

May 2016

How's Life in Slovenia?



Additional information, including the data used in this country note, can be found at:
www.oecd.org/statistics/Better-Life-Initiative-2016-country-notes-data.xlsx

The **OECD Better Life Initiative**, launched in 2011, focuses on the aspects of life that matter to people and that shape the quality of their lives. The Initiative comprises a set of regularly updated well-being indicators and an in-depth analysis of specific topics, published in the *How's Life?* report. It also includes an interactive web application, the *Better Life Index*, and a number of methodological and research projects to improve the information base towards a better understanding of well-being trends and their drivers.

The OECD Better Life Initiative:

- Helps to inform policy making to improve quality of life.
- Connects policies to people's lives.
- Generates support for needed policy measures.
- Improves civic engagement by encouraging the public to create their own *Better Life Index* and share their preferences about what matters most for well-being
- Empowers the public by improving their understanding of policy-making.

This brochure presents **selected findings for Slovenia from the OECD Better Life Index 2016** (page 3), the *How's Life?* report (pages 4-6) and shows what **Slovenian users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (page 7). A supporting Excel file with the data underlying the graphs shown in this note and further information is available here: www.oecd.org/statistics/Better-Life-Initiative-2016-country-notes-data.xlsx.

HOW'S LIFE?



How's Life?, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD countries and other major economies by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. It looks at people's material conditions and quality of life across the population in eleven dimensions including: income and wealth; jobs and earnings; housing; health status; work-life balance; education and skills; social connections; civic engagement and governance; environmental quality; personal security; and subjective well-being.

The *How's Life? 2015* report includes for the first time a set of indicators to measure the stocks of resources that help to support **well-being over time**. The report also contains three special chapters focusing on **child well-being**, **volunteering** and **regional well-being**.

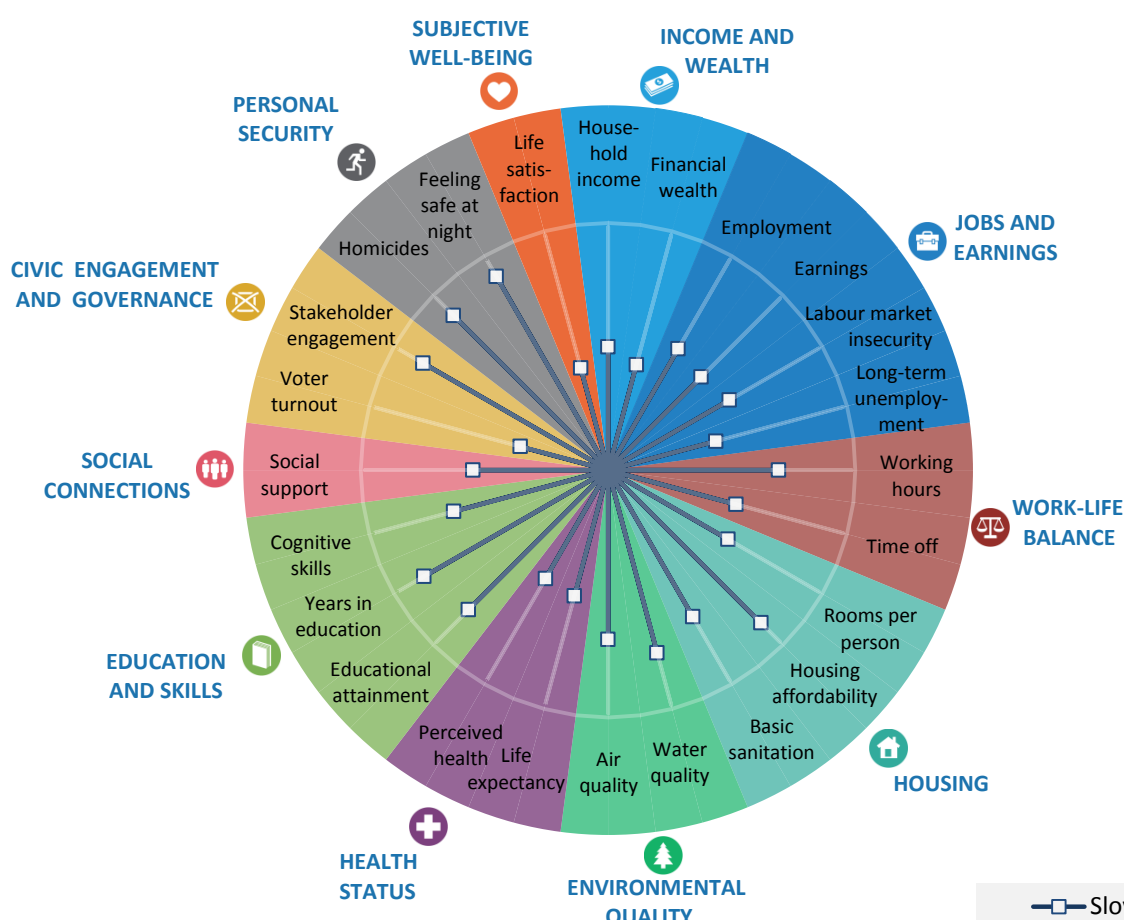


HOW'S LIFE IN SLOVENIA IN 2016?

Compared to other OECD countries, Slovenia has a relatively low **average household net adjusted disposable income** per capita, as well as low **average earnings**. However, average earnings are substantially higher than in all the other Eastern European OECD member countries. Between 2009 and 2014, the Slovenian **long-term unemployment** rate increased by 3.5 percentage points to 5.3% and lies now above the OECD average of 2.6%.

Between 2009 and 2013, the share of Slovenians **perceiving their health** as good or very good increased by 5.1 percentage points to 64.8%, which is still below the OECD average of 68.9%. Slovenia has a relatively high level of **educational attainment**: 85.7% of the adult working-age population have completed at least an upper secondary education compared to the OECD average of 76.4%. With 51.7% Slovenia's **voter turnout** is among the lowest in the OECD, however **stakeholder engagement** for developing regulations lies above the OECD average. Slovenia performs well in terms of personal safety: the **homicide** rate in Slovenia is one of the lowest in the OECD area and 84% of Slovenians **feel safe walking alone at night** compared to 68.3% in the OECD on average.

Current well-being in Slovenia



This chart shows areas of well-being strengths and weaknesses in Slovenia, based on a ranking of all OECD countries. Longer lines show areas of relative strength, while shorter lines show areas of relative weakness. For more details, see www.oecd.org/statistics/Better-Life-Initiative-2016-country-notes-data.xlsx.

Source: OECD calculation based on the OECD Better Life Index 2016 database, <http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=BLI>.

Resources for future well-being in Slovenia

Beyond measuring well-being today, *How's Life? 2015* looks at some of the resources (or “capital stocks”) that will shape people’s well-being in the future. These include aspects of **natural capital**, **human capital**, **social capital** and **economic capital**.

For example, **trust in other people** is an important component of **social capital**. In Slovenia trust in others lies above the European OECD average level: on a scale from 0 (“you do not trust any other person”) to 10 (“most people can be trusted”), the average score in Slovenia is 6.5, while the European OECD average stands at 5.8.

HOW'S LIFE FOR CHILDREN IN SLOVENIA?

Giving children a good start in life is important both for well-being today, and in the future.

In Slovenia, the share of children living in **workless households** (households with no employed adult) stands at 5.5% and is among the lowest in the OECD.

Slovenia has one of the lowest **infant mortality rates** and the lowest **teenage birth rate** in the OECD. However, 3.1% of Slovenian children are **obese** compared to the OECD average of 2.7%.

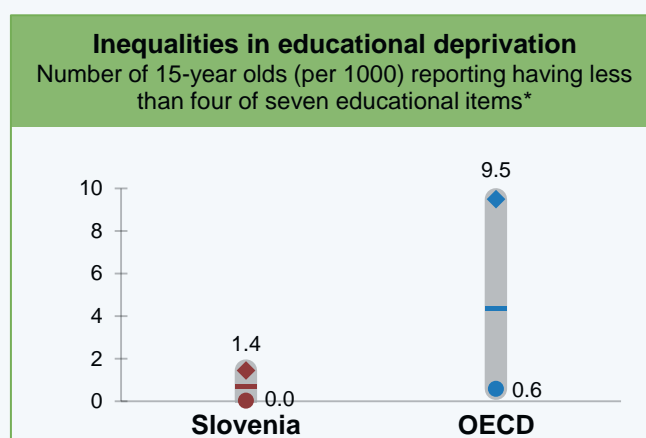
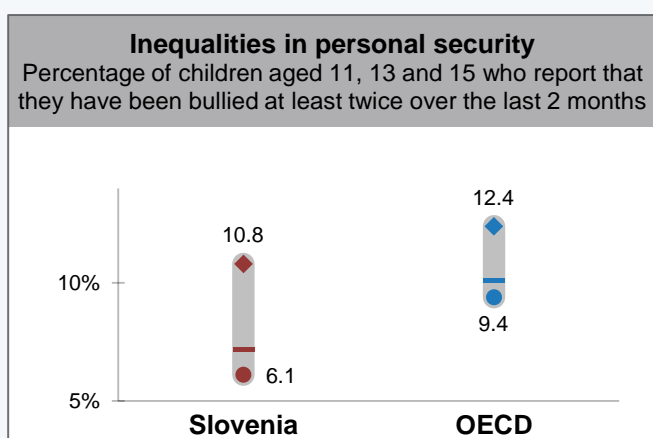
The **reading and creative problem-solving skills** of Slovenian students lie below the OECD average level. However, only 3.5% of Slovenian teenagers aged 15 to 19 are **not in employment, education or training** compared to the OECD average of 7.1%. Slovenia has the lowest level of **educational deprivation** in the OECD.

The **civic engagement** of Slovenian teenagers is relatively high. Compared to the average child in the OECD, Slovenian children tend to spend substantially less **time with their parents**.

Child well-being in Slovenia		
Ranking of Slovenia compared to other OECD countries		
● top third ● middle third ● bottom third		
Income and Wealth	Disposable income of households with children	●
	Child income poverty	●
Jobs and Earnings	Children in workless households	●
	Children with a long-term unemployed parent	●
Housing conditions	Average rooms per child	●
	Children in homes that lack basic facilities	●
Environmental quality	Children in homes with poor environmental conditions	●
	Health status	●
Health status	Infant mortality	●
	Low birth weight	●
	Self-reported health status	●
	Obesity	●
	Adolescent suicide rate	●
	Teenage birth rate	●
Education and Skills	Reading skills among 15 year olds (PISA)	●
	Creative problem solving among 15 year olds (PISA)	●
	Youth neither in employment nor education/training	●
	Educational deprivation	●
Civic engagement	Intention to vote	●
	Civic participation	●
Social and family environment	Students reporting having kind classmates	●
	Students feeling a lot of pressure from schoolwork	●
	Students liking school	●
	Sense of belonging in school at 15 years old (PISA)	●
	Time children spend with parents	●
Personal security	Child homicide rate	●
	Bullying	●
Subjective well-being	Life satisfaction	●

Inequalities in child well-being

Across all OECD countries there are **large inequalities in child well-being**. Children from wealthier households enjoy both better material living conditions, and a higher **quality of life**, on average. In Slovenia, children from lower socio-economic backgrounds are more likely to report that they have recently been bullied, relative to children from higher socio-economic backgrounds. By contrast, differences in educational deprivation between children from high and low socio-economic backgrounds are narrow compared to the OECD average difference.



● High socio-economic status ◆ Low socio-economic status — National average

* For more information (including definitions), see www.oecd.org/statistics/Better-Life-Initiative-2016-country-notes-data.xlsx.

THE VALUE OF GIVING: VOLUNTEERING AND WELL-BEING

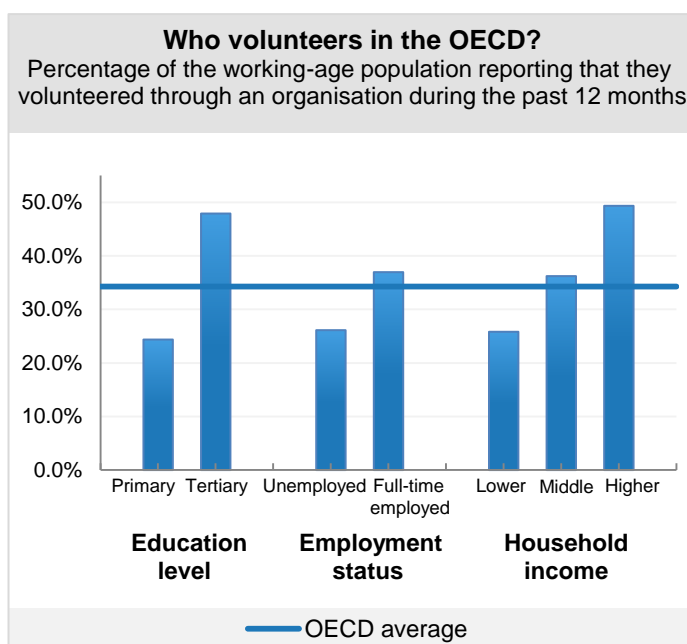
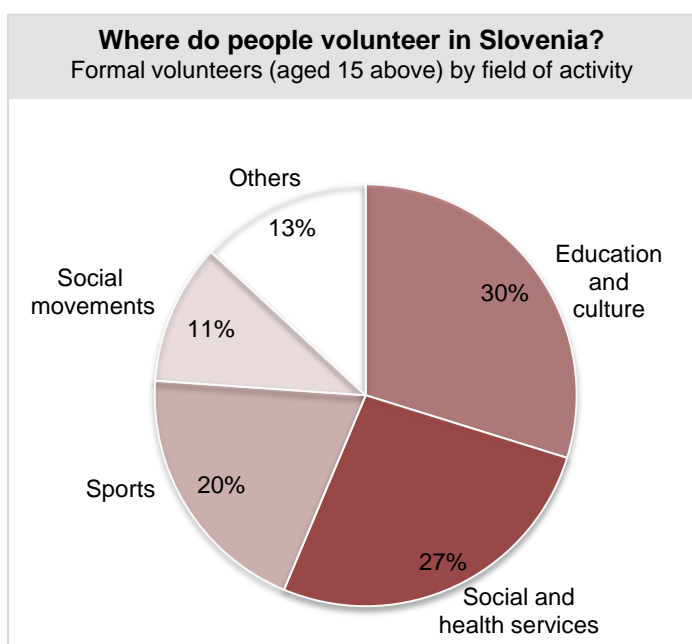
Volunteering makes an important “hidden contribution” to well-being, producing goods and services that are not captured by conventional economic statistics. When you add up the value of the time people spend on volunteering in OECD countries, it amounts to roughly 2% of GDP per year.

Volunteering in Slovenia and the OECD

The **main sector of volunteering activity** in Slovenia is education and culture, followed by social and health services. Compared to other OECD countries, the Slovenian working-age population spends comparatively little time on volunteering through an organisation (termed “**formal volunteering**”). The average Slovenian aged 15-64 spends only 1 minute per day on formal volunteering which is less than the OECD average of 4 minutes per day.

However, on the days when people in Slovenia do volunteer formally, they spend on average 137 minutes doing so. This is a similar period of time to the OECD average – which is 133 minutes per day.

Who volunteers? Across the OECD area, people with a university degree are more likely to participate in formal volunteering than those with lower levels of education. Similarly, people who are in employment are more likely to volunteer than those who are unemployed. Participation in formal volunteering also increases with people’s level of household income.

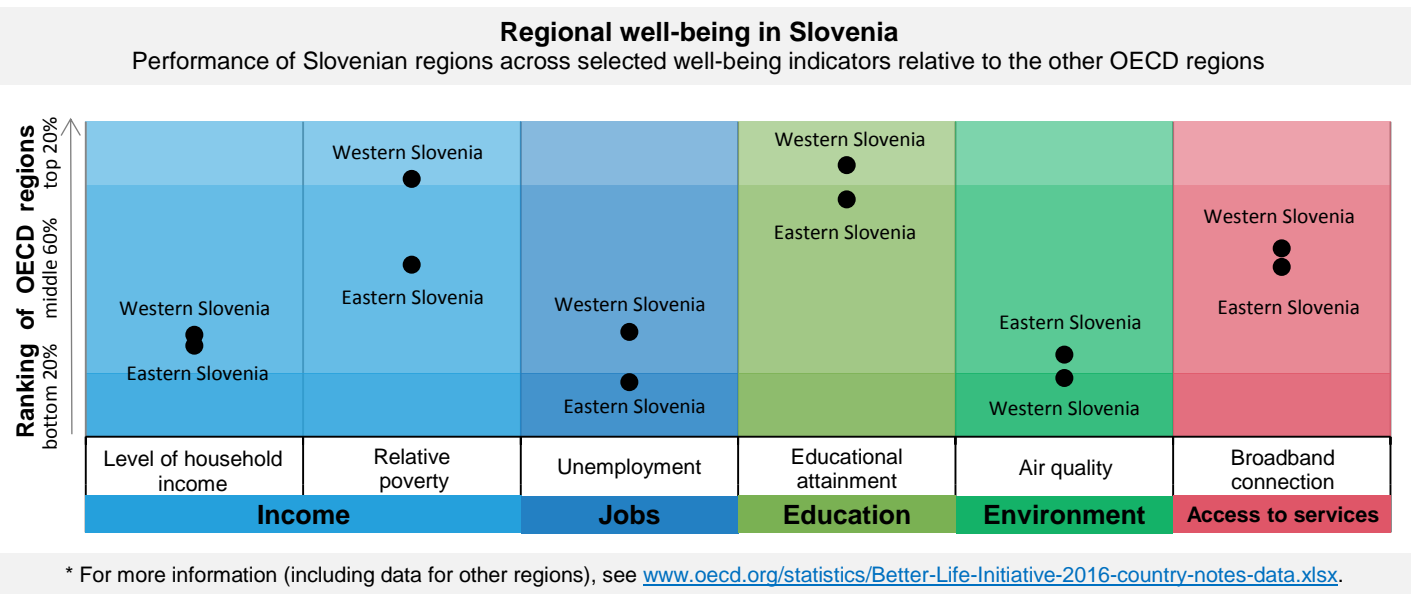


Volunteering brings benefits for volunteers themselves, as well as for the people and communities they help. For example, people who engage in volunteering are more likely to have higher literacy, numeracy and problem-solving **skills** and receive **higher wages**, on average, relative to non-volunteers.

In OECD countries, older people who volunteer formally are more likely to report a better **health status** than non-volunteers. Furthermore, formal volunteers in the OECD, on average, also report higher **life satisfaction** than non-volunteers.

GOING LOCAL: MEASURING WELL-BEING IN REGIONS

Where people live has an important impact on their opportunities to live well. There can be large differences in average levels of well-being in different regions within the same country. *How's Life in your Region?* and the *OECD regional well-being web-tool* assess performance across 9 dimensions of well-being in the 362 OECD large regions – 2 of which are in Slovenia. Drawing on this work, *How's Life? 2015* includes a special focus on measuring well-being in regions.



Regional gaps in material living conditions

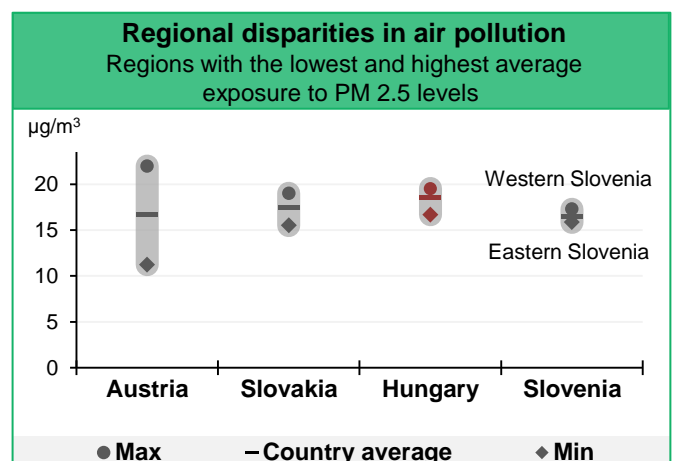
Compared to other OECD countries regional inequalities in income are small in Slovenia: the **average household adjusted disposable income** is 9% higher in Western Slovenia than in Eastern Slovenia. Regarding **relative income poverty**, while 7.5% of people in Western Slovenia have an income of less than half of the Slovenian median income, the share is 11.2% in Eastern Slovenia. **Unemployment rates** range from 8.1% in Western Slovenia to 11.1% in Eastern Slovenia. This gap (3 percentage points) is smaller than the regional differences in many other OECD countries.

Regional differences in people's quality of life

Regarding **educational attainment**, 90% of the labour force has at least an upper secondary education in Western Slovenia, while this share is 86.2% in Eastern Slovenia. This gap (3.8 percentage points) is one of the smallest regional differences in educational attainment in the OECD area.

Equally, the regional variation in **air quality** is relatively small in Slovenia.

The share of households with a **broadband connection** ranges from 74% in Western Slovenia to 72% in Eastern Slovenia.



BETTER LIFE INDEX

The **Better Life Index** is an interactive web application that invites citizens to compare well-being across OECD countries and beyond on the basis of the set of well-being indicators explored in *How's Life?*. Users chose what weight to give to each of the eleven dimensions shown below and then see how countries' perform, based on their own personal priorities in life.

11 topics to define well-being

- Housing
- Income
- Jobs
- Community
- Education
- Environment
- Civic Engagement
- Health
- Life Satisfaction
- Safety
- Work-Life Balance

Each flower represents a country and each petal represents a topic

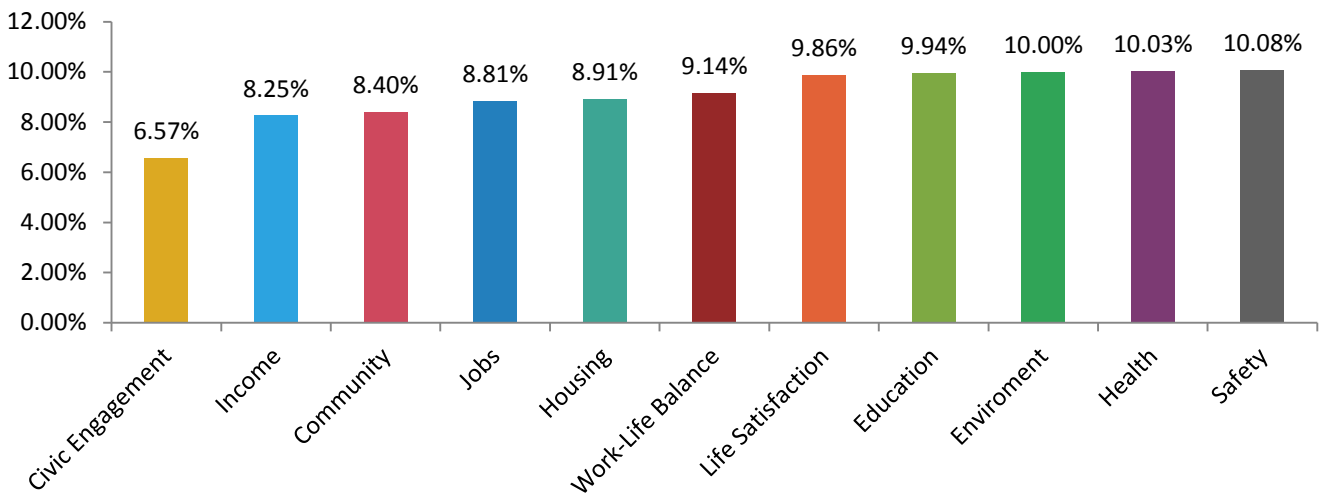
Rate the topics according to their importance to you

Users can also share their index with other people in their networks, as well as with the OECD. This allows the OECD to gather valuable information on the importance that users attach to various life dimensions, on how these preferences differ across countries, and on the demographic characteristics of users.

WHAT MATTERS MOST TO PEOPLE IN SLOVENIA?

Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over eight million visits from just about every country on the planet** and has received over **17 million page views**. To date, over 19,500 people in Slovenia have visited the website making Slovenia the 52nd country overall in traffic to the website. The top cities are Ljubljana (62% of visits), Celje, Koper, Maribor, Kranj and Zirovnica.

The following country findings reflect the ratings voluntarily shared by 192 website visitors in Slovenia. Findings are only indicative and are not representative of the population at large. **For Slovenian users of the Better Life Index, safety, health and environment are the three most important topics** (shown below).¹ Up to date information, including a breakdown of participants in each country by gender and age can be found here: www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/responses/#SVN.



¹ User information for Slovenia is based on shared indexes submitted between May 2011 and May 2016.

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