Mons, close to the European capital, gathers eNTERFACE participants from all over Europe. In project #6, Juraj is a perfect example of an European researcher enjoying Europe. Born in Slovakia, he arrived in Mons as an Irish student straight from Helsinki, where his girlfriend lives.

Living parallel lifes in the academic and industrial worlds, his actual research can benefit from his career. Combining five years in math research and his linguist job at Microsoft, he is actually doing a PhD in cognitive science, and more particularly on speech timing. The cognitive aspect of this research is to discover why we opt unconsciously for a particular timing while speaking.

We interviewed today another linguist and senior researcher; Hannes, from Vienna, describes himself as a linguist but not as a computer scientist. Even if he develops scripts everyday and is mostly in front of screens at work, he defines computer scientists as people more keen about programming.

Part of the HUMAINE network of excellence, he received the eNTERFACE workshop call for participation, and had many problems to find his preference among the seven proposed projects. Part-time researcher in the Austrian Institute of Artificial Intelligence, he worked for ten years in speech synthesis and recently in animated characters. As many projects deal with those fields, it is therefore easy to understand why he could not make up his mind!

Before applying, he quickly checked the eNTERFACE agenda. Actually, he was “slightly” afraid to work 16 hours a day, 7 days a week with engaged people. After reading some forecast social events, he was relieved! Working around 25 hours a week, Hannes enjoys life and loves the idea to do crazy things whenever he wants without having to wait for the next week-end. During his free time, he mainly practices biking, hiking and paddling. He actually crossed the Danube river in kayak.

La Cité
-The restaurant team-

Eating is vital even for researchers, passionate by their work. Thanks to the Cité Houzeau restaurant, they are even able to eat several times a day! They clearly appreciate the food, and even the general atmosphere, which reminds them of their student life. By the way, we would like to thank our cooks and the Residence staff for their everyday support to our eNTERFACE participants.

The first murder occured at 18h30 at the Cité restaurant. The victim is as you can see in the picture above, Matei, one of the authors of this article who wrote these lines during his long and horrible agony: “I was killed by Céline, my own wife (trust your wife they say...) who had to kill me with an access card (easy!) while drinking (so easy at the Cité...). I hope the movie “Mr and Mrs Smith”, by D.Liman, launched today does not end up in the same way…”

François, Céline & ex-Matei