

D27 Tatjana and Sofia / Moldova / Foreign Languages in Adult Education

Interaction partner(s): German student
Moment of enquiry: SS 07
Experience of difference: Invitations to a restaurant

Tatjana and her friend Sofia are students from Moldova. They are meeting a German student in a café. Their meeting goes very well, they have a lively conversation with the German student and spend a pleasant afternoon together. When it is time for the bill, Tatjana asks her acquaintance if she should pay for herself. The German student is somewhat puzzled and replies: "Yes, of course." Tatjana was not expecting this. In Moldova, it is customary for a woman to ask whether she should pay, but the answer is always "no". Tatjana is annoyed, but does not say anything and doesn't clarify the situation either. She considers the German student's behaviour extremely rude. After this meeting, they break off all contact with him.

1. What were the social conventions underlying the Moldovan students' behaviour expectations?
2. What might explain the German students' behaviour?