

# Zero Waste Live!



11 May 2021 - 02.00 p.m. CEST

## ARE WE GETTING CLOSER TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN EUROPE?



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*Zero Waste Europe*

*Are we getting closer to a circular economy in Europe?*

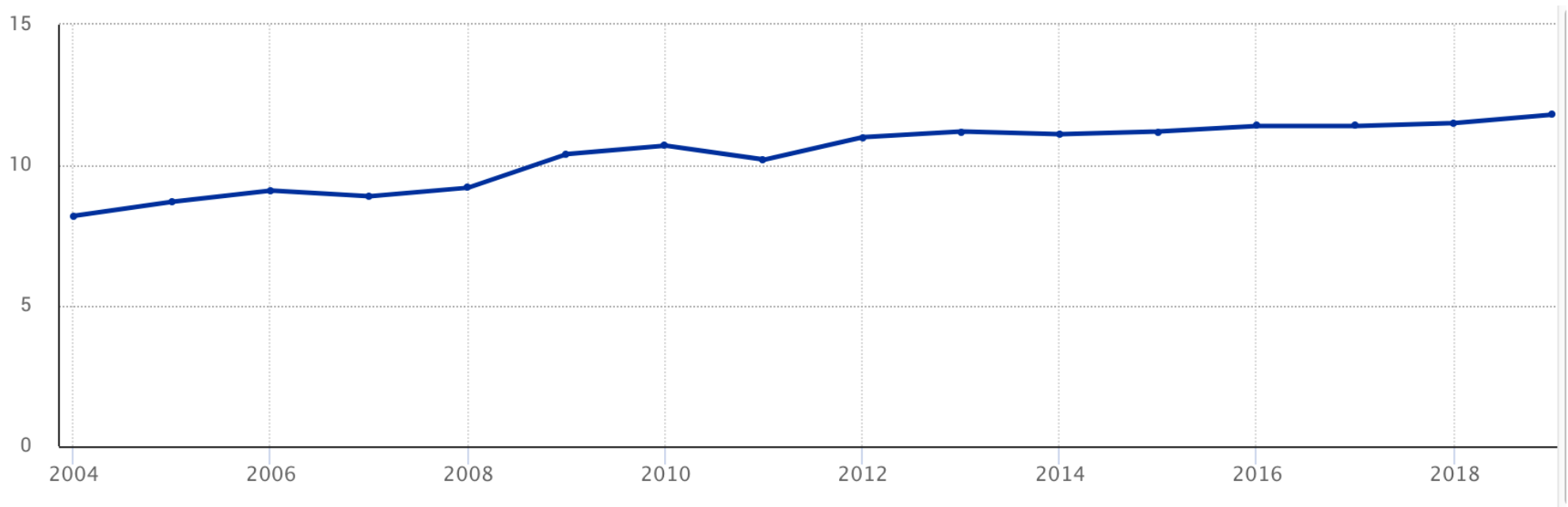
**More focus on prevention, please!**

—

Henning Wilts

May 11th, 2021

# Circular material use rate, 2004-2019 – incremental improvements and a silver lining on the horizon

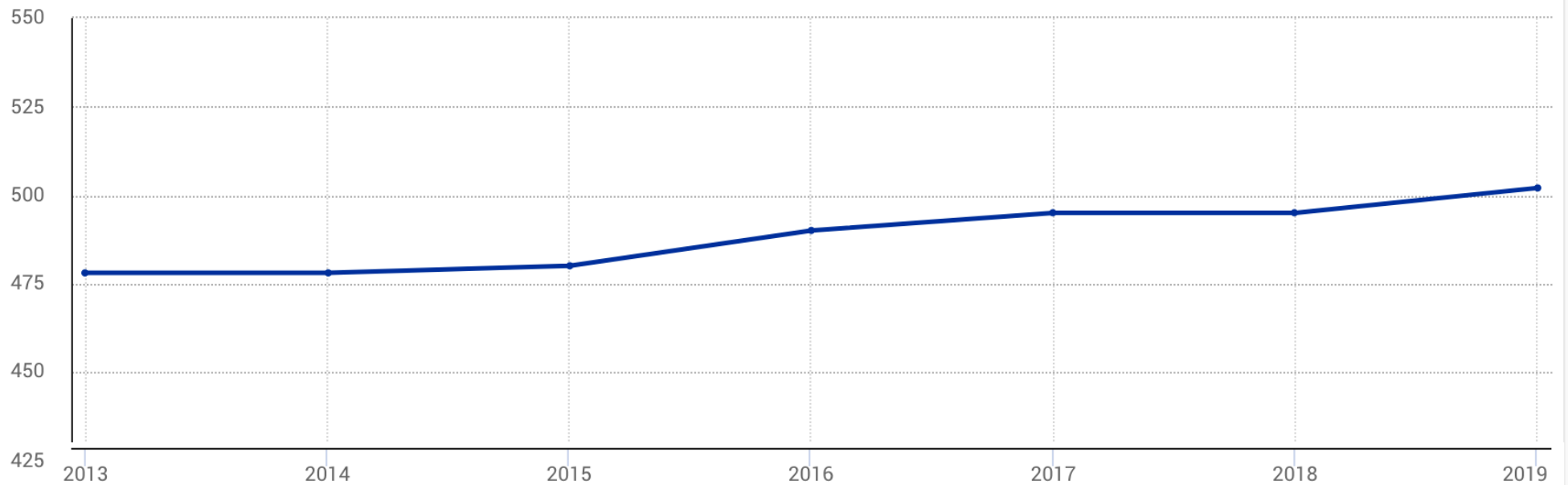


European Union - 27 countries (from 2020)

[Disclaim](#)

Source: European Commission 2021.

# Municipal solid waste generation per capita in kg – why care about less waste if it is becoming a resource?



European Union - 27 countries (from 2020)

Source: European Commission 2021.

# Vision 2050 – a carbon neutral and resource light circular economy

**What are key leverages towards circularity?**

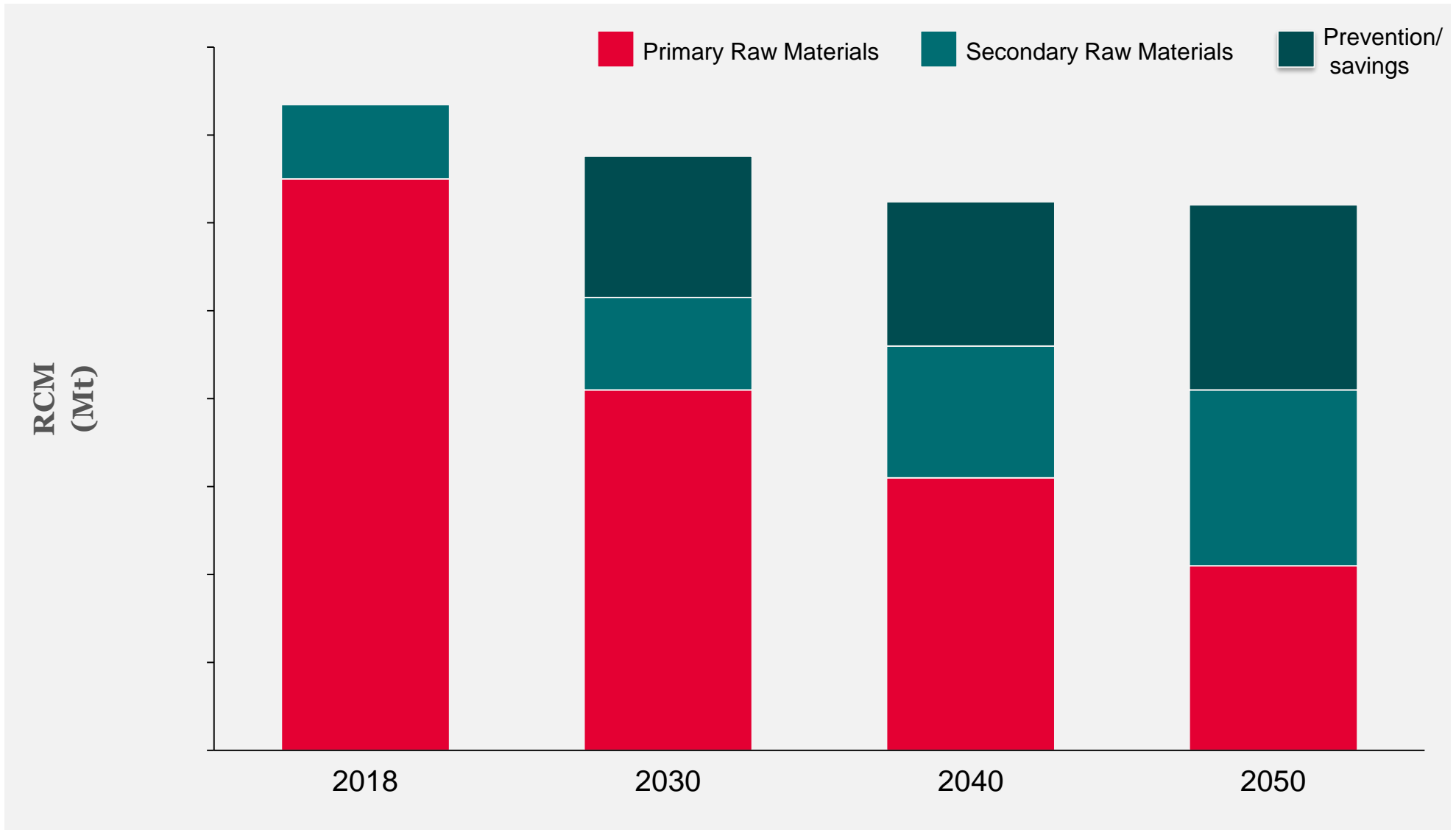
**What is needed for specific sectors (packaging, batteries)?**

- <https://www.circular-economy-initiative.de/publikationen>



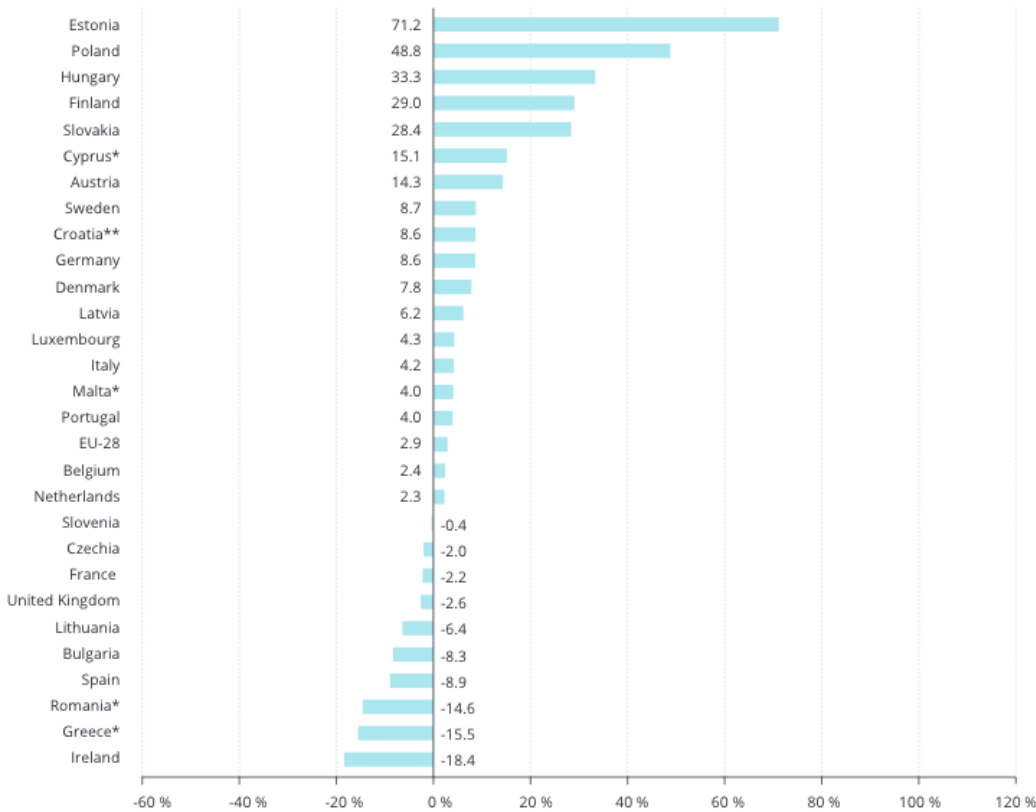
Resource savings from recycling: 50%  
Economic savings from recycling: 10%

➤ Higher profits, higher risks...



# How to support waste prevention?

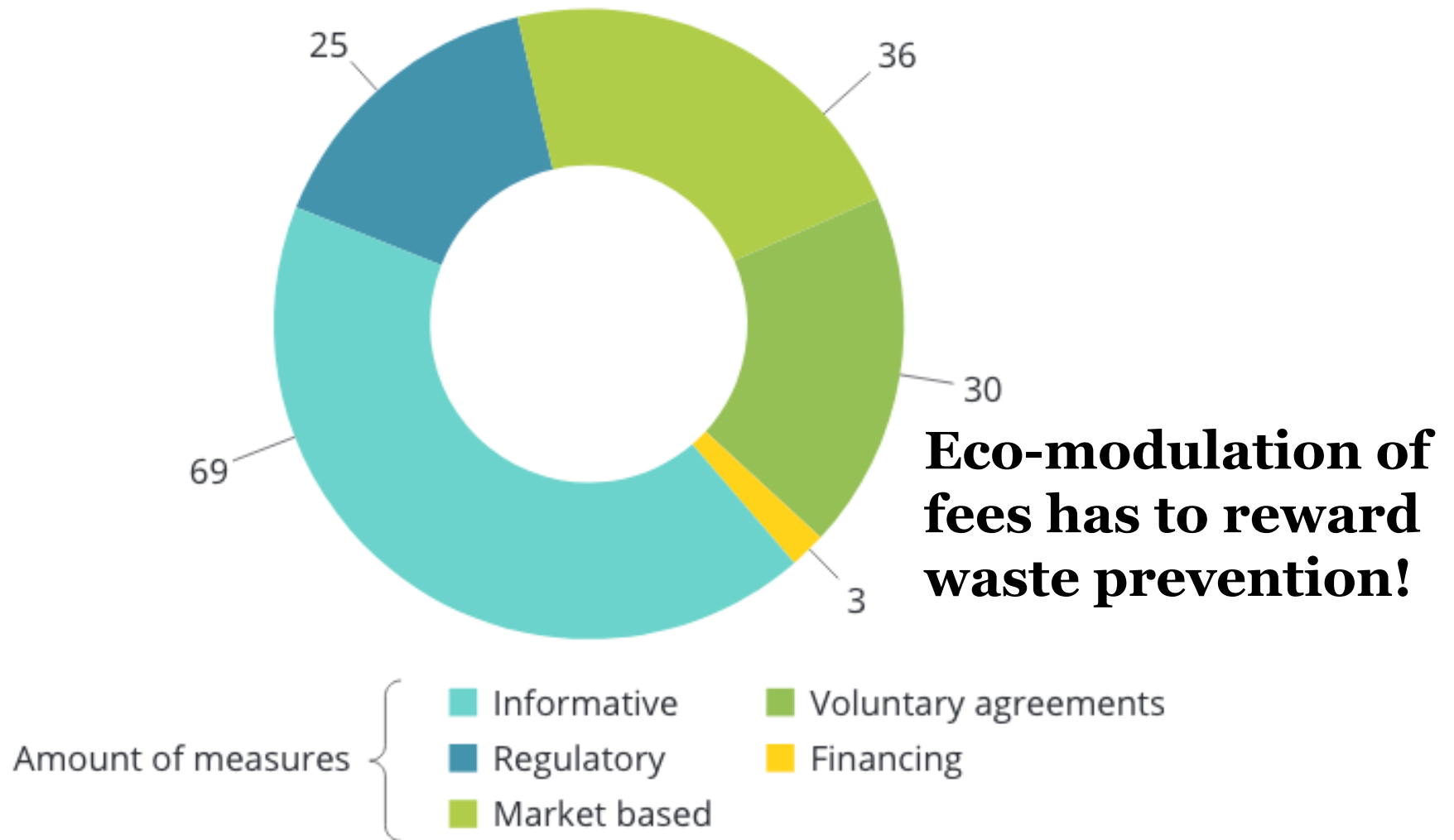
## Changes in plastic packaging waste intensity, 2007-2016



Source: EEA 2020



# How to support waste prevention? Increasing share of stringent measures, but clear focus on single use plastics





- **Global textile production has tripled since 1975, number of collections per year increased from 2 to 24**
  - **Online sales lead to increasing share of returned goods that are often disposed or downcycled**
  - **CO<sub>2</sub> emissions linked to textiles exceed international flights!**
- 
- **EPR system for textiles**
  - **Ban on disposal/ incineration of over productions and returned products**
  - **Support for your new business models**
  - **Prevention targets!**

**Thank you very much  
for your attention!**



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