

CE Center | Academic workshop

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Challenges in developing methods to assess
the progress of our economy towards circularity

Sustainable development indicators to measure progress towards the SDGs

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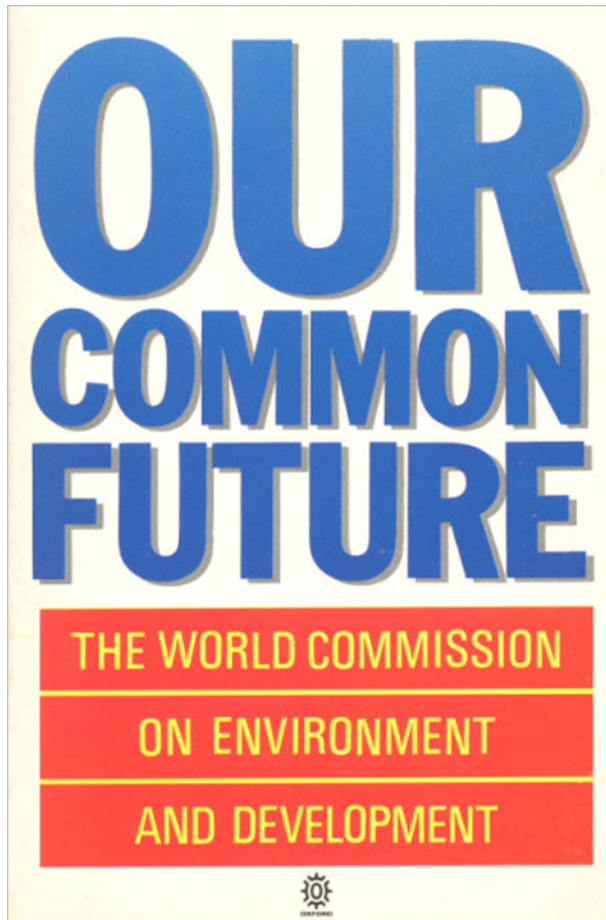


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Building blocks



Context: Sustainable Development



- Brundtland report (1987)
- “ *development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs* ”
- United Nations conferences: Rio 1992 ... SD Summit 2015

SDGs

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



- *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*
- 17 goals with 169 ‘targets’
- 232 indicators

Objectives

- Adopted by policy makers
- Two types of objectives
 - **targets**: well-defined, quantified, time-bound
 - desired **direction** only
- SDGs & other commitments
 - Long-term vision for sustainable development (2013)
 - Europe 2020 strategy & national reform programme
 - EU 2030 climate and energy framework

Indicators | 1

- Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs)
 - 1997 SD Act: SDI role in reporting
 - 2012 www.indicators.be
 - 2017 selection of 34 SDIs, two per SDG
 - 2019 extension to 83 (51 in assessment; future 140 ?)
- Classification of SDIs by
 - *TransGovern* model component
 - SDG and type of objective
 - SD component | Society - Environment - Economy - Governance

Indicators | 2 : selection criteria

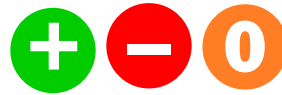
- Three per SDG
- Related to different UN targets
- Close to UN Statistical Commission list
- Relevant for Belgium and available
- With clear objective
- Good statistical quality
- Breakdowns and EU comparison possible

Measuring progress | 1

- **Belgium on path to reach SDGs by 2030 ?**
- Compare data and expectations with objectives
- Methods to go beyond observed data
 - existing projection
 - trend calculation and extrapolation
 - > with Hodrick-Prescott trend
 - statistical significance of past changes
 - > with Spearman rank correlation

Measuring progress | 2

> 3 possible results



target

FAVOURABLE = reached or near
(10% margin)

UNFAVOURABLE = not reached
(distance > 10%)

IMPOSSIBLE = erratic data

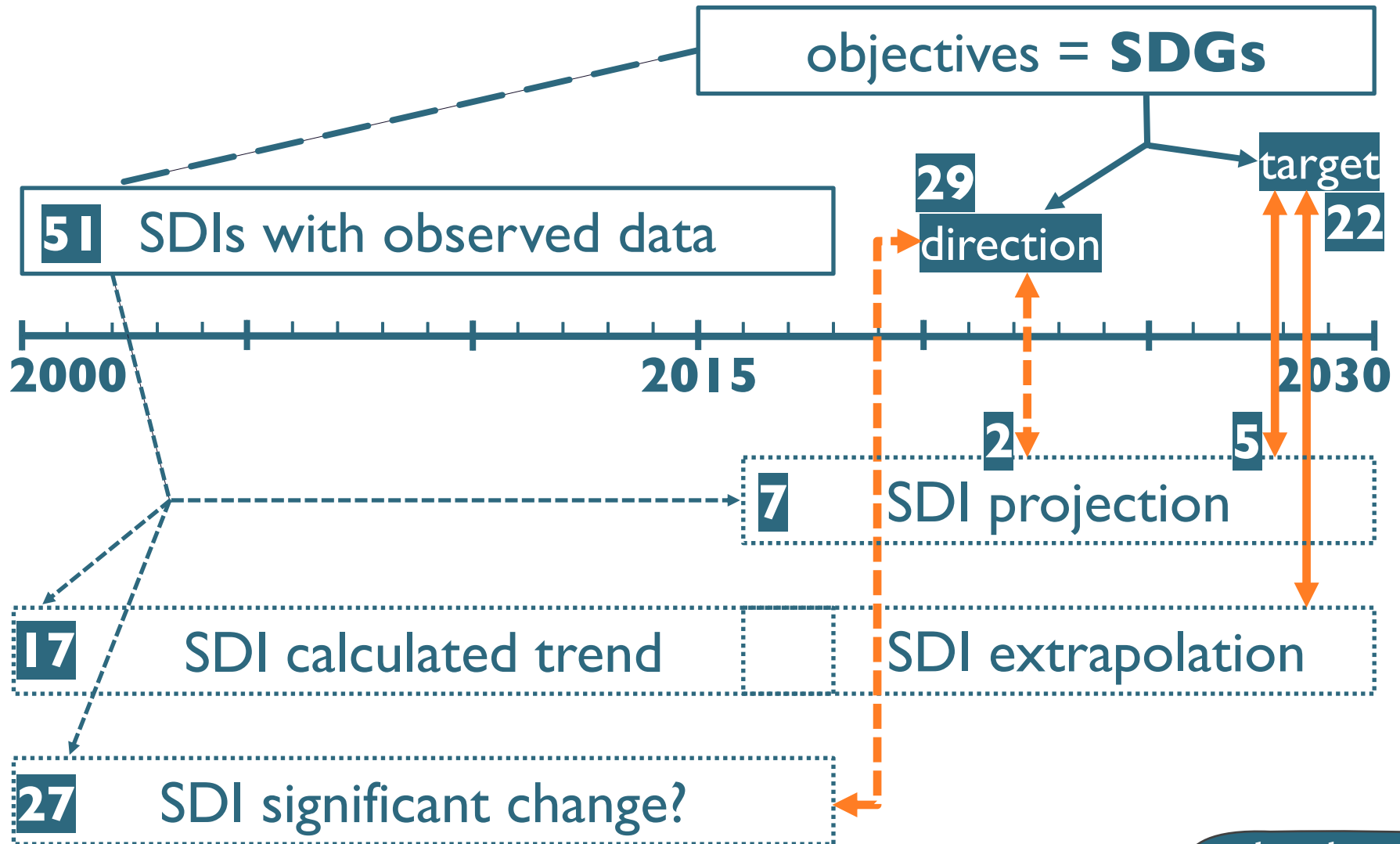
direction

FAVOURABLE = right
proj. | calc. significant

UNFAVOURABLE = wrong
proj. | calc. significant

UNDETERMINED = proj. stable |
calc. not significant or
impossible (lack of data)

Trend assessment towards SDGs

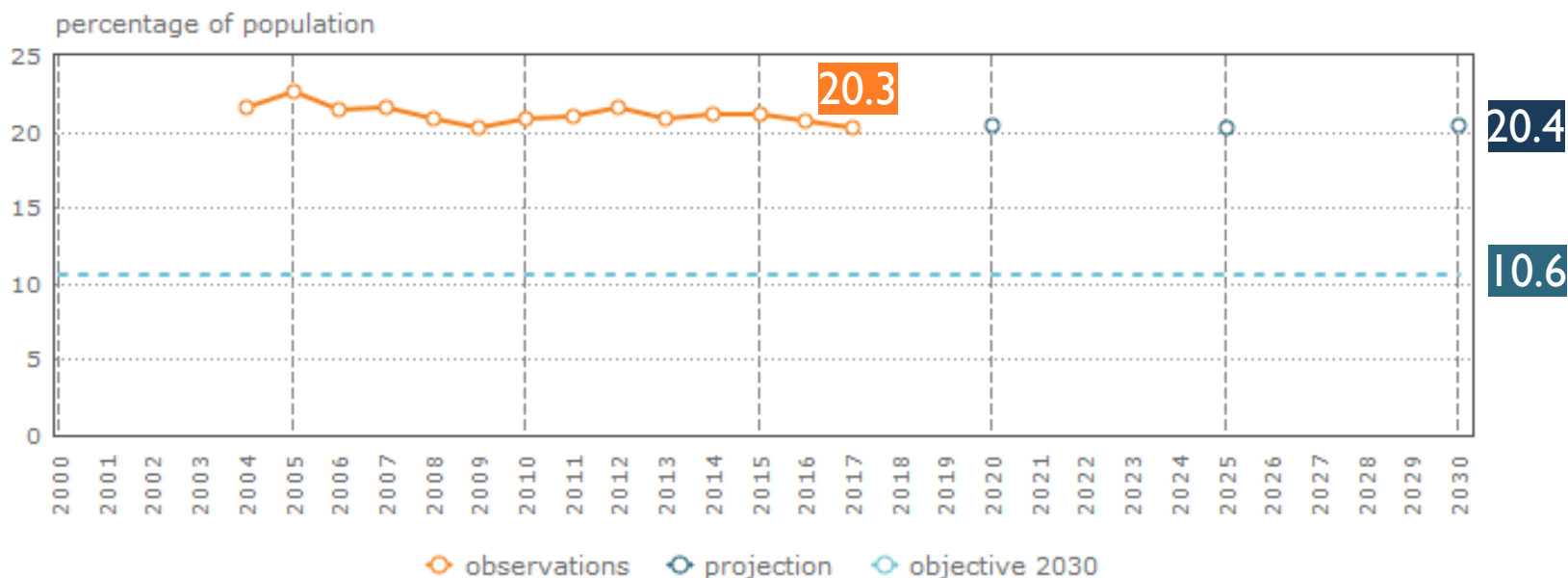


Example 1

SDI with target and projection



Risk of poverty or social exclusion

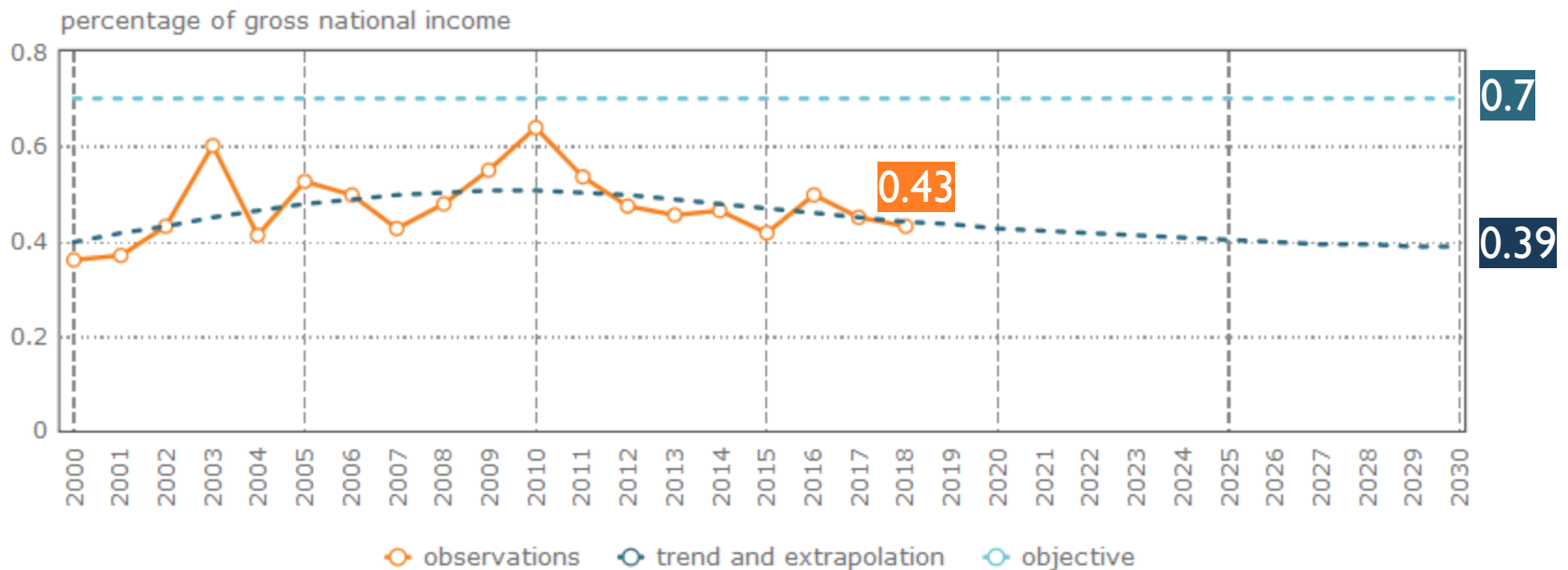


Example 2

SDI with target and trend extrapolation



Official development assistance

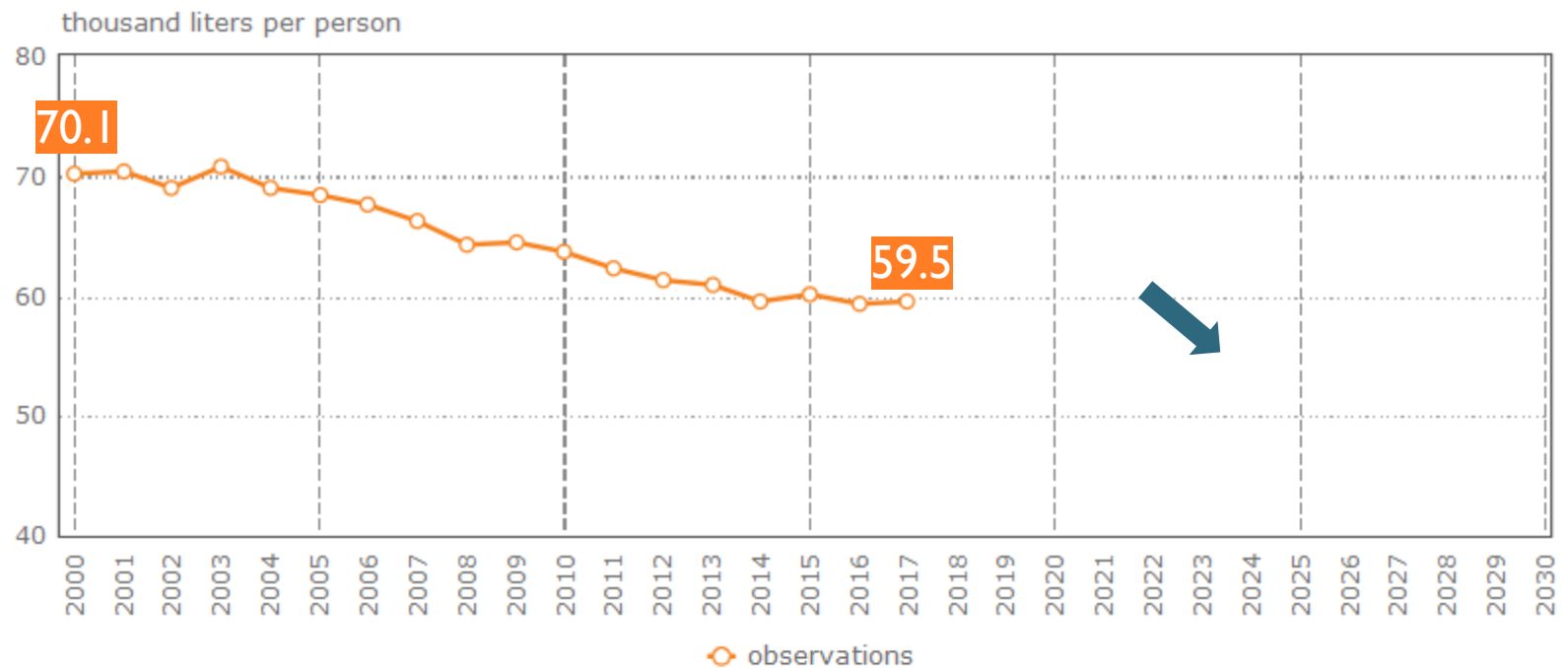


Example 3




SDI with direction and correlation calc.



Water consumption +



2019 SDI trend assessment: aggregated results overall and by type of objective

RESULT	TREND ASSESSMENT		TOTAL
	TARGET	DIRECTION	
 FAVOURABLE	4	11	15
 IMPOSSIBLE UNDETERMINED	1	12	13
 UNFAVOURABLE	17	6	23
TOTAL	22	29	51

2019 SDI trend assessment: detailed results

- selection

	01 - Risk of poverty or social exclusion	10.55%	⊖
	03 - Over-indebtedness of households	↘	⊖
	20 - Renewable energy	18.3%	⊖
	21 - Energy productivity	11.1 €/kgoe	⊖
	25 - Passenger transport by car	67.4%	⊖
	27 - Research and development	3% GDP	⊕
	34 - Domestic material consumption	↘	⊕
	36 - Waste recycling	↗	⊕
	37 - Greenhouse gas emissions non-ETS	51.2 Mt CO ₂ eq.	⊖
	38 - Natural disaster victims	1.98 per 100,000	0

Choices & challenges | 1

- SDI set = dashboard >< composite indicator(s)
- Size of set: complexity & overview
 - icons, graphs, one page/screen, key indicators
 - extend... for assessment at SDG level
 - multi-purpose indicators
 - breakdowns of indicators | sex, age, education, income
- Other SDI classifications, creating subsets
 - SD dimensions | here and now - later - elsewhere
 - SD domains | People - Planet - Prosperity - Peace - Partnership

Choices & challenges | 2

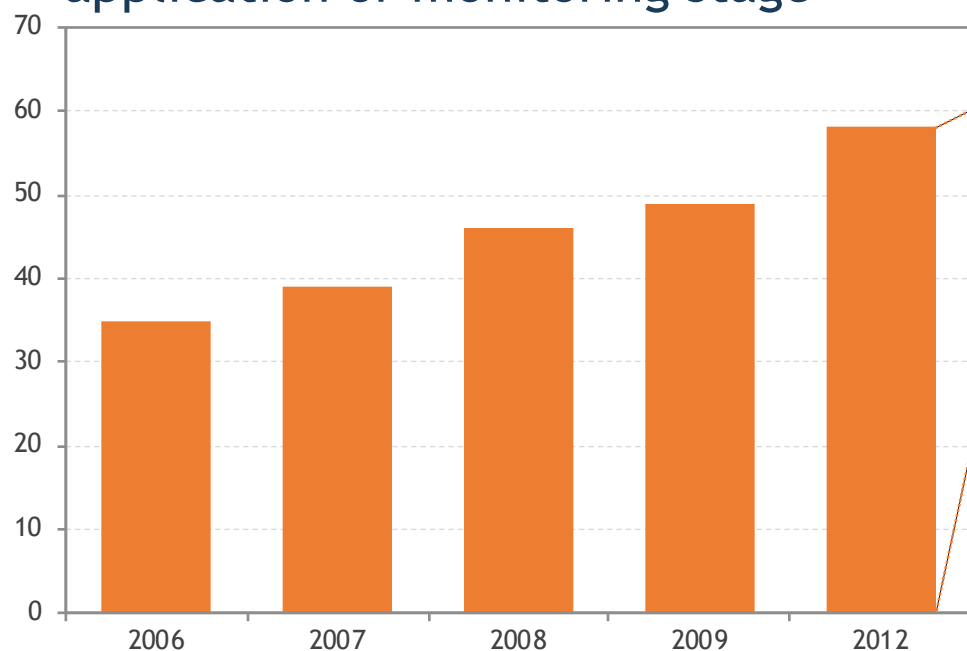
- Strengthen link with *beyond GDP indicators*
- Translate objectives into *targets*
- Measure progress with other method
Eurostat: compound annual growth rate; 4 possible results
- Update regularly > \pm same results
- Repeat same messages
 - distance to targets substantial
 - more efforts and policy changes needed

Choices & challenges | 3

- Communication with various groups
- Role in policy-making
 - part of SD strategy cycle, with reiterations
 - > improve policies and living conditions
 - need for larger set and more detailed indicators
 - issues not addressed: current situation (>< development);
internat. comparison; ambition level of objectives
 - impact of monitoring and assessment

Implementation of SD Plan 2004-2008/extended

Percentage of 395 measures in application or monitoring stage



55: application
3: monitoring

19: preparation

11: no action

3: outdated

9: no information

implementation stages
other categories

[Source: FPB TFSD based on Interdepartmental Commission on SD and public services]

Thank you for your attention



Visit www.indicators.be

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