

Advisory Council Agenda



Tuesday, 6 May 2026, 4-4:45 pm CAT (Central Africa Time)

Please plan on 45 minutes for this meeting.

Here is the Zoom link <https://icpdprograms-org.zoom.us/j/89952318225>

Items listed in **BOLD** will be covered during the meeting.

Document Archives: icpdprograms.org/committees (scroll down to ELISA section)

Welcome & introductions - Recommend potential ELISA Advisory Council members; you can email michelle@elisanetwork.com

Advisory Council

- **Welcome & introductions**
- **Advisory Council announcements**
- **Nominate potential ELISA Advisory Council members; you can email michelle@elisanetwork.com**
- **Update on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)**
- How to follow/promote ELISA on social media @elisasummit

ELISA Programs Committee

Last meeting was 8 April 2026

Focus topic(s):

- **ELISA Ignite - overview of the program**
- **Strategies for engaging the ELISA Business Scholar applicants who were not selected to attend the one-year program - staff to explore viability of providing a virtual ELISA Business Scholars Program or regional events**

Updates, previous action items and recent developments

- **2026 ELISA Business Summit, 19 Mar 2026**
 - **[Summit Agenda](#) - The theme for the Summit was "Business Beyond Borders"**
 - **Outcomes from the Summit: 3-5 articles to be published with a focus on: 1. business beyond borders, 2. the nature of the summit and why it is important, 3. policy framework for doing business beyond borders**
 - **139 participants and 21 speakers participated in the 2026 Summit from 20 countries; notably 4 Traditional Chiefs were also in attendance**
- **2026 ELISA Business Scholars Program (EBS), 19-22 Mar 2026**
 - **EBS [Agenda](#); all scholars attended the ELISA Business Summit and participated in a pitch session at the summit**
 - **11 scholars from 8 countries were selected for the 2026 ELISA Business Scholars cohort. A total of 504 applications were received and 241 applications met the quantitative criteria.**
 - **The ELISA Scholars are now going to be meeting with their coaches, once a month, for the next 12 months; ELISA will be monitoring these interactions**
- **Project pages: Instructional resources to be developed to: 1. guide page owners on making their pages more effective (including using tabs and events), 2. how to share resources, 3. role of team members, and 4. Use of the post feature; ELISA to implement a communications strategy to get more founders to create and complete the set up of their Project Pages; sector scheme categories being refined**

- Bootstrap Briefs -
 - Topics have been linked to the EBS curriculum topics
 - 95+ Bootstrap Briefs have been published with consistent release every Wednesday
- Social media Outreach

Other/Future action items

- **Resources feature - What type of resources will members want to share and what are the categories of these resources (ie services, funding opportunities, etc)?; will posted resources be curated by staff or the portal members; will posted resources be visible only to the member or to the public?; benchmark against other models ie [Opportunity Desk](#)**
- **2027 ELISA Business Summit - location and dates**
- Confabs - How to support other languages? French? Timetable
- Programming focused on Luminaries, Projects and Bootstrap Briefs
- Bootstrap Briefs - User generated content and curation

ELISA Portal Committee

Last meeting was 7 April 2026

Focus Topic(s):

- **Currently the portal features that are only available to members are: ability to create and manage Project Pages, access and comment on Bootstrap Briefs, ability to post comments and images on "What's on your mind", create a profile, mapping feature, and search and connect with other members**
- **Portal Engagement - Once ELISA members have joined the virtual community, how do we keep them coming back?; What new features can be added?: the committee discussed adding these new features: better way to see who is currently online and join live chats; mobile app; listing of products and services available in the marketplace; ELISA staff or automated system to remind members to complete their profiles and Project Pages; showcase Project Pages in social media and on the portal in "What's On Your Mind?"; enhanced portal layout; tag profiles and project pages members want to follow**

Updates, past action items, and recent developments

- **Web traffic report - in the last 90 days there were 47,000 active users and 200,000 engagements**
- **Analytics - staff are developing a mechanism to track where portal members spend their time when they are logged in**
- **New ELISA Ignite page will be created on the ELISA portal at elisanetwork.com/ignite**
- **Portal enhancements**
 - **Project Pages - How do we rename Project Page?; enhance navigation; committee members to create pages and give staff feedback on functionality; added photos to project pages and increase visual appeal; marketplace feature enables entrepreneurs to showcase products or services; viewer count, likes and followers are included in the directory listing; searching and filtering of the pages; automated system to remind Project Page owners of what else they need to do to complete their page**
 - **Members - Onboarding process; members to see who has viewed their profile; prospective members - enrollment process streamlined**
 - **Mobile app**

- **Conference management tool has been added to allow us to showcase conferences and share information about program agendas, speakers, logistics, photos, news articles etc - this feature will be synched with the future mobile app**
- Resources feature - posted resources should be curated by staff or the membership?; Will posted resources be visible only to the membership or to the public?; posting of resources and opportunities (including miscellaneous posts by category such as funding opportunities, services, goods, etc.), while being mindful of curation and security
- Mapping feature - doing outreach to the portal membership to update their location
- ELISA Business Scholars Personalised Coaching Plan, mentor guidelines
- Contact management system
- Events - presentation improved; make shareable
- Summit Registration - new online summit registration page was successfully launched along with payment links

Other/Next steps and future action items

- **Project Pages - crowd funding for project pages (with feedback system)**
- Objectives for the ELISA portal - membership of the portal survey results; need for the public and member side of the portal objectives?; update goals to reflect stickiness and organic growth? The objectives are currently:
 - enhancement of member engagement within the portal so that the average time members spend on the portal increases by 20% per year and the frequency of their visits increases by 20% per year; what are the past and future milestones?
 - networking amongst entrepreneurs and ELISA members
 - seek and engage entrepreneurs
- Data about the entrepreneurs on the EBN (who they are and what they need?)
- Confabs - all videos posted and promoted on social media pages

ELISA Development Committee

Last meeting was 9 April 2026

Focus topic(s):

- **2026 ELISA Business Summit and ELISA Business Scholars (EBS) program occurred March 19-22, but ICPD ran them with very little registration and sponsorship income. The summit registration fee was \$149 and the goal was to have 200 paid registrations; there were 139 attendees and 5 attendees paid the registration fees. The EBS sponsor levels were \$2,000 for Titan Level Sponsors and \$500 for Catalyst Level and the goal was to secure 20 partners; there were 11 scholars admitted (from 8 countries) and 1 of them was sponsored.**

In response to this we will be revising our partner strategy to provide benefits to sponsors throughout the year, via online resources, virtual and in-person events. We request input on the latest version of the [ELISA Partner's Brief](#).

Updates, previous action items, and recent developments

- **Project page monetization**
 - **How can page owners benefit financially from the [Project Pages](#)? - The committee recommended adding a crowdfunding feature to allow page owners to receive contributions; ELISA can receive income by charging a small percentage of the donations for administrative purposes.**

- o **How to monetize the [Project Pages](#) to benefit ELISA?** - The committee recommended: **1. Charge page owners a fee for enhanced functionality for their pages (ie video streaming, crowdfunding, etc); 2. Vendors pay ELISA fees to get access to the Project Page businesses; 3. Project Page owners can pay fees to have their page appear higher in search results and/or to be promoted by ELISA on external social media sites**
- **Charitable contributions - ELISA has launched a donations processing page - [payment processing](#)**

Other/Future action items

- **Review of the revised partner brief and strategy for generating revenue throughout the year**
- **Which conferences and events to attend to market ELISA each year?**
- **Strategic positioning of the ELISA Business Summit and ELISA Business Scholars Program**
- Defining the ELISA strapline

Forward Calendar of Meeting Dates & Events

- **18 June**, 4-5 pm CAT - next ELISA Confab event will feature Dr Joy Isa, President of Isa School of Education, Nigeria; she will speak about "Networking for People Who Don't Like Small Talk", [register here](#):
- **11 Aug at 4pm CAT** - [ELISA Advisory Council Meeting](#)
- **17 Nov at 4pm CAT** - [ELISA Advisory Council Meeting](#)