

# *Free Open Source Software vs Closed Source Software*

“Full rights” access

vs

“Read-only” access

## *Content*

- ◆ Initiatives to Narrow Digital Divide
- ◆ Unlicensed Software Distribution (piracy)
- ◆ Free and Open Source Software in Central Asia

# *Initiatives to Narrow Digital Divide*

Experience of Tajikistan

INTERNATIONAL  
POLICY  
FELLOWSHIPS

IPF



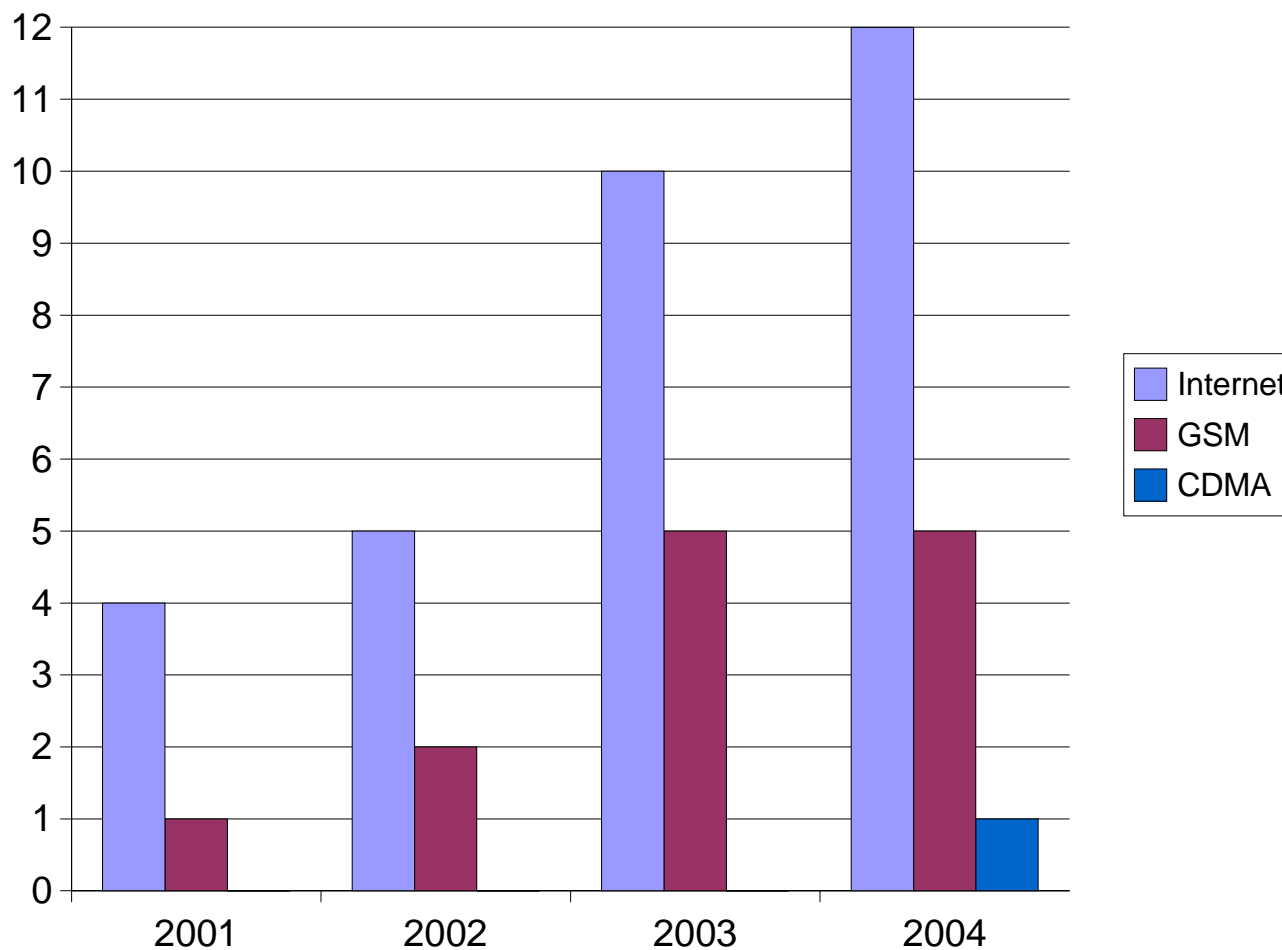
## *ICT4D*

- ◆ UNDP National Human Development Report 2001-2002, ICT for Development
- ◆ Mobile Roundtable Discussions on ICT for Development
- ◆ First National Conference on ICT for Development
- ◆ State Strategy ICT for Development of the Republic of Tajikistan (e-Strategy)

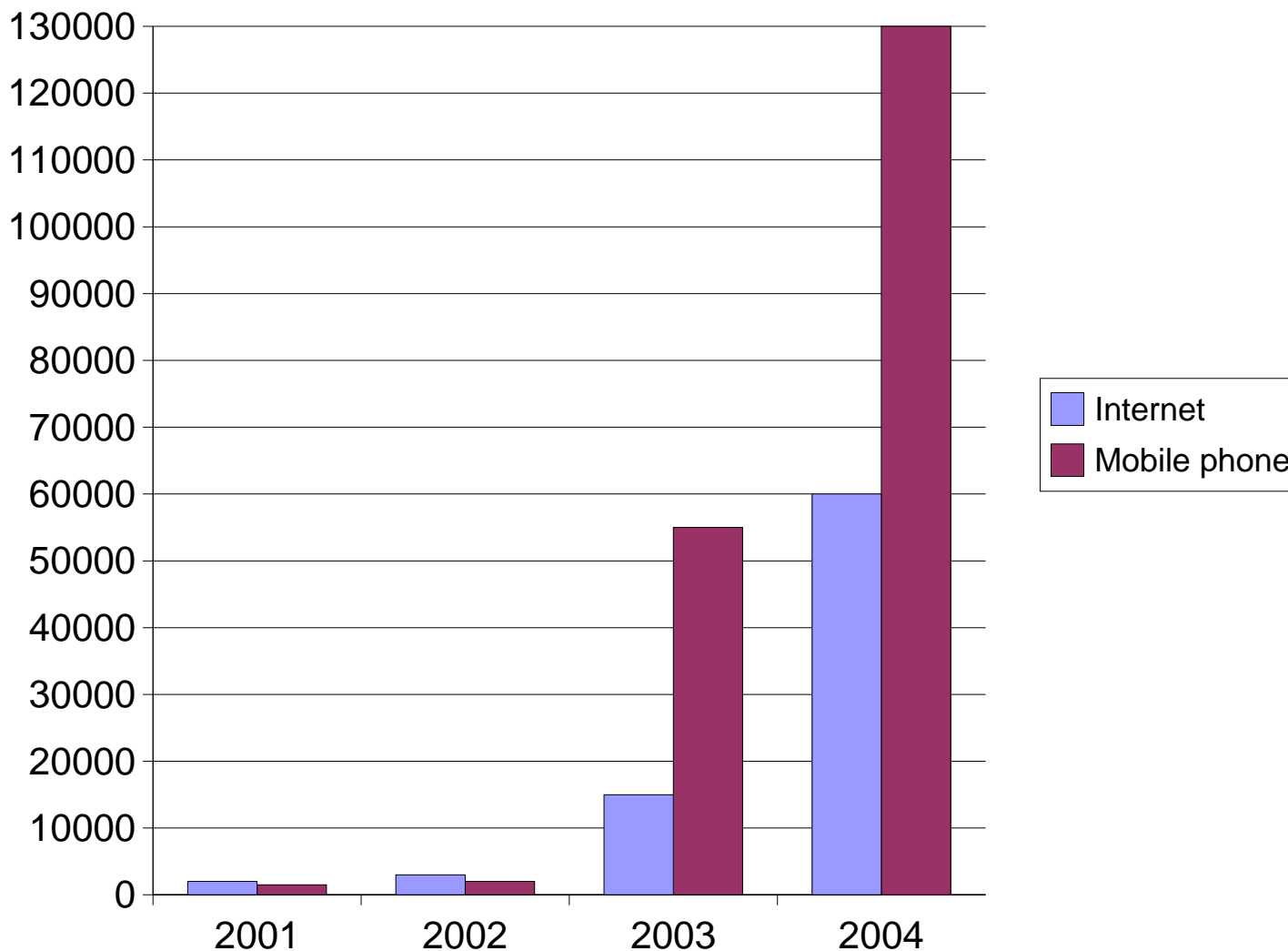
## *Projects to implement e-Strategy*

- ◆ State Program for Secondary Schools Computerization
- ◆ National Research and Educational Network (NREN) projects:
  - ◆ DuSciNet
  - ◆ Virtual Silk Highway (central eurasia regional project)
- ◆ Internet Capacity Building (OSI+UNDP+NATO)
- ◆ Schools on-line Project funded by USA DoS

## ICT Service Providers in Tajikistan



## ICT Users in Tajikistan



## *Overall cost of computer*

- ◆ Developed countries
  - ◆ Hardware + software
- ◆ Developing and transitional countries
  - ◆ Hardware
  - ◆ Software is free of charge (unlicensed proprietary software is widely available)

## *Treatment that is worse than Disease*

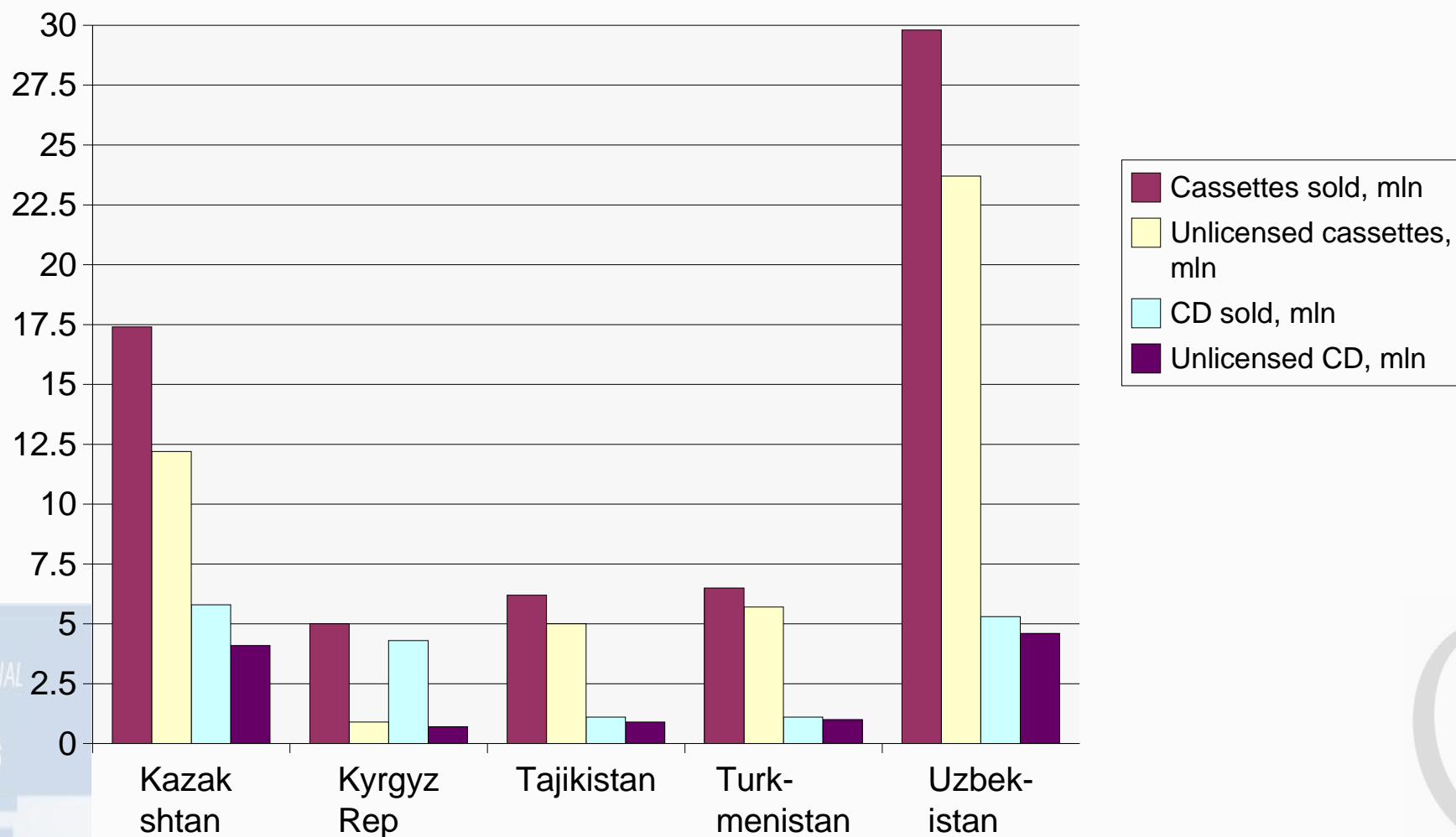
- ◆ Many projects are concentrated on technical part of infrastructure with less attention to software
- ◆ Funded by the International organizations many ICT projects for academic community are mainly proprietary software-oriented that makes hard their self-sustainability in the future.
- ◆ Many utilized applications are accessible neither by content (localization) nor by price to main part of population

## *Unlicensed Software Distribution*

Closed Source (Proprietary) Software and Free Open Source Software (FOSS) tools against it

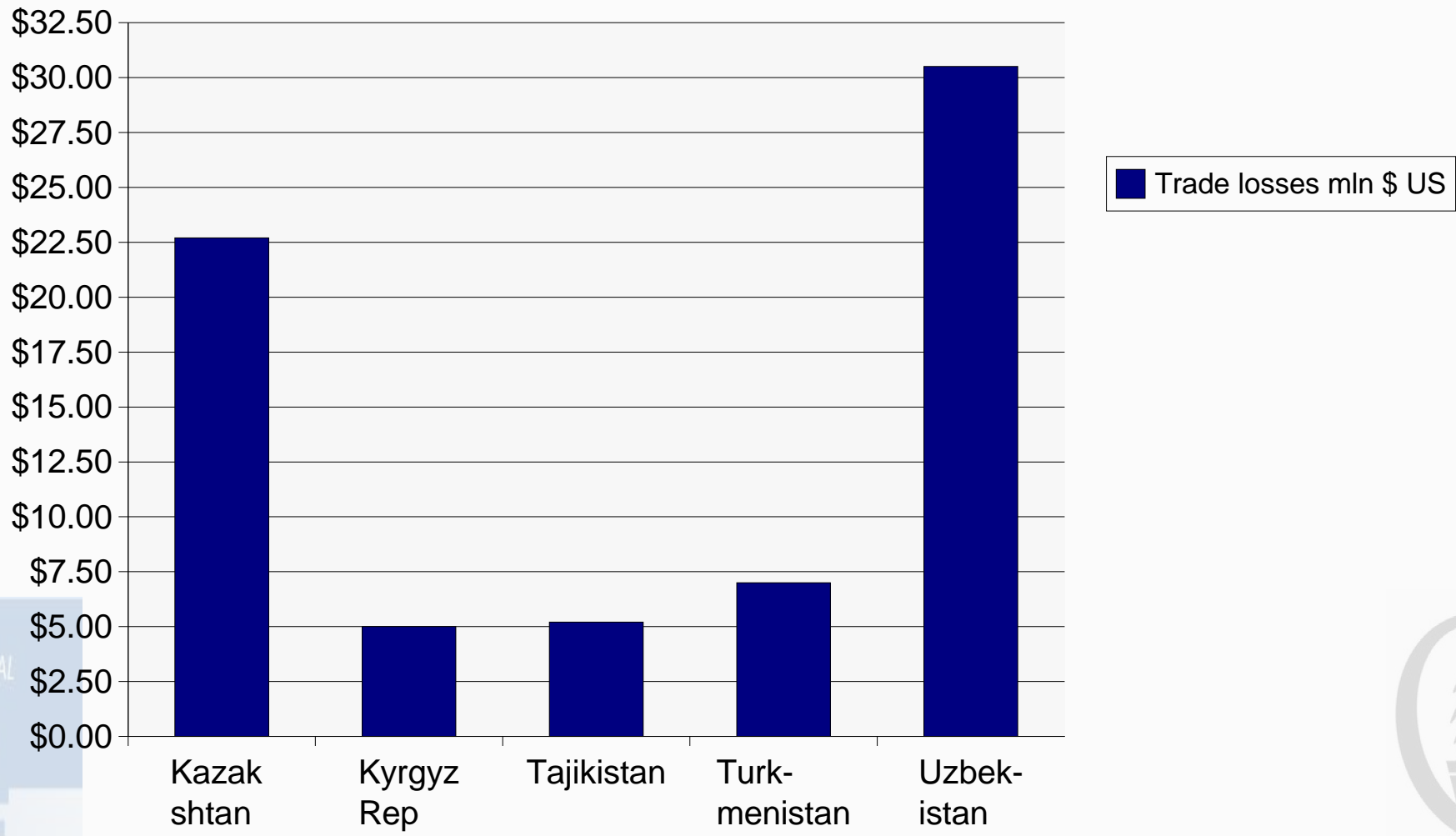
# *Unlicensed Copies of Cassettes and CDs sold in the region*

*(2003 Special 301 report, IIPA)*



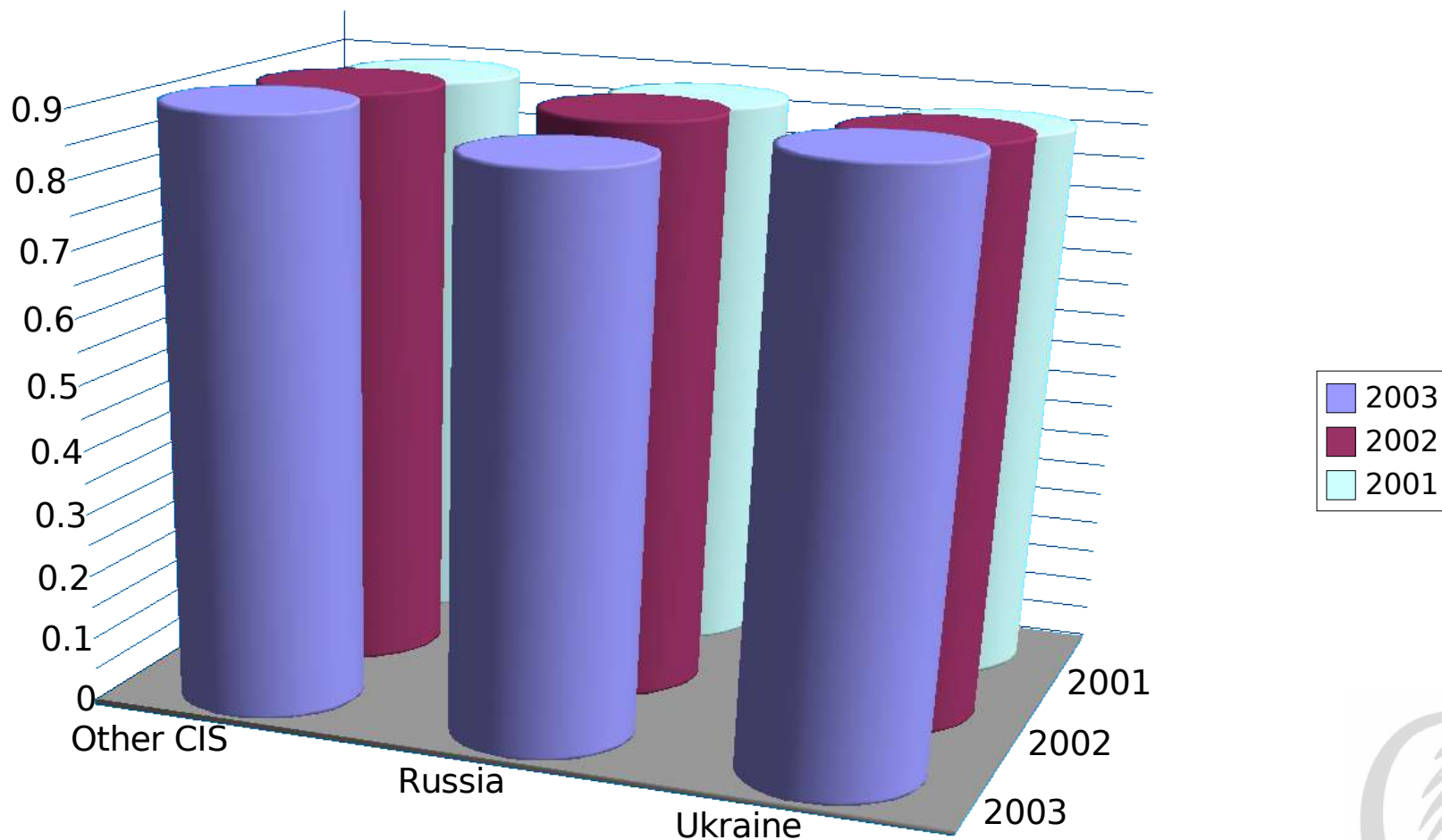
# *Losses of IP owners in the region*

*(Special 301 report, IIPA, 2003)*



# *Illegal Software Distribution Rate*

*(According to Business Software Alliance for 2003)*



## *IIPA 2004 Special 301 Report*

### *Recommendations*

- ◆ ...The U.S. Government should block accession to the WTO of Az, By, Kz, Tj, Tm, and Uz (as well as Ru and Ua) because the legal and enforcement regimes in each of these countries is not in compliance with WTO TRIPS obligations

## *Harm of Unlicensed Software Utilization*

- ◆ Technological dependence, or lock-in situation
- ◆ Weak developed local contents
- ◆ No local developers community, hence no local source of intellectual property
- ◆ Growth of digital divide

## *Ways to Reduce/Overcome Unlicensed Software Distribution*

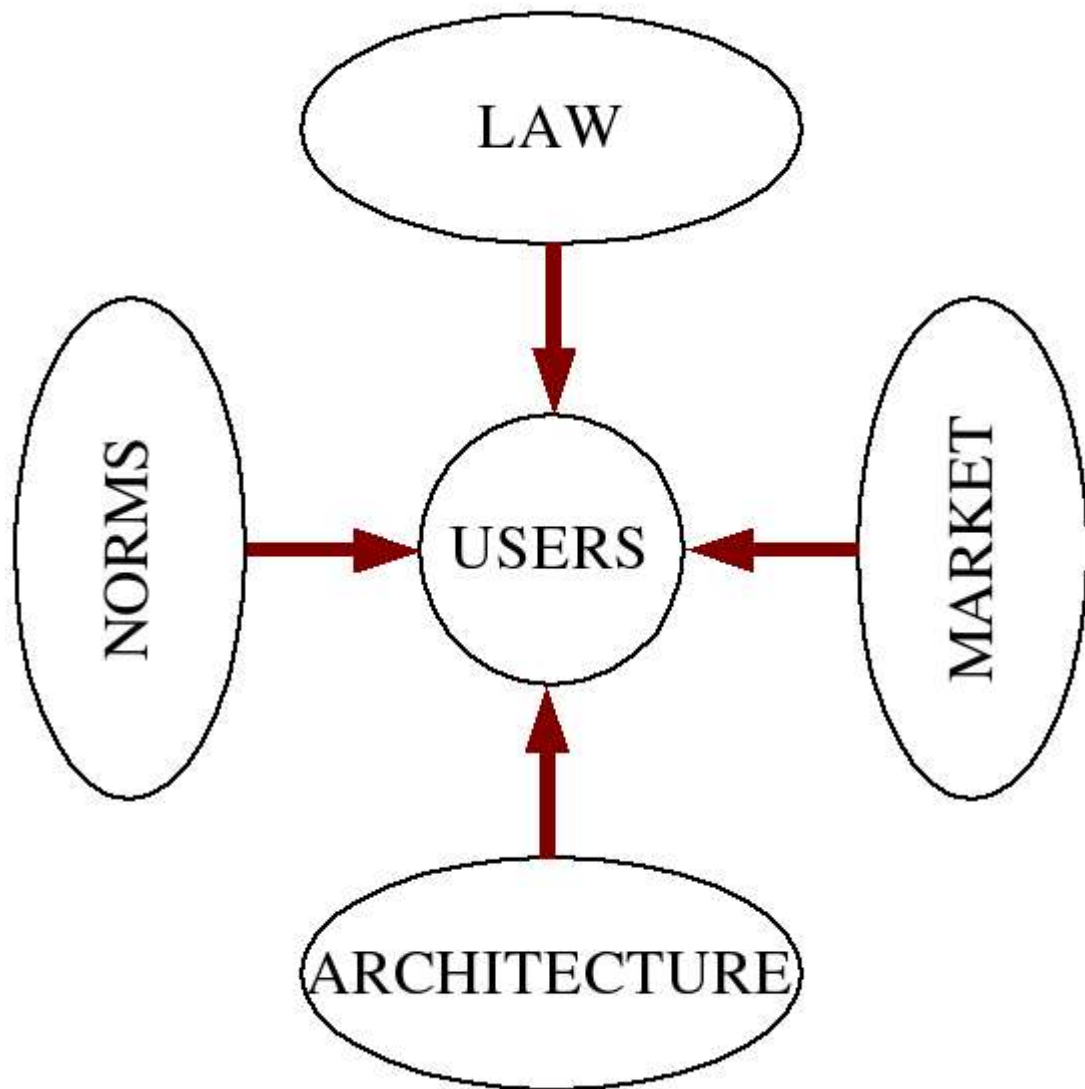
- ◆ Purchase of licensed copies of Proprietary Software
- ◆ Free and Open Source Software utilization

# *Which CD with MS Windows XP Professional would you buy?*

<b>City</b>	<b>Licensed copy</b>	<b>Unlicensed Copy</b>
Almaty	\$100.00	\$3.00
Tashkent	N/A	\$3.00
Dushanbe	N/A	\$3.00
Moscow		\$3.00
Amazon.com Dec. 14, 04	\$279.99	N/A

*...if your salary is lower than \$20 US*

# *Lessig's Model of Regulation*



## *Norms and Values*

- ◆ Norms – a modality that is dominating in Tajikistani society in regulating software users.
- ◆ I will share an application that I have a license to use with my relatives, friends and anyone else in need, whom I like. Though I know that it is illegal.
- ◆ It seems that the proprietary companies license agreement scheme that works in one place cannot work in another.
- ◆ Hence a different approach is needed...

# *FOSS in Central Asia*

## Societal Impact of FOSS

## *Initiatives in Kg*

- ◆ Public Fund Open Technologies
- ◆ Forum on FOSS
  - ◆ Localization of FOSS applications (Mozilla, OpenOffice.org, etc)
- ◆ IATP – Proprietary platform and FOSS applications (OpenOffice.org, Mozilla, GIMP)
- ◆ State Policy on FOSS utilization in the academic community

## *Kazakhstan*

- ◆ Localization has been initiated recently (OpenOffice.org, GNU/Linux Mandrake)
- ◆ UNESCO regional office has been contributing in development of FOSS for region
  - ◆ Greenstone – digital library collections, <http://www.greenstone.org>
  - ◆ Museolog – digital catalog management, <http://museolog.unesco.kz:8080/museolog>

## *Uzbekistan*

- ◆ IATP – combination of Proprietary software (MS Windows XP) and FOSS applications (GIMP)
- ◆ Localization of one the GNU/Linux distributives is in the progress

## *Tajikistan*

- ◆ e-Strategy considers FOSS as a way to narrow digital divide
- ◆ Local FOSS community is actively promoting free software in educational system of the country (training of trainers)
- ◆ Supports of the international funders and international FOSS community
- ◆ Localization of one of the GNU/Linux distributives and other FOSS applications

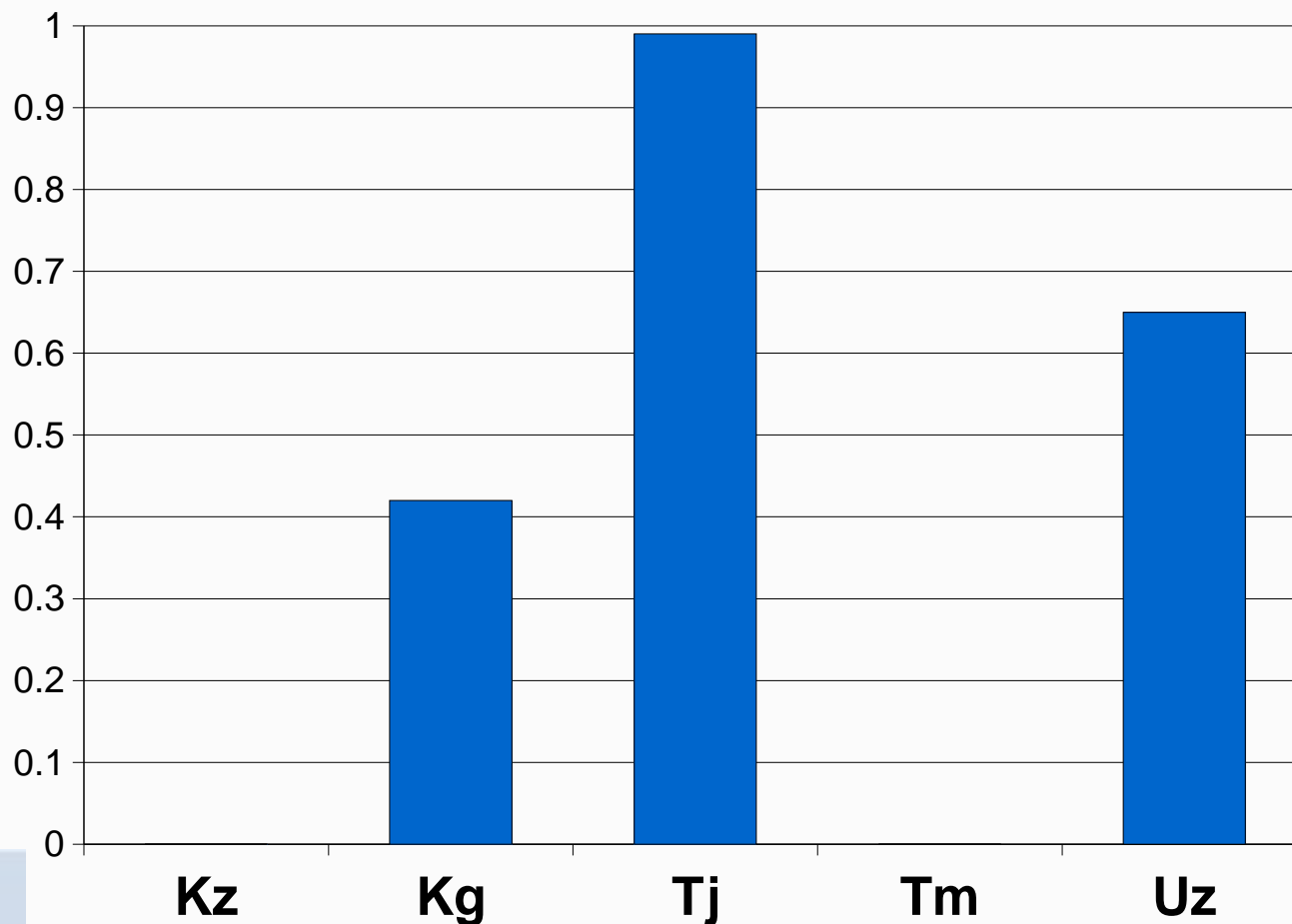
## ***FOSS Advantages***

- ◆ Efficient tool against Software illegal distribution without loosing access to Technologies
- ◆ Promotes Creativity and New Jobs Creation
- ◆ Inexpensive tool of skills development (user skills as well as programming skills)
- ◆ Enabler of local developers community growth
- ◆ Promotes Transparency. For example building trust in e-governance
- ◆ Enhances to narrow digital divide



# *GNU/Linux Mandrake Localization*

## *Status in CA*



## *Useful sources*

- ◆ Local Legislation on the IPR
- ◆ Mike Gansarz, Linux and the Unix Philosophy
- ◆ Lawrence Lessig, Free Culture
- ◆ Rishab Ghosh, License fees and GPD per capita
  - ◆ [http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue8\\_12/ghosh/index.html](http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue8_12/ghosh/index.html)
- ◆ <http://www.opensource.org/>
- ◆ <http://www.opensource.org/licenses/gpl-license.php>
- ◆ <http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/gpl.html>
- ◆ <http://www.itk.ru/clip/gpllicense.shtml>
- ◆ <http://www.mandrakelinux.com/l10n/>
- ◆ <http://www.gnu.org/philosophy/schools.html>
- ◆ <http://www.perens.com/OpenStandards/Definition.html>
- ◆ <http://www.microsoft.com/licensing/resources/default.aspx>
- ◆ <http://www.amazon.com/>

## *FOSS is not Panacea*

- ◆ Most of FOSS software are not complete (90 % completed), but this is its real power. It is challenging to improve it, and make adaptation for local needs.
- ◆ FOSS enhances creativity, because it is based on freedom in use, modification, and distribution

*Thanks!*

International Policy Fellowships 2004

- ◆ Web: <http://www.policy.hu/atoev>
- ◆ Email: [atoev@policy.hu](mailto:atoev@policy.hu)

Civil Initiative on Policy of Internet

- ◆ Email: [asomiddin@cipitj.net](mailto:asomiddin@cipitj.net)

