

Quarterly Newsletter Issue 1 2020

EURAXESS Brazil & Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

EURAXESS Brazil & Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter is a quarterly electronic newsletter, edited by EURAXESS LAC, which provides information of specific interest to European non-European researchers in Brazil and other Latin American and Caribbean countries who are interested in the European research landscape conducting research Europe or with European partners.

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Please email brazil@euraxess.net or lac@euraxess.net for any comments on this newsletter, contributions you would like to make, if you think any other colleagues would be interested in receiving this newsletter, or if you wish to unsubscribe.

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1 Briefing: Last opportunity to carry out your two-year research project in Europe or in LAC with a Horizon 2020 MSCA Individual Fellowship (IF)

The Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) contribute to excellent research, boosting jobs, growth and investment by equipping researchers with the new knowledge, skills and international and intersectoral exposure to fill the top positions of tomorrow and solve current and future societal challenges.

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) provide grants for **all stages of researchers' careers** – be they doctoral candidates or highly experienced researchers – and encourage **transnational**, **intersectoral and interdisciplinary mobility**. The MSCA enable research-focused organisations (universities, research centres, and companies) to host talented foreign researchers and to create strategic partnerships with leading institutions worldwide.

The MSCA aim to equip researchers with the necessary skills and international experience for a successful career, either in the public or the private sector. The programme offers attractive working conditions and the opportunity to move between academic and other settings.

The MSCA are open to **all domains of research and innovation**, from fundamental research to market take-up and innovation services. Research and innovation fields are chosen freely by the applicants.

There are four types of MSCA. The one targeting individual researchers with a PhD or four years of research experience (called experienced researchers within the MSCA programme) is named **Individual fellowships (IF)**. The call is expected to open on **8 April 2020**, with a deadline on **9 September 2020**.

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships (IF) call 2020 will be the last such call under Horizon 2020, as the new EU framework programme for research and innovation, entitled Horizon Europe, will start in 2021.

Individual Fellowships (IF): Support for experienced researchers undertaking mobility between countries, including the non-academic sector

Individual Fellowships support the mobility of researchers within and beyond **Europe** – as well as helping to attract the best foreign researchers to work in the EU. The grant usually covers two years' salary, a mobility allowance, research costs and overheads for the host institution. Individual researchers submit proposals for funding in liaison with their planned host organisation.

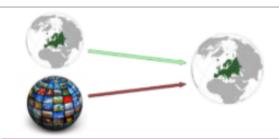
Proposals are judged on their research quality, the researcher's future career prospects, and the support offered by the host organisation. Fellows can also spend part of the fellowship elsewhere in Europe if this would boost impact, and those restarting their career in Europe benefit from special eligibility conditions.

IF in a nutshell:

- All research areas
- All nationalities
- Open to PhD holders or four years of research experience



1.1 Two types of fellowships: from LAC to Europe or from Europe to LAC



EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIP LAC → Europe

- For postdoctoral research stays (one to two years) in a <u>EU Member State or an</u> <u>associated country.</u>
- Can help to restart research careers after a break such as parental leave.
- Can also help reintegrate researchers coming back to Europe.
 - Mainly provides an opportunity for individual Latin American or Caribbean researchers to undertake a research and training project in Europe.



GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP Europe → LAC

- For postdoctoral research stays (one to two years) outside Europe for researchers based in a EU Member State or an associated country.
- There is a mandatory one year return period to Europe.
- Provides an opportunity
 to LAC institutions
 (universities, institutes and
 companies) to host Europe based researchers in their
 laboratories.
- No costs for the LAC host institution.

- * You can read the guide for applicants 2019 until the guide 2020 is released at the call opening
- ** Looking for a host institution for your MSCA IF? Find a Host Organisation in Europe here
- *** You can also check a step-by-step guide made by EURAXESS Worldwide team on how to submit a proposal

If you are a Latin American or Caribbean research interested in a research stay in Europe with an MSCA-IF European Fellowship, we suggest you

- Get familiarised with the call
- Read the guide for applicants*
- Look for a host institution**
- Read the <u>interviews with LAC researchers who secured MSCA IF</u> and accepted to share their tips with our readers on EURAXESS LAC website

Ready? Find how to submit your application in the step-by-step guide we published for you***.

If you are already **based in Europe**, you can also apply to a European Fellowship for mobility within the <u>EU or Associated Countries</u>.



bit.ly/Meettheresearcher



If you are based in Europe and are interested in a research stay in LAC, or if you are a LAC institution interested in hosting a Europe-based researcher, you'll find more details about the Global Fellowships below.

We suggest you also read at 2 European researchers who conducted their projects in LAC:

- <u>Daniel Praeg</u>, Swiss researcher who did a research stay in Brazil with a Marie Sklodowska Curie Actions (MSCA) global fellowship, and
- Daniele Salerno, Italian MSCA researcher from Universiteit Utrecht, Netherlands, currently at Universidad de Buenos Aires in Argentina.

2 Hot topic: Attracting Europebased researchers to LAC

We would like to draw your attention to this excellent opportunity to bring researchers based in Europe to carry out a postdoc of up to two years in LAC laboratories, fully funded by the European Commission.

In the case of Global Fellowships, European researchers submit an application in partnership with a European institution. Thus, the institution in Latin America or in the Caribbean will be considered as a 'partner organisation'.

I want to host a researcher with an MSCA-IF Global Fellowship at my institution in Latin America and the Caribbean. How do I find a fellow?

- Post your hosting offers on the EURAXESS portal. <u>Follow this step-by-step guide</u>.
- Do inform your research network and colleagues based in Europe of your institution's hosting offer.





HOST:

Name: George Brown

Country of origin: Brazil

Home institution: Embrapa

Forestry

Contact George here

MSCA FELLOW:

Name: Luis Cunha

Country of origin: UK

Home institution: Cardiff

University

Acronym (title) of the MSCA

project: HookaWorm

Contact Luis <u>here</u>. Visit <u>Luis'</u> website page to read about his career trajectory and his research

Meet the researcher: George Brown, Embrapa Forestry, MSCA-GF host

We interviewed George Brown, Brazilian researcher from the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) Forestry who received a European MSCA Global Fellow in his lab for two years.

You received an MSCA global fellow in your lab. Could you tell us a bit about the project you did together and your role as supervisor?

The project we undertook was on 'Amazonian Dark Earths', a highly fertile anthropogenic ecosystem in Amazonia. We were interested in how these soils act as reservoirs for a unique soil biota, particularly earthworms, and how these animals contribute to the genesis and maintenance of the fertility of these soils. We managed to secure three different funding sources simultaneously to perform the MSCA work in Brazil, which greatly facilitated the development of the project, particularly considering the expenses involved in a large amount of travel and lab work, and the big groups of people needed to perform the fieldwork in Amazonian sites far away from my lab in Curitiba (Southern Brazil). During this period of very intense activity, I was involved in extensive planning and executing of the field and lab work, as well as in the extensive networking and bureaucratic steps necessary in order to undertake the project, as the sampling sites were natural heritage archaeological sites, and often in protected government or privately-owned areas. The Fellow, Luis Cunha, actually did not need much supervision, and I considered him more as a peer/colleague who came with a unique set of skills and enthusiasm to work together on a topic of joint interest.

How did you find out about MSCA? Did you know the fellow beforehand?

Luis told me about the MSCA as a grant opportunity to come to Brazil, and I met him at a conference in 2014 in the USA, the year the project was submitted.

How would you say the experience contributed to your institution / lab professional development?

Luis was a great colleague and I feel that I learned a lot from him and the experience that he brought with him from the UK, which he shared generously and extensively in our lab. His enthusiasm and knowledge, particularly of molecular techniques was extremely useful for our lab and in the training of graduate and undergraduate students that worked with us. His many ideas of parallel projects to be developed simultaneously in order to expand the knowledge and activities of students in our lab, led us to tackle many other exciting challenges related to various fields of biology and ecology, especially concerning earthworms, the main organism we work with in our lab.

What was your involvement in the MSCA IF application process? Any difficulty?

The application was done by the applicant. I only had to register my institution in the EU framework, in order to be a host institution. This was relatively simple, although it involved some minor bureaucratic steps, both internally in my institution, and in the EU platform. I did of course review the project and evaluate much of the scientific background for it, as well as the viability of performing many of the proposed activities, considering the local conditions in Brazil.

Do you have any advice for LAC research institutions interested in receiving Europe-based researchers for an up to 2 years stay?

It is important that LAC researchers interested in receiving researchers from Europe do regular visits to international conferences, where many students looking for postdoc opportunities participate. In these conferences, it is useful to let others know that you are interested in expanding collaborations, and could receive students in your lab, even if you do not have any scholarships available. In this case, it is also important to say that you could contribute with ideas and some of your time to develop joint projects that could fund postdocs and other researchers to come to your labs, as this is a show of confidence and interest in receiving new people.

What about to young researchers based in Europe who are considering applying for a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship to undertake a research stay in LAC?

It is essential that young researchers go out of their comfort zone and reach out to speak with the scientists and professionals working in their areas of interest, without being afraid or concerned about 'not knowing it all', and also without fear of leaving Europe to somewhere different, where they may not know the language or share the same customs, foods, etc... First of all, none of us are omniscient, and we are in science because we are moved by curiosity, questions, hypotheses and the search for answers to these, through the diligent use of scientific methods, ingenuity, creativity, passion, and often times reiteration, reassessment, self-criticism, and sometimes serendipity. So we need to be bold enough to approach those whom we are interested in working with, to share our ideas and 'tread the waters' to see if they are received by others, in order to work together. Although many professionals are quite busy and often have full labs or schedules, most scientists will always welcome an enthusiastic student/colleague with a question worth pursuing. And if it happens to coincide with an opportunity to submit a proposal for funding, then this is even more interesting. Secondly, LAC is an exciting region, full of natural and human wonders, cultures and challenges that should excite practically anyone with the desire to live a different adventure in their lives, and to do new things which have not yet been done in Europe. This may be perhaps the most attractive aspect of doing research in LAC. The possibility of doing something new, and also something useful. Many problems that are faced by LAC institutions and people are often already resolved, or not experienced by those living in Europe. So the challenges of working in an environment that may be more limiting in some aspects (particularly in terms of infrastructure for research, which is often less well developed in LAC institutions), may be overcome by the fascination of doing something new and also feeling more useful in what you do for others. The social life in LAC is also often much more open than in many European countries, whereby links created such as friendships and comradeship may be life-transforming and lead to important changes in personal paradigms. These are all things that I believe contribute to making scientists better 'human-beings'.

In your opinion, how important is incoming mobility to internationalise LAC or your country's science and why?

For our lab, the incoming scientist (Luis) was a strong force towards stimulating my students to want to go to Europe and other countries. Although I often share with them this view and the importance of having an experience abroad, being able to communicate on a daily basis with a young scientist from abroad acting like their peer (rather than their supervisor), was much more effective in this manner. Furthermore, bringing in new ideas and concepts of how to improve lab organisation, activities, and research questions also stimulated my students to do more and to be more productive and inquisitive. The number of new projects and ideas we tested while Luis was here was phenomenal, and I consider this impetus essential in order to move forwards and tackle ever more difficult and complex questions we are facing in science today.





Poland is a country located in central Europe near the Baltic Sea, Sudetes- and Carpathian Mountains.

EU member since 2004.

Country Size: 312,696 km²

Population: 38,413,000

(2018)

Language: Polish (English is

widely spoken)

Capital: Warsaw

Currency: Polski złoty (PLN)

Unemployment rate: 3.8%

(2018)

More about Poland: https://www.polska.pl/





Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw.

Source: www.pixabay.com

3 EURAXESS members in focus: Poland

Poland is a country located in central Europe. It has a developed market and it is a regional power. It has the eighth-largest and one of the most dynamic economies in the European Union, achieving at the same time a high rank on the Human Development Index. Poland is a developed country, with a high average income along with great standards of living, life quality, safety, education and economic freedom.

The country provides free university education, state-funded social security and a universal healthcare system.

Poland is a cradle of many outstanding Nobel Prize winners: Maria Skłodowska-Curie (Physics 1903 and Chemistry 1911 Nobel Prize), Józef Rotblat (Nobel Peace Prize, 1995), Czesław Miłosz (Literature Nobel Prize 1980), Menachem Begin (Nobel Peace Prize, 1978), Leonid Hurwicz (Economics Nobel Prize, 2007), and many more.

Research and development (R&D) in Poland

In Poland there are some 400 higher education institutions (HEIs), 79 Polish Academy of Sciences establishments and around 120 public research institutes and laboratories, which focus their activities on conducting applied R&D activities.

Higher education institutions play a major role in the development of Poland's national research potential. There are around 100 public (state-funded) and 300 private universities. They cover different profiles, for example: universities, universities of technology, economics, agriculture, arts and sport, medical universities, military schools, as well as higher schools of professional education. The Minister of Science and Higher Education supervises most of them, but some are governed by other relevant ministries (i.e. Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of National Defence).

The Polish Academy of Science (PAS)

It is an independent state research institution with units across the country. The mission of the Academy is two-fold. It is a network of research centres comprising of 79 research establishments (institutes and research centres, research stations, botanical gardens and other research units) and auxiliary scientific units (archives, libraries, museums), including foreign PAS stations in Brussels, Paris, Berlin, Rome, Vienna and Moscow. The Academy is also a corporation of scholars from different institutes, also from abroad. The PAS organises, integrates research community and prepares expert opinions for public institutions.

Researchers from institutes in the Polish Academy of Science have received seven ERC grants. The Nicolaus Copernicus Astronomical Centre Department of Astrophysics has two grants, while the Mathematical Institute, Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology, Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Institute of Physical Chemistry, and Institute of Physics each have one grant. There are also about 50 participations in MSCA grants under Horizon 2020.

Polish universities

Poland has 18 classical universities, mainly in the largest cities. The oldest one is **Jagiellonian University** in Cracow, established in 1364. That university consists of 13 main departments and three faculties of the Collegium Medicum. As the oldest university in Poland, the Jagiellonian University is a member of



Source: www.pixabay.com

many associations of the most prestigious universities in the world, including Coimbra Group, Europaeum and Utrecht Network.

The **University of Warsaw (UW)** is the highest ranked and largest of Poland's universities. Some Nobel Prize winners mentioned above are graduates of this university (e.g. Leonid Hurwicz, famous economist). Researchers from UW account for half of the 28 ERC grants in Poland. As from 2016, UW has acquired the prestigious 'HR Excellence in Science' logo, confirming that it respects the rules of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. In the Shanghai scientific ranking in 2018, ten disciplines at the University of Warsaw were included. The highest places (position between 51st and 75th in the world) were taken by mathematics and physics.

Development units

They include about 700 business entities active in the area of R&D. Besides their principal activity, they also conduct development work aimed at applying already existing knowledge gained through earlier basic or applied research, or through practical experience. The knowledge is applied to produce or significantly improve new materials, devices, products, processes, systems or services. The companies cooperate with national research units, such as universities and research institutes.

Research institutes

These are state-funded institutions operating as separate entities in terms of their legal basis, organisational arrangements and funding mechanisms. They are supervised by various sector ministries, which conduct R&D activity in line with the needs of the national economy and social life. Among 115 units, there are research institutes, central laboratories and research and development centres, which focus their activities on conducting applied research and development activities. The Main Council of the Research Institutes is their representative body.

Patents

Poland ranks 17th in the world in terms of patent applications and 15th for patents granted, according to the World Intellectual Property Organisation. It is worth noting that the highest number of patents is reported by Polish universities and research institutes, not private companies, which is a distinctive feature of other countries. Examples include solutions for the super-fast X3 hybrid helicopter, battlefield robots, internet browser for paralysed people (some illustrations of the cooperation of the Lodz University of Technology with industry), and prize-winning – in the US and Europe – work on Mars rovers.

Where can you get funding from?

The Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (Polish: Narodowa Agencja Wymiany Akademickiej, NAWA) is a new entity in Poland established in 2017. It was set up to coordinate state activities driving the internationalisation of Polish academic and research institutions. The mission of NAWA is to foster the development of Poland in the area of science and higher education, support the international mobility of students, academics and researchers, and the process of internationalisation of Polish HEIs and research institutions, promote Polish science and higher education as well as popularise the teaching of the Polish language.

The National Centre for Research and Development (Polish: Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju, NCBiR) has already supported 8900 projects, 2039 companies, and 2657 scientific units for the general amount of 43 billion zloty (10 billion US\$). Its mission is to support the creation of innovative solutions



Source: www.pixabay.com



and technologies that increase the competitiveness and innovation of the Polish economy. The NCRD aims to strengthen the collaboration between business and academia, leading both to a greater engagement of entrepreneurs in research funding, as well as to a more effective commercialisation.

<u>The National Science Centre</u> (Polish: Narodowe Centrum Nauki, NCN) is a governmental grant-making agency responsible for providing financial support for the conduct of basic science research in Poland and various programmes to assist scientists throughout their careers.

The Foundation for Polish Science (Polish: Fundacja na rzecz Nauki Polskiej, FNP) is a non-governmental, non-political and non-profit institution. Its mission is science support. It is the largest source of science funding in Poland besides the state budget. The Foundation supports great scholars and research teams in all fields of inquiry; assisting innovative ventures and the commercialisation of scientific discoveries and inventions. Check out their recent <u>report</u>.

Ministry Grants: The Ministry of Science and Higher Education has finance for scientific research. The most prestigious grants are: Diamond Grant (a researcher may receive up to \$US59,000 in funding) and National Programme for the Development of Humanities (funding between \$US80,000 and \$US35,000). For more information, consult www.granty-nabadania.com/p/granty-ministerstwa.html

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA): Attractive European grants for researchers wishing to enhance their career based on a research and training project in Europe. Supporting all domains of research, providing attractive salaries at a freely chosen host institution are only a few of the programme's advantages. Experienced researchers willing to move to Poland can apply for an Individual Fellowship (IF) irrespective of their country of origin. Poland is in the list of so-called 'widening countries'. Therefore, from 2018 to 2020, proposals above the quality threshold of 70% but not retained for funding through the MSCA-IF call with a host institution in Poland will be automatically reassigned to the Widening Fellowships call.

European Research Council (ERC): Prestigious ERC grants finance frontier research in any scientific area. Researchers of any nationality may apply for funding with European host institutions to carry out research that pushes the existing frontiers of science. In the years 2014-2020, the ERC has a budget of some €13 billion (as part of Horizon 2020) supporting nearly 7,000 grants for individual researchers and their teams.

National Contact Point for EU research programmes

(Polish: Krajowy Punkt Kontaktowy Programów Badawczych UE, KPK). This organization has been selected as a National Contact Point via a call by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. The KPK has been part of the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research Polish Academy of Sciences (IPPT PAN) since 1999. There are experts with many years of experience in the field of R&D projects financed by European authorities. The KPK supports Polish research and innovation leaders: scientists, research organizations and enterprises in their efforts to secure grants from European programmes, but they also help foreign scientists as a EURAXESS Centre in Warsaw.

Information for incoming researchers: EURAXESS Poland

EURAXESS Poland supports researchers coming to Poland by providing practical personalized information related to entry conditions, administrative procedures and life in Poland. Our website (www.EURAXESS.pl) is an

READ OUR EURAXESS countries in FOCUS:

EURAXESS is supported by over 40 countries, of which we profile one in each of our quarterly EURAXESS LAC newsletters. In this edition, we zoom in on POLAND.

Focuses on other EU countries are available here / PUBLICATIONS tab.

So far, we featured the following countries: Albania, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, and Spain.





information point for internationally mobile researchers wishing to come to our country. There are ten EURAXESS Centres in Poland.



-Warszawa: National Contact Point (KPK PB UE)

-Lublin: Institute of Agrophysics PAN

-Kraków: Cracow University of Technology

-Gliwice: Silesian University of Technology

-Łódź: Regional Contact Point

-Wrocław: Wroclaw Centre for Technology Transfer

-Poznań: Regional Contact Point

-Szczecin: Regional Centre for Innovation and Technology Transfer

-Gdańsk: Gdańsk University of Technology

-Olsztyn: University of Warmia and Mazury

What international researchers think about EURAXESS Poland?

Jan from the Netherlands: "After completing my PhD in the Netherlands, I came to Warsaw, Poland, for a postdoc position at the Institute of Mathematics of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Since I am a European citizen, securing a visa for myself was not a problem. However, my fiancée is from the United States and it was much more of a fuss to obtain a residence permit for her, mainly because we are not yet married. We were in the process of going through all the paperwork and trying to figure out how to proceed when someone recommended that we contact EURAXESS Centre in Warsaw. I am extremely glad that we did because from the moment we contacted it, they took complete control of the process and helped us with every part of it [...]. I am sure that without the help of EURAXESS it would have been very difficult for us to apply correctly for the residence permit, and perhaps the result wouldn't have been the same (we ended up getting the residence permit)."



4 EURAXESS LAC activities

4.1 New EURAXESS LAC office to open in Mexico

We are very happy to announce that a second EURAXESS LAC office is now open in Mexico City.

To that end, we are glad to welcome Viktoria Bodnarova to the team. Viktoria will put her experience and sound knowledge of EURAXESS and EU funding to support Latin American researchers and institutions, in partnership with Charlotte Grawitz and Daniel Costa, who remain based in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Together, they are at your disposal to support your mobility projects and cooperation with the European Research Area.

4.2 Don't miss our future activities in the region

Event	When	Where	Organized by	Link
Webinar: Marie Sklodowska- Curie Actions: fellowships for researchers of all nationalities and research fields	30 March 2020	Mexico (online)	EU Policy and Outreach Partnership & EU Delegation to Mexico	<u>Link</u>
Video conference: InfoDay – scientific cooperation between EU and Colombia	3 April 2020	Colombia (online)	Universidad el Bosque, Bogota, Colombia	<u>Link</u>
Webinar: Undertake a postdoc in Europe or bring a researcher to your lab with a Marie Sklodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship	14 April 2020	Brazil (online)	EURAXESS LAC and ENRICH in Brazil	<u>Link</u>

4.3 In case you missed our Flashnotes

Aren't you registered yet? bit.ly/EuraxessBR_LAC_Mailing

[All LAC] Scholarships in Spain – Fundación Carolina's Masters, PhD, postdoc and mobility grants for 2020

[All] Long-term Fellowships in Wallonia-Brussels, Belgium – BEWARE (MSCA COFUND)

All-Atlantic Ocean Research Forum, Brussels, 6-7 February 2020

[Open to all] PORTUGAL – PhD and PostDoc calls at Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência, Biology and Biomedicine

[Open to all] POLAND - The Ulam program for post-doctoral incoming researchers 2020

[Open to Polish researchers] NAWA 'Polish Returns' call 2020

First list of funding opportunities of 2020 now online!

[Colombia] Workshop - 'RISE Horizon 2020 call: how to write it'

[Mexico] Seminar 'Research in Europe'

[Brazil-Switzerland] Joint call supporting international innovation projects (EMBRAPII & Innosuisse)

[Brazil] CONFAP to launch a call to support Brazilian participation in the MSCA RISE call

[Brazil] Research and academic collaborations between Rio and Brussels (with



EURAXESS participation)

European Commission's Coronavirus response and research actions

<u>Horizon 2020 calls extension and consequences for MSCA projects and related</u> activities

MORE4 survey on mobility patterns and career paths of researchers working outside Europe

[All] Call in Austria – Support scheme for post-doctoral female researchers, REinforcing Women In REsearch (REWIRE)

French Embassy in Brazil offers scholarships to Brazilian students in Master 2 programs in France

[Brazil, only eligible country in LAC] Call in Germany – German Chancellor Fellowship for tomorrow's leaders (AvH Foundation)

4.4 Follow us!











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LAC

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