

## WORKSHEET 2 – SWEDEN

### CULTURE SHOCK

If an Italian shows up 30 minutes late in Italy, there is no problem, but if he/she does the same in Germany it will be a culture shock, since Germans don't like to be kept waiting. Most English people think they are normal and that all others (foreigners) are abnormal. There are few countries in the world where people do not believe that they are the best, or the most intelligent, or at least normal. Our "cultural spectacles" are coloring our view of other nationalities. In order to understand other cultures better, we need to first examine the special features of our own culture.

### National characteristics and stereotypes:

A. Write for each number which country you think the following characteristics or stereotypes refer to: **Spain, The Netherlands, Sweden, Poland or Austria.**

1. Reserved, candy lovers, talk about the weather, knows how to queue.

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2. Hard-working, hospitable, courageous, believe in democracy.

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3. Not afraid to give their opinion, love biking, like complaining, like to leave curtains open all the time.

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4. Punctual, polite, love winter sports, love dairy products.

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5. Talkative, extrovert, like watching sports, creative.

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B. Write what **you** think is characteristic for each nationality (your own and the other ones). What is a typical Swede, Pole etc. for you (based on what you have heard, read, met them etc.)? Write **2 things on each one** (not the same as in the exercise above).

**A typical..... is:**

1. Spaniard: .....

2. Dutch: .....

3. Swede: .....

4. Pole: .....

5. Austrian: .....

C. Discuss and compare your answers in the group.

Did you have a lot of prejudices and stereotypic thinking about the other countries, or are some things actually true?