



Programs Committee Agenda

Wednesday, 8 April 2026, 4-4:45 pm CAT (Central Africa Time)

Please plan on 45 minutes for this meeting. For the Zoom link [click here](#)

<https://icpdprograms-org.zoom.us/j/84256391696>

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

Focus topic(s):

- **ELISA Ignite - overview of the program; discussion about the African Innovation Tracks and whether they should be changed or refined?**
- **Strategies for engaging the ELISA Business Scholar applicants who were not selected to attend the one-year program**

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 will be published with a focus on: 1. Tips for doing business beyond borders, 2. the nature of the summit and why it is important, 3. policy challenges 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 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](#)
- Confabs - How to support other languages? French? Timetable
- Programming focused on Luminaries, Projects and Bootstrap Briefs
- Bootstrap Briefs - User generated content and curation

Forward Calendar of Meeting Dates & Events

- **30 April, 4-5 pm Central Africa Time - Confab**, our speaker will be Marc Johnson with It's a Breeze, South Africa; he will speak about "Mastering Startup Finance Without the Headaches", [register here](#):
- **6 May at 4pm CAT** - [ELISA Advisory Council Meeting](#)
- **22 Jul at 4pm CAT** - [ELISA Programs Committee Meeting](#)
- **7 Oct at 4pm CAT** - [ELISA Programs Committee Meeting](#)