

GeneNovate 2026 | Region NRW 2

(Bochum, Dortmund, Duisburg, Essen, ...)



Empowering
Innovators & Entrepreneurs
in Gene & Cell-based Therapies,
Biotech & Medicine

**Are you an ambitious PhD student, Postdoc or researcher
looking to found a start-up to advance progress in life science research?
Then you're the perfect candidate for the GeneNovate program!**

Where can you participate?

- Berlin
- Heidelberg
- Munich
- Region EAST (Dresden, Leipzig)
- Region NORTH (Braunschweig, Göttingen, Hannover, ...)
- Region NRW 1 (Aachen, Bonn, Cologne, Düsseldorf, ...)
- Region NRW 2 (Bochum, Dortmund, Duisburg, Essen, ...)
- Region RHINE-MAIN (Mainz, ...)
- Region Southwest (Freiburg, Tübingen)

Who should apply?

PhD students, Postdocs and
researchers in the life sciences,
biotech & medicine

APPLY HERE



What is GeneNovate?

GeneNovate is the first nationwide entrepreneurship program in Germany, designed to empower innovators and entrepreneurs in the field of Gene and Cell Therapies, Biotech and Medicine.

The program targets early-career scientists and physicians such as advanced students, PhD candidates and Postdocs, but it is also open to experienced researchers and medical professionals. A key strength of the program lies in its collaborative approach, connecting participants across multiple locations.

Program schedule

Kick-off		Workshop 1		Workshop 2	
12.12.25 Essen		7.1.26 hybrid	19.1.26 Essen	2.2.26 hybrid	19.2.26 Essen
Networking Building Teams Meeting Mentors 		Theoretical input for all GeneNovate trainees across all sites Hybrid session: onsite in Freiburg and online	 Introduction to Entrepreneurship  Changing the Healthcare Industry  Creating & presenting pitch decks	Theoretical input for all GeneNovate trainees across all sites Hybrid session: onsite in Cologne and online	 Value propositions & Business Model  IP-Protection & Management (operational & strategic)
Workshop 3		Workshop 4		Workshop 5	
2.3.26 hybrid		1.4.26 hybrid	23.4.26 Essen	4.5.26 hybrid	28.5.26 Essen
Theoretical input for all GeneNovate trainees across all sites Hybrid session: onsite in Freiburg and online	 Analyze your market  Create your business model  Build your business case	Theoretical input for all GeneNovate trainees across all sites Hybrid session: onsite in Cologne and online	 Regulation  Develop your product/solution  Go-to-Market: Understand & win customers	Theoretical input for all GeneNovate trainees across all sites Hybrid session: onsite in Freiburg and online	 Legal foundations for start ups  Team management  Project management  Establish & manage partnerships
Workshop 6		Preselection	Final Event		
1.6.26 hybrid		June 2026 Onsite	25.6.26 Munich		
Theoretical input for all GeneNovate trainees across all sites Hybrid session: onsite in Cologne and online	 Financing & funding  Investor discussions & negotiations  Exit options & strategic value	All teams pitching in front of a jury 	Selected teams pitching  Networking 		