

**Tuesday, 9 December 2025,**  
**2pm GMT / 3pm WAT / 4pm CAT / 5pm EAT**  
**USA Times: 6am Pacific / 8am Central / 9am Eastern**

Please plan on 45 minutes for this meeting. Visit [www.elisanetwork.com](http://www.elisanetwork.com) for more information about the ELISA Business Network, ELISA Business Scholars Program the ELISA Business Summit & our other programs  
**Zoom link:** <https://icpdprograms-org.zoom.us/j/85729500677?pwd=I2DMnLZvMe7RrzXwu3Oibg9aNyl3UK.1>  
**Meeting ID:** 857 2950 0677 Passcode: 703970  
**Document Archives:** [www.icpdprograms.org/committees](http://www.icpdprograms.org/committees) (click on the ELISA buttons)

For a more in-depth briefing or if you are unable to attend a meeting but would like a debrief, contact Elisabeth Valerio ([evalerio@icpdprograms.org](mailto:evalerio@icpdprograms.org)) on WhatsApp +263 782288842.  
**BOLDED** items in the agenda will be discussed during this meeting.

---

## Advisory Council

- **Welcome & introductions**
- **Denzel, Lydiah, Ruvimbo and Shamah are new staff as part of the ELISA team**
- **2026 ELISA Business Summit, 19 Mar 2026; 2025 ELISA Business Scholars (EBS) 19-22 Mar 2026; which committee members are available to join either (or both) of these events?**
- **Confabs - Last was 4 December and the speaker was Anastasia Munyati Luundu, from Zambia the Founder of Nouriva Wellness Centre; topic was "Learn why your best ideas never make it out of your head"; next Confab will be 26 February**
- **Advisory Council announcements**
- **Recommend potential ELISA Advisory Council members; you can email [shamah@elisanetwork.com](mailto:shamah@elisanetwork.com)**
- **How to follow/promote ELISA on social media @elisasummit**

## ELISA Programs Committee (Marie-Ange Noue, Chair)

Last meeting was 22 October 2025

### Focus topics

- **This committee has been renamed the ELISA Programs Committee (formerly Summit Committee)**
- **2026 ELISA Business Summit, 19 Mar 2026**
  - **The theme for the Summit is "Business Beyond Borders" and the theme should be addressed from the perspective of enterprises of all sizes?**
  - **Summit agenda**
  - **Speaker outreach is under way; Advisory Council members should send speaker recommendations to Shamah at [shamah@elisanetwork.com](mailto:shamah@elisanetwork.com)**
  - **Summit registration is underway**
  - **Summit outreach is underway**
  - **Summit sub-committee meets weekly on Tuesdays to review the action items for the ELISA Business Summit**
  - **Outcomes from the Summit - A "White Paper" will be published to summarise the proceedings and the outcomes**



## Updates, previous action items, and recent developments

- **2025 ELISA Business Scholars (EBS)**
  - Training session date was changed to 19-22 Mar 2026 to set the stage for a larger forum which includes a full day of programming for the ELISA Business Summit
  - Application Deadline for EBS was extended to 15 December 2025; Over 550 entrepreneurs have applied
  - Marie-Ange Noue, Chairperson's term ends at the end of December 2025. A new chair will be announced in January 2026.
- Bootstrap Briefs -
  - Topics are now being tied 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 such as [Opportunity Desk](#)**
- Confabs - How to support other languages? French? Timetable
- Virtual coaching
  - What would the model be for a virtual coaching experience?
  - What resources does the portal already have to support virtual coaching
  - Timeline for implementation
- Programming focused on Luminaries, Projects and Bootstrap Briefs
- Bootstrap Briefs - User generated content and curation

## ELISA Portal Committee (Chudi Obiaya, Chair)

Last meeting was 21 October 2025

### Focus Topics

- **Mapping feature - it is fully launched; staff is implementing a strategy for getting the membership to update their locations**
- **Analytics - staff is developing a plan to enhance the analytics for the member side (log-in) of the portal to learn what areas of the portal are users gravitating towards and how that can be amplified; the goal of the analytics is to be able to provide insights into portal stickiness and organic growth**
- **Updates, past action items, and recent developments**
  - **Web traffic report**
  - **Portal enhancements - update from IT work retreat**
    - **ELISA Business Scholars Personalised Coaching Plan**
    - **Contact management system**
    - **Project pages - added photos to project pages and improved visual appeal; marketplace feature enables entrepreneurs to showcase**



products or services; viewer count, likes and followers are included in the directory listing; enhanced the functionality of adding team members; searching and filtering of the pages; allow project page owners to create their own events pages

- Events - make them more shareable
- Phone app
- Members - Onboarding process; members to see who has viewed their profile; prospective members - enrollment process streamlined
- 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

#### Other/Next steps and future action items

- Chudi Obiaya, Chairperson's term ends at the end of December 2025. A new chair will be announced in January 2026.
- Resources feature - should posted resources be curated by staff or the portal users?; Will posted resources be visible only to the portal users or will they be visible 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
  - 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 (Scott May, Chair)

Last meeting was 23 October 2025

#### Focus topics

- 2026 ELISA Business Scholars (EBS) program sponsorship - Goal is to have 20 sponsored scholar/coach pairs; \$6,000 per scholar/coach pair and sponsors can select sectors and/or countries for their scholar; see the [sponsor page](#)
- 2026 ELISA Business Summit sponsorship - New sponsor levels have been established; \$2,000 for Titan Level Sponsors; \$500 for Catalyst Level Sponsors; see the [sponsor page](#)
- Reaching the sponsorship goals
  - o Sponsorship - Leads for sponsorship and introductions?
  - o Sponsorship promotion on the portal, ELISA weekly newsletter and on external social media sites; what more should be done?

#### Updates, previous action items, and recent developments



- **Development strategy has been refined; full time Development lead is on board (Lydia Onchiri); pipeline of prospective sponsors has been retooled and we're working on engagement; building increased visibility with stakeholders through Shamah Mawoko; contact management tool in place**

## **Other/Future action items**

- **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** - ELISA KPIs currently track the programmatic elements and budgetary impact of ELISA. Update on the KPIs; When to begin tracking broader impact goals such as:
  - o **Update on the 2025 KPIs**
  - o **Staff to determine which impact goals to focus on and measure for 2026; suggested metrics might include:**
    - **success of entrepreneurs**
    - **impact on the broader entrepreneurial ecosystem in Africa**
    - **impact ELISA has on entrepreneurs**
    - **the growth of companies involved with ELISA?**
    - **the program's reach and effectiveness?**
- **Project pages as a benefit for EBS sponsors**
  - o **highlight entrepreneurial initiatives at their organisation**
  - o **recognition of them as an EBS sponsor**
  - o **how else can this be a value for the sponsors?**
- Business model for the "Resources" functionality on the portal
- Defining the ELISA strapline - Staff will recommend a final strapline to the Advisory Council for approval
- Paid promotions on ELISA
- **Scott May, who has been the acting Chairperson for the Development Committee will serve as the Development Committee Chair in 2026.**

## **Forward Agenda (Events, & Future Meeting Dates, all listed in Central Africa Time):**

- 9 Dec 2025, 4-4:45pm Central Africa Time; ELISA Advisory Council meeting
- 2026 ELISA Committee meeting dates will be set in December
- 2026 ELISA Advisory Council meeting dates will be set in December
- 26 Feb 2026 - ELISA Confab Event
- 19 Mar 2026 - ELISA Business Summit
- 19 Mar 2026 - Enterprise Leaders Dinner
- 19-22 Mar 2026 - ELISA Scholars Training Program

