

Institut Mines-Telecom launches the 1st edition of a summer school to assist research professors in transforming their courses to integrate ecological transition.

Research professors must adapt their courses in order to teach young engineers and managers about the important issues of the ecological transition. Institut Mines-Telecom (IMT) is therefore organizing the first edition of a summer school from July 5 to 8, 2022, to bring together faculty from IMT schools and partner schools. The ecological transition is not a discipline in itself, but rather an interdisciplinary approach that provides a new perspective on industry and the skills of engineers. It must be taught throughout the curriculum by means of innovative teaching methods with an emphasis on action. Teaching the ecological transition is a threefold challenge that requires teachers to change the contextualization of their subject, its methods, and positions, while also capturing the attention of students who are accustomed to a more standardized approach.

The issue of ecological transition has become a priority of higher education. This was been reflected in a [recent report from the Jean Jouzel task force](#) commissioned by the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, as well as in work from the [Shift Project](#), in which IMT participated, and the most recent [2022 Framework and Guidelines](#) published by the CTI, the French Engineering qualification accreditation body. Younger generations, future professionals and citizens must all work towards creating a more frugal, decompartmentalized society that respects planetary limits, reduces social inequality and preserves biodiversity. This represents a major challenge that Institut Mines-Telecom has been taking significant steps to address for two years now, by adapting its curriculum and supporting its faculty.

Transforming the curriculum

Starting in 2020, Institut Mines-Telecom adopted a collective approach to curriculum transformation by including all stakeholders in the process, from directors of education to students. This work enabled the implementation of teaching units (TU) on ecological transition at the start of the 2021 academic year. All Institut Mines-Telecom schools therefore introduced between 50 and 100 core curriculum teaching hours to their first year of study in keeping with each school's unique DNA. If the modules already existed, they were improved based on student feedback.

At the same time, the Institut Mines-Telecom inter-school group known as COMFORTES (French acronym for Skills and Training for Ecological Transition) has worked to adapt all courses in order to integrate environmental and societal issues. To accomplish this, a common framework of skills related to ecological transition has been developed in order to systematically integrate these issues into each discipline. The group also led several expert workshops on the educational transformations and innovations needed to achieve this integration.

A summer school for reflecting on and sharing best practices nationally

The summer school, to be held in Brest at the IMT Atlantique campus, will bring together 80 participants from Institut Mines-Telecom schools and some ten partner schools. They will share their feedback during thematic sessions. They will also participate in immersive workshops organized by experts on topics related to the issues and educational methods: Low Tech, responsible digital technology, controversies, life cycle analysis and circular economy tools, biodiversity, teachers' experiences.

At the end of this summer school, the participants will be asked to share the new approaches, methods and case studies that inspired them with their colleagues. They will be able to find all of these materials in IMT's digital educational resources library.

Institut Mines Telecom has organized the summer school based on a collaborative approach with the following partners: [Renaissance écologique](#), the [Shift Project](#), [Forum des Usages coopératifs](#) which includes the [Low Tech Lab](#) and Institut des Nouveaux Récits, [UVED](#), [Fresque Océane](#), and la Marche du Temps Profond. Institut Mines-Telecom students who are part of the "[Transition Formation Citoyenne](#)" (TFORC) collective will also be present.

Frédérique Vincent, Director of Education and International Affairs at Institut Mines-Telecom: *"By organizing this summer school, we are taking a new step towards practical action. By the end of the summer school, we would like all of the teachers to feel they have gained legitimacy in this area and are equipped to address these issues in their classes, whatever subject they teach: materials, power engineering, digital technology, process engineering, entrepreneurship, human sciences or languages. Younger generations face a daunting challenge, and the same is true for research professors who must question their practices and know how to engage their students in new ways of thinking."*

About Institut Mines-Télécom www.imt.fr/en

Institut Mines-Télécom is a public higher education and research institution under the aegis of the French Ministry for the Economy, Industry and Digital Affairs, which groups together 8 graduate schools, 2 subsidiaries and a network of strategic and affiliated partners. Its activities in the fields of engineering sciences and digital technology support the education of engineers and managers, partnership-based research, innovation and economic development. Always attentive to the economic world, IMT combines strong academic and scientific legitimacy, close corporate relations and strategic positioning in the key transformations of the 21st century: digital technology, industry, energy and ecology, and education. IMT is a founding member of the Alliance for the Industry of the Future and co-founder of the German-French Academy for the Industry of the Future with Technical University of Munich (TUM). It is recognized by 2 Carnot Institute accreditations for the quality of its partner-based research. Each year, IMT trains over 13,000 students, enters into nearly 70 million research contracts, and hosts some 100 start-ups in its incubators.



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