



## *Dorina - Romanian English teacher in France*

Elaine Well, I'm today over in Cléguerec to talk to Dorina Lemuel a teacher from the Paul Eluard College in Mur de Bretagne. So, to begin Dorina, it's lovely to be here with you and thank you for your hospitality. Could you tell us what brought you to Brittany?

Dorina Oh, I met my husband in 2001 and I moved to Brittany in 2002 and....

Elaine And when and where did you learn your wonderful English and French?

Dorina That's very kind of you. My English is not that wonderful. I learnt it... I started learning English when I was 19 at University in Romania and then I started again when I came here in 2004, I went to University in Rennes.

Elaine And your French?

Dorina I learnt in Romania.

Elaine So that came first - the French came before the English.

Dorina Yes I was twelve when I started to learn French. Actually I studied French at school. I did not study English at school but I studied French at school.

Elaine Why was French perhaps a compulsory subject to study at school, as opposed to English.

Dorina Oh, because it was a very small school it was in a village and Romania at the time was a communist country and I think that English was a language taught in, in town and it was, it was seen as being a little capitalist as opposed to communist. I suppose, I suppose.

Elaine So you came to Brittany. How did you get the position of an English teacher at the school?

Dorina I had to go back to University, do a degree in English and then I had to, to pass a competitive exam.

Elaine Because I believe it's quite difficult if you,... perhaps if you qualified as a teacher of English in Romania to then transfer your qualifications into the French system.

Dorina Yes, especially in 2004 Romania was not a member of the European Union so I did not even try to transfer or to do,... to do something about that. I had to go back to University.

Elaine Was it difficult to get a job once you'd gone back to University here?

Dorina No. Once you pass the competitive exam you are given a job,... the French State, you are a teacher. You have to do your training for one year and then you go wherever they, they send you.

Elaine So you have no choice you can't say. 'well, I'd like'...

Dorina No, No, No. I have no choice. You have to go where they send you, yes. They decide where I go every year, in what school I will teach every year.

Elaine So it's not a permanent position?

Dorina I'm a permanent teacher but in a different school every year. It's a very complicated system in France you need a lot of points when you, when you, eh, eh get to Brittany. You need a lot of points to get a permanent job in one school so for 5, 6 years you will have to be a teacher. You are sure to be given a job but here you have to wait until the end of August usually to know where you will start working on the 1st September. This is what happened last year. I had to wait until the 28th August to, to find out that eventually I would go back to Mur de Bretagne and I would have one class in Pontivy, too. This is the French system. I know.

Elaine It's very difficult...

Dorina It sounds very unusual.

Elaine Well, it's difficult to have continuity, then, with your pupils.

Dorina Yes, it is but I'm lucky enough this year. I.... I have the same pupils I, I had last year. So, it's, it's all right.

Elaine Could you tell us about the quiz that I believe is being set up at the school in conjunction with AIKB?

Dorina We are working on it. It will be with - we will do it with two classes - 12, 13 years..... pupils who are 12 or 13 years old and it will be about ten countries, ten European countries - different information - the flags; the currency; population; traditions; stereotypes. It will take place on the 11th May.

Elaine 11th May. OK, so that's Guide Europe Month.

Dorina Yes

Elaine      So how..... Incidentally, how long do you plan to stay here in Brittany? Any idea?

Dorina      I think forever. My husband is a farmer so we can't, we can't move around so, so easily. For a long time.

Elaine      And you're enjoying life here?

Dorina      Yes.

Elaine      Is it everything perhaps you expected it to be?

Dorina      No. It is not. But then you have to adapt to circumstances from time-to-time. This is what we all doing, I think.

Elaine      Excellent. Thank you very much indeed.

Dorina      Thank you.

