



THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE EDUCATIONAL ACT IN THE UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENT

Oprea-Valentin BUȘU^a and Elena-Cristina ANDREI^b

^a Assistant, PhD, University of Craiova, Romania, Teacher Training Department, valentin_busu@yahoo.com, 0771020682

^b PhD, University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Craiova, Romania,
Faculty of Dentistry, andreicristina2201@gmail.com, 0767924788

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The study aims to evaluate the quality of the educational act in the university environment during the COVID pandemic19, but also the availability of students to be vaccinated. As a study method, we used the elaboration of a questionnaire, as well as the interview method during the consultation hours. Two groups of students were involved in the study: the first group was represented by first year students from the Faculty of Dentistry in Craiova, and the second group was represented by first year students from the University of Craiova, specializations Law and Theology. The global context of this pandemic has led to the implementation of teaching-learning techniques that are mainly based on the virtual contact between students and teachers, as well as the acceleration of the digitization process in education. Both medicine and the exact sciences necessarily require activities to put theoretical notions into practice. Thus, these areas were severely affected by these restrictive measures in terms of physical presence in the hospital / laboratory, resulting in a decrease in the effectiveness of teaching. The reduced availability for vaccination of students has multiple causes ranging from lack of necessary information, to religious beliefs or the most common cause being the spread in the media, but especially in the online environment of false news. This fake news is widely distributed, with numerous hits. It is no coincidence that young people are the most reluctant about the vaccination process, because they are also the ones who spend a lot of time in the online environment where they are assaulted by such news.

Keywords: vaccine; COVID-19; digitization; education, media.

INTRODUCTION

The onset of the COVID pandemic19 has produced significant changes in all areas. The most affected was the health field, because a dual pressure was felt on it: to get involved in the prevention and treatment of cases of this new virus and to mobilize all its human and material resources in order to discover a vaccine. and treatment plan.

Another severely affected sector with a major impact on human development is the education system. Regardless of the educational cycle, a series of common problems were highlighted: the decrease of the quality of the human inter-relationship between student-teacher, the reduced motivation of pupils and students for study, the difficulty to take evaluations/exams, because there is no good supervision, the impossibility to put into practice the theoretical notions taught in the course (this aspect represented an enormous disadvantage

for the medical specializations and of the exact sciences).

In order to maintain a balance and to be able to make possible the physical presence of the students at the faculty, it is necessary to observe rigorous hygiene norms such as wearing masks, frequent hand hygiene, physical distance, ventilation of rooms, etc. Even if all these measures are observed, there will still be cases of covid disease19, but the cause is not the physical presence at classes, but the fact that students can become infected outside the educational institution in spaces where the hygiene rules stated previously are not respected.

Thus, the only solution to control the emergence of new cases of disease is vaccination. The vaccination process has been the most effective method of prophylaxis since ancient times, as demonstrated by the eradication of many diseases or at least the existence of rare cases (Safar, 2020). Both in our country and globally, there is the problem of false news propagated predominantly online. Choosing the online environment is not accidental at all, because in this

virtual space young people spend most of their time. This is also the main cause of reluctance among adolescents and young people regarding vaccination against COVID19. Social networks are an excellent means of influence through various techniques: suggestion, persuasion, instigation (Dushkina, 2008). The aim of our study is to identify the main causes that determine young people's reluctance to vaccinate against covid19, but also how the interruption of courses / laboratories has affected the quality of education in the university environment.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was based on the questionnaire method applied to a sample of 143 students. The students were divided into two groups: the first group was represented by students from the Faculty of Medicine in Craiova in the first year, and the second group was represented by students from the University of Craiova specializations Law and Theology throughout the year I. The

questionnaire includes a number of 15 questions, 12 with single complement and 3 with multiple complement. The questions of the questionnaire concern the availability of students to be vaccinated against covid19, the degree of information they have about this new pathology and the methods by which it can be prevented, the sources from which students obtain information about the anti-covid vaccine19, the degree affecting the educational process due to the cessation of practical activities.

RESULT

Another aspect raised by the students was to express their opinion on the intervention in the online environment and in the media of people who do not have medical knowledge (they are not part of the medical staff), but who provide information about the vaccine covid19. Most students said they disagree (73%), agree to a small extent (21.7%) and only 5.2% strongly agree.

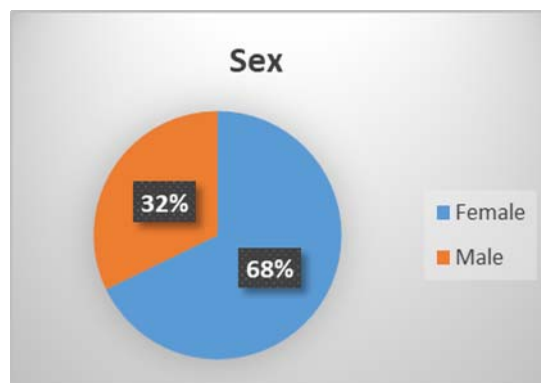


Figure 1. Distribution of students according to sex.

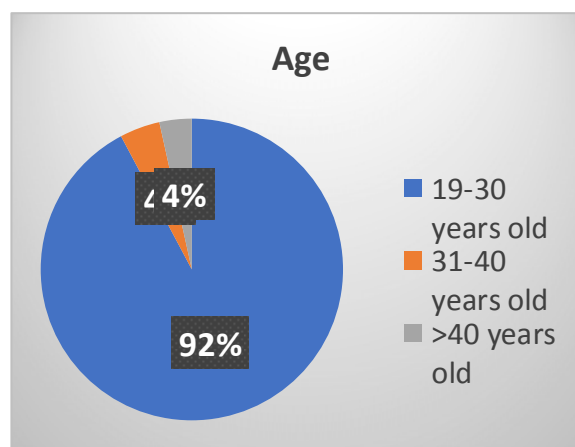


Figure 2. Distribution of students according to age.

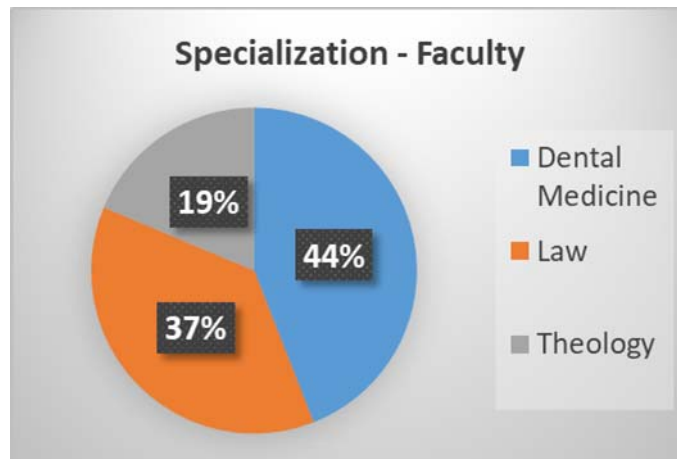


Figure 3. Distribution of students according to specialization.

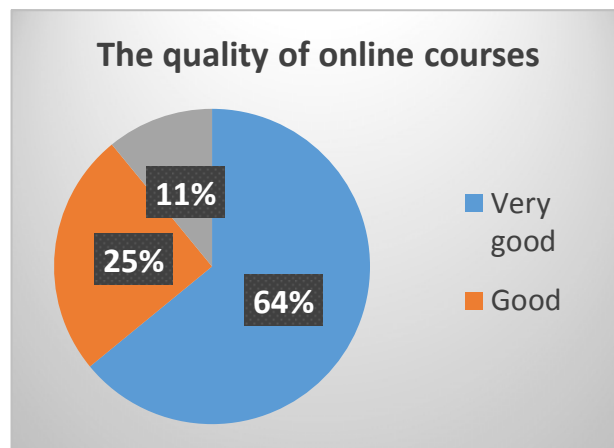


Figure 4. The results showed that the online courses were high quality, with most students being satisfied.

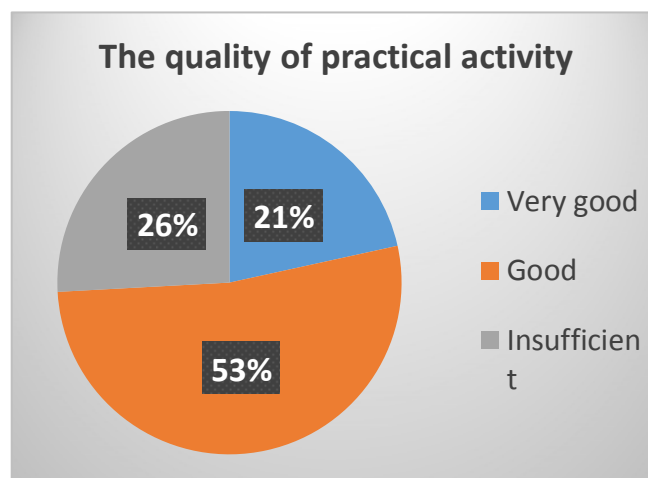


Figure 5. Compared to the courses, the practical activity was noticed as having a lower quality.

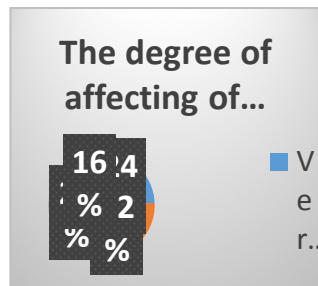


Figure 6. The results show that most students were affected by stopping physical attendance at college. This aspect also derives from the fact that the impossibility of the students to go at the faculty makes impossible the implementation of the theoretical information.

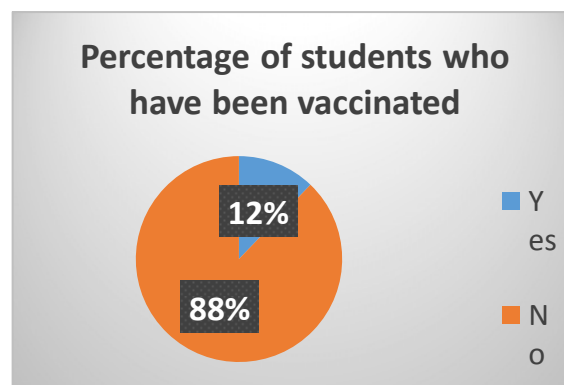


Figure 7. So far we see that only 12% of students have been immunized by vaccination. This result can be improved through good information and good organization of the vaccination process.

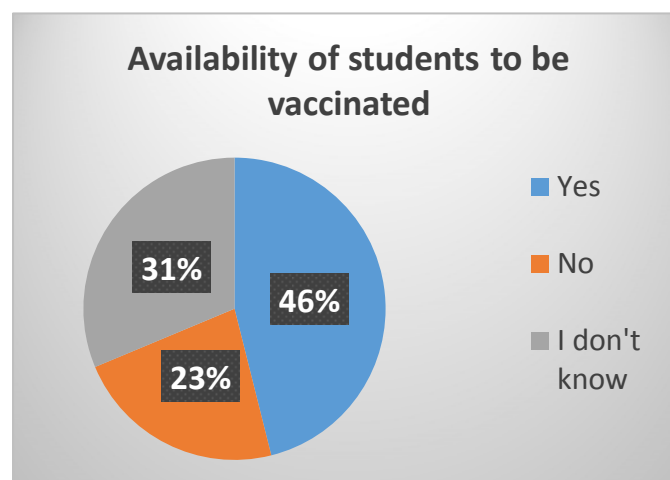


Figure 8. The positive factor is presented by most students who are available to get vaccinated.

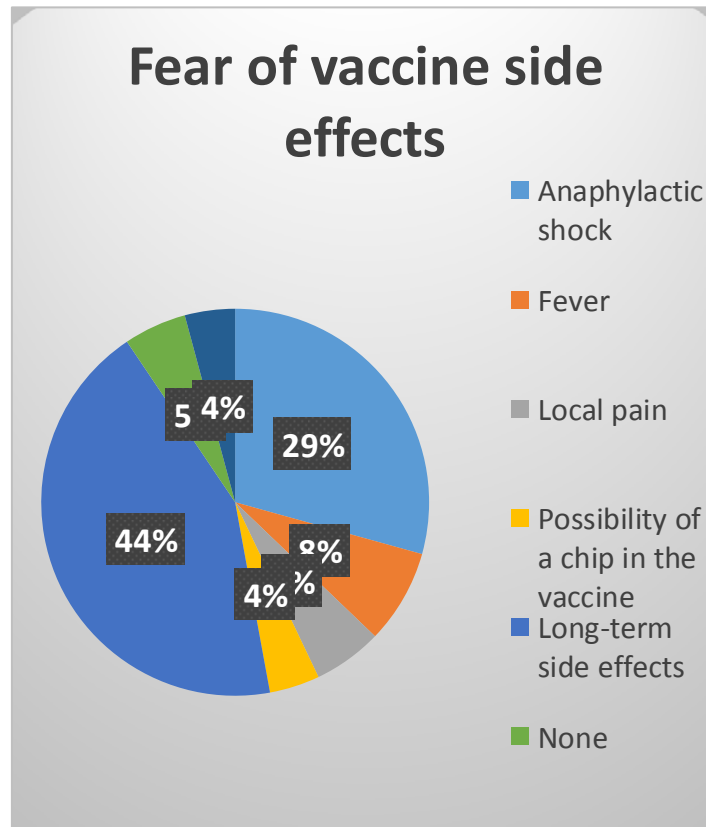


Figure 9. Although anaphylactic shock is the most dangerous adverse effect, it seems that the long-term side effects are worrying in bigger percentage. We can also see that there were several students who followed the conspiracy theory regarding the existence of a chip in the vaccine. Also, fever is a common reaction, but from the students' answers we notice that it is not a cause for concern.

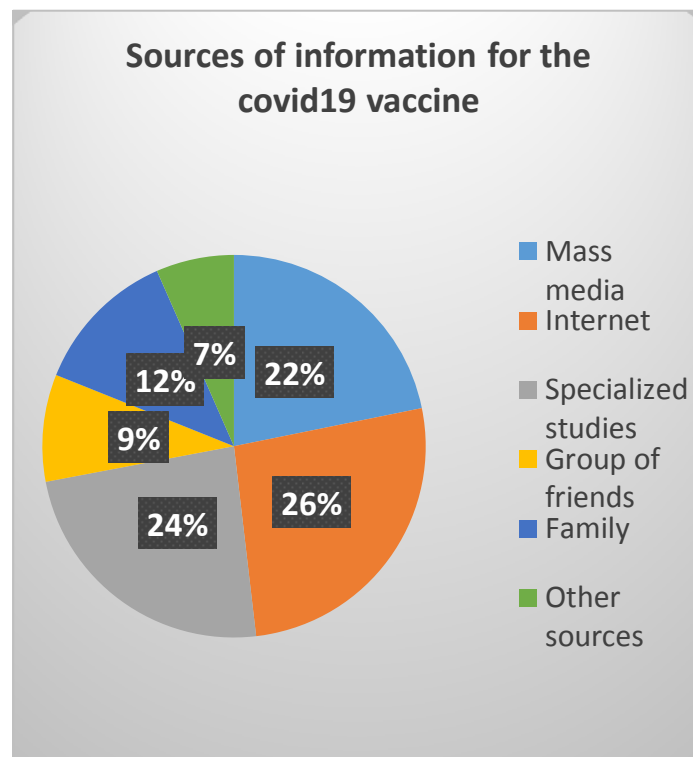


Figure 10. The results showed that among students the Internet is the main source of information. Another important aspect is that many students also resort to specialized medical studies (books, scientific articles). The mass-media continues to play an important role. Compared to the group of friends, students tend to be more influenced by family regarding the vaccine.

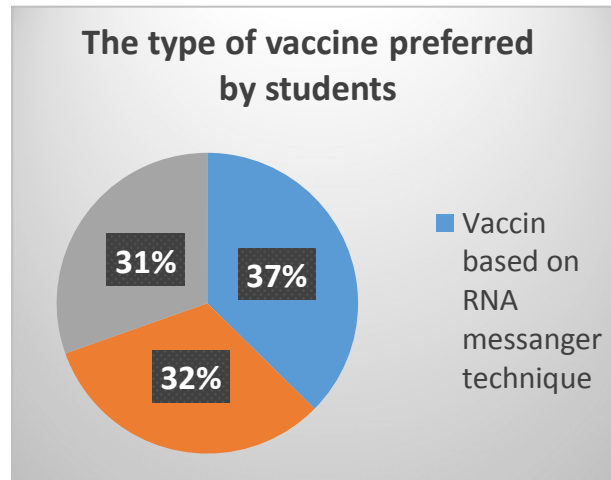


Figure 11. The results show that most students would choose the vaccine based on the RNA messenger technique. This choice is probably influenced by the fact that information has been promoted that the classic vaccine has several side effects.

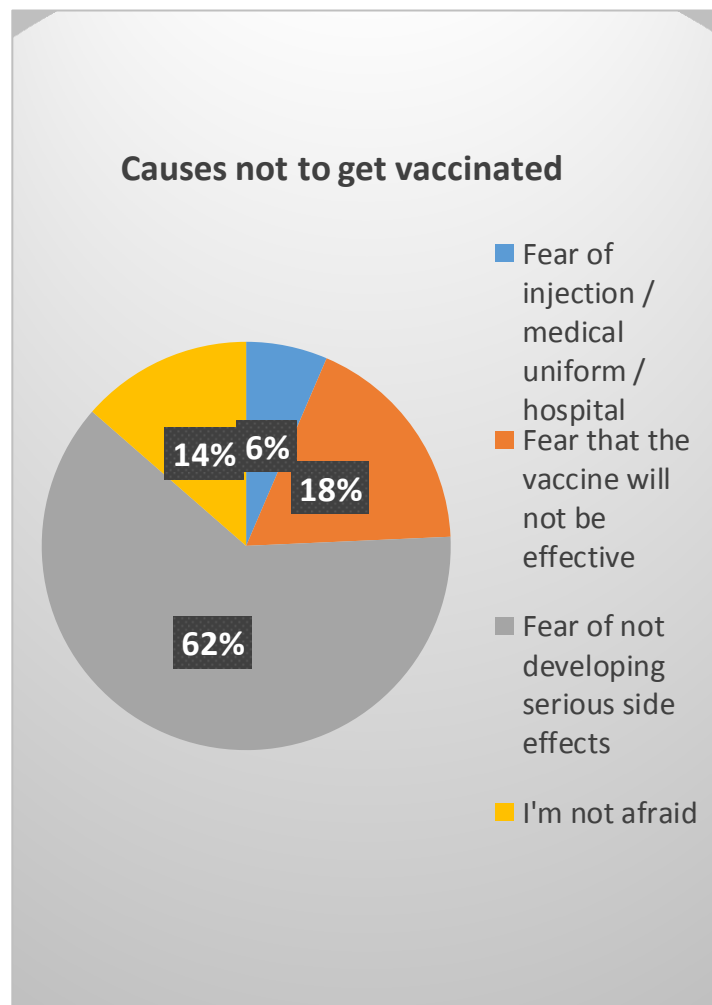


Figure 12. Regarding the reasons why students would not be vaccinated, we can observe that the major fear is not to develop long-term side effects. Also, a significant percentage of students (18%) feel insecure about the effectiveness of the vaccine.

DISCUSSIONS

Manipulations in the online and media environment have been applied mainly through verbal means of influence (Dushkina, 2008). Thus, both on social networks and in various television shows, videos appear in which various so-called "influencers" try to influence adolescents and young people and often manage not to accept being vaccinated against coronavirus. If we carefully analyze the discourses of influencers we can highlight a number of common elements:

- **the presence of valuable informative questions** such as: "*How can* vaccination guarantee us a return to normal life?" or "*Why should we get* vaccinated if the restrictions remain in force?"

- **finding the facts or lacking them**: "*The facts prove* that the mortality rate of this pandemic is below 1%."

- **punctual findings**: "*Compared to* other pandemics, the mortality rate is extremely low."

- **promoting the principle of transparency in communication**: "*I want us to trust each other*; so you write to me all the abuses you were subjected to during the pandemic, and I take steps to remedy them. "

- **promoting the principle of willingness to cooperate**: "*I am ready to work with you* to eliminate the constraints related to this new vaccine."

- **tone of voice during lectures**: although it is difficult to notice this aspect, in most speeches that spread false information about the vaccine is used an increasing tone of voice, due to anxiety caused by lying (Mery, 2017);

- **avoiding the contradiction of the audience or masking the situation**- the presenter of the show avoids contradicting his spectators, and if he is forced then he will do it in a subtle way without harming the spectator's image, also managing to induce him to say yes but if he listened to his advice he would increase his benefits (Carnegie, 2017);

- **the preference of using the internet and social networks** by those who want to disseminate false information to as many people as possible is a very well thought out and analyzed, because this online environment is frequented by many professional categories and individuals of all ages. for which erroneous information quickly reaches the masses of people; thus the internet occupies a particularly important place in terms of the misinformation process. The Internet is a useful and efficient

means of information only if the information is filtered, verified, otherwise it can turn into a propaganda device harmful to the quality of life (Volkoff);

- **the pandemic context tends to bring to the forefront a *war of information*** having as a starting point the medical field. This is not a new situation. Such manipulations have taken place in the past: for example the Soviet manipulation that had as its subject the case of AIDS pathology when it was tried to cultivate anti-American feelings (Volkoff);

- **it is absolutely normal for each person to be motivated to gather information from the external environment in order to have good documentation, but it is also very important how they filter the information received.** There are different categories of individuals: those who have an internal pattern that evaluates information received objectively and well documented from reliable sources, being little or not at all prone to manipulative attacks and another category of individuals who have an external pattern. The latter represent the category of influential people who do not verify the data received and take them as such. They do not do research (Charvet). In general, people with an external pattern are those who come from vulnerable social categories. In the case of this pandemic, the focus was on teenagers and young people, because they already had the channel (internet, social networks) in which to distribute an enormous amount of information in a fast time.

The effects of media communication is a complex aspect, because they often produce multiple transformations in society. These transformations can be partial or total depending on the impact generated, which leads to changes in human behavior (Balaban, 2009). Negative journalistic communication makes its presence felt especially in periods of maximum vulnerability, as in the current period of the COVID pandemic19 when most individuals have accumulated a quantity of frustration (Enachescu, 2003). Victims of negative journalism are generally represented either by individuals who have completely lost confidence in state institutions and public authorities, or by influential, naive individuals. In a situation where negative journalism exerts too much pressure on individuals in society, we can witness important changes in citizens' perceptions, observing how more and more people choose to live in error, a lie simply because it is easier to tolerate (Vladutescu, 2006).

If we carefully analyze the news that produce misinformation about the anti-COVID vaccine19 we can notice the frequent use of words or phrases with strong impact that can cause change in thinking or at least induce the viewer a moment of reflection on the subject, let time for interpretations, re-evaluations of one's own principles of life. What happens in the online environment and in certain media trusts in the case of fake news about the vaccination process can certainly be framed in manipulation and not in persuasion, because all control is in the hands of the manipulator, not the receiver. (Stanciugelu, 2009). The fact that events have evolved rapidly in this direction is an alarm signal, because the scale of these actions endangers the health and life of the individual. Therefore, the institutions authorized in order to evaluate the informational quality must notify themselves in order to verify the aspects related to the structural, semantic and pragmatic quality of the information provided to the spectators (Vladutescu, 2002).

Fake news has led to the onset of other phenomena than public misinformation. They led to the division of society and the accentuation of the concept of discrimination. Basically, the society was divided into two camps: the camp of those who support vaccination and believe in its beneficial effects on health and the camp of anti-vaccination people. This division of individuals results in the occurrence of violence. Verbal violence is most frequently noticed, only in extreme cases it can lead to physical violence. Even among students, there have been numerous conflicts on this topic of anti-COVID vaccination19, and bullying manifestations can be seen especially in the online environment on social networks (Alexa, 2014).

CONCLUSIONS

The COVID pandemic 19 has radically changed society both in terms of individual lifestyle and service delivery. The medical sector was the most affected, being subjected to a huge pressure that required the hiring of a large number of professionals in the field to treat infected patients, but also required the timely mobilization of human and financial resources involved in research. This mobilization made it possible to create a vaccine in

a relatively short time. This short period of time has given rise to much speculation, being the starting point of many conspiracy theories. Few know, however, that messenger RNA platform was not discovered in a hurry now, but about 15 years ago, but did not benefit from financial resources to be able to be used to its full capacity and for various medical purposes (from treatments up to vaccines).

The causes of mistrust in COVID vaccines19 come largely from information from the external environment (especially online and the media). People should document official and up-to-date sources on the evolution of the pandemic and the effectiveness of the vaccine. Such sources are represented by medical scientific articles, medical books, online medical education platform.

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