

Intro to Effective Altruism Workshop Outline

Highlighted in purple are the elements that we see as crucial knowledge or experience for every group representative.

1. [40min] The basics
 - a. Getting participants into the right mindspace
 - i. EA principles
 1. Commitment to others
 2. Scientific mindset
 3. Openness
 4. Integrity
 5. Collaborative spirit
 - ii. Be present
 1. Paper for notes
 2. No electronics
 - iii. Let your mind boggle
 1. Note confusion, ask questions, becoming less wrong (=growth)
 - b. Introductions
 - i. Facilitators present themselves
 - ii. Participants present themselves to a neighbour
 1. Share motivations and write them down on post-its
 - c. Workshop modules overview
 - d. Quick explanation of EA Geneva
 - i. Why we developed this workshop
 1. To provide an entry-level activity that help interested individuals to meaningfully get engaged
 - e. Why we need more effective altruism
 - i. We have very limited resources & time
 - ii. Most people want to contribute to a better tomorrow
 - iii. But many tries to do good fail, only few are exceptional
 - iv. So we need to optimally figure out top priorities & best approaches
2. [1h20] EA as systematic optimisation on 3 levels
 - a. Cause-prioritisation
 - i. Scale-Solvability-Neglect exploration
 1. Present example problems to score
 2. Explain SSN
 3. Exercise: 1-2-4-all scoring problems on SSN
 - b. Choice of intervention
 - i. Cost-benefit-analyses
 - c. Process optimisation
 - i. Measuring what matters
 1. Measuring what teaches

3. [1h] Underlying considerations
 - a. Our unique opportunity
 - i. Luxurious position of being able to care about many different things
 - b. Consequentialism - doing as much good as we can
 - i. Debate: what has intrinsic value?
 - ii. Groups of beneficiaries
 1. Humans
 2. Non-human consciousness
 3. Future consciousness
4. [1h] Better understanding reality
 - a. Humans
 - i. System1/System2
 1. Heuristics & biases
 - a. Need to train rationality
 - ii. Reason: map $\neq$ territory
 1. Probabilistic thinking
 - a. Uncertainty
 2. Marginal thinking
 - a. Pareto principle
 3. Counterfactual thinking
 - a. Ceteris paribus
 4. Global thinking
 - a. Long term
 - b. Evidence (the scientific method)
 - i. Hierarchy of evidence
 - c. Coordination for a better understanding
 - i. More input
5. [45min] Explaining the core
 - a. The status quo
 - i. Overview of the global community
 - ii. EA Geneva
 1. Functioning
 2. Activities
 - iii. Concrete examples of successes/-ful projects
 - b. Exercise: EA Pitch: develop a pitch, pitch it to the group
6. [1h15] Following through
 - a. Low-hanging fruit
 - i. Donating
 - ii. Spreading ideas
 - iii. Joining local group
 - b. A/B/Z planning
 - c. Murphy-jitsu