

Global & regional initiatives to support accounting education in the public sector

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Professional Accountancy Organization Development Advisory Group

The Advisory Group helps IFAC support strong, sustainable professional accountancy organizations – the most effective, efficient, and sustainable source for advancing the accountancy profession. The Advisory Group actively contributes to IFAC’s strategic objectives, especially in preparing a future-ready profession, and its remit includes four specific responsibilities:

 **ADVISE**
provide insights on trends, opportunities & implications

 **ASSIST**
and mentor developing PAOs

 **ADVOCATE**
including through outreach speaking opportunities

 **ACCESS**
to resources and expertise

Overarching 2022 Focus:

 PAO Resiliency

 Strengthening Membership Quality

PAODAG focus areas in 2022



Digitalization



Sustainability



Accountancy
Education

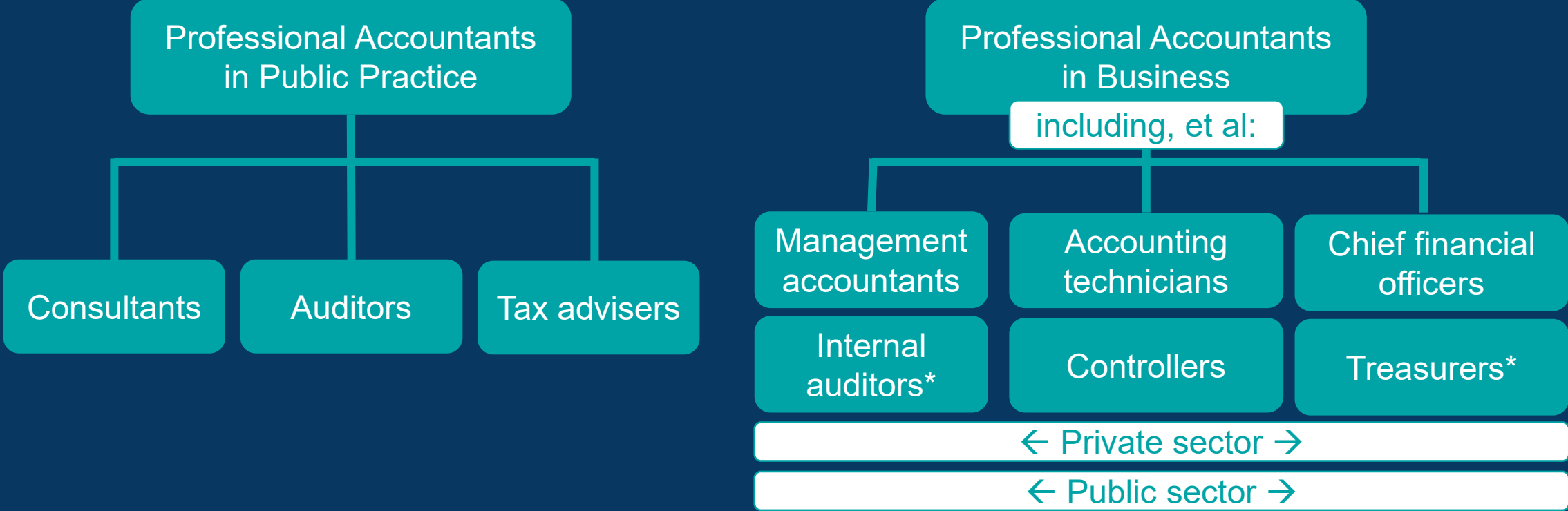


Anti-corruption



Public Financial
Management

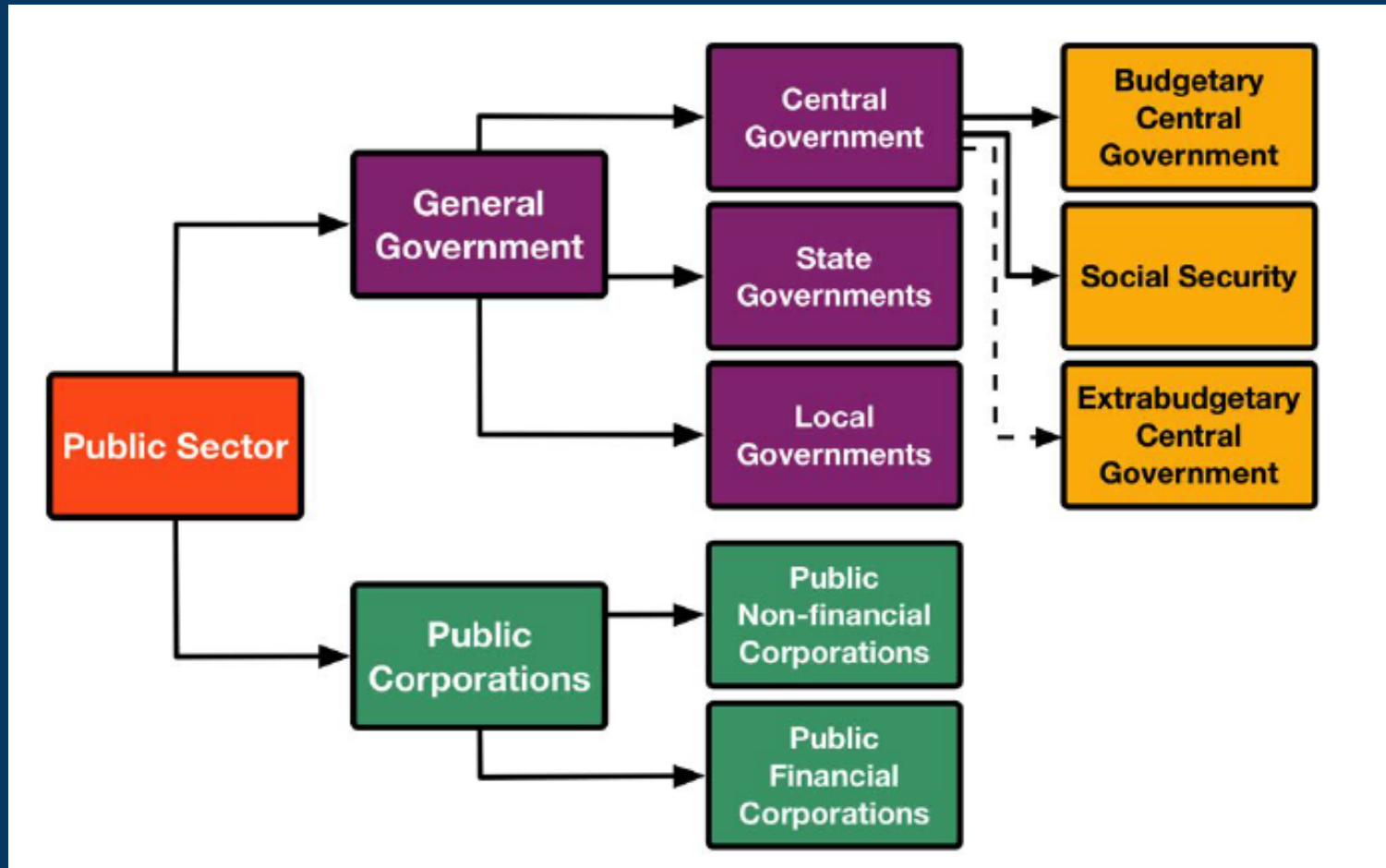
Scope of the accountancy profession



Terminology and exact structure varies between jurisdictions.

** IFAC Network Partners, the Institute of Internal Auditors and the Association of Corporate Treasurers, offer specialized qualifications in internal auditing and treasury respectively.*

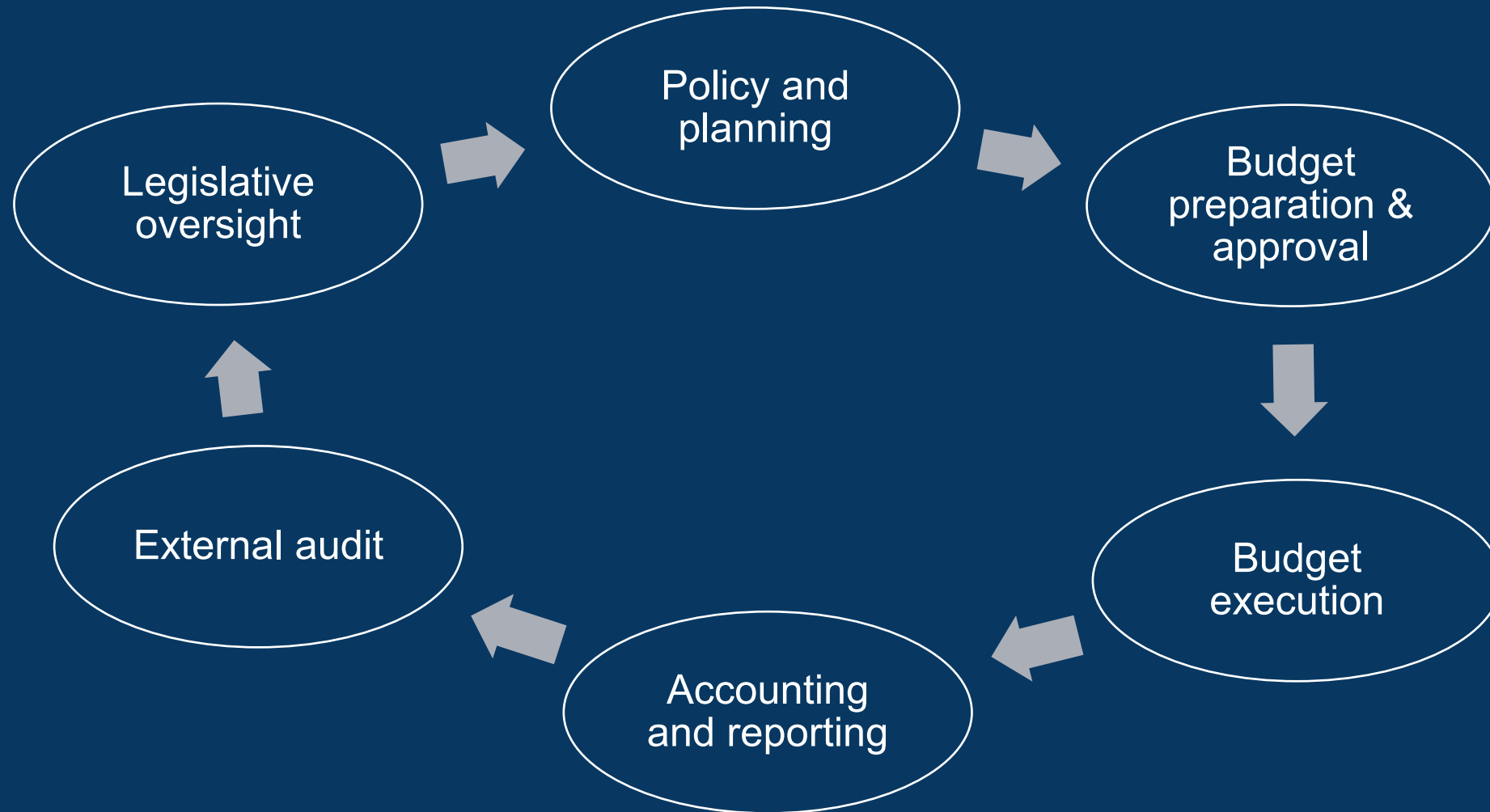
Scope of the public sector



Sector opportunities:

Health, Education,
Infrastructure,
Local government

Opportunities in the PFM cycle



Advocacy: Greater transparency & accountability in the public sector



- Strong governance and public financial management
- The key role of the accountancy profession in the public sector
- Preparing for 2030

IFAC G20 Call to Action

Four Priorities, Two Actions, One Goal

Accelerate
Sustainability
and
Inclusiveness

Recommit to
Global
Collaboration

Resist
Regulatory
Fragmentation

Focus on
Public Sector
Transparency
and Integrity

Support the IFRS
Foundation Initiative on
Sustainability Standards

Champion Public
Financial Management

GOAL: A more sustainable, inclusive and prosperous economy and society

Train the Trainer



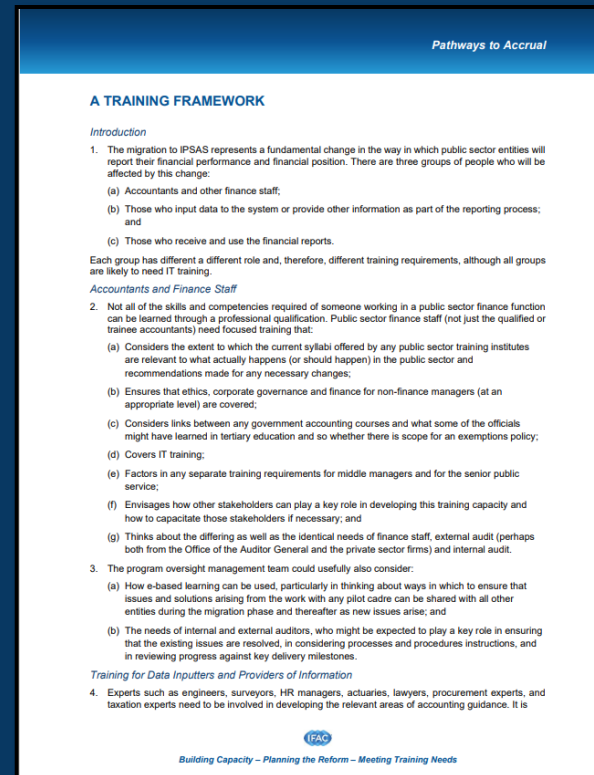
[Train the Trainer: Introduction to IPSAS | IFAC](#)

Supporting Stronger PFM and Accountability Capabilities

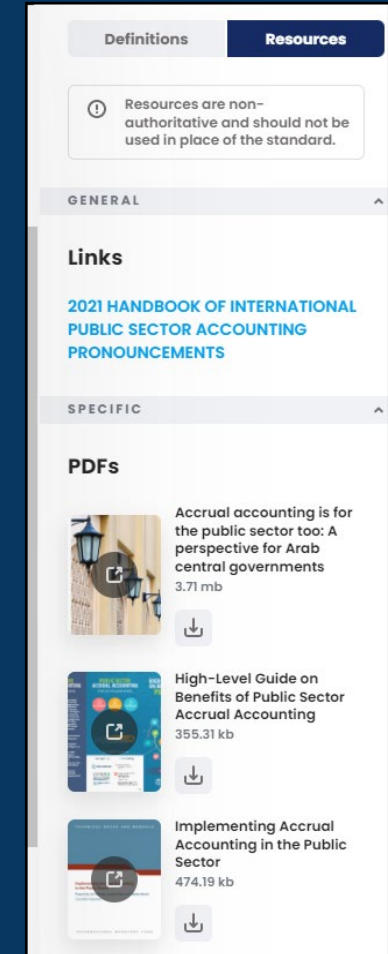
PATHWAYS TO ACCRUAL

- New digital platform providing practical guidance and resources covering:
 - ✓ Overview of wider reform contexts
 - ✓ Variety of pathways for accrual transition
 - ✓ Main accrual implementation tasks
 - ✓ Guidance on building capacity
- Launched Feb 28, 2022

Access the platform here:
<https://pathways.ifac.org>



Downloadable
PDF resources



Pathways to Accrual: Overall Structure

- The Wider Reform Context
- Governance
- PFM Framework
- Implementation Strategy
- **Building Capacity**
- Accounting Standards and Policies
- Entity-level Issues



<https://pathways.ifac.org>

IAESB guidance

- Illustrative example: Designing learning outcomes for curricula that meet public sector accountability
- Implementation guidance: Illustrative learning outcomes for the public sector accountability curricula

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE: DESIGNING LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR CURRICULA THAT MEET PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTANCY

The imperative for focus on public sector accounting

It has been identified that most governments currently prepare financial reports on a cash accounting basis. This is expected to change *dramatically in the very near future*. By 2023, it is forecast that 65% of governments will report on an accruals accounting basis, up from 25% today. Similarly, some 73% of those accrual based reports will be based on International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), up from 51% today.

This fundamental transformation poses tremendous challenges and opportunities for accountancy education: current and aspiring professional accountants need to be trained now to meet the anticipated demand for the unique knowledge, competencies and expertise required for high-quality implementation of robust and evolving public sector accounting in an increasingly complex environment. Ultimately, sound public financial management rests on the ability to meet these demands.

There are also significant benefits to all accounting professionals being trained in both public and private sector competencies. It enhances their ability to address situations of interaction between the sectors (for example as service providers or through public private partnerships). It also promotes their mobility between job markets and thus their general employability.

How does the professional accountancy education world begin to prepare?

The IAESB has developed this implementation support material as well as the companion document 'Illustrative Learning Outcomes for the Public Sector Accountancy Curricula'. Together, these documents illustrate how the implementation of International Education Standards (IESs) may be adapted to create curricula that cater to the needs of professional accountants in the public sector.

This illustrative material is grounded in the Learning Outcomes approach which "embodies the idea that learning and development experiences are most effective when based on what the individual needs to demonstrate". It uses IES 2, *Initial Professional Competence – Technical Competence* as a base as that helps establish the common ground. However, significant differences also exist between the private sector and the public sector in regard to technical competence. Therefore, the document also identifies enhancements that may be considered in the preparation of related public sector curricula that may either be integrated into existing qualification frameworks or used towards stand-alone qualifications or post-qualification specialization). As such, it addresses the *design* element of the Learning Outcomes approach in the context of public sector accountancy.

Research and engagement with key public sector stakeholders including AFROSAI-E, INTOSAI and IPSASB has substantiated the approach proposed in the document. It should also be noted that while

A regional approach

- The African Professionalisation Initiative
 - Developed generic content for Africa
 - Three target audiences
 - Incumbents
 - Professional accountants
 - Students
 - Tied to a broader capacity building approach
 - [Click here for more information](#)



Key considerations from CAPA guidance

- CAPA's [Professional Qualification](#) guidance identifies 8 pillars that are relevant to all PQs
- CAPA's "[Extending activities into the public sector](#)" guidance describes different mechanisms for incorporating public sector into qualifications
- CAPA's [Accounting Technician \(AT\)](#) guidance emphasize the relevance of ATs to the public sector



Experience of PAO in the Federation B&H

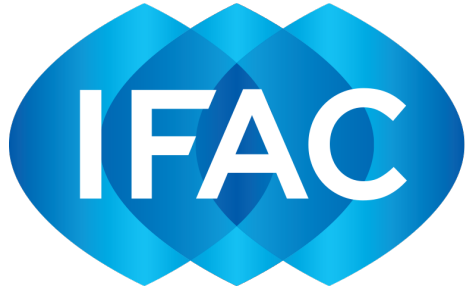
- Full-service PAO
- 21% of members in the public sector
- Professionally qualified:
 - Heads of department
 - Senior managers
- Initial professional development – neutral
- Core Competencies (Technical and Behavioral)
- Supplementary Competencies

Experience of PAO in the Federation B&H

- CPD content specific
- Various training that follows the comprehensive reform agenda
- Upskill the civil servants in finance positions
- Support the rise of AT
- Ethical oversight
- Develop and frequently refresh competency frameworks to support professional qualification and CPD to maintain relevancy

Q&A





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