



## **Marie-Yvonne - students storytelling in Ireland**

Elaine Marie-Yvonne, can you tell us about this project? How and why it was set up?

M-Y I happened to be at a friends place. His name is Samuel and he is a storyteller. He invited an Irish storyteller and when she started telling one of the stories I realised that the theme was common to one of our stories that we have here in the Gallo region and that's how it started. Uh, then I thought that of course I cannot take my Gallo students very far in the Gallo region- we can go to close places but the idea of going to Ireland really appealed to them. Its going to a foreign country -it's a Celtic country and we're going to tell our stories to an audience in er to three different schools actually in Cork so it's a big adventure for all of us.

Elaine So how did you make your contact with the schools in Cork?

M-Y So the schools in Cork -that was the magic part of it because I just told the story teller I chose the region -I didn't want to go too far so that was southern Ireland and I happened to, to watch a very short film on You-Tube on a storyteller - his name is Pat Spade and apparently he was doing the same thing as I'm, I'm doing here in, in the Gallo region so I thought 'why not try' and I contacted him on his email address and there I was. I had a first contact which apparently is the right one! Because he found three different schools - well actually its two different schools. The third one will, will take place in a library.

Elaine So, where will the students stay whilst they're in Ireland- in Cork?

M-Y So, they will stay in host families and the same for the teachers.

Elaine And had this been agreed with the school that you're teaching in at the moment?

M-Y Yes. And that's the financial part. I was very surprised - pleasantly surprised because the school - Head of my school said yes immediately. The Bursar of the school was quite enthusiastic as well. So we had no financial problems and I encountered no stress whatsoever so far.

Elaine So how long will you be staying there?

M-Y We'll be staying actually it's four whole days because we travel by night and we will leave from Roscoff, just go overnight arrive in Rosslare and then we will already visit two places. First one will be the heritage centre in

Cobh which is a very interesting place for students to understand all about Irish immigration to America and then the second place which is Cockross? Castle I think then we will have some free time of course to enjoy maybe shopping in Cork, walking around- you know.. and then a last visit in a beautiful castle with gardens...

Elaine ..A wonderful experience for these students because this will probably be their first time to go to Ireland?

M-Y Yes. Yes, and I think for most of them its their first big trip in Europe even..

Elaine ..from Brittany. Amazing. Well, I was very impressed from what I heard this afternoon and hopefully this will establish a long-lasting link with the schools that you're visiting.

M-Y That's what I'm hoping for. I'm an English teacher as well so I'm, I'm really hoping the project can start something long-lasting as you said maybe..

Elaine ..Maybe they can come back?

M-Y Yes..

Elaine And visit Brittany..?

M-Y Yes, and the main link for me is storytelling definitely.

Elaine It's brilliant. Well have a very good visit and I look forward to catching up with you when you come back and just watch out for the little leprechauns.

