

ImpleMéndez Special



WELCOME TO THE **FIRST IMPELMÉNDEZ NEWSLETTER!**

OUR GOAL IS TO LAUNCH A PERIODIC NEWSLETTER THAT HIGHLIGHTS **KEY DEVELOPMENTS, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND EVENTS** WHILE ENSURING **TIMELY COMMUNICATION** WITH ALL MEMBERS.

General scope of the Action

Primary Objective: Support, enable, and progress various countries' developments towards the implementation of the Méndez Principles, aligned with science, law, and ethical requirements.

The **Méndez Principles** offer a scientifically grounded and ethically robust framework for effective interviewing. To implement these principles, we are developing a transformative framework that includes localized strategies and roadmaps co-designed with stakeholders to meet specific needs and ensure practical application. Investigative interviewing models are advertised with legal, cultural and contextual adjustments to ensure practical application. To disseminate knowledge and investigative interviewing methodology, members are encouraged to organize **podcasts, webinars**, as well as develop **multilingual and multidisciplinary training materials** for use in various sectors, including law enforcement, legal practitioners, and academia, and publish **briefings** and **scientific papers** in peer-reviewed journals.

Your ImpleMéndez Core Management (CM) group

Chair

Dave Walsh

Vice-Chair

Yvonne Daly

WG1

Investigation and Interviewing

Leader: Lennart May

WG2

Law, Human Rights, Criminal Justice

Leader: Anželika Banevičienė

WG3

Vulnerability

Leader: Lore Mergaerts

WG4

Institutional and Governmental Leadership

Leader: Zvonimir Ivanovic

Special coordinators:

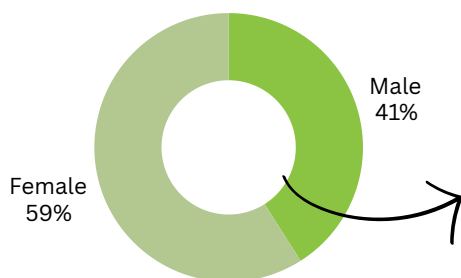
Kristijan Kask

Science Communication Co-ordinator

Ivar Fahsing

Grant awarding co-ordinator

ImpleMéndez in numbers



280 WG members
36% Young researchers

56 countries involved, including all **41** COST countries, **1** partner country, **3** Near Neighbor Countries (NNCs), and **11** International Partner (IP) countries.

Management Committee: **60** members representing **33** countries.

ImpleMéndez 2024: Year in Review

Applications for other Méndez Centres welcomed!



Irish Méndez Centre for Investigative Interviewing

Launched on 18 September by Prof. Yvonne Daly of DCU School of Law and Government and Dr. Alan Cusack of the University of Limerick School Of Law. This new center is dedicated to advancing the art and science of investigative interviewing, enhancing best practices, and providing world-class training to professionals in law enforcement, legal sectors, and beyond. This significant event was attended by the representatives An Garda Síochána (the police), the Corporate Enforcement Authority, the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission, the Central Bank, Revenue, Tusla (the Child and Family Agency), lawyers, interpreters, prosecutors, judges, policy-makers, and academics. During the opening, a new book "Police Custody in Ireland", edited by Prof. Daly, was promoted. The book is available [here](#).

ImpleMéndez MC Meeting in Coimbra

Between 14-16 May, 40 members of ImpleMéndez met in the beautiful, historic University of Coimbra, Portugal, to work on our ongoing mission to support the implementation of the Méndez Principles on Effective Interviewing and Information-Gathering.

Slovenia Training School

Our 1st ever Training School took place in the beautiful city of Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 2-3 July. 27 members of our growing international network gathered together, across disciplines and jurisdictions, under the theme of "Implementing the Méndez Principles in Suspect Interviews." Priority was given to "young researchers" as participants, and those in attendance were primarily academic colleagues from law, psychology, criminology, policing studies, forensic linguistics, translation and interpreting, and social work.

Liverpool Project Building and Development Workshop

On 10-11 September, the ImpleMéndez COST Action Project Leads came together in Liverpool for an intensive Project Building and Development Workshop. The event focused on strengthening collaboration, refining strategies, and planning future actions across our network. Attendees shared insights, best practices, and innovative ideas, laying the groundwork for impactful projects in the upcoming phases.

Last but not least...

- Between 26-27 March in Warsaw there was a meeting where the WG leads and co-leads met with other members of the CM group to undertake initial strategic planning for ImpleMendez;
- A network meeting also took place in Reykjavik on 14-15 October at the Icelandic National Police Academy;
- Three conference grants were provided to young researchers from ITCs to attend and present at three High level international conferences during 2024.

Save the date!

Conference grants

Two Dissemination Conference grants have been awarded in our first and second year. Conference grant applications will re-open on the **1st of March, 2025!**

Short Term Scientific Missions

The deadline for Short-Term scientific Missions passed on 3rd January. We received 13 applications. The core management group will review these during January, and awards will be made by the end of the month.

EAPL 2025 conference

Annual Conference of the **European Association of Psychology and Law** (EAPL) 2025, themed 'Technological advancements and application in legal psychology' takes place on 5-8 August, 2025 in Vilnius, Lithuania.
 More info [here](#).

Coming up this year...

January

- Training on Human Trafficking and War Crimes organized by KIND - Kids In Need of Defense charity will be held at the Polish Ministry of the Interior and Administration in **Warsaw**. In parallel, a Networking Workshop, also involving KIND, will take place in **Warsaw** to explore strategies for engaging Implemendez members in ongoing and future projects.

February

- Online Management Committee meeting;
- Online meetings of the Working Groups.

March



- CEPOL Conference is planned in **Rome**, with 12 ImpleMéndez members scheduled to deliver presentations. In parallel, a Networking Workshop on how to write papers for publication will, be hosted **online** by Dr. R. Dian Muniroh.

April



- An **online** session will be led by Prof. Silvia Tabusca, offering practical strategies and insights for crafting effective grant proposals.

Call for papers

The Journal of Investigative Psychology and Offender Profiling is hosting a special issue on **"Implementing the Méndez Principles: Cultural Differences within Effective Interviewing & Investigative Practices"**. The special edition is edited by Paulo Marques, Lennart May and Becky Milne, a team from the Implemendez

 Submission: **1 September 2024 - 30 June 2025**
 More info [here](#).

The Strategic Programme Excellence Initiative at the Jagiellonian University led by our member Professor Inês Fernandes Godinho and Professor Mateusz Stępień has an open call for papers on **"AI and Judicial Experts in Europe: Opportunities and Challenges"** to a forthcoming book.

 Submission deadline: **20 January, 2025**
 More info [here](#).

May

- Police Training, Human Trafficking, and Linguistics Project will take place in **Lisbon**, focusing on enhancing training techniques and methodologies;
- Collaborative Forum for criminal judges, prosecutors, and academic researchers in **Freiburg** on the best practices for interviewing witnesses and suspects;
- International World Café & Nordic-Baltic Networking will be held in **Malmö**, this event aims to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among Nordic and Baltic countries.

June

- UNODC annual crime conference (ImpleMéndez members will present the project to that audience) in **Vienna**;
- Workshops within Child Interviewing Project.

July

- Human Trafficking project in **London**.

August

- Annual face-to-face Management Committee in **Vilnius**.
- Workshop on the translation of Mendez Principles into Lithuanian and Baltic members network meeting also taking place in **Vilnius**.

September

- Finland training school and Human Trafficking project in **Tampere**.
- The Vulnerable Accused Conference and Human Trafficking Workshop in **Cardiff**
- **Online** session on Introduction to Forensic Linguistics.

Goals for 2025!

- Implement Gender Equality Plan;
- Strengthen the inclusivity of the network;
- Facilitate and support the young researchers' network;
- Expand the International Partners' network;
- Organize podcasts and webinars (led by Zoe Colpaert);
- Facilitate internal communications (led by Ana Sofia Silva and Denis Solodov);
- Create press and publicity coordination teams (**open call for members!**).

A special contribution...

Investigating rape and sexual assault in marital relationships

Gisèle Pelicot, the 72-year-old, sexually violated and raped in her home from 2011-2020 stood in a French open court to testify against her former husband, Dominique and 50 other men. In France, *proof of intent* is required to secure a conviction of rape. Gisèle was drugged by her husband during the prolonged and repeated abuse. Currently, 17 men who have been convicted are claiming they were "manipulated" by Pelicot into raping his wife and assumed she had given consent.

Dominique pleaded guilty in 2020 following his arrest for another sexual offence. Two cold cases, a rape/murder case from 1991 and an attempted rape in 1999 at which Dominique's DNA was found have now been reopened. If the evidence from those cases had been fully investigated perhaps Gisèle would have been spared.

Statistics from the Institut des Politiques Publiques¹ in France over a 10-year period indicate there were more than 400,000 cases of sexual violence in France with only 13% resulting in a conviction (April 2024). These data do not look separately at prosecutions of rape in relationships and marriages (vs stranger or date rape) but in each case one assumes there is insufficient evidence.

We have in the **Méndez Principles** an international standard for the investigation of crime, one that respects the rights of individual victims and witnesses. **Principle 3** speaks directly on identifying vulnerability, at the individual and situational level. This has direct application where a victim may be in an abusive long-term relationship, fearful of blame or some other punishment. An investigator trained in the use of **Méndez Principles** would bring the skills of establishing a rapport, encouraging the witness to talk freely, actively listening and getting a full account without any judgment.

The powerful impact of Gisèle Pelicot's bravery makes clear that we need to change attitudes, to address head-on the misogyny and patriarchy that are barriers for victims. My hope is that **ImpleMéndez** can also bring about a cultural shift among police and legal practitioners in investigations of rape and abuse in relationships.

Dr Amina Memon

Professor in Psychology

Royal Holloway University of London

¹ https://www.ipp.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Note_IPP_107_ThejudicialtreatmentofsexualviolenceinFrance.pdf



Stay tuned for more...

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Share your achievements with us!



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The newsletter has been prepared by Ana Sofia Silva and Denis Solodov.