

**SEXUAL LIBERALIZATION IN
CENTRAL ASIA: A MARKER OF
MODERNIZATION OR A
CHOICE OF THE POOREST?**

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Eduard Ponarin, LCSR

Ekaterina Turanova, LCSR

Veronica Kostenko, LCSR

Sofia Lopatina, LCSR

RESEARCH QUESTION

Which factors determine attitudes towards sexual liberalization in Central Asia?



THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

- Modernization, Cultural Change and Democracy: The Human Development Sequence (Inglehart, Welzel, 2005)
- The Rising Tide: Gender Equality and Cultural Change Around the World (Inglehart, Norris, 2003)



HYPOTHESES

People who are more supportive towards sexual liberalization belong to following groups:

- Younger age
- Less religious
- Less traditional
- More educated
- Upper social class

- Those who live in more secure conditions



DATA

6th wave of the World Value Survey (WVS) for three countries: Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.



DEPENDENT VARIABLE

Index of sexual liberalization, which consists of five variables:

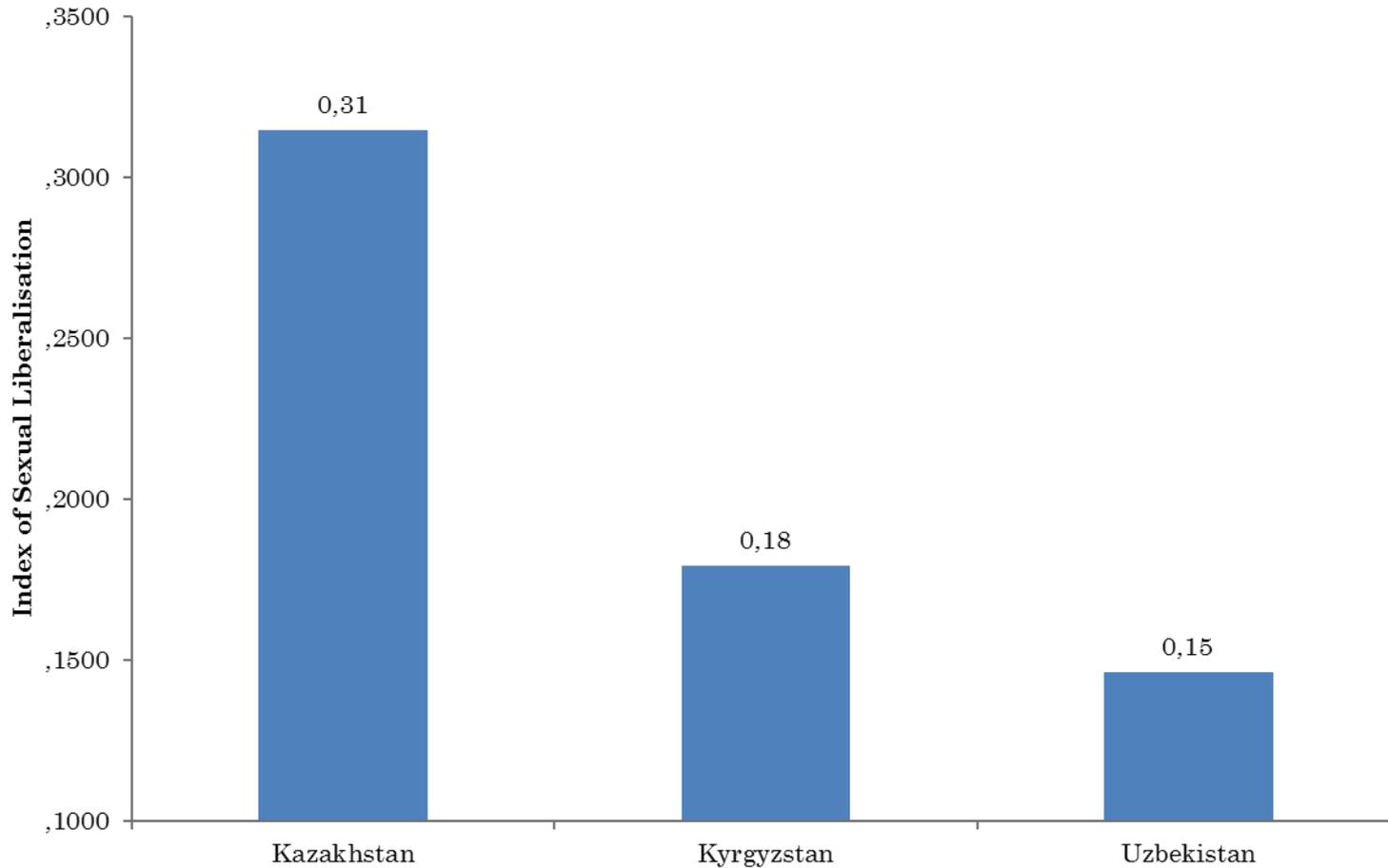
“Please tell me for each of the following actions whether you think it can always be justified, never be justified, or something in between”

1. Homosexuality
2. Prostitution
3. Abortion
4. Divorce
5. Sex before marriage

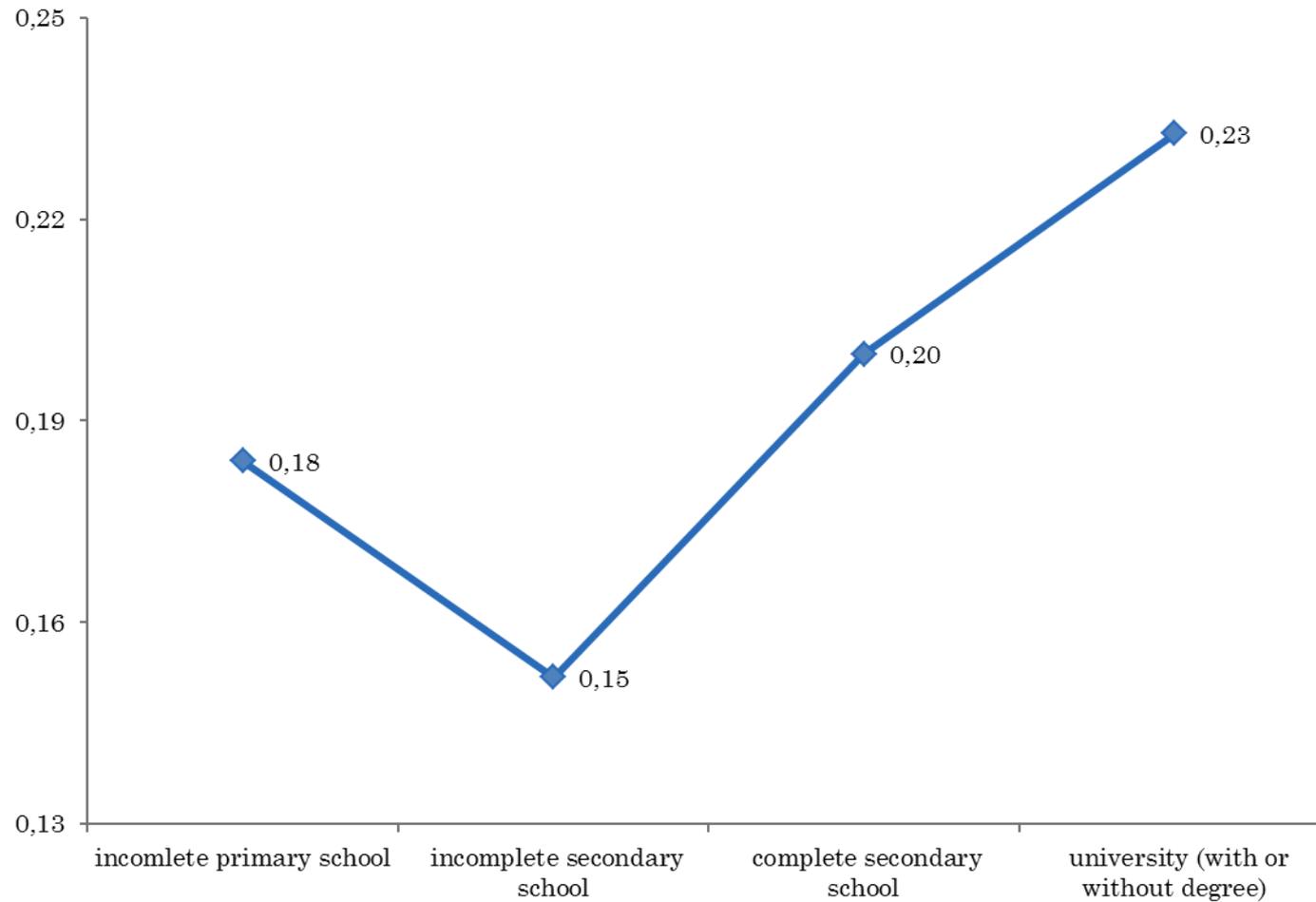
Cronbach's alpha = ,811



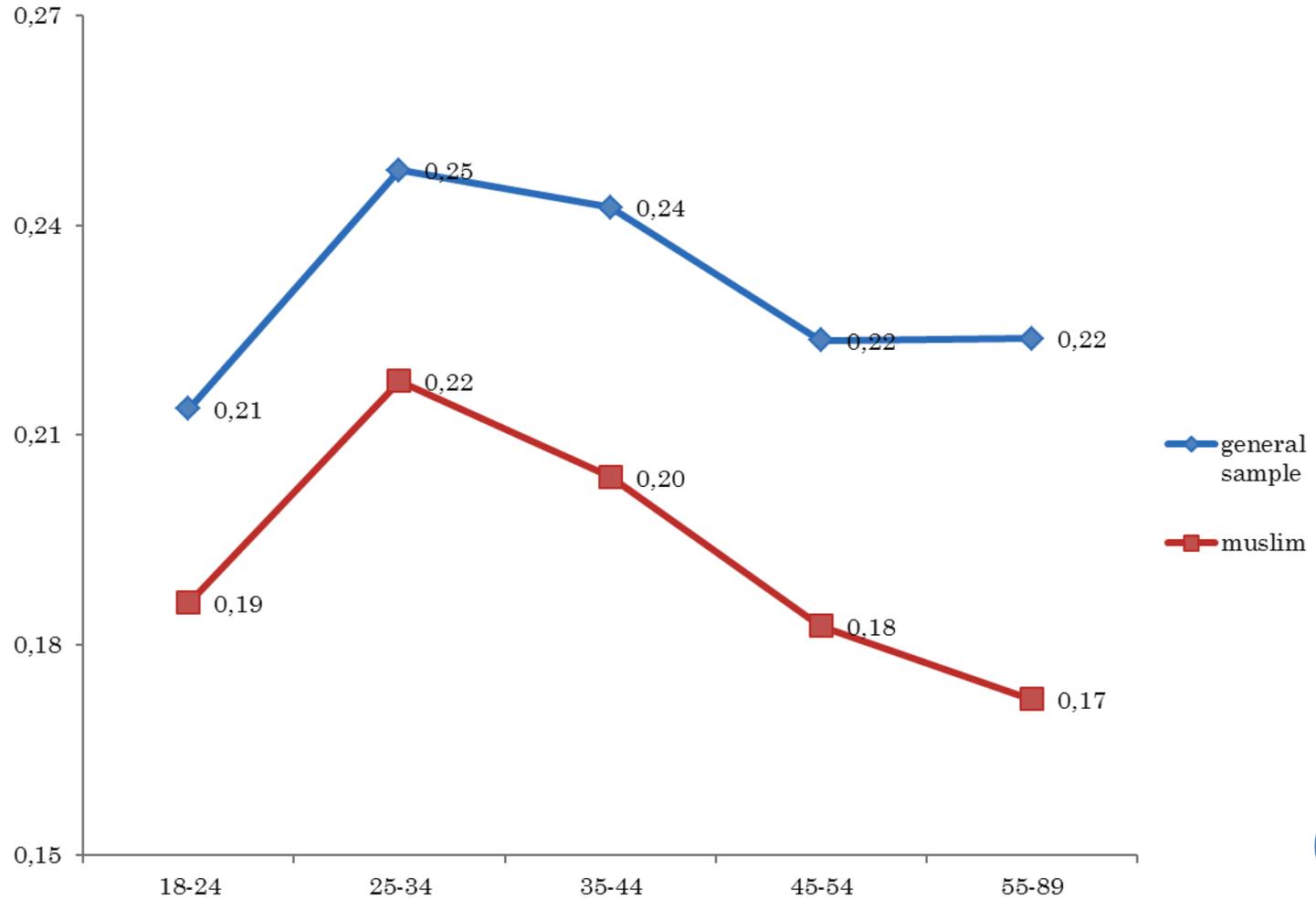
Mean of sexual liberalization index (by country)



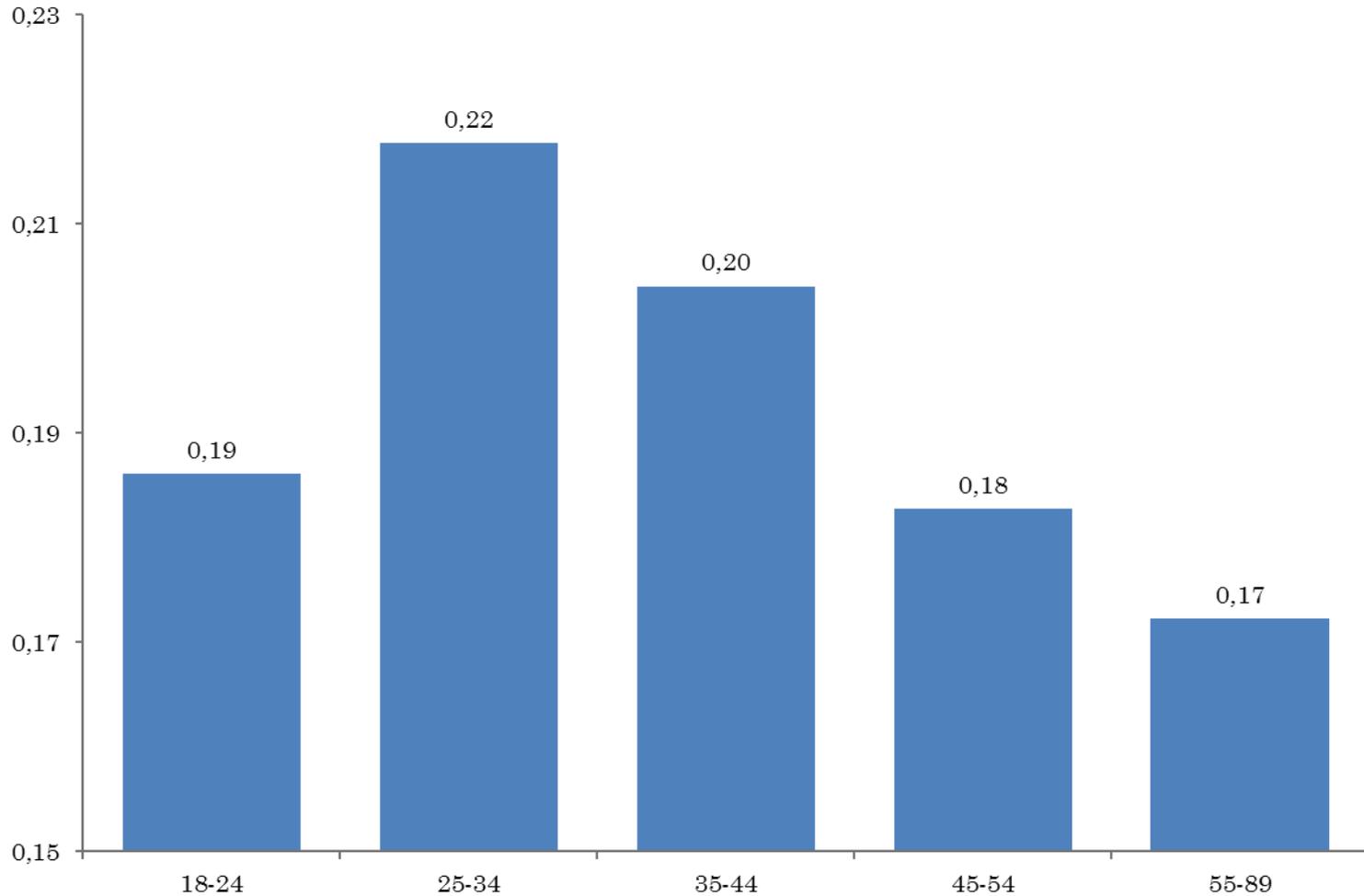
Means of sexual liberalization index (by education)



Mean for sexual liberalization index (by age)



Mean for sexual liberalization index (by age)



SAFETY INDEX

Consists of four variables:

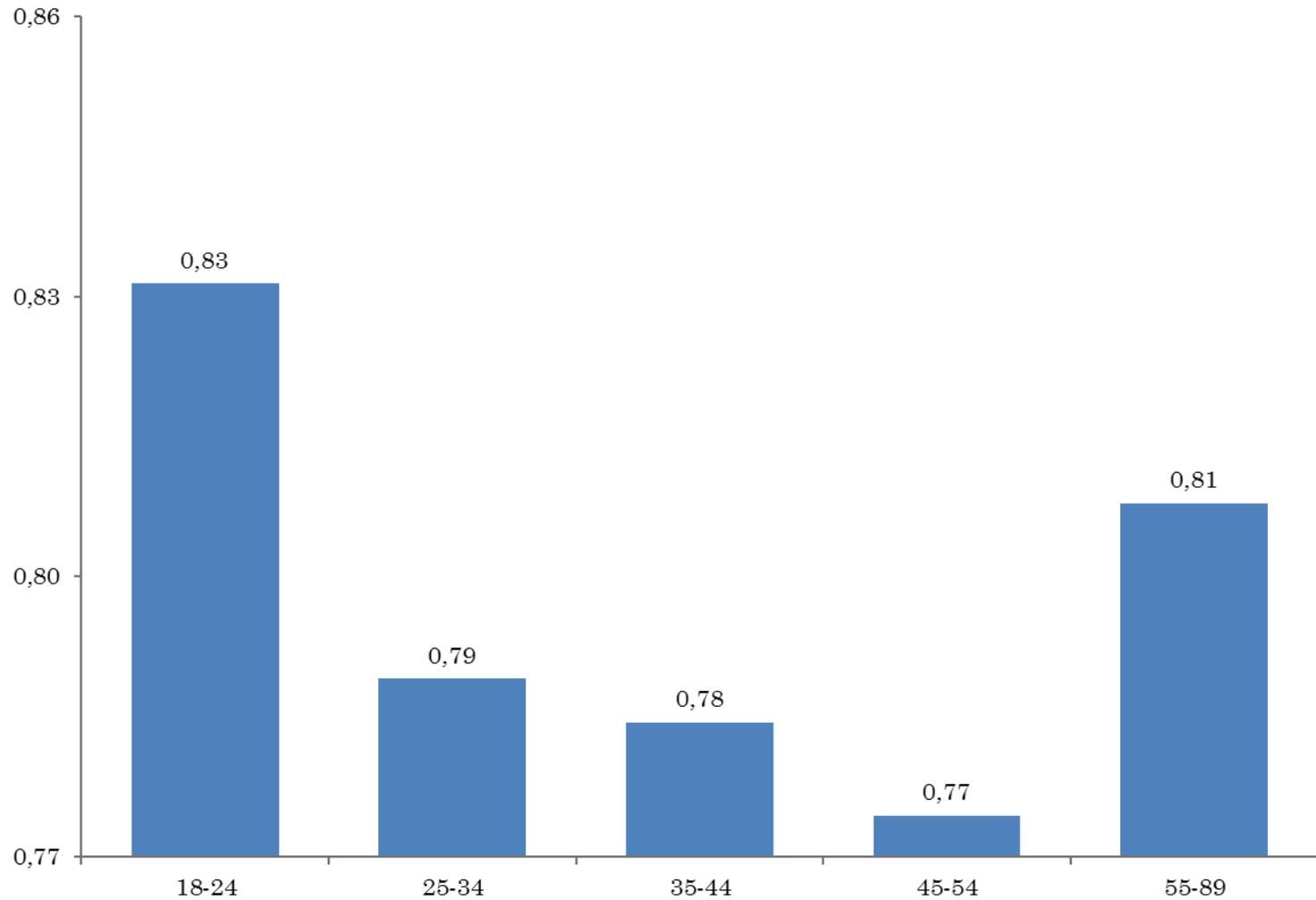
“In the last 12 month, how often have you or your family...”

1. Gone without enough food to eat
2. Felt unsafe from crime in your home
3. Gone without medicine or medical treatment that you needed
4. Gone without a cash income

Cronbach's alpha = ,708



Mean of safety index (by age)



| | b | Std. Error |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Age | -0.011*** | 0.003 |
| Tradition | 0.061*** | 0.013 |
| Importance of God | -0.007** | 0.002 |
| Religiosity | -0.025* | 0.012 |
| Community | 0.085*** | 0.011 |
| Eth_Uzbek | -0.090** | 0.031 |
| Eth_Kaz | 0.033 | 0.031 |
| Eth_Kyr | -0.087** | 0.031 |
| Eth_Taj | -0.101 . | 0.053 |
| Eth_Turk | -0.189 | 0.126 |
| Eth_others | -0.024 | 0.035 |
| Polit_scale | -0.030*** | 0.008 |
| Safety | -0.124 *** | 0.023 |
| Adjusted R² | 0.17 | |



FURTHER RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

- Why young people are more conservative than people of middle age?
- Why those people who live in insecure conditions have more liberal attitudes in sexual sphere?



Thank you for your attention!

