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National Strategy
Gene and Cell-Based Therapies
GeneNovate

GeneNovate 2026 | Region RHINE-MAIN (Mainz, ...)

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 12.12.25 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 29.1.26 onsite 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 11.2.26 onsite 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 11.3.26 onsite 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 17.4.26 onsite 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 15.5.26 onsite 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 11.6.26 onsite 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 		