

Nicolas Zahn

Zürich

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Personal details

* 1989, Basel-Stadt (BS)

Nationality: Swiss

Professional experience

Since 04/2025 **ELCA Informatik AG**, Zürich Senior Engagement Manager

- Digital transformation consulting and IT project management from strategy workshops to software development with a focus on customers in the public sector and AI governance

f0t1 GmbH, Zürich Managing Director

- Analysis & strategy development as well as project support for digital transformation.
- Lectures, Keynotes, and moderation on the social, economic, and political consequences of digital technologies, from artificial intelligence to cybersecurity.

05/2021 – 03/2025 **Swiss Digital Initiative**, Geneva Managing Director

- Leading the team as well as projects and IT incl. data protection (CIO & DPO), responsible for the organization's strategy, structure, and partnership model, processes, and recruiting.
- Management of Digital Trust experts, execution of workshops in cooperation with partner organizations and publications as well as representing the organization in international working groups (OECD, IEEE, WEF, Geneva Dialogue).

01/2019 – 05/2021 **ELCA Informatik AG**, Zürich Business Consultant

- Drafting IT and digital strategies for clients in the public and private sector.
- Business analysis and requirement engineering for software solutions developed by ELCA through workshops with clients and exchange with developers as well as testing.

09/2017 – 09/2018 **Mercator Fellow on International Relations** Digital Transformation

- **Enterprise Estonia**, Tallinn: Trainings and lectures on digital government and government interaction
- **Stiftung Neue Verantwortung**, Berlin: Co-authored a paper with Stefan Heumann (Board member) on the importance of indicators and measurements when implementing national strategies on artificial intelligence. The work was conducted in the context of the draft process for the German strategy on artificial intelligence and looks at other national strategies as well as private-sector publications.
- **GovInsider**, Singapore: Publication of several articles showcasing concrete use cases of technology or innovative methodologies used in the public sector with a focus on south-east Asia, e.g. tsunami early-warning systems in the Philippines or big data analytics used by the Red Cross to optimize humanitarian missions.
- **OECD**, Paris: Support for publications in particular the report on the Digital Transformation of the Public Sector as well as blogposts regarding issues of the Digital Government Team and participation and support for conferences, e.g. the conference "Artificial Intelligence: Intelligent Machines, Smart Policies"

01/2015 – 08/2017 **Credit Suisse Trust AG**, Zürich Business Consultant

- Project management of strategic projects, from process optimization to regulatory projects.
- Draft of business analysis, reports and presentations for senior management.
- As part of an internal career program conducted a team consulting project to increase the use of a new application by relationship managers.

10/2013 – 12/2013 **Cyber Security Policy and Research Institute**, Washington D.C. Researcher

- Individual research in the field of cybersecurity with a focus on cyberinsurance which led to the co-publication of a paper on the issue of setting premiums for cyberinsurance policies.
- Participation in various think-tank events in Washington D.C. regarding cybersecurity.

Education

09/2012 – 09/2014	Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies , Geneva	Master International Affairs (5.4) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Track: Regional and Global Integration• Thesis on Internet Governance: “What’s in the blackbox? Understanding the impact of Multistakeholderism on ICANN’s legitimacy”
08/2013 – 12/2013	Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University , Washington D.C.	Exchange student International Affairs (5.5) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IT Policy• Political Risk• Fundamentals of Intelligence• Russian
09/2008 – 06/2011	University of Zürich , Zürich	Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences (5.3) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Major: Political Science• Minor 1: Economics• Minor 2: Public Law

Skills

- Digital transformation & IT: AI Governance, Cybersecurity Frameworks, software development (Java and Python), LaTeX, STATA, GIT, CRM (Salesforce) & CMS (WordPress) as user and admin, social media management, excellent IT-skills with various operating systems and productivity suites (MS Office, Google Workspace, Atlassian products)
- Project management according to PMBOK, HERMES 5 (Foundation 2019) as well as agile methods
- Negotiations according to the Harvard method, excellent communications and moderation skills, practiced in several panel discussions and workshops
- BRAINBOARDS Training as Board Member
- Languages: German (mother tongue), English (C1), French (B2), Italian (B1), Russian (A1)

Honors and Awards

2025	<i>IAPP AI Governance Professional</i>
2024	Geneva Center for Security Policy <i>Cyber Security in the Context of International Security</i>
2024	<i>BlueDot AI Safety Fundamentals Certificate</i>
2023	<i>CIDOB – Santander 35 under 35 Future Leader</i>
2023	<i>Google Cybersecurity Certificate</i>
2023	<i>ECCRI European Cybersecurity Fellowship</i>
2020	Winner essay contest <i>Digital Transformation</i>
2018	<i>Hostile Environment Awareness Training</i> by United Nations Training Centre
2017	<i>Mercator Fellowship on International Affairs</i> for Digital Government
2016 / 2017	Two honorable mentions as part of the <i>Credit Suisse Research Academy Challenge</i>
2016	Winner Current Affairs essay competition Project Firefly on <i>Fourth Industrial Revolution</i>
2014	Winner essay contest <i>Du und Demokratie (You and democracy)</i>
2013	Finalist 11 th ELSA Moot Court Competition on WTO law (Geneva)
2012	Binding Scholarship as part of the program <i>Univers Suisse</i>
2010 – 2012	Several awards as part of <i>Model United Nations</i> conferences, e.g. Best Delegate at WorldMUN 2012 in Vancouver
2008	Swiss certificates for leadership and self-management
2006	Winner study week computer science <i>Schweizer Jugend Forscht</i>

Extracurricular activities

2024 – today	Member of <i>Z-Inspection Initiative and Trustworthy AI Labs</i> (Initiative for AI audits)
2022 – today	Member of <i>Officers Association Cyber</i>
2022 – 2025	Board Member <i>StandUp4Democracy</i> (Finance)
2021 – 2024	Board Member <i>Association of Swiss Intelligence Officers</i> (Finance)
2019 – today	Board Member <i>Kreispartei 3 FDP.Die Liberalen Zürich</i> & Head commission Digital
2014 – 2018	Co-Founder and Board Member of <i>Operation Libero</i>
2014 – 2022	Member scientific communication think-tank <i>reach</i> where I co-lead the <i>Franxini Project</i>
2013 – 2017	Editor-in-Chief <i>As A European Magazine</i> by Allianz Cultural Foundation
2011 – 2012	Co-Founder and director <i>Zurich Globalist</i> (Journal for international affairs)
2010 – 2011	Board member <i>MUN Team University of Zürich</i> (Head of Operations)
2009 – today	Member Forum Aussenpolitik <i>foraus</i> (Swiss foreign-policy think tank), policy fellow Tech
2008 – 2011	Freelancer <i>Zürcher Studierendenzitung</i>
2008 – today	Member of the <i>Swiss Study Foundation</i> , Assessor