels.

As we wind down and look forward to the holidays, we especially thank you for being part of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung network and appreciate all your engagement in helping us achieve impact.

With the 2021 General Elections due on January 14th, KAS has partnered with the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance to bring to you an online voter information App that provides the electorate with all the basic information regarding presidential and parliamentary elections. The App outlines the key policy positions as presented by the different political parties and individuals thus giving voters an insight into what each political party has to offer. The platform also includes an interactive Chatbot and website that provides a central source of accurate, trustworthy, and up-to-date information about elections in the midst of the pandemic. The App will officially be launched on the 1st day of January 2021 with clear steps on how to access it using your Android and IOS mobile gadgets.

Whereas we may not come together to celebrate, we share our warmest wishes for a holiday season filled with good health and a new year of peace and great opportunities.

**COVID-19 is still with us. Please stay safe and observe the SOPs in place.**









This year, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Uganda and South Sudan, in cooperation with the Embassy of France in Uganda, UN Women and Makerere University, for the third time joined forces to bring to you a variety of interesting and pressing geopolitical discussions that affect our lives today and in the future.

We invited outstanding experts from the African and European regions and engaged them into extensive dialogue on such topics as Stronger together? Why and how the COVID-19 pandemic should help us re-imagine subsidiarity and solidarity for a better world.

We discussed the regional and global cooperation in the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic, the currently broadly discussed crisis of the multilateral institutions, the pandemic's impact on international relations, global solidarity, and global leadership.

The year 2020 will go down in history as the year when the entire globe was by surprise hit by the COVID-19 pandemic that forced us to implement measures that we could have never imagined before.

This year's conference themed **"Geopolitics in the Year of the Pandemic and Beyond"** explored how the pandemic has influenced the geopolitical agenda and what we have learned for the future.

We dipped into a wide field of the role of arts and sports in the geopolitical context and tried to explore how new technologies such as the Internet of Things and Blockchain could reshape our world and bring up new global powers competing in the geopolitical arena. Introspectively, we confronted our guests with the question of how women in power reshape our understanding of defense and security politics.

However, the year 2020 is not only the year of the pandemic: This year marks the 75th anniversary of the United Nations – an international organisation that was founded after the Second World War to keep peace throughout the world, develop friendly relations among nations, and to promote social progress, better living standards, and human rights.

At the same time, we asked ourselves: Do multilateral organisations still live up to their task? Are they able to protect our populations when most needed? We have also been talking a lot about investing in our own potential and, especially, our own people. We talked about the need to invest in the youth's education, about the crucial need to have a systematic approach to nurture our own talents, train and capacitate the professionals, and leave no one behind.

Our "take-home" is that when discussing geopolitics and international relations, we should be aware that these are not only a sphere for intergovernmental relations. It opens a space to many other players such as subnational entities and systems such as cities, the private sector, or civil society. And in the interest of progress, it is crucial that these actors enter into this space and play an active and even proactive role in it.

In a nutshell, we invite you to explore the insights we captured from the discussions hosted over the four weeks of the Kampala Geopolitics Conference 2020 on [www.kampalageopolitics.com](http://www.kampalageopolitics.com)

Thank you for joining us on this exciting journey!

# Media Focus

In the last quarter of 2020, we strengthened and consolidated our work on promoting professional media development in Uganda. Specifically, we partnered with the Media Challenge Initiative (MCI) to hold the Inter-Universities Media Challenge, the Media Expo, and a special training workshop with young journalists on climate change reporting.

A project by:



In partnership with:



The **2020 Inter-University Media Challenge (IMC)** gave exceptional opportunities to 100 university students doing media and journalism courses to be immersed in a real and practical News Room experience. Students were tasked to do auditions before a panel of judges who also provided expert career advice and relevant feedback.

The **2020 Media Expo** provided yet another unique opportunity to reflect on how to keep journalism alive during the uncertainties. This year’s topic was informed by the current COVID-19 pandemic and how it continues to affect professional journalism. Organized virtually over a 5days period, the 2020 Media Expo attracted over 5,000 online followers and up to 50 experts were engaged as panel discussants and keynote speakers. Some of the topic discussed included: *Keeping Journalism Alive: Effective, Ethical and Solutions-based Reporting on the pandemic in a time of elections*; *Keeping journalism alive: Flattening the curve of mis(dis)information and mis(dis)trust through journalism*; *Fact checking and media literacy: Media viability and new revenue business models to keep journalism alive*; *Keeping Investigative Journalism Alive in the times of uncertainty and COVID-19*.

## Thank you so much

for being part of the  
Media Challenge Expo 2020

From **30 NOV 2020** To **05 DEC 2020**

### Keeping Journalism Alive in Times of Uncertainty

#### Here are some insights

- ◆ To keep journalism alive, we must keep journalists alive
- ◆ To keep journalism alive, we must keep journalism revenue streams alive
- ◆ To keep journalism alive and safe from fake news, we must keep fact checking and media literacy alive
- ◆ To keep journalism alive, we must ensure active reporting on unreported, underreported and ignored issues alive
- ◆ To keep journalism alive, we must keep both investigative and solutions journalism alive

#MediaExpoUg

Our Country Director, Anna Reismann, one of the keynote speakers at the Expo, implored the media to try their best to ensure that the public never lose trust in their work. You cannot talk about keeping journalism alive without addressing the question of faith. Journalism must therefore seek to be truthful to gain everlasting confidence from the general public if they are to continue being relevant. She also underlined the importance of having media as an integrative part of a pluralistic and democratic society.





Susan Nanduddu, a climate change expert sharing with journalist about Uganda climate finance landscape.

To have an exchange of knowledge and experience sharing, the **Climate Change Reporting Workshop** brought together the Media Challenge Fellows with climate change experts and top journalists in climate change reporting. At the end of the training, all participants pitched climate change adaptation or mitigation solutions stories, and eight ideas were selected to be supported to produce actual field and data-driven media reports. The workshop equipped young journalists with relevant knowledge on climate financing and adaptation solutions.

Together with the Media Focus on Africa organization, we concluded the **Media Dialogue Series** with activities in Kampala, Kabale, Hoima, and Kasese. The dialogues brought to the fore relevant conversations on how media houses can be made viable during times of uncertainty. The dialogue series also situated the role of media in covering elections considering complex electoral and political campaign related violence. .



Ben Mwine a Media Consultant and Jan Ajwang of Media Focus on Africa having a discussion during one of the Media Dialogue Series in Kampala.





Michael Ojok speaking during a Kabake dialogue on Mega FM, Gulu



We also ran a series of radio dialogues on our **Kabake Community Radio Programme** together with Mega FM. Many topics were discussed such as the impact of COVID-19 on education and gender based violence in Northern Uganda as well as the increasing number of street children in Acholi region.



We also traversed ten districts in Western and Northern Uganda to conclude the last series of **PoLA-LAB Workshops** targeting young political leaders. The training workshops enabled 200 young politicians running for different political offices in the upcoming 2021 elections to understand various political mobilization aspects and use social media to engage their electorates in a campaign dubbed by the Electoral Commission of Uganda as a scientific one.



PoLA-LAB Participants from Bushenyi District, Western Uganda



# The Annual Leaders Gathering 2020



Organised by:



In partnership with:



The 2020 Annual Leaders Gathering (ALG) came at a time when the region, and world at large, are in deep crisis due to the corona-virus pandemic which has exposed the other underlying crises that humanity continues to grapple with today - climate change, the crisis of leadership at the global level, a surge in identity and race-inspired contestations, and the evolving nature of work, among others.

Over three days, fellows of Léo Africa Institute, emerging leaders in the public and private sector, across Africa and the diaspora convened to reflect on the challenges facing society today and how different networks of innovators, entrepreneurs and decision makers can come together to address them within the African context.

The inaugural Annual Leaders Gathering (2020 ALG) was convened virtually under the theme, "Beyond the Crisis: Leadership at Crossroads". By bringing together some of the leading voices in Africa's entrepreneurship and innovation space, as well as key decision makers in government and the public sector, the ALG identified and promoted a shared vision for Africa's recovery and adaptation to life beyond these seemingly disparate but related crises.

Our Country Director Anna Reismann expressed the need for communication and transparency from top leadership and stakeholders when dealing with a crisis. She further acknowledged that gatherings such as the Annual Leaders Gathering enable us not just to learn from one another, but also help us build synergies to achieve our own and mutual goals.

The event also featured seminars for the Institute fellows and selected participants from the KAS network. The seminars focused on various aspects of leadership capacity development;

## • Living your Legacy: From Success to Significance

This seminar focused on the kind of legacy emerging leaders want to live, and how they can navigate the pitfalls that come with bold leadership decisions, and sacrifices, that each of these leaders has had to make at different points in life.

## • Wellness and Mindfulness: Health for the Mind, and Spirit

Already driving significant change in their communities, emerging leaders needed to invest in their mental health and physical wellbeing, as much as they are invested in that of others and their enterprises.

## • Leadership amidst a Crisis

This seminar helped emerging leaders to harness this unique reset moment in the world to shape a more progressive leadership, who will build resilient and thriving communities.

Visit <https://alg.leoafriainstitute.org>

## KAS Scholars & Alumni



In the monthly dialogue platforms, we continue to discuss crucial topics around the daily political agenda in Uganda together with KAS fellows, Scholars and friends representing politically active youth in the country such as:

### The role of the youth in transforming Uganda's political landscape:

The interactive session was hosted by the KAS Country Director in Uganda, Anna Reismann as the main speaker. In her opening remarks, she acknowledged the role of the youth in the political scenery and recognised their significance in Uganda's population demography. It was her interest in hearing from the youth what they considered to be their role and opportunities in engaging in Uganda's political arena. She emphasised the commitment of KAS to supporting the youth in this quest to political participation in Uganda.

Participants pointed out several challenges affecting the youth in political spaces in Uganda such as violence perpetrated by state actors aimed at silencing the voices of the youth, gender and sexual related violence, the high costs involved in political participation as a result of commercialisation of politics. The introduction of scientific elections was also seen as another hindrance to the participation for the youth in politics especially in the 2021 general elections considering the extreme costs involved in the media players in Uganda. The Participants decried the high levels of youth unemployment which has resulted in several youth reverting to petty crime and manual labour as a means of survival.

In her closing remarks, the Country Director pointed

out that the concerns of the different youth participants were indeed valid and required urgent attention by the state. The important question, however, was what the youth can do about it. She emphasized that it is important that the youth take bold steps by being actively involved in political discussions and campaigns. The youth should also remember that they are the majority and would have a lot more to lose if they did not involve directly in the development of this country.

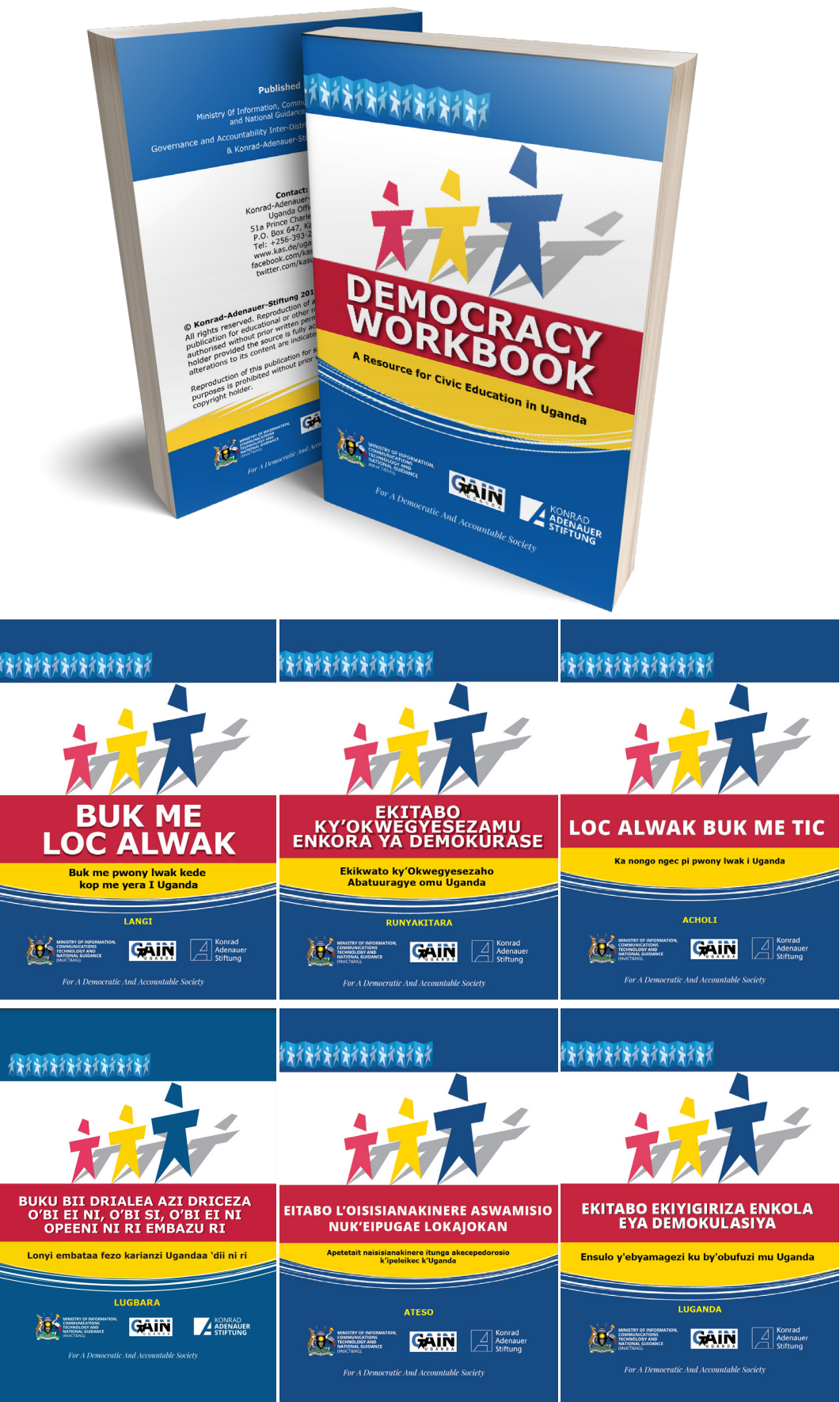
### Women's Participation in Politics of Uganda:

The political representation and participation of women in politics remain underestimated within our communities despite their capabilities and advancement of women's rights and gender equality. Women need to be presented with opportunities to address their challenges in public in order to increase their representation in government and decision-making roles. The round-table discussions about the topic were facilitated by Winnie Kiiza who talked about good leadership and her experience in politics, Perry Aritua on how best men can extend their support to women and two of the National Youth Female MP aspirants Angella Kasekende and Charlotte Natukunda sharing their experience and seeking guidance on how to go along the forth coming elections.



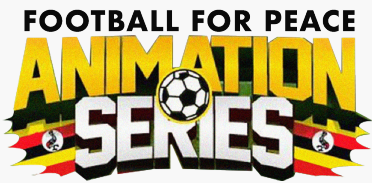
# GAIN-Uganda

With the elections around the corner, demand for civic education among different actors at the national and local level is very high and crucial. **Governance and Accountability Inter-District CSO Network Uganda** (GAIN-Uganda) meets this demand through grassroots training of local citizens across the country on their responsibilities and government. This year, we trained over 1,000 citizens from 10 districts on different aspects of democracy, human rights, accountability, and rule of law. We also distributed democracy workbooks countrywide to serve as points of reference for the citizens.



Visit <https://bit.ly/3my5osk> to access the handbook

## Football for Peace



“Football for peace Animation Series is a civic education program through animations inspired by the game of football to foster for peace, unity and democracy”

- Daniel Walusimbi, Project Head, Football for peace Animation Series.

Towards the end of the year, we collaborated with Friends of Football, an organization using football’s national & global influence as a force for good, to work on an animation series themed: **Football for Peace Animation Series**.

As part of this project, five videos were animated, portraying different stakeholders’ role in promoting democratic processes in Uganda. The videos will be run on various social media platforms during the months of Dec 2020 and Jan 2021 as Ugandans gear up for the Jan 2021 General Elections.

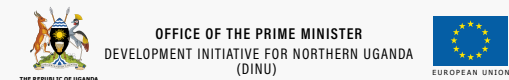


## EU Project Update



“CSOs are part of the voices of citizens. Change can only be realized with consistent actions.”

- Participant



We organised dialogues in Arua, Gulu, and Lira districts under the SPACE Project, where we engaged with various district and community-based leaders, Civil Society Organisations, and ordinary citizens. The dialogue was a participatory guided approach that discussed the monitoring and quarterly performance reports of the districts. The meetings were led by respective Resident District Commissioners, Chief Administration Officers and Local Councils, during which district decision-makers, representatives, and those in power provided accountability to the people. The objective is to ensure that mobilised resources are effectively and efficiently utilised and openly accounted for. These engagements also present opportunities for good relationship building between the state and citizens.

Civil Society plays a vital and necessary role in democratic states through holding the government accountable and responsible to the people. We conducted CSO trainings with a focus on building their capacity so that they fulfil their oversight function in line with the laws, regulations and policies in place. The training also enhanced skills and competencies of CSO players. It covered the legal framework of Local Government laws, policies and regulations.

RAC members of RUPA Sub County in Moroto District discussing governance and accountability issues.



To learn more about the project, you can now visit and follow the project website [www.dinuspace.org](http://www.dinuspace.org) and social media updates:

f SPACE DINU  
@spacedinu  
spacedinu



# Candidate Training



## Candidate Training in Bundibugyo, Kyegegwa, Kamwenge and Ntoroko Districts

ACFODE in partnership with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) organized a training workshop for aspiring women leaders. A total of 120 women candidates from the districts of Bundibugyo, Kyegegwa, Kamwenge and Ntoroko. The training aimed at giving the women aspiring for electable positions not only the skills and knowledge they require to succeed as they contest for different positions but also deliver on their mandate after the vote. We worked closely with the Electoral Commission (EC) to include sessions on election processes and procedures and the EC roadmap to 2021 elections.

The workshop included sessions on **Legal and Policy Framework for Women’s Participation in Politics, The Election road map, and election violence, Fundraising and Finances, outreach and mobilization**, and especially key utilizing media to win elections among others.



Women Aspirants in Kamwenge District

From the candidate’s expectations, it was clear that despite many of them being second time contestants in the political field, they still required skills in building their profiles as candidates and addressing challenges faced as women while vying for political representation, a major concern was conducting ‘scientific’ campaigns and reaching the voters in a media space that is expensive and skewed to favour men. Many of the women are not accustomed to new forms of media like social media and were already facing an unlevel playing field.

To address the knowledge gaps, the trainings were conducted using a mix of delivery tools including lecture, brainstorming, and experience sharing and physical references to the relevant documents.

## Voices from Within

In a discussion on women's participation in politics, here is what some of the women within our network had to say;



“Opportunities for women in politics are still largely dependant on affirmative action because society has not yet fathomed the need and importance of equal representation. That is why there is a minimal representation of women, especially in Local Government.”

**Winnie Kiiza** Politician, Senior Policy Maker & Women's rights activist



“Men need to address the general fears of women's participation in politics. Consensus building works better than confrontation in leadership”

**Perry Aritua** Executive Director of the Women's Democracy Network, Lawyer & Women's rights activist



“Mentoring women in policy making will serve as a platform for them to drive their ideas into governance.”

**Angella Kasekende** National Female Youth Member of Parliament Aspirant and Lawyer



“Given the economic imbalance between men and women in Uganda, very few women can financially defend their candidature.”

**Charlotte Natukunda** National Female Youth Member of Parliament Aspirant and Lawyer



### New addition to our Youth4Policy Programme



Canary Mugume has been an investigative Journalist with NBS television since 2016, where he also currently doubles as the station's chief political reporter. Canary has also profoundly covered top political issues in regional politics including the Rwandan, Kenyan and Ugandan elections. He hosts a popular political radio show on Nxt Radio called The Big Talk and is also a podcaster of two podcasts, one on the COVID-19 pandemic – The CoronaCast and The Election Podcast. Canary believes in telling stories that hold power accountability and is passionate about digital media and the role of new media journalism in redefining perceptions about Africa.





Look out for:

# The Uchaguzi Voter Platform

Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in collaboration with The Ministry of ICT and National Guidance have developed **“Uchaguzi”** - a web platform that is designed to ease access to electoral information during Uganda’s forthcoming general elections. The platform will be launched on the **1<sup>st</sup> day of January 2021**. Exercise your right to elect your leaders while protecting yourself from COVID-19.

## UNVEILING UCHAGUZI

A mobile and web based application that is designed to ease access to information on Uganda’s forthcoming general elections 2021. It is chiefly designed to educate voters and sensitize citizens on the electoral process.



MINISTRY OF ICT & NATIONAL GUIDANCE



Government Citizen Interaction Centre



## Platform Features UCHAGUZI

The platform has three features;

- A mobile application
- WhatsApp Chatbot
- Website



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## UCHAGUZI

### WhatsApp Chatbot

Message us directly for any voter related information



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## WhatsApp Chatbot

Given that WhatsApp is the quickest and most widely used messaging tool worldwide, the platform also includes a WhatsApp Chatbot, an automated messaging service that will allow Ugandans to get answers to the most common questions about the General Elections 24 hours a day.

  @KasUganda

www.kas.de/Uganda

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NEWSLETTER

 KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG



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