



Citizen Science at Universities

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A Template for 'Citizen Science Single Point of Contact'

Tiberius Ignat,
Scientific Knowledge Services

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Citizen Science is a pillar of the
European Commission's Open
Science Policy Platform (OSPP)

non-scientists
active contribution to science
intellectual effort
knowledge
tools
resources

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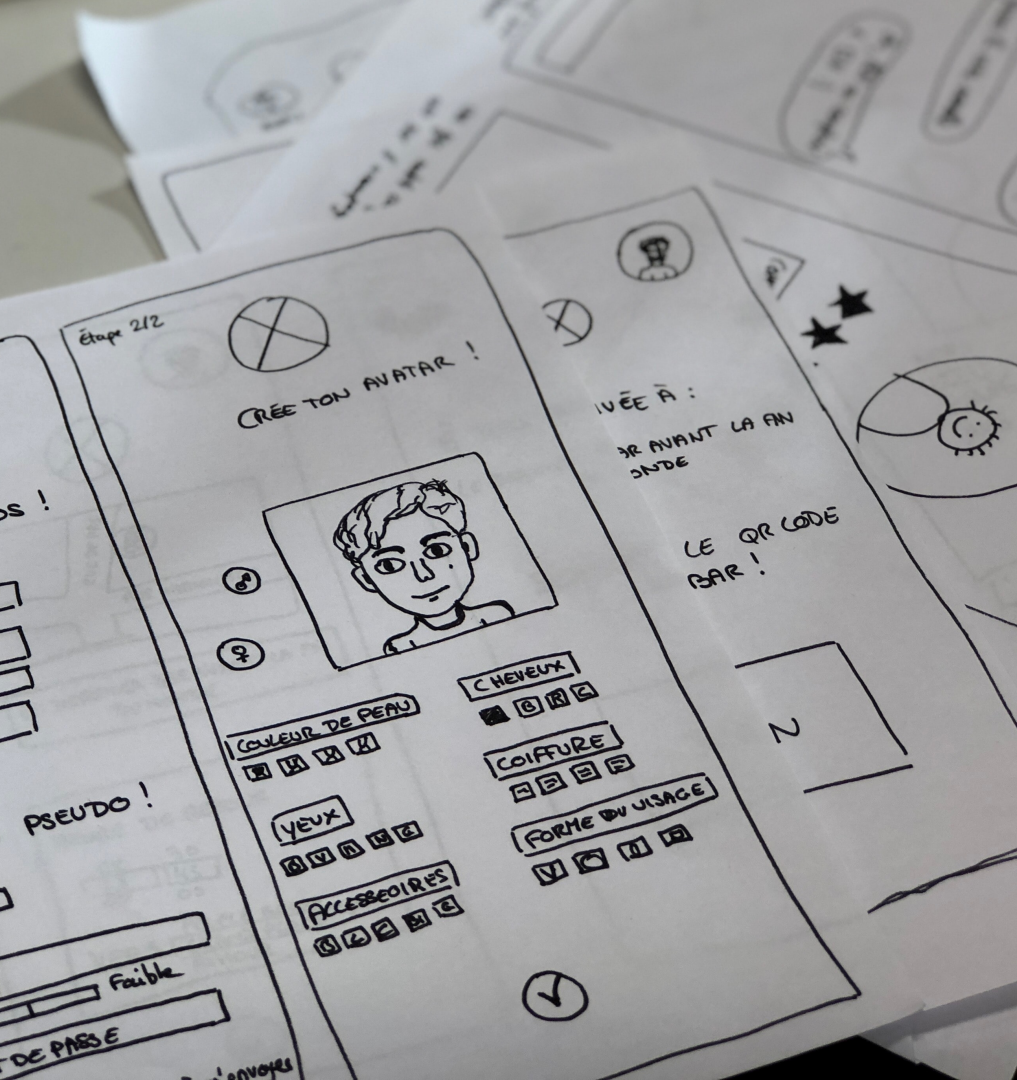
ADVICE PAPER
No.20 - OCTOBER 2016

CITIZEN SCIENCE AT
UNIVERSITIES: TRENDS,
GUIDELINES AND
RECOMMENDATIONS

LERU
ADVICE PAPER no.20
(2016)

LEAGUE OF EUROPEAN RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

University of Amsterdam - Universitat de Barcelona - University of Cambridge - University of Edinburgh
University of Freiburg - Université de Genève - Universität Heidelberg - University of Helsinki
Universität Leiden - KU Leuven - Imperial College London - University College London - Lund University
Pierre & Marie Curie University - Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München - University of Oxford
Utrecht University - University of Zurich



A Single Point of Contact for Citizen Science

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A Single Point of Contact for Citizen Science

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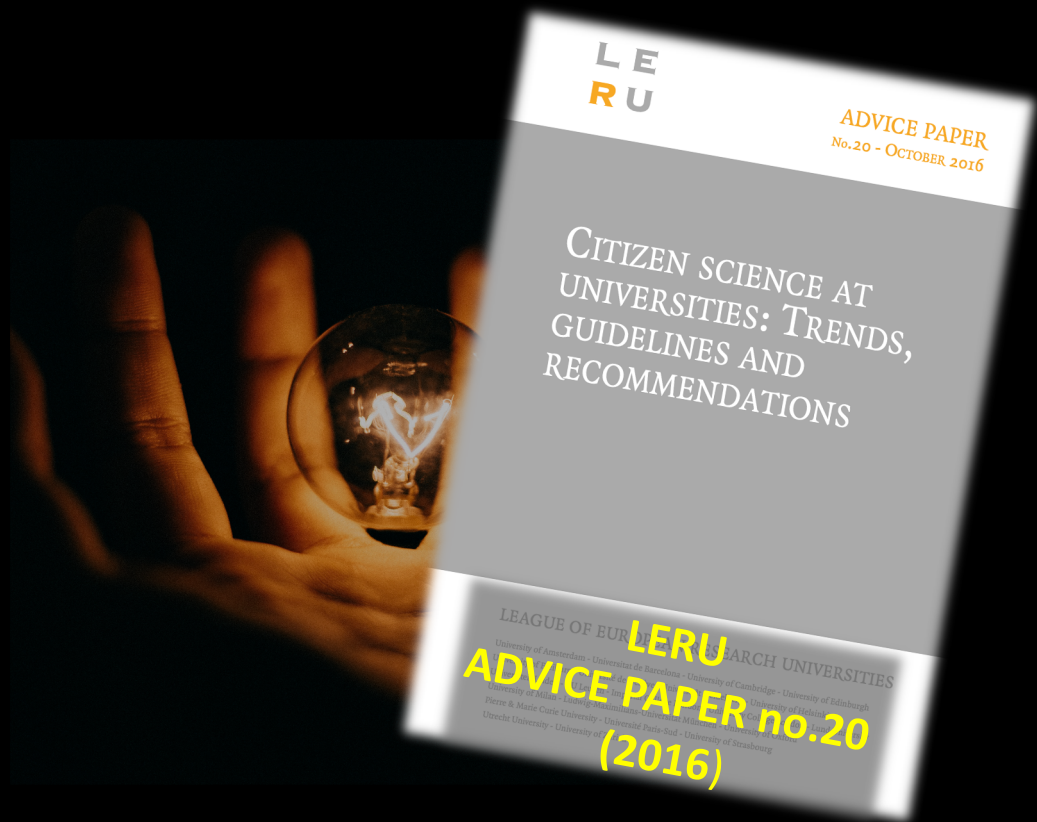
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Recommendations for institutions

For universities, the recommendations are to:

1. Recognise citizen science as an evolving set of research methods, as well as its societal and educational benefits;
2. Consider creating, where viable, a single point of contact for citizen science within the institution, to advise scientists and ensure liaison with national and regional citizen science initiatives;
3. Raise awareness amongst researchers of criteria for successful citizen science, including community management, pedagogical practices, open science standards and social, intergenerational and gender diversity policies issues.
4. Ensure that proposals to granting bodies for citizen science projects include long-term commitment for infrastructures and data repositories, in line with other research projects with long-term scientific or societal benefits;
5. Ensure that project participants comply with ethical, legal and privacy regulations relevant to the scope of a given citizen science project, and have access to professional advice for this purpose;
6. Adapt research evaluation and reputation systems to include metrics that can characterise projects with a high societal impact, such as successful citizen science projects, and develop ways of assessing citizen participation.

LEARNING RESEARCH NETWORKS OF EUROPEAN RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

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Built to last! Embedding open science principles and practice into European universities

The purpose of this article is to examine the cultural change needed by universities, as identified by LERU in its report *Open Science and its role in universities: a roadmap for cultural change*. It begins by illustrating the nature of that cultural change. Linked to that transformation is a necessary management change to the way in which organizations perform research. Competition is not the only, or necessarily the best, way to conduct this transformation. Open Science brings to the fore the values of collaboration and sharing. Building on a number of Focus on Open Science Workshops held over five years across Europe, the article identifies best practice in changing current research practices, which will then contribute to the culture change necessary to deliver open science. Four case studies, delivered at Focus on Open Science Workshops or other conferences in Europe, illustrate the advances that are being made: the findings of a Workshop on Collaboration and Competition at the OAI 11 meeting in Geneva in June 2019; alternative publishing platforms, exemplified by UCL Press; open data, FAIR data and reproducibility; and a Citizen Science Workshop held at the LIBER Conference in Dublin in June 2019.

Keywords

Open science; change management; open access publishing; research data management; citizen science; research metrics

"Stakeholders should be open to open science, preparing for the future, not clinging to the past."

Introduction

Open science as cultural change

Open science, that is open research and open scholarship in all disciplines, is a different way of pursuing scholarship. Today, science is carried out in a highly competitive framework. Researchers and organizations compete to promote their scientific assumptions, to win funds, to be the first to discover something or find solutions, and/or to get the best publication space to communicate their success and make their conclusions shine. In this landscape, researchers compete to publish more, compete for attention, and/or compete to win comparative assessments. There is an important observation we should make here: competition is about winning a race where the rules are set by others. Success is measured by someone else's definition of it. Competition is one important element of human progress, but it is not the only one and it usually works better when it is related to other elements, like collaboration.

The authors of this article started to organize a series of events on open science throughout Europe in 2015. The series is called 'Focus on Open Science,' with a mission to promote the concept of, values for and best practices in open science to European communities. Each of these events (called chapters) is organized in close collaboration with a local academic institution, in this way determining each year the topics that are most suitable to be discussed within their own open science landscape, but having in mind the overall recommendations on open science from the European Commission (EC). The series started with one chapter in Ljubljana and the team went on to deliver 11 events in 2019. We reached a number of conclusions during these events and many of them have helped us to orient this opinion piece.



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<https://insights.uksg.org/articles/10.1629/uksg.501/>

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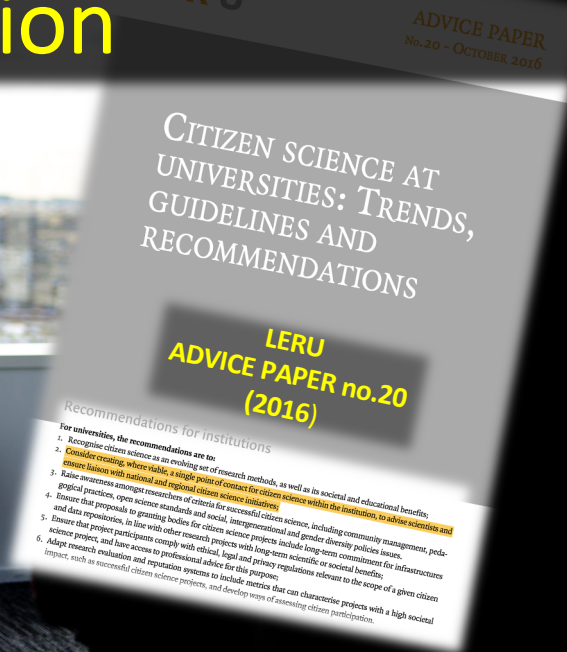
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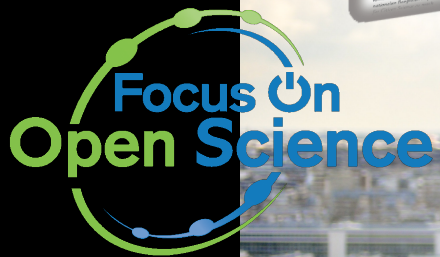
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OSPP final report: Citizen Science still in the early stages of discussion, planning and some initial implementation

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We've been prototyping...



Citizen Science: Components At A Glance

Determine a suitable research idea	Build FAIR Data: <i>(accept, edit, make it FAIR and display data)</i>
Form a team: <i>(ideally: scientist-educator-librarian-evaluator)</i>	Analyze and interpret data: <i>(inform citizens about research methods and the use of their data)</i>
Develop, test, and refine: <i>(protocols, data forms, educational support materials, marketing and communication package)</i>	Disseminate results: <i>(use both academic and pop-science standards)</i>
Recruit citizens: <i>(and include them in a retention programme)</i>	Measure outcomes: <i>(perspectives: scientific, educational and engagement, event management)</i>
Train citizens: <i>(and keep records of their training certificates)</i>	After event actions: <i>(equally important with any from above. Ask us!)</i>
Event(s) development: <i>(on sites, online, base camps, etc)</i>	

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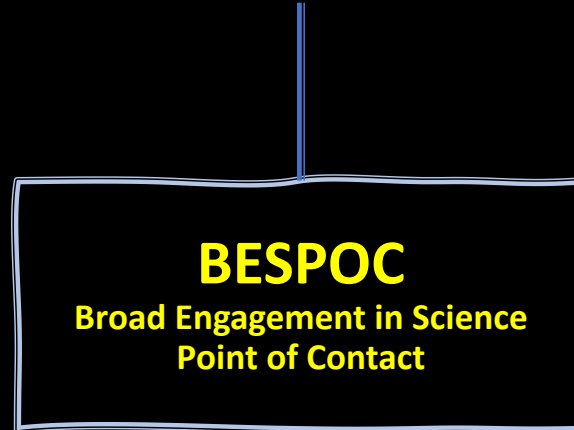
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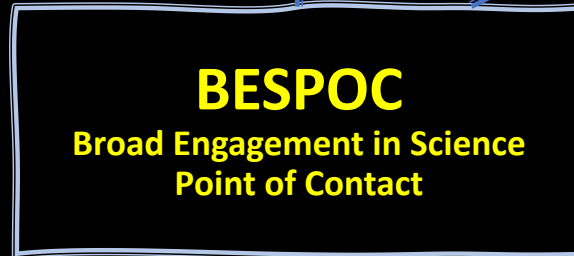
**Broad Engagement in Science
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Policy and
executive plans
[report]



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[report]

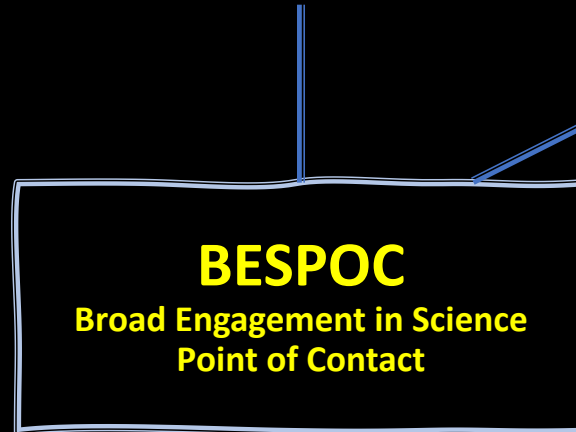
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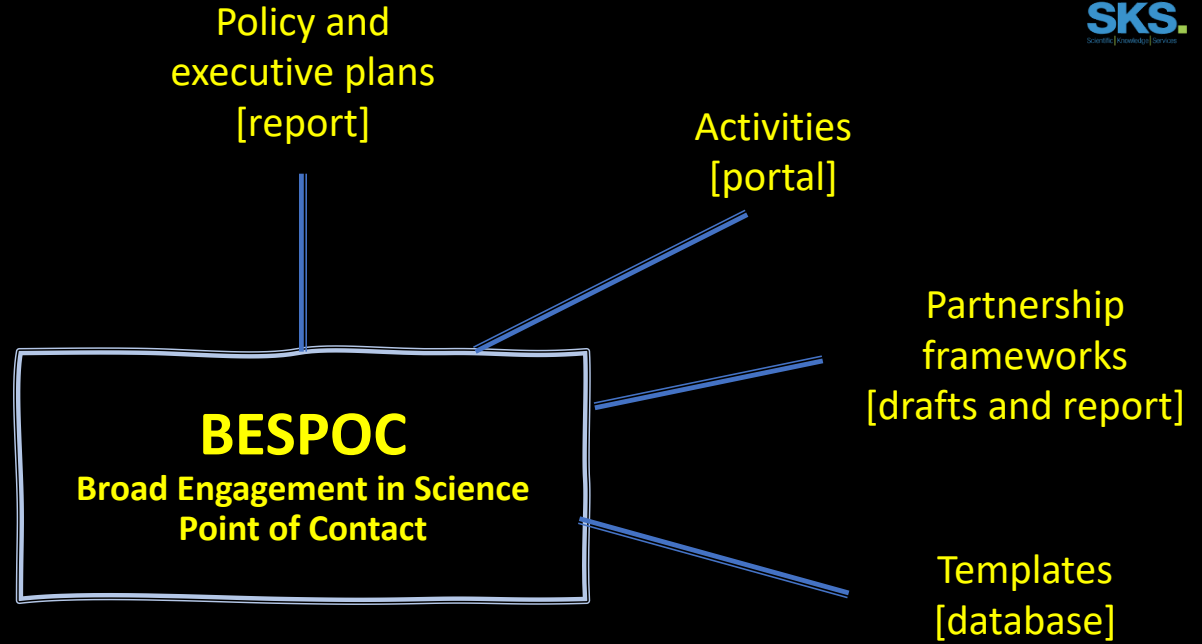


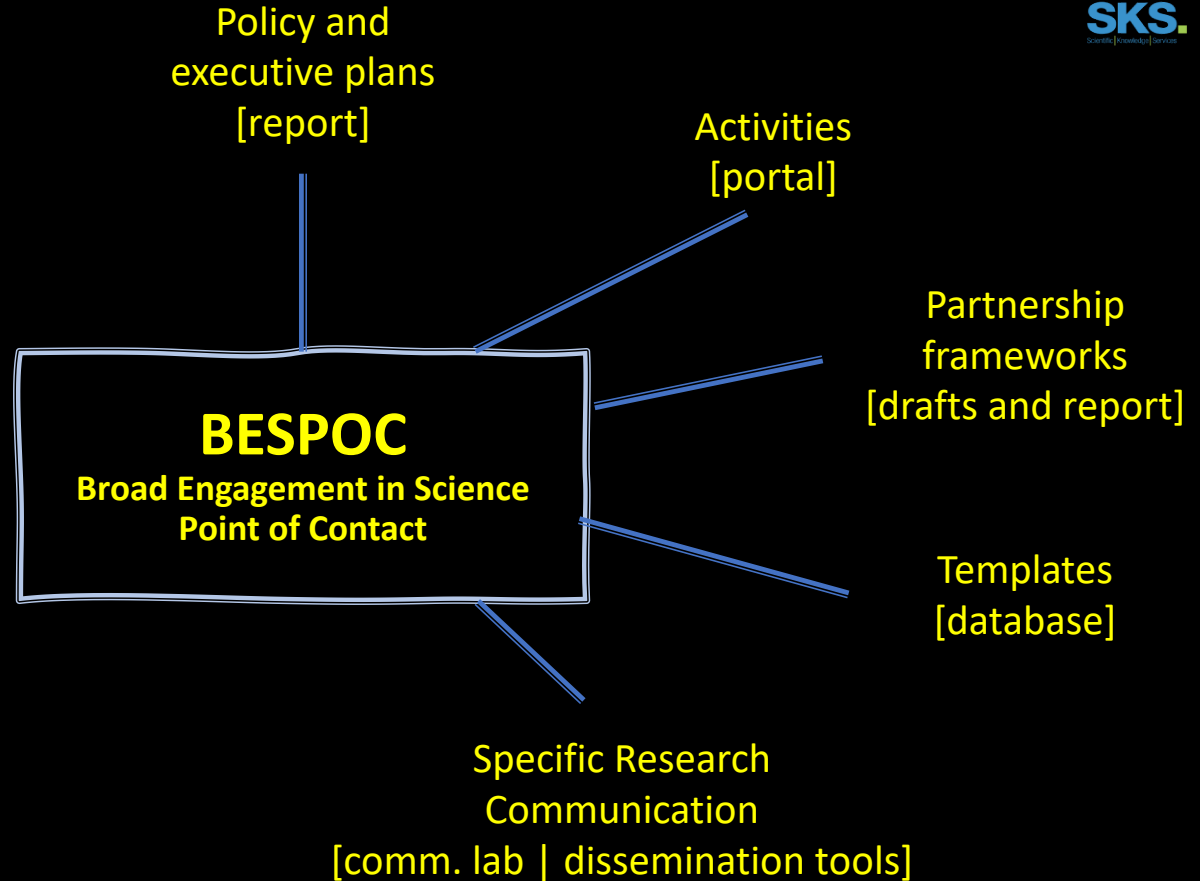
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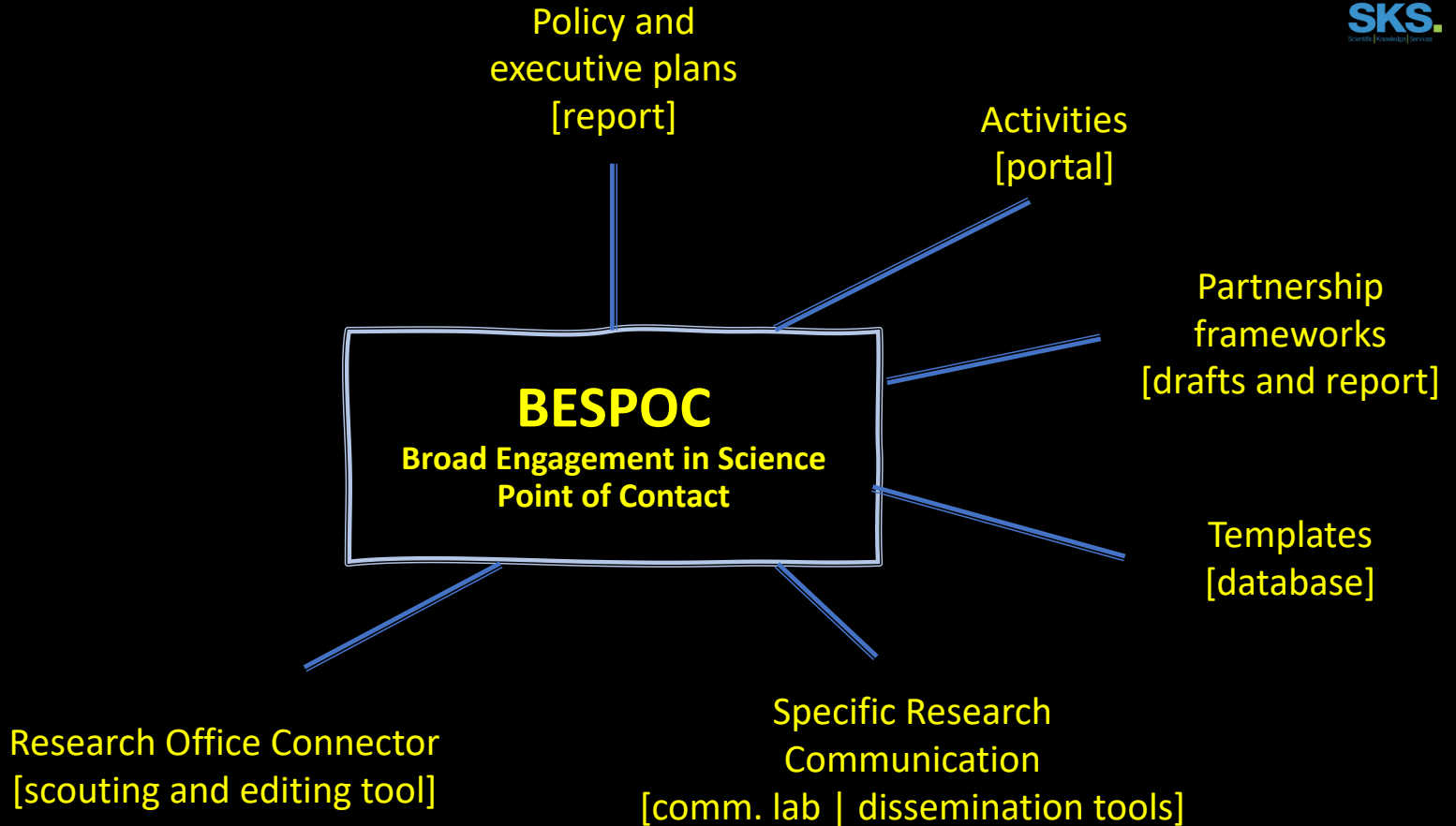
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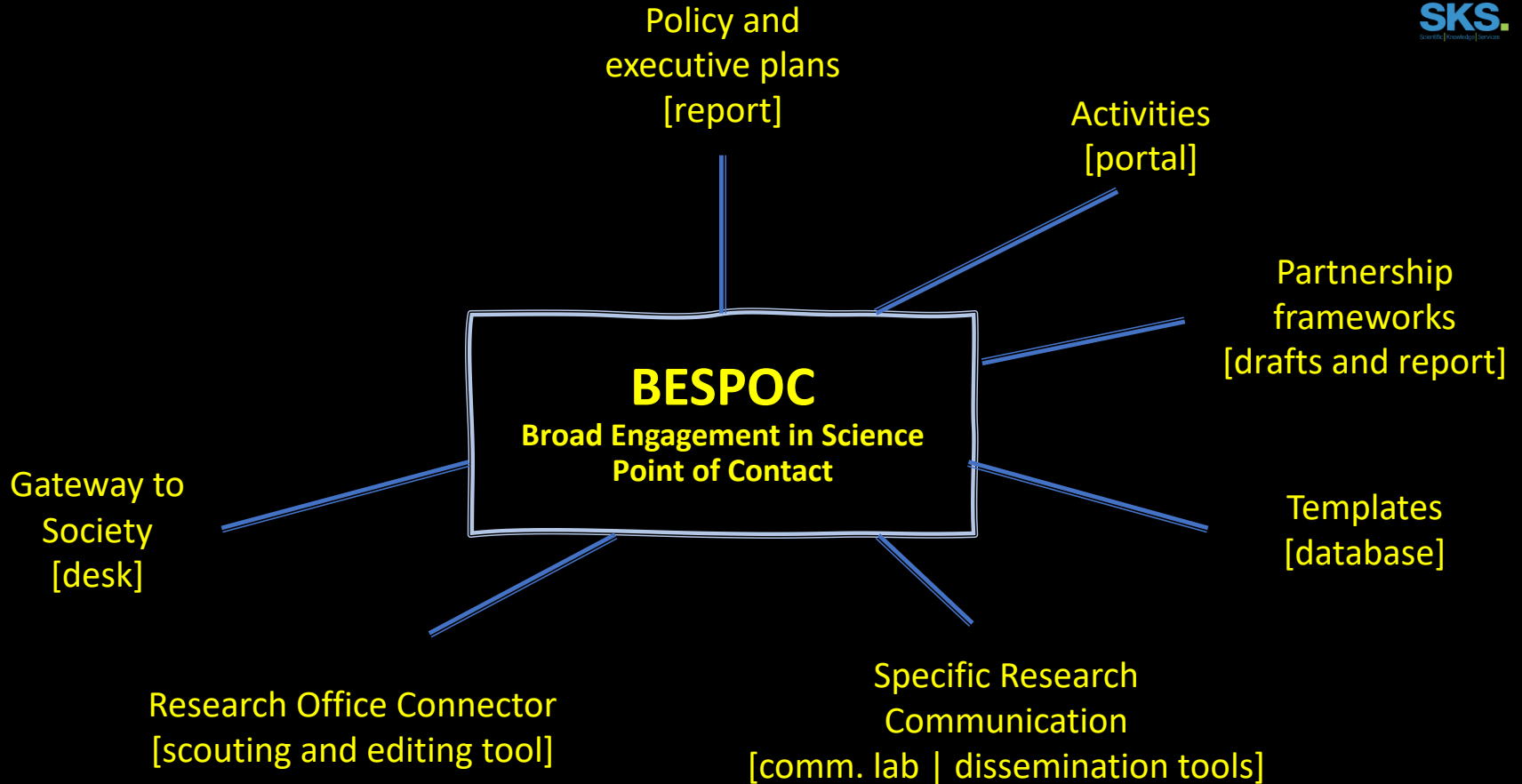
Partnership
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[drafts and report]

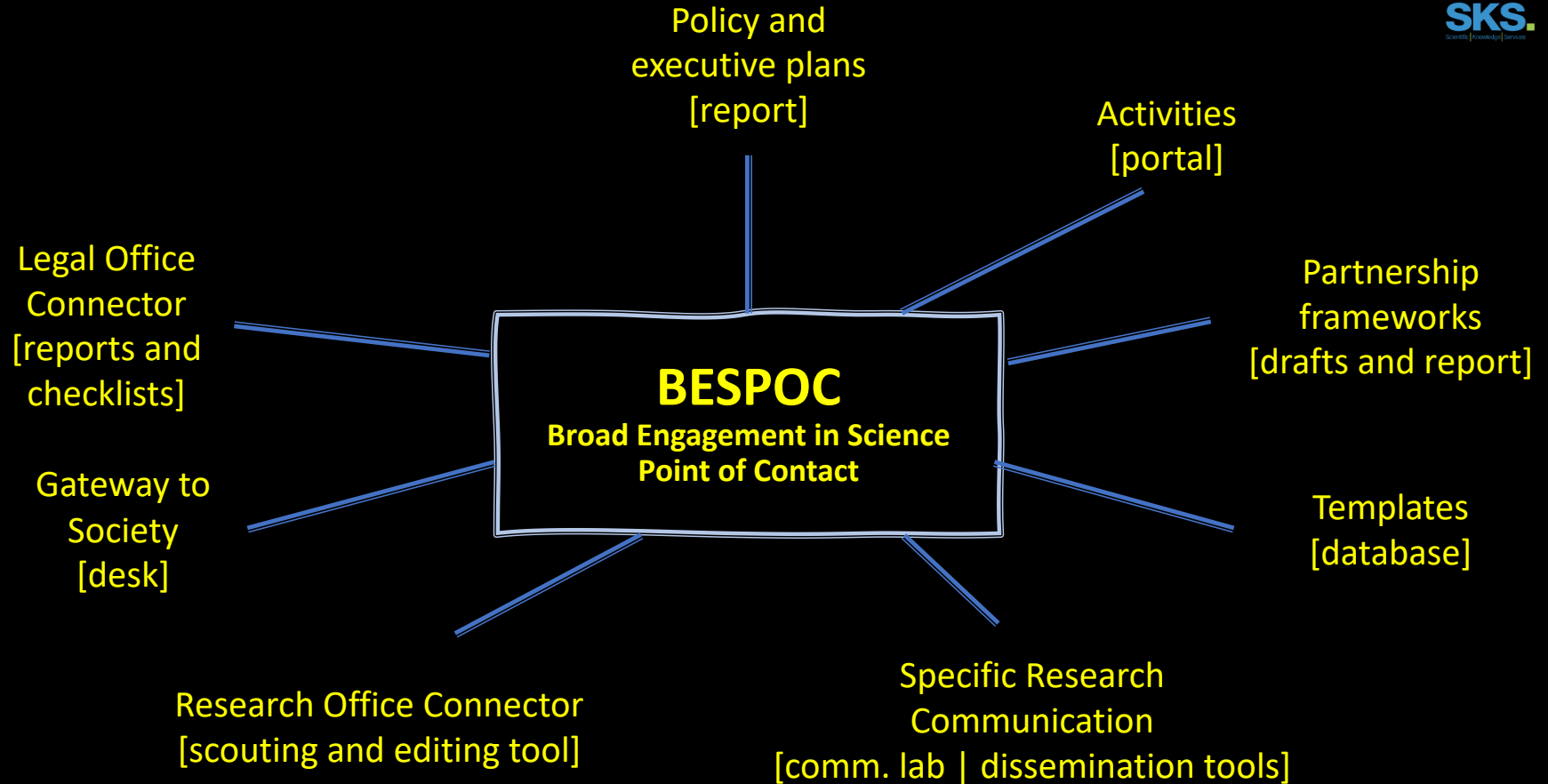


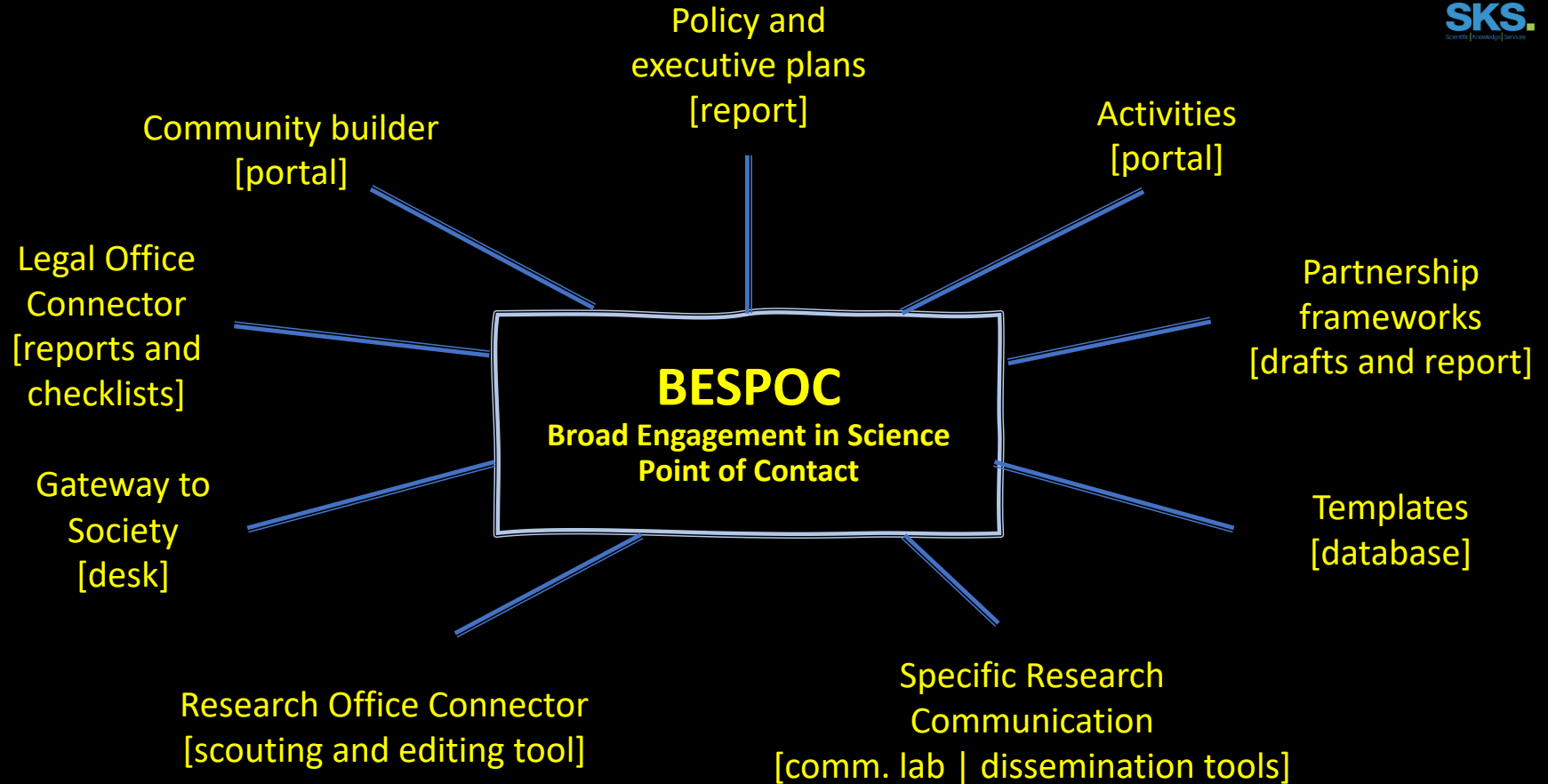












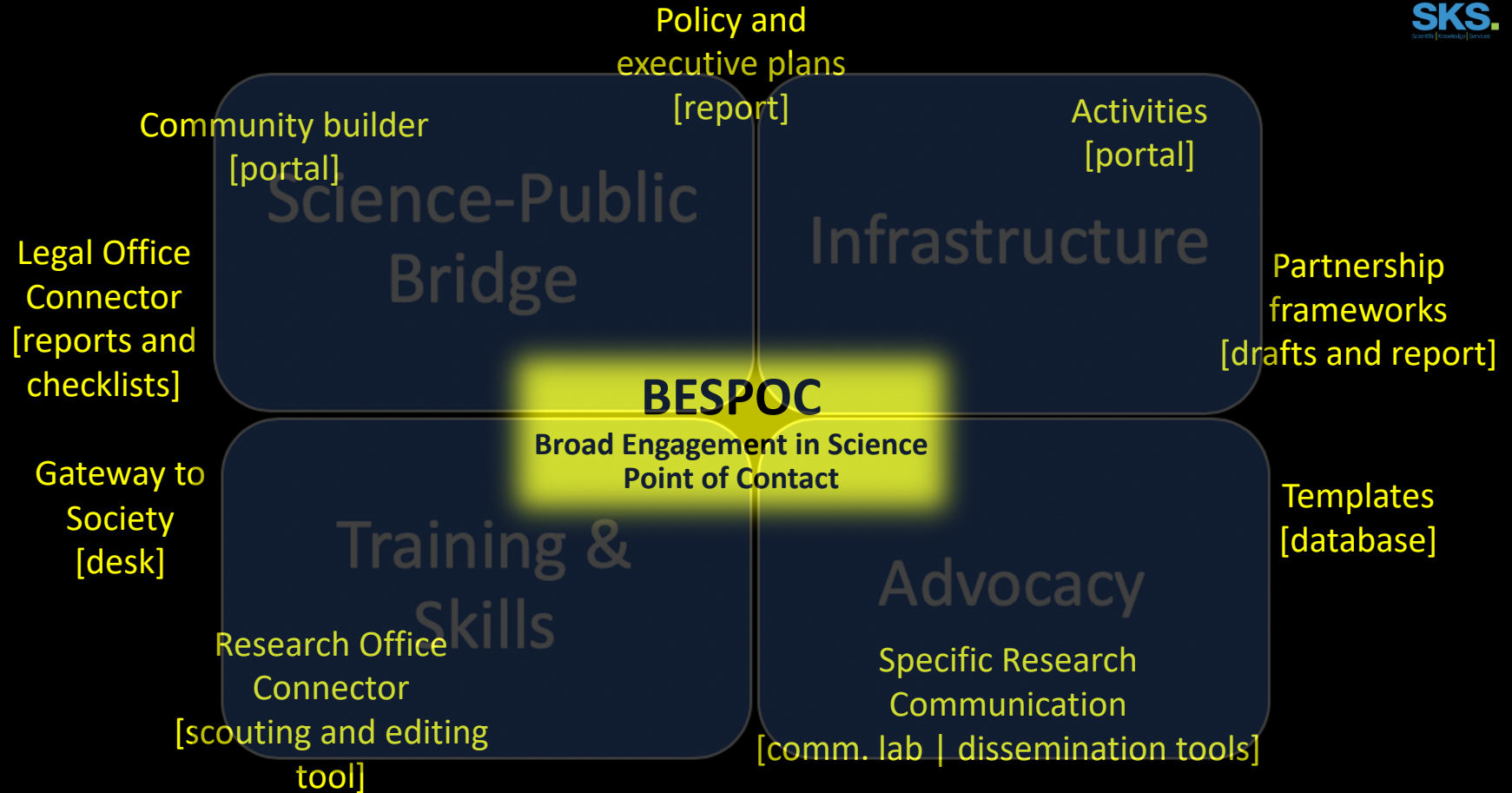
Citizen Science: Preferred Action Areas for LIBER Libraries

**Science-Public
Bridge**

Infrastructure

Training & Skills

Advocacy



The Value of BESPOC

- nurtures a community of curious minds
- educates people
- consolidates trust in research

Evidence vs Misinformation

Sustainable Development vs Manipulation

Researchers:

better citizens, contributing more.

Tiberius Ignat



Scientific Knowledge Services

www.knowledge.services

[linkedin.com/in/tiberiusignat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/tiberiusignat)

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