

POPULATION DYNAMICS OF THE COMMUNE ANA E MALIT

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Abstract

The municipality is located in south western part of Shkodra district. The Distance of the center of the commune Oblike with the town is 7 km. The process to populate the territory of the municipality dates back to antiquity. Historical, archival, statistical sources exploited in the context of this study, will enable the analysis of population dynamics in space and time. This dynamic and its indicators have undergone changes depending on political, social and economic factors. The most evidenced changes of the population dynamics and demographic indicators belong to the second half of the last century until today. During the communist regime the number of population was increased by 77.5 % from 1945 (the population was 3140 inhabitants). In 1989 the population reached 5573 people. Political, social and economic changes after 90s of the last century brought about negative changes in population dynamics. In 2001 the population was reduced with 753 inhabitants or 13.5 % in comparison to the 1989. The object of discussion and analysis will be the last census of 2011 in relation to civil status data and surveys carried out in the field.

Key Words: Settlements, Add Natural, Density, Migration, Dynamic.

INTRODUCTION

Entry Commune of Ana e Malit lies on the south- western city of Shkodra in geographic coordinates, northern latitude $42^{\circ} 1'0$ and eastern longitude $19^{\circ} 25'0$ (the municipal center, Oblike). Municipality of Ana e Malit is part of Shkodra district. Ana e Malit commune has an area of 44 km^2 consisting of 10 villages which are : Oblike , Muriqan Obot , Tuff , Velinaj , Oblike e siperme , Vallas , Dramosh , Babo , Vidhgarë. Ana e Malit commune occupies a very important geographical border, as part of a geographic and ethnographic province of the same name which lies on both sides of the Albanian- Montenegrin border. The total area of the ethnographic region is 159.6 km^2 , 103.8 km^2 (70. 1 %) belong to the municipality of Ulcinj (Montenegro), while the remaining 55.8 km^2 (29. 9 %) Shkodra in Albania. The commune of Ana e Malit is bounded with Shkodra on the North and north – east, with the neighborhoods Shiroke, Zogaj, in the east with Komuna Rrethina with Zues, in the south and southeast with Berdica and Dajç commune, in the west the re is the state border with the state of Montenegro. Ana e Malit commune has a favorable geographical position, which has affected the human and economic terms in different historical periods. The link between the Buna River and Adriatic Sea has given values to the business. The Scaffolding of Obot served for the anchoring of the trade

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ships from where goods were transported by boat to customs of Shkodra. Oboti has played up to the 20 - 30s of XX century this important role as a river pier in the trade of Shkodra with the region and western states (Bushati, 1998: 281). The natural environment has offered considerable conditions and potential of the economy branches. The Geographic position, diversity of landscape , climate , water , land , agricultural economic structures , sailing waters and proximity to the city of Shkodra have favored the economic development of the municipality . The agricultural economy has historically had the specific weight in the economy, regardless of its level of development. This level has been associated with other technical, political, economic factors which at different times have played a decisive role in agriculture. Agriculture and livestock have been the main source of life of the population of Ana e Malit for both to meet its needs as well as for trade results.

The early study of the population of the territory of the municipality of Ana e Malit has a special significance for a series of demographic processes. Vestiges testify for the population of the region since late antiquity. In Velinaj village (near Oblike) were found two engraved plates by local masters that " Show us the presence of an early-Christian basilica of the sixth century " (Hoxha, 2003 , 115)

Even more compelling for urban life in late antiquity is the fact that at a distance of 3-4 km there are traces of the church of St. Sergius on the left side of the river Buna while in front of it in Obot the church of St. Bacchus. The continuation of the population in the centuries XIV-XV is shown through written sources realized by the recordings of the invaders who took this initiative for their purposes. These dwellings have been continuously living, but may have been outside the area occupied by Venice, Albanian feudal holdings, and therefore are not included in the Venetian cadastre of 1416-1417. Unlike the cadastre of Venice, the Sanjak of Shkodra diary of the year 1485 provides an opportunity to observe "that its forms of social organization and blood preserved connections were kept strong in a range settlements, which must have been created no earlier than one generation or two generations ahead of the residents enrolled in the diary "(Pulaha, 1974: 21). On the basis of administrative organization in 1485 the village Oblike was part of Nahije of Shkodra and villages Dramosh , Gorica , Muriqan , Bardon , Valza , Obot , Vidhgar in the Nahije Shestani mountains . Two new residential dwellings that fulfill the hitherto inherent settlements in the space in question are those of Obot and Shtuf from the 1582 census (Pulaha, 1971: 61). Actual settlements are set as such since 1582 by reducing Bardoni and Gorica which are now part of Muriqan. The demographic analysis is noticed based on the number of the houses. The village with the greatest number of houses is Oblika with 13, while the least is Muriqan, just 1 From 8 villages recorded in 1485, there result 46 houses with an average of 5.75 houses per village.

villages	Oblika	Dramo shi	Boboti	Gorica	Bardon	Muriqani	Vallëza	Vidhikar
Shtëpi	13	5	5	2	4	1	8	8

Table 1; Villages and the number of houses 1485

The average of 5.75 houses per village is not associated with limited economic potential but perhaps with a possible departure of the population after the fall under Ottoman rule. Taking into account that a family had 6-7 members (Misia, ng, Berxolli, 1987: 63), it appears that the total number of population in villages in Ana e Malit of was 276-322 inhabitants in 1485. The establishment of Ottoman rule did not stop the process of humanizing the region of Ana e Malit and its villages but on the contrary the growth is rather obvious. In the registration of the year 1582, after 98 years the first census noticed a great increase in the number of houses from 46 in 1485 to 297 in 1582, 251 more houses.

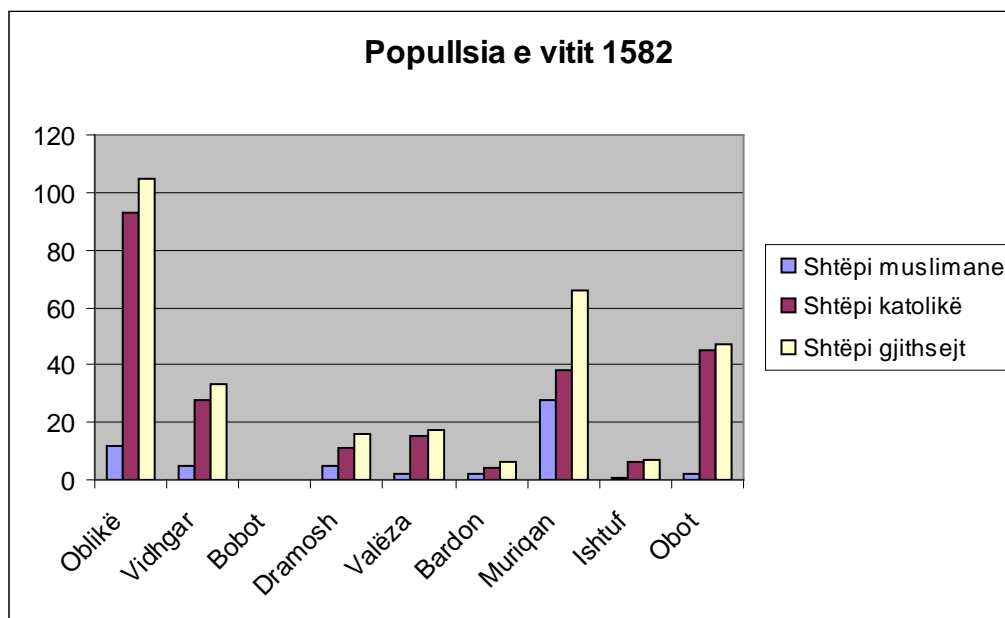


Table 2

This apparent increase in the number of houses has increased the average number of the houses per village, 37 houses per village at a time that with the census of 1485 they had an average of 5.75 houses per village. So, we have an average increase of approximately 31.4 houses for rural. An indicator of the humanization in this region is the density of housing in relation to the surface. If the number was 46 in 1485 it happens to be 104 houses per km² for Ana e Malit which is the lower than the average of the whole district of Shkodra. In 1582 the density per km² went 6.75 houses per km² passiv the average of of the sanjak that was 5.5 houses per km². The demographic situation should be seen in its complexity. The population based on the average 6-7

people per house varies in measure from 1782 to 2079 inhabitants or 6.5 more than in the 1485 census. The dynamics of the population of the space of Ana e Malit commune after the split from the decisions of the Congress of the Ambassadors in London is revealed only the 1927 census. The new administrative organization after the declaration of independence divided the villages of Ana e Malit in two administrative units; - villages in Shkodra prefecture, Oblike e Poshtme, Oblike e Siperme and Obot. The province of Obot included the other villages together with the villages of the left side of Buna bank (Dajc) that were in total 17.

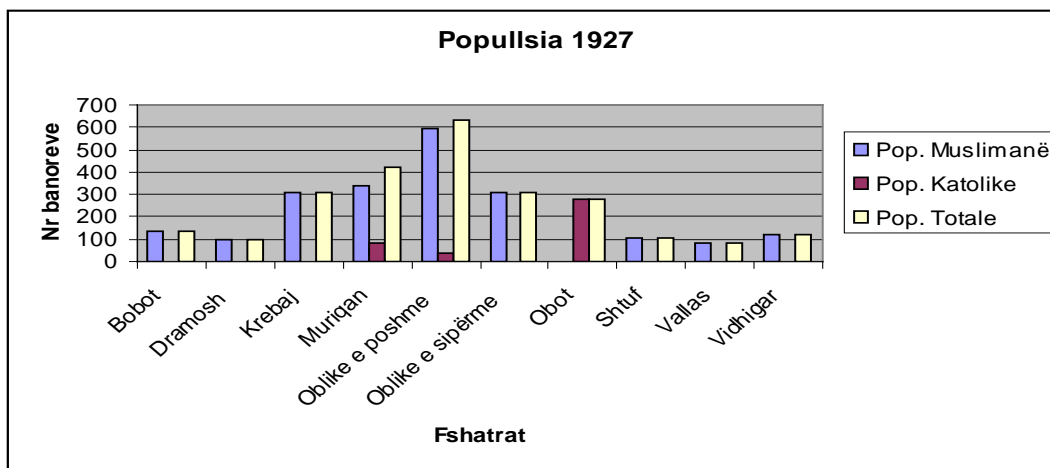


Table 3, Graph of Population by villages and faith (Selenica, 1928, 496-558)

Given the data of the table in three villages administratively included in the Shkodra prefecture lived a population of 1222 inhabitants or 49.2 % in the number of total population, while in seven other villages there lived 1263 people or 50.8 %. Although the villages in the municipality of Ana e Malit are divided equally by hypsometric level, five lowland villages and five mountain villages, the distribution of the population according to the 1927 progress bar is very uneven. In five mountain villages lived a population of 737 inhabitants or 29.7 % of the total counting, while in lowland village's inhabitants lived 1748 inhabitants or 70.3 % of the population counting.

In the province of Obot which includes seven villages of Ana e Malit there are about 547 houses with a population of 3957 inhabitants and an average of 7.2 inhabitants per house. While in the prefecture of Shkodra which include three villages (Oblike e Poshtme, Oblike e Siperme, Oboti) there are 6409 houses with a population of 38 471 inhabitants, and an average of 6 inhabitants per house.

The density of population in the territory of Ana e Malit in 1927 was 56.5 inhabitants per km² while the density in the prefecture of Shkodra was 24 inhabitants per km² and nationally 30 inhabitants per km². It is clearly seen the high scale of population of Ana e Malit, for the land unit, with 32.5 inhabitants per km² more than Prefecture of Shkodra 26.5 inhabitants per km².

Demographic developments after the liberation was associated with an increased performance as a result of the rapid population increase, a result of high levels of fertility and declining of mortality level. This performance seems quite clear if we compare the dynamics of population in the 1927 census when the population was 2485 inhabitants, with the year 1945 when it reached 3140 inhabitants, with 655 inhabitants more or 26.3%.

years	1945	1955	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010
Population	3140	3182	3435	3762	4256	4628	5015	5617	5830	6395	5053	5864	5868
Additional	0	42	253	327	494	372	387	602	213	565	-1342	811	4
Additional in %	0	1.3	7.9	9.5	13.1	8.7	8.4	12	3.8	9.7	-2.1	16.05	0.07

Table 4 shows the population growth in absolute and percentage less than 5 years. (INSTAT Shkodra Municipality Office civil Side Mount)

Given the data of population growth from 1950 to today we see a positive dynamic in the years up to 1995, and after this year we have a decline. The increase of the population had its absolute value in the years 1981-85 with 602 inhabitants or 12 % of the total, but the relative index shows that a higher increase was in 1966-70 with 13.1 % and in 1951-55 with 12 . 4 %. A negative balance of population is observed in the 1996-2000 with 1342 inhabitants or 21 % less, which is a relatively high value. Dynamics of the increasing population in the period 1950-60 has as a main factor is the natural extension of the population which had a high level of fertility that in 1960 amounts to, 42 births/1000 inhabitants (INSTAT Shkodra) but also the tendency in softening mortality rate at 14 deaths/1000 inhabitants, providing an additional of 28 inhabitants/1000. This dynamic growth is based on the standard of living and health care through increased medical care and eradication of diseases that were present before the liberation.

General Dynamics of the population in the 1960-1990 periods is known for different rates within the stage, where the highest level has been in 1966-70 with 13.1 % and in 1981-85 with 12 %, while the lowest level is in 1986-90 with 3.8 %. During this stage there is birth and death bringing about a natural extension 20 inhabitants per1000. The opening of health care centers and the care devoted to the mother improved significantly the babies' lifespan. The mechanical increase of the population in this region has been present. The mechanical increase had its greatest impact from the spatial movement in the 80's where 200 families from the north settled in Oblike and the Agricultural Enterprise "Perlat Rexhepi " was created. Only in 1981-85 there are settled approximately 986 people or 17.5 % of the population of the year 1985 (INSTAT Shkodra). Population of Ana e Malit is also affected by departures. In 1981 to 1985 have been departures that reach the number of 925 or 16.3 % of the total population of 1985. The increase of the population in these years from these movements was 1.2 % of the total. The main factors in the positive dynamics of population in 1945-1990 periods were the higher birth rates.

Years	1950	1955	1960	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Population No.	2830	3182	3435	5081	5160	5281	5544	5647	5864	5887	5886	5859	5868
Birth No	110	127	144	143	159	94	136	151	41	50	43	33	37
Birth 1000	39	40	42	28.1	30.8	17.7	24.5	26.7	7	8.5	8	5.6	6.3

Table 5, of birth rates (INSTAT Shkodra Municipality civil Office Ana e Malit)

In the years 1950 - 1960 there are higher birth rates with an average of 40.3/1000 inhabitants which is 0.6 birht/1000 inhabitants less than the average national birth rates which was 40.9 births/1000 inhabitants. The trend towards declining fertility level began after 1960. Births of 1985 compared with births in 1960 were down in 15.3 births/1000 inhabitants or 36.4% less, but that was 3.1% higher than the percentage of Shkodra which was 39.5% less. From fertility data

for the last five years there is an “abyss “in relation to the period of demographic explosion of the years 1950 to 1960. The difference between fertility of 2009 versus 1960 is 35.7 births/1000 inhabitants or 85% less. It is clearly seen the precipitous decline which will be accompanied by other demographic consequences in the future. Mortality as the main phenomenon of natural increase of population along fertility has had a very interesting dynamic from the period after the liberation to the present day.

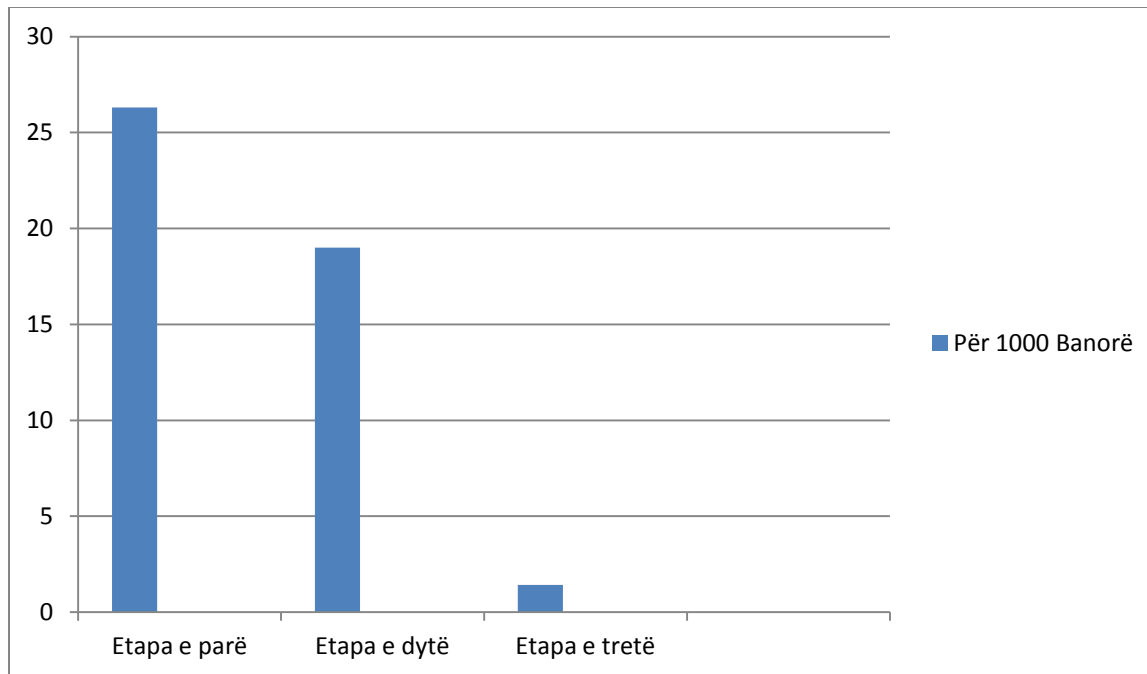
Years	1950	1955	1960	1981	1982	1984	1985	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Deaths	13	15	14	8.8	5.6	6.2	6.4	5.3	5	5.6	5.8	6.8

Table 6 shows Mortality/1000 inhabitants.

In the period 1950 - 1960 there is a high level of mortality 14 deaths/1000 inhabitants on the average, which for the same period was 1 death/1000, higher than that in the Albanian villages (13 deaths per 1000) and 1.8 deaths/1000 the national scale mortality (12.2 deaths per 1000) of the same period. During the 5-year period from 1981 to 1985 mortality has suffered a sharp decline to the lowest level, in 5.6 deaths/1000 in 1982. The average mortality for the 5 year period goes to 6.6 deaths/1000 or 0.8 vdekje/1000 lower than the mortality of Shkodra district (7.4 deaths/1000). After the fall of the number of deaths by 2006 we see an increasing trend in the following years, especially in the last two years where the mortality rate in 2009 was 1.2 deaths/1000 inhabitants, higher compared to 2007. Natural movement of population in different stages has been dynamic characteristics due to factors influencing. With the establishment of the new political system after the liberation of the country have a policy pronataliste which brought a rapid and dynamic population.

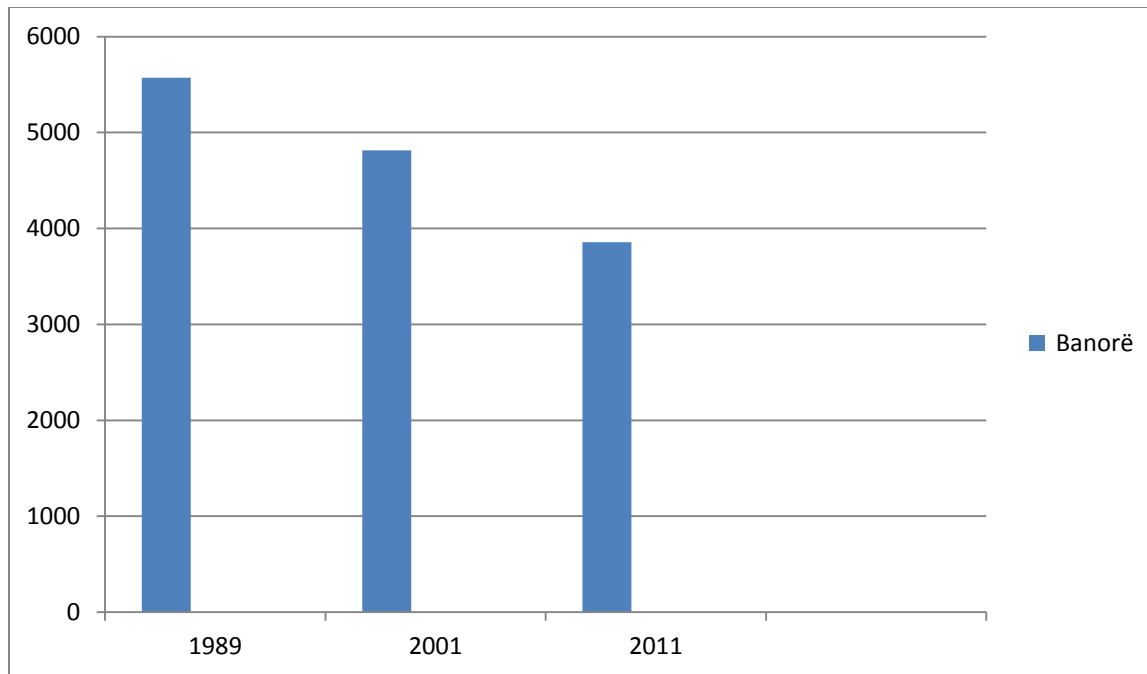
Table 7, of natural increase in demographic stages (INSTAT Shkodra Municipality civil status of Ana e Malit)

	1st stage			2nd stage					3rd stage				
years	1950	1955	1960	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Absolute increase	74	80	96	98	130	61	100	116	10	21	10	-1	-3
Increase in 1000	26	25	28	19.3	25.2	11.5	18.3	20.5	1.7	3.5	2.4	-0.2	-0.3
Average increase	26.3 për 1000			19 për 1000					1.42 për 1000				



Graph 1, of natural increase of the population per 1000 inhabitants.

The trend of declining drastically argued natural population changes that occurred in the 1990s in society. Political and economic crisis motivated the causes of forced migration outside Albanians take to the streets of immigration to the West. After political pluralism, the causes of migration were economic. Difficult economic situation , lack of employment , free movement defined in the first phase to 2000 touched on all young 20-30 years . Despite the external migration was illegal, it is estimated that in 2001 resulted in up to 821 people or 12.8% of the population. The failure of the centralized economy, economic crisis, lack of agricultural land especially for mountain villages, after 90 years was associated with an influx of migration from villages located in the mountainous western slope of Mount Tarabosh. Identification of internal migration flows is difficult because based on fundamental civil registry has significant differences with the 2001 census and surveys on the ground in hilly - mountainous villages of the municipality.



Graph 2, of population Municipality of Mt Anna INSTAT.

According to the 1989 census resulted in a population of 5573 inhabitants whereas in 2001, then 4815 inhabitants 758 inhabitants or less 13.6% of the population counting and in 2011 the population decreased by 1715 people or 30.8% of the population in 1989. In order to achieve a more accurate prognosis on the dynamics and direction of movement of a population survey was conducted. The survey shows that, currently at 5-mountainous hilly villages live three families of 263, resulting in civil registers or 1.14% of their total number, i.e. around 98.86% of families have fled from these villages. The survey was also identified the main directions of movement of families. Movements within the municipality include the villages around 45% of families removed, placed in Alimetaj, Velinaj, Oblike, Muriqan Wallace. Family moves out of the administrative unit were oriented toward: Municipality of Shkodra 50% of households in the municipality Neighborhoods 2%, and 9%, in Tirana 2.4%.

CONCLUSIONS

Factors political, social and economic triggered the negative balance of population in the municipality of Malit.Pasoja Ana had great migration that has created negative imapakte population and settlements of the municipality. Currently the population is concentrated mainly in lowland villages and mountain villages as Vidhgarë, Babo, Dramosh, Wallace, and Krebaj are completely depopulated. The consequences of this negative prognostic brought structural changes of population by age group in 2011 compared with 1989.

Graph 3, The population in 1989 in the municipality of Mt Anna The population in 2011 in the municipality of Mt Anna



The analysis of graphs clearly undergone changes that the new age group which is reduced by 11% in 2011. While over 65 age group increased by 3.2%. These changes evidenced in the average age of the population, which in 1989 was 27.7 years in 2007 is estimated at 32.8 years while the average age increased by 5.1 years.

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