

# **Building a high quality environmentally-friendly multimedia library**

A sustainable and rational approach

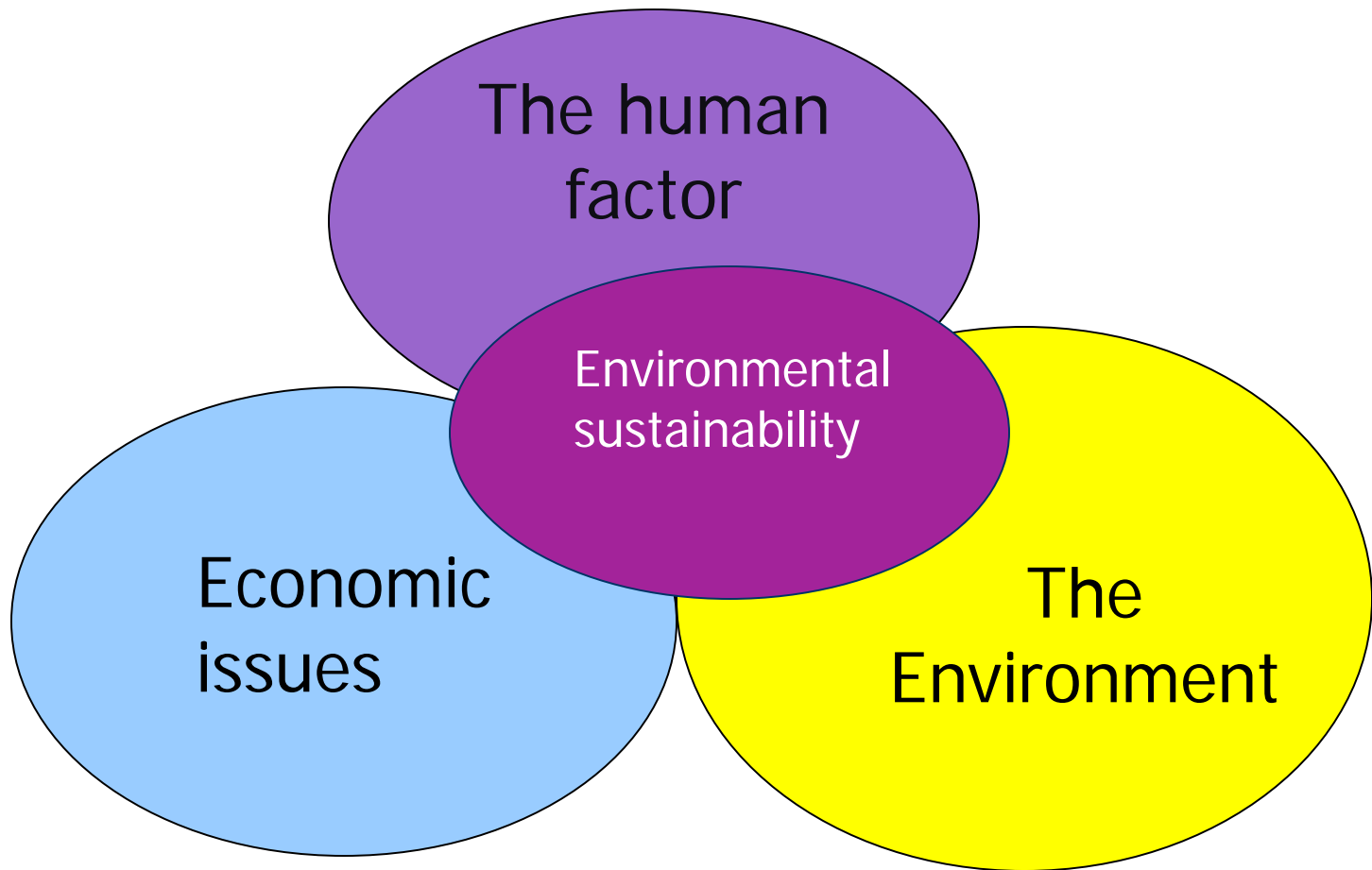
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involving citizens
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high quality environmentally-friendly multimedia  
library

# Environmental sustainability





# Part I :

## Geographical and social context

# I Geographical and social context

- 1. Under-privileged people
- 2. Alarming sanitary context
- 3. A natural environment in poor conditions
- 4. Promising assets for the Region

# I Geographical and social context

1. Under-privileged people :
  - 15% illiterate people in the Region
  - 12 % people are unemployed  
(versus 8,7% for France)
  - 27 % young people aged 20-24 are unemployed  
(versus 7% in France)

# I Geographical and social context

## Focus on Méricourt :

**12 000 citizens**

- 41% young people aged 20/24 are unemployed
- 60 % citizens do not pay taxes
- 75% schools belong to a special education network as children experience serious learning difficulties.



# I Geographical and social context

## 2. A alarming sanitary context

- North = first Region in France for heart disease
- Increasing cancer rate especially for children
- In 2004 : 72 industries were classified as a SEVESO areas (high risk industries)
  - Ex : Metaleurop



# I Geographical and social context

## 3. A natural environment in poor conditions

- Forests for exploitation
- For many years , no environmental policy
- Mines had closed since 20 years but ex-minors had many diseases.
- Many industrial wastelands



# I Geographical and social context

## 4. Promising assets for the Region

- Politicians want a new image for the Region
- 2012 *le Louvre* museum in Lens (town in the center of the region only 2H from Paris)
- Increasing environmental consciousness for citizens: they want to change the way they live !
- Industrial wastelands can be used for environmental projects

# I Geographical and social context

## Focus on Méricourt assets :

- 5 min from the future museum of *Le Louvre*
- 5 min from small villages : to reach new users
- 5 min from a new country life !
- 3 librarians from the young children library have already had an experience with actions in suburbs, crèche and schools.
- The team also have been fighting illiteracy for some time and are very involved and committed to that mission.

# I Geographical and social context

## Focus on Méricourt



- In that context, Méricourt elective City officials have decided to build a new library in their town for every citizen
- 28 years ago, they built the 1<sup>st</sup> library for young children in a socio-cultural center



What sort of library  
can we built ?



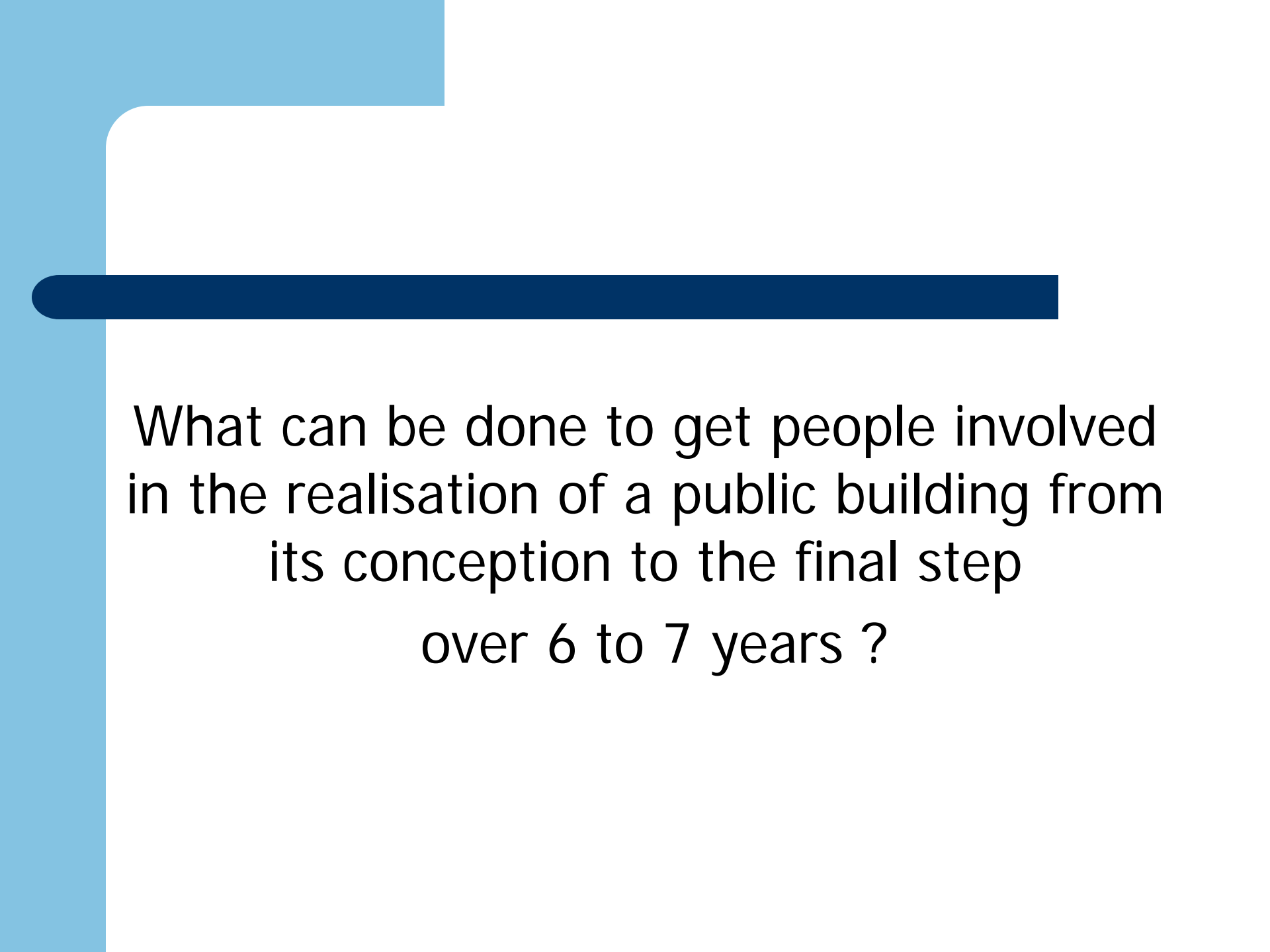
II A sustainable approach :  
involving citizens  
in a high quality  
environmentally-friendly  
multimedia library

## II Sustainable approach : involving citizens

- In France : the law of 27 February 2002 encourages local officials to **associate citizens** in the decision making concerning the new projects for their city.

Ex : officials have been working with citizens on projects concerning play areas for children or other equipment.

- Méricourt elective officials have decided to **involve citizens** in the **new library** project from the very start.



What can be done to get people involved  
in the realisation of a public building from  
its conception to the final step  
over 6 to 7 years ?



## II Sustainability approach : involving citizens



A group of 45 citizens have been working together and with the librarians on the new library project.

## II Sustainability approach : involving citizens

### 1.Sustainability principles :

- A user friendly approach
- Inform people frequently and communicate openly
- Staff commitment

## II sustainability approach : involving citizens



During a workshop people are discussing the architectural project.

### 1. User friendly approach

- coffee !
- various activities
- workshops for every age group
- warm welcome

## II Sustainability approach : involving citizens

### 2. Inform people frequently and communicate openly

- Publishing minutes of meetings, discussing financial issues, reports, billboards etc
- Directed both at the local officials and at the team members.



Drawing workshop for children: what did you prefer in this library?

## II Sustainability approach: involving citizens



Presenting a public service

### 3. Staff commitment

- Warm welcome
- Learning to know each other => respect and trust.
- Building responsibility and loyalty
- The ethical dimension



## II Sustainability approach : involving citizens



The final candidates for the library : the group analyse 4 projects

- Use a common vocabulary
- Combining theory and practice
- Involving experts who can explain the technical issues clearly.



III A positive impact  
beyond the realisation of a  
high quality  
environmentally-friendly  
multimedia library

### III A positive impact ...



A high quality environmentally-friendly multimedia library  
by architects Jérôme de Alzua and atelier 9.81



### III A positive impact ...



Multimedia library -1600 m<sup>2</sup>

- 14 targets HQE
  - energy : geothermic
  - organic materials
  - visual comfort ...
- A single level building facilitate access for the disabled
- Collections about sustainability, organics technical...

### III A positive impact...

- A starting block for a whole environmentally friendly zone.
- Setting an example for future management : involving citizens in other projects for the city.



People working on a project for the city.

Thank you for your attention !

C. Duchemann

Méricourt – France

