On Friday, July 22nd, presentations of OpenInterface (OI), targeting especially the projects 3 and 4 but opened to everybody, took place in the Multitel Seminar Room. The OI platform was born from several ideas of similar partners and was especially investigated by UCL, Belgium and UJF, France.

The main aim is to create a modular and open (by definition) platform to assemble heterogeneous source codes into a complete project. OI will also enable to test easily new user interaction models in the case of multimodal applications. Hence, the eNTERFACE workshop will be the ideal case study and the first real use of OpenInterface with concrete examples and various applied projects. The eNTERFACE researchers of projects 3 and 4 have to develop their project by thinking of a parallel implementation using OpenInterface. In other words: they will design the software architecture using the conceptual software architecture model ARCH, identify the reusable components (those which will be integrated into OpenInterface), and develop those parts into OpenInterface components. Each OI component can already be written either in Java, C, C++ or Matlab, and the only supported operating system for now is Linux. Other functionalities will soon be added to simplify the use of the OI platform. As each OI component will be written independently with its own programming language and parameters, a XML-based description strategy will be used to integrate the different components into the OI platform.

The presentations have been done by Laurence Nigay, UJF, France and Lionel Lawson, UCL, Belgium. To get more details on this open platform integrating heterogeneous components, you can have a look on the seminar presentations available online on the eNTERFACE website (http://www.enterface.net) in the “Online Documents” heading.

On Saturday, the first eNTERFACE week was concluded by a bike ride in the Hainaut, around Mons. We visited the old boat lifts which are now part of the UNESCO World Heritage and the new one which is the biggest in the world. This countryside tour included the traditional St. Feuillien brewery and confirmed the ancient tradition of manufacturing and engineering of this region located in the heart of Wallonia.

Céline & Matei