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# **The Performance of High Speed Rail in France: From Appraisal Methodologies to Ex-Post Evaluations**

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# Contents

- 1) HSR “models” in Europe and in France
  - HSR in Europe: an overview
  - HSR in France: the Paris – Lyon « model »
- 2) The conditions of HSR success in France
- 3) Is French HSR network close to its optimal size?



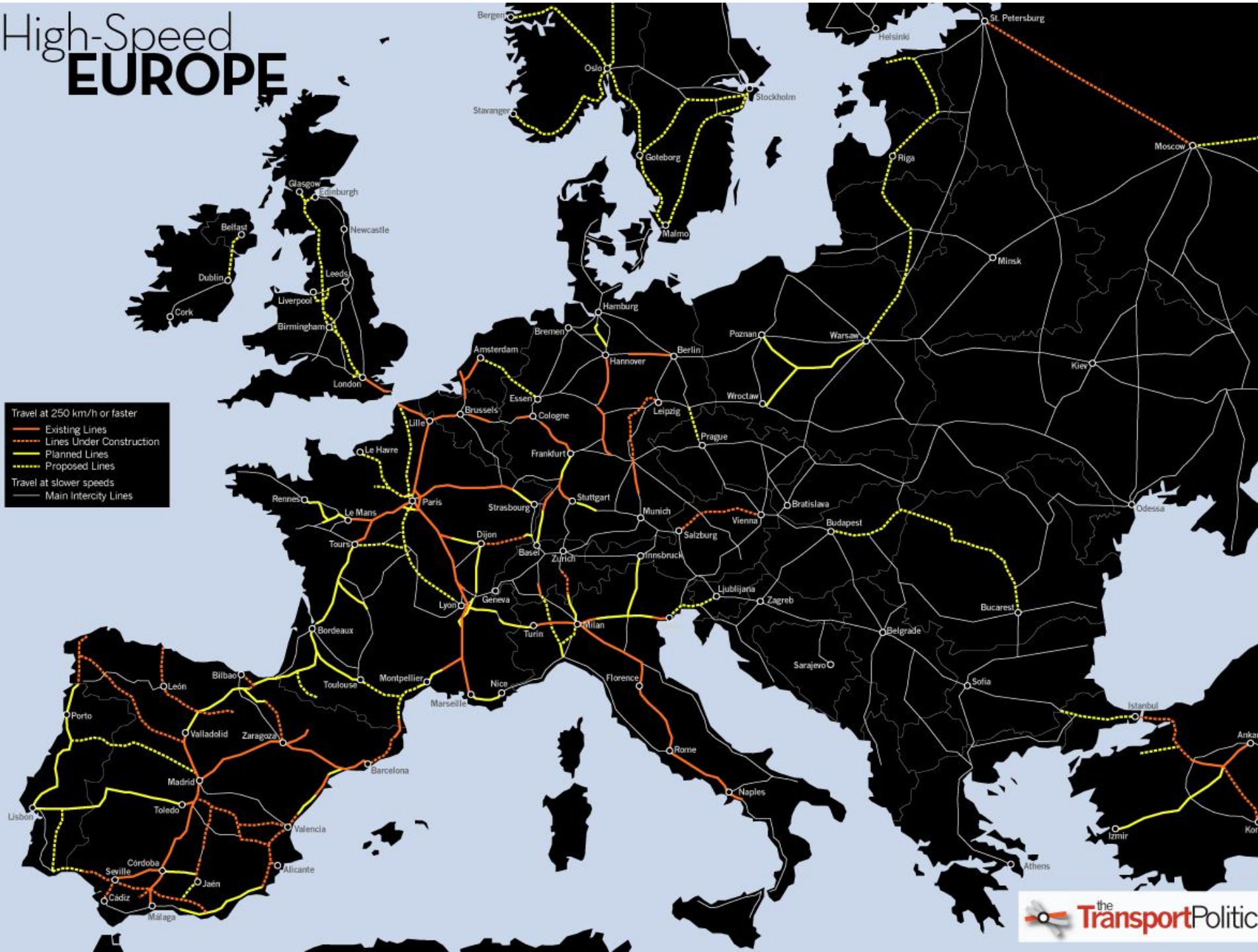
# European Union

## White Paper goal n°4

- **By 2050, complete a European high-speed rail network.**
- **Triple the length of the existing high-speed network by 2030 and maintain a dense railway network in all Member States.**
- **By 2050, the majority of medium-distance passenger transport should go by rail**



# High-Speed EUROPE





# L'EUROPE DE LA GRANDE VITESSE

## HIGH SPEED EUROPE

2012

Vitesse autorisée supérieure ou égale à 250 km/h\*

Linespeed over or equal to 250 km/h\*

— Ligne en service (fin 2011)  
Line in operation (as of end of 2011)

- - - Ligne en travaux  
Line under construction

— Ligne en projet avancé, déclarée d'utilité publique ou équivalent  
Line in advanced planning, recognised of public utility (France) or equivalent

Vitesse autorisée comprise entre 200 et 250 km/h\*

Linespeed between 200 and 250 km/h\*

— Ligne en service (fin 2011)  
Line in operation (as of end of 2011)

- - - Ligne en cours d'amélioration  
Line under upgrading works

— Autre ligne  
Other line

\* Une vitesse inférieure est possible sur de courtes sections (traversées de ville, tunnels).

\* Reduced linespeeds may occur on short sections (across urban areas, tunnels).

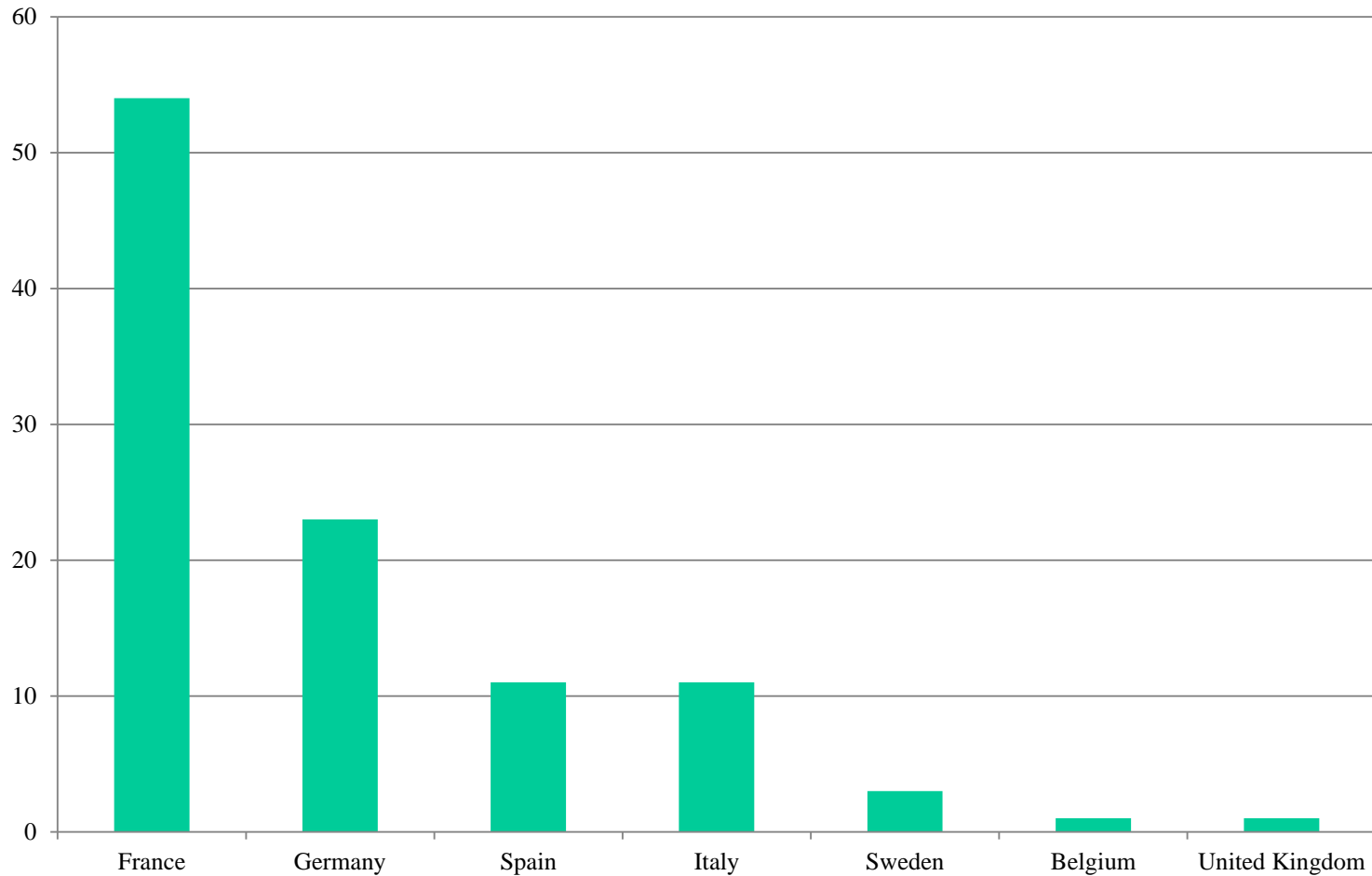
Sources : RFF, Gestionnaires d'infrastructure / Rail infrastructure managers, UIC, Commission Européenne / European Commission Document non-contractuel / Non-binding document

0 100 200 300 km

Juillet 2012 / July 2012



# High Speed Trains Traffics in Europe (Billion of pass.km/year)







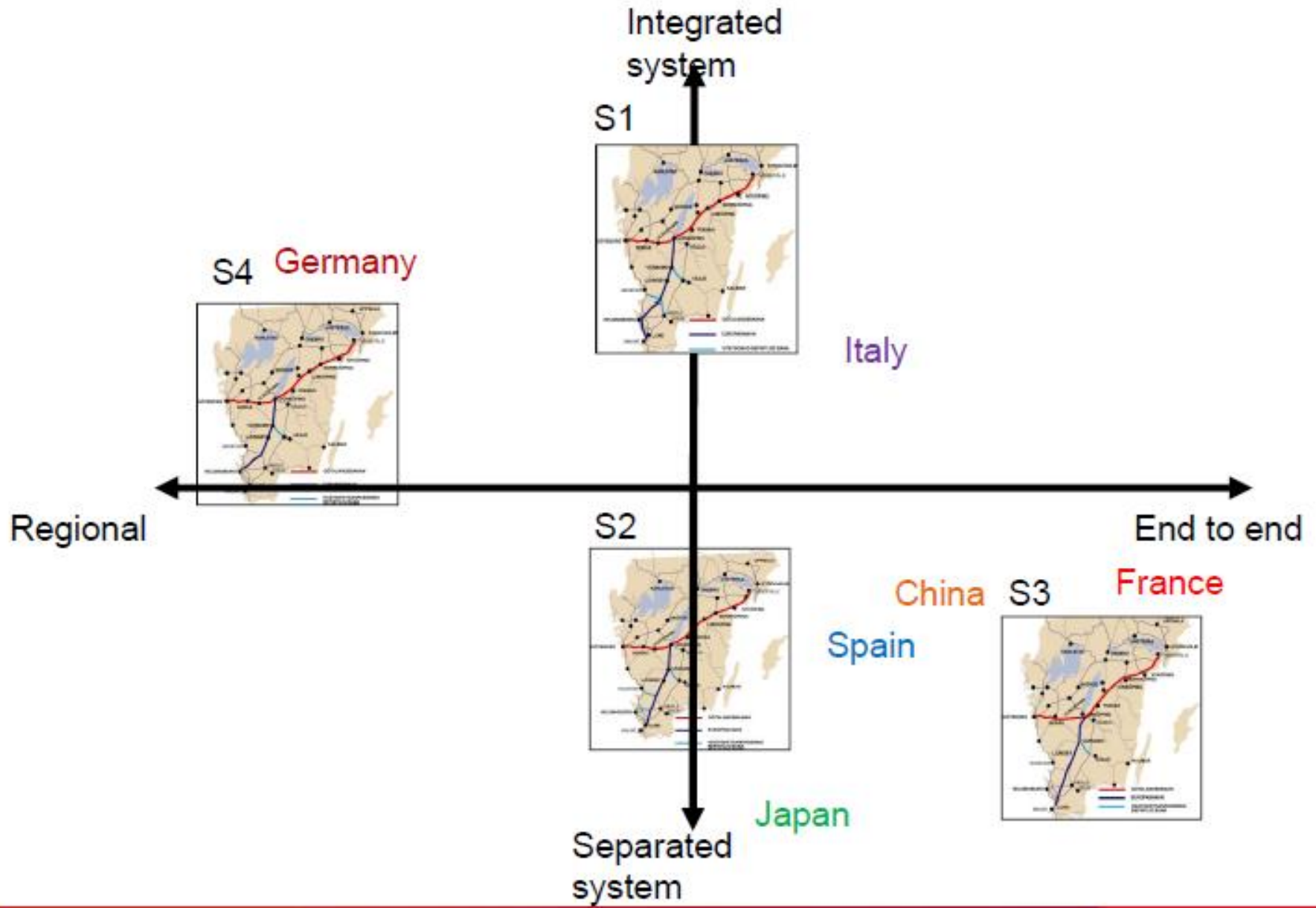
253 gares au total  
dont 53 à l'étranger



(1) à partir du 5 juillet 2009



# A Swedish point of view



# Contents

- 1) HSR “models” in Europe and in France
- 2) The conditions of HSR success
  - Demand side (intensity of traffic)
  - Supply side
- 3) Is French HSR network close to its optimal size?

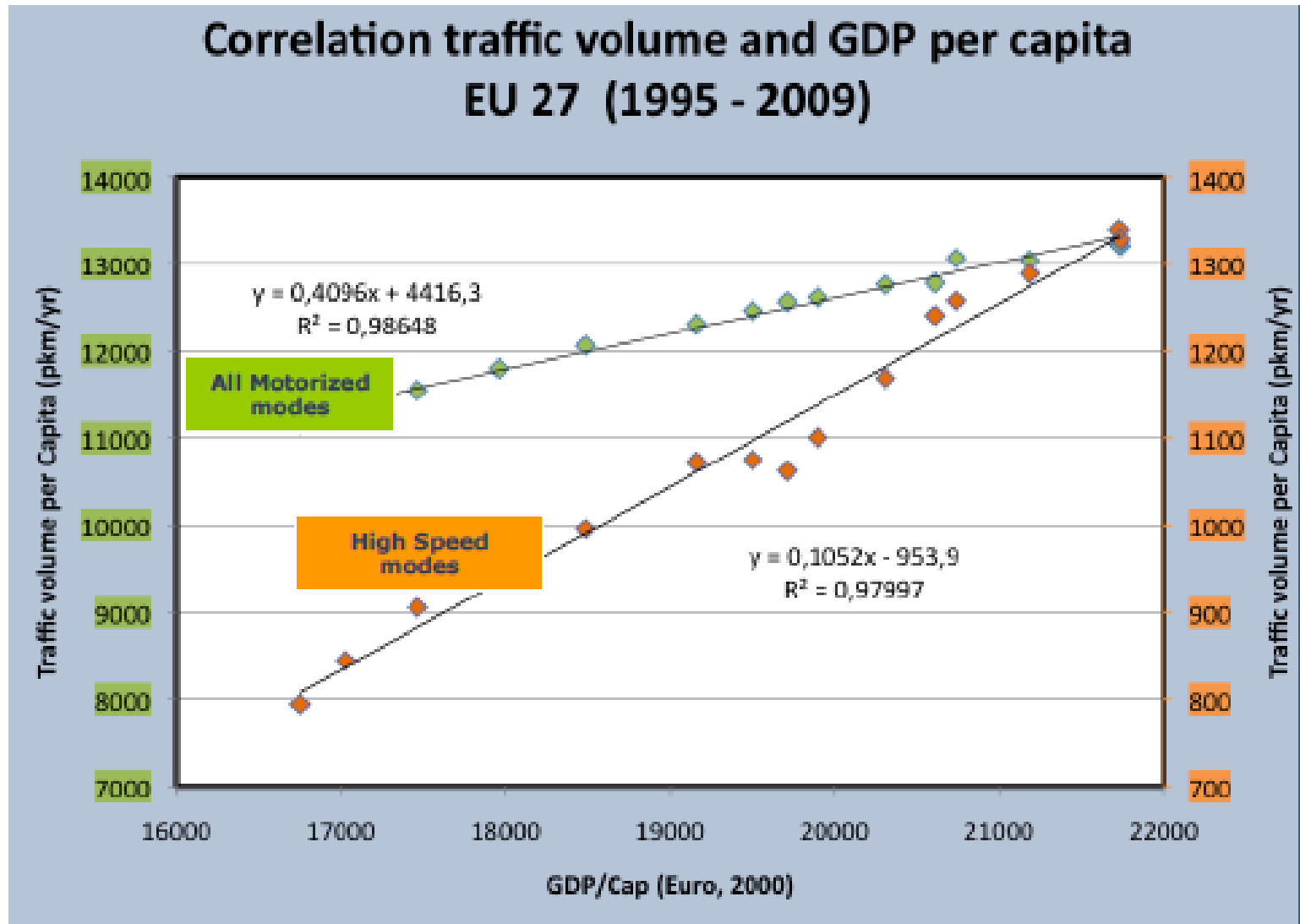


# HSR: the key factor of success

- Geography: size of the cities, distance between cities (gravity model)
- Economy: level of life
- History and institutions
- Rail industry + rail operator
- Technology
- Politics....



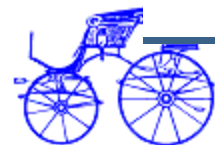
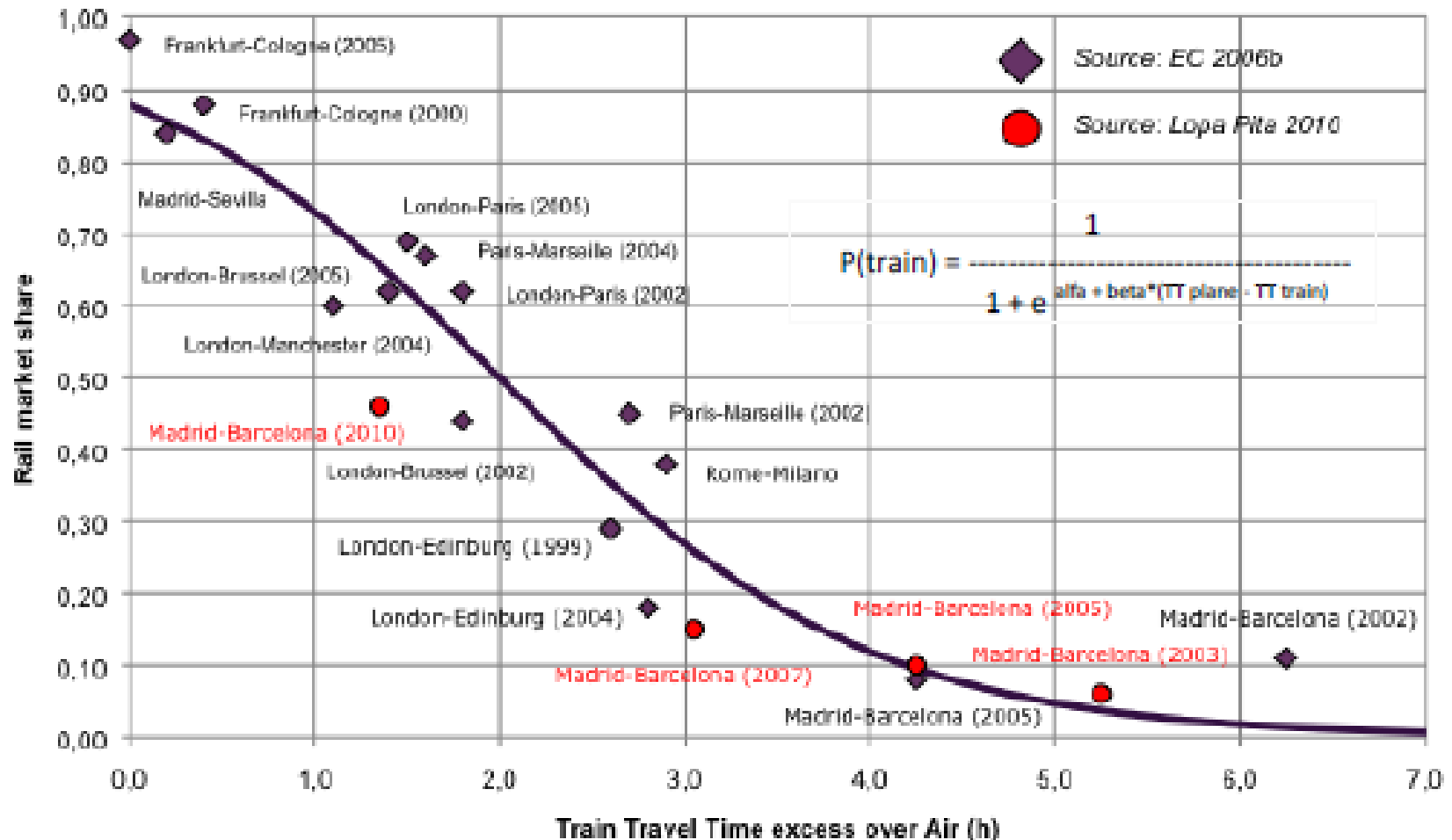
# Passenger Mobility: the demand for speed





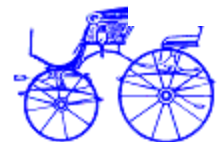
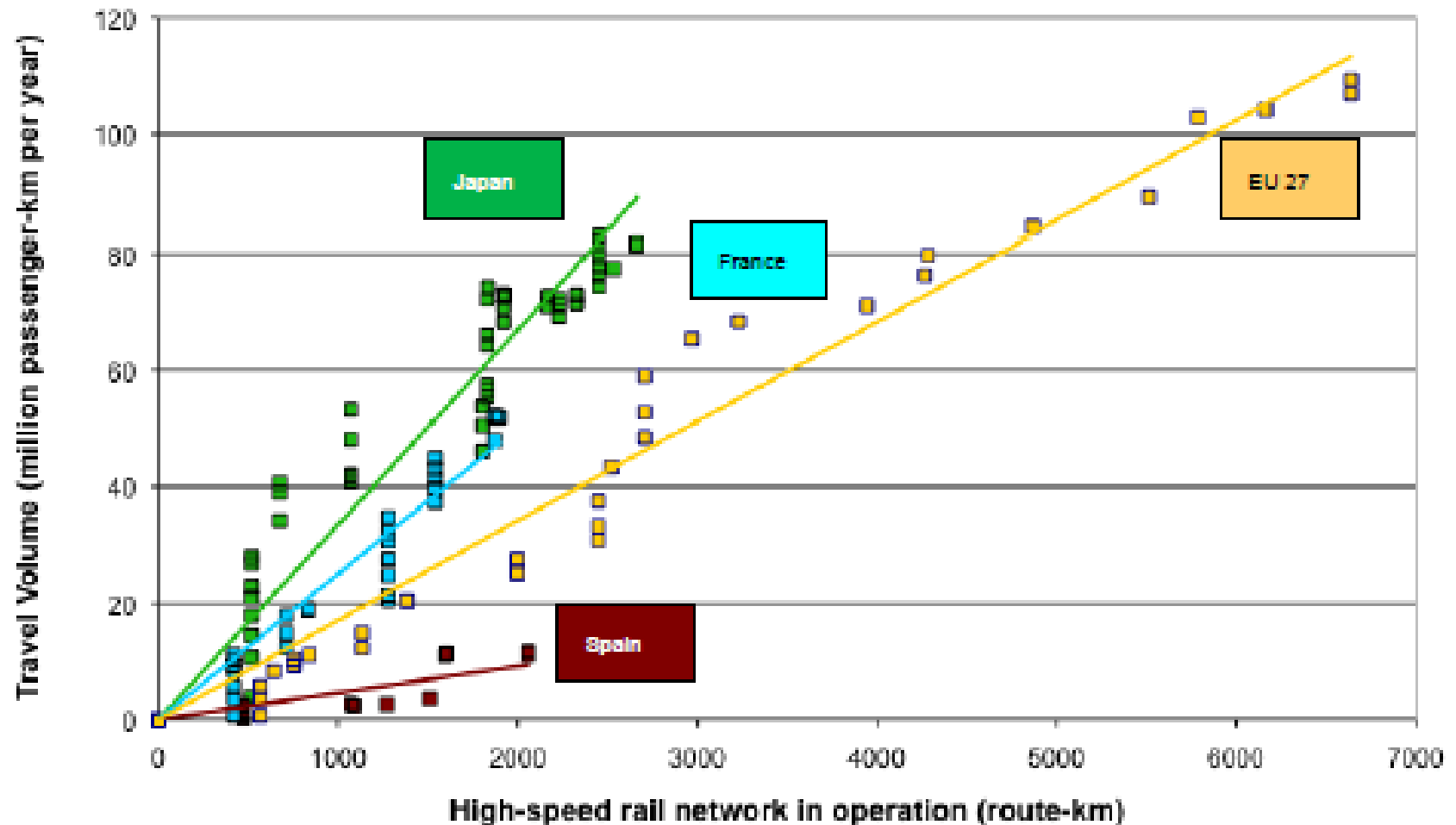
# HSR market share and travel time

## High Speed Rail/ Air Market Share



# Intensity of traffic

Travel Volume versus Network Length  
(1964 - 2011)

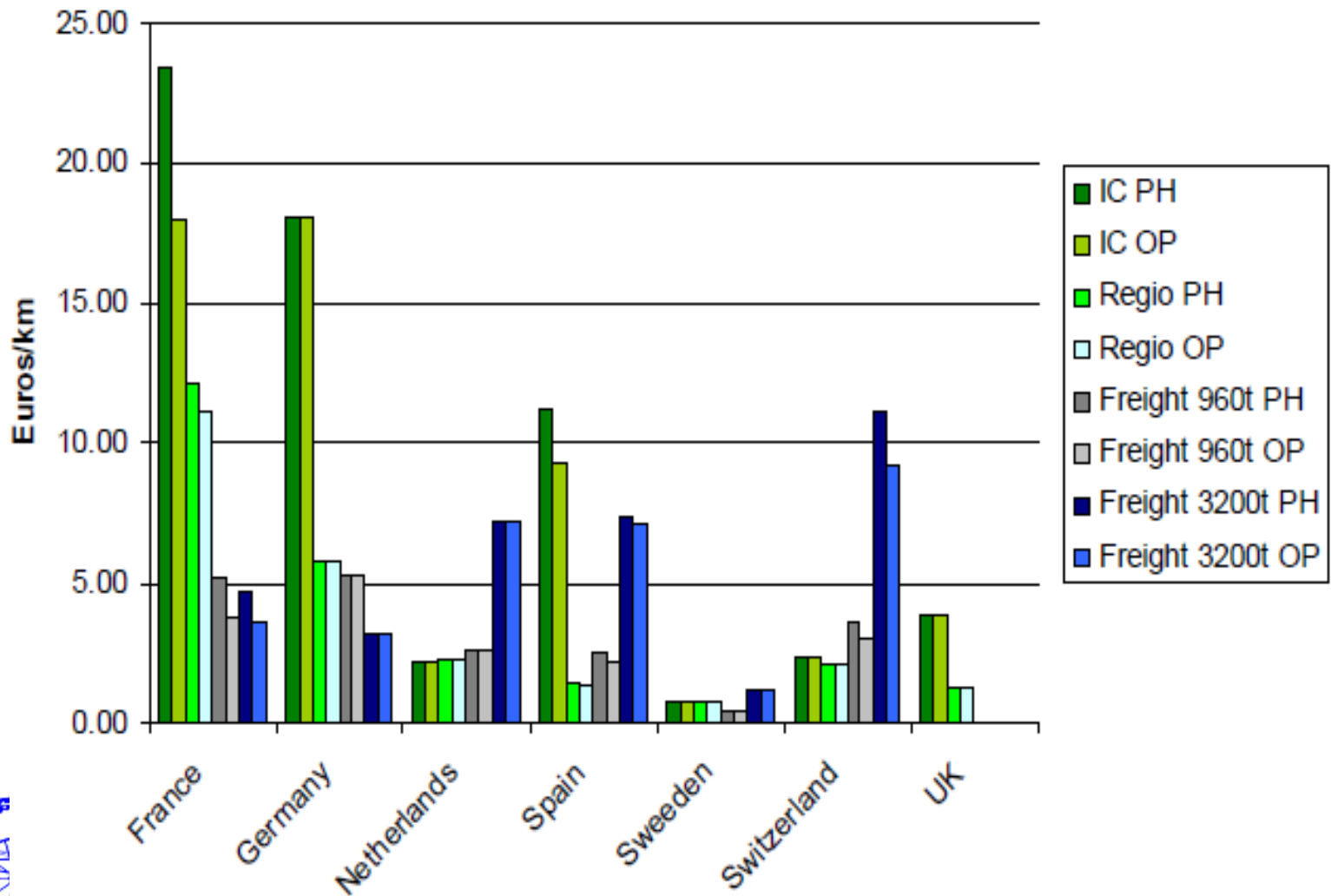


# Supply side (economic viewpoint)

- Appraisal methodologies and traffic forecasts
- Yield management of train operator => high load factor
- Yield management of Rail Access Charges (Ramsey-Boiteux pricing scheme)



# Rail access charges in Europe (2010)





# Contents

- 1) HSR “models” in Europe and in France
- 2) The conditions of HSR success in France
- 3) Is French HSR network close to its optimal size?
  - What do we learn from ex-post evaluations
  - The limits to the extension of HSR network



# From ex-ante to ex-post evaluations

## The socio-economic IRR

|                   | Ex ante | Ex post |
|-------------------|---------|---------|
| LN 1 (Sud Est)    | 28,0%   | ?       |
| LN 2 (Atlantique) | 23,6%   | 12,0%   |
| LN3 (Nord Europe) | 20,3%   | 5,0%    |
| Interconnexion    | 18,5%   | 15,0%   |
| LN4 (Rhône-Alpes) | 15,4%   | 10,6%   |
| LN5 (Med)         | 12,2%   | 8,1%    |

$$\text{NPV} = \sum_{j=t_p-t_r}^{j=t_n-t_r} \frac{-\Delta I_j + \Delta R_j - \Delta C_j + \Delta A_j}{(1+a)^j} + \frac{K_{t_n}}{(1+a)^{t_n-t_r}}$$



# 4 new HSR lines under construction (2011-2017)

|                                 | EAST | BPL  | CNM  | SEA  | Total |
|---------------------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Total cost (million euro)       | 2000 | 3300 | 1800 | 7800 | 14900 |
| Length (km)                     | 106  | 182  | 80   | 303  | 671   |
| Cost/km (million euro)          | 18,9 | 18,1 | 22,5 | 25,7 | 22,2  |
| Paid by RFF (million euros)     | 520  | 1400 | 0    | 1000 | 2920  |
| Paid by central gvnmt (million) | 680  | 950  | 1200 | 1500 | 4330  |
| Paid by local gvnmt (million)   | 640  | 950  | 600  | 1500 | 3690  |
| Paid by EU + Luxembourg         | 160  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 160   |

## The risk of HSR for daily commuting

- HSR  
Marseille-  
Nice
- Public  
subsidies =  
15 billion  
euros
- Between 30  
and 40  
euros/pass/  
day!





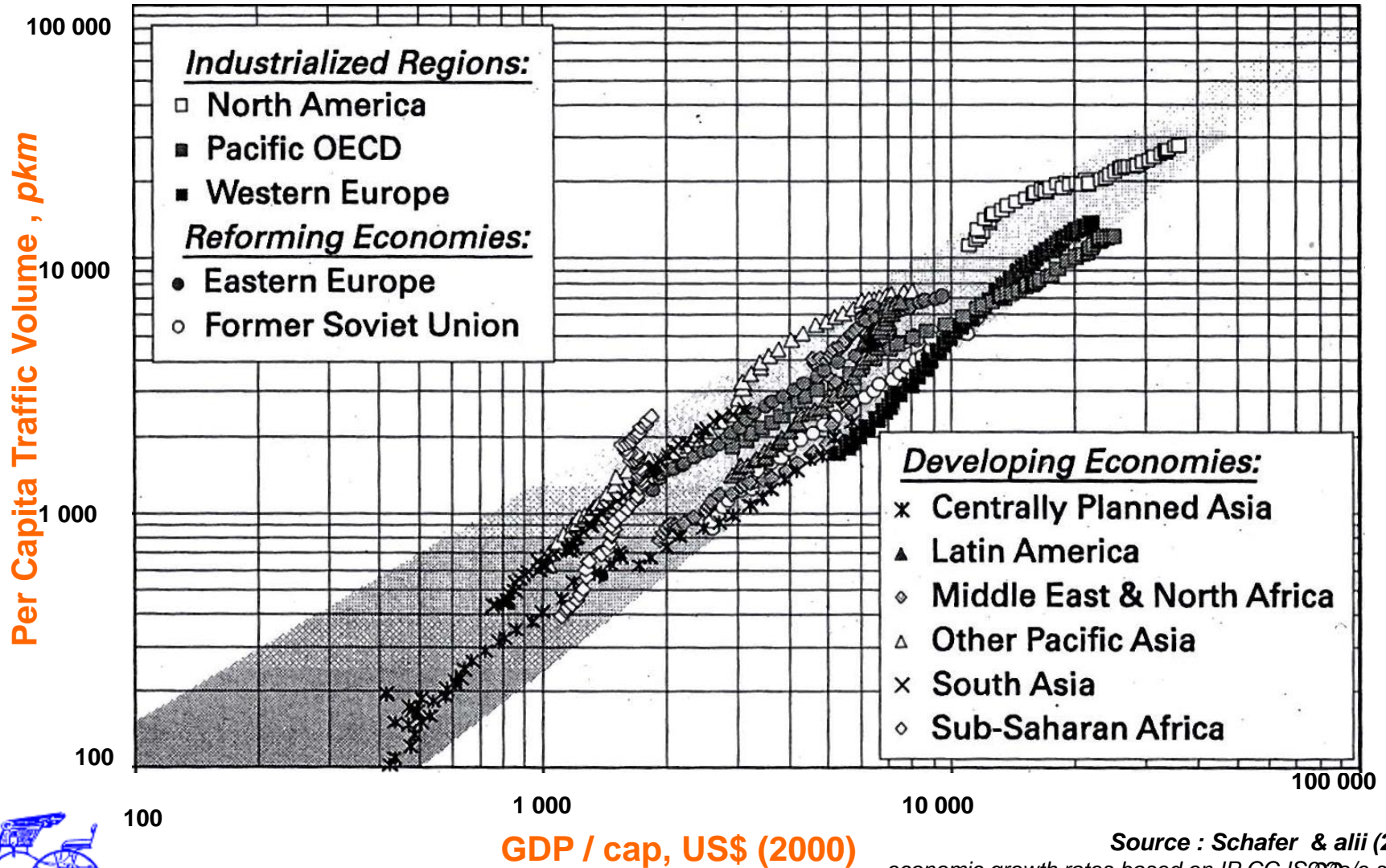
# Conclusion

- HSR is a success in France from an economic point of view (ex-post CBA)
- But don't forget that the main winners of HSR are the users, SNCF, RFF and the rail industry
- There is no observed “wider economic effects”
- HSR is part of the standard of life of developed countries (demand for speed)
- HSR is the fruit of economic growth, but few effects of HSR on economic growth



# Global mobility

(data points : 1960-2000)



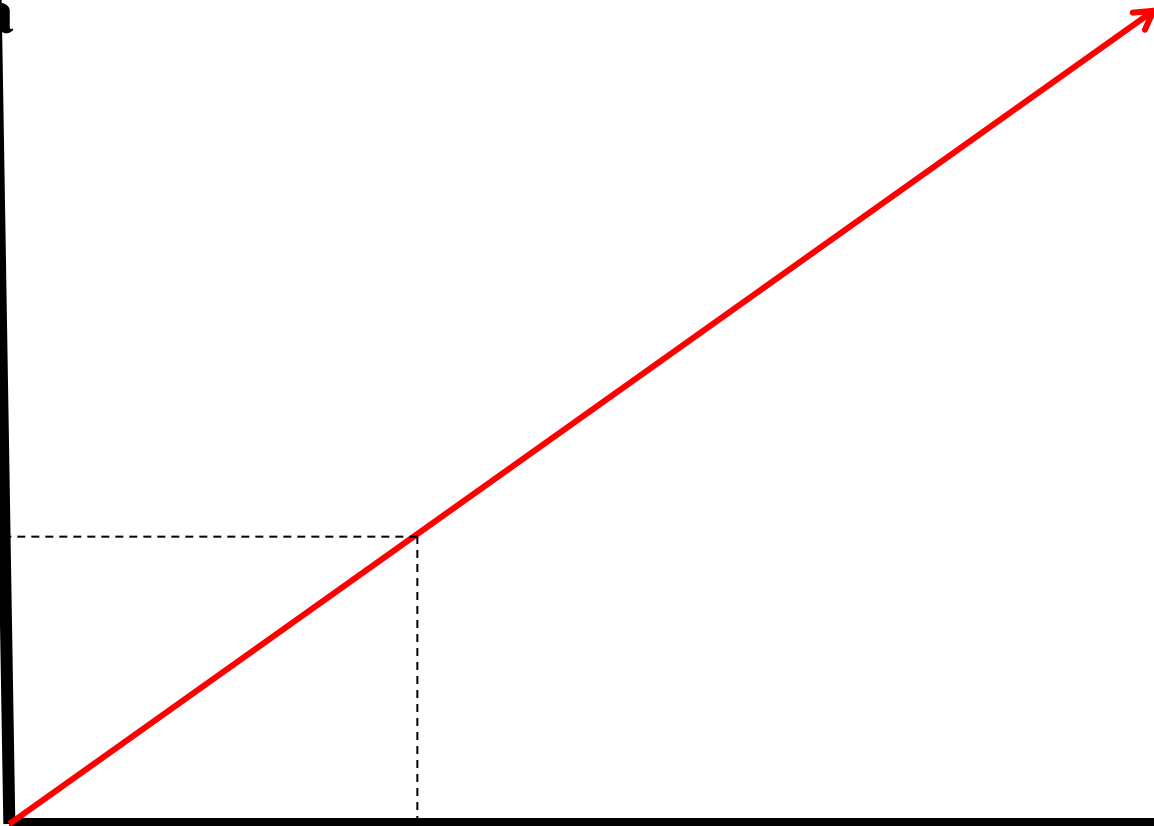
Source : Schafer & alii (2009) :  
economic growth rates based on IP CC IS92a/e scenario



# Correlation between accessibility and GDP/capita

GDP/capita

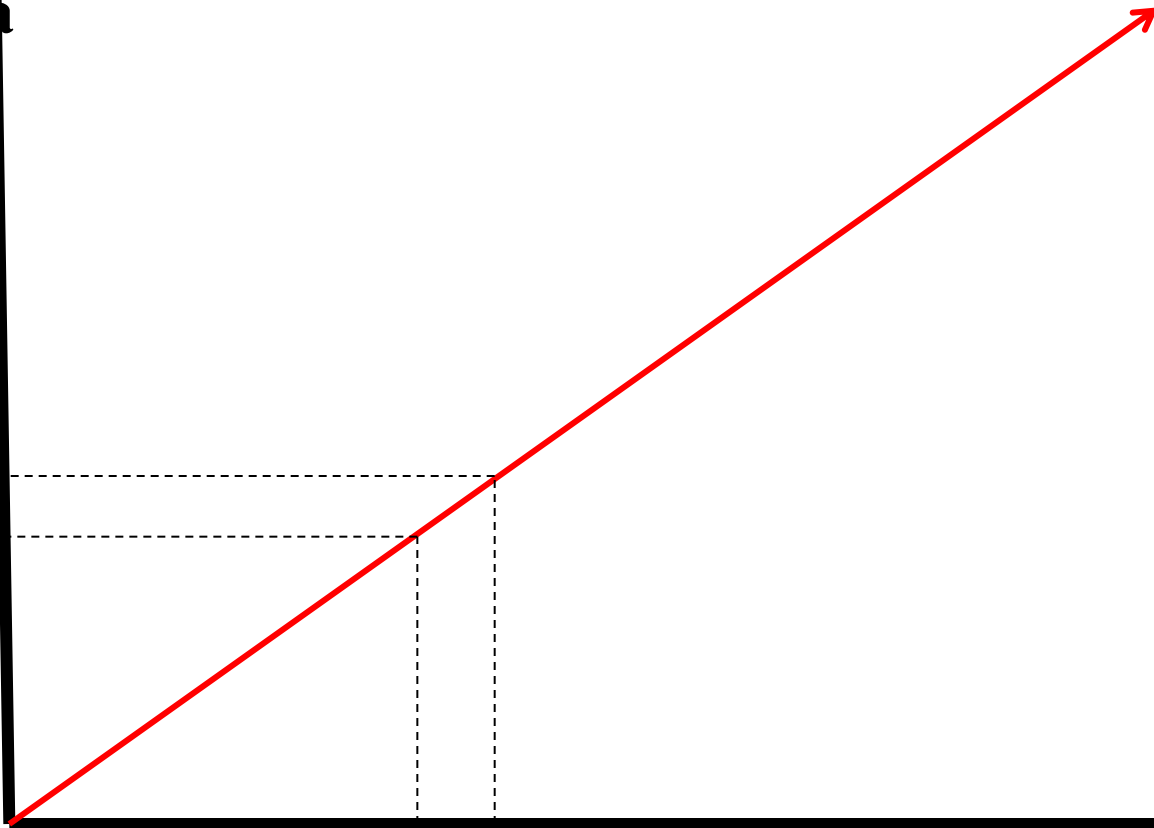
Number of  
Accessible  
Jobs in 40'



# Correlation between accessibility and GDP/capita

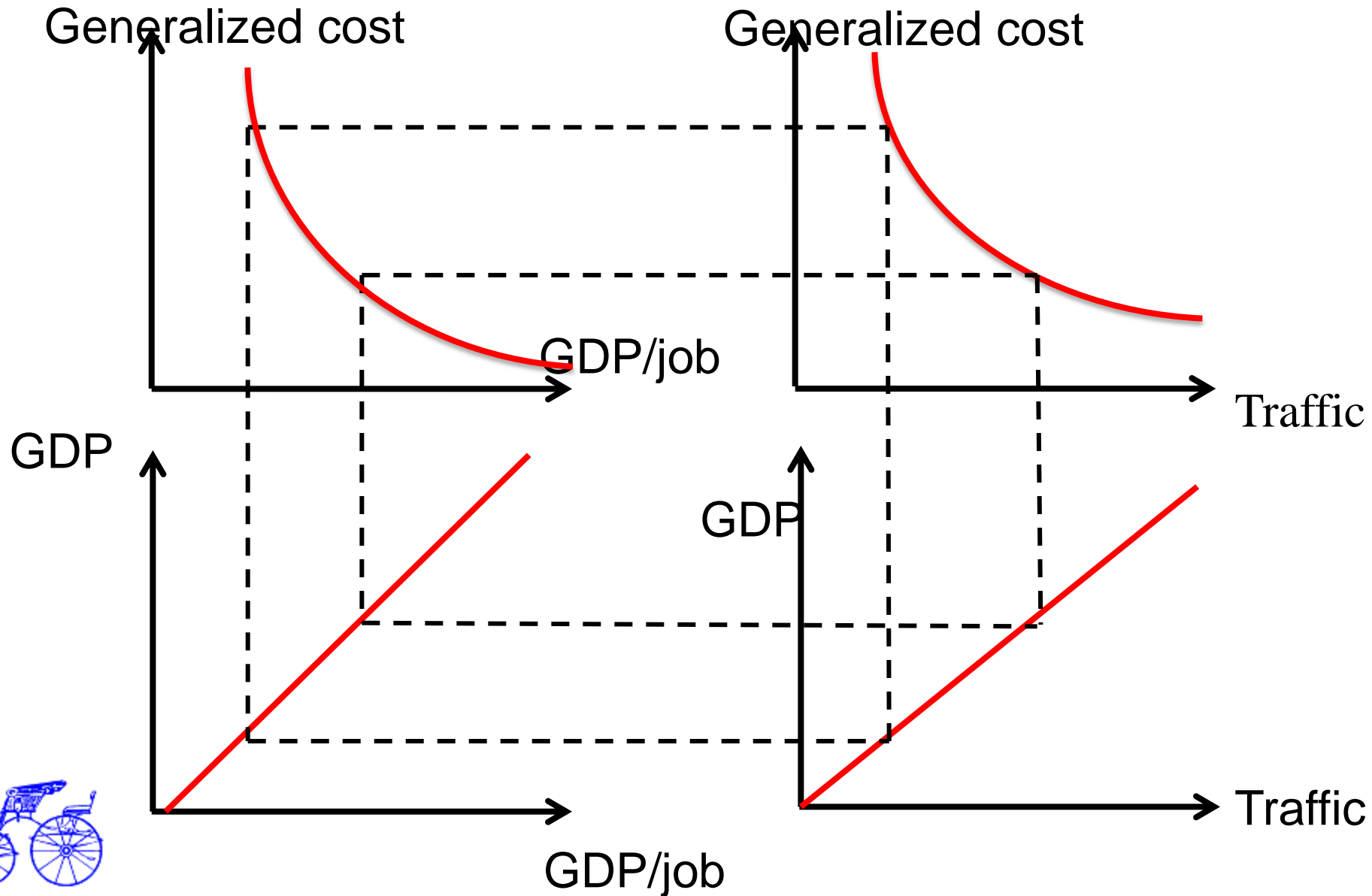
GDP/capita

Number of  
Accessible  
Jobs in 40'

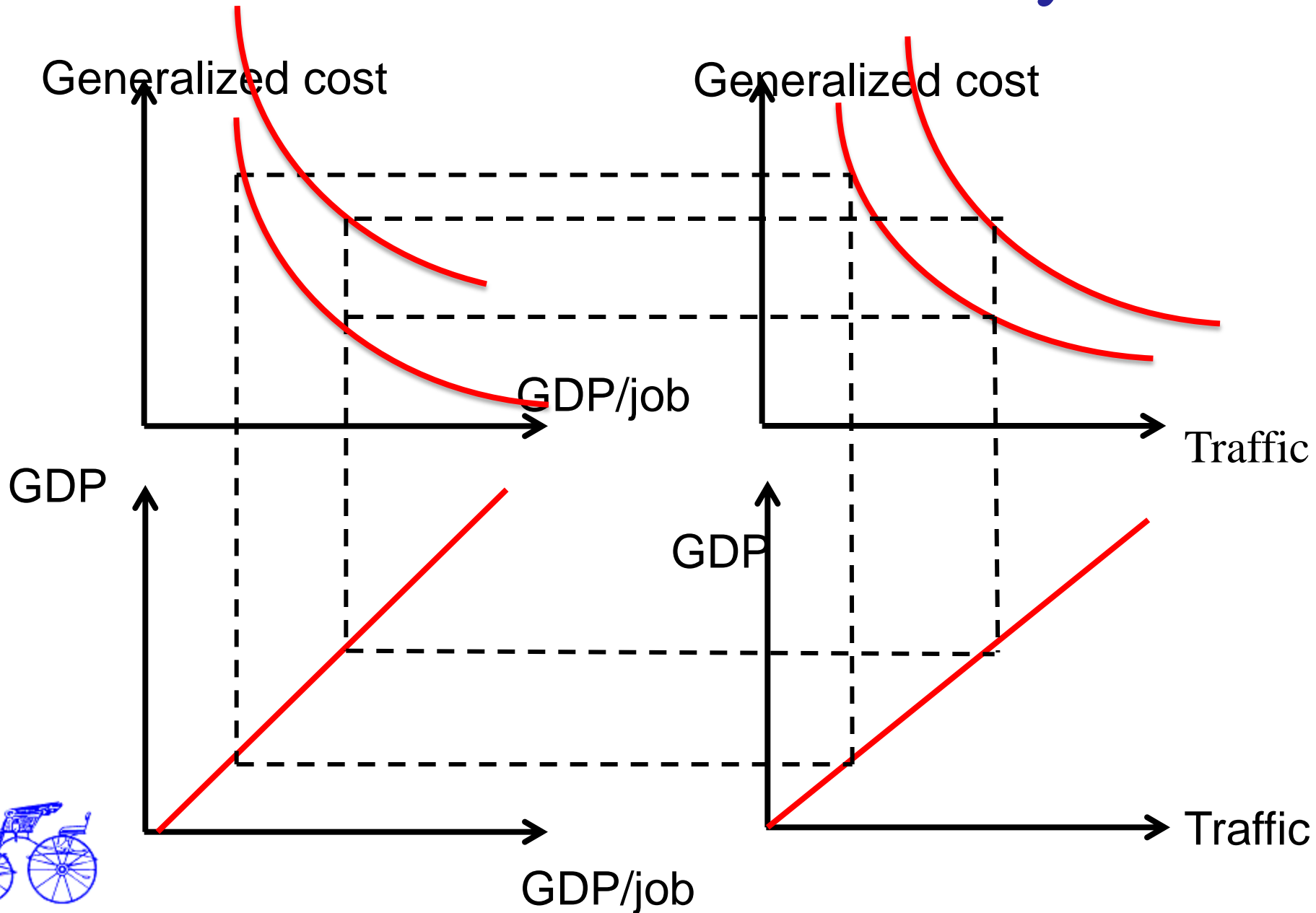




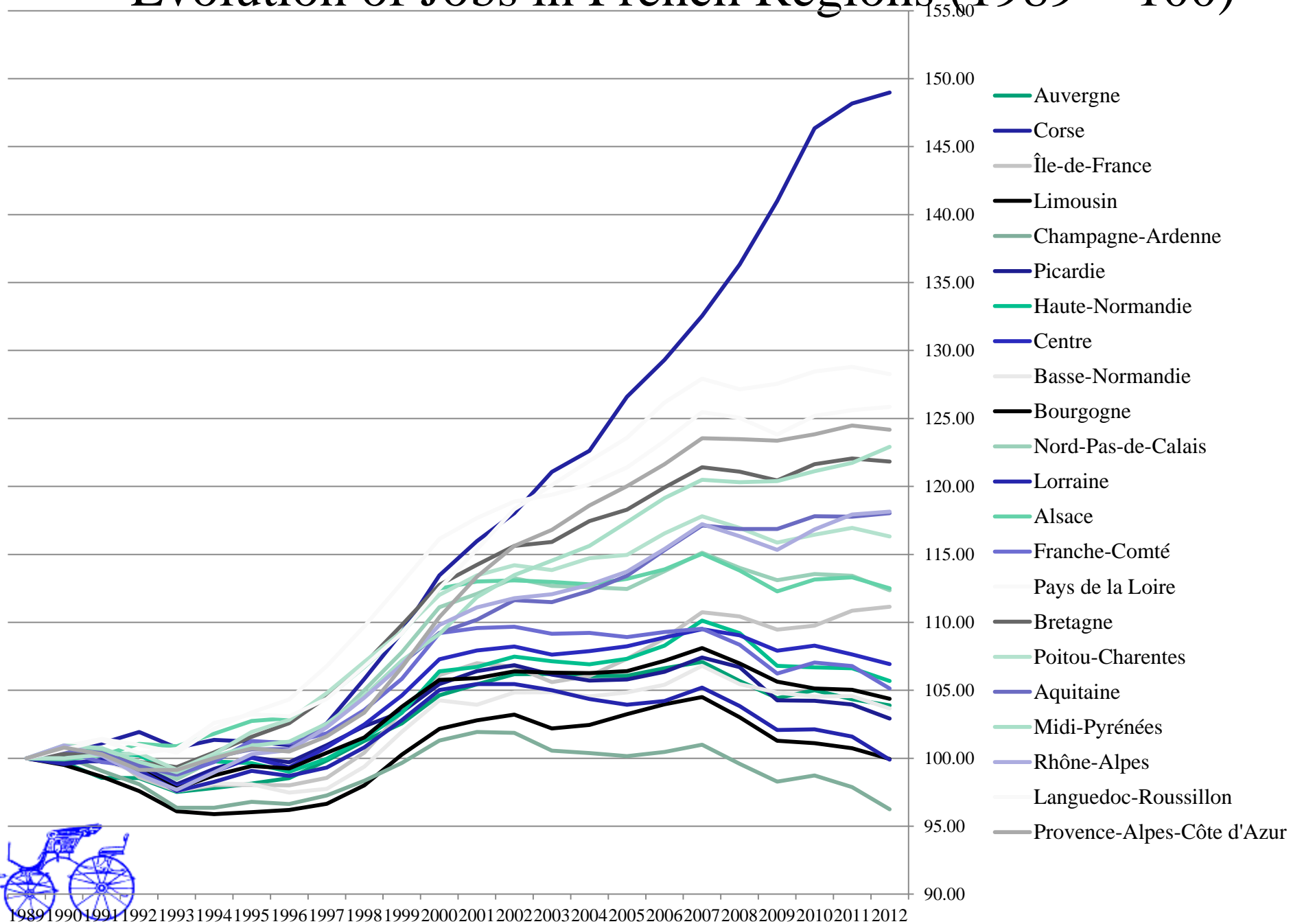
# Correlation is not causality

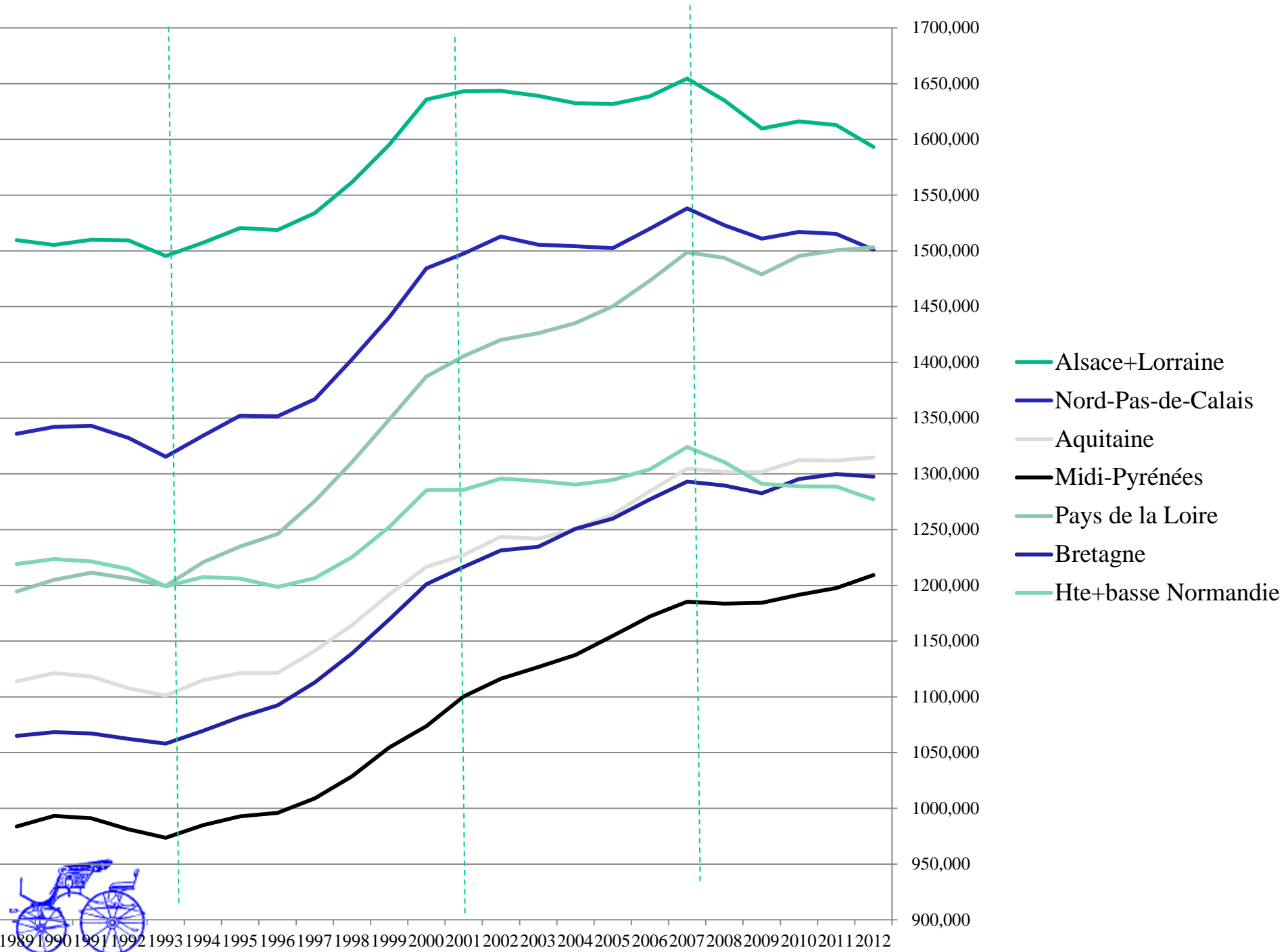


# Correlation is not causality



# Evolution of Jobs in French Regions (1989 = 100)





# Energy and Equity (Ivan Illich and J.P. Dupuy 1973)

- The more you increase speed, the more you reduce equity
- From the generalized cost to the generalized speed or « effective speed »
- Ef. Speed =  $1 / (1/S) + (k/w)$



# Effective speed

## I. Illich, *Energy and equity*, 1973

- Average speed = harmonic speed =  $n / [(1/V_1) + (1/V_2)]$
- Bicycle
- $1 / [(1/V) + (k/W)]$
- $1 / [(1/14) + (0,001/8)] = 13,9$
- Supersonic « Concord  
« in 2000
- $1 / [(1/2000) + (1/6)] = 6$
- Subsonic aircraft
- $1 / [(1/600) + (0,1/8)] = 70 \text{ km/h}$
- HSR
- $1 / [(1/200) + (0,15/8)] = 40 \text{ km/h}$
- Heavily subsidized HSR
- $1 / [(1/200) + (0,5/8)] = 14,8 \text{ km/h}$

•  = non sustainable