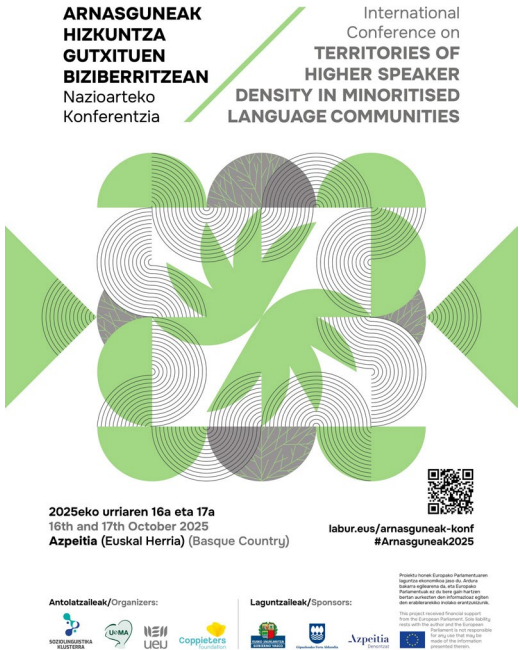




#Arnasguneak2025

www.labur.eus/arnasguneak-konf

Jarraipena eta elkar-dependentsia: galesera hiztun dentsitate baxu, ertain eta altuko komunitateen dinamika

Continuity and Co-dependency?: the dynamics of high, mid and low-density Welsh-speaking communities

Yr Athro / Professor Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones
elin.jones@cymru.ac.uk

**Comisiwn
Cymunedau
Cymraeg**

Commission for Welsh-speaking Communities

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BRO

Arolwg Sosioeithyddol Cynhwysfawr
o Gymunedau Cymraeg Cyfoes

A Comprehensive Sociolinguistic Survey
of Contemporary Welsh-speaking Communities

Cymraeg / galesa / Welsh

500k-870k speakers hiztunak (c.20%)

Mid-sized Minoritized Language:

broad socio-economic base, institutional support, official status (public sector language regulation), education (immersion/Model D & non-immersion/model A) local and sub-state administration, some presence in private/commercial sector media, digital linguistic infrastructure, culture, music, literature, theatre, sport, community...

Language Policy and Language Planning Initiatives:

Central role of Activism and Civil Society Organizations in developing strategy, policy and implementation. Campaigns for 50+ years focus on both '**material condition**' of communities (economy, housing) as well as **language planning** in education, media, status... continuous tension of priorities....

Public Policy Interventions – UK, Wales, local authority levels with local differentiation.

Strategies, Initiatives, Reports & Recommendations: Cymraeg 2050 Strategy, Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Act 2025, Commission for Welsh speaking Communities ...

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Wales_Map_Europe.PNG
Attribution: Rab-k and David Liuzzo



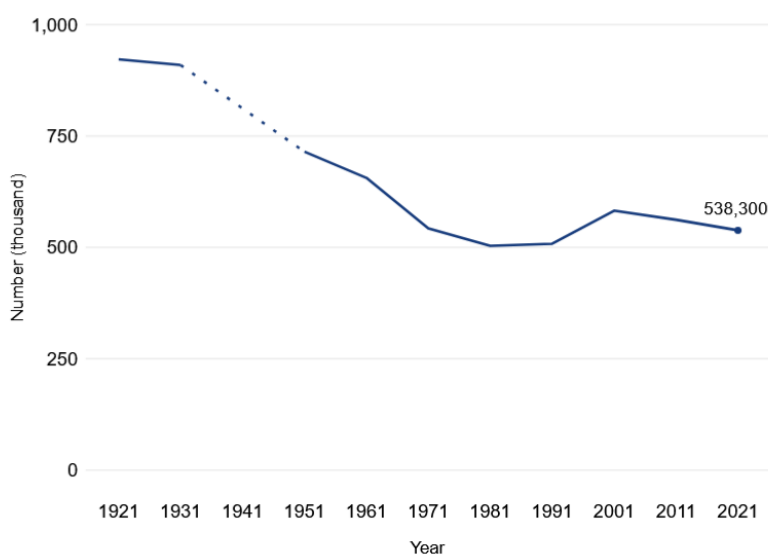
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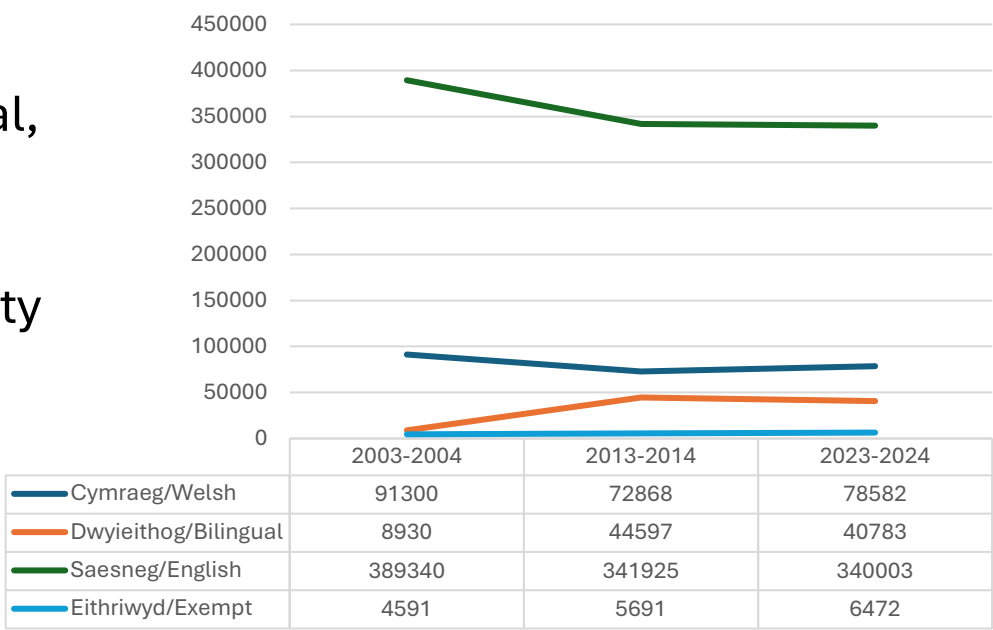
SOME KEY CHALLENGES

- Census Data 2021: decrease in number and percentage of speakers (Covid) in most parts of the country
- Immersion/Welsh-medium/Model D education is not universal, and no significant growth
- Social use of the language across Wales
- Sustainability of high density areas: migration from high density (exc. Sir Gar / Carmarthenshire) to low/mid, to England...

Chart 1: Number of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh, 1921 to 2021



Disgyblion yn ôl cyfrwng ysgolion (Cymru)
Pupil population by typology of school (Wales)



Welsh Government CYMRAEG 2050 : Three strategic themes & targets

Target 1: Increasing the number of Welsh speakers to 1 million by 2050

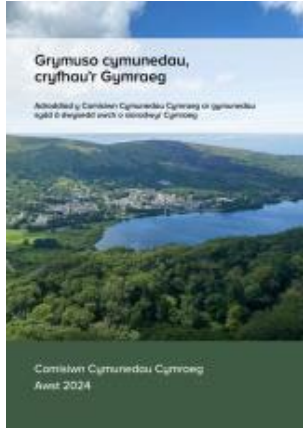
Target 2: Increasing the use of Welsh – double the daily use 10% to 20%

Theme 3: Creating favourable conditions – infrastructure and context



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Comisiwn Cymunedau Cymraeg

Commission for
Welsh-speaking
Communities



- First phase 2022-2024, Second phase 2024-2026
- **Lehengo fasea 2022-2024, Bigarren fasea 2024-2026**
- Welsh is a national language; the whole of Wales is an Area of Linguistic Significance; High Density areas are vital
- **Galesera hizkuntza nazionala da; Gales osoa garrantzi itzelezko hizkuntza-eremua da; Arnasguneak zeharo beharrezkoak dira**
- Definition and designation of High-density Areas
- **Arnasgunea nola eta nork definitu**
- 57 recommendations in 8 policy areas: (1) economy (2) workplaces (3) community development (4) housing (5) town & country planning (6) equality-diversity-inclusion (7) Welsh-medium education (8) community language planning
- **57 gomendio 8 esparru politikotan: (1) ekonomia (2) lantokiak (3)komunitate-garapena (4) etxebizitza (5) hiri- eta landa-plangintza (6) Berdintasuna- aniztasuna-inklusioa (7) Hezkuntza galesez (B eta D eredua) (8) Komunitate mailako hizkuntza-plangintza**



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MENTRAU IAITH

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METHODOLOGY

MULTI-MODAL, QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE

DATA ANALYSIS (sub-sets, inc. socio-economic)

**COMMUNITY
RESPONSE**

Follow up
meetings

PRE-SCHOOL:

Questionnaire
Schools Data
Interviews

COMMUNITY:

Households
(Door to door)
7 locations
c.300
households in each
(30-50% of
population)

TEENAGERS:

12-17 yrs old
Questionnaires
Focus groups
7 locations

WORKPLACES:

Linguistic
landscape &
soundscape
Ethnographic
observation of
practices and
use
Interviews
(workers/other)

**PUBLIC
SPACES:**

Linguistic
landscape &
soundscape
Ethnographic
observation of
practices and
use

**POLICY
ANALYSIS**

UK, Wales,
local
government

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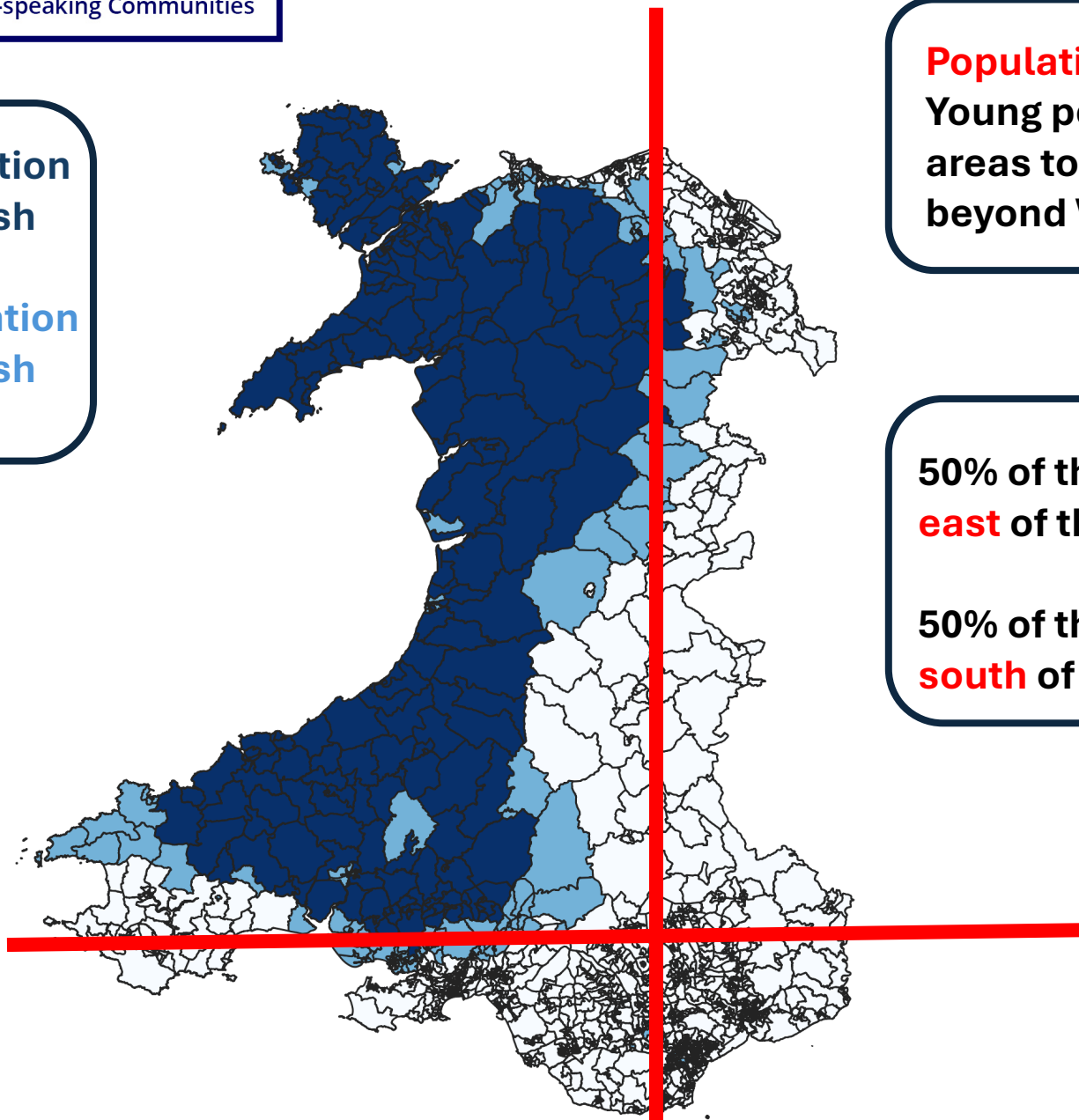
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DARK BLUE: 40%+ of population
over 3 years old speaks Welsh

LIGHT BLUE: 20%+ of population
over 3 years old speaks Welsh

TYOLOGY

Administrative Towns
University towns/city
Post-industrial towns
and villages
Coastal villages
Rural areas
Tourism



Population movement

Young people from high density
areas to lower density areas and
beyond Wales

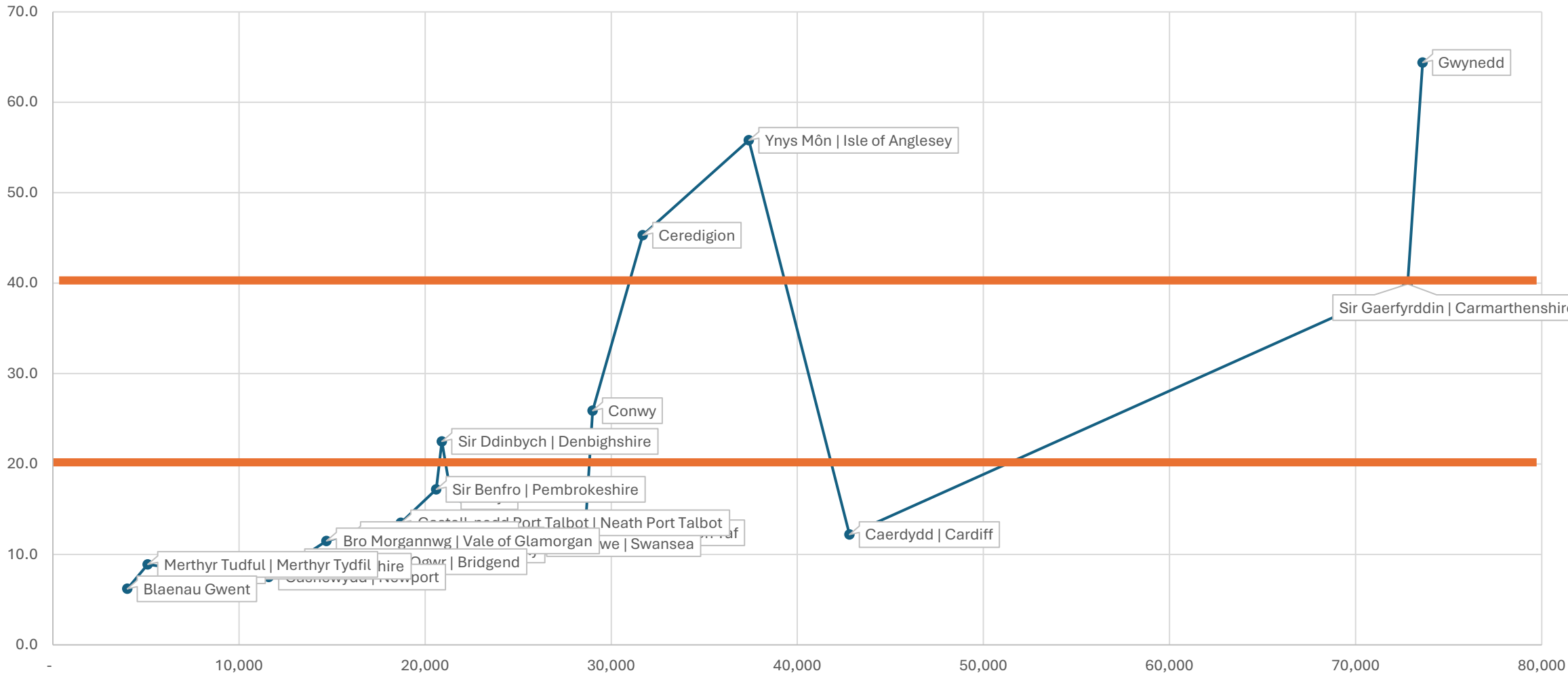
50% of the population lives to the
east of the red line

50% of the population lives to the
south of the red line



Canrannau a Niferoedd Siaradwyr Cymraeg Awdurdodau Lleol, Cyfrifiad 2021

Percentage and Numbers of Welsh-speakers by Local Authority, Census 2021



Comparing Welsh with Basque

Data 2021	Euskara		Cymraeg	
(rounded)	No. of speakers	% all speakers	No of speakers	% all speakers
Zone 1: under 20%	220k	32%	250k	46%
Zone 2: 20% – 50%	160k	23%	150k	27%
Zone 3: 50% – 80%	220k	32%	130k	24%
Zone 4: over 80%	85k	12%	13k	2%
Zones 1– 4 TOTAL	(rounded) 680k		(rounded) 540k	

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Threshold at 40%

Policy reaches 45% of population

GALESA gaur egun : Jarraipena eta elkar-dependentsia?: galesera hiztun dentsitate baxu, ertain eta altuko komunitateen dinamika

CYMRAEG today : Continuity and Co-dependency?: the dynamics of high, mid and low-density Welsh-speaking communities

INITIAL OBSERVATIONS

- The contemporary Welsh context is characterised by socio-geo-linguistic continua (or continuity) between high-mid-low density areas : shared workplaces, transport structures and mobility, sectoral agriculture
- Welsh-speaking internal migration in one direction: from high density areas to mid/low. Current strategies are aimed at encouraging young people to stay or return, little mention of relocating from low/mid to high. Economic challenges.
- Significant policy intervention on the political table (Recommendations of Commission for Welsh-speaking Communities). Welsh Government has accepted the principle and the implementation process is being considered. May elections.
- In-depth analysis of high-density areas through BRO research, with findings and results being analysed. Evidenced based diagnosis. www.wales.ac.uk/bro



2025eko urriaren 16a eta 17a
16th and 17th October 2025
Azpeitia (Euskal Herria) (Basque Country)

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#Arnasguneak2025

Antolatzaileak/Organizers:

Laguntzaileak/Sponsors:

Proiektu honek Europako Parlamentuaren laguntza ekonomikoa jaso du. Andara bakarra egitearena da, eta Europako Parlamentuak ez du bere gain hartzen bertan aurkeztu den informazioaz egin den erabilerarekiko inolako erantzukizunik.

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