IGF Internet Governance Forum

"VILNIUS 2010"

UNESCO
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

OPEN FORUM

September 16th 16:15-18:15
LITEXPO - Room 4

Linguistic diversity indicators in cyberspace:

Where do we stand?

What is required?

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REFERENCES (1/3)

"Twelve years of measuring linguistic diversity in the Internet: balance and perspectives", Unesco/2009.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=29594&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

REFERENCES (2/3)

-”Accessing Contents”, D. Pimienta, Chapter of Global Information Society Watch, APC, HIVOS, ITEM, 2008
http://www.giswatch.org/gisw2008/thematic/AccessingContent.html

- Measuring linguistic diversity on the Internet, UNESCO, 12/2005, a collection of papers by: J. Paolillo, D. Pimienta, D. Prado, et al.
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=20882&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

REFERENCES (3/3)

-“Quel espace reste-t-il dans l’Internet, hors la langue anglaise et la culture "made in USA" ?”, in « Nord et Sud numériques », Les Cahiers du Numériques, Vol 2 No 3/4 Hermès, Numéro spécial sur la fracture numérique, 2001

http://funredes.org/lc/l5/cahiersNumFinal.html

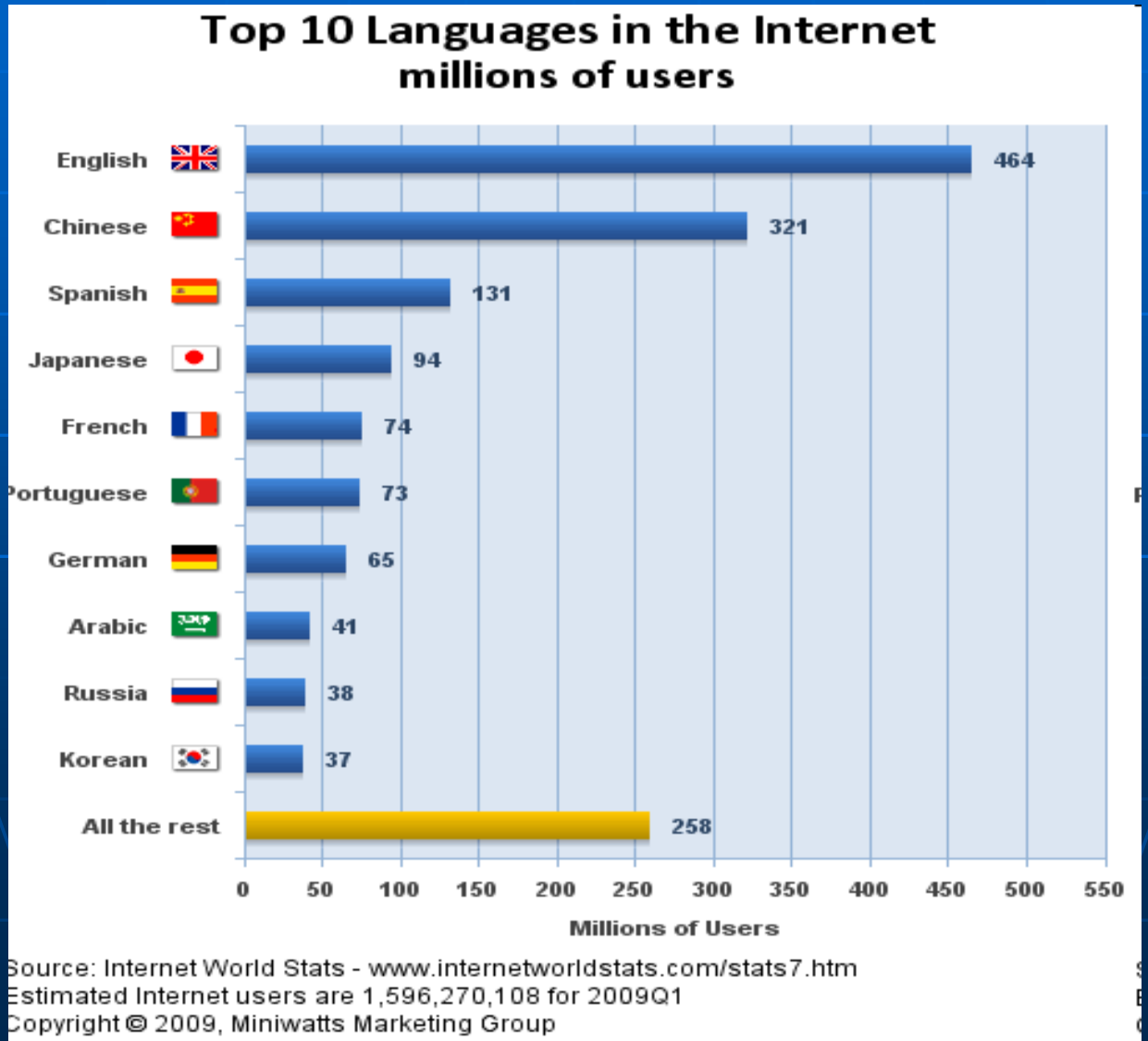
- Activités de Funredes pour la promotion de la diversité linguistique dans l'Internet et enseignements de l'expérience, 5/05
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/file_download.php/92a27500bf11f4c73cd567943deb4077Daniel+Pimienta.doc

LETS GET A ROUGH FIGURE OF REALITY

- → 40,000 lenguages has existed
- → Between 6,000 & 9,000 still alive
- → Every 2 months one disappears
- → Some 500 are localized
- → Wikipedia handles 264 languages
- → Google works in 45 languages

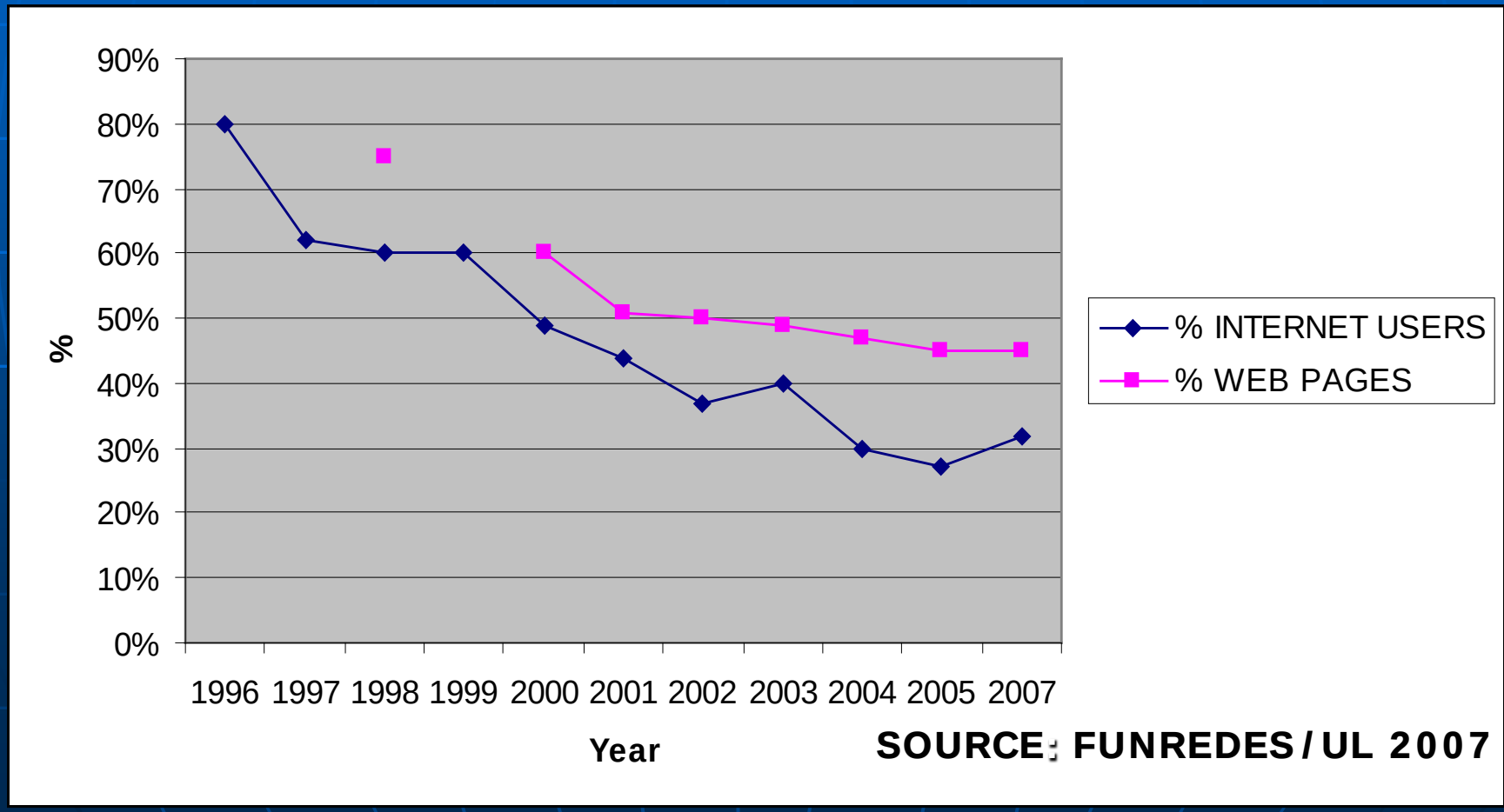
- → ... and I am speaking here in English

LETS GET A ROUGH FIGURE OF REALITY!



LETS GET A ROUGH FIGURE OF REALITY

ENGLISH



SOURCE: FUNREDES / UL 2007

DIGITAL DIVIDE IS MUCH DEEPER IN TERMS OF

CONTENTS

THAN IN TERMS OF

ACCESS

AFRICA FOR EXAMPLE

→4.8 % of Internet users
(source InternetWorldStats – 2010)

→0.6 % of English web pages
(source FUNREDES/UL 2007)

→0.6 % of French web pages
(source FUNREDES/UL 2007)

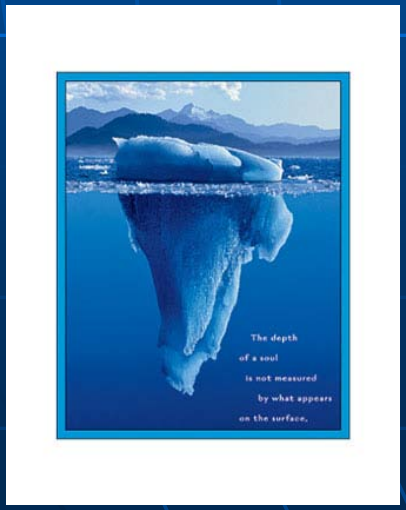
→ African local languages weight each between 0,006 % & 0,06 % of total web pages
(source LOP 2007)

LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY IN THE INTERNET

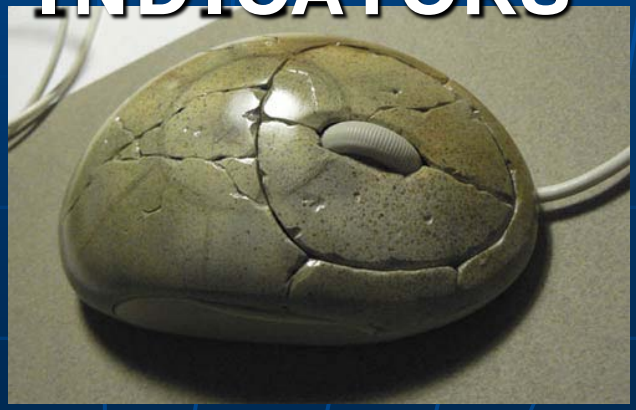
→ Paradoxical situation

INTERNET's REALLY FOR EVERY ONE?

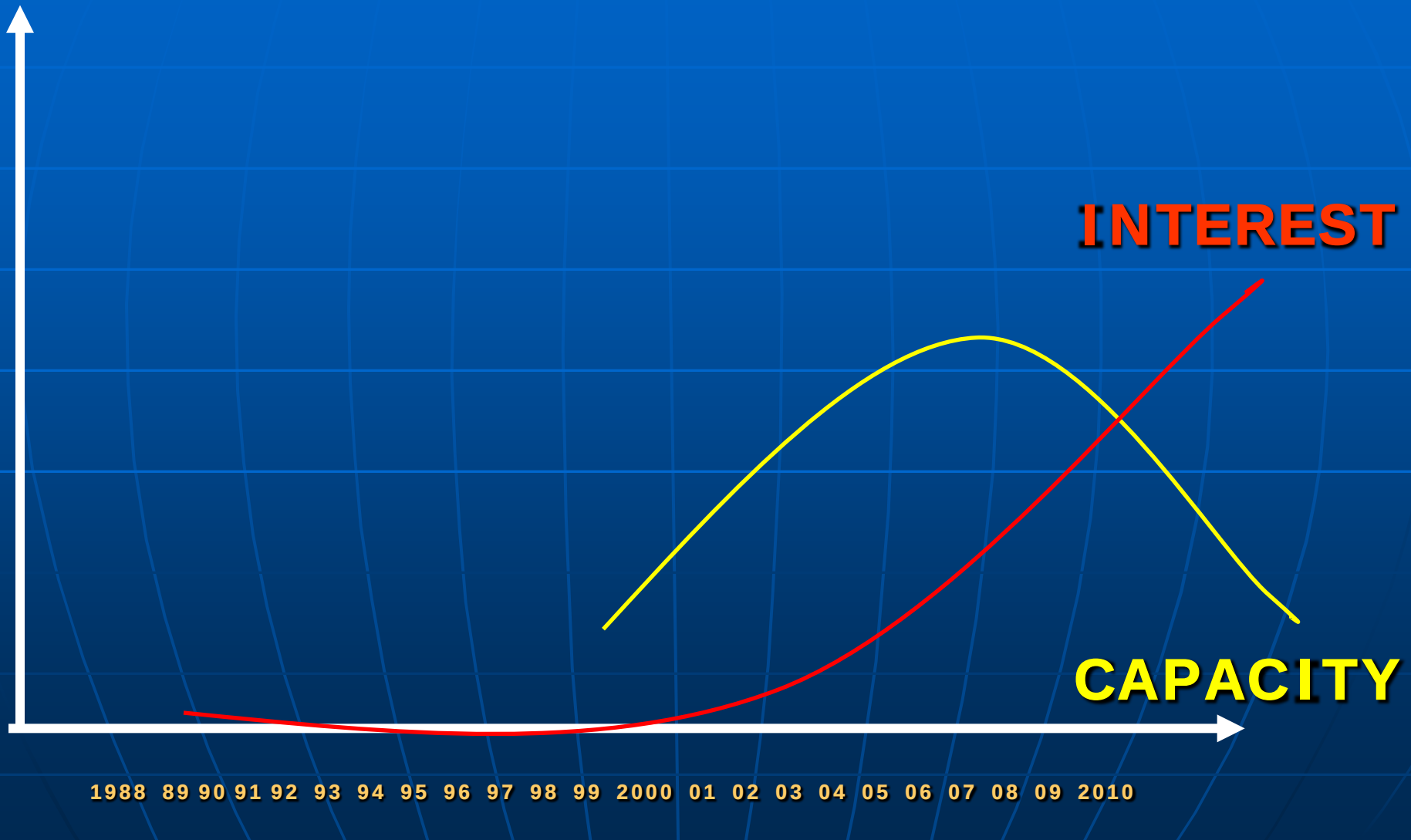
IDN



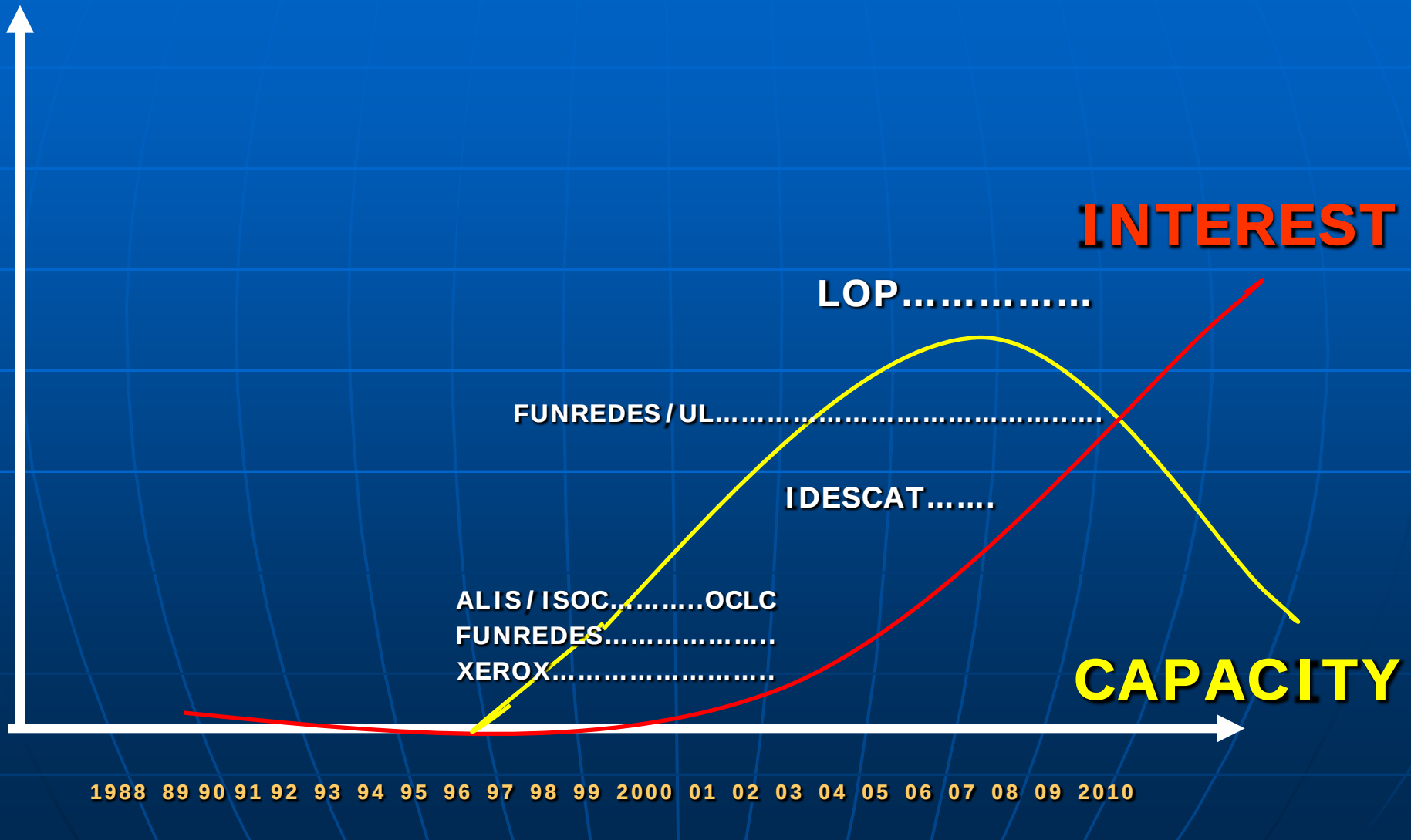
INDICATORS



LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY INDICATORS PARADOX



LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY INDICATORS PARADOX



WHAT INDICATORS?

Internet users per language (source InternetworldStats)

Web pages per language (not all!)

Other indicators per country (FUNREDES/UL)

WHAT INDICATORS WOULD BE NEEDED?

- Not only static data but user behaviour
- Not only the web but email and social networks
- Indicators which could be crossed with other parameters (domain, country…).

CONCLUSION

- **RESEARCH FOR CREATING LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY IS URGENTLY REQUIRED**
- **SHOULD BE AN AMBITIOUS AND COLLABORATIVE EFFORT**
- **WITH SUPPORT OF ITU, UNESCO, MAAYA AND EU (PF7?)**

CONCLUSION

MAAYA
(UNION LATINA + FUNREDES)
IS ABOUT TO LAUNCH
AN AMBITIOUS PROJECT
TO BUILD RELIABLE DATA.

CONCLUSION

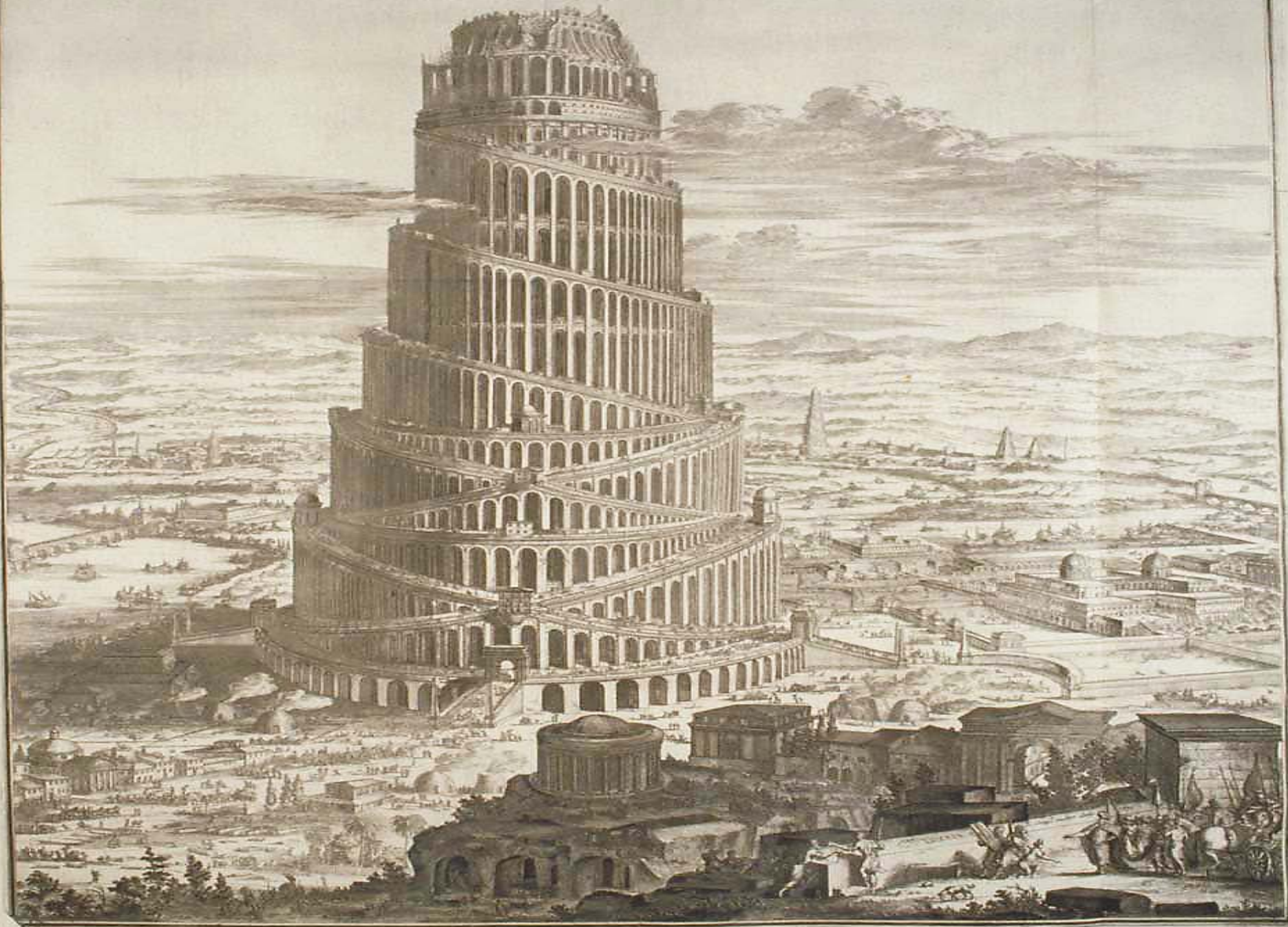
The concept is to have MAAYA
(Funredes, Union Latina, LOP)
prepare a research project
with a sound consortium of competent parties
to apply to Program Framework EU funds.

Looked after partners : ITU, Unesco and a selection of universities

Strategical approach : maintain in parallel 5 different lines of research to boost chance of success and allow crosschecking of results.

Interested parties please contact me.
pimienta@funredes.org

TURRIS BABEL



Orkun
Toda raba
MERCI
Gracias
Thank you
Abhar
Obrigado
Amesegnalhu
Shukran
Dhonnyobaad
Dekuji
Adjarama
Doh jeh
N'gue penù