

## Towards digital accessibility for tourist sites

### Presentation abstract

Modern buildings are getting bigger, more complex and more connected. The way to apprehend them is also evolving: the more flexible the spaces become, the more the cues for the users disappear in between visits. In the digital age, this evolution widens the gap with physical accessibility devices which are less and less adapted to the transformations of the interiors.

Along with this evolution, the smartphone is becoming the privileged vector of accessibility technologies, thanks to its individual use and the improvements of the wireless networks. The New Courthouse of Paris, an ultra-modern 160 meters tower resolutely turned to the future, chose to take the step towards universal accessibility. With Aurizone, the indoor smartphone GPS dedicated to the visually impaired, the 60 000 m<sup>2</sup> of public zone can offer a voice description and a navigation to the building's points of interests. The application allows everyone, whatever their condition, to live an improved experience of places.

This type of installation is the outcome of several years of partnership with visually impaired users and associations, and it opens up new perspectives for accessibility. The city in its entirety can welcome all of its users, inhabitants and tourists, with the same quality and whatever their disabilities. The equipment of the buildings with these new technologies is now possible, economical, viable and accessible to all.

**Lead speaker :** Ken Teisseire

**Organisation :** Aurizone

**City (Country) :** Paris(France)

**Biography :** Ken Teisseire graduated from the National School of Architecture Paris-Belleville. As the winner of the EUROPAN International Contest for young architects under the age of 40, he designed the new city centre of La Courneuve. His commitment to universal accessibility has led him to the founding of Aurizone, the indoor smartphone GPS for visually impaired people which opens up perspectives for a more inclusive, a more connected, and a more human city.