



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS



Disability policy in Estonia

Häli Tarum

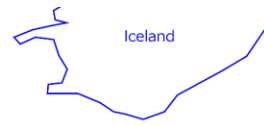
Head of the Social Welfare Department

Ministry of Social Affairs

13.11.2019

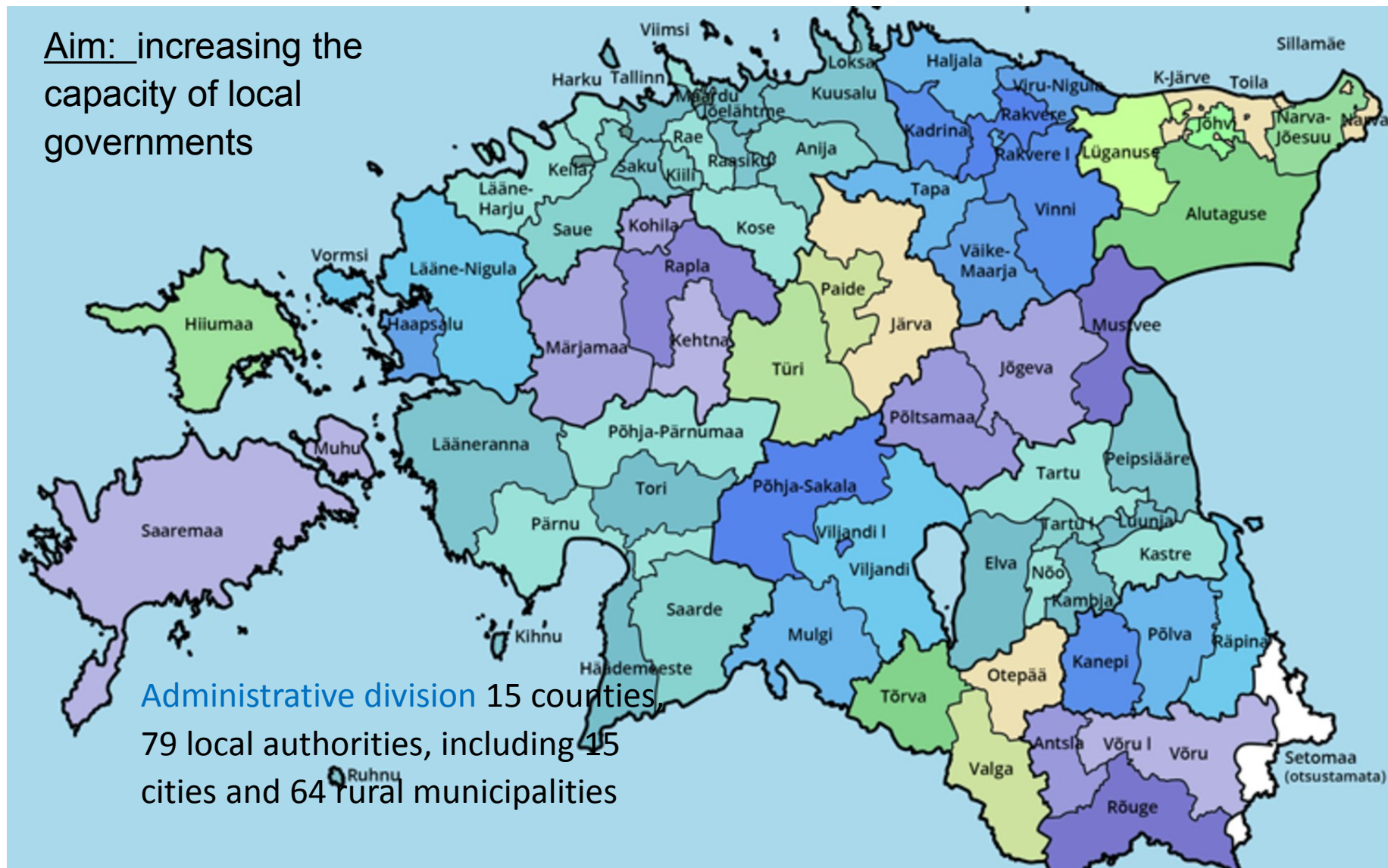
Main facts

- In Northern Europe
- **Area** 45,336 km²
- **Population** 1,313,00
- **State budget 2018:** 10,58 billion € (social protection 30%, health care 13%)
- **Administrative division:** 15 counties, 79 local authorities



Local government reform

Aim: increasing the capacity of local governments



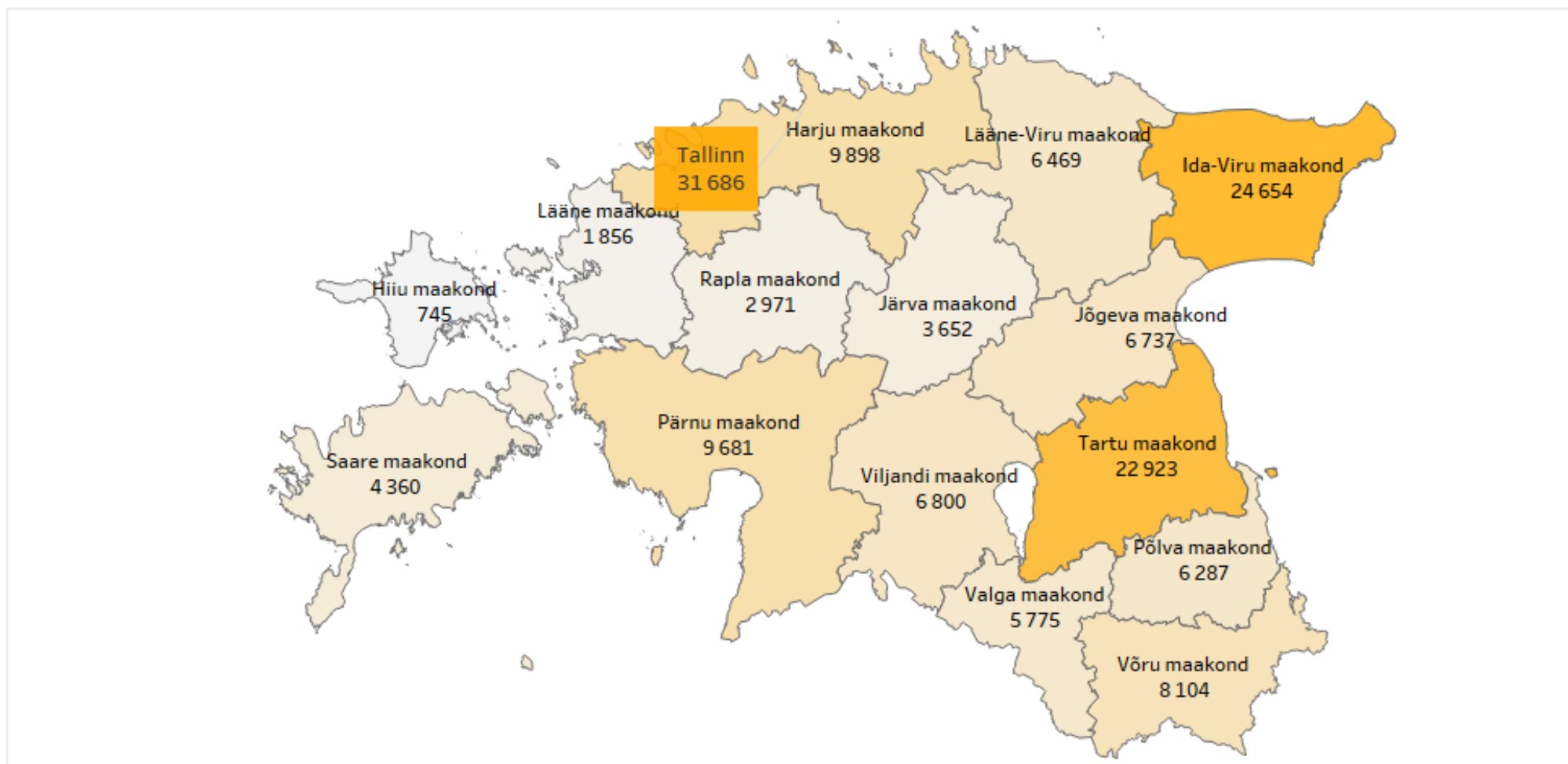
Administrative division 15 counties,
79 local authorities, including 15
cities and 64 rural municipalities

Number of disabled people

Persons with disability in 2018:

156 700, 11,9% of the population

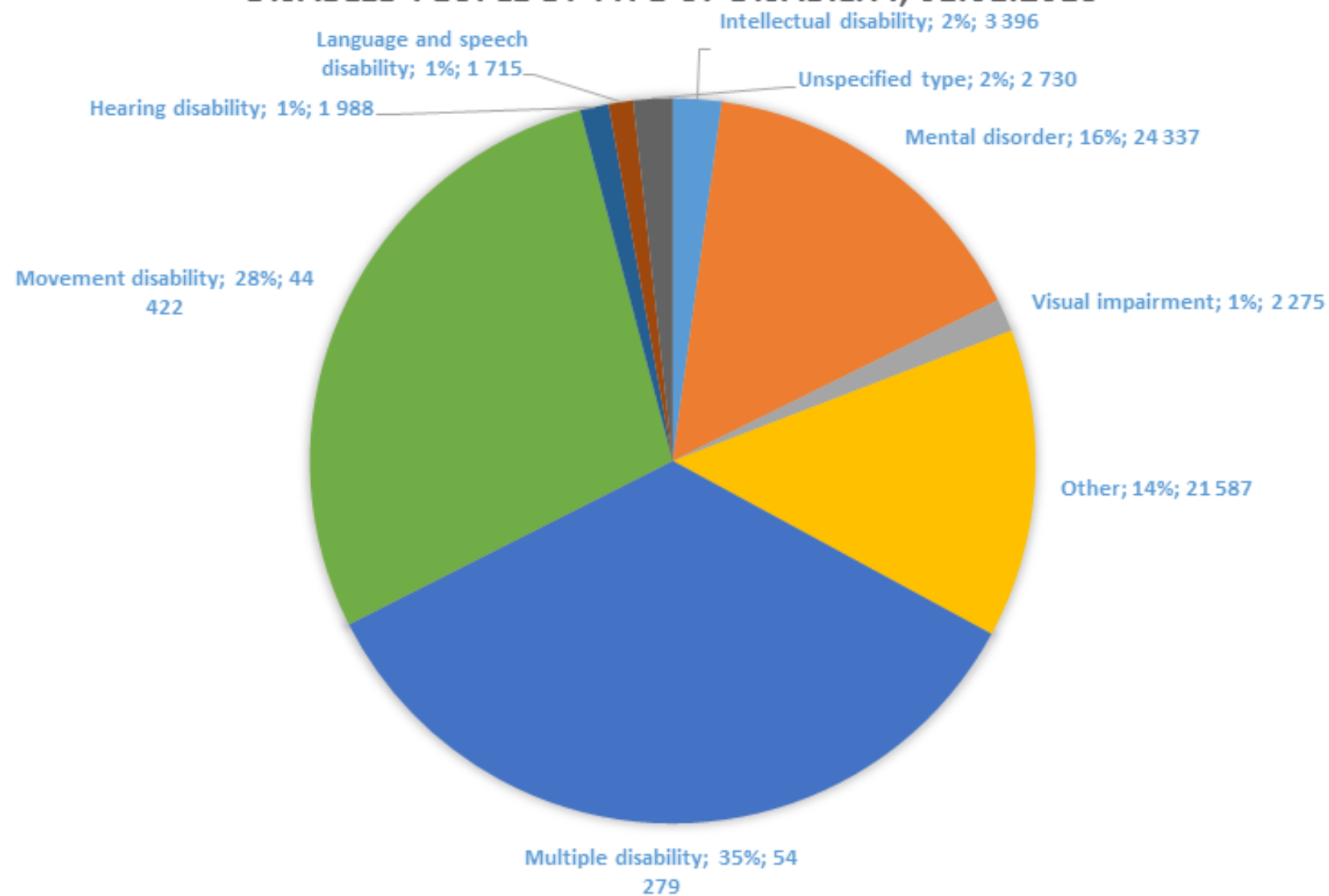
Puudega inimeste arv maakondades seisuga 01.01.2018



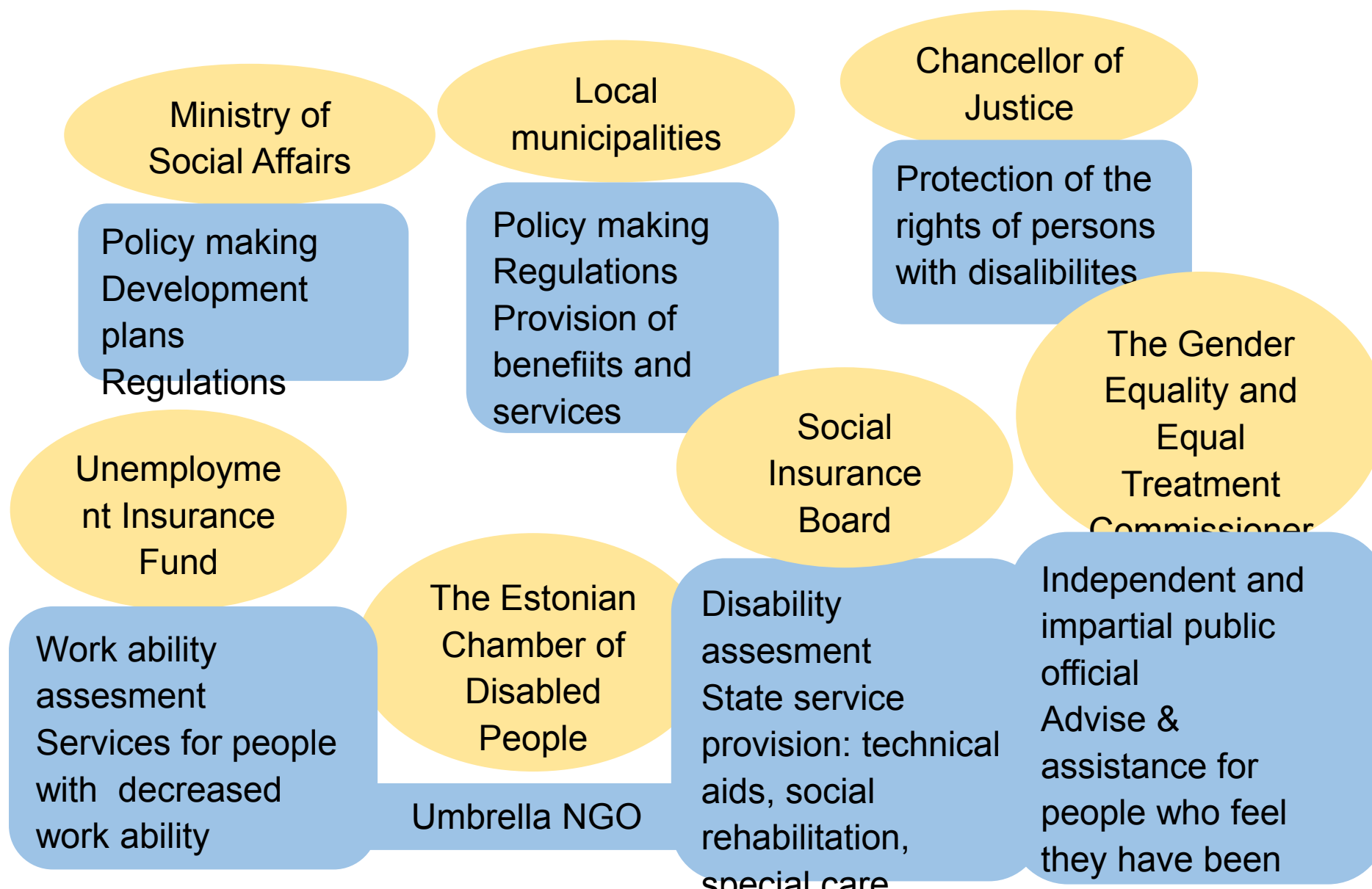
Disability status

- Disability of a person is established on the basis of the person's health status and ability to cope with social life or work life (Social Benefits for Disabled Persons Act)
- The degree of disability of children (up to 16 years of age) and persons in the retirement age is established on the basis of the need for personal assistance, guidance or supervision.
- The disability of a person of working age (a person of 16 years of age until attaining the retirement age) is established on the basis of restrictions in participation in daily activity and social life.

DISABLED PEOPLE BY TYPE OF DISABILITY, 01.01.2018



Main stakeholders: who is who?



The Estonian Chamber of Disabled People (1993)

An umbrella NGO for organisations of people with disability and/or chronic disease.

48 full members and 5 supportive members
- all together 22 000 individual members

Full member of EDF and EPF

With annual project-based budget ab 150 000 – 300 000
EUR



EESTI PUUETEGA INIMESTE KODA
THE ESTONIAN CHAMBER OF DISABLED PEOPLE

What do we do?

- Political advocacy
- Implementation of UN CRPD
- Consulting and empowering disabled people and patients
- Expert opinions and adult trainings
- International cooperation
- Innovative projects
- And so on... 😊

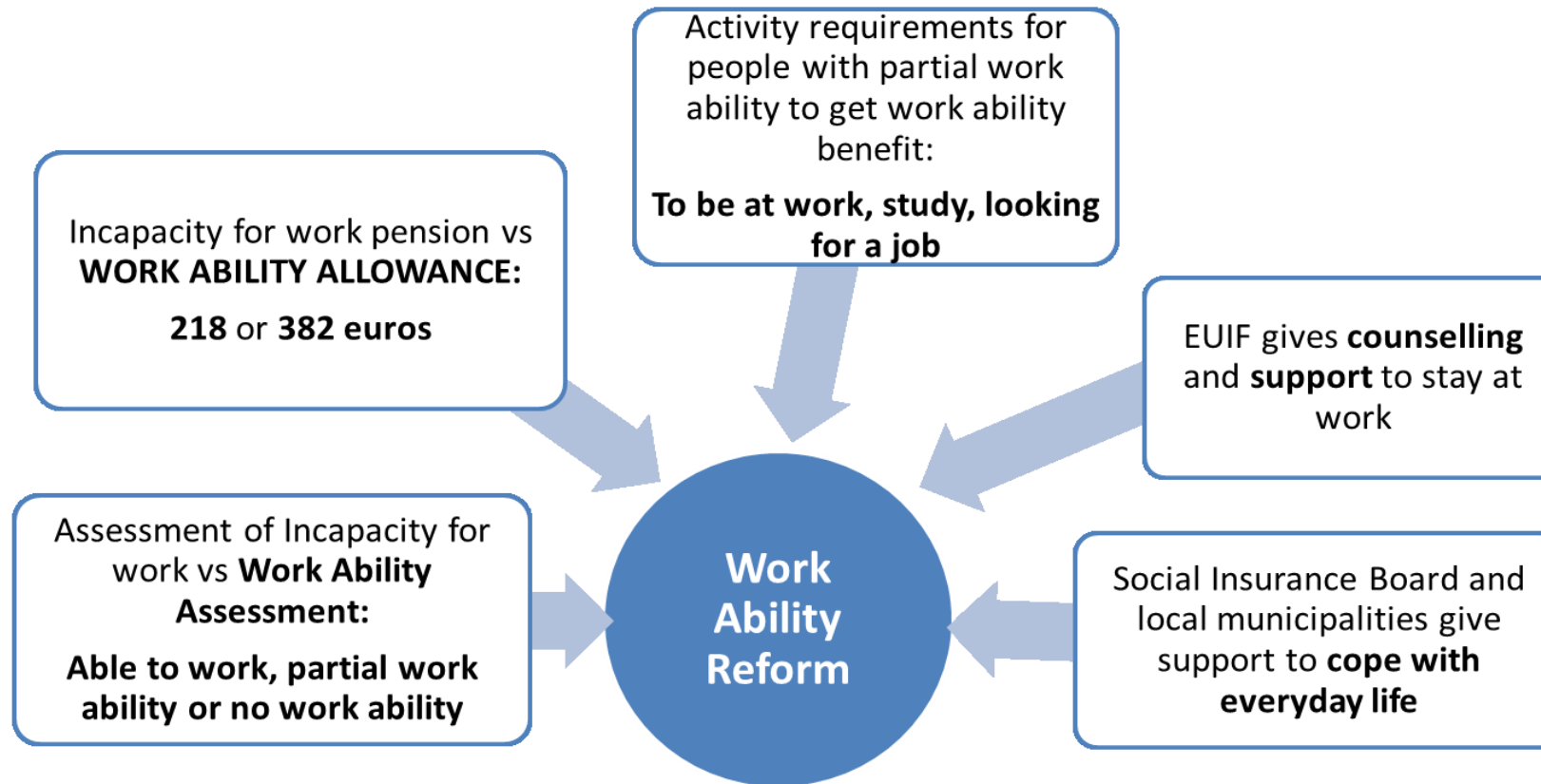


Challenges and current activities

- 1) Work Ability Reform
- 2) Deinstitutionalisation
- 3) Preparations for long-term care reform
- 4) Accessibility task force

1) Work Ability Reform

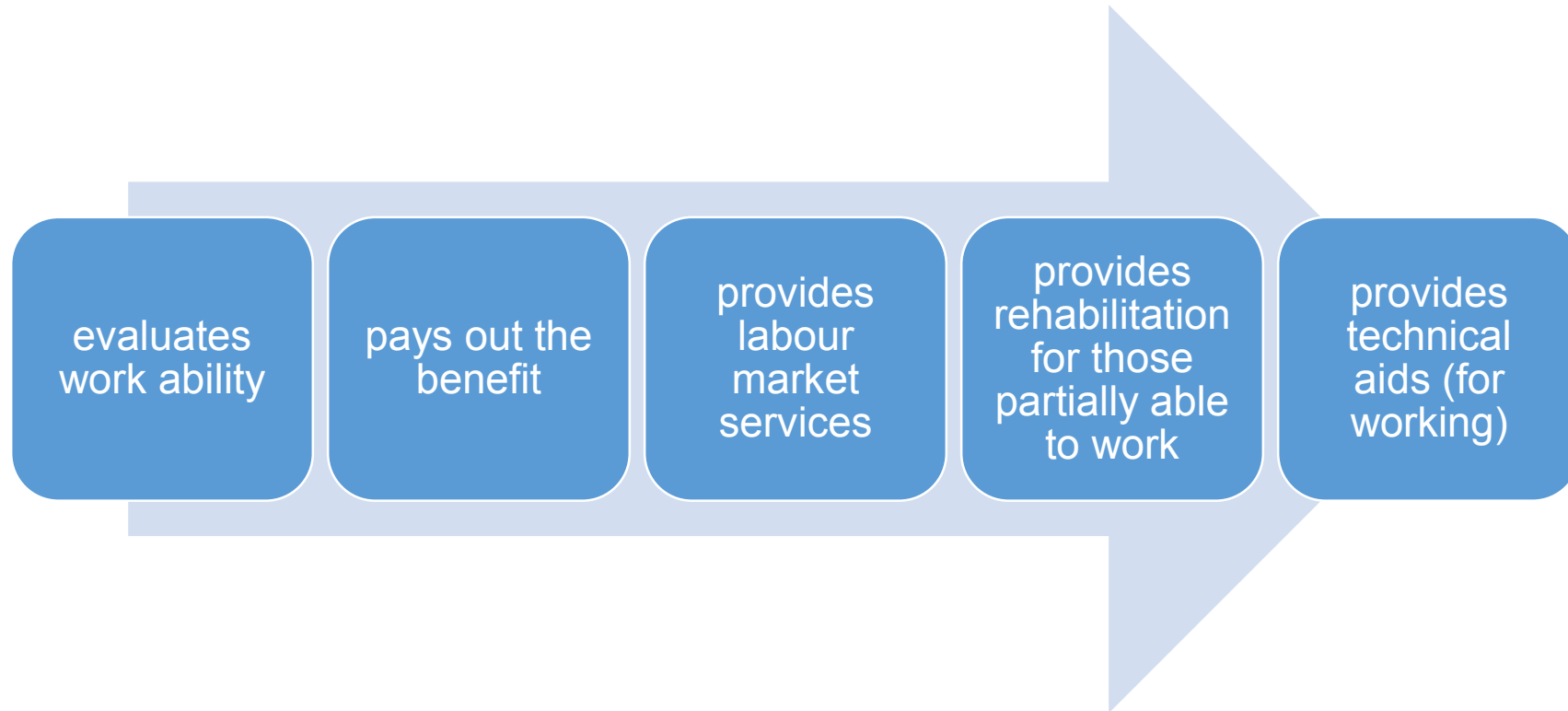
2016 on going



Work Ability Reform has changed the way work ability is assessed and benefits are paid. More support for work and everyday life for people with decreased work ability. More support for employers.

One management Authority for the whole scheme

Unemployment Insurance Fund:



2) Deinstitutionalisation in Estonia

Period 2007 – 2013:

- 6 large care institutions were reorganised and closed.
- In 11 locations, for 550 people new community and family-based homes.

Period 2014 – 2020:

- 9 large care institutions with 1265 places will be reorganized:
- In Estonia, community-based and family-based homes have 24-hour service places for a total of 973 people.
- Community service places for 292 people.
- New community support services for 528 people will be created.

Aim for 2023: Reorganise large care institutions and increase the proportion of supportive services compared to 24-hour service places.

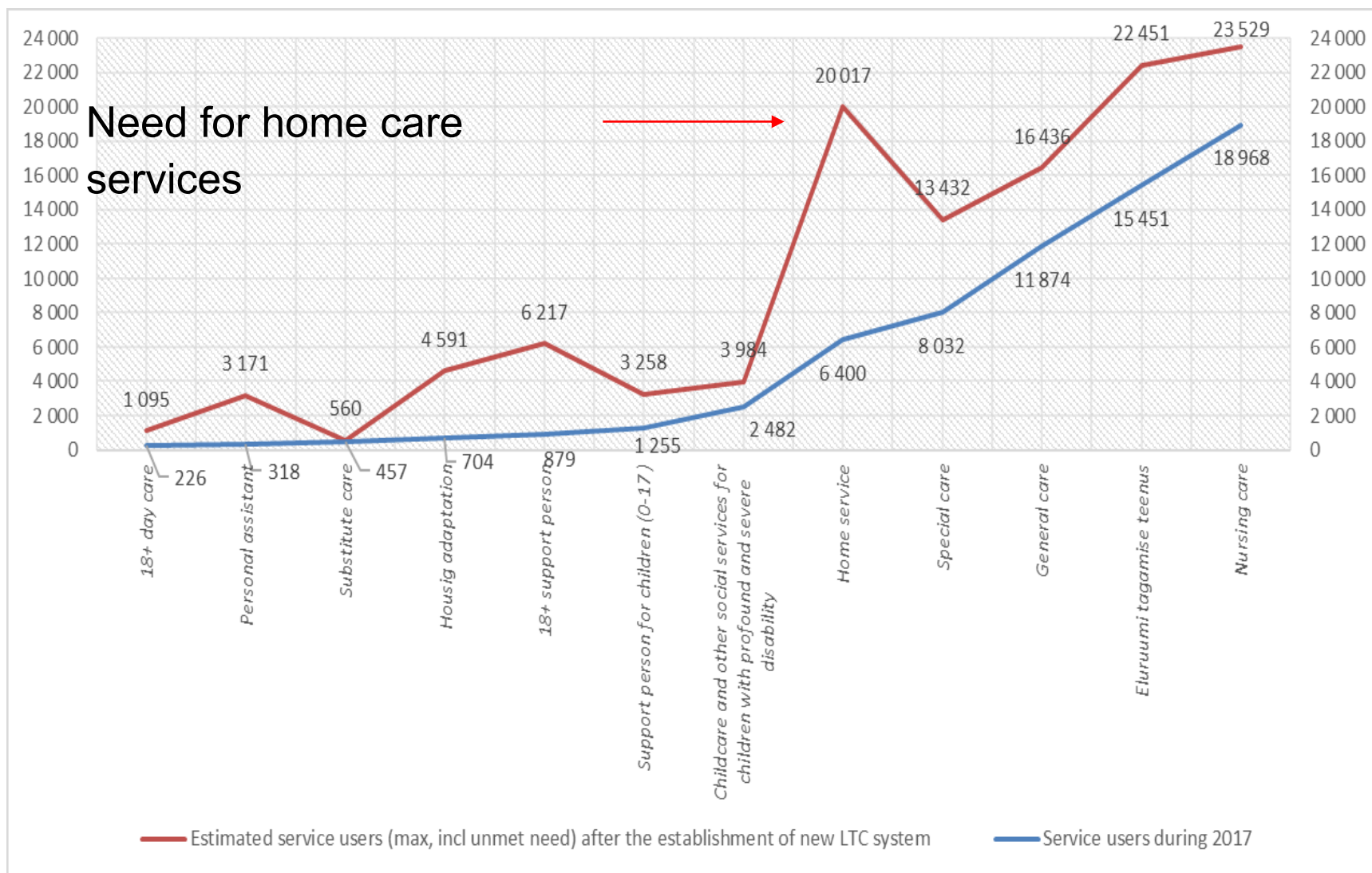
3) Preparations for long term care reform

- **Agreed concept of long-term care (LTC) reform** based on the task force policy recommendations.
- 2018-2019 pilot project for health and social services coordination

Aim of the reform:

- To increase the provision of services
- Integration and better co-operation of social and health care services
- The scope of long-term care system and next steps that need to be taken – political decisions.

Need for long-term care services is unmet



4) Accessibility task force

What is a task force?

- The government gave the Government Office the assignment to create task forces in 2011.
- Task forces are created for areas related to several ministries where cooperation across domains is required.

Accessibility task force

- Launched by Estonian Government in September 2019
- Expected outcome **is analysis of current situation and policy measures**
- Participants are ministries, government organisations/agencies, non-governmental organisations, academia

Main topics

- Government accessibility policy (requirements, monitoring, guidance)
- Public sector buildings
- Accessibility to education, culture and healthcare
- Public transportation
- Road infrastructure
- Accessibility of residential property
- Accessibility in public procurements
- Commercial infrastructure
- Accessibility to government and private e-services
- Tourism
- Audiovisual and online media

Baltic cooperation?

- **1st Baltic Assisted Living & Technological Innovation Conference in May 2019**

in cooperation with the AAL Programme, with the objective to exchange experiences about the new challenges and opportunities related to recent technological developments and opportunities to innovate services related to social protection.





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Thank you!

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