



Assignment n° 1

Chapters 1-4 // Culture, Intercultural Dimensions, Intercultural Competence, Intercultural Communication

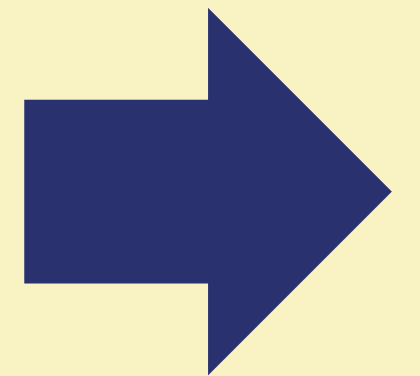
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An illustration of three stylized figures in a collaborative work environment. One figure at the top is holding a large magnifying glass over a laptop. Another figure at the bottom left is also working on a laptop. The third figure at the bottom right is holding a smartphone and looking at it. There are several floating documents and a folder icon around them. The background features large, soft-edged yellow circles.

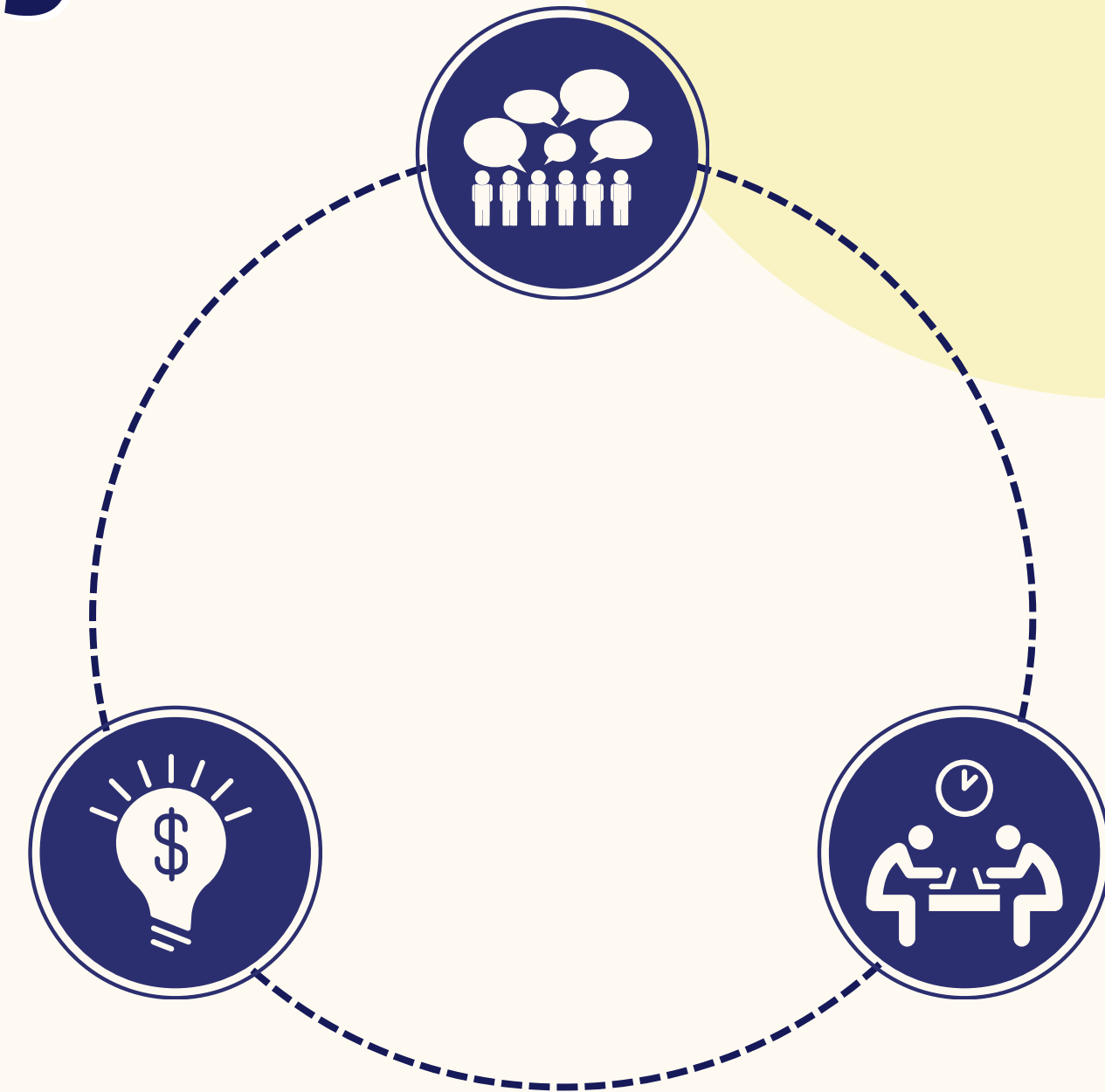
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Introduction of assignment

- **Step 1**
Discussion of cultural presuppositions of the respective country in the group
- **Step 2**
Comparison of cultural perception from group members and own cultural perception of the respective country
- **Step 3**
Elaboration of differences in perception and change of perspective



1. Croatia

Perception before

01. • Friendly people, open and welcoming
02. • Like to take breaks for rest & drink coffee with friends
03. • Play a lot of waterpolo



Perception after

- Friendly, welcoming & love to meet with friends for coffee, it's like a hobby for them

- Big spirit – strong rivalry between ex-football clubs, regions, but if there is something important, they reunite together

- Waterpolo is famous, but football is way more famous, further they play any other sport (handball, basketball, and individual sports, famous rowers)



Differences

01.

- **Loss of authenticity:** As many see Croatia mostly as a sunny tourist destination, they see only the side of the touristic places and not the whole country

02.

- **Regionalism:** Within the country, people from other regions have their own differences, but when it comes hard on hard, they stick together (donations, earthquakes, ..)

03.

- **Importance of sports:** In Croatia, football is more popular than water polo, football clubs are connected to regional identity



2. Germany

Perception before

01.

- Characteristics: Cold hearted, straight to the point, organized, and rule-orientated

02.

- Very connected with the history, serious people, no humor, only fun with beer

03.

- Germans have a strict scedule, and are always punctual



Perception after

- Some Germans can be straight to the point but are usually very friendly and nice people once you get to know him

- People are reflective about the history, serious about education, can be easy going and also like to sozialisise also without alcohol

- Germans organize their freetime ofen, e.g. make appointments with friends, punctuality is a sign of respect and proper use of time





Differences

01.

- **Characteristics:** Some German people do have these character traits, e.g., value punctuality a lot, but it doesn't apply to everyone, and usually Germans are very friendly and caring too if you get to know them

02.

- **History:** German people are indeed connected to the history as it is taught early on in school (school trips etc.), many tend to care a lot about politics, and demonstrate against far right parties, war, etc.

03.

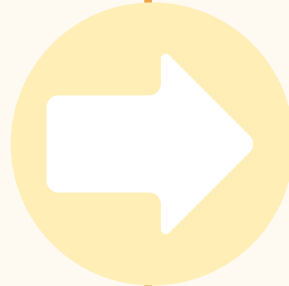
- **Freetime:** The freetime as well as the work-life balance is an important part, especially for the younger generation. However, many Germans are used to organize their meetings with friends in advance as a sign of respect of the other peoples time



3. Spain

Perception before

- 01. • Lively people, like to dance and party, energetic, proud of food and culture
- 02. • Siesta after lunch, shops are closed, lazy
- 03. • Very proud of their country and food, family is sacred



Perception after

- Yes, Friday/ Saturday goes out to drink and party
- Siesta is typical in the south, shops closed, also because of the heat, not everyone can take a siesta (depends on the job)
- Depending a lot on the region: Catalonia not proud to be Spanish, food differs also, e.g. in Valencia is the real paella, not everywhere in Spain



Differences

01.

- **Characteristics:** Actually, always very lively, not lazy to do things and have a lot of energy to socialize

02.

- **Siesta:** Some people might take a nap and small shops are closing, but it is not feasible for the majority, some go for errands or keep on working

03.

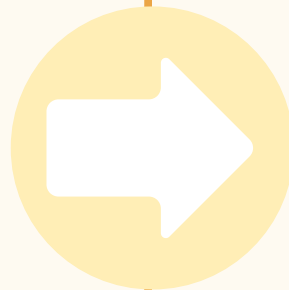
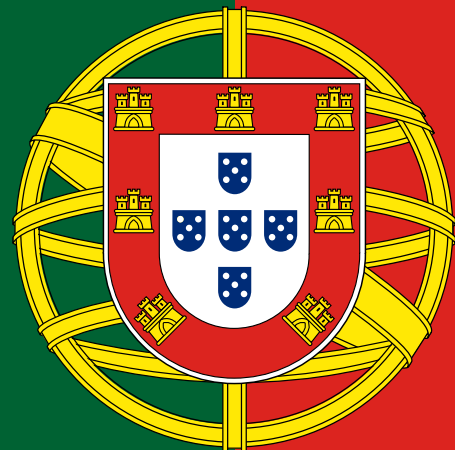
- **Tradition & Patriotism:** It is not possible to generalize the patriotism, a small part of Catalonia for example wants to be independent, same with traditions such as dances or food, they vary a lot within the regions of Spain



4. Portugal

Perception before

01. • Very warm and welcoming people, open to foreigners, easy-going and starting “late” into the day
02. • Religious and traditional, religion as an important part of the life
03. • Some similarities to Spanish people, often compared to Spain



Perception after

- Are really welcoming to foreigners, want to show their country and traditions, and work/ university starts around 9/10 am
- Religion and tradition are more important for the older generation, it changes with the younger generation who are more open-minded
- The culture (language, food, traditions, dances and more) are very different from Spain, it is not possible to put both countries in one pot



Differences

01.

- **Characteristics:** Very welcoming people, would even talk with hands and feet if no english proficiency to show the culture and food traditions to interested foreigners

02.

- **Old customs:** Even though traditions and religion played a huge part in the culture, young people aren't so traditional anymore

03.

- **National Identity:** Portuguese people are unquestionably different from Spanish people, it is a unique country with its own history, culture and customs



Conclusions

- 01. Stereotypes:** The group had a few stereotypes or generalizations about a country's culture which they would apply to every individual. However, we learned that differences often arise as people are unique and diverse, regardless their similar cultural origin
- 02. Regional Differences:** The group did not have diverse perspectives and experiences within a country. A single visit or interaction with a specific group may not provide a complete understanding of the broader culture and the cultural differences between the regions.
- 03. Cultural Change:** The group was assuming that a country's culture remains static over time or that traditions sustain until today. However, cultures evolve, adapt, and change due to various factors, so it's essential to consider the contemporary context.



Dankeschön !

Hvala !

**THANK
YOU!**

Mulțumesc !

¡Gracias!

Obrigado!

