

Handout 3.2: Quote Cards (Excerpts from students' reports)

Individualism and Collectivism (2): Talk about the situations below and compare them to how it happens in your culture. During the time you've been staying in other countries – did you experience different norms of behaviour in similar situations? Think about more situations where group/individual-centred behaviours are demonstrated. Collect them in a mindmap, **45 min**.

China:

- Group behavior – one has to wait until the group decides what and when to do (both leisure and work);
- Like to be surrounded by many people;
- No tourist in China would ever fall into fight with a Chinese – they all keep together and help each other in difficult situation;
- Lun must go back to China (from Germany) to take care of his parents.

Guatemala

- Sergio lived together with his parents, 3 sisters, grandparents, father's uncle and aunt and the aunt's husband. A joke runs: "A father has 11 children – So, he is happy when one of his children gets married. But the happiness lasts only until the partner comes to live in the father's house too".

Dagestan:

- The parents are looking for a match from the same nationality to find people who are most suitable for their family.

Armenia:

- Armenian people are very sociable, like to be among other people and spend time with each other. Also, due to this characteristic there is one value which is of predominant importance to the Armenian people: the family. "We don't have retirement homes in Armenia, the young take care of the old" is what Artur said. Therefore, the entire family – including up to four generations – live in one house. The young support the old by assisting them with physical duties but the concept of mutual support applies also vice versa. For the young can benefit from the older family members' wisdom and life experience.
- When I (a German student) was around I just had to stay for lunch or dinner.
- Armenians do not shake hands but hug each other for salutation – this contributes to the feeling of togetherness and leads to a pleasant atmosphere whenever you are among the Armenian people.

New Zealand:

- People freely offer you a meal, a lift, a stay in their house, the keys to the house to stay there while they are on holiday, people do not lock their houses;
- Buy and sell houses quite frequently, move to a new place, change a career.

Romania

- Germans are distanced and impersonal: Anna went out with her German boy-friend, nobody talked to her as if they didn't notice her. Now she sees the reasons: Germans are involved in many activities, clubs, associations, do volunteer work, whereas in Romania there are not many of these, so we spend time for each other, family and friends.