Sustainability of information practices and development of information culture

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1- Preamble:

- The culture of information lies at the crossroads of three areas of influence: the professional world, the world of economic librarianship and the broader world of digital media, to ensure that "*every citizen is informed, is critical, and is aware of the information available in the media, through documents and digital networks*" (Le Deuff, 2006).

- The two fields of observation: one from the professional world, that of architecture; and the other in an educational context, namely that of schools, more precisely secondary and vocational schools.

- The information culture too often and too readily remains focused only on the technological and methodological understanding of research and information practices, and much less on attitudes and personal approaches that form part of life in the wider meaning and make sense to individuals on a lifelong basis.

- Moreover, for a long time now, informational practices have been analyzed as a single dimension.

2- The four key components of the CULTURE OF INFORMATION

- The epistemological component
- The socio-technical and sociological component
- The didactic/transmissive component
- The temporal component

3- The issue of sustainability: importing a multi-sectorial concept:

▸ In recent decades, the issue of sustainability has been raised in many sectors and disciplines, but the common thread of this concept is that, originally, it comes from the field of management and environmental conservation, particularly in the context of "sustainable development." It has apparently received little attention in the field of the information and communication sciences.

- In its primary sense, sustainability refers to the notion of "duration": that is, the search for a form of equilibrium over time, thus making it possible to identify new ways of being dedicated to balance and harmony, and ensuring a stable equilibrium of the environment to which it applies.

- In Anglo-Saxon countries, the term "sustainability" goes beyond the mere idea of duration to evoke particular modes of rationality, management, activity-planning, the anticipation of situations, and resistance to collective trends.

- The concept is much richer and denser than the mere idea of recording activity over time (Bridgland & Whitehead, 2004).

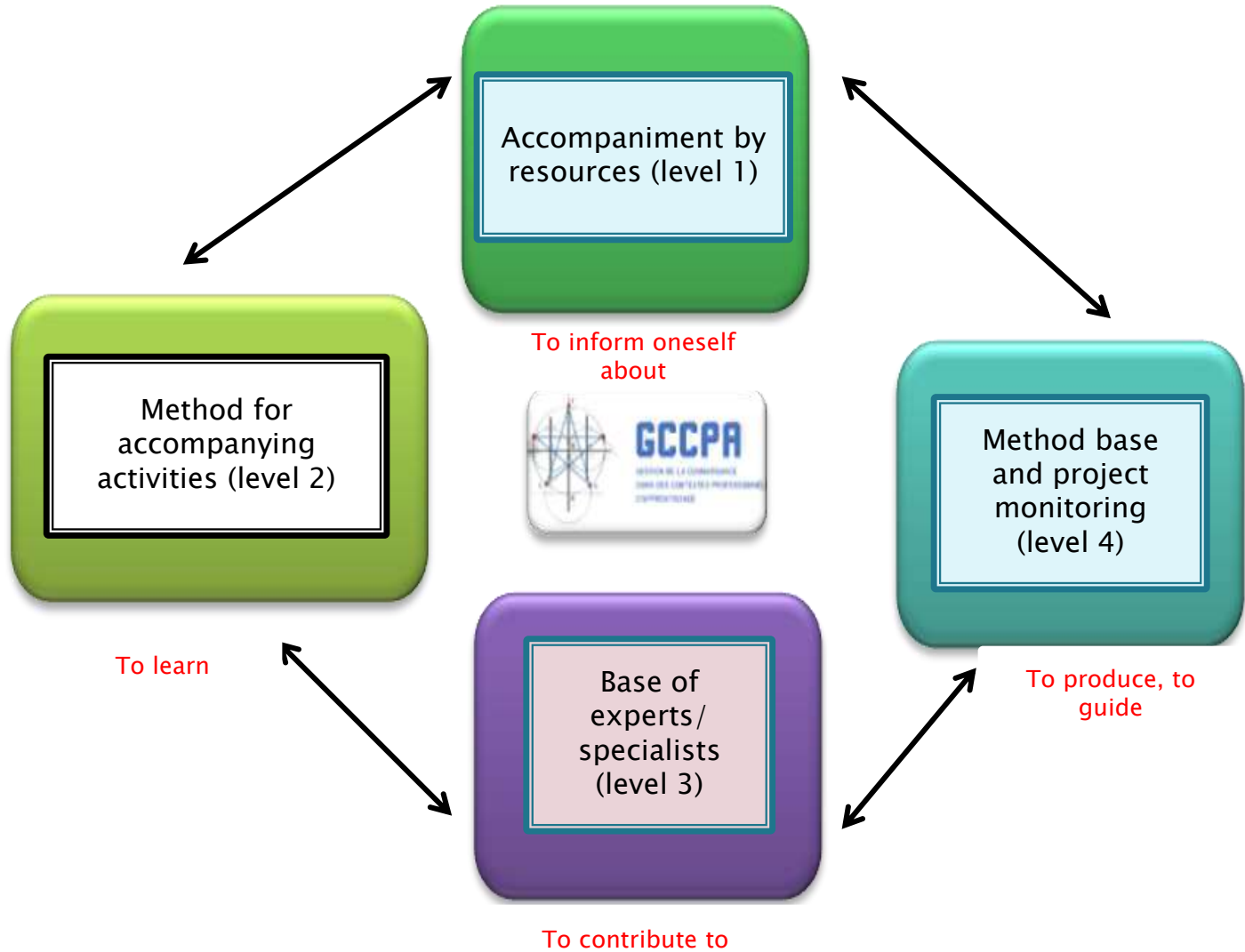# 4- Five key principles in informational sustainability

- Principle 1: Sustainability and rationality
- Principle 2: Sustainability and level of performance
- Principle 3: Sustainability and viability of information systems
- Principle 4: Sustainability and stability
- Principle 5: Sustainability and longevity: the monitoring of activities undertaken to obtain sustainable information:

5- Informational instability and unsustainability: initial outline of sustainable support for information culture and practices

- We need to invent information and support systems dedicated to sustainable knowledge, with a view to identifying and referring to information and resource producers (level 1);
- to creating a process of dialogue and exchange between stakeholders as informational activities come on line (level 2);
- to fostering contacts and setting up links with experts and the main cognoscenti such as teachers and advisors (level 3);
- and finally, to providing a basis for a method of management and monitoring of projects focused on info-knowledge (level 4).
- Therefore, all of these levels must be considered.

Accompaniment by resources (level 1)

To inform oneself about

Method for accompanying activities (level 2)

Method base and project monitoring (level 4)

Base of experts/ specialists (level 3)

To learn

To produce, to guide

To contribute to

▸ **6-** Five new meta-skills (MS) with a sustainable informational vocation

- ◦ MS1: "information knowledge"

- ◦ MS2: procedural knowledge about technical devices (or "application information")

- ◦ MS3: the ability to appreciate the informational potential of the environment or the technique used (or "potential information")

- ◦ …

▸ **6-** Five new meta-skills (MS) with a sustainable informational vocation

◦ …

◦ MS4: "Actional" strategies involving the organization and perpetuation of one's own memory.

◦ MS5: Anthropocentric meta-skill, that is, being able to identify and characterize our own cognitive styles.

Conclusion

- Fostering accompaniment and support to create a culture of sustainable information in both professional and learning contexts challenges us to think things through, not only in terms of working methods but also in terms of how content may be organized and platforms developed.

- Assuming that the information culture is a culture in itself, the notion of sustainability is part and parcel of the epistemological and descriptive dimension of the object.

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Thank you for your attention.

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