

### **Handout 3.1: Quote Cards** (Excerpts from students' reports)

**Individualism and Collectivism (1):** 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.**

#### **India**

- Watching TV with brothers/sisters/neighbors; living inside the family until the marriage age.
- In India, even though a person is 22 years old, they do not have the right to take a decision for themselves in many cases. Our schools and colleges, and the courses that we have to major in, and even marriages all are pre-decided by the family and, most of the time, we do not have a say in any of them!
- Self-identification: before I came to Germany, I was just known as my father's son and known because of and by family name. I used to carry around this tag everywhere. When one goes to another state (inside India) to study or to visit, their city and the place that they come from become their identity. I was known as the guy who is from Bangalore.

#### **North Africa (islands)**

- Lively life inside the family house - louder, more vivid, many kids, a lot of action and talking all day long;
- Celebrating birthdays: the whole village gets invitations, there is enough food for everybody.

#### **Bulgaria**

- Invite the visitor to dinner immediately, do their best to make a person feel comfortable – the whole family;
- Family – relatives visit at least once a month and stay overnight with the family, help to build a house, support with money.

#### **Italy**

- Evening meal can last for 2 and more hours – the family is all there, telling stories of the day;
- Tradition to ask mother and father of the bride to marry their daughter. If they say No you must prove them that you are worth their daughter 😊

#### **Brazil**

- Maria has 2 aunts: one lives across the road – visiting every day, another is in Texas – calls twice a week and talks for an hour or more;
- Inside the group (family, colleagues, friends) – full support, even if this might result in inconveniences or other not very comfortable things for people outside their group; smb from the family is ill or in trouble, the boss gives you time to go and attend to this;
- It is important what other people think of you, so we go round unpleasant questions or answer in a humorous way. We prefer to say things in which we represent ourselves well;
- In Brazil the value is in being Brazilian, in US the value is in being different.

#### **Russia**

- If there is a common goal, people from outside of the group are integrated quickly and everybody supports each other;
- Everybody on board (a diving trip) seemed to be part of one big, tight-knit group, and everybody was helping each other;
- When a friend or a visitor comes the first question is "Would you like something to eat?" Even if you say No, I am not hungry the hosts will insist and give you food and tea and sit with you and talk. Our vast spaces and long distances make us hospitable and ready to share. I help people and people help me. Mutual help and support.
- In the evening we sit with Father in the kitchen – have meals, discuss how was the day, make

plans for tomorrow.