Now that you see the benefit of changing a system, let’s look deeper into what a system is, and start defining the systems that are affecting your problem. As we’ll find out, they can be large systems or smaller systems, but they are all connected together, contributing in some way to your problem.
ECONOMIC
- Local and international
- Legal (cars) and illegal (drugs)
- Formal (job market) and informal (marriage market)
- Relevant parts can include workers, companies, professional associations, entry policies, economic incentives, etc.

LEGAL
- Local to international
- Topic areas (criminal law, traffic law, martial law)
- Case law, statutory law, law of the strong, laws of tradition
- Legislation, law enforcement, legal interpretation
- Relevant elements can include: laws, police, politicians, judges, scholars, court proceedings and decisions, legal arguments, ways of implementing laws, etc.

CULTURE
- Areas: ideologies, shared knowledge, arts (music, literature, performing arts), language (and other forms of communication)
- Aspects: dynamics with which culture spreads and changes, ways in which culture influences behavior, interplay between cultural and economic systems
- Relevant elements can include: artists, places and institutions for exhibitions and performances, social norms, values, and prejudices, aesthetic preferences

SOCIAL FABRICS
- Families
- Circles of friends
- Neighborhoods
- Clubs, societies, associations, etc.
EDUCATION
- Formal (Kindergarten, schools, universities) and informal (parenting, hobbies, self-guided learning)
- Public and private
- Professional and personal
- Relevant parts can include institutions, list of acknowledged professions, curricula, certifications, preferences for certain types of knowledge and skills, people’s willingness and ability to learn

HEALTHCARE
- Public and private
- Formal (hospitals) and informal (shamans, grandmothers)
- Treatments and prevention
- Relevant elements can include: public subsidies, doctors, insurance companies, hospitals, medical codes of conduct, industry associations, medical training institutions, people’s eating habits and lifestyles, etc.

AND THERE ARE MANY MORE!
DIG DEEPER INTO YOUR PROBLEM AND DISCOVER WHAT SYSTEMS ARE AT PLAY!
1. Write down the big problem you chose to focus on

2. Brainstorm what systems contribute to your problem and how