

SFSCon 2006

SELF



sharing knowledge about free software

Why SELF?

- Science, Education and Learning in *Freedom*
- Learning is at the heart of every society
- *Everyone* uses computers, all the time, from preschool to retirement
- Hammer and nails of the future is a keyboard and mouse (we learn to use tools!)

EC

- We need education on Free Software if Europe shall reach the Lisbon goals to become the “most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world” by 2010
- That's why we have people from India and Argentina in the project :-)

It's holding us back!

- Lack of awareness
- Lack of qualified teachers
- Lack of educational and training material
- Lack of a *community!*

State of the art

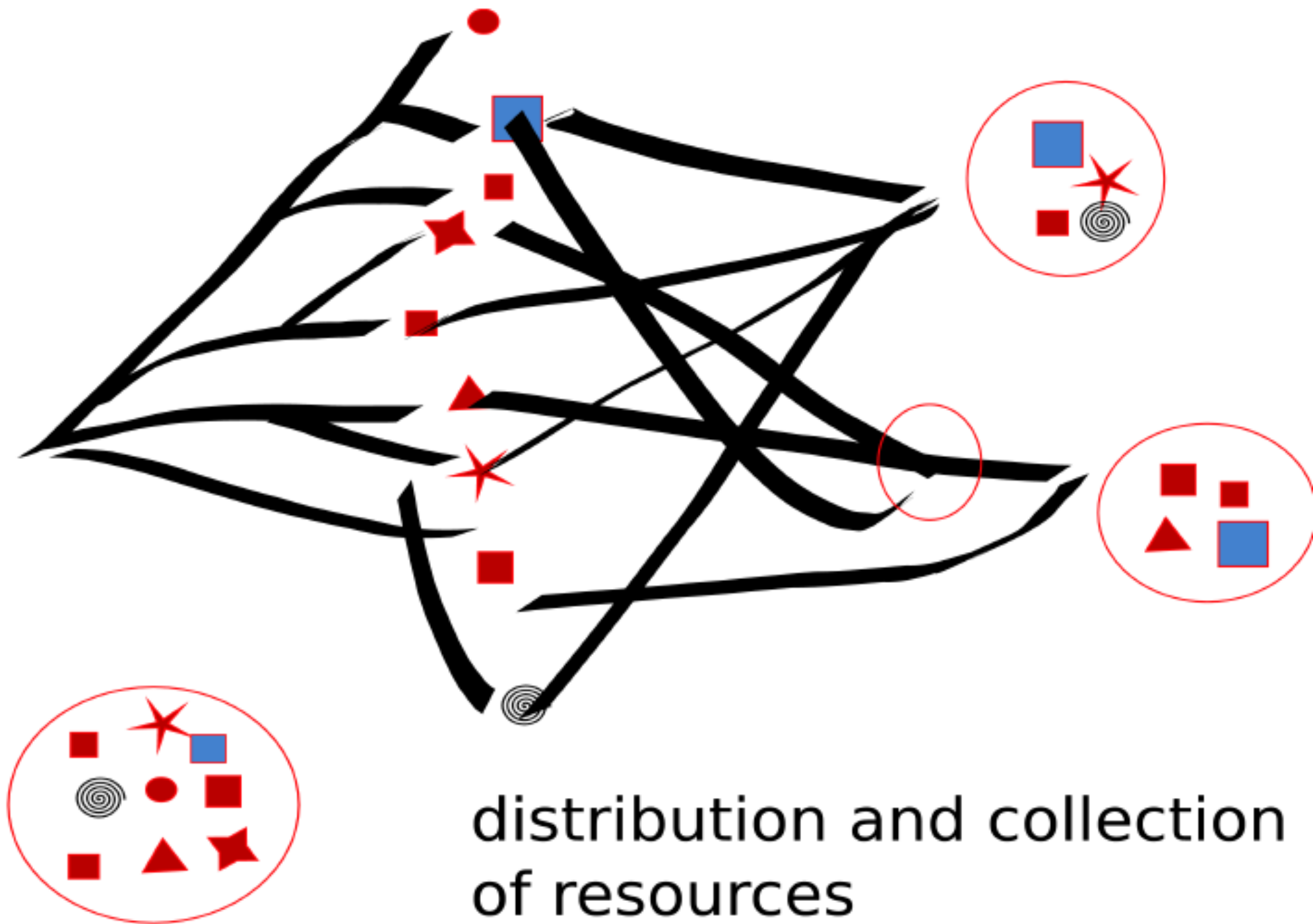
- Why not use any of the existing platforms?
 - ◆ Wikipedia/Wikiversity
 - ◆ Linupedia
 - ◆ TLDP
 - ◆ EdukaLibre
- None of them is particularly well suited; we want a mixture of all, but more importantly:
- We want to do something *(g)new!*

What's (g)new?

- Semantic web! (oh, come on, it's *sort* of new!)
- We want more than data, we want *information!*
- What links a book about Open Office to a presentation about Open Office?
- Meet Dr Nagarjun of FSF India and the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education

Gnowsys

- GNOWSYS is a database for distributed semantic computing.
- You can use CL (Common Logic), OWL (Web Ontology Language), etc, to query the database of connected knowledge.
- GNOWSYS is Cool!



It's not just data!

- Gnowsys will allow us to have much more than just a repository of data.
- We will be able to represent learning objects in a connected way
- Each resource in SELF will embody and *propagate* the virtues of freedom and collaboration

What we want

- Course texts
- Presentations
- Instructional and educational videos
- Manuals
- Examples
- Practice quizzes and tests
- ...

Generations



- Most of us here today are lost
- Confucius says: Real knowledge is to know the extent of ones ignorance
- We will *never* know more than those that come after us
- It's human nature, after all

Getting it right

- Our values are impressed upon us by our parents during the first years of our lives
- We may think we know, but we don't
- The real power of freedom will only be realised in those brought up in freedom
- Technology change the way we act, just as freedom will

It's all clear to us now

- Education is the key to freedom
- With the help of SELF, we'll be able to bring education on Free Software to new places
- We will make SELF *the* place to be if you want to learn about Free Software, or teach others about Free Software

What is SELF?

- SELF serves two primary purposes
 - ◆ Provide a platform for collaborative development of educational materials,
 - ◆ Provide educational materials on Free Software and Open Standards
- We will build – and we will demonstrate!
 - ◆ And then we need your help!
- EC projects *always* have problems with community adoption.

Oh yeah, that ODF thing too

- Open Standards are important too, honestly
- The projects contact person with the EC requires us to submit everything in formats that are Open Standards
- This forced the Göteborg University to at least be able to manage ODF
- This might be the first result!

Who are we?



Internet Society Nederland

Internet voor iedereen

Internet Society Netherlands (NL)



Free Software Foundation Europe (DE/EU)



Internet Society Bulgaria (BG)



टाटा मूलभूत अनुसंधान संस्थान
TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH

Tata Institute for Fundamental Research (IN)



Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (ES)



GÖTEBORG
UNIVERSITY

University of Gothenburg (SE)



Fundación Via Libre (AR)

Where do we come from?

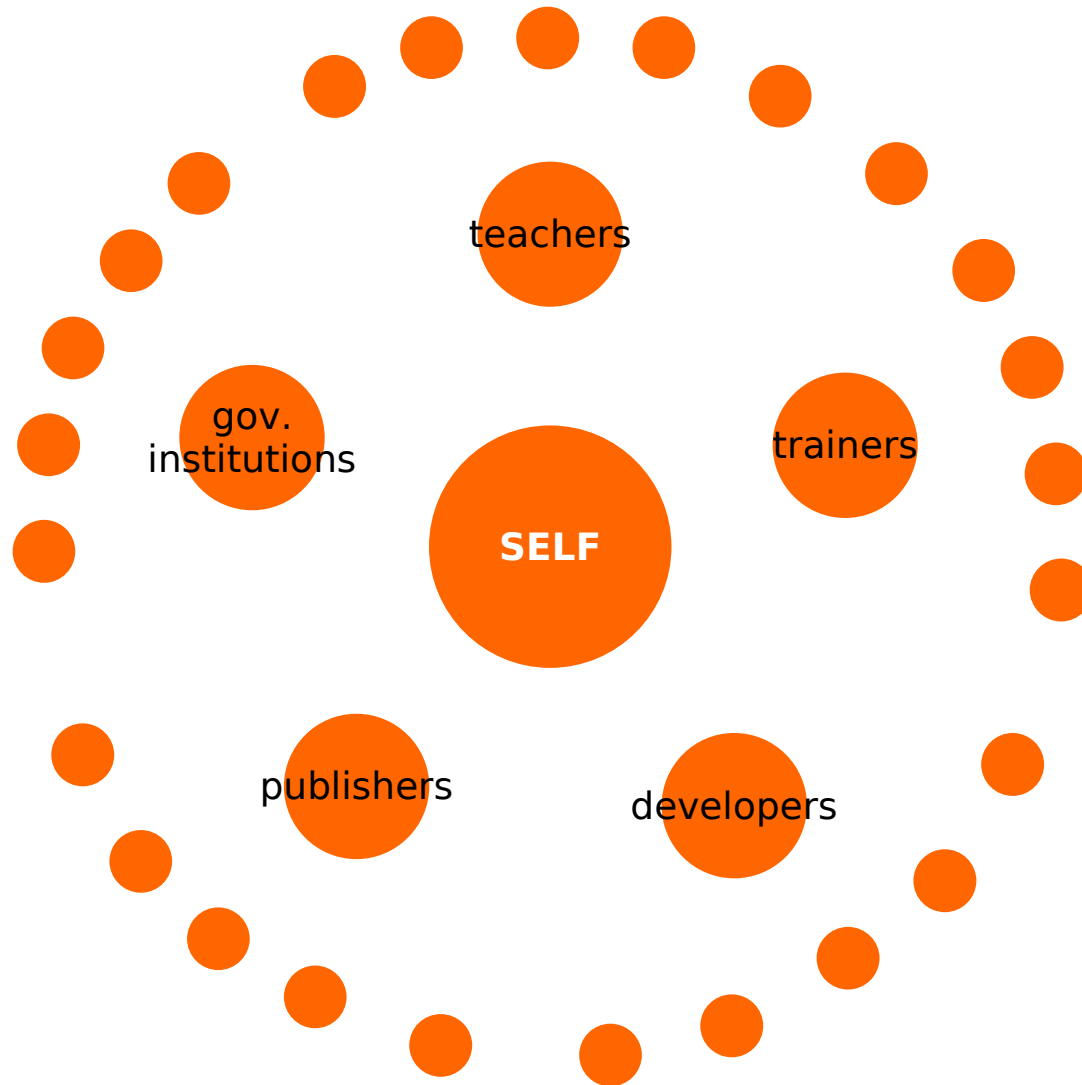
- Three universities: Sweden, Spain and India
- Four community organisations
- Personell from FSFE, FSFI and FSFLA
- This is hardly enough if we want to take on the world!



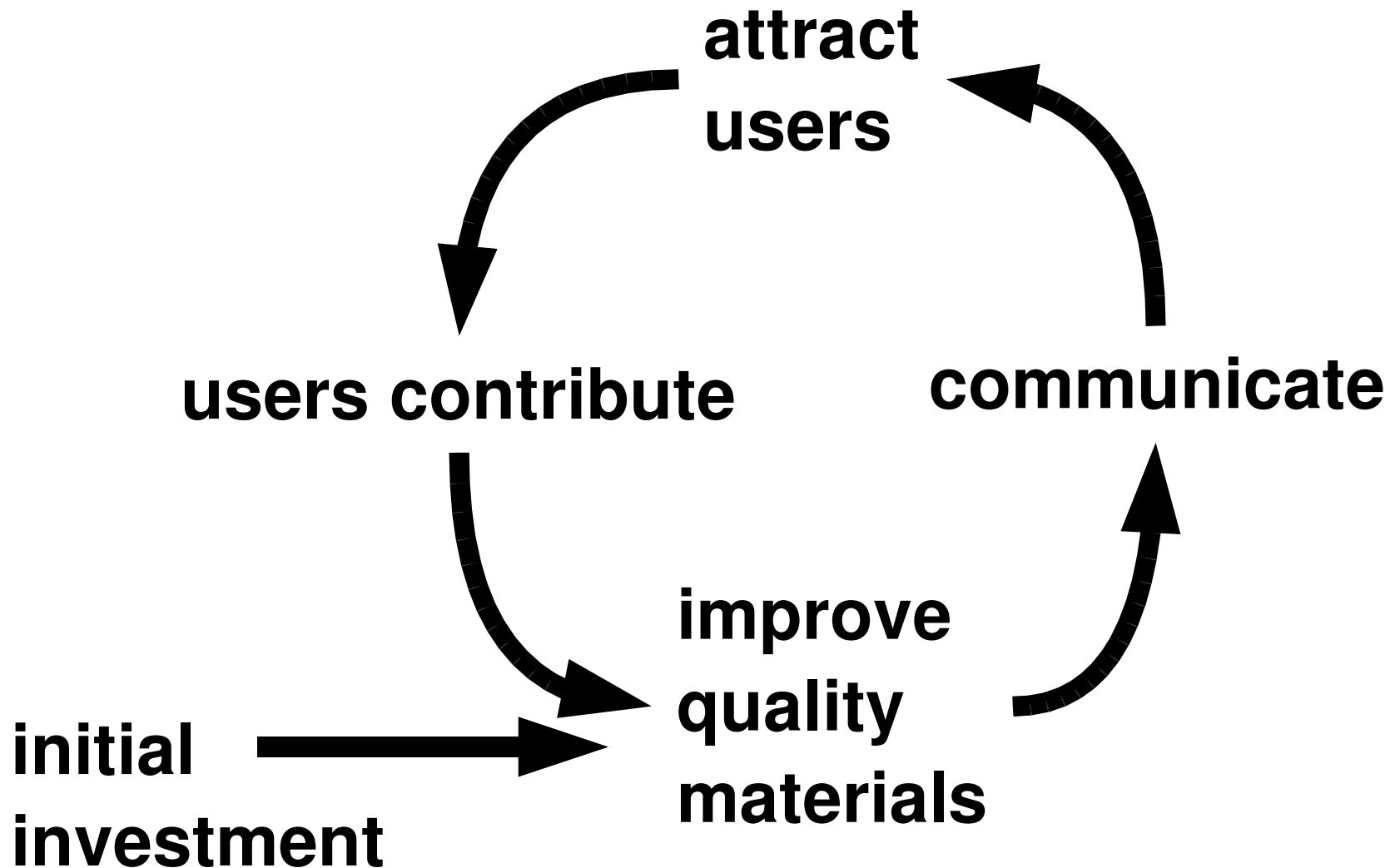
Local initiatives

- The European Commission is funding the project, but there's still a lot of work that can be done locally
- In Sweden, we were just granted money to expand upon SELF and target Swedish schools specifically, with more translated and original material in Swedish

The Community



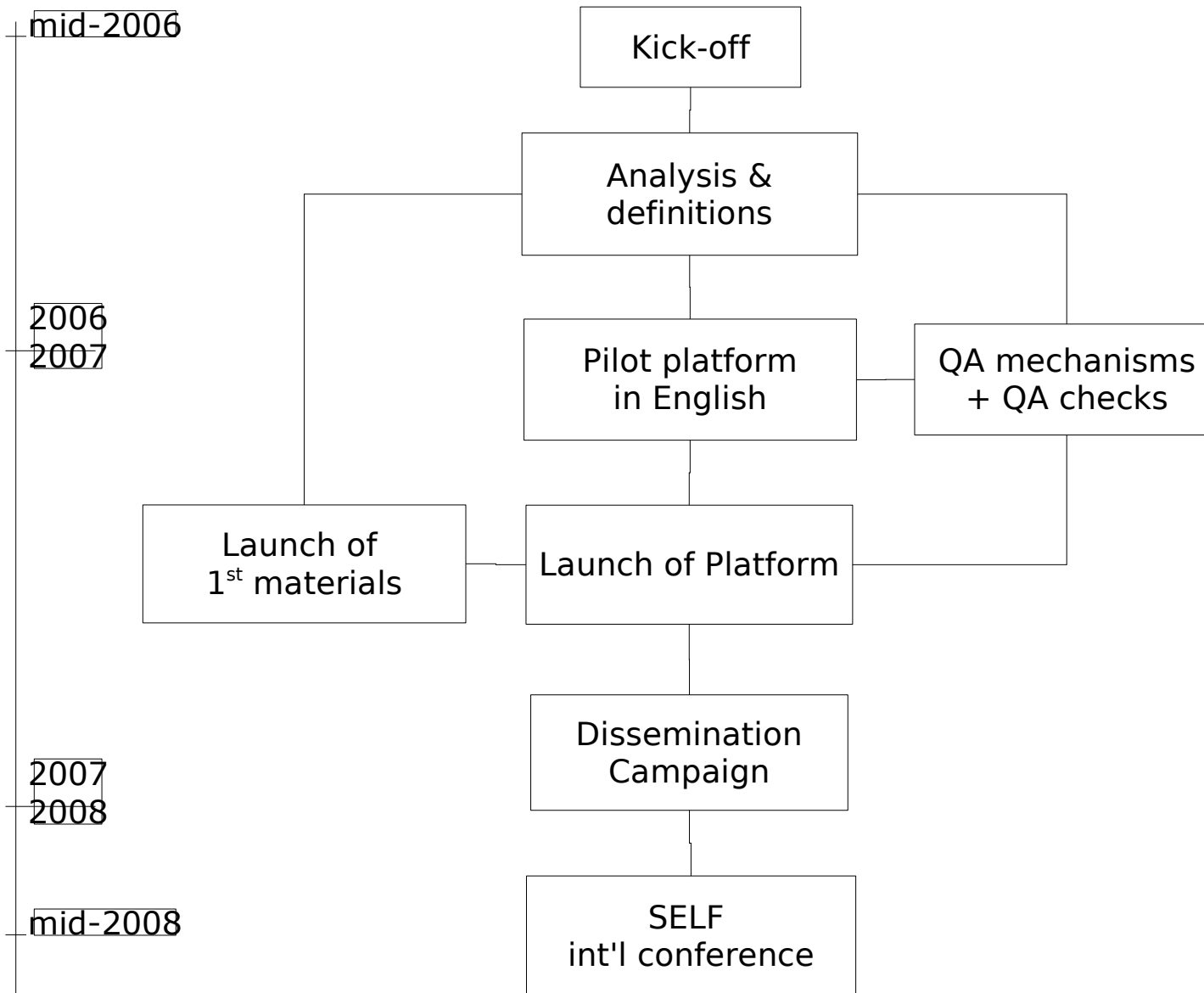
How to reach our goal



Borrowing from Wikipedia

- Web based
- Multi-language
- Freely available content (licensed under one of the approved licenses)
- Collaborative
- Quality controlled

Timeline



What we need

- Learning materials on Free Software and Open Standards
- Enthusiastic developers for Gnowsys and our SELF platform
- Local initiatives to target schools and other actors in the local area
- Writers of all kinds

Am I out of time yet?

Q&A

How to find us



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<http://www.selfproject.eu>