

**EGERTON**



**UNIVERSITY**

**Student Led Innovation Club  
(EUSLIC)**

**Concept Note**

DRAFT

**November, 2025**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **student-Led Innovation Club** is envisioned as a dynamic hub where students from diverse academic backgrounds converge to cultivate creative and entrepreneurial skills. It will serve as a space for students to explore emerging technologies, collaboratively address contemporary societal issues, and gain invaluable experience in launching new ventures. By participating in activities such as startup school, Hackathons, innovation clinics, mentorship, and policy dialogues, members will be empowered with the skills and mindsets aligned with national development priorities and global innovation standards.

This initiative addresses a critical gap in formal education, which often provides foundational knowledge but falls short in delivering hands-on experience and fostering cross-disciplinary engagement essential for translating theoretical concepts into tangible solutions. **Student-Led Innovation Club** is designed as a strategic complement to the university's academic mission systematically nurturing the innovative and entrepreneurial capabilities of students to yield long-term societal benefits.

The club's operational framework is guided by a strong constitution and includes a robust leadership structure, inclusive membership, sustainable funding mechanisms, It is anchored in principles of accountability, creativity, collaboration, and leadership development. This comprehensive approach ensures that students not only gain technical proficiency but also develop critical attributes such as creativity, an entrepreneurial mindset, and holistic problem-solving skills.

By drawing inspiration from successful student innovation endeavors observed both globally and within Kenya, Student-Led Innovation Club aims to produce proactive problem solvers and future leaders who can transform knowledge into real-world impact. Ultimately, the Student-Led Innovation Club seeks to enhance the university's relevance and expand the country's innovation capacity by fostering a generation of innovators equipped to drive change in their communities and beyond.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Kenya's innovation ecosystem continues to grow, supported by national policies and institutions focused on research, commercialization, and digital transformation. Current academic models emphasize foundational knowledge, with fewer mechanisms systematically facilitating student engagement in interdisciplinary, hands-on innovation activities.

Currently, Egerton University framework for support early-stage innovation processes such as ideation, prototyping, and venture testing is not formally integrated into co-curricular or extracurricular programming. This reduces opportunities for students to apply academic knowledge toward the development of context-relevant solutions.

The Egerton University Student-Led Innovation Club (EUSLIC) therefore presents a structured platform to complement academic programs by:

- i. Facilitating collaboration among students from diverse faculties and disciplines.
- ii. Providing practical exposure to innovation, design thinking and entrepreneurial thinking.
- iii. Enabling early-stage development of innovative venture through peer-to-peer learning, mentorship, and project-based engagement.

Globally, student-led innovation models have demonstrated strong outcomes in building entrepreneurial skills, catalyzing startups, and embedding innovation culture within higher education institutions. For instance:

#### 1.1.1 Finland's Slush

It began as a student-led event by Aalto University's entrepreneurship club (Aaltoes) in 2008. It has since grown into a global startup and tech platform, attracting over 25,000 participants annually. Slush illustrates how student-led initiatives can scale into globally influential innovation platforms.

#### 1.1.2 MIT Sandbox Innovation Fund Program (USA)

Supports student-initiated ideas through mentorship and seed funding, allowing student teams to explore and prototype viable solutions with measurable outcomes.

#### 1.1.3 Enactus (global)

Operates in various countries, including Kenya, engaging university students to design and implement social enterprise projects that create community impact.

Locally, successful examples of student innovation include:

#### 1.1.4 C4DLab Innovation Club – University of Nairobi

Operates under the university's innovation lab (C4DLab), where students organize and participate in Hackathons, innovation challenges, and prototyping activities. It has supported numerous student-led innovations. Leads Nairobi innovation week

#### 1.1.5 iBizAfrica – Strathmore University

While coordinated by the university, many programs within iBizAfrica are student-driven, focusing on startups and entrepreneurship training.

#### 1.1.6 AIESEC-(Association Internationale des Étudiants en Sciences Économiques et Commerciales)

largest student-run organizations, In Kenyan universities it has roots in universities such as the University of Nairobi, Strathmore University, and JKUAT, AIESEC chapters are led by students who organize global volunteer programs, youth summits, and entrepreneurship-related initiatives.

These models demonstrate the value of student-driven innovation platforms in enhancing entrepreneurial ecosystems and equipping learners with the competencies to engage in real-world problem-solving.

### 1.2 Problem Statement

- ✧ University education in Kenya is primarily structured around theoretical instruction, with limited integration of applied innovation processes such as ideation, prototyping, and venture development.
- ✧ While innovation is a national priority, student engagement in innovation ecosystems at the institutional level is not yet systematically embedded across universities.
- ✧ Opportunities for structured, student-led innovation programming such as cross-disciplinary collaboration, startup experimentation, and community-based problem solving remain underdeveloped.
- ✧ The absence of formalized student innovation platforms within most universities limits pathways for translating academic knowledge into scalable, context-relevant solutions.

### 1.3 Vision:

To cultivate a vibrant, student-driven innovation culture within Egerton University that accelerates entrepreneurial growth and societal transformation.

## 1.4 Goal:

To build a generation of innovation-driven students by inclusive, hands-on platforms that build entrepreneurial mindsets, strengthen practical skills, and connect learners with real-world opportunities through mentorship, collaboration, and structured experiential programming.

## 1.5 Objectives

- i. Foster an innovation-driven mindset by nurturing creativity, critical thinking, and entrepreneurial skills among students.
- ii. Bridge the gap between theory and practice through hands-on, real-world problem solving, prototyping, and venture development.
- iii. Promote cross-disciplinary collaboration by bringing together students from various academic backgrounds to co-create impactful solutions.
- iv. Provide access to mentorship and networks by connecting students with industry experts, innovation hubs, government agencies, and startup ecosystems.

## 1.6 Critical Success Factors/Strengths

### 1.6.1 Institutional Support

Backing from university leadership, including formal recognition, access to facilities, and policy alignment.

### 1.6.2 Inclusive and Diverse Membership

Active recruitment across faculties, years of study, gender, and backgrounds to promote cross-disciplinary collaboration.

### 1.6.3 Strategic Partnerships

Strong linkages with innovation hubs, industry partners, government agencies, and alumni for mentorship, resources, and exposure.

### 1.6.4 Engaging and Practical Programming

Hands-on activities such as Hackathons, startup school, skill-building workshops, innovation challenges, and field visits.

### 1.6.5 Student Ownership and Leadership Development

Empowerment of students to lead, organize, and sustain the club's agenda while gaining leadership and project management experience.

### 1.6.6 Robust Monitoring & Evaluation System

Mechanisms to track participation, learning outcomes, impact, and growth through data collection and regular feedback loops.

## 1.7 Student-Level Success

- 1.7.1 High club engagement & Membership-A consistently growing and diverse membership base across faculties.

- 1.7.2 Skills & Mindset Development-Improved entrepreneurial, design thinking problem-solving skills, and leadership capabilities through active participation.
- 1.7.3 Idea to Venture Transformation -Student-led prototypes, startups, and community projects moving beyond ideation to testing, validation, and in some cases, market entry.
- 1.7.4 Knowledge on Intellectual Property (IP) - Learn about patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets to protect and commercialize innovations.
- 1.7.5 Project Management Skills-Planning, scheduling, Working with timelines, milestones, and deliverables
- 1.7.6 Fundraising and Resource Mobilization-Writing grant proposals, business plans.
- 1.7.7 Recognition-Students win awards, get featured in innovation showcases, or secure internships/funding due to club participation.

## 1.8 University-Level Success

- 1.8.1 Institutional Integration-The club is formally recognized by the university, with ongoing support such as space, resources, and access to faculty mentors.
- 1.8.2 Interdisciplinary Collaboration-Students from different faculties working together on projects, breaking academic silos.
- 1.8.3 Positive Reputation-The university becomes known for innovation, attracting partnerships, competitions, and events.

## 1.9 Measurable Impact Indicators

By the end of Year 1 or 2, track:

- 1.9.1 Membership growth rate (e.g., +25% per academic year)
- 1.9.2 Number of innovative projects initiated and number with registered or pending IP
- 1.9.3 Event frequency & attendance (including Hackathons, trainings, IP workshops and clinics)
- 1.9.4 Funding attracted (cash or in-kind) for protected student projects
- 1.9.5 Number of students trained in IP laws and ethics
- 1.9.6 Alumni success stories

## **2.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR EUSLIC**

### **2.1 Student Ownership and Leadership**

The club must be student-initiated and student-led, with democratic elections for leadership roles to ensure inclusivity, transparency, and accountability.

### **2.2 Multidisciplinary Collaboration**

Membership should be open to students from all faculties and disciplines to encourage cross-sector thinking and diverse problem-solving approaches.

### **2.3 Innovation-Driven Mindset**

All club activities should foster creativity, critical thinking, experimentation, and solution-oriented approaches to real-world challenges.

### **2.4 Capacity Building and Skill Development**

Activities must be geared toward enhancing members' skills in entrepreneurship, design thinking, digital literacy, and emerging technologies.

### **2.5 Inclusivity and Equal Opportunity**

The club must promote gender equity, accessibility, and representation of marginalized groups, ensuring that innovation opportunities are available to all.

### **2.6 Alignment with Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) and University Priorities**

The club's vision, programs, and activities must align with both national science, technology, and innovation (STI) goals and the specific strategic objectives of the host university.

### **2.7 Partnership and Ecosystem Linkages**

The club should actively engage with innovation hubs, government agencies, private sector players, and mentors to enrich learning and open real-world opportunities.

### **2.8 Impact Orientation**

All activities should aim to create measurable impact whether through student growth, community engagement, or the development of scalable innovations.

## 3: CLUB STRUCTURE

### 3.1 Governance structure

The Student Led Innovation Club at Egerton University shall operate under a structured governance framework to ensure effective leadership, accountability, and strategic alignment with institutional and national innovation priorities. The governance structure includes:

### 3.2 Club Advisory Council

The Advisory Council shall consist of a **minimum of five (5) and a maximum of nine (9) members**, always maintaining an **odd number** to facilitate decision-making.

#### 3.2.1 Club Patron

- ✧ A university-affiliated staff or faculty member appointed in charge of ihub.
- ✧ Supervises the student election process to ensure it is fair, transparent, and inclusive.
- ✧ Offers institutional guidance and supports student engagement throughout the academic year.
- ✧ The **core (mandatory) members** of the Advisory Council shall include:
  - i. **Start-up School Entrepreneurial Leaders Training Program -Educator Model Alumni (1 member)**
    - ✧ Provides peer mentorship to student leaders based on prior experience in student-led innovation initiatives.
    - ✧ Supports continuity and knowledge transfer.
    - ✧ Leads Advisory Council meetings, provides strategic oversight, and ensures all members fulfill their roles.
    - ✧ Supports student leadership development and serves as the key liaison between the Advisory Council and the Executive Committee.
  - ii. **Dean of Students or council Representative (1 member)**
    - ✧ Ensures the club aligns with university policies, student affairs, and code of conduct.
    - ✧ Provides administrative and institutional support for club operations, including access to university facilities.
    - ✧ Advises on student welfare, inclusion, and academic alignment of club activities.
  - iii. **Innovation Industry Experts (2 members)**
    - ✧ Bring real-world innovation and entrepreneurship insights to the club.

- ✧ Provide mentorship, evaluate student projects, and create linkages with external innovation ecosystems.
- ✧ Offer support in organizing startup events, pitching sessions, and scaling student ideas.

#### **iv. KeNIA Representative (1 member).**

- ✧ Acts as a bridge to national programs, resources, and government-supported innovation platforms.
- ✧ Supports data collection, reporting, and possible scaling of club outputs to national level innovation initiatives.

### **3.2.1 Roles of the Advisory Council:**

- ✧ Provide strategic guidance, mentorship, and ensure the club meets governance and operational standards.
- ✧ Act as a bridge between the club and the university administration, as well as national innovation stakeholders.
- ✧ Make recommendation on context-specific challenges and opportunities in the university environment.
- ✧ Oversee resource mobilization (financial and technical) for the club's growth and leadership development.
- ✧ Organize and oversee induction training for the incoming Executive Committee.
- ✧ Ensure that club leadership upholds principles of diversity, inclusion, and accountability.
- ✧ Convene at least twice annually to review club progress and provide direction.

### **3.3 Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee is the **core operational arm** of the Student Innovation Club, composed of **elected student leaders**. It is responsible for **executing the club's vision, delivering programs, coordinating partnerships, managing resources, and running day-to-day operations** in alignment with the club's constitution and strategic direction.

#### **Executive Committee Roles**

**President**-Provides strategic leadership and direction; presides over meetings; represents the club in external engagements; oversees club operations; approves expenditures; appoints

committee leads; and ensures alignment with the Advisory Council's guidance. Reports to the patron on club activities.

- a) **Vice President / Club Coordinator**-Serves as the coordinator of all club activities and capacity-building initiatives, brings in industry experts for training sessions, workshops, and onboarding of new members; supports the President; and assumes leadership in the President's absence.
- b) **Treasurer / Finance Secretary**-Manages the club's finances; develops and tracks budgets; ensures financial transparency through accurate record-keeping and reporting; supports fundraising initiatives; and works with the President and partners to align funding with club goals.
- c) **Publicity and Communications Officer**-Oversees all internal and external communication; manages the club's social media presence, branding, and marketing content; handles press releases, announcements, and visual documentation; and ensures effective visibility of club activities.
- d) **Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Lead**-Identifies, manages, plans and executes all club events and programs (e.g., Hackathons, innovation clinics, startup schools); ensures timely procurement, venue coordination, and safety compliance; and supports smooth logistical delivery for all activities.

### 3.3.1 Responsibilities of the Executive Committee

- ✧ Translate the club's objectives into actionable programs and deliverables.
- ✧ Coordinate implementation of innovation-focused activities and events.
- ✧ Maintain open communication and alignment with the Advisory Council.
- ✧ Drive member engagement and uphold the club's values of inclusion, innovation, excellence, and collaboration.
- ✧ Foster partnerships, ensure resource sustainability, and promote the club's presence on and off campus

## 4.0 CLUB SETUP

### 4.1 Membership

#### 4.1.1 Membership Categories

a) **Ordinary Members:**

Must be currently enrolled students at the university (undergraduate, diploma, or postgraduate). Ordinary members have full rights, including voting and eligibility for executive positions.

b) **Honorary Members:**

May include alumni or individuals with a strong interest in supporting the club. Honorary members are welcome to participate in select activities but are not required to attend all meetings and will not hold executive positions.

#### 4.1.2 Membership Fees

A. The **membership registration fee** and **annual renewal fee** shall be determined in line with the **financial policies, student welfare guidelines, and operational needs** of each individual university. These fees may vary from one institution to another based on scale, club programming, administrative support, and cost of activities.

a) Registration: (one-time)

b) Annual Renewal: (per academic year)

*Fees are non-refundable and support club operations.*

All fee adjustments shall be reviewed periodically to ensure affordability, sustainability, and alignment with the club's objectives and financial responsibilities.

#### 4.1.3. Onboarding and Recruitment

- i. A year-based **promotional campaign** shall be launched at the beginning of each academic year to attract new members.
- ii. The Executive Committee shall establish and institutionalize a **member recognition and rewards system** to motivate active participation and celebrate outstanding contributions. This may include:
  - a. Certificates of Participation and Excellence
  - b. Innovation Achievement Awards
  - c. Leadership Badges and Digital Badging Systems
  - d. Membership Budes

The club shall adopt a proactive recruitment and orientation strategy, especially targeting new students during institutional orientation events. Outreach efforts shall include:

- ✧ Distribution of flyers, brochures, and videos.
- ✧ Club stands and info booths during orientation.
- ✧ Targeted campaigns via posters, Whats App groups, and campus radio.

Recruitment shall prioritize inclusivity by engaging:

- ✧ Open to all students actively enrolled at the university, regardless of their program of study.
- ✧ International students and those from underrepresented groups, including women, persons with disabilities, and students from diverse academic disciplines.
- ✧ Early-year students to ensure long-term engagement and succession

## **4.2 Terms and conditions**

### **4.2.1 Membership Eligibility**

- ✧ Must be an active student enrolled in a diploma, undergraduate, or postgraduate program at the university.
- ✧ Must complete the registration process and pay the required membership fee
- ✧ Membership is open to students across all faculties, with a strong emphasis on inclusivity and diversity.

### **4.2.2 Code of Conduct**

- ✧ Members and leaders must uphold integrity, respect, inclusivity, and professionalism in all club-related activities.
- ✧ Discriminatory behavior, misconduct, or violations of the university's student code may lead to suspension or expulsion from the club.

### **4.2.3 Attendance and Participation**

- ✧ Active members are expected to attend at least 70% of scheduled meetings and participate in club programs and activities.
- ✧ Executive Committee members must attend all official meetings unless excused in advance for valid reasons.

### **4.2.4 Leadership Accountability**

- ✧ Executive Committee members are elected for a one-academic year renewable term and are expected to uphold the constitution and club vision.

### **4.2.5 Election and Transition**

- ✧ Elections will be conducted annually under the supervision of the Club Patron and independent election committee, ensuring fairness, transparency, and democratic participation.

#### 4.2.6 Use of Club Resources

- ✧ All financial expenditure must be pre-approved by the Executive Committee and aligned with the club's approved budget.

#### 4.2.7 Intellectual Property and Innovation Ethics

- ✧ Ideas and projects developed within the club must be acknowledged, Plagiarism, idea theft, or unethical collaboration will result in disciplinary measures.

#### 4.2.8 Amendments and Reviews

- ✧ These terms and conditions may be reviewed annually and updated with the consensus of the Executive Committee and Advisory Council.
- ✧ Members will be notified of any changes, and continued participation constitutes an agreement with updated terms.

#### 4.2.9 Dispute Resolution

- ✧ All grievances or disputes arising within the club shall be reported to the Executive Committee and, if unresolved, escalated to the University Discipline Office or Dean of Students for final mediation and resolution in line with institutional policies.

### 4.3 Interim club Structure

In the club's formative stages, and to ensure smooth operations and consistent leadership, the **Student Innovation Club Board (Advisory Council)** shall appoint **interim members** to serve on the Executive Committee.

This appointed team will provide foundational guidance, maintain governance continuity, and oversee the club's activities until formal elections are held, in accordance with the club's constitution. The interim leadership period shall be **for a maximum of one academic year**, depending on the university's institutional structures and readiness to conduct student elections

## 5.0 CLUB ACTIVITIES

The student-Led Innovation Club shall engage in a structured blend of **mandatory** and **optional** activities designed to promote innovation, skill development, and entrepreneurial thinking.

### 5.1 Mandatory Club Activities

#### 5.1.1 Monthly Club Meetings

- ✧ Regular monthly meetings to review progress, share member updates, plan upcoming activities, and foster a strong sense of community and collaboration.

#### 5.1.2 Startup School – Founder Track

- ✧ An 8-module Learning Management System (LMS) program that equips student innovators with practical startup skills from idea validation to pitching and fundraising.
- ✧ Combines self-paced learning, expert mentorship, and peer collaboration, with top performers gaining recognition and access to demo-day or acceleration opportunities.

#### 5.1.3 Innovation skill-Based Workshops

- ✧ Organization of hands-on workshops each academic year, focusing on high-demand skills such as design thinking, business modeling, pitching, and lean startup methodology.

#### 5.1.4 Club Innovation Challenges

- ✧ **Annual University Hackathon** – Each university club will host an internal Hackathon that encourages students to form teams, generate solutions, and prototype innovations addressing real-world challenges.
- ✧ **Inter-University Innovation Challenge** – Top-performing teams from each university will advance to an intensive inter-university Hackathon held annually. This collaborative challenge fosters cross-campus innovation, competition, and networking among emerging innovators.

#### 5.1.2 Intellectual Property (IP) Management Support

- ✧ Training sessions and awareness workshops on intellectual property rights, including copyright, trademarks, patents, and innovation ethics.
- ✧ Guidance on how to protect, license, or commercialize student innovations developed through club activities.
- ✧ Linkages to national IP support systems, including the Kenya industrial property institute (KIPI) and legal advisory partners.

## 5.2 Optional Club Activities

### 5.2.1 Certificate of Recognition

- ✧ Issued to members upon completion of a year of active and consistent participation, acknowledging their contribution and growth through the club.

### 5.2.2 Mentorship Programmes

- ✧ Connecting club members with industry experts, innovation hubs, and national agencies to receive guidance, build relevant skills, and shape their entrepreneurial mindset.

### 5.2.3 Speaker Series

- ✧ Hosting guest speakers from industry, academia, and government to share practical insights on innovation, leadership, digital transformation, and personal development.

### 5.2.4 Field Visits and Innovation Safaris

- ✧ Organize visits to innovation hubs, tech parks, startups, and R&D centres to expose members to active innovation ecosystems and operational models.

### 5.2.5 Collaboration with Local Communities

- ✧ Implement community-based innovation projects that address grassroots problems, enhancing social impact and experiential learning.

### 5.2.6 Visibility clinics

- ✧ Organize structured simulation-based sessions that provide student innovators with a platform to pitch, present, and refine their ideas in a supportive, feedback-driven environment.

## 6.0 FUNDING

The student-Led Innovation Club proposes a comprehensive and sustainable financial framework to support its operations, activities, and long-term growth. The strategy is built on principles of transparency, diversified income, responsible budgeting, and consistent monitoring to ensure every resource is used efficiently and with impact.

### 6.1. Sources of Funding

**6.1.1 University Support:** Through Student Affairs offices or internal grant programs.

**6.1.2 Membership Fees:** The membership **registration fee** and **annual renewal fee** shall be determined by the **Advisory Council in consultation with the university administration**, and in alignment with the institution's financial policies and student engagement guidelines.

**6.1.3 Corporate & Development Partners:** Clubs will pitch tailored sponsorship packages for innovation events, visibility, and ecosystem engagement.

**6.1.4 Fundraising Events:** Innovation tournaments, talent shows, raffles, Hackathons, etc., which double as engagement tools and income generators.

### 6.2 University-Based Financial Management Mechanism

To ensure accountability and compliance with institutional financial policies, **Egerton University has an established mechanism to receive, manage, and disburse funds** on behalf of the student-Led Innovation Club. This mechanism is provided for under the directorate of research and extension.

### 6.3 Budget Development and Implementation

**6.3.1 Led by Treasurer/Finance Secretary** in collaboration with the President and Executive Committee, informed by previous financial data, club needs, and member input.

#### **6.3.2 Cost Categories Include:**

- i. Administrative (Stationery, printing, refreshments)
  - ✧ Needed for meetings, workshops, and reporting.
  - ✧ Universities rarely cover these directly.
- ii. Communication (Airtime, bulk SMS, social media promotions)

- ✧ Important for mobilizing members, promoting events, and maintaining visibility.
- iii. Transport (Local travel, vehicle hire)
  - ✧ Applicable for external events, Hackathons, or inter-university visits.
- iv. Miscellaneous (Outreach, contingency buffer)
  - ✧ Every club needs a buffer and flexibility for unique needs or emergencies.

### 6.3.3 Contextual/May Not Always Apply

- ✧ **Financial Charges** (Mobile money fees, audits)-Only applicable if the club handles its own funds outside university systems.
- ✧ **University Costs** (Venue bookings, security, permits)-Some universities waive these fees for internal clubs. Others charge for special events or external guest access.

All expenditures will be documented with verified receipts (physical or digital), filed monthly for accountability and audit readiness.

### 6.3.4 Budget Approval Process

- ✧ **Internal Review:** Draft budget discussed and refined within the Executive Committee.
- ✧ **Membership Engagement:** Presented to general members for transparency and feedback.
- ✧ **Final Approval:** Granted by the Club Advisory Board to ensure alignment with institutional goals and fiscal discipline.

## 6.4 Budget Monitoring and Reporting

**6.4.1 Regular Reporting:** Monthly or quarterly reports include income-expenditure summaries, variance analysis, and activity-based costing.

**6.4.2 Adjustments:** Minor budget variations can be approved internally; significant changes require full board re-approval.

**6.4.3 Audits:** Subject to internal club audits and university oversight to uphold transparency and donor confidence.

## 6.5 Long-Term Sustainability Strategy

**6.5.1 Diversified Revenue Streams:** Through strategic partnerships, alumni giving, innovation-based services, and monetized club initiatives.

**6.5.2 Entrepreneurial Approach:** Members are encouraged to develop income-generating projects that also enhance innovation learning.

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