

GeneNovate 2026 | Munich



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

**You are 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 11.12.25 onsite Networking Building Teams Meeting Mentors 		Workshop 1 7.1.26 online 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		Workshop 2 2.2.26 online 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 2 26.2.26 onsite 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 2.3.26 online 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		Workshop 3 26.3.26 onsite 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		Workshop 4 1.4.26 online 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		Workshop 4 30.4.26 onsite 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	
Workshop 5 4.5.26 online 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 5 26.5.26 onsite 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 1.6.26 online 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		Workshop 6 16.6.26 onsite 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	
Preselection June 2026 Onsite All teams pitching in front of a jury 		Final Event 25.6.26 Munich Selected teams pitching Networking 		Preselection June 2026 Onsite All teams pitching in front of a jury 		Final Event 25.6.26 Munich Selected teams pitching Networking 	