

Interreg efface les frontières  
Interreg doet grenzen vervagen



Union européenne :  
Fonds Européen de  
Développement Régional

# GeDSeT: Sustainable Management of Waterways sediments in a Transboundary context 2008-2013

PROGRAMME INTERREG IV  
FRANCE - WALLONIE - VLAANDEREN 2007-2013

SedNet Conference Lisbon, November 2013



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Union européenne :  
Fonds Européen de  
Développement Régional

## Project partners



2



1



3



4



5



Wallonie



## Waterways operators and public authorities

Bruno LEMIERE<sup>1</sup>, Pascale MICHEL<sup>1</sup>, Claire ALARY<sup>3</sup>, Laurence  
HAOUCHE<sup>2</sup>, Hervé BREQUEL<sup>4</sup>, Jérôme JACOB<sup>1</sup>, Nathalie GINEYS<sup>4</sup>,  
Benoît HAZEBROUCK<sup>5</sup>, Agnès LABOUDIGUE<sup>3</sup>



*680 km of waterways in  
Nord - Pas de Calais*



### Common issues

- Strategic location
- large volumes, poor quality
- Existing tools



# Key actions in the project

- Development of a **methodological decision support tool** for the management of waterways sediments in Belgium and Northern France, taking into account:
  - transboundary know-how and constraints
  - sustainable development issues globally

## Action 1

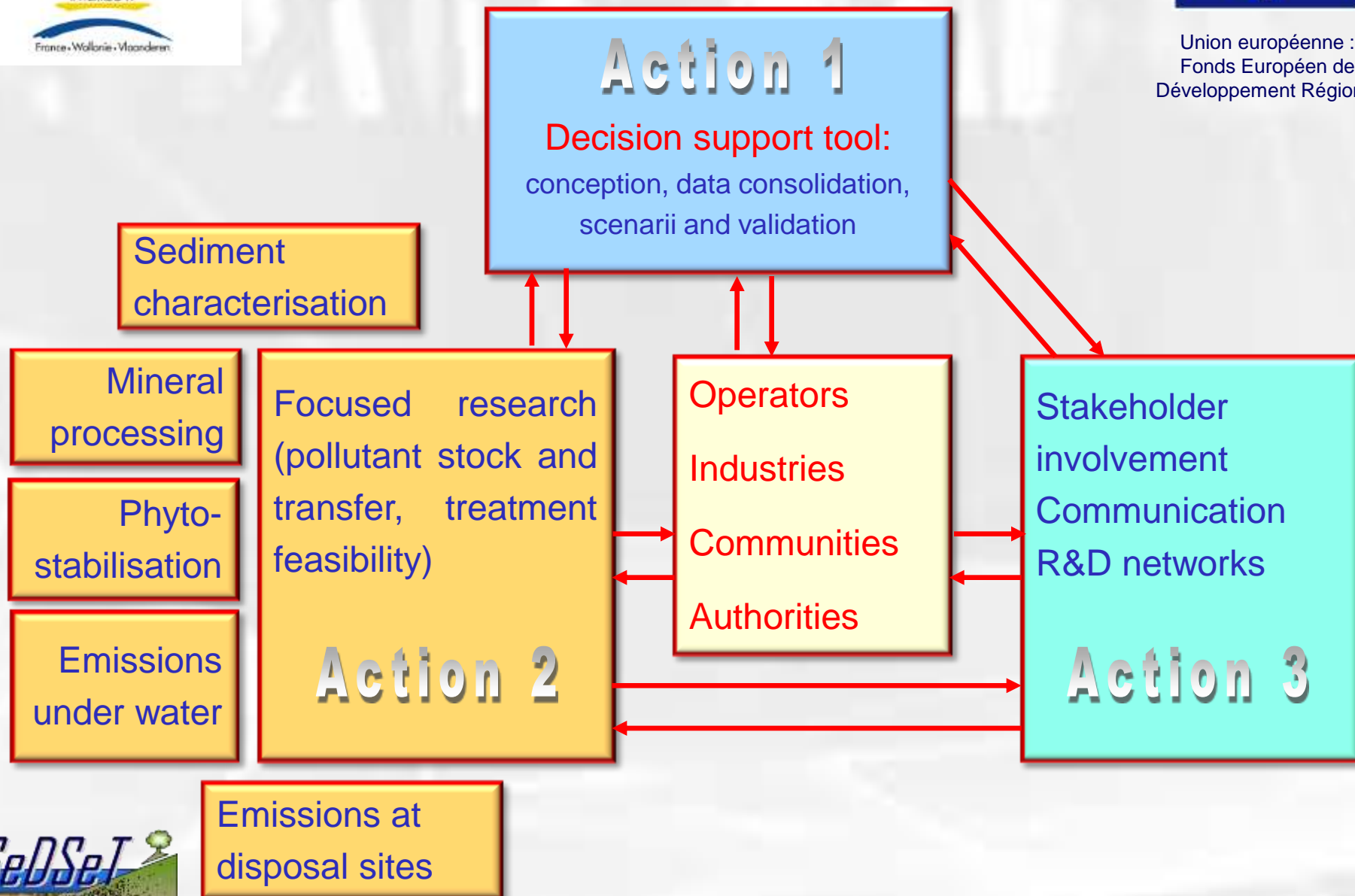
- Collect and improve scientific knowledge applicable to waterways management and feed the tool's database, especially on
  - sediment characterisation,
  - contaminant release from in-situ and dredged sediment
  - treatment methods, from mineral processing and phytostabilisation

## Action 2

- Mobilise and consolidate research and expertise activities and networks for the **acquisition and transfer of know-how**

## Action 3

# Project structure



## Sediments: why dredging ?

Navigability purposes  
(maintain, restore,  
develop)

Flood prevention

Environmental purposes  
in relation with:

- sustainable transport development
- Water Framework

Directive issues

- transboundary issues



# Sediments: current practice

Belgium: temporary storage until sediment can be reused – but reuse is not encouraged by legislation

France: permanent disposal sites but –  
no clear boundary with hazardous waste disposal sites  
– new scheme under development

In relation with  
waste status and directives  
national regulatory frame



**=> management options cannot be harmonised**

## Action 1

Development of a **methodological decision support tool** for the management options for waterways sediments in Belgium and Northern France

Coordination : Pascale Michel

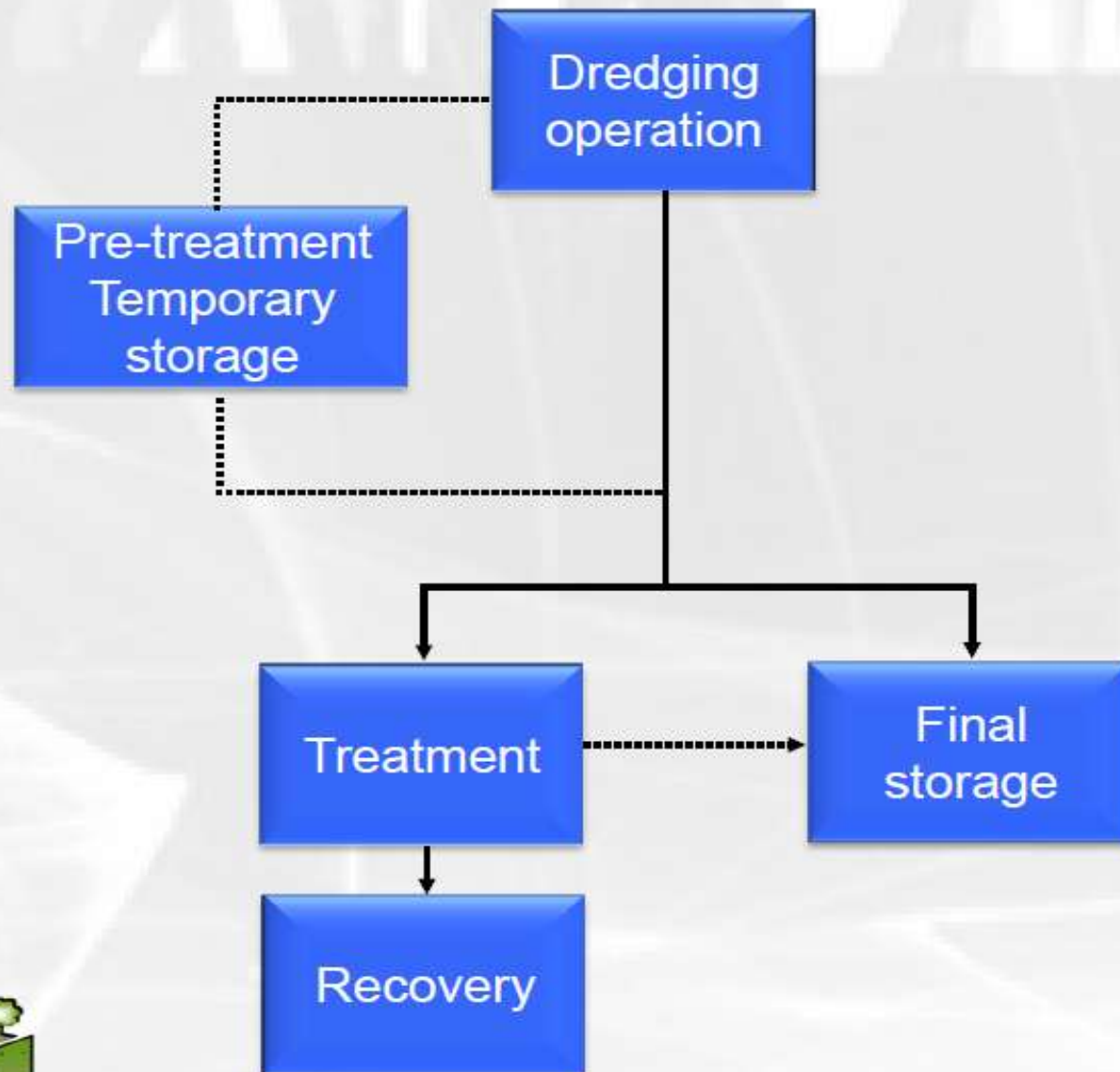


# Action 1 - Objectives

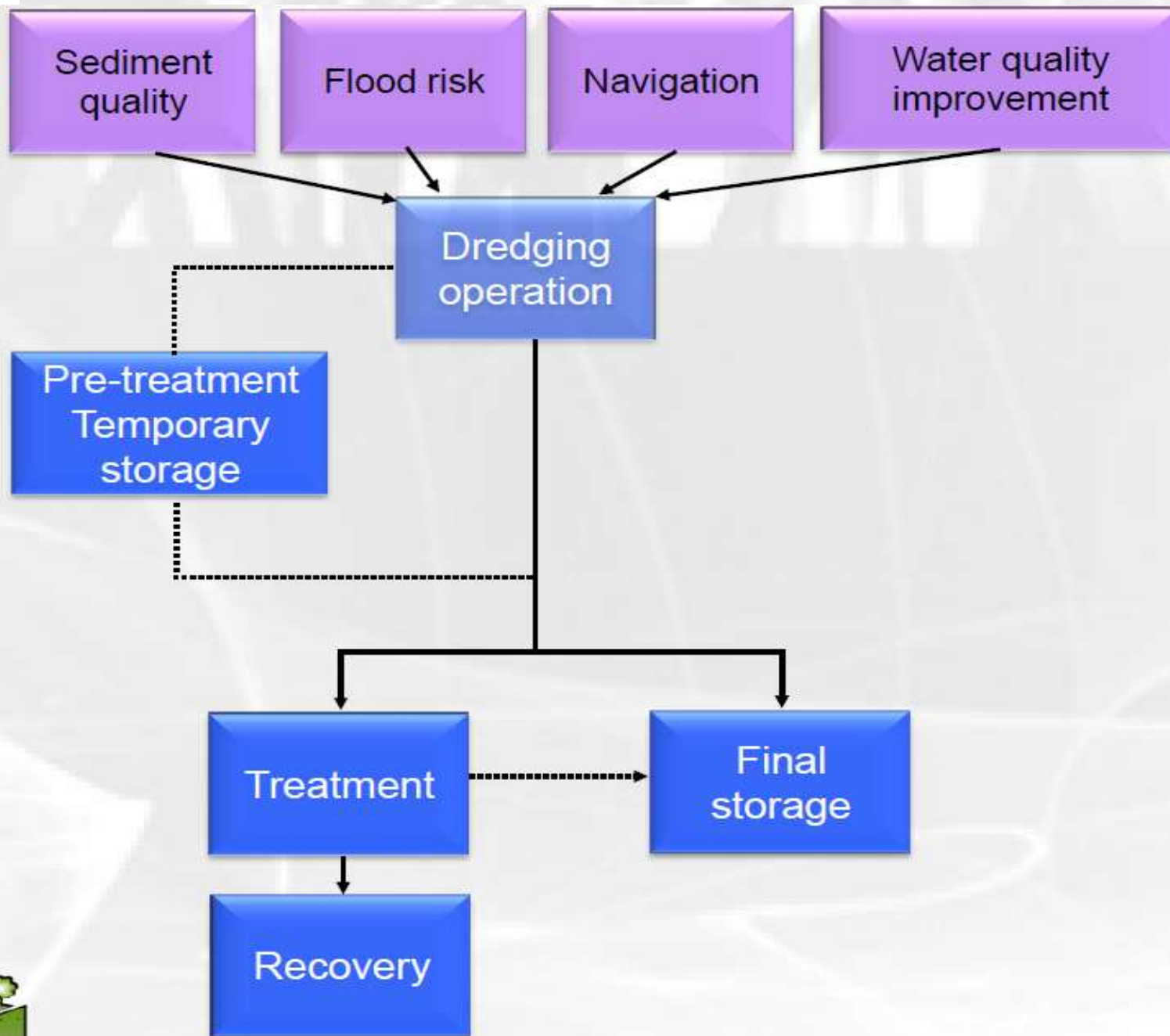
- A « what-if » decision support environment
  - to simulate the various consequences of available management options
    - => ranking action priorities for canals
  - to take into account possible options in Belgium and in France
  - Indirect benefits for options that would not be retained in a local tendering process (widened system boundaries)

*=> Exchange and sharing for return on experience between French and Belgian practice*

# First step : Identification of key factors from the decision flowchart (simplified)



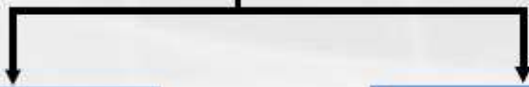
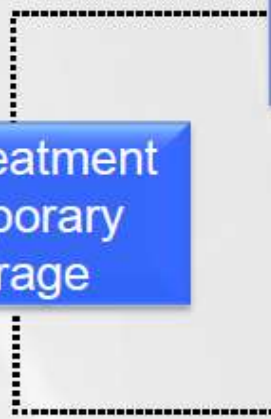
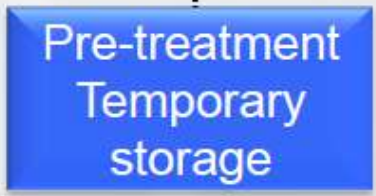
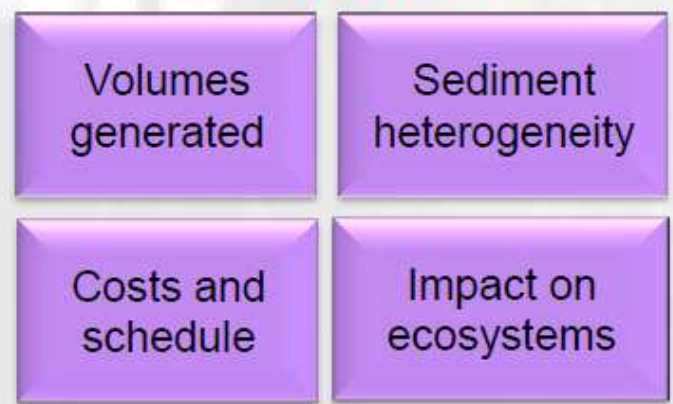
## MOTIVATION



# MOTIVATION



# KEY FACTORS





## MOTIVATION

Sediment  
quality

Flood risk

Navigation

Water quality  
improvement

Land  
availability

Impact on  
ecosystems

Distance from  
the operation

Pre-treatment  
Temporary  
storage

Dredging  
operation

## KEY FACTORS

Volumes  
generated

Sediment  
heterogeneity

Costs and  
schedule

Impact on  
ecosystems

Treatment

Final  
storage

Recovery

## MOTIVATION

Sediment  
quality

Flood risk

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Water quality  
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Land  
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Impact on  
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Distance from  
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Technical  
feasibility

Effluents  
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Treatment

Recovery

Final  
storage

Social  
acceptance

Economic  
performance

Impact on  
health

## KEY FACTORS

Volumes  
generated

Sediment  
heterogeneity

Costs and  
schedule

Impact on  
ecosystems



## MOTIVATION

Sediment  
quality

Flood risk

Navigation

Water quality  
improvement

Land  
availability



Impact on  
ecosystems

Distance from  
the operation

Pre-treatment  
Temporary  
storage

Technical  
feasibility

Effluents  
generated

performance

Dredging  
operation

+ associated effects:

Employment

Energy  
consumption

Avoided risks

Regional  
attractivity

Greenhouse  
gas emission

Treatment

Recovery

## KEY FACTORS

Volumes  
generated

Sediment  
heterogeneity

Costs and  
schedule

Impact on  
ecosystems

Land value

Final  
storage

Social  
acceptance

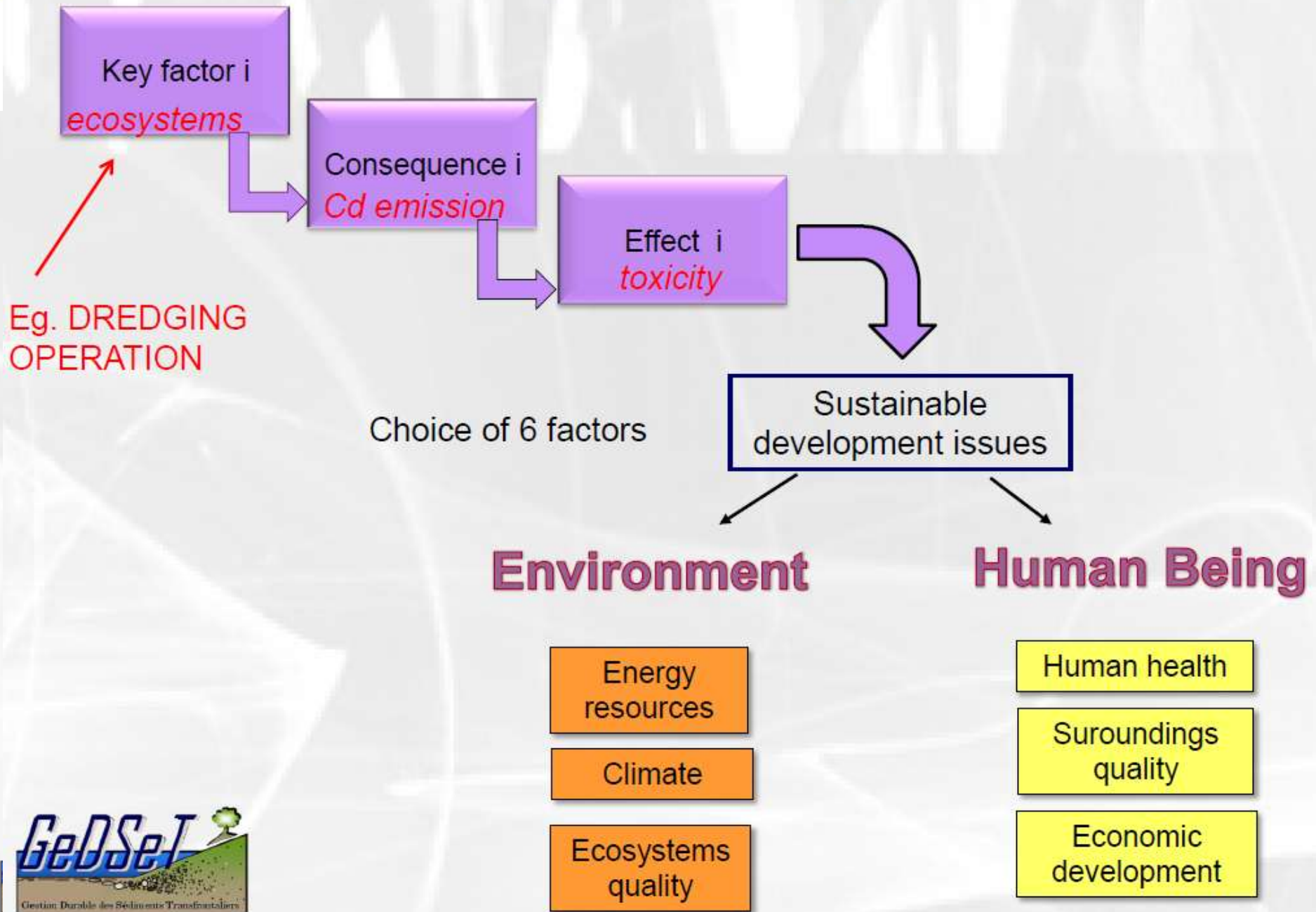
Social  
acceptance

Economic  
performance

Impact on  
health



## Second step : translate key factors into indicators



# Third step: quantify the effect

## Information sources

- literature and databases review

- exchanges with stakeholders

- focused research (Action 2) outcome

  - characterisation for decision-making

  - emissions according to scenarii

  - treatment options according to material  
valorisation opportunities

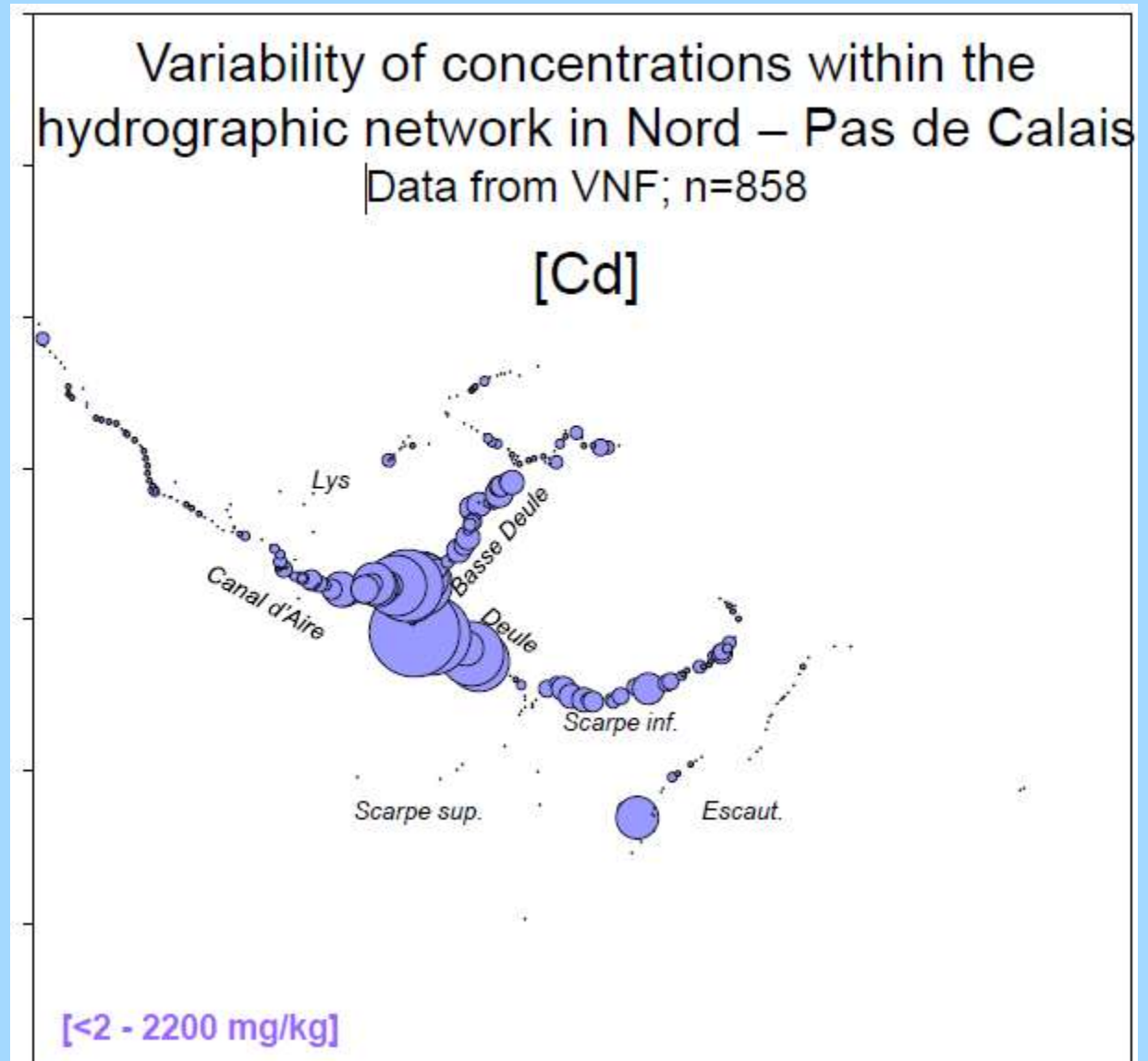
*=> evaluate the effects for considered options*

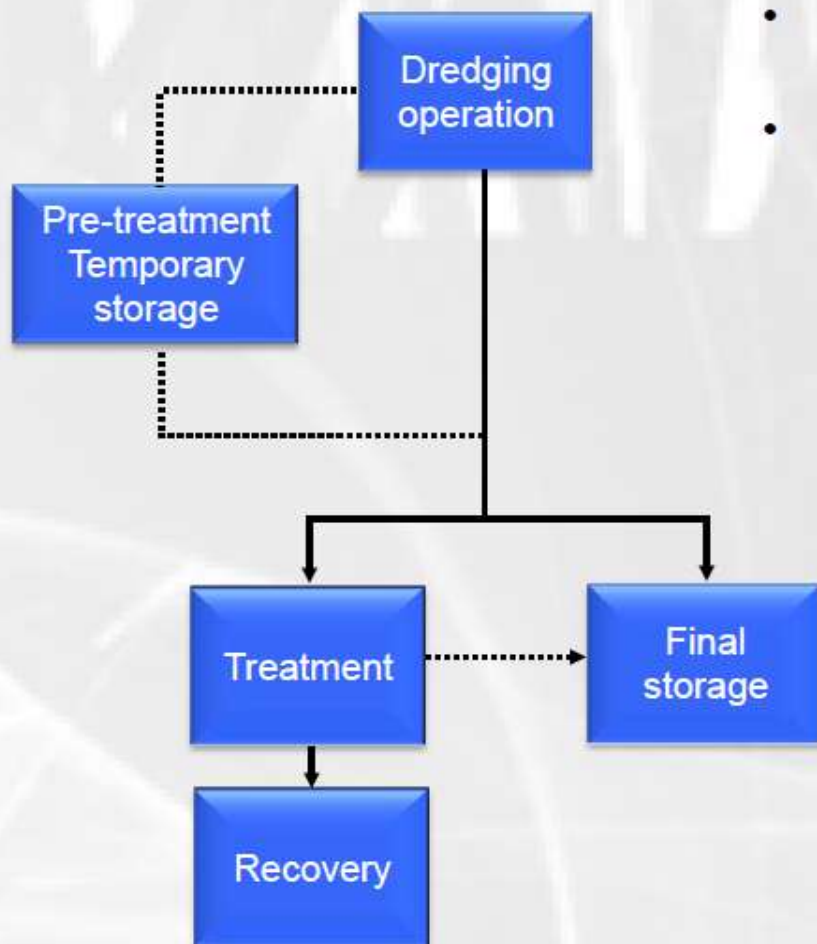
# Using and improving data from operators

Know the  
deposit

Prioritise sectors

Define strategies



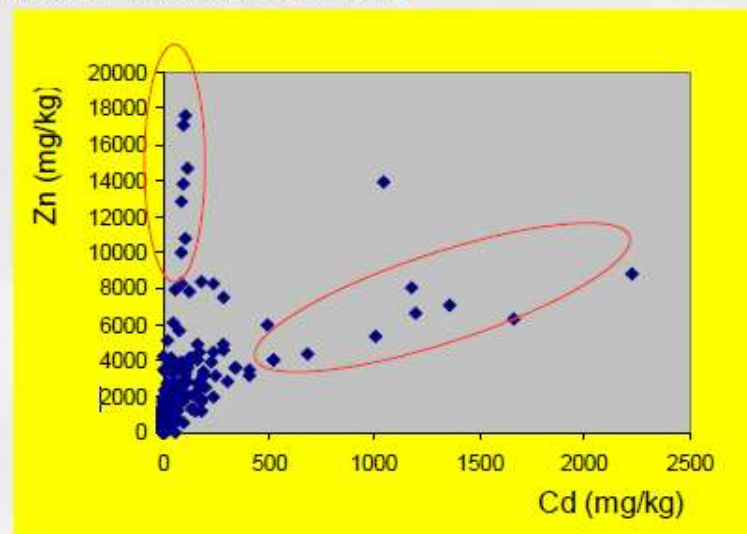


1. Crossing data :
  - Help to prioritize : Motivation for dredging
  - Management options



**inputs**

2. Interpretation of data :  
Prevention of Sources and transfer modelisation



- Different transport media within the canal ?
- Different Sources ?



# How to display results?

100% reference scale ↔ « worst » scenario

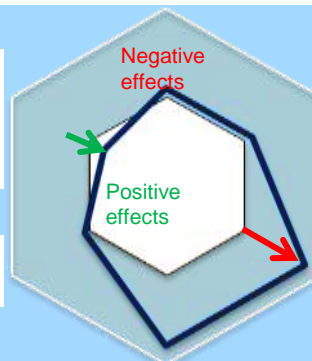
Decision risk  
level  
note

Cost assessment  
k€

Regional  
economic  
development

Living  
environment

Fossil energy uses



Climate change

Ecosystem quality

Human health

Improvement  
due to sediment  
management

Damage due to  
sediment  
management

Compared to the « nothing done » option

# Conclusions from tool development

To be highlighted :

The **indirect costs** of the cheaper options have actually to be borne by other public budgets.

⇒ Need for **regulation** and for discussions to support sediment recycling/re-use

It allows to model the potential for **regional economic development** of innovative options, along with evaluating the risk level associated with each decision.

It confirms the benefits of early planning and of the integration of **potential uses for sediments** in waterways dredging plans.

## Action 2

### R & D support for innovative scenarios:

- on-site characterisation
- emissions towards water from in-situ sediments
- emissions from dredged sediments and sites
- innovative processing of sediments
- phytostabilisation of pollutants

Coordination : Laurence Haouche

## 2.1. – On-site sediment characterisation

### ■ Objective

Information on the contamination level or on the valorisation properties of sediment, on site, without delay (ASAP):

- before dredging, during characterisation campaigns,
- during dredging, on dredged sediment loads,

to facilitate sediment reuse and disposal minimisation (action/decision level)

### ■ Techniques

- evaluation of metal contamination (pXRF)
- evaluation of organic contamination (UV, IR,...)
- geophysical methods (identification of discontinuities)



# Evaluation of metal contamination (pXRF)



## 2.2. - In-situ (underwater) sediment emissions characterisation

### ■ Objective

Information on water pollution by contaminated sediments:

- without dredging (pollution if sediment is not dredged),
- during dredging, through pollutants or particle release,

Evaluate the relevance of environmental dredging

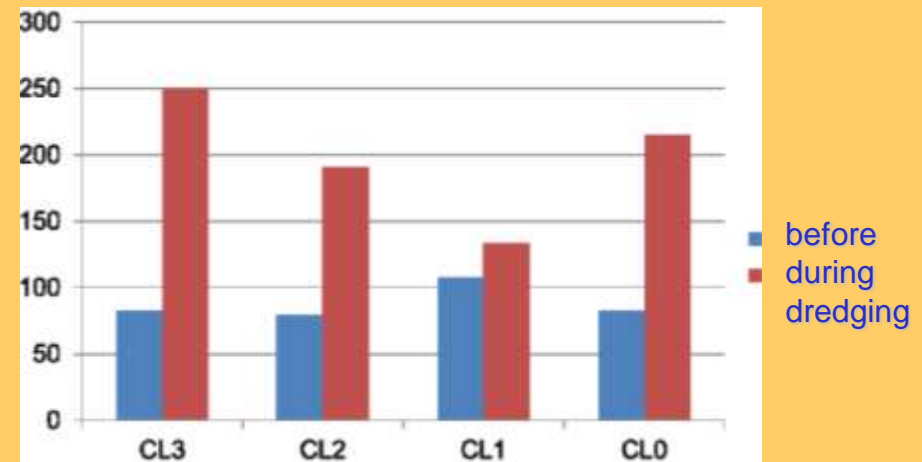
### ■ Techniques

- milieu exposure evaluation (passive sensors)
- continuous water monitoring (multiparametric probe,...)
- laboratory experiments (sorption/desorption kinetics, contaminant degradation)

## 2.2. - In-situ (underwater) sediment emissions characterisation



freePAHs (ng/l)





## 2.3. - Ex-situ (disposal site) sediment emissions characterisation

### ■ Objective

Groundwater and surface water pollution by deposited sediments:

- through contaminant leaching and infiltration,
- through pollutants and particle release by rainfall,
- through pollutant evolution in natural conditions,

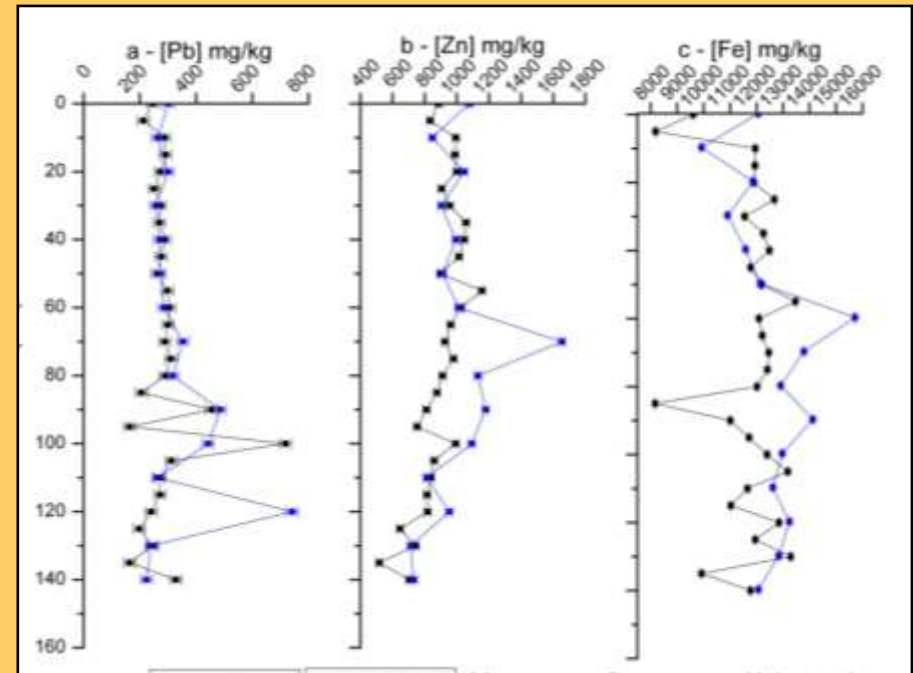
in order to evaluate the environmental impact of disposal sites, in relation with their age and maturity (10 to 35 years).

### ■ Techniques

- seasonal sampling and characterisation
- determination of maximum releasable amount of pollutants
- laboratory experiments (determination of maximum release rates, rainfall simulation, artificial ageing cycles)



## 2.3. - Ex-situ (disposal site) sediment emissions characterisation



pXRF measurements along depth (cm)



## 2.4. - Sediment treatment technologies

### ■ Objective

To compare and test the efficiency of various mineral processes for contaminant separation or stabilisation,  
To define their application scope and conditions,  
To identify emerging technologies that could be applied for sediments.

### ■ Techniques

- mini-pilot plant conception and testing,
- process testing and calibration on various types of sediments and pollutants,
- upscaling to a pilot-scale facility

## 2.4. - Sediment treatment technologies

### ■ Mini-pilot



### ■ Upscaling



## Innovative scenarios for sediment management, deduced from the DST

- Scenario 1: selective dredging
- Scenario 2: on-site treatment
- Scenario 3: selective treatment
- Scenario 4: alternative uses of sediment
- Scenario 5: alternative use of disposal sites



# Scenario 1: selective dredging

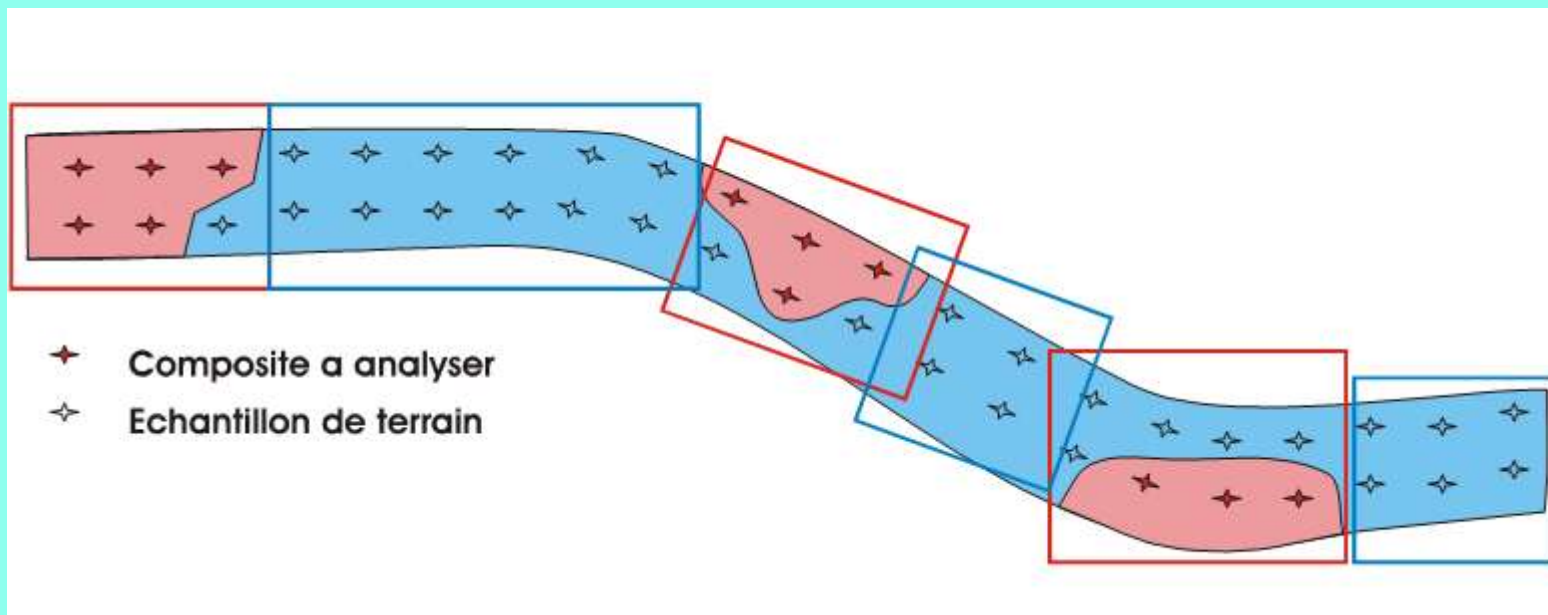
- Selectively dredge first the most contaminated hotspots
- then bulk dredge the remainder of sediments from the waterway section

## Consequences:

- reduction of the contaminated volume to be treated or sent to hazardous waste disposal
- reduction of the average contamination of bulk dredged sediments
- selection of less contaminated sediment lots, acceptable for reuse

# Scenario 1: selective dredging

- Field measurements to locate pollution hotspots



- requires on-site characterisation

## Scenario 2: on-site treatment

- Process as much as possible the sediment with a ship-borne plant
- On-site dehydration allows to obtain easier output material

### Consequences:

- reduction of the dredged volume to be managed or sent to valorisation
- water can be returned to the waterway after treatment



## Scenario 3: selective treatment

- Select the treatment scheme according to contamination of loads (metals, organic chemicals, both...)
- Treat either to reduce contamination or to concentrate it

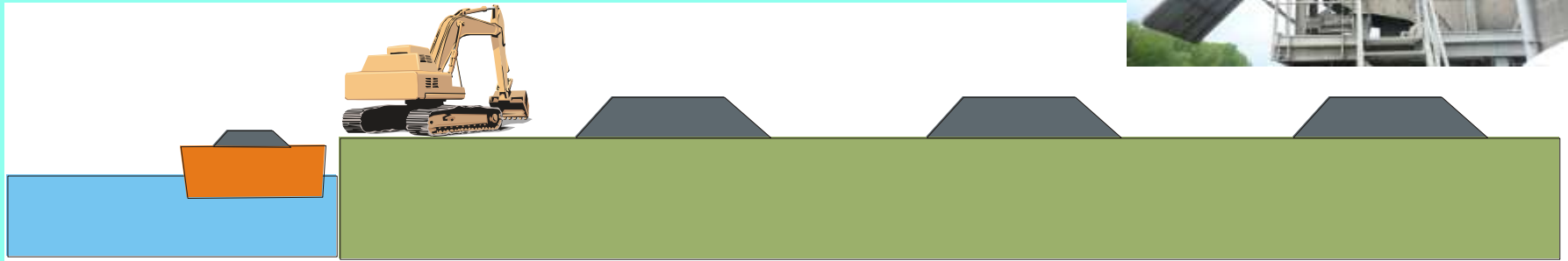
### Consequences:

- reduction of the contaminated volume to be treated or sent to hazardous waste disposal
- increase the volume of reusable sediments
- reduce the volume of sediment storage



# Scenario 3: selective treatment

- Required:
- quick on-site analysis of contamination
- sediment treatment facility on the canal



unloading  
destination:  
handling:

low contamination  
valorisation  
direct shipping

high contamination  
HW disposal  
direct shipping

near thresholds  
treatment  
unloading, storage

# Scenario 4: alternative uses of sediment

- Selectively dredged sediments directed to reuse according to contamination level and regulatory constraints
- Bulk use where applicable (landfill cover, civil works, excavation backfill)
- Composite use (mix with concrete demolition aggregate)
- Use as alternative mineral resource (cement production)

## Consequences:

- reduction of primary minerals extraction
- reduction of sediment storage
- increase of possible waterways dredging

# Scenario 5: alternative use of disposal sites

- High organic matter
- Unfit for food
- Energy crops
- Wood pellets, seeds

## Consequences:

- reduction of undesirable land use
  - energy crops on fertile soil without competition for land with food crops



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**Thank you for your attention**

