

# Crowd Discusses Alternatives

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## 1. Introduction

Crowd Discusses Alternatives aims to more organized discussions that help users:

- Discuss with each other based on valid information.
- Find more alternative solutions.
- Distinguish the most popular solutions.

## 2. Purpose

Discussions in forums usually tend to have the following drawbacks:

- The discussions often have no conclusion (occasionally tend to become off topic).
- The few proposed solutions are buried inside the comments and cannot be easily found.
- Each proposed solution is usually written in detail by only one person and the users of the forum have the only option to agree or disagree with it (i.e. typically forums do not have the tools to help the users cooperate in order to improve the solutions).

Crowd Discusses Alternatives aims to solve these problems by focusing on the concepts below:

- Each proposed solution is decomposed in a set of “proposals” (i.e. sub-proposals, each one of the width of roughly a sentence). The composition of another alternative solution can now be formed by grouping another set of proposals (from the pool of the proposals). This can help people who disagree, to find more easily alternative solutions, evaluate them and finally

consent.

- Each new proposal is easily distinguished from its comments (i.e. from the discussion).
- The users can evaluate the quality of the references/sources that follow each proposal (i.e. validate the available information that the solutions are based on).

### 3. Core concepts

Crowd Discusses Alternatives is an open-source web application that helps people discuss with each other, construct alternative solutions and distinguish the most popular. The core concepts (goals) of this application are the following:

- The application helps the team-members that are involved in a topic to well-define the subject of the discussion. The goals of the subject are clear and time-framed.
- The proposals are clearly distinguished from the comments.
- Team-members are able to group proposals in order to form alternative solutions.
- Team-members are able to insert references and evaluate them concerning their accuracy and importance.
- The application has powerful search tools that give users the ability to find specific comments, proposals or groups.
- The application has the tools that help team-members evaluate proposals and groups of proposals.
- Proposals and groups of proposals can be ranked by popularity.

### 4. How the platform works (snapshots)

The code is written in php and javascript. The following snapshots aim to help the reader visualize how the app works.

#### 4.1. Create/view/select/vote topics

How to create a new topic:



Crowd Discusses Alternatives
Logout About

Topics
Personal-messages
Options

Create a new topic

Topic...

OK

CDA V0.4 (2019)

How to view the topics:

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Logout About

Topics
Personal-messages
Options

View topics
Create new topic
View references

CDA V0.4 (2019)

Crowd Discusses Alternatives
Logout About

Topics
Personal-messages
Options

To select a topic or proposal etc. you can click on its id.

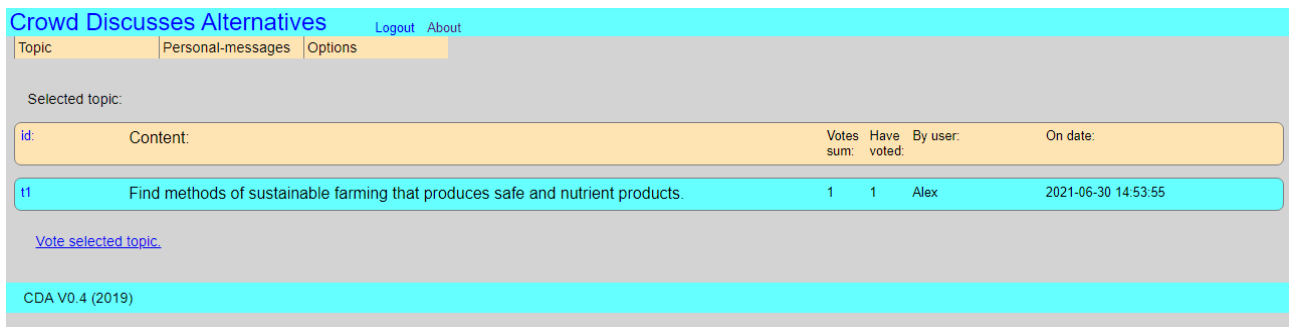
id:	Content:	Votes sum:	Have voted:	By user:	On date:
t1	Find methods of sustainable farming that produces safe and nutrient products.	1	1	Alex	2021-06-30 14:53:55

Show more topics, (topics in total to be shown: 1).

CDA V0.4 (2019)

How to select a topic:

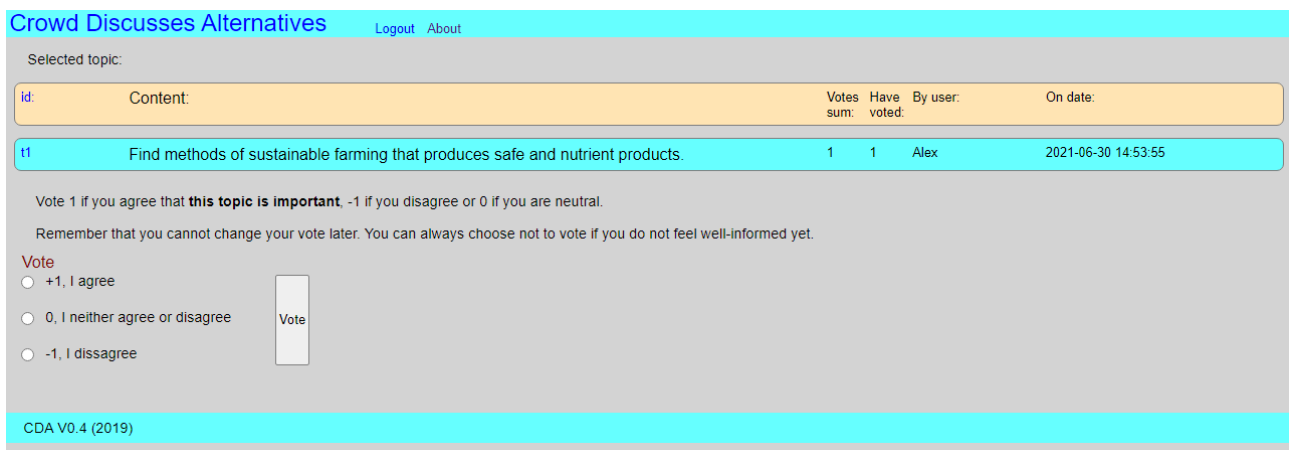
In order to select a topic, just click on its id (e.g. on t1 of the above picture). The selected topic will open in a new tab.



How to vote for a topic:

You can vote for the most important topics by clicking at [vote selected topic.](#) (see above picture). As it is shown in the picture below, you are prompt to vote if you agree that the selected topic is important. The following options appear:

- +1, I agree
- 0, I neither agree or disagree
- -1, I disagree



## 4.2. Add new members, view team-members of topic

How to add new members:

As the initiator of the topic, you can invite members to the topic by sending them personal messages. For anyone how accepts the invitation, you can add him/her as a new member, by clicking on the “Add new members” of the menu of the selected topic tab.

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Topic: Personal-messages Options

- View topics
- Specify time-table
- View time-table
- Add new members
- View team-members
- View members ranked by your votes in ref
- View requirements
- View approved requirements
- New requirement
- View proposals
- View latest commented proposals
- New proposal
- View references
- View ref (Members votes)
- Add reference
- View groups
- View similarities of proposals
- Search in comments

Selected topic:

tt	Find methods of sustainable farming that produces safe and nutrient products.	1	1	Alex	2021-06-30 14:53:55
----	---	---	---	------	---------------------

[Vote selected topic.](#)

You can add a new member by entering his/her username.

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Selected topic:

id:	Content:	Votes sum:	Have voted:	By user:	On date:
tt	Find methods of sustainable farming that produces safe and nutrient products.	1	1	Alex	2021-06-30 14:53:55

Add new members of topic.

Add a new member...

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In future versions of Crowd Discusses Alternatives, team-members will be able to invite and add new members via polls (even after the closing of the invitation phase of the topic).

How to view team-members of topic:

You can view the members of the selected topic by clicking on the “View team-members” of the menu of the selected topic tab, which is right below the “Add new members” button.

Crowd Discusses Alternatives [Logout](#) [About](#)

Personal-messages Options

3 team-members of topic:

tt	Find methods of sustainable farming that produces safe and nutrient products.	1	1	Alex	2021-06-30 14:53:55
----	---	---	---	------	---------------------

You can select multiple team-members by clicking on their usernames and then pressing:

team-members for viewing their proposals.

Alex

Peter

Sophia

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You can also view the proposals of selected team-members. Any user of the Crowd Discusses Alternatives can read the proposals of the topics. There are not private topics yet.

### 4.3. Specify/view time-table of topic

How to specify the time-table of the topic:

As the initiator of the topic, you can specify its time-table by clicking on the “Specify time-table” of the menu of the selected topic tab.

The screenshot shows the 'Crowd Discusses Alternatives' web interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Personal-messages' and 'Options' tabs. Below this, a table lists topics. The selected topic is 'Find methods of sustainable farming that produces safe and nutrient products.' with ID 't1', 1 vote, 1 user (Alex), and a date of 2021-06-30 14:53:55. Below the table, there's a 'Specify time-table' section with four input fields for specifying durations in days for different phases. Each field has a 'Suggested' value. At the bottom, there's an 'OK' button and a 'Note that:' section with a paragraph of text.

id:	Content:	Votes sum:	Have voted:	By user:	On date:
t1	Find methods of sustainable farming that produces safe and nutrient products.	1	1	Alex	2021-06-30 14:53:55

**Specify time-table**

Specify duration of **team members invitation and references not in proposals yet** phase (in days):  
Suggested: 10 days

Specify duration of **requirements and references not in proposals yet** phase (in days):  
Suggested: 15 to 30 days

Specify duration of **proposals and references of proposals** phase (in days):  
Suggested: 30 to 180 days

Specify duration of **proposals, references and groups of proposals** phase (in days):  
Suggested: 30 to 180 days

**Note that:**

During the first phase: The initiator of the topic can invite other users of Crowd Discusses Alternatives as team members, by sending personal messages with the id or the link of the topic in them. Consider an adequate duration of this phase in order the people that you invite to be able to respond back.

There are minimum and maximum durations of each phase. In the future, there will be the possibility each phase to be postponed or terminated earlier via team-members polls (this feature has not been implemented yet).

Phase 1: minimum 3 days – maximum 30 days.

Phase 2: minimum 15 days – maximum 200 days.

Phase 3: minimum 30 days – maximum 500 days.

Phase 4: minimum 30 days – maximum 500 days.

The following text explains the four phases.

“Note that:

During the first phase: The initiator of the topic can invite other users of Crowd Discusses Alternatives as team members, by sending personal messages with the id or the link of the topic in them. Consider an adequate duration of this phase in order the people that you invite to be able to respond back.

During the second phase: The team can make the topic more specific by attaching requirements to it. In this phase goals can become quantified and time-framed, necessary resources can be specified. The team can search for references/sources early in this phase in order to better understand the topic. These references can be later added to proposals.

During the third phase: Each member can submit his/her proposals in the topic, attach references to them, and specify also the period that each proposal can be editable (changed). This period can be

used for, not only taking feedback from other members concerning your proposals, but also for commenting on others proposals in order to help them improve their proposals and in order to be better informed about the available proposals of the topic. When the editing phase of a proposal ends, members can vote for/against it, or comment about it, specifying the pros and cons of the proposal.

During the fourth phase: The team can start forming groups of proposals that will represent the alternative solutions of the topic. Members can comment on a group, mostly for subjects that concern a group (alternative solution) as a whole. They can also vote for/against a group, in order to become clear which alternatives are considered the best.

Members can also comment on proposals or submit new proposals during this phase. However, they must wait for a period of 15 days after the closing of the editing period, before they can use them in groups. During this period they can mainly comment on or vote for/against these new proposals.

Update [1]: Currently, the initiator of the topic can add new members until the end of the third phase. However, after the end of the first phase, it is better for the initiator of the topic to seek advice from those that are early members, when inviting new members to the topic.”

OK

Note that:

During the first phase: The initiator of the topic can invite other users of Crowd Discusses Alternatives as team members, by sending personal messages with the id or the link of the topic in them. Consider an adequate duration of this phase in order the people that you invite to be able to respond back.

During the second phase: The team can make the topic more specific by attaching requirements to it. In this phase goals can become quantified and time-framed, necessary resources can be specified. The team can search for references/sources early in this phase in order to better understand the topic. These references can be used by every topic and added to proposals.

During the third phase: Each member can submit his/her proposals in the topic, attach references to them, and specify also the period that each proposal can be editable (changed). This period can be used for, not only taking feedback from other members concerning your proposals, but also for commenting on others proposals in order to help them improve their proposals and in order to be better informed about the available proposals of the topic. When the editing phase of a proposal ends, members can vote for/against it, or comment about it, specifying the pros and cons of the proposal.

During the fourth phase: The team can start forming groups of proposals that will represent the alternative solutions of the topic. Members can comment on a group, mostly for subjects that concern a group (alternative solution) as a whole. They can also vote for/against a group, in order to become clear which alternatives are considered the best.

Members can also comment on or submit proposals during this phase, but they must wait for a period of 15 days after the editing period of the proposals ends. During this period they can mainly comment on or vote for/against these new proposals. After this period, they can also use these new proposals in groups.

Please note that the initiator can create the time-table of the topic only once. if a member wants to update the time-table or to close a phase in order to start the next one, he/she can propose it via a poll. The results of the poll will change automatically the time table.

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How to view the time-table:

You can view the time-table of a topic by clicking on the “View time-table” of the menu of the selected topic tab.

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[Personal-messages](#) [Options](#)

Selected topic:

id:	Content:	Votes sum:	Have voted:	By user:	On date:
t1	Find methods of sustainable farming that produces safe and nutrient products.	1	1	Alex	2021-06-30 14:53:55

Time-table of selected topic

Closing date of **team members invitation and references not in proposals yet** phase:  
2021-07-14

Closing date of **requirements and references not in proposals yet** phase:  
2021-07-29

Closing date of **proposals and references of proposals** phase:  
2021-08-28

Closing date of **proposals, references and groups of proposals** phase:  
2023-01-10

Dates are in (in year-month-day). Time-table has been updated 0 times.

#### 4.4. Create/comment/view requirements

How to create a new requirement in the topic:

Team-members can create a new (proposed) requirement by clicking on the “New requirement” button of the menu of the selected topic tab.

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Create a new requirement

Requirement...

of selected topic:

id:	Content:	Votes sum:	Have voted:	By user:	On date:
t1	Find methods of sustainable farming that produces safe and nutrient products.	1	1	Alex	2021-06-30 14:53:55

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To view the requirements of a topic, you can click on the “View requirements” button of the menu of the selected topic tab.



Crowd Discusses Alternatives				
<a href="#">Personal-messages</a>   <a href="#">Options</a>				
To select a requirement you can click on its id.				
id:	Content:	Votes sum:	Have voted:	By user: On date:
q7 Pending	Increased variety of products.			Sophia 2021-07-15 07:50:07
q6 Pending	The soil must keep adequate moisture.			Alex 2021-07-15 07:48:03
c1	This proposed requirement is a detailed aspect of the more generalized requirement q5.			Peter 2021-07-15 07:56:02
q5 Pending	Increased safety. Methods must be resilient to extreme and unpredictable weather.			Alex 2021-07-15 07:47:16
q4 Pending	increased productivity.			Sophia 2021-07-15 07:45:42
q3 Pending	Nutrient food that promotes health must be produced.	1	1	Sophia 2021-07-15 07:39:20
q2 Pending	Closed loop design. There must be concern about how inputs of the system (resources) are produced. There must also be concern about how outputs of the system (products and byproducts) are recycled.			Alex 2021-07-15 07:37:32
q1 Pending	Soil must not be depleted.			Alex 2021-07-15 07:34:39
<a href="#">Show</a> more requirements, (requirements in total to be shown: 7).				

Note that after the requirement q6 its comment with id c1 appears. You can select a requirement or a comment by clicking on its id.

Crowd Discusses Alternatives				
<a href="#">Personal-messages</a>   <a href="#">Options</a>				
Selected comment:				
id:	Content:	Votes sum:	Have voted:	By user: On date:
c1	This proposed requirement is a detailed aspect of the more generalized requirement q5.			Peter 2021-07-15 07:56:02
of requirement:				
q6 Pending	The soil must keep adequate moisture.			Alex 2021-07-15 07:48:03
CDA V0.4 (2019)				

Crowd Discusses Alternatives				
<a href="#">Requirements</a>   <a href="#">Personal-messages</a>   <a href="#">Options</a>				
Selected requirement:				
id:	Content:	Votes sum:	Have voted:	By user: On date:
q6 Pending	The soil must keep adequate moisture.			Alex 2021-07-15 07:48:03
<a href="#">Comment on selected requirement.</a> <a href="#">Vote selected requirement.</a>				
of topic:				
t1	Find methods of sustainable farming that produces safe and nutrient products.	1	1	Alex 2021-06-30 14:53:55
CDA V0.4 (2019)				

Team-members of the topic can vote for/against the selected requirement and comment on it.

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Selected requirement:

id:	Content:	Votes sum:	Have voted:	By user:	On date:
q6 Pending	The soil must keep adequate moisture.			Alex	2021-07-15 07:48:03

Vote 1 if you agree with this requirement, -1 if you disagree or 0 if you are neutral.

You can read the comments/references (when available) before you make your mind. Remember that you cannot change your vote later. You can always choose not to vote if you do not feel well-informed yet.

**Vote**

☐ +1, I agree  
☐ 0, I neither agree or disagree  
☐ -1, I disagree

Vote

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Personal-messages | Options

Create a new comment

Comment...

OK

of selected requirement:

id:	Content:	Votes sum:	Have voted:	By user:	On date:
q6 Pending	The soil must keep adequate moisture.			Alex	2021-07-15 07:48:03

CDA V0.4 (2019)

## 4.5. Toolbar

You can find the toolbar button in the option tab of the menu.

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Topics | Personal-messages | Options

Toolbar

About

To select a topic or proposal etc. you can click on its id.

t1	Find methods of sustainable farming that produces safe and nutrient products.	1	1	Alex	2021-06-30 14:53:55
----	---	---	---	------	---------------------

[Show](#) more topics, (topics in total to be shown: 1).

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Toolbar

Topics to show:  Groups to show:  Proposals to show:  Comments to show:  References to show:

☐ Show proposals
 ☐ Show comments
 ☐ Show references
 ☐ Sort by date
 ☐ Sort by sum of votes
 ☐ Sort by number of votes
 ☐ Descending
 ☐ Ascending

OK

CDA V0.4 (2019)

You can define with the toolbar, e.g. how many requirements will be shown, in which order, if their comments will be shown and how many of them. The selected method of sorting and the order (ascending or descending) will apply both to the viewed requirements and comments.

#### 4.6. Review requirements of topic

The initiator of the topic can approve or reject each requirement, after the closing of the second phase.

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Selected requirement:

Id:	Content:	Votes sum:	Have voted:	By user:	On date:
q1 Pending	Soil must not be depleted.			Alex	2021-07-15 07:34:39

of topic:

t1	Find methods of sustainable farming that produces safe and nutrient products.	1	1	Alex	2021-06-30 14:53:55
----	---	---	---	------	---------------------

Approve or reject requirement of topic

☐ Approve requirement

☐ Reject requirement

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#### 4.7. Create proposals of topic. Comment/edit/vote a selected proposal

Each team-member of the topic can create proposals by clicking on the “New proposal” button of the menu of the selected topic tab. He/she can also select the number of days that the new proposal will be editable for improvements. After the creation, team-members can comment on it. When the proposal is no longer editable, team-members can also vote for/against it.

How to create a new proposal:

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[Personal-messages](#) [Options](#)

Create a new proposal

Proposal...

Specify duration of **editing phase of proposal** (in days):

Suggested: 15 days

of selected topic:

Id:	Content:	Votes sum:	Have voted:	By user:	On date:
t1	Find methods of sustainable farming that produces safe and nutrient products.	1	1	Alex	2021-06-30 14:53:55

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How to edit a proposal:

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[Proposal](#) [Personal-messages](#) [Options](#)

Selected proposal:

id:	Content:	Votes sum:	Have voted:	By user:	On date:
p1	Use the manure of herbivore domestic animals to make organic fertilizer.			Alex	2021-08-25 13:40:26

Editing phase

[Comment on selected proposal.](#)

[Edit selected proposal.](#)

Note: Team-members will be able to vote for this proposal when it will be on the voting phase (after 2021-09-09 13:40:26).

of topic:

t1	Find methods of sustainable farming that produces safe and nutrient products.	1	1	Alex	2021-06-30 14:53:55
----	---	---	---	------	---------------------

CDA V0.4 (2019)

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[Personal-messages](#) [Options](#)

Selected proposal:

id:	Content:	Votes sum:	Have voted:	By user:	On date:
p1	Use the manure of herbivore domestic animals to make organic fertilizer.			Alex	2021-08-25 13:40:26

Editing phase

Edit selected proposal

Improved proposal...

Specify duration of **editing phase of proposal** (in days):

Current: ~15 days

Note that if you leave this field empty, the current duration will remain the same.

of selected topic:

t1	Find methods of sustainable farming that produces safe and nutrient products.	1	1	Alex	2021-06-30 14:53:55
----	---	---	---	------	---------------------

## 4.8. Add a reference to the proposal

The author of the proposal can add references to it.

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[Personal-messages](#) [Options](#)

Add a new reference

Reference title or description...

Reference link (URL)...

to selected proposal:

id:	Content:	Votes sum:	Have voted:	By user:	On date:
p1	Use the manure of herbivore domestic animals to make organic fertilizer.			Alex	2021-08-25 13:40:26

Editing phase

CDA V0.4 (2019)

#### 4.9. View comments/references of a selected proposal

You can view the comments or references of the selected proposal by clicking on the “View comments” or “View references” of the menu of the selected proposal tab.

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Proposal

View references

Add reference

View comments

Personal-messagesOptions

Selected proposal:

p1	Use the manure of herbivore domestic animals to make organic fertilizer.	Alex	2021-08-25 13:40:26
----	--	------	---------------------

Editing phase

[Comment on selected proposal.](#)

[Edit selected proposal.](#)

Note: Team-members will be able to vote for this proposal when it will be on the voting phase (after 2021-09-09 13:40:26).

of topic:

t1	Find methods of sustainable farming that produces safe and nutrient products.	1	1	Alex	2021-06-30 14:53:55
----	---	---	---	------	---------------------

CDA V0.4 (2019)

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Personal-messagesOptions

References of proposal:

id:	Content:	Votes sum:	Have voted:	By user:	On date:
p1	Use the manure of herbivore domestic animals to make organic fertilizer.			Alex	2021-08-25 13:40:26

Editing phase

To select a reference you can click on its id.

r1	<a href="#">Manure (from wikipedia)</a>			Alex	2021-09-02 11:26:44
----	---	--	--	------	---------------------

Show

more references, (references in total to be shown: 1).

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manure>

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#### 4.10. Vote/comment on a selected reference

You can comment on a selected reference, or vote considering its accuracy and importance. You can also view its comments.

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Selected reference:

id:	Content:	Votes sum:	Have voted:	By user:	On date:
r1	<a href="#">Manure (from wikipedia)</a>			Alex	2021-09-02 11:26:44

Vote 1 if you agree that **this reference is important and accurate**, -1 if you think that it is neither important nor accurate or 0 if you evaluate this reference something in between 1 and -1.

Remember that you cannot change your vote later. You can always choose not to vote if you do not feel well-informed yet.

Vote

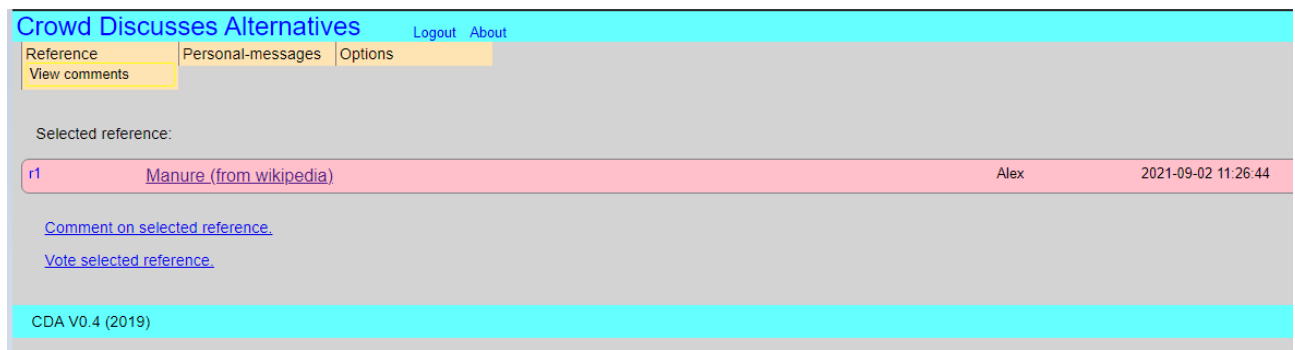
☐ +1, I agree

☐ 0, I neither agree or disagree

☐ -1, I disagree

Vote

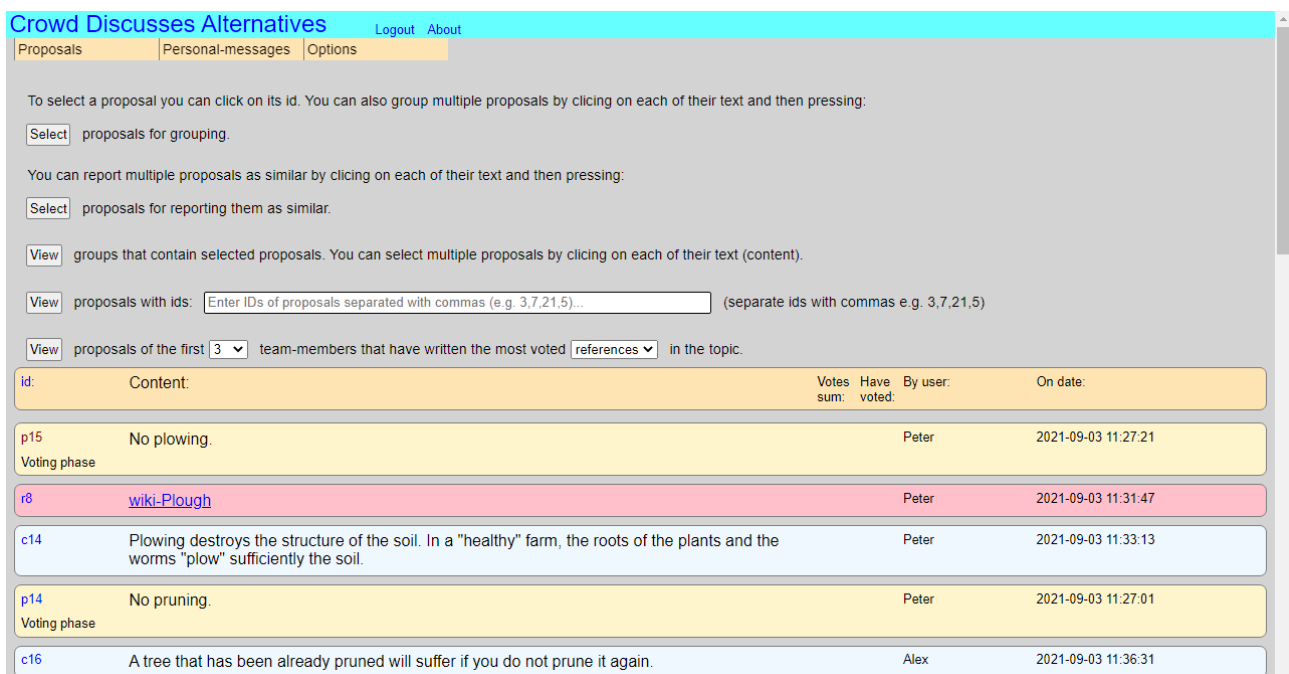
CDA V0.4 (2019)



#### 4.11. View proposals of a selected topic. Find proposals/groups

You can view the proposals of a topic by clicking on the “View proposals” button of the menu of the selected topic tab.

You can always choose from the toolbar if the references and the comments of each proposal will be shown, and how many of them.



As it is shown in the picture above, there are buttons in order to report some proposals as similar (in order to help avoiding vote dispersion) or to group some proposals in order to form an alternative solution.

You can also search for groups that contain specific proposals, search for proposals that have specific ids, or view proposals of those team-members that their references are the most voted.

As it is shown in the picture below, a team-member can also view only the proposals that he/she has voted +1, from the tab “proposals” of the menu. A team-member can also view the proposals excluding those that he/she has agreed that are similar (and are the least well-written in the pair of similarities).

# Crowd Discusses Alternatives

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Proposals

Personal-messages

Options

View proposals voted +1 by you

View proposals excluding similar

View proposals excluding the 2nd proposals from similarities that you have voted +1

To select a proposal you can click on its id. You can also group multiple proposals by clicking on each of their text and then pressing:

Select

 proposals for grouping.

You can report multiple proposals as similar by clicking on each of their text and then pressing:

Select

 proposals for reporting them as similar.

You can also view the proposals that have the most recent comments by clicking on the “View latest commented proposals” button of the menu of the selected topic tab.

4.12. Report proposals as similar, view similarities

Reporting similar proposals is a tool that help team-members avoid votes dispersion. A team-member can report proposals as similar and choose the one that he/she considers that it is the most well written. In the picture below, proposals p5 and p1 are selected.

Proposals	Personal-messages	Options	
View proposals voted +1 by you	ong seed in the right place will make a healthy plant. Nature selects which seed will thrive.	Sophia	2021-09-02 15:42:15
View proposals excluding similar	d balls protect the seeds from insects. They also retain moisture.	Sophia	2021-09-02 15:41:42
p5	Use domestic herbivore animals to decompose quickly part of the branches from pruning.	Alex	2021-09-02 15:30:14
Voting phase			
c2	It is necessary herbivore animals to be guided daily to a different location in the farm, in order not to damage the crops. Frequent movement gives no time to animals to devastate an area. The number of the population of the animals also plays a major role.	Alex	2021-09-02 15:32:31
p4	Use agricultural robots in big farms with irregular crop patterns, for harvesting, planting, environmental monitoring etc.	Alex	2021-09-02 15:24:08
Voting phase			
r4	open source ecology	Alex	2021-09-02 15:27:09
r3	Agricultural robot	Alex	2021-09-02 15:25:50
c3	Open source hardware can help reduce the prices of agricultural robots.	Sophia	2021-09-02 15:35:56
p3	Use a seedbed. A seedbed is used to grow the seeds in a controlled environment into larger young plants before transplanting them into the field.	Alex	2021-09-02 15:13:35
Voting phase			
r2	Seedbed	Alex	2021-09-02 15:15:48
p2	Seed selection. Using seed selection we can obtain healthier seeds. We can also slowly improve the quality of the crop variety.	Alex	2021-09-02 15:11:32
Voting phase			
p1	Use the manure of herbivore domestic animals to make organic fertilizer.	Alex	2021-08-25 13:40:26
Voting phase			

When the button “**Select** proposals for reporting them as similar” is pressed, the following tab appears.

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Please, select the most well-written proposal from these similar proposals, by clicking on its text (content). Consider also to vote the same for similar proposals!

Report selected proposals as similar

id:	Content:	Votes sum:	Have voted:	By user:	On date:
p5 Voting phase	Use domestic herbivore animals to decompose quickly part of the branches from pruning.			Alex	2021-09-02 15:30:14
p1 Voting phase	Use the manure of herbivore domestic animals to make organic fertilizer.			Alex	2021-08-25 13:40:26

Selected most well-written proposal from the above similar proposals:

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After that, you need to select the most well written proposal (from this list of proposals) by clicking on its content,

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Please, select the most well-written proposal from these similar proposals, by clicking on its text (content). Consider also to vote the same for similar proposals!

Report selected proposals as similar

id:	Content:	Votes sum:	Have voted:	By user:	On date:
p5 Voting phase	Use domestic herbivore animals to decompose quickly part of the branches from pruning.			Alex	2021-09-02 15:30:14
p1 Voting phase	Use the manure of herbivore domestic animals to make organic fertilizer.			Alex	2021-08-25 13:40:26

Selected most well-written proposal from the above similar proposals:

p1 Voting phase	Use the manure of herbivore domestic animals to make organic fertilizer.			Alex	2021-08-25 13:40:26
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and then press the OK button.

You are always prompted to give the same vote to the proposals that you think that are similar, in order to avoid vote dispersion.

You can view the similarities of proposals by clicking on the “View similarities of proposals” of the menu of the selected topic tab. After that, the following tab of the browser appears.

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Similarities Personal-messages Options

View similarities reported by you

View similarities voted +1 by you

To select a similarity you can click on its id. Note that when a similarity is reported, the first proposal of the two, is the one that is considered the most well written. **When you agree that a pair of proposals are similar, please consider to vote the same for these proposals.**

s1	Similar proposals: p1 & p5	Alex
p1 Voting phase	Use the manure of herbivore domestic animals to make organic fertilizer.	Alex 2021-08-25 13:40:26
p5 Voting phase	Use domestic herbivore animals to decompose quickly part of the branches from pruning.	Alex 2021-09-02 15:30:14

more similarities, (similarities in total to be shown: 1).

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As it is shown in the picture above, from the tab “Similarities” of the menu you can choose to view the similarities that you have reported, or the similarities that you have voted +1.

#### 4.13. Create/view/evaluate groups of proposals.

Team-members can group proposals in order to form new alternative solutions by selecting them and clicking on the button “**Select** proposals for grouping”. After that, a new tab of the browser appears that shows the list of the selected proposals and prompts to enter a title for the group.

The screenshot shows a web interface titled "Crowd Discusses Alternatives" with a cyan header bar. Below the header, there are links for "Personal-messages" and "Options". The main content area is titled "Group selected proposals" and displays a table of proposals. The table has columns for "id", "Content", "Votes sum", "Have voted", "By user", and "On date". Five proposals are listed, each with a "Voting phase" button. Below the table is a text input field labeled "Group title..." and an "OK" button. The footer of the page shows "CDA V0.4 (2019)".

id	Content	Votes sum	Have voted	By user	On date
p15	No plowing.			Peter	2021-09-03 11:27:21
p14	No pruning.			Peter	2021-09-03 11:27:01
p13	No fertilizers.			Peter	2021-09-03 11:26:37
p12	No weeding.			Peter	2021-09-03 11:25:58
p11	No pesticides.			Peter	2021-09-03 11:25:28

Group title...

OK

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The group is created by clicking on the button “OK”.

Please mind that the order of the proposals in a group does not matter.

How to view the groups of proposals in a topic:

You can view the groups of proposals in a topic by clicking on the “View groups” of the menu of the selected topic tab. Depending on the settings of the toolbar, the comments of each group can be appeared.

Crowd Discusses Alternatives				
Personal-messages		Logout About		
Options				
To select a group you can click on its id.				
id:	Content:	Votes sum:	Have voted:	By user:
g2	Ernst Gotsch method			Sophia
p8	Biodiversity. A great variety of edible and non edible plants (even forest plants) is essential for a balanced ecosystem in the farm. Domestic and wild animals (e.g. birds) also play a key role.			Sophia
Voting phase				
p9	Trees that can thrive on the current local ecosystem of the field are planted. When the ecosystem has been improved, these trees are gradually cut down in small pieces and spread on the field (even before they mature). Trees that can thrive on the improved ecosystem can then be planted.			Sophia
Voting phase				
p10	Frequent pruning. The branches from pruning are cut in small pieces and spread on the top of the soil.			Alex
Voting phase				
Comments of group g2:				
g1	Natural Farming			Alex
p11	No pesticides.			Peter
Voting phase				
p12	No weeding.			Peter
Voting phase				
p13	No fertilizers.			Peter

Team-members can comment on a selected group and vote for/against it. It is advised that the comments should concern the collection (group) of proposals, and not a single proposal itself. By voting the groups of proposals, it becomes more clear which are the most popular/suitable groups (i.e. alternative solutions) in the topic .

localhost/myphpprojects/cda-v0\_4/selected.php?selected=g2&parent=t1\_n0\_n0

## Crowd Discusses Alternatives

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Group Personal-messages Options

- View proposals of group
- View comments
- Evaluate group

Selected group:

g2	Ernst Gotsch method	Sophia	2021-10-01 11:24:09
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[Comment on selected group.](#)

[Vote selected group.](#)

of topic:

t1	Find methods of sustainable farming that produces safe and nutrient products.	1	1	Alex	2021-06-30 14:53:55
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You can also view the proposals or the comments of a group, by clicking on the “View proposals of group” or “View comments” button on the menu bar of the selected group. If it is selected (from the toolbar) the comments and/or references of the proposals to be appeared, then they are displayed below each proposal.

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Personal-messagesOptions

To select a group you can click on its id.

id:	Content:	Votes sum:	Have voted:	By user:	On date:
g2	Ernst Gotsch method			Sophia	2021-10-01 11:24:09
p8	Biodiversity. A great variety of edible and non edible plants (even forest plants) is essential for a balanced ecosystem in the farm. Domestic and wild animals (e.g. birds) also play a key role.			Sophia	2021-09-02 15:53:04
Voting phase					
c7	Pros: The farm is more resistant to diseases.			Sophia	2021-09-02 15:54:29
c6	For sufficient biodiversity you should plant more than 100 varieties of seeds.			Sophia	2021-09-02 15:54:02
p9	Trees that can thrive on the current local ecosystem of the field are planted. When the ecosystem has been improved, these trees are gradually cut down in small pieces and spread on the field (even before they mature). Trees that can thrive on the improved ecosystem can then be planted.			Sophia	2021-09-02 16:01:54
Voting phase					
c8	Pros: The local ecosystem is improved rapidly. Fertility of the soil is improved rapidly.			Sophia	2021-09-02 16:05:01
p10	Frequent pruning. The branches from pruning are cut in small pieces and spread on the top of the soil.			Alex	2021-09-03 11:08:43
Voting phase					
c13	Biological degradation of wood is a slow process. The duration of this phase depends on how much healthy is the soil (i.e. of the number of worms, of fungi and of insects that can decompose wood).			Peter	2021-09-03 11:23:02

You can also evaluate a group, by clicking on the “Evaluate group” button on the menu bar of the selected group.

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Group	Personal-messages	Options
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Selected group:

id:	Content:	Votes sum:	Have voted:	By user:	On date:
g2	Ernst Gotsch method			Sophia	2021-10-01 11:24:09
p8	Biodiversity. A great variety of edible and non edible plants (even forest plants) is essential for a balanced ecosystem in the farm. Domestic and wild animals (e.g. birds) also play a key role.			Sophia	2021-09-02 15:53:04
Voting phase					
p9	Trees that can thrive on the current local ecosystem of the field are planted. When the ecosystem has been improved, these trees are gradually cut down in small pieces and spread on the field (even before they mature). Trees that can thrive on the improved ecosystem can then be planted.			Sophia	2021-09-02 16:01:54
Voting phase					
p10	Frequent pruning. The branches from pruning are cut in small pieces and spread on the top of the soil.			Alex	2021-09-03 11:08:43
Voting phase					

Evaluate group

Total number of approved requirements in topic: 6

q7	Increased variety of products.			Sophia	2021-07-15 07:50:07
Approved					
Weight factor:	X	Score:			
q5	Increased safety. Methods must be resilient to extreme and unpredictable weather.			Alex	2021-07-15 07:47:16
Approved					
Weight factor:	X	Score:			
q4	increased productivity.			Sophia	2021-07-15 07:45:42
Approved					
Weight factor:	X	Score:			
q3	Nutrient food that promotes health must be produced.	1	1	Sophia	2021-07-15 07:39:20
Approved					
Weight factor:	X	Score:			

The screenshot shows the CDA V0.4 (2019) interface. It displays two approved requirements, q2 and q1. Each requirement has a text description, a user name (Alex), and a timestamp. Below each requirement, there is a 'Weight factor...' input field, a 'Score...' input field, and a 'Calculate total score' button. The interface is designed for evaluating requirements based on weight factors and scores.

The score of the group concerning each approved requirement is calculated by multiplying a weight factor (that is dependent to the significance of this requirement) with a score (e.i. how well you expect that the selected group of proposals will satisfy this requirement). The total score of the group is the sum of the scores for all of the approved requirements. The range of a weight factor is from 0 to 1, and the range of a score is from 1 to 10.

You can evaluate a group as many times as you want, however the result is not stored in the database.

#### 4.14. Search in comments

There are several search features (see picture below) that can help you find specific groups or proposals that their comments contain certain words or phrases. The search can be made to any comment or to comments written only by you.

The screenshot shows the 'Crowd Discusses Alternatives' search interface. It includes a navigation bar with 'Personal-messages' and 'Options' tabs. Below the navigation bar, there is a search section with three rows of filters. Each row has a 'View' button, a dropdown menu, and a text input field. The first row is for 'comments of proposals created by (enter a username) and that contain: Enter a word or phrase that a comment must contain (enclosed in %% e.g. %word%)'. The second row is for 'proposals that some of their comments created by any team-member contain: Enter a word or phrase that a comment must contain (enclosed in %% e.g. %word%)'. The third row is for 'groups that some of their comments created by any team-member contain: Enter a word or phrase that a comment must contain (enclosed in %% e.g. %word%)'. A note at the bottom explains how to use wildcards and escape characters in the search terms.

#### 4.15. Write/view a personal message

You can send a personal message to any user of the Crowd Discusses Alternatives platform, e.g. when you invite someone to a topic. You can also view the messages that you have sent/received.

Crowd Discusses Alternatives

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Topic	Personal-messages	Options
	<div>View sent messages</div> <div>View received messages</div> <div>Write a new message</div>	

Selected topic:

t1

Find methods of sustainable farming that produces safe and nutrient products.

[Vote selected topic.](#)

CDA V0.4 (2019)

Crowd Discusses Alternatives

LogoutAbout

Personal-messages

Options

Send a personal message

To:

Usernames (of recipients) separated with commas...

Message...

OK

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## 5. Information of contact

In case you find this project interesting and you want to contribute to it, you can email at crowd\_discusses\_alternatives(at)protonmail.com (replace (at) with @) .