

Nancy, 21 January 2026

Appointment

François THÉRIN appointed Director General of ICN Business School

Effective 26 January 2026, François THÉRIN will assume the position of Director General of ICN Business School, with a clear mandate: to leverage the experience he has gained across four continents to strengthen ICN's international profile. He will champion a resolutely *glocal* positioning, combining ICN's deep historical roots in Lorraine and the Grand Est region with the development of new academic and economic bridges worldwide. By mutual agreement, Florence LEGROS will support François THÉRIN during the transition period.

Priorities: impact, hybridisation and internationalisation

At ICN, François THÉRIN intends to focus his action on a limited number of strategic priorities:

- strengthening the school's attractiveness for student talent and employers, both in France and internationally;
- accelerating the development of hybrid programmes combining Art, Technology and Management (ATM) with sustainable development;
- consolidating the school's presence in the most influential international rankings and academic networks.

He joins ICN with recent experience of rapid institutional transformation. In his previous position, he oversaw, in less than two years, a marked improvement in international rankings, most notably ICN's entry into the QS World University Rankings, a rise of 200 places in QS Asia, and a 60% increase in research publications—alongside the expansion of research capacity and international partnerships.



Hands-on expertise in global academic ecosystems

François THÉRIN has held senior leadership positions in Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates, Morocco and Europe, leading multicultural teams and steering accreditation and transformation projects in highly diverse regulatory and cultural environments.

PRESS RELEASE

A regular participant for several years in major international higher education forums (including QS, THE, AACSB, AABS and the MENA Higher Education Leadership Forum), François THÉRIN closely follows the geopolitical reshaping of global higher education and the emergence of new regional hubs. His global reading of market dynamics, student and employer expectations, as well as sustainability and impact-related challenges, will inform the roadmap he will develop with ICN's faculty and staff, students, alumni and partners.

A global intrapreneur for the Artem Alliance

An intrapreneur in higher education, François THÉRIN has built particular expertise in phases of institutional scaling, including internationalisation, programme hybridisation, research structuring and the strengthening of quality standards. His appointment reflects ICN Business School's ambition, together with the Artem Alliance (ICN, Mines Nancy, ENSAD), to reinforce its distinctive position as a European ecosystem connecting management, engineering and creative disciplines to academic and economic networks across multiple continents.

ABOUT ICN BUSINESS SCHOOL

Founded in 1905, ICN Business School is a private higher education institution officially recognised by the French State. The School awards a Bachelor's degree (Licence) for its undergraduate programmes (Bachelor in Management, three-year degree) and a Master's degree for its flagship Grande École Programme (five-year degree). Triple accredited by AACSB, AMBA and EQUIS, and a member of the CDEFM within the Conférence des Grandes Écoles, ICN Business School educates students and executives to foster innovation through creativity within organisations. ICN delivers its #ArtTechnologyManagement (ATM) pedagogy across its three campuses.

The ICN community is driven by three core values: openness, commitment and team spirit. ICN Business School also represents:

- 3,300 students, including 38% international students;
- 88 permanent faculty members and 8 affiliated professors;
- Three campuses: Nancy, Paris La Défense and Berlin (Germany);
- More than 130 international partner universities worldwide;
- 30 student associations;
- 150 corporate partners;
- Over 24,000 alumni.

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