Recognition of Prior Learning
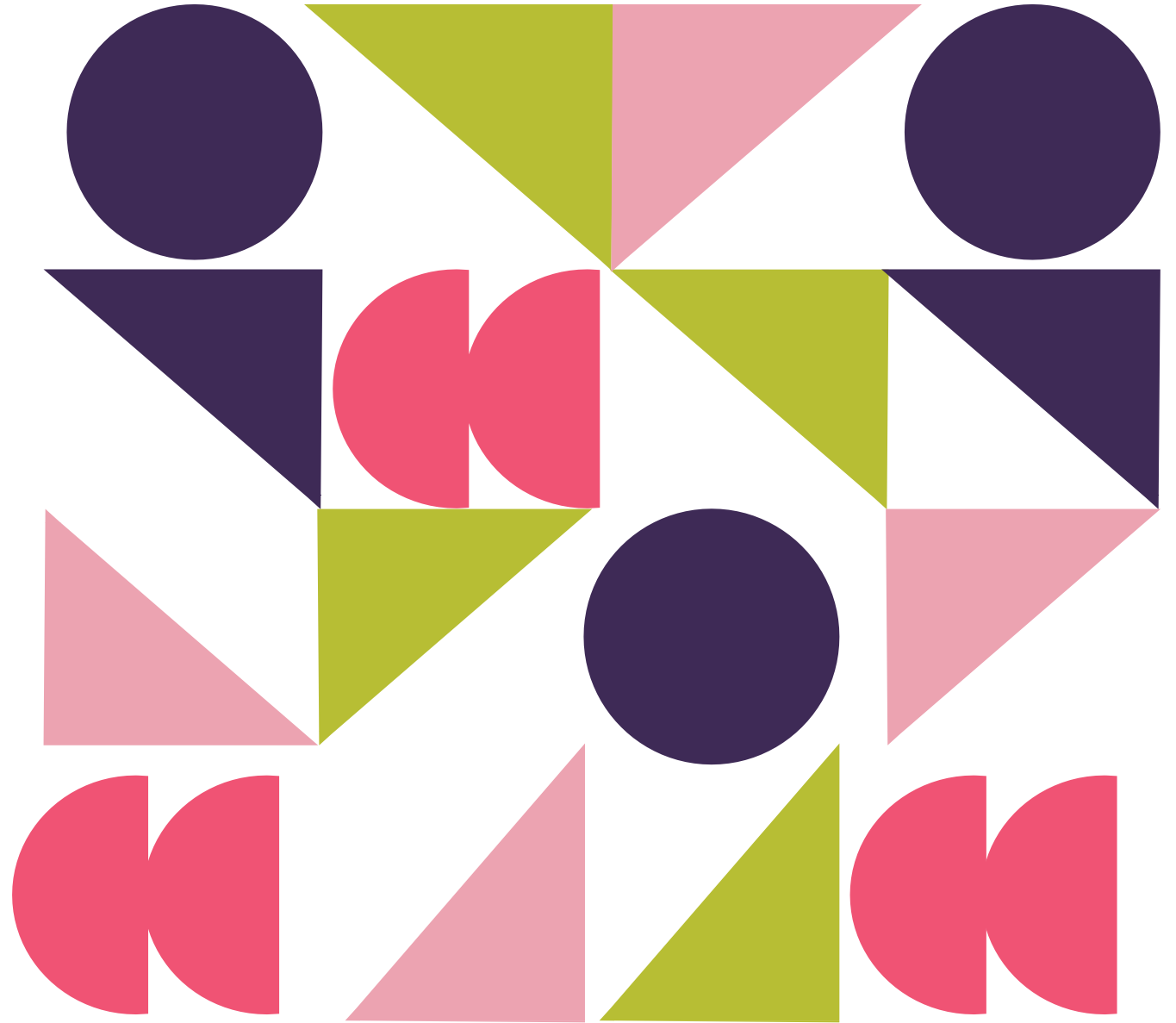**Your Learning Counts**

Workshop A7-A8 - Recognition of Prior Learning in Higher Education in Ireland & Europe: a Burden or a Benefit?

Grace Edge, Technological Higher Education Association, Ireland

Nora Trench Bowles, Irish Universities Association, Ireland

26 November 2021

Schedule	
10.15-10.35am	Welcome & Overview • Irish National Project • Today's Workshop
10.35-10.45am	Complete Survey - *Google Form*
10.45-10.50am	Dotstorming Demo
BREAK	
11.05-11.25am	Voting & Ranked Results – *Dotstorming*
11.25-11.40am	Breakout Groups
11.40-11.55am	Compare & Contrast Irish & HRK-Modus Responses
11.55am-12noon	Wrap up

RPL
Recognition of
Prior Learning
Your Learning Counts

About the National RPL in Higher Education Project (Ireland)

1. **Why** is this project needed?
2. **Who** is involved in the RPL in HE Project?
3. **What** is happening in the project right now?
4. **How** are we approaching the project?

RPL

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Your Learning Counts

Why?

What is RPL?

- Process by which a person's prior learning is given value in the context of a destination award.

- All types of learning is considered – formal, nonformal, informal

- Fundamental principles of RPL:
  - Don't have to learn something twice
  - Learning outside of formal education system is important/valuable
  - Powerful tool for personal & professional development

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What is it used for?

Access to programmes

Advanced entry

Exemptions or credit

Full awards

Used by individual learners or for cohorts (customised programmes)

Project Vision

Our vision is to make RPL an **integral and vibrant** part of a more **flexible and inclusive** higher education sector, which offers valuable **lifelong learning opportunities** to learners & enterprise.

We will **simplify and grow** RPL in a **coherent and consistent** way across the sector, making it **accessible and attractive** for everyone – learners, enterprise and higher education.
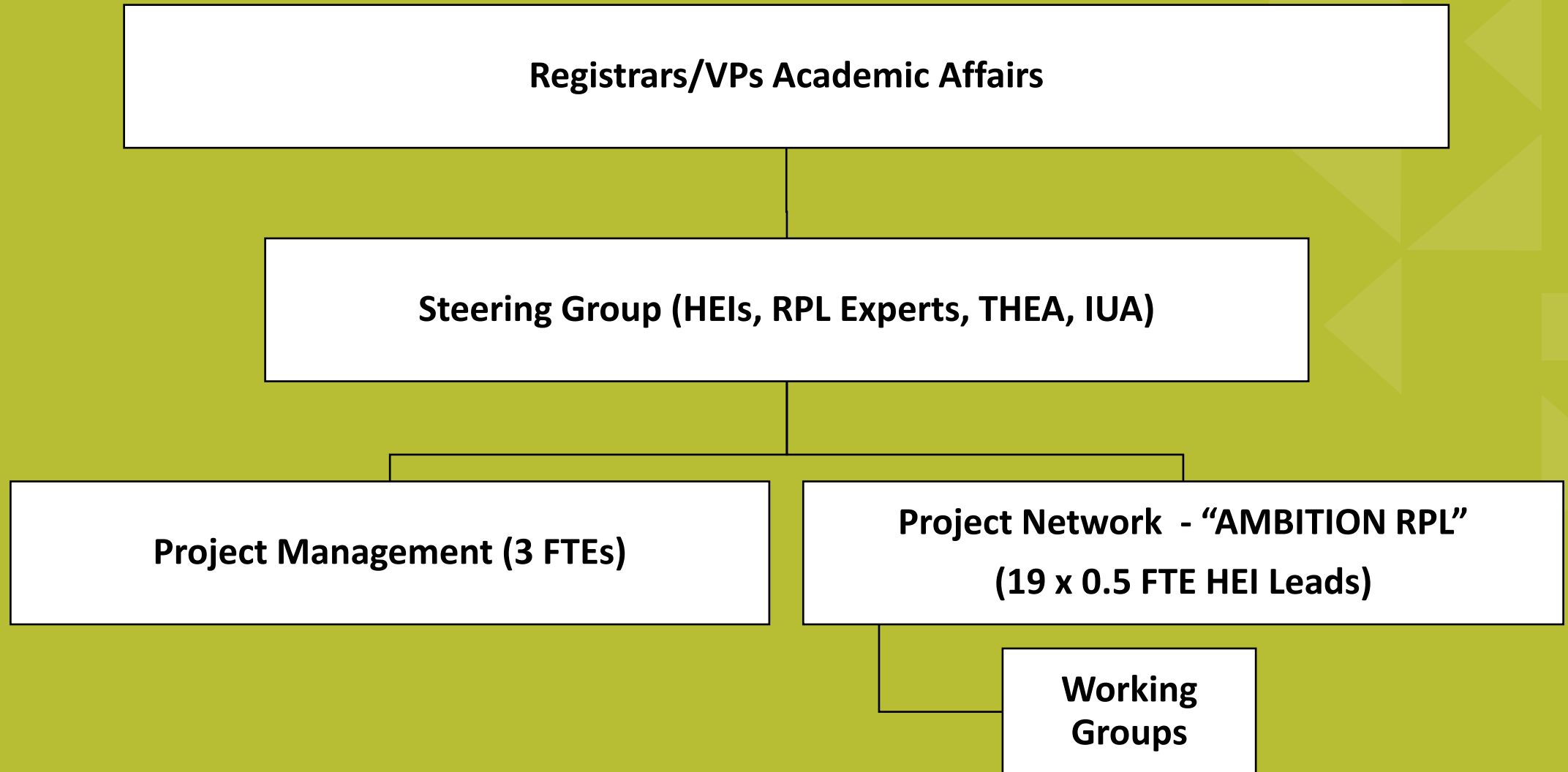
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Who?

Partners & Funding

19

Universities

Institutes of Technology

Technological Universities

Competitive funding - Higher Education Authority

HCI
Human Capital Initiative

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Governance

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│           Registrars/VPs Academic Affairs                │
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        ┌──────────────────────────────────────────┐
        │   Steering Group (HEIs, RPL Experts,      │
        │            THEA, IUA)                      │
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Registrars/VPs Academic Affairs

Steering Group (HEIs, RPL Experts, THEA, IUA)

Project Management (3 FTEs)

Project Network - "AMBITION RPL"

(19 x 0.5 FTE HEI Leads)

Working Groups

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What are we doing?

Work Streams

National Framework for Policy & Practice

Staff Development & Capacity Building

Communications & Promotion
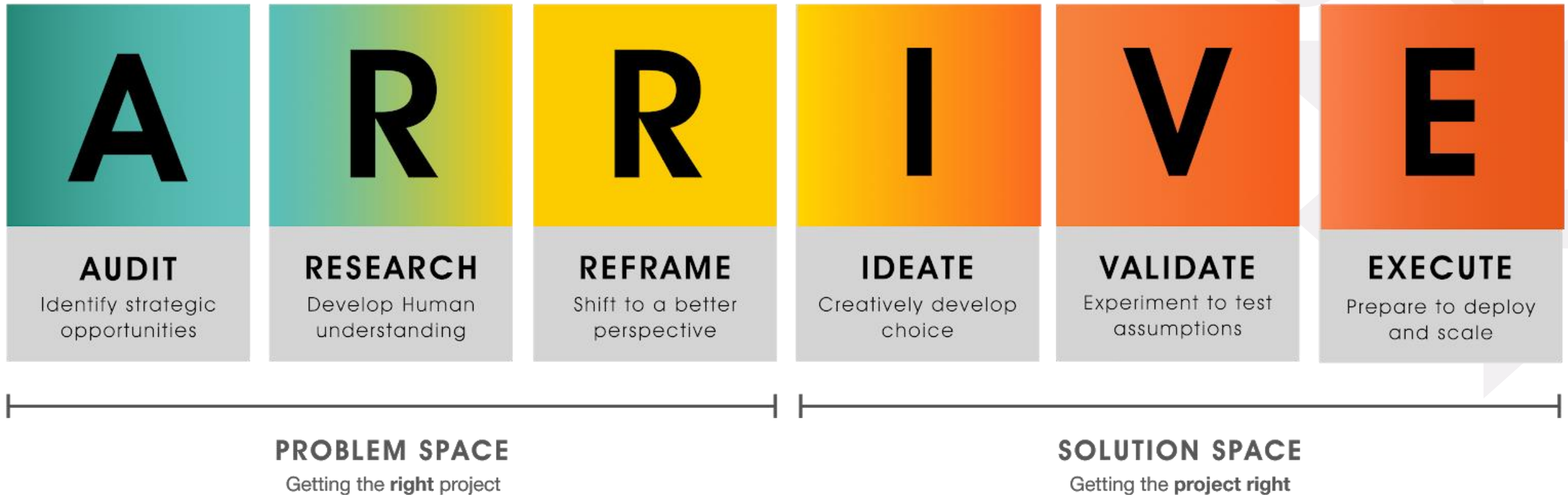
RPL for Enterprise

Institutional Action Plans

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How are we doing it?

Strategic Design in Higher Education Framework

A — AUDIT — Identify strategic opportunities

R — RESEARCH — Develop Human understanding

R — REFRAME — Shift to a better perspective

I — IDEATE — Creatively develop choice

V — VALIDATE — Experiment to test assumptions

E — EXECUTE — Prepare to deploy and scale

PROBLEM SPACE
Getting the **right** project

SOLUTION SPACE
Getting the **project right**

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Audit Workshops

2 workshops, 40 participants predominantly from HE

Bring diverse constituencies together to look at why, how, what & forces of progress

Anonymous surveying and voting to encourage openness & consensus

Develop shared understanding on current status of RPL

Crowd-source a project vision and core beliefs

Playbook for the Project Network & project stakeholders

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Today's Audit Workshop

1. Complete survey questions - Google form (10mins)

2. Read survey responses and vote - Dotstorming (20 mins)

3. Breakout Groups to discuss responses (15 mins)

4. Compare & contrast Irish & HRK-Modus responses (15 mins)

5. Wrap up (5 mins)

Survey responses & voting are ANONYMOUS

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Today's workshop

Complete the Survey Questions (10 minutes)

1. **WHY** do you think it is important to recognise/ validate all types of learning?

2. **HOW** can we ensure recognition of prior learning (RPL)/ validation is designed to meet the needs of all learners?

3. If you are rethinking the current approach to RPL, **WHAT** are your top motivators for this?

RPL

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Dotstorming Demonstration

Take a break ☺

Voting & Ranking Results

Breakout Groups

Compare
& Contrast
Responses

WHY do you think it is important to recognise/ validate all types of learning?

Irish Workshop	HRK Modus Workshop
1. Learning takes place on formal, non-formal and informal bases. Learners are subsequently hired on the basis of the totality of their learning experiences and, therefore, our HEIs should accept learners onto programmes on the same basis.	
2. To create a more equal and accessible system and to acknowledge that diversity in learning adds a richness to higher education	

ognition of
or Learning
Learning Counts

HOW can we ensure recognition of prior learning (RPL)/ validation is designed to meet the needs of all learners?

Irish Workshop	HRK Modus Workshop
1. We ensure it is embedded into the culture of the HEI with the necessary systems, supports, communications and curriculum considerations	*1.*
2. We should explicitly look at RPL from the learners' perspectives. Use plain English and processes that are as straightforward as possible. We should plan for initial interactions that are encouraging and motivating. How can we gain information to inform any initial "assessment"?	*2.*

If you are rethinking the current approach to RPL, **WHAT** are your top motivators for this?

Irish Workshop	HRK Modus
1. Higher Education landscape is changing, and we need to change with it.	1.
2. Future students expect HEIs to be more inclusive and flexible.	2.

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Wrap up

Thank you!!

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