



Norwegian Social research - NOVA
Norway

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Demographic factors and attitudes to filial responsibility

A comparative exploration

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GGP

Generations & Gender
Programme

*How generations and gender shape demographic change
Geneva, 14-16 May 2008*

Do demographic factors influence the readiness of families to support old family members?

- Population aging: Increasing proportion of old people in need for family support
- Will demographic changes decrease readiness to meet needs?

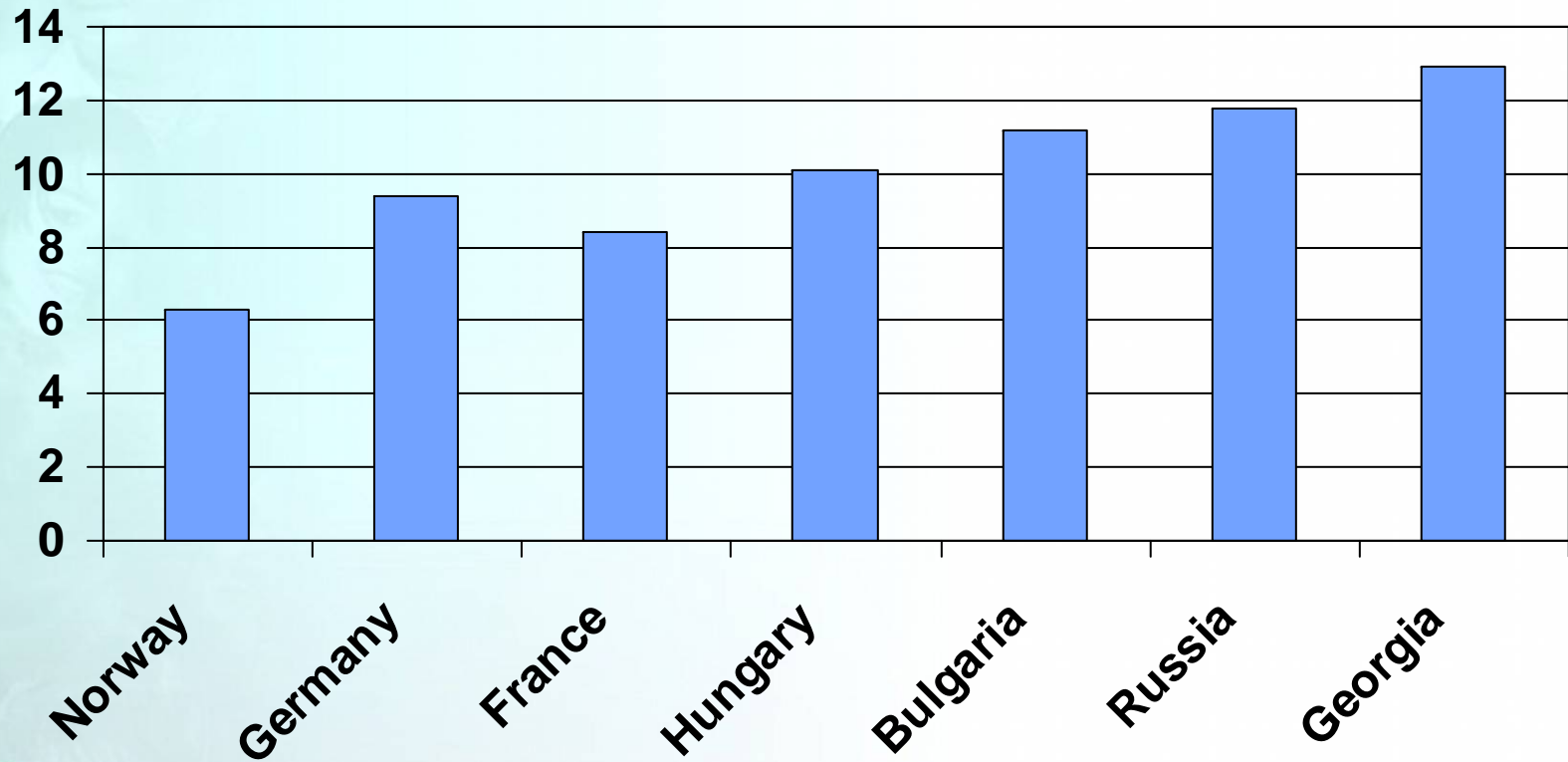
Do demographic factors influence the readiness of families to support old family members?

- GGS-data
 - 6 countries + preliminary data from Norway (n=13 000)
- Explore the effects of:
 - Number of children
 - Number of siblings
 - Marital status
 - Women in labour force
 - Education
- ...on attitudes to filial responsibility.
- Seeing attitudes to filial responsibility as reflecting readiness to support old parents

Filial responsibility scale

- 1. Children should take responsibility for caring for their parents when parents are in need.
- 2. Children should adjust their working lives to the needs of their parents.
- 3. Children ought to provide financial help for their parents when their parents are having financial difficulties.
- 4. Children should have their parents to live with them when parents can no longer look after themselves.
 - *5 point scale strongly agree.... strongly disagree*
 - *Added to an index (Chronbach's Alpha 0.69 - 0.75)*

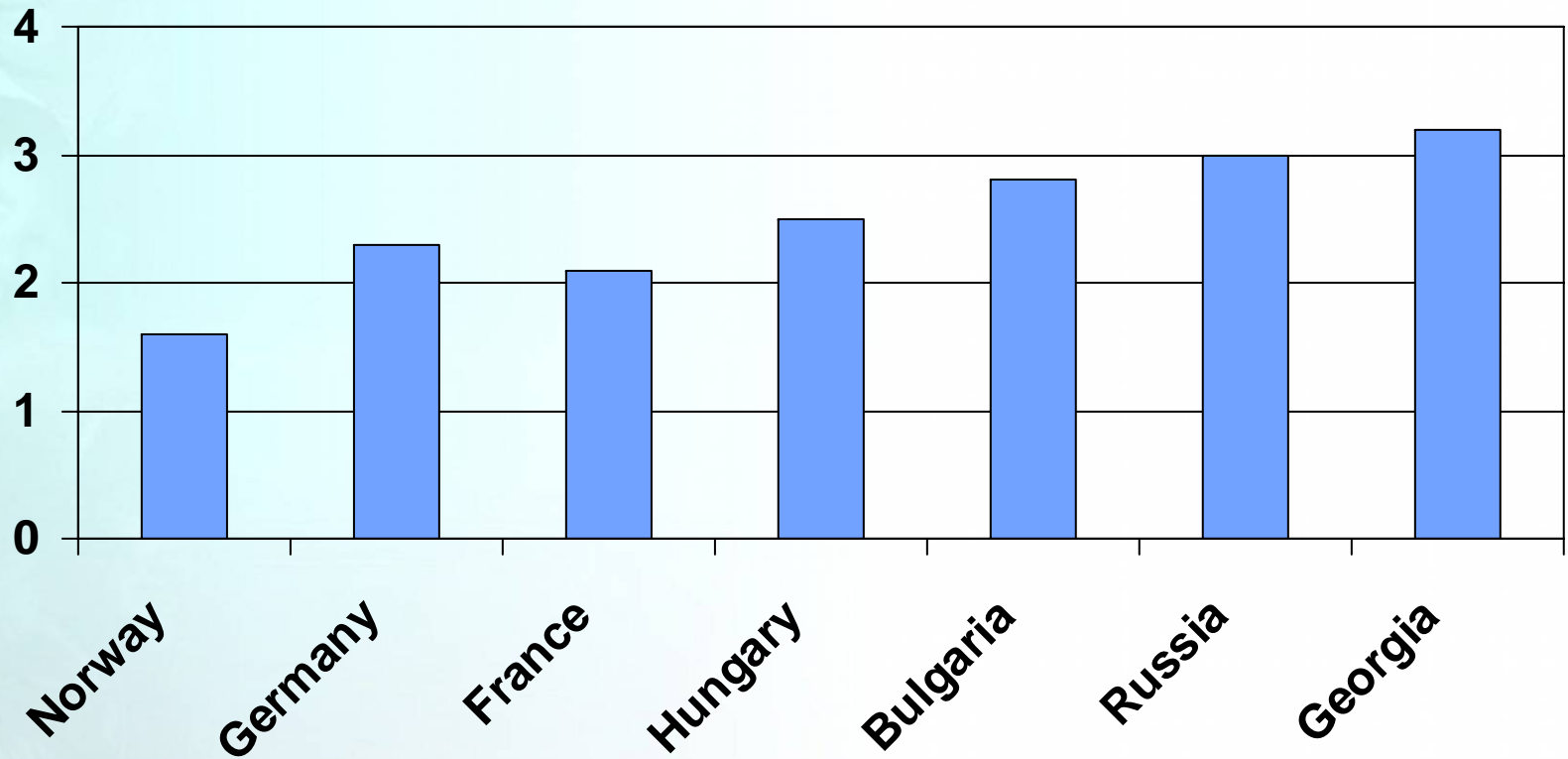
Filial responsibility scale. Mean



Filial responsibility scale. Mean

Strongly agree

Strongly disagree



Demographic changes take place within societies that are highly different at the outset concerning:

- Attitudes to filial responsibility
 - Culture
 - Modernization, urbanization, economy etc
 - Public welfare
- Impact of demographics should be explored for each country separately.

Regressing filial responsibility.

	Norw	Germ	France	Hungary	Bulgaria	Russia	Georgia
Woman							
Age							
Education							
Divorced							
Cohabitor							
Children							
Siblings							
Working							
R²	.16	.03	.06	.03	.01	.00	.00

Do demographic factors influence the readiness of families to support old family members?

- Demographic factors considered make little difference in most countries
- Norway deviant – a case of special interest
 - Generous public care
 - Family support less of a necessity
 - Filial responsibility more of a personal attitude
- In which direction do demographics contribute to filial responsibility in Norway?

Regressing filial responsibility.

	Norw	Germ.	France	Hungary	Bulgaria	Russia	Georgia
Woman	- * * *						
Age							
Education							
Divorced							
Cohabitor							
Children							
Siblings							
Working							
R²	.16	.03	.06	.03	.01	.00	.00

Regressing filial responsibility.

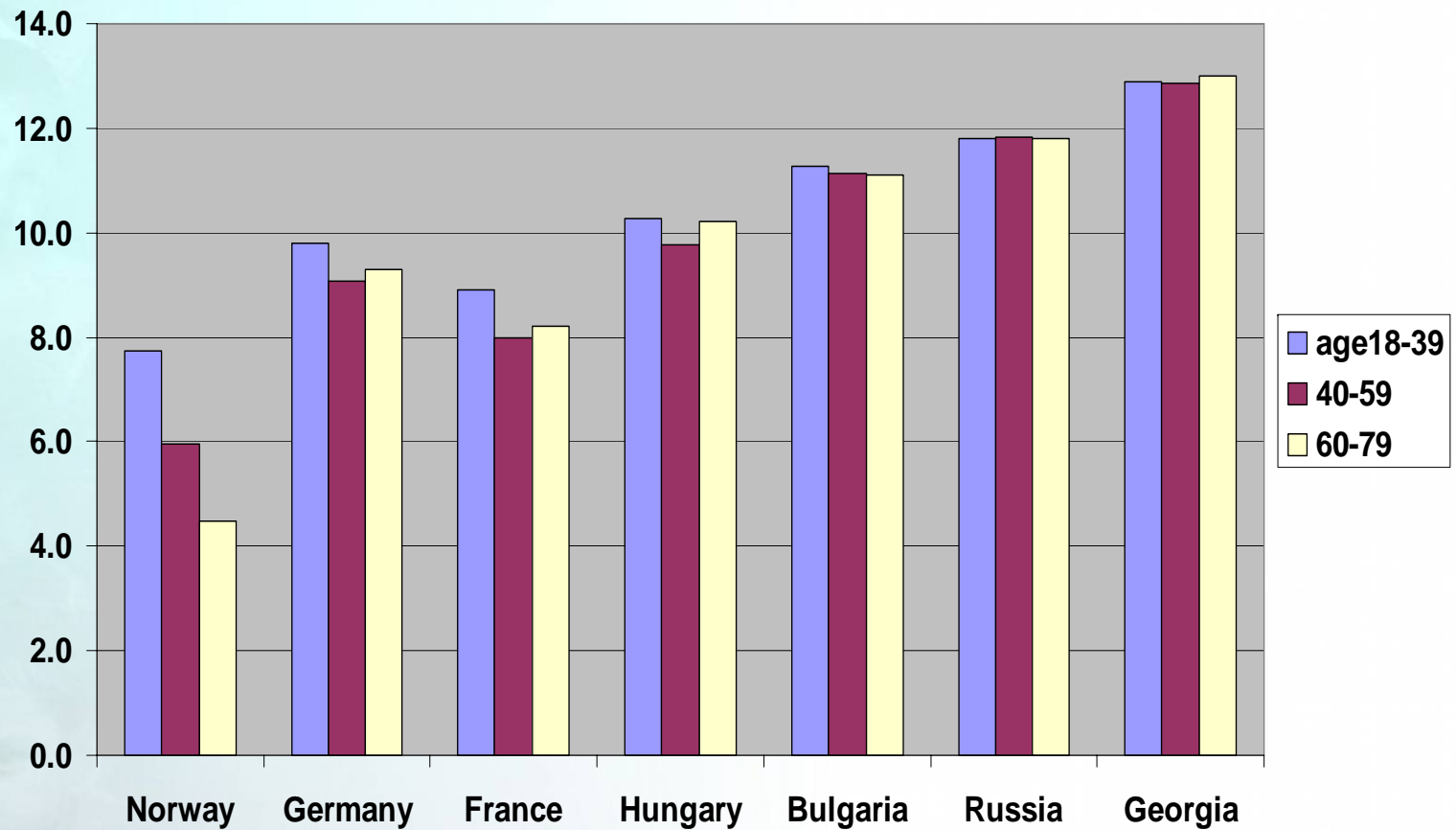
	Norway	Germ.	France	Hungary	Bulgaria	Russia	Georgia
Woman	***	***	***	0	0	0	0
Age							
Educat.							
Divorce							
Cohabit.							
Children							
Siblings							
Working							
R²	.16	.03	.06	.03	.01	.00	.00

Regressing filial responsibility.

	Norway	Germ.	France	Hungary	Bulgaria	Russia	Georgia
Woman	_ * * *	_ * * *	_ * * *	0	0	0	0
Age	- * * *						
Educatio n							
Divorced							
Cohabito r							
Children							
Siblings							
Working	0						
R²	.16	.03	.06	.03	.01	.00	.00

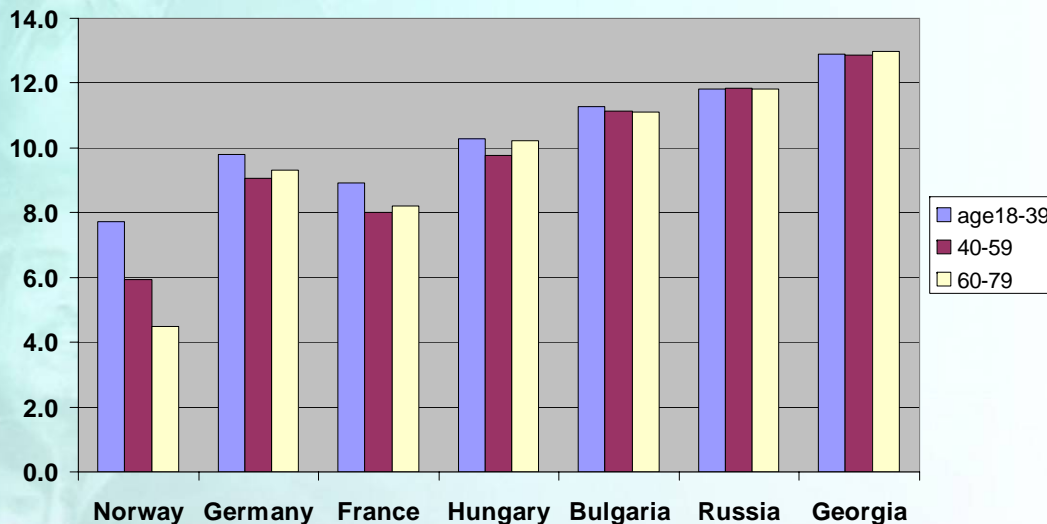
Filial responsibility by age. Mean

Filial responsibility by age. Mean



Age and attitudes to filial responsibility- age gradient in Norway

Filial responsibility by age. Mean



- Steeper for women than for men
- Young-old differs regarding:
 - being carer vs recipient
 - Idealistic vs. realistic
- Older people
 - More altruistic
 - Prefer independence – old women more?

Regressing filial responsibility.

	Norway	Germ.	France	Hungary	Bulgaria	Russia	Georgia
Woman	_ * * *	_ * * *	_ * * *	0	0	0	0
Age	_ * * *	_ * * *	0	+ * * *	0	0	0
Education	+ * * *	- * * *	0	0	- * * *	0	0
Divorced							
Cohabitor							
Children							
Siblings							
Working							
R ²	.16	.03	.06	.03	.01	.00	.00

Regressing filial responsibility.

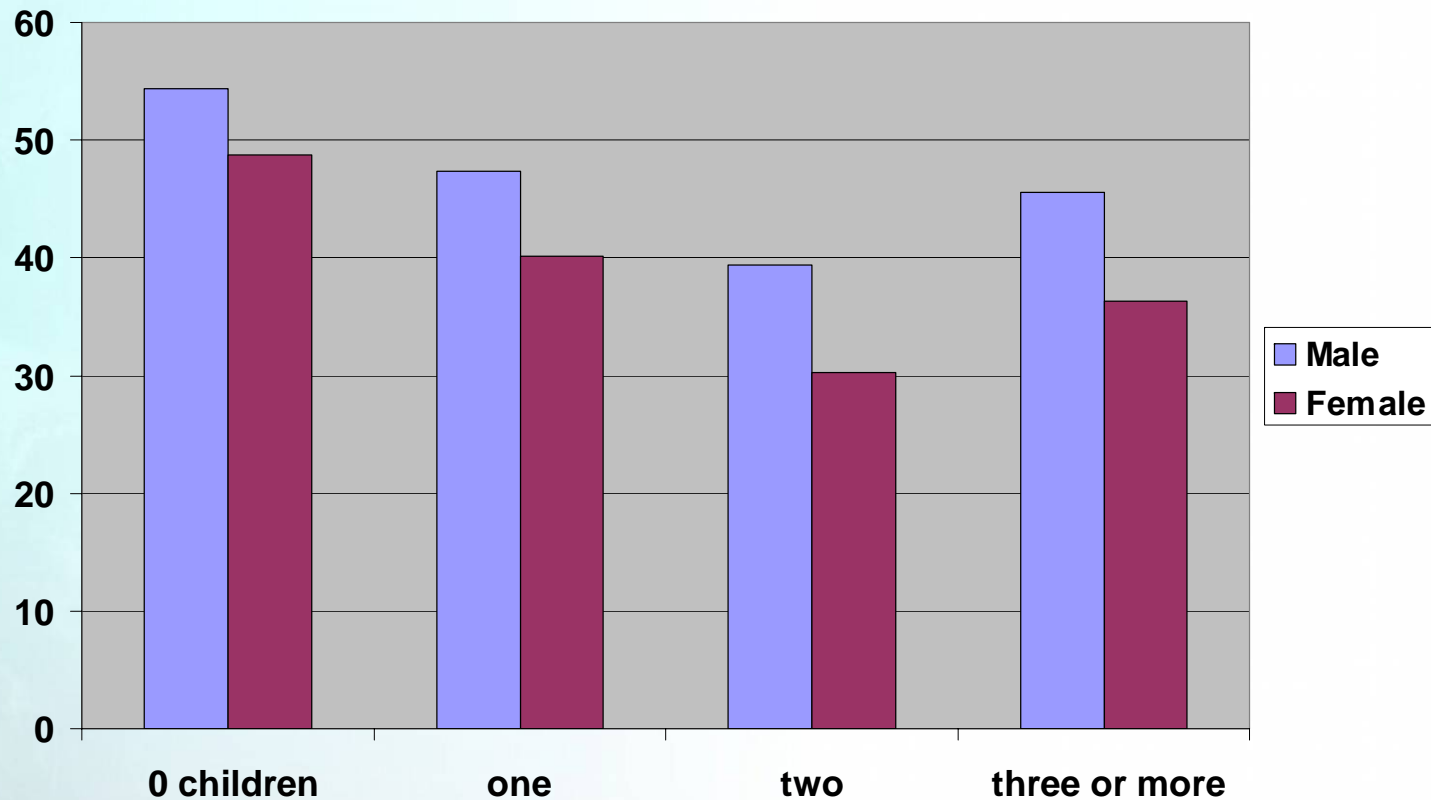
	Norway	Germ.	France	Hungary	Bulgaria	Russia	Georgia
Woman	***	***	***	0	0	0	0
Age	***	***	0	***	0	0	0
Education	***	***	0	0	***	0	0
Divorced	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cohabitor	0	***	0	0	0	0	0
Children							
Siblings							
Working							
R ²	.16	.03	.06	.03	.01	.00	.00

Regressing filial responsibility.

	Norway	Germ.	France	Hungary	Bulgaria	Russia	Georgia
Woman	_*_*_*	_*_*_*	_*_*_*	0	0	0	0
Age	_*_*_*	_*_*_*	0	+_*_*_*	0	0	0
Education	+_*_*_*	_*_*_*	0	0	_*_*_*	0	0
Divorced	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cohabitor	0	_*_*_*	0	0	0	0	0
Children	_*_*_*	_*_*_*	_*_*_*	_*_*_*	0	0	0
Siblings							
Working							
R ²	.16	.03	.06	.03	.01	.00	.00

'Children should have their parents to live with them when parents can no longer look after themselves.'

% Agree. France



Regressing filial responsibility.

	Norway	Germ.	France	Hungary	Bulgaria	Russia	Georgia
Woman	_ * * *	_ * * *	_ * * *	0	0	0	0
Age	_ * * *	_ * * *	0	+ * * *	0	0	0
Education	+ * * *	_ * * *	0	0	_ * * *	0	0
Divorced	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cohabitor	0	_ * * *	0	0	0	0	0
Children	_ * * *	_ * * *	_ * * *	_ * * *	0	0	0
Siblings		+ * * * *	+ * * * *	0	+ * * * *	+ * * * *	+ * * * *
Working							
R ²	.16	.03	.06	.03	.01	.00	.00

Regressing filial responsibility.

	Norway	Germ	France	Hungary	Bulgaria	Russia	Georgia
Woman	_*_*_*	_*_*_*	_*_*_*	0	0	0	0
Age	_*_*_*	_*_*_*	0	+_*_*_*	0	0	0
Education	+_*_*_*	_*_*_*	0	0	_*_*_*	0	0
Divorced	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cohabitor	0	_*_*_*	0	0	0	0	0
Children	_*_*_*	_*_*_*	_*_*_*	_*_*_*	0	0	0
Siblings		+_*_*_*	+_*_*_*	0	+_*_*_*	+_*_*_*	+_*_*_*
Working	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
R ²	.16	.03	.06	.03	.01	.00	.00

Do demographic factors influence the readiness of families to support old family members?

- In most countries demographic characteristics make little difference
- In Norway, with generous public services:
 - Men are more positive than women
 - Highly educated more positive
 - Young more positive than old
 - Marital status has no effect
 - Childless are more positive
 - Women in labor force make no difference

More siblings - more positive

What if other countries introduce services at a 'Norwegian level'?

- Attitudes to filial responsibility may decline ?
- Individual choice more than necessity will determine support?
- Demographic changes may strengthen filial responsibility – or readiness to support?
- Actual support may not suffer, since public services seem to supplement rather than substitute family support.
- However, careful to generalize across countries – cultural differences and -heritage also shape attitudes and support.



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Thank you for your attention.

The logo for the Generations & Gender Programme (GGP) consists of the letters G, G, and P in a large, bold, white font, with a white curved line underneath.

Generations & Gender
Programme

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