Virtual Mobility
Mobile Phones: From a tool to a medium.

Peter Zoche

10th German - Japanese Symposium

Mobile Communications and Society

- New Opportunities for Working and Living -

02.04.03

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MÜNCHNER KREIS

Mobility

Mobility

- is defined as
  - the possibility or ability of movement,
  - the concrete act of moving (traffic).
- can be
  - of spatial, social, or intellectual kind,
  - the behaviour of individuals,
  - altered by innovations and adaptions to everyday life.

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Virtual Mobility

Virtual Mobility

- Parallel Development of communication (media) and mobility: Overcoming of space and time for the purpose of taking part in social processes and activities.

Hypothesis of the complementarity of virtual and physical mobility:

- New ICTs open up new virtual areas of mobility, new real areas of mobility (Medical Support...) and lead to real structural changes (Services, traffic regulation...).
- Persons with high physical mobility tend complementary to a higher usage of ICTs.

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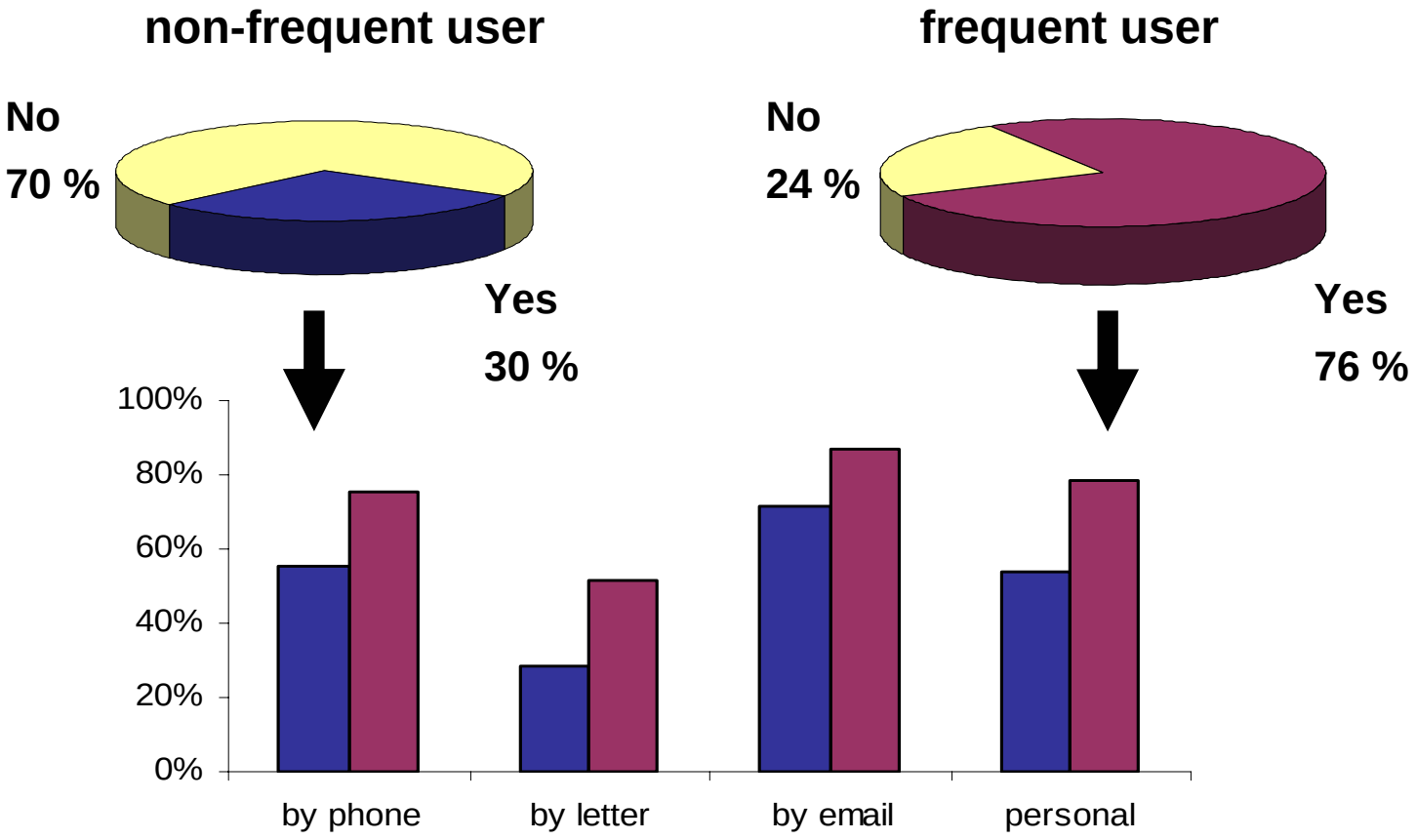
New social contacts outside of Chatrooms and MUDs



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Individual Phone Call in Former Times

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Individual Phone Call in Former Times and Today

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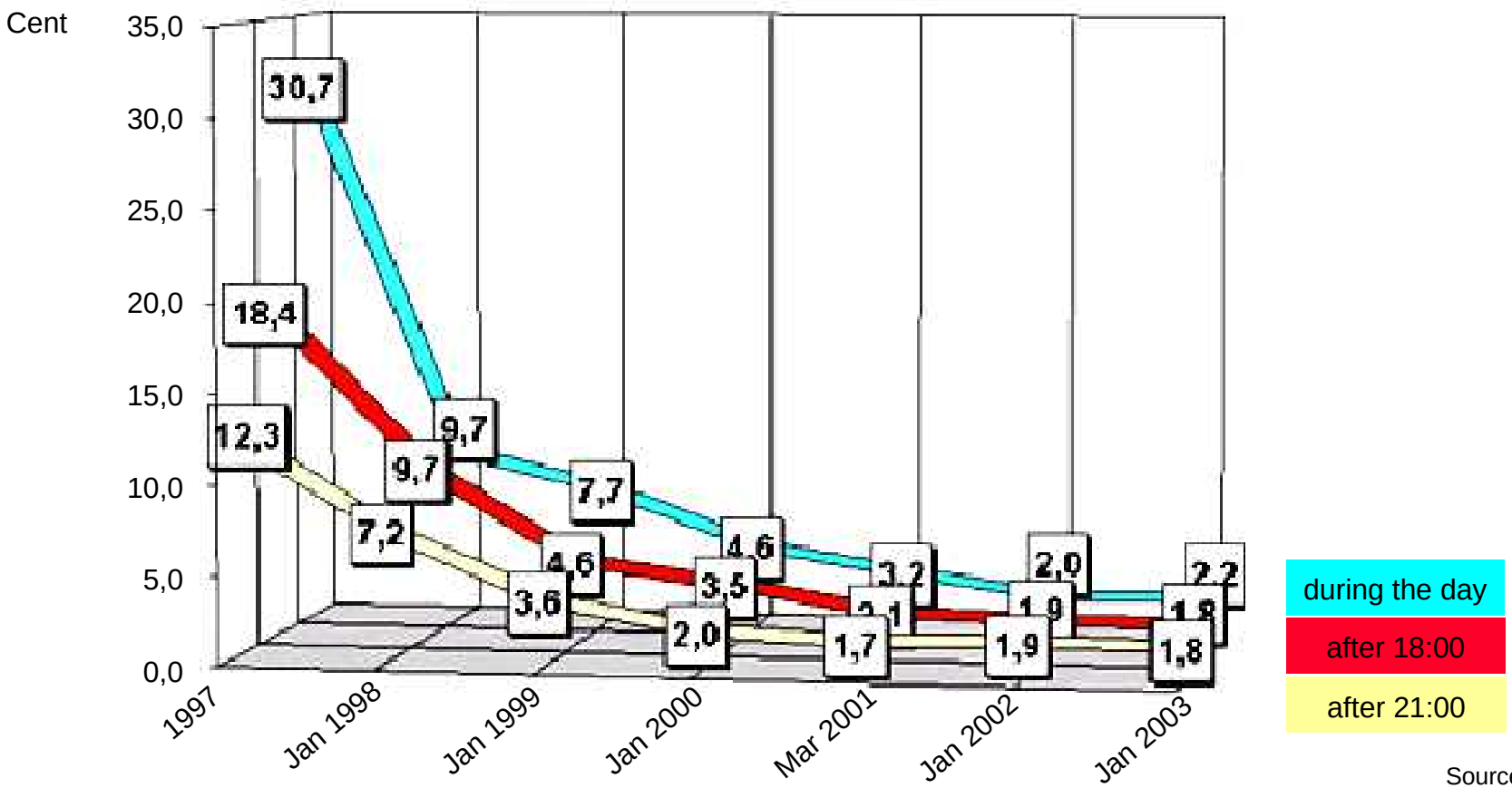
Minimal Rate of Charge in Fixed Network for Long Distance Call



Source: RegTP 2002

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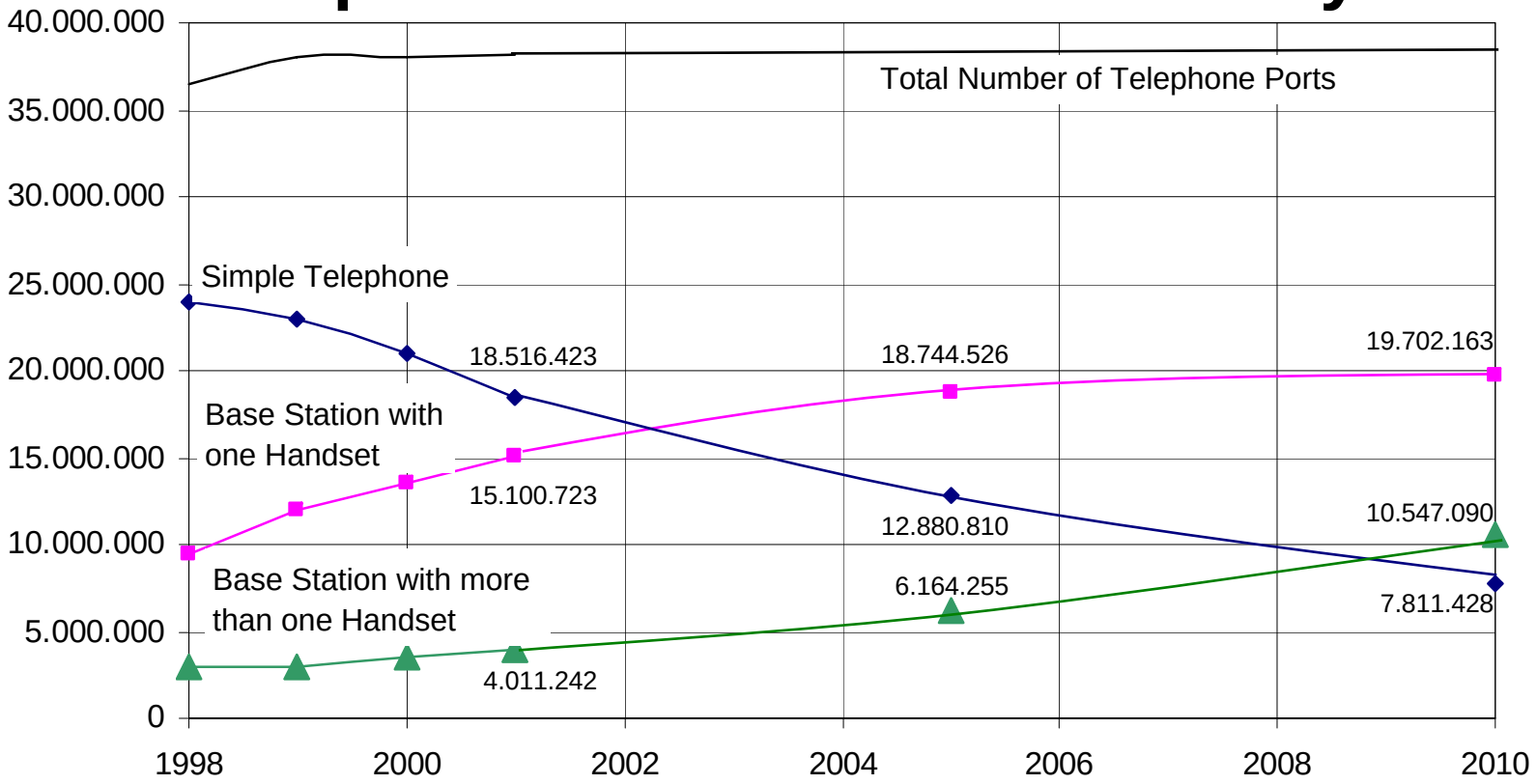
Development of Number of Telephone Ports and Telephones until 2010 in Germany



Graphic: FhG-ISI 2002 / Source: ACTA, Media Analyse, own calculations

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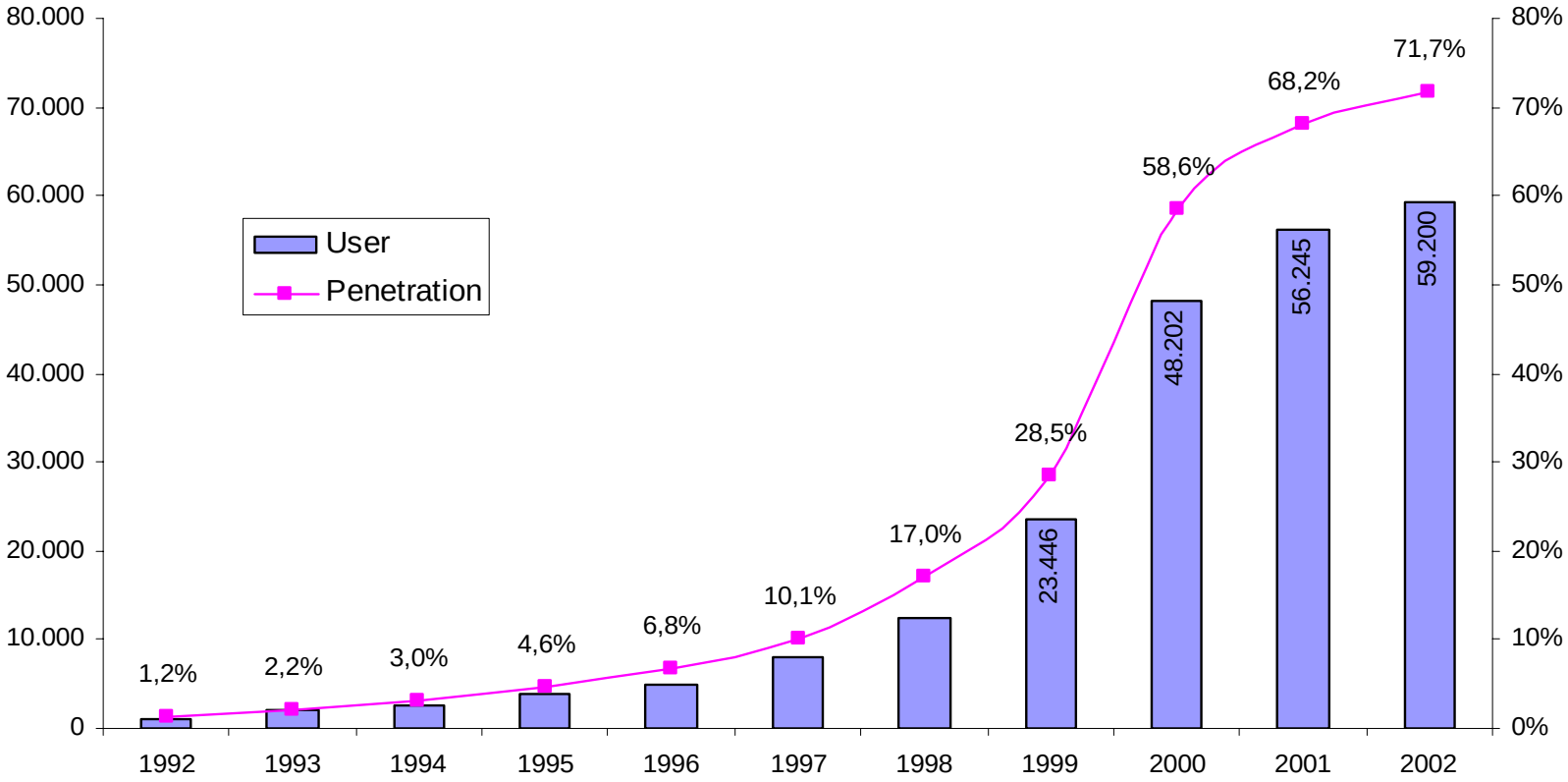
Development of Users (Penetration and Increase) in Mobile Telephone Networks in Germany



Source: RegTP 2002

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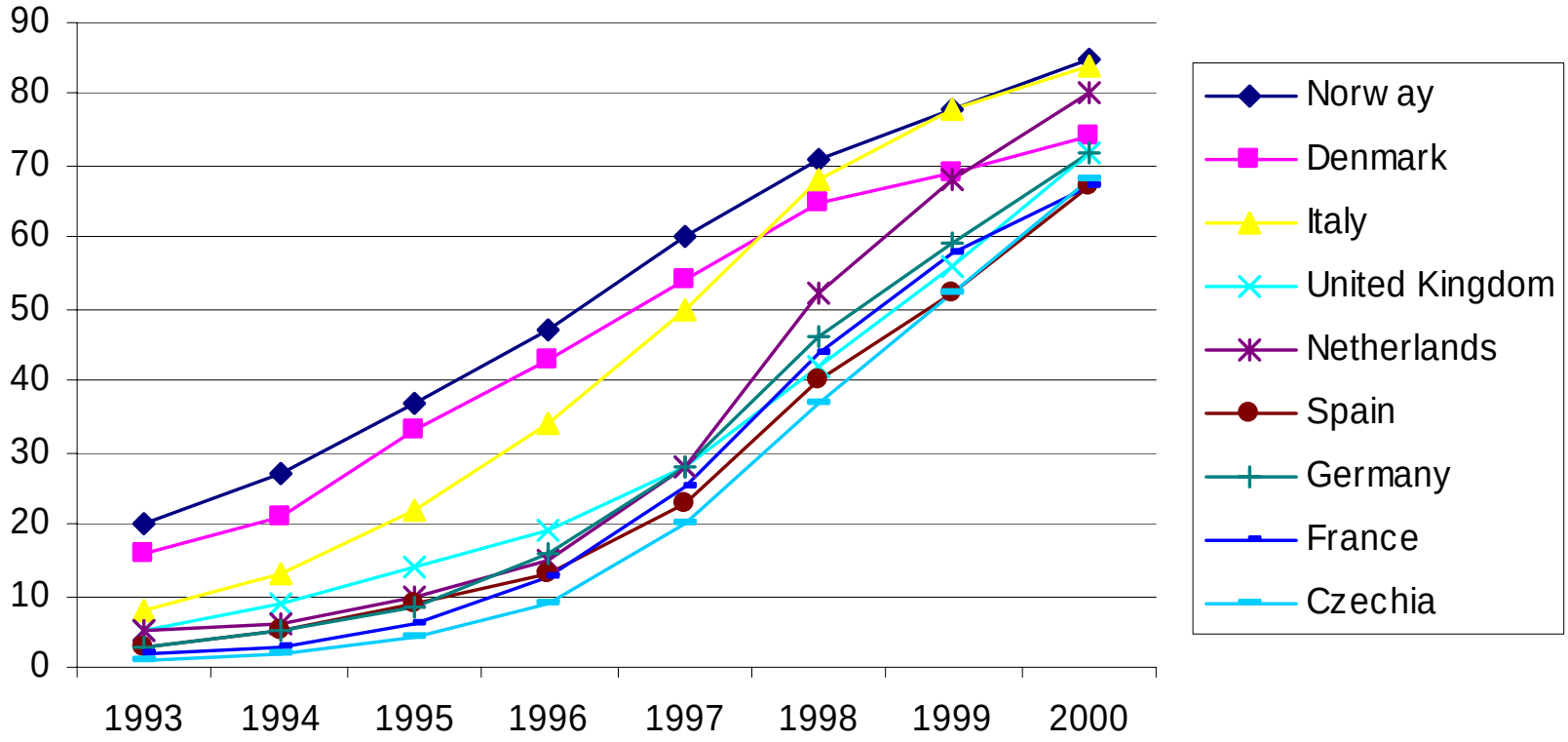
Percentage of People Ever Used the Mobile Phone



Eurescom 2001

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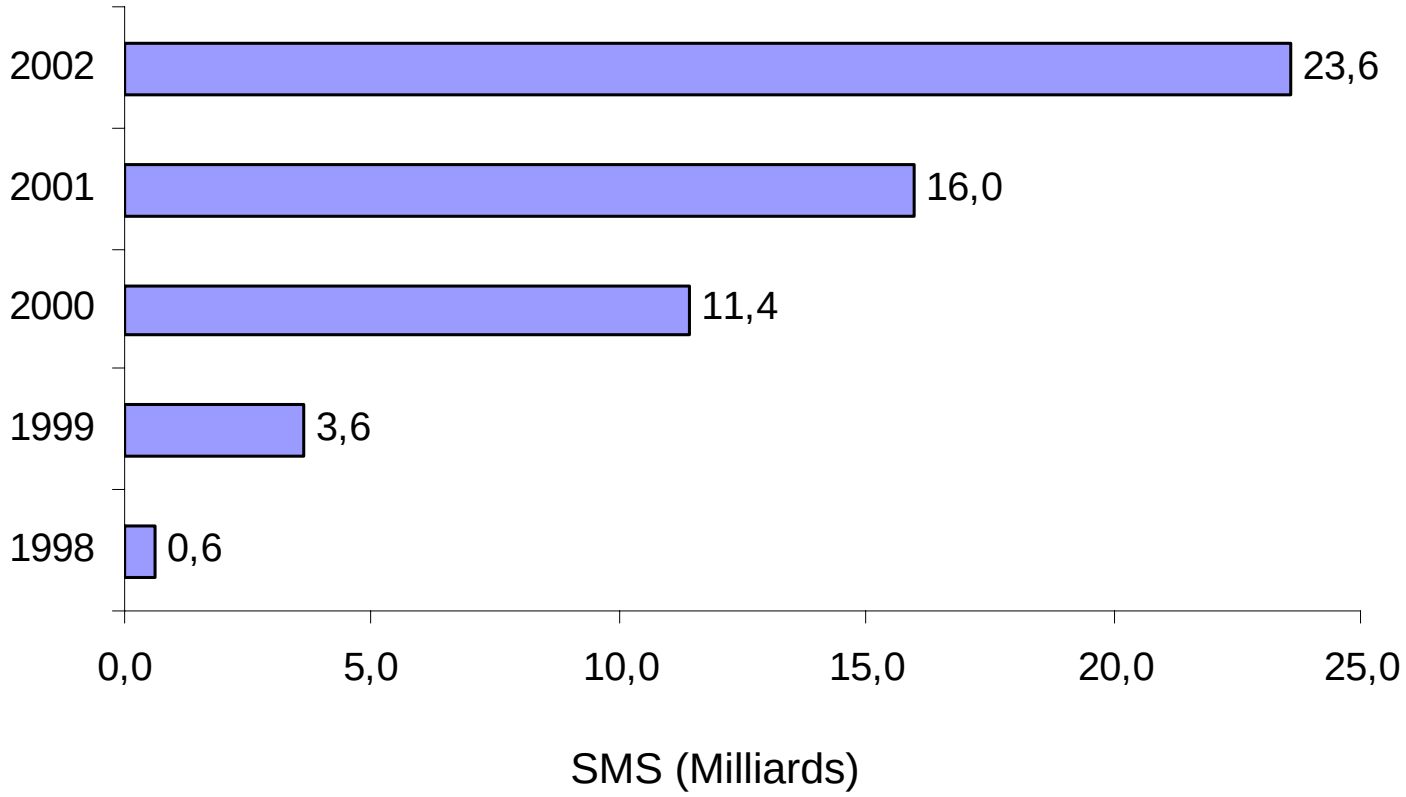
Number of sent SMS-Messages in Germany



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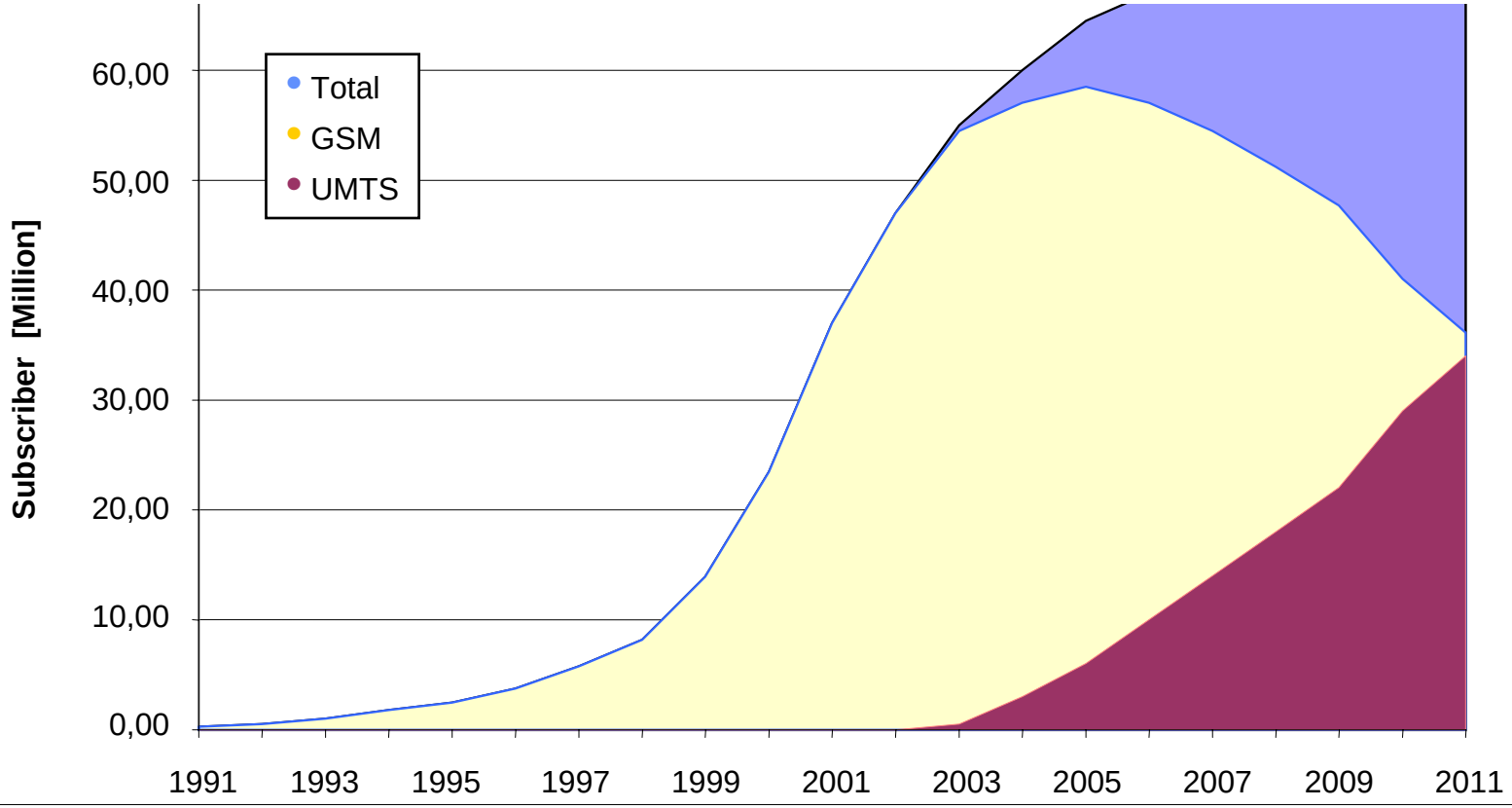
Development and Forecast of Number of Mobile Subscribers



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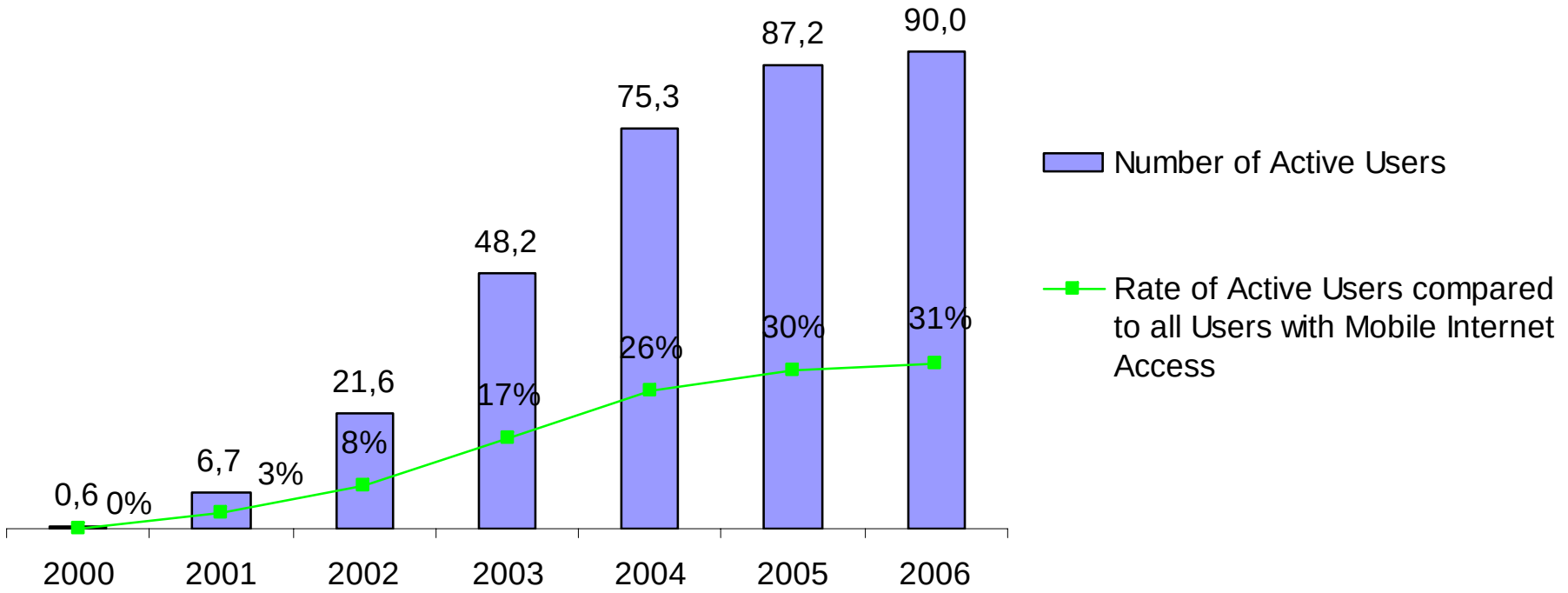
Western Europe: Active Mobile Internet Users in Millions and in Percent of all Users with Mobile Internet Access 2000-2006



Jupiter MMXI

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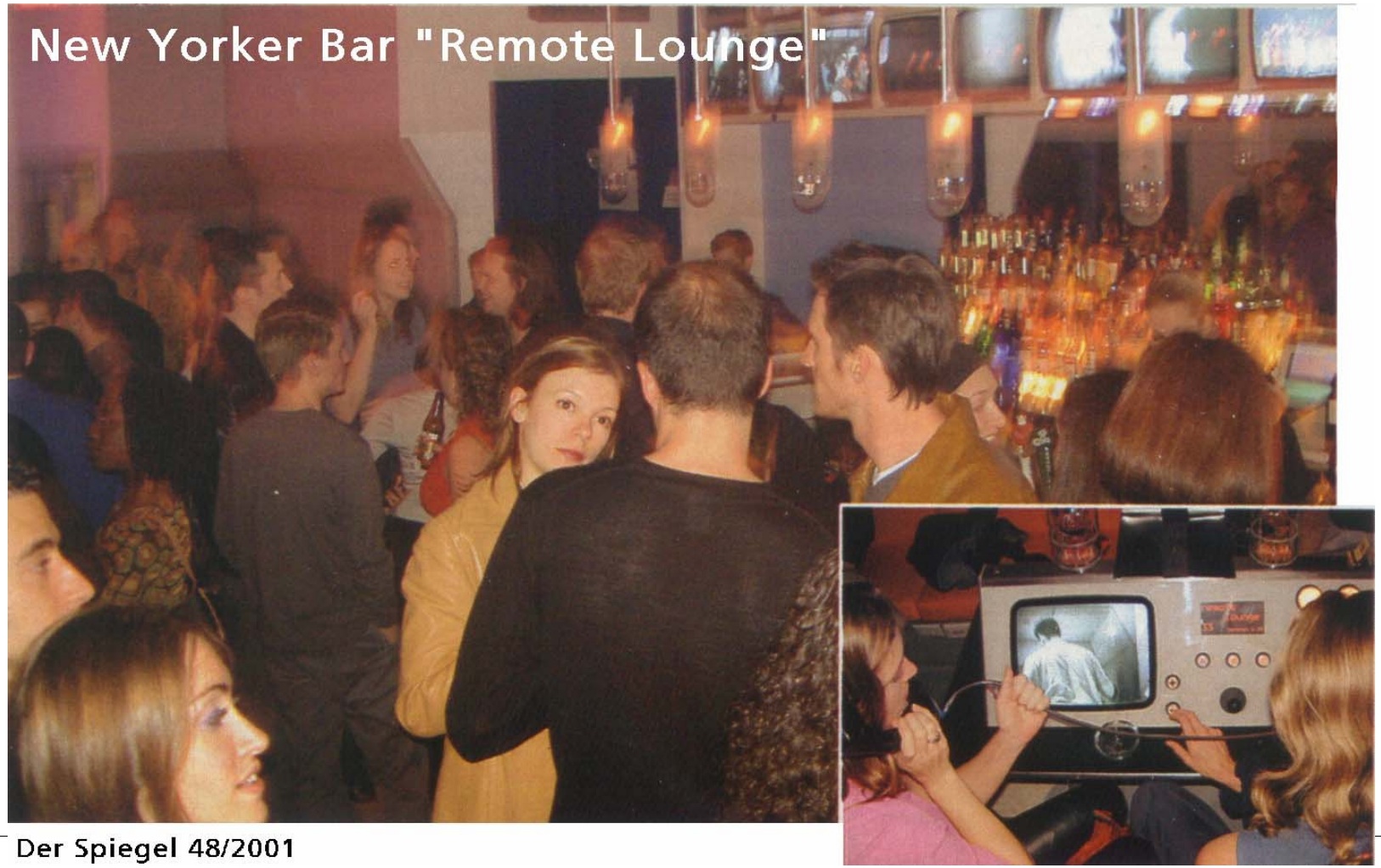
From virtual communication to face-to-face-communication



Der Spiegel 48/2001

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Mobility Effects of Selected Online Services

Conclusions

- Virtual mobility creates new communication sites, which induce a functional usage of offers,
- the Internet is a in/direct means for increasing the potential of mobility of the society,
- within sub-groups special ways of usage can be observed which have traffic relevant impacts.

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Mobility Effects of Selected Online Services, also mobile phone-based

Perspective

- Physical presence sometimes is secondary as long as the purpose of activity is achieved,
- individual decision considerations will determine alternatives of physical and virtual mobility,
- due to adaptive usage new virtual patterns of behaviour appear,
- but this process gradually intensifies supplementary media (phone, letters) and leads to personal encounter, finally.

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Thank you very much for your attention!

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