

# WELLBASED

Energy Poverty, Health and Wellbeing and Urban Policy

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Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2021-24 & WP for Cluster 1: Health**

# WELLBASED

Improving health, WELLbeing and equity by evidence-BASED urban policies for tackling energy poverty

Multidisciplinary expertise:

- Scientific partners
- R&D Centres & Universities (6)
- Energy/Environment/Urban Development Agencies & Organisations (3)
- Public/local Administrations (7)
- Companies-SMEs (1)
- National/Int'l EU Networks/Associations, Civil Society Organisations (2)

19 partner

7 pilots/7 countries

Total Budget: 5,107,771 €



Figure 1. Consortium overview



# Impact on Health and Wellbeing

- Energy poverty as main challenge for European welfare systems and beyond, feeding from inequalities, derived from living conditions and social determinants, with a direct and negative impact on health and wellbeing, mainly in urban contexts.
- Respiratory diseases, heart attacks, stroke and mental disorders (stress, anxiety, depression), among other health problems.
- Complex problem that requires multi-dimensional approach and solutions

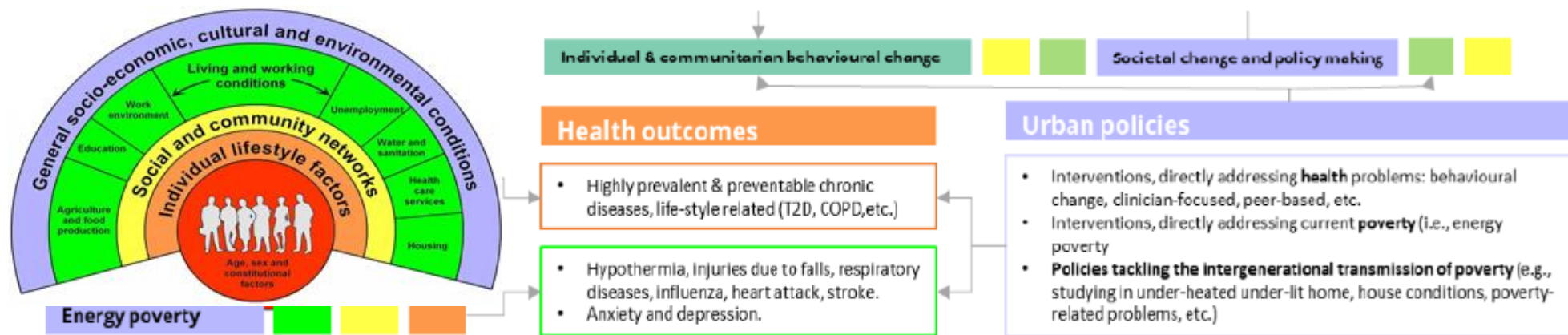


Figure 2. Links between health, wellbeing and energy poverty



## Main Objective

- To design, implement and evaluate a comprehensive urban programme to reduce energy poverty and its effects on citizens' health and wellbeing, built on evidence-based approaches, easily adaptable and transferable to different European realities (welfare and healthcare models)





### **Pilot cities of Wellbased**

- 1.Valencia (Spain)
- 2.Heerlen (The Netherlands)
- 3.Edirne (Turkey)
- 4.Jelgava (Latvia)
- 5.Leeds (UK)
- 6.Obuda (Hungary)



# Specific Objectives

## Design and Implement

1-To design a comprehensive urban programme to reduce energy poverty and its effects on health and wellbeing based on existing evidence, adaptable and transferrable to different European realities.

2-To foster the implementation of urban planning that considers health as a horizontal challenge.

## Analysis and Evaluation

3-To evaluate the short and mid-term effects of the programme on specific health conditions and wellbeing indicators.

4-To analyse the social and gender determinants linked to the intervention and its effects.



# Specific Objectives

## Scaling-up and public policies

5-To determine the cost-effectiveness of the proposed programme in the cities and compare its outcomes in the relevant dimensions

6-To develop policy recommendations to reduce energy poverty in cities and keeping sustainable high levels of urban health and quality of life.

## Tools for evidence generation from 6 pilots

7-To establish a systematic data collection framework and data platform on urban health which will enable better analysis and informed decision-making on urban health issues.



# Specific Objectives

## **Sustainability, income generation**

8- Analyse possibility to exploit open data generated by the project to generate new business models for local SMEs.

## **Mobilisation and awareness**

9- Roll out a campaign to sign the "Wellbased Manifesto". Cities determined to combat energy poverty and improve the health and wellbeing of their citizens are invited to demonstrate their commitment, by signing the manifesto.



# Work Flow

7 WP's , 48 Months

Phase 1. Design urban programme to reduce energy poverty and its effects on health and wellbeing.

Phase 2. Implement the urban programme in pilots.

Phase 3. Evaluation and policy recommendations.

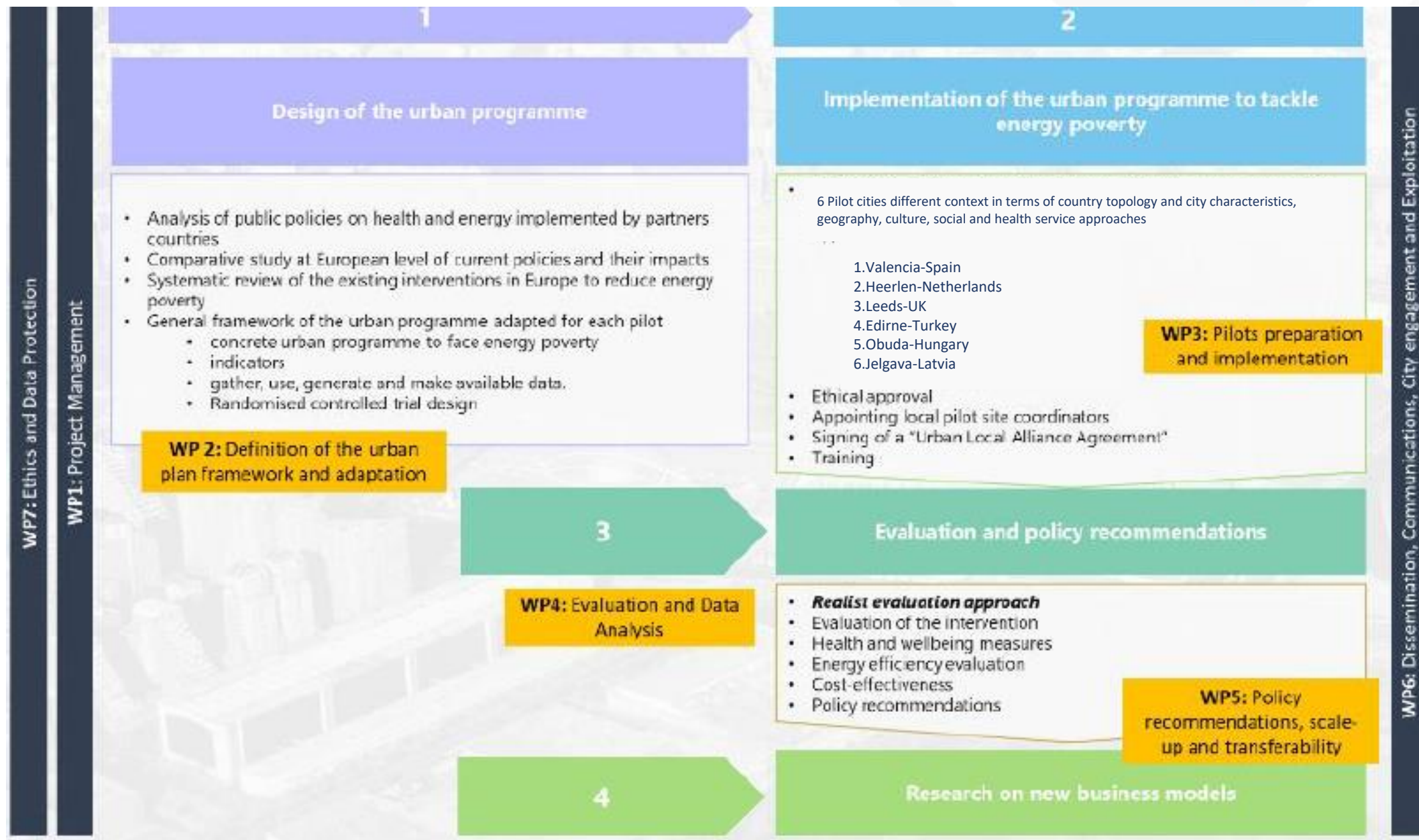
Phase 4. Research and exploration of new business models and alternative ways of financing the urban health interventions aimed at tackling energy poverty.



Wellbased work flow



# Work Flow – WP's; methodology, and phases



# Work Flow

## Main challenges

- Building knowledge: review of evidence and literature for energy poverty interventions, policies and impact on health.
- Design of the urban programme and its adaptation through co-creation by each + social determinants of health + health in all policies approach + tackle health inequalities



- 6 Pilots: Recruitment strategies (at least 125 intervention + 125 control group per pilot), deployment and type of interventions to test, ethics and data protection in different legal frameworks in-out EU, vulnerable target populations involved.



## Technical components for data gathering at home, including devices for digitally supported behavioural change interventions



# Work Flow

## Main challenges continued...

- Evaluation: dealing with diversity of interventions,
- different sources of information (health questionnaires, HER, energy consumption, city data etc.) and data collection, quantitative and qualitative data.
- Baseline, intermediate, final, follow-up 6 months later
- Realist evaluation
- Cost-effectiveness
- Digital infrastructure to support (platform)

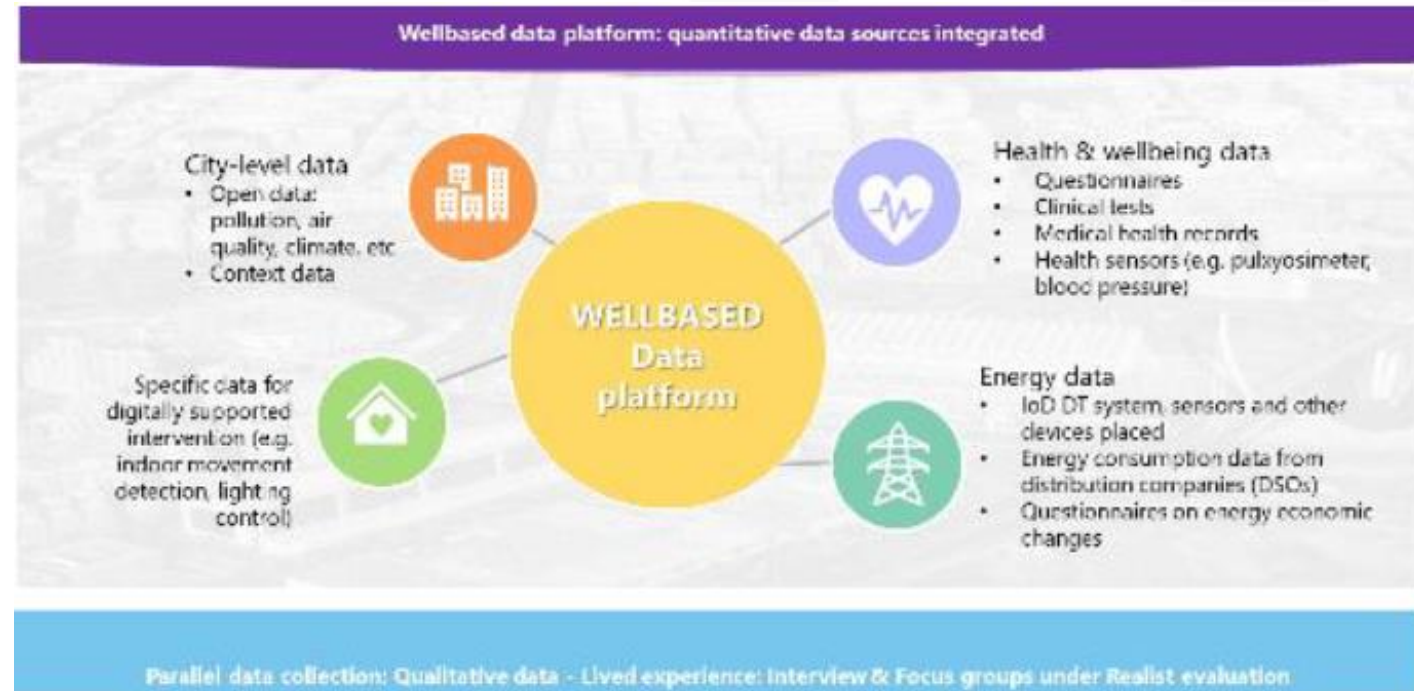


Figure 7. Data sources in the WELLBASED project



# Edirne (Turkey)

- Edirne Central District
- 24 neighbourhoods
- Total population ~ 180.000 (2020 census)

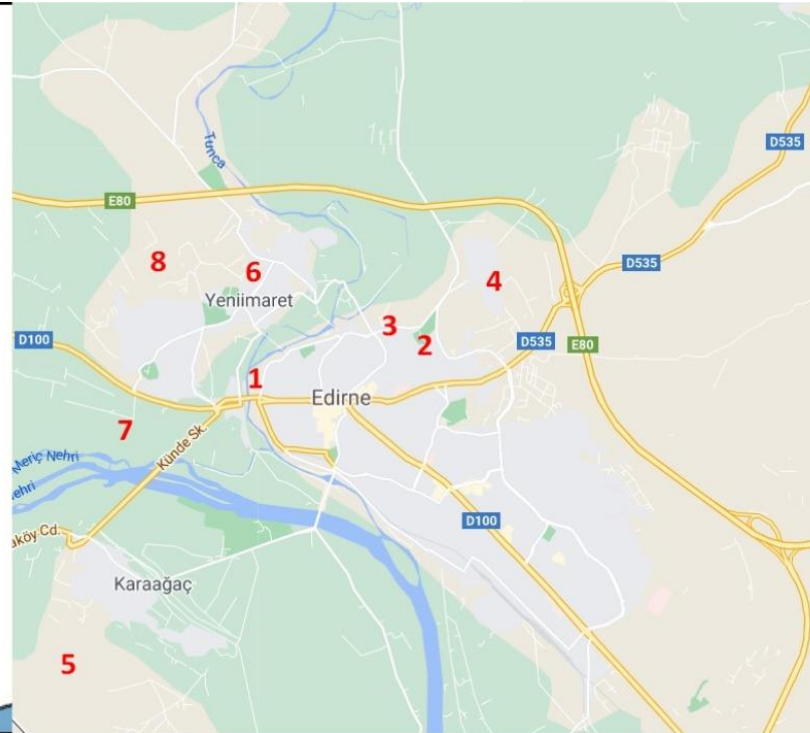
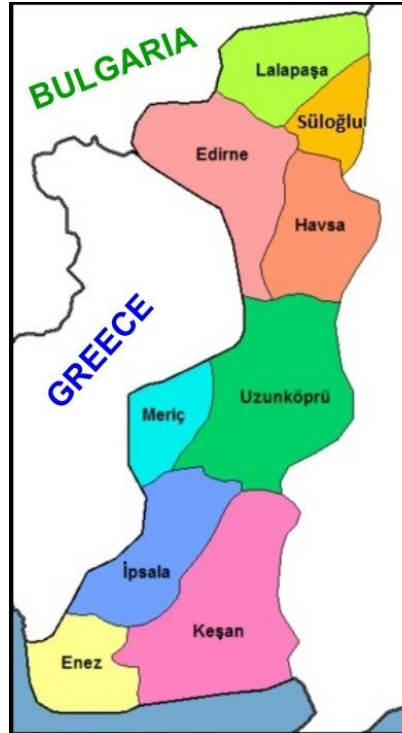


## Local Consortium :

Edirne Municipality, Demir Enerji, Zero Discrimination Association

# Edirne

8 neighbourhoods where the city's Roma population are overwhelmingly located: Gazimihal, Menzilahır, Umurbey, Barutluk, Karaağaç, Yeni İmaret, Yıldırım Beyazıd, Yıldırım Hacı Sarraf



- 1 - Gazimihal
- 2 - Menzilahır
- 3 - Umurbey
- 4 - Barutluk
- 5 - Karaağaç
- 6 - Yeni İmaret
- 7 - Yıldırım Beyazıd
- 8 - Yıldırım Hacı Sarraf



# Edirne

- Socio-economically disadvantage groups (majority Roma population)
- Estimated population of the area (unofficial as ethnicity not indicated in census)  
~ 20.000-25.000



# Edirne

## Retrofitting by municipality: before-after



# Edirne

## Socio-economic stratification of neighbourhoods

Roughly 3 categories :

- Good: 3 neighbourhoods, ~ 13.000 people, usually regular household income. Habitat conditions fair
- Medium: ~ 6.000 people , irregular household income mostly from waste circulation and re-valuation, city cleaning jobs. Habitat conditions; decrepit
- Bad: ~ 6000 people, economically depraved, very poor health and wellbeing indicators, many social problems, school attendance very low, domestic violence widespread, indebtedness and dependence on government hand-outs for subsistence. Habitat conditions ; dilapidated, ramshackle homes

**Interventions will most likely be in the 3rd category neighbourhoods**



# Edirne: Planned/Foreseen interventions

- Physical renovation of homes for energy efficiency housing 125 people in selected neighbourhoods and buildings with full consent and participation (building retrofits, potential for using recycled building materials in retrofits, local job creation etc.)
- Identification of control households with same number of people through full consensual procedures as above.
- Determination of baselines regarding public health and wellbeing, energy KPI's (energy audits for baselines and monitoring)
- Deployment of monitoring equipment and other techniques (Demand side management and behavioural change techniques)
- Information and awareness raising towards energy consciousness



## Edirne: Selection and actors

- Houses with a total of 125 inhabitants will be selected (people per household varies)
- Same number will be selected for the Control group.
- Selection will involve (as much as possible) different age, gender and other determinants of socio-economic conditions
- Recruiting based on incentives, mainly lower bills, health benefits.
- Directly involved actors; local municipality, neighbourhood associations, social help and solidarity groups, neighbourhood administrative heads (muhtar)



# Edirne: Supporting projects and strategies

- Edirne Municipality has included in its 2020-2024 Strategic Plan, specific mention of «*the aim to develop sustainable livelihoods in Roma neighbourhoods*», which includes an assortment of measures from social cohesion to home improvement provisions. In previous Strategic Plans, the Municipality has already undertaken considerable work to this effect.
- The municipality has applied for the Dosta Prize in 2019 (prize instated by The European Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion)
- ROMACTED : EU and EC Collaborative Project involving multiple municipalities from Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey. Edirne Municipality is one of the main participants of ROMACTED in Turkey, aiming to bring together local government and good governance together with grassroots participation.



# ROMACTED Children's house events



# Feeding into the WellBased Socio-Ecological Model

Design, Evaluation, Impact

## Physical interventions, monitoring and Impact

- Monitoring energy performance, costs, comfort, air quality
- Individual health and wellbeing indicators ( age, gender, other)
- Community health and wellbeing indicators
- Impacts on individual/community/social health and wellbeing
- Repercussions/lessons for social and urban policy on eradication of poverty



# Thank you

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