# THE PROJECT CO-CREATION PROCESS: An Adaptation of Design Thinking

Inspired by and adapted from dSchool and UK Design Council

Design thinking is a human-centered problem-solving methodology that emphasizes collective intelligence to understand user needs, generate creative ideas, and iterate to develop innovative solutions to complex problems. The design thinking process typically involves several steps. SOLUTION SPACE **TEST DEFINE IMAGINE PROTOTYPE** 

> The PROBLEM SPACE involves DEFINING the problem rigorously in order to UNDERSTAND the needs of potential users, and to be able to REDEFINE the problem in a concrete way.

> > The **SOLUTION SPACE** aims to first **IMAGINE** different solutions to the problem, then prioritize the most suitable ones, **PROTOTYPE** them to achieve a common understanding, and finally, **TEST** them with potential users.

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This resource can be downloaded at: https://www.ctreq.qc.ca/projets/lavie/ [In French]

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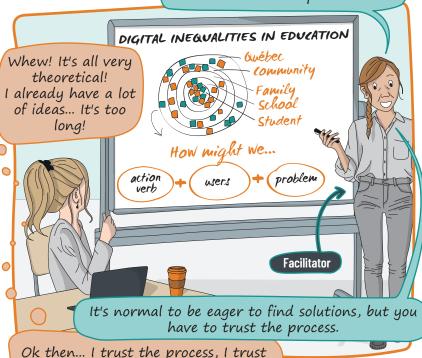
## THE PROJECT CO-CREATION PROCESS: An Adaptation of Design Thinking

### PROBLEM SPACE •

### Step 1: **DEFINE**

Analyze the problem and its ecosystem, then formulate a question starting with "How might we...? (HMW)" that leads to action.

> The design thinking process involves first taking the time to understand the problem.



the process, I trust the process...

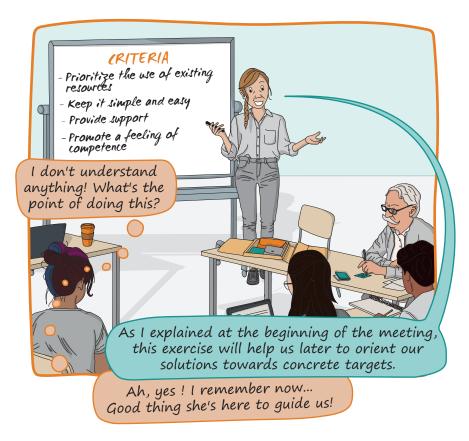
### Step 2: **UNDERSTAND**

Identify and analyze the needs of users, with the help of interviews and scientific literature.

# Large group sharing INTERVIEWS

### Step 3: **REDEFINE**

Define the criteria to develop a solution using the knowledge gained from previous steps.



Small team exchanges

### SOLUTION SPACE •

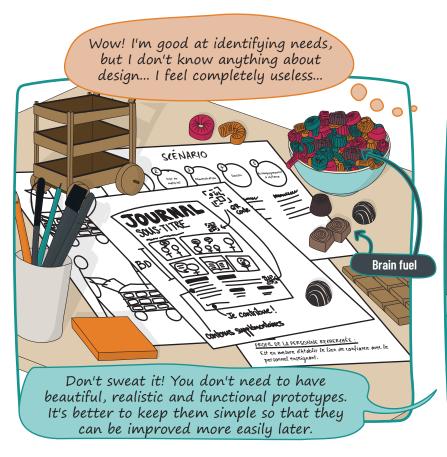
### Step 4: **IMAGINE**

Co-create solutions to the identified problem using different creative approaches.

# Whew! I'm dizzy! How are we going to choose from all these ideas? Now, I'd like you to prioritize these ideas by voting for the three that you consider the most promising. Then we will discuss them.

### Step 5: **PROTOTYPE**

Sketch out the most suitable solutions to reach a common understanding.



Step 6: **TEST** 

Test the solutions with users and improve the prototypes.

Look! We developed this with our colleagues. What do you think?



At the end of this stage, a choice is made: either to return to a previous stage or to continue towards the implementation phase. We must make sure that the needs of users are met.

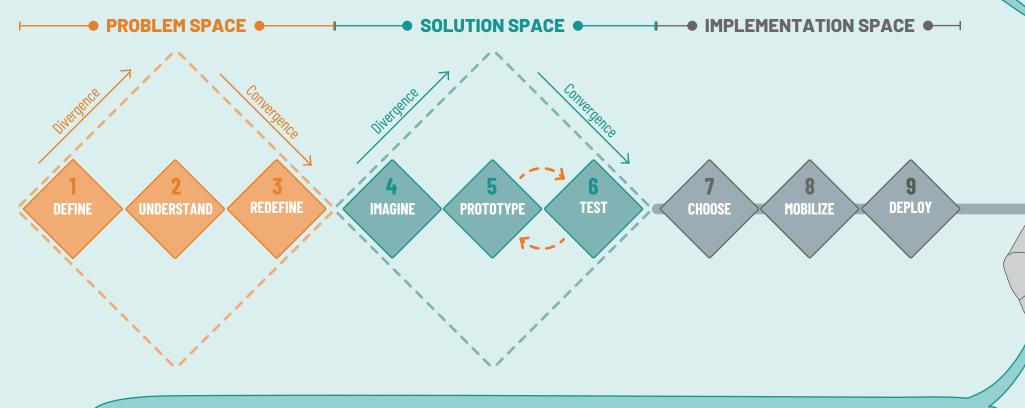
■ POTENTIAL CHALLENGE: LEVERAGING THE KNOWLEDGE GAINED FROM THE PROBLEM SPACE TO CO-CREATE THE SOLUTION





Finally, the IMPLEMENTATION SPACE can be led by one or more people who may or may not have participated in the previous steps. This step involves CHOOSING a co-created solution to refine, and then

MOBILIZING the necessary resources to DEPLOY it on a larger scale.



There can be different trajectories in the design thinking process. For example, if the test (step 6) does not meet the expectations of users, you can return to the previous steps to improve the co-created solutions.

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