

# Merkomun

## Abstract

Merkomun is a revolutionary blockchain-based platform designed to democratize purchasing power through collective buying. It leverages the principles of Decentralized Autonomous Organizations (DAOs) and the power of smart contracts to enable users to collectively purchase products, services, properties, businesses, or any item of value. This collective approach aims to make items more affordable and accessible, fostering a sense of community and shared ownership. The platform operates with two distinct tokens, \$VALT and \$ANOM, each serving unique functions within the ecosystem. \$VALT, paired with the stablecoin \$DAI, is used for transactions within the platform, while \$ANOM governs the DAO, allowing users to participate in decision-making processes. This whitepaper provides a comprehensive overview of Merkomun, detailing its operational mechanics, tokenomics, governance structure, and future development plans.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Problem Statement

In the current economic landscape, individual purchasing power can often be limited due to various factors such as income, location, market availability, and financial barriers such as lack of a bank account or sufficient credit. This limitation can restrict access to certain goods and services, properties, businesses, and other valuable assets. Furthermore, the traditional purchasing model often lacks a community aspect, leaving consumers isolated in their buying decisions. Additionally, the use of blockchain technology in commerce is still not widespread, limiting the opportunities for secure, transparent, and decentralized transactions.

### 1.2 Solution

Merkomun was conceived as a solution to these challenges. It is a revolutionary platform that harnesses the power of collective buying to democratize access to various items of value. By leveraging the principles of Decentralized Autonomous Organizations (DAOs) and the power of blockchain technology, Merkomun provides a secure, transparent, and inclusive platform for collective purchasing.

The platform operates with two distinct tokens, \$VALT and \$ANOM. \$VALT, paired with the stablecoin \$DAI, is used for transactions within the platform, while \$ANOM allows users to participate in the governance of the DAO, thus ensuring a democratic and decentralized decision-making process.

## 2. Merkomun Platform

### 2.1 Overview

Merkomun is a blockchain-based platform that enables collective buying. It is designed to democratize purchasing power by allowing users to come together to buy various items of value. The platform is built on the principles of Decentralized Autonomous Organizations (DAOs), ensuring a democratic and decentralized decision-making process. Merkomun is not just a platform; it's a community where users can propose items for collective purchase, vote on proposals, and share the benefits of collective buying.

### 2.2 How it Works

The process of collective buying on Merkomun involves several steps:

1. **Proposal:** Users propose items for collective purchase and choose a benefit distribution option. This could be anything purchasable with money, such as products, services, properties, or businesses.
2. **Pricing:** The platform adds a percentage (default is 30%, but may vary according to DAO governance) to every proposal to cover the cost of the purchase. For example, if a proposal is made to buy a beach house that costs \$100,000, the platform adds \$30,000 to the price, making the total cost of the proposal \$130,000. The cost per vote depends on the number of people the proposal is shared with. If the actual cost of the purchase ends up being less than the proposal cost, the remaining funds are split in half, with 50% going to the DAO and 50% distributed among the participants in the proposal.
3. **Voting:** Other users vote on these proposals. If a proposal collects enough votes, the purchasing process begins. At this point, no actual money is invested yet.
4. **Fundraising Process:** If a proposal gets enough votes, the Fundraising Process begins, which lasts one week. During this time, users transfer \$VALT tokens according to their votes. \$VALT is a stablecoin used for the purchasing process on Merkomun. Users acquire \$VALT by exchanging \$DAI plus a fee that goes directly to the DAO treasury. This fee starts at 1% and will increment over time in a long period (managed by the DAO).
5. **Benefit Distribution:** The benefits are distributed based on the chosen option. There are three options for distributing the benefits of collective purchases: shared/rotary ownership, shared sale or exploitation, and raffle.
6. **Security:** The platform uses blockchain-based technology to ensure secure and transparent transactions without recording personal or private data. The \$VALT token is paired with the stablecoin \$DAI, which helps maintain a consistent value and minimize risk. The smart contract allows users to swap their \$VALT tokens for \$DAI at any time, providing a secure and reliable exit strategy if needed.
7. **Failure to Reach Funding Goal:** If a proposal doesn't reach its funding goal during the Fundraising Process, the transferred \$VALT is returned to users, plus an extra 0.1% (may vary according to DAO governance).

## 3. Tokenomics

Merkomun operates with two distinct tokens, \$VALT and \$ANOM, each serving unique functions within the ecosystem.

### 3.1 \$VALT Token

\$VALT, short of "Valute", is the main currency used for transactions within the Merkomun platform. It is an ERC20 token, paired with the stablecoin \$DAI, which helps maintain a consistent value and minimizes risk. Here are the key mechanics of the \$VALT token:

- **Acquisition:** Users acquire \$VALT by exchanging it for \$DAI plus an additional fee. This fee starts at 1% and will increment over time in a long period (managed by the DAO). This fee goes directly to the DAO in the form of \$VALT. The incrementing fee is designed to reward users who swap their \$DAI for \$VALT in the early stages of the platform, providing a low-risk investment with long-term returns.
- **Burning:** Users have the option to burn their \$VALT tokens at any time to receive \$DAI. Burning tokens is a process of intentionally removing tokens from circulation, reducing the total supply. This mechanism ensures that the value of 1 \$VALT is always equivalent to 1 \$DAI, providing a bulletproof value guarantee for the token.

### 3.2 \$ANOM Token

\$ANOM, short for "Autonomia Nomaro", is used to govern the DAO. Here are the key mechanics of the \$ANOM token:

- **Governance:** The \$ANOM token is used to govern the DAO. This means that holders of \$ANOM tokens have the ability to vote on proposals and influence the direction of the DAO.
- **Token Distribution:** The core team holds 40% of the \$ANOM tokens, while the DAO holds the remaining 60%. This distribution ensures that the majority of the decision-making power lies with the DAO, promoting decentralized governance.
- **DAO Participation:** Any user who wants to participate in the DAO and have a say in its governance needs to hold \$ANOM tokens.
- **Acquisition:** Users can acquire \$ANOM tokens by exchanging an equivalent amount of \$VALT tokens. This allows users who have participated in the Merkomun platform and earned \$VALT tokens to become part of the DAO's governance.

## 4. Governance

Merkomun operates as a Decentralized Autonomous Organization (DAO), which means it is governed by its community of users rather than a central authority. This section will discuss the role of the \$ANOM and \$VALT tokens in DAO governance, how decisions are made, and how users can participate in the DAO.

### 4.1 Role of \$ANOM and \$VALT Tokens in Governance

The \$ANOM token, short for "Autonomia Nomaro", plays a crucial role in the governance of the Merkomun DAO. Holders of \$ANOM tokens have the ability to vote on proposals and influence the direction of the DAO. This ensures a democratic and decentralized decision-making process where every user has a say.

In addition to \$ANOM, \$VALT token holders also have voting power in the DAO, albeit less than \$ANOM holders. This allows even more users to participate in the governance of the DAO and ensures a wider distribution of decision-making power.

### 4.2 Decision-Making Process

Decisions within the Merkomun DAO are made through a voting process. Users can create and vote on proposals that modify the DAO. Creating a proposal requires \$ANOM tokens, while voting on proposals can be done with either \$ANOM or \$VALT tokens. If a proposal collects enough votes, the changes are implemented in the DAO.

### 4.3 Participation in the DAO

Any user who wants to participate in the DAO and have a say in its governance needs to hold \$ANOM or \$VALT tokens. There are two ways to acquire \$ANOM tokens:

1. **Swap:** Users can swap their \$VALT tokens for an equivalent amount of \$ANOM tokens. This allows users who have participated in the Merkomun platform and earned \$VALT tokens to become part of the DAO's governance.
2. **Airdrop:** The DAO will also gift \$ANOM tokens to platform users. Users can hold \$VALT until the \$ANOM airdrop to receive \$ANOM tokens.

## 5. Security

Security is a paramount concern in any blockchain-based platform, and Merkomun is no exception. The platform employs several measures to ensure the security of user transactions and the integrity of the platform.

### 5.1 Blockchain Technology

Merkomun is built on the Polygon network, an Ethereum-compatible blockchain that provides a secure and transparent environment for transactions. Polygon's decentralized nature makes it resistant to fraud and hacking. Furthermore, all transactions on the blockchain are immutable, meaning they cannot be altered or deleted, providing a reliable record of all activities on the platform.

### 5.2 Smart Contracts

Merkomun uses smart contracts to automate transactions and enforce the rules of the platform. Smart contracts are self-executing contracts with the terms of the agreement directly written into code. They automatically execute transactions when certain conditions are met, reducing the need for intermediaries and minimizing the risk of human error or fraud.

### 5.3 Token Security

The \$VALT and \$ANOM tokens are secured by the Polygon network, which is known for its robust security measures and low-cost transactions. The \$VALT token is paired with the stablecoin \$DAI, which helps maintain a consistent value and minimize risk. Users can swap their \$VALT tokens for \$DAI at any time, providing a secure and reliable exit strategy if needed.

### 5.4 DAO Governance

The governance of Merkomun by a DAO further enhances its security. Since decisions are made collectively by the community, it is difficult for any single entity to manipulate the platform for their own benefit. This decentralized governance model helps protect the platform and its users from potential threats.

## 6. Future Development

Merkomun is more than just a platform; it's a vision for a more democratic and inclusive economic landscape. As such, the development of Merkomun does not stop with its launch. The team behind Merkomun is committed to continuous improvement and expansion to better serve its users and fulfill its mission.

Here are some of the future development plans for Merkomun:

### 6.1 Platform Enhancement

The Merkomun team will continue to enhance the platform based on user feedback and technological advancements. This includes improving the user interface, adding new features, and optimizing the platform's performance.

### 6.2 Community Building

Merkomun will continue to build and nurture its community. This includes hosting events, facilitating discussions, and providing resources to educate users about collective buying and DAO governance.

### 6.3 Partnerships

Merkomun plans to form partnerships with other organizations and platforms to expand its reach and provide more opportunities for its users. This includes partnerships with suppliers, service providers, and other blockchain projects.

### 6.4 Governance Improvement

Merkomun will continue to refine its governance model to ensure it remains democratic, inclusive, and effective. This includes making adjustments based on user feedback and evolving best practices in DAO governance.

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## Conclusion

This concludes the Merkomun whitepaper. We believe that Merkomun, with its innovative approach to collective buying and its commitment to democratic governance, has the potential to revolutionize the way we think about purchasing and ownership. We invite you to join us on this exciting journey.