

Mechanism Design Tutorial

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Data Science Africa 2019 - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Mini-Contest

- Prize: **3 winners, each of 1000 Ethiopian Birr (~\$35).**
- Submission Deadline: **Today at ~12PM (the end of this session)**
- Task: “Identify and pitch a **real-world mechanism design problem** that, if solved, would greatly benefit citizens of one or more countries in **Africa.**”

Eligibility for this Mini-Contest

- To be eligible to win the prize, you **must satisfy two conditions:**
 - (1) You are attending the DSA 2019 Addis Ababa summer school.
 - (2) You have requested to join the “**Mechanism Design @ Data Science Africa**” Facebook Group by the time the end of this session:
goo.gl/bGFDhU

Take two minutes to join now—we will wait!

Basic Rules

- In order for your submission to be eligible, it **must be relevant to mechanism design**, and it **must benefit citizens of a country in Africa**.
- This contest is about **identifying problems, not solving them**. The goal is to identify a problem for which you think the tools of mechanism design might ultimately be useful. Problems before solutions.

Plan for this session

- Brainstorming Problems [~20 minutes]
- Describe Problem and Submit [~20 minutes]
- Next steps [5 minutes]

Brainstorming

- Navigate here: <https://bit.ly/313b4Bm>
- Areas to brainstorm:
 - Problems of particular **importance**
 - Problems where you (or a connection) have particular **expertise**
 - Problems where you (or a connection) have **power/influence**
 - Problems that are particularly relevant to **mechanism design**
- Choose 1-3 most promising areas. Submit!

Describe Problem and Submit

- Navigate here: <https://bit.ly/2Mt8H7q>
- Describe one of your brainstormed areas more deeply:
 - What is the problem area?
 - Who is affected, and how badly?
 - How is this problem related to mechanism design?
- Submit!

Next Steps

- **Winners of Mini-Contest #1**
 - Eric will announce winners and some finalists in the next ~12 hours.
 - Eric will post general feedback: use it to improve submissions for the next contest!

For updates, see “Mechanism Design @ Data Science Africa” Facebook Group: [goo.gl/bGFDhU](https://www.facebook.com/groups/goo.gl/bGFDhU)

Next Steps

- **Mini-Contest #2 (deadline soon—get started now!)**
 - Prize: Up to **5 winners**, each of **3000 Ethiopian Birr (~\$105)**.
 - Submission Deadline: **Tomorrow (Tuesday) at 16:30**.
 - Same “problem description” form: <https://bit.ly/2Mt8H7q>

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