

Objective	<i>to get access to a peers, coaching, tools, knowledge and proven practical methods to forge structural interregional collaborations</i>				
General description	The mentoring programme equips professionals with the skills, tools, and confidence to take the lead in forging interregional innovation corridors, transforming fragmented efforts into cohesive partnerships. By combining hands-on training, peer learning, and expert coaching, participants gain practical expertise to drive impactful collaborations that align regional strengths with European ambitions.				
Target audience	The programme is designed for professionals responsible for fostering interregional collaboration, particularly those working within European Digital Innovation Hubs. It also welcomes individuals engaged in innovation-driven partnerships, including policymakers, project managers, and strategists aiming to elevate their regions through structured collaboration.				
Background information	This mentoring programme builds on the experience gained from initiatives like the BOWI project, which explored the creation of over 15 interregional innovation corridors. Drawing lessons from these efforts, the programme integrates proven strategies, tools, and insights to address common challenges in collaboration, such as governance, funding, and trust-building. It is a continuation to empower professionals through a train-the-trainer approach, equipping them to establish impactful and sustainable EU partnerships.				
Learning objectives	The learning objectives focus on understanding the conceptual framework of interregional innovation corridors, mastering the tools and templates required for their implementation, and gaining practical experience in applying these methods. Participants will develop the skills to operationalise frameworks effectively in real-world scenarios, ensuring they can confidently drive impactful collaborations.				
Approach	This four-day, on-location training adopts a stepwise didactical approach, combining theoretical instruction with practical application to ensure deep learning. Post-training, participants engage in assignments designed to reinforce retention and skill development. The programme includes pre- and post-training homework, periodic coaching sessions, peer learning discussions, and access to practical tools, templates, and comprehensive background materials. Upon completion, participants are evaluated on their practical expertise in forging interregional corridors, earning certification as skilled corridor development professionals.				
Trainers	Maurits Butter (TNO), Kristina Karanikolova (TNO), Geraud Guillard (TNO), Mayte Carracedo (Fundingbox), Maria Roca (Fundingbox), Sander van der Molen (Civitta), Justina Ivanova (Civitta), Thorsten Huelsmann (DHM), Charlotte Edzard (DHM). Also individual experts (external to the DIHNET Academy) are invited to provide insights in their experiences with interregional collaboration				
Date	4 separate days Q1-Q2 2025	Costs	€1,000-€4,000	Location	To be agreed
Modules	Introduction to the training	This introduction helps mentees understand the framework of interregional corridors, the programme's approach, and its broader context within innovation collaboration.			
	Forging a corridor	This module focuses on guiding participants through the processes and evolutionary steps involved in establishing interregional innovation corridors, emphasising practical progression over theoretical building blocks.			
	Developing a corridor business plan	Introduction to participants to creating a comprehensive corridor business plan, emphasising its role as a dynamic tool for guiding partnership discussions and aligning strategic objectives.			
	Animals in the European zoo	An overview provides an overview of key European entities involved in interregional corridors, offering insights into their roles, collaboration opportunities, and how to leverage their strengths effectively.			
	Working in Europe	Introduction the value and mechanisms of European policies, programmes and networks			
	Corridor collaboration levels	Training on the different institutional levels an interregional collaboration can take, what this is depending on, how this impacts the forging of corridors and how KPIs can be identified.			
	Corridor activities	Introduction of the different shapes interregional innovation projects can take and how to make the corridor activities operational with specific services. What are possible services and what are the assets needed to ensure their successful delivery.			
	Mission and value of corridors	What can be the objectives and role of a corridor in establishing interregional innovation projects, for what customers and what is their unique value. Practical examples of different types and possible KPIs			
	Governance and organisation of corridors	Different forms of corridor partnerships, operationalising it to their roles and their organisation. Governance aspects, like possible legal structures, responsibilities, performance assessment and steering management			
	Financing a corridor	How can a corridor be financed, looking at its initiation and long-term sustainability. What are costs, revenue models and gap funding for both interregional innovation projects and the corridor activities.			
	Building a shared culture and trust	Understanding how to deal with the cultural differences between regions, as well as becoming a successful leader of corridor partnerships that is trusted.			
	Peer-learning certification	Present your business plan to forge an interregional corridor to your peers, get feedback and be evaluated to receive a certification as.			
More information	Visit our website dihnet.eu for more information, including background information on the interregional corridors and the DIHNET Academy partnership, as well as the precursor BOWI project. Contact maurits.butter@tno.nl , justina.ivanova@civitta.com for further inquiries.				

This overview of the mentoring programme is subject to changes and will be updated in the coming months.