



## KEY TECHNOLOGIES

# The Impact of Information and Communication Technologies on Humans

### HUMAN POTENTIAL

The team includes a staff of roughly 10 full-time and 10 doctoral candidates working in the different fields of computer science, the humanities, and social science (psychology, neuropsychology, sociology, physical education, and geography). The Modélisation en Sciences Cognitives et Sociales (MODESCOS, cognitive and social science modelling) hub at the Maison de la Recherche en Sciences Humaines (MRSH) is organisational backbone co-ordinating the various fields and teams.

**Key words:** *impact of the spread of information and communication technologies on human behaviour, corporate organisation, and regional planning*

The issue of the 'practices', i.e., how Information and Communication technologies are integrated into human activities, has become a research object per se that conditions harmonious development. The relevant research at the Caen University focuses on the following issues:

- ▶ **Social disadvantage assistance:** electronic media and networked technologies for fighting against social exclusion and illiteracy
- ▶ **Studies, and psychological assistance:** virtual reality methods for therapies to improve a subject's relationship with his/her environment; the study of psychomotor development
- ▶ **IT and regions:** the study of changing regions and social practices, of the policies pertaining to information and communication technologies – This focus is valuable for 'public' decision-makers and private companies with facilities and customers scattered throughout the country or beyond

### EQUIPMENT

- ▶ Virtual reality work kit
- ▶ The geographic Anté-Server (ante-server) designed by the Caen team for connecting geographic information and multisource-information databases

Design : Normandie Développement - June 2002 / Photographies : Greyc - ISMIRA Caen

## COMMITTED COMPANIES...

- ▶ **Comptoir des Signaux** (studies on European telecommunications)
- ▶ **MOST** (Paris) (data mining)
- ▶ **MACSYS** (Montpellier) (advisory consultants on IT techniques and new uses, for the public, banking, and finance industry)
- ▶ **Association pour la Recherche et l'Etude sur la Caraïbe (AREC)**
- ▶ The French Ministry for the Economy, Finance and Industry – <http://www.minefi.gouv.fr>
- ▶ Various local authorities

## SUPPORT TO BUSINESS SET-UP PROJECTS IN BASSE NORMANDIE

The Basse Normandie Region has rolled out all its resources to support business projects in the following areas:

- ▶ General funding
- ▶ Business project support
- ▶ Training programs
- ▶ Corporate user services at operations site
- ▶ Technology transfer to companies: [www.gravir.org](http://www.gravir.org) et [www.rdt-bn.org](http://www.rdt-bn.org)

## CONTACTS

*For general technological or scientific information*

■ **M. Jean VIVIER**  
**MRSH** - Université de Caen  
 14032 CAEN CEDEX FRANCE

Phone: **33 (0)2 31 56 62 63**  
 Fax: 33 (0)2 31 56 53 81  
 email: [vivier@mrsh.unicaen.fr](mailto:vivier@mrsh.unicaen.fr)

■ **M. Pascal BULEON**  
**MRSH** - Université de Caen  
 14032 CAEN CEDEX FRANCE

Phone: **33 (0)2 31 56 62 95**  
 Fax: 33 (0)2 31  
 email: [buleon@mrsh.unicaen.fr](mailto:buleon@mrsh.unicaen.fr)

*For economic or industrial information*

■ **Normandie Développement**  
 57 Avenue de Bretagne - BP 1083  
 76173 ROUEN CEDEX 1

Phone: **33 (0)2 35 03 06 04**  
 Fax: 33 (0)2 35 03 07 86  
 email: [ndrouen@normandydev.com](mailto:ndrouen@normandydev.com)

### For further information:

Browse our website to find out all about the many opportunities in Normandy, at [www.normandydev.com](http://www.normandydev.com) or send an email to [ndcaen@normandydev.com](mailto:ndcaen@normandydev.com) or [ndrouen@normandydev.com](mailto:ndrouen@normandydev.com)

## METHODS

They involve tests with humans in a computer environment appropriate for modelling human (individuals and groups) behaviours.

### Achievements:

- . Studies of cortex activity during simple movements
- . Study of the use of 'mobile' devices (telephones and the Internet) for job search
- . Study of the impact of mobile work in forging social ties
- . Working groups involving academics and the local authorities are studying the impact of Information and Communication Technologies on social differentiation and their risks, urban polarisation, the actual opportunities of telework, and affordable broadband access for Europe and France
- . Design of annotated geographic maps with informative contents (copy, image and sound)

