

Towards a Karrot-GCS-Cooperation

The **karrot-app** is a community-based platform to support food saving. The app enables members of a community to propose activities to pick up food from specified locations and to organize events, which can include the cooking of saved food. Community members can self-assign to these activities and events and organize themselves on the community-wall. The saved food is measured in weight. The karrot-app exists.

The **gcs** is an agent-based software-infrastructure to be realized aiming to enable complex cooperation between peers to satisfy their needs. In the gcs-Infrastructure activities can be proposed to self-assignment by a software-algorithm, which selects these activities according to local available resources or rather resources shared by users or similar projects. The **issmit-app** will be a distribution containing features of the upcoming gcs and will be adjusted for the area of food. The development of the issmit-app started in December '21.

The karrot-app and the gcs/issmit-app are both free and open source software and both are aiming to support the growth of commoning. One main difference is the community/agent-based approach, but the attempt to bridge this difference while preserving the particularities of each project could lead to FOSS-components, which could be useful for both projects, similar projects and therefore commoning as a whole.

Possible Outcome

The following paragraphs describe a possible scenario, how a cooperation between karrot and gcs/issmit could affect both apps.

Issmit-users could activities be proposed to self-assignment, which were created in a **karrot-community**, if...

- a) ... the karrot-community decided to open the activity to self-assignment for users of the issmit-app. This possibility of self-assignment by persons outside of the karrot-community could have restrictions like the verification of issmit-users in a specific form.
- b) ... the issmit-user is also a karrot-user and part of this community

Issmit-users are having access to resources saved by a **karrot-community**, if...

- a) ... the karrot-community decided to make this resources public available
- b) ... the issmit-user, to whom the activity is proposed which depends on the specific resource, is part of the karrot-community, in which it was saved.

A precondition for both is to specify the saved food first. "Specify" means here, the definition which food item it is or rather to which food categories it belongs to. Later in this document a tool is proposed to support this process.

In a **karrot-community** could activities be proposed to self-assignment, which were created in the **Issmit-App**, if the activity aims to satisfy a need of a member of this karrot-community. Therefore could the information of the Issmit-app be used.

A **karrot-community** could have access to resources which were shared by **issmit-users**, if...

- a) ... the resources are of a member who is also part of the karrot-community. (*could be integrated in the "offers"-category*)
- b) ... the issmit-user shared the resource for public or restricted with the inclusion of karrot-members in general and the resource is also a demand of an activity which is proposed in the karrot-community – independent if the source of the activity is the karrot-community itself or the issmit app.

Possible new karrot-Features

Software-Components to be developed by the GCS could be used by the karrot-community independent of the issmit-app or the gcs-infrastructure. The components will be developed to be available and be useful for any similar project. The cooperation between karrot and the gcs would help the developers of the gcs to shape these components according to the need of a specific project while keeping in mind, that these components shall be useful for other projects as well.

Possible new features inside a karrot-community are:

- 1) Community-members can publish their wish for (cooked) food with preferences like day of the week, time, increments, etc. The software analyzes similarities, so community-members can choose day/time/recipes for events according to the needs of community-members
- 2) Community-members get proposes of recipes according to the saved/available resources in the community. The recipes can be taken as basis to create events or inspire the people cooking at community events.

Possible new externalized tool

For its functionality, the gcs/issmit-app needs specified resources, but the food saved by karrot-communities is only measured in weight. For a possible cooperation – and also for a lot of other use-cases – a tool is needed to specify food. The tool should be designed as a shortcut to save time including without opening neither the karrot nor any gcs-app.

The gcs-team proposes a stand-alone-tool, with two general options:

- 1) Offering a screen with a limited number of symbols, just like a scale in the vegetable-section of a super-market. Food savers could specify the food including their amount but also could transfer additional information like the overall weight to the linked app without opening it.
- 2) Offering the possibility to make a photo of the saved food and send it *as an activity* to the gcs-infrastructure. Persons, who want to help from home, can specify the saved food through this photo(s) and assume the amount of it. As a result of this activity, the specified informations can be shared on karott and inside the gcs-infrastructure.

Final Statement

As we are all activists in free and open-source software-projects there are no obligations coming with the agreement to this cooperation. Both parties can anytime quit the cooperation or make proposes to change its path. As we are commoners committed to free and open-source software, we can support each other in our own developments, according to the time and energy we have, but there aren't any obligations to this in any kind. Intent and purpose of the cooperation stays to support commoning in its growth.