



ELISA Ignite transforms African student innovation into real ventures that generate local economic value.

By connecting universities, entrepreneurs and industry leaders, the program builds a **Pan-African pipeline of ventures designed, tested and scaled within local communities.**

How It Works

Opportunity Identification

Students define a real market problem and design a product, initiative or venture.

Validation and Strategy

Teams test assumptions and refine concepts or business models.

Pilot Launch

Students implement a small-scale launch and measure real world performance.

Pan-African Showcase

Top ventures are presented to partners, funders, and ecosystem leaders at the ELISA Summit.

The Opportunity

Africa faces urgent challenges such as constrained healthcare access, food insecurity, youth unemployment and climate vulnerability.

At the same time:

- Africa has the youngest population globally
- Universities produce high-potential talent every year
- But very few ideas become ventures

The gap is not talent. It's barriers such as:

- Limited access to mentorship and venture training
- Lack of early-stage funding and validation support
- Weak connection between universities and markets
- Minimal cross-African collaboration

Core Ecosystem

ELISA Business Network + Hubs
entrepreneurs and markets across Africa

ELISA Business Scholars
executive coaches and business leaders

EdVenture Partners
proven academic program delivery

African Academic Institutions
universities become venture incubators with year round support from local business leaders

Your support funds university programs, seed grants, and the **ELISA Ignite showcase event.**

elisanetwork.com/ignite

The ELISA Ignite Model

ELISA Ignite converts universities into venture creation hubs.

Student teams work in cross-disciplinary groups alongside:

- **Faculty**
- **Entrepreneurs**
- **Industry leaders**

They build ventures aligned with real market needs.

African Innovation Tracks

ELISA Ignite targets sectors with the highest economic impact:

Agri-Tech & Food Systems:

Climate-smart production, post-harvest efficiency and localized value chains.

Digital Economy + Infrastructure:

FinTech, EdTech, and decentralized energy solutions expanding access and productivity.

Health + Biotech Innovation:

Scalable healthcare delivery, diagnostics, and local manufacturing capacity.

Cross Border Trade + Business Systems:

Logistics, payments, and operational systems enabling seamless African market expansion.

Each track is aligned with UN SDGs + African market realities.

What Makes ELISA Ignite Different

Unlike hackathons or competitions, ELISA Ignite is:

✓ A Venture Creation Platform

It creates not ideas → but **real businesses**

✓ Pan-African By Design

Built for **cross-border scale and collaboration**

✓ Embedded in Universities

Turning campuses into **year-round innovation hubs**

✓ Backed By a Real Ecosystem

Not theoretical support → **active networks, coaches and partners**

Measurable Impact

ELISA Ignite delivers clear outcomes with a multi-year scalable structure:

- Increased visibility for universities with student ventures launched
- Access to seed funding and real-world entrepreneurship training for students
- Cross-border business pipelines created
- Local job creation and enterprise growth
- SDG-aligned impact with quantifiable data i.e., water saved, waste reduced

Strategic Value for Partners

Supporting ELISA Ignite enables partners to:

- Access **high-potential African founders early**
- Participate in venture creation **across multiple markets**
- Deliver **ESG** and **youth development impact**
- Build **visibility as a leader in African innovation**

Why it Matters

African talent should build African solutions, owned in Africa! ELISA Ignite ensures ventures:

- Ventures are **retained locally**
- Value is **created within communities**
- Growth is **sustainable and scalable**

Partnership Opportunity

We invite corporates, foundations, and ecosystem leaders to partner with ELISA Ignite. Your support enables:

- University program delivery
- Student venture seed funding
- Digital collaboration platform
- Pan-African showcase and investor access



THE ENTERPRISE LEADERS
& INNOVATORS SOCIETY FOR
AFRICA (ELISA) IS THE FASTEST
GROWING PAN-AFRICAN NETWORK
ADVANCING INVESTMENT & MARKET
ACCESS ACROSS AFRICA

**EdVenture
Partners**



EDVENTURE PARTNERS
ARE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
EXPERTS WITH 35+ YEARS OF GLOBAL INDUSTRY
& UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS DELIVERING
REAL-WORLD PROGRAMS

THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER
FOR PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT (ICPD)
IS A GLOBAL
PLATFORM WITH
OVER 20 YEARS
OF DELIVERING



MENTORSHIP, EXECUTIVE
ENGAGEMENT AND APPLIED
BUSINESS EDUCATION ACROSS
UNIVERSITIES AND INDUSTRIES

**Let's design a partnership that ignites ventures, jobs, and
measurable economic impact across Africa.**

elisanetwork.com/ignite

Scott May

Executive Director
ICPD Programs
smay@icpdprograms.org
+1 202 4417370

Lydia Onchiri

Director of Partnerships
ICPD Programs
lydia@elisanetwork.com
+254 711 362314

Tony Sgro

Founder & CEO
EdVenture Partners
tony@edventurepartners.com
+1 415 2647666

Click [here](#) to schedule a conversation to explore how we can deliver measurable impact together.