

# ImpleMéndez newsletter



WELCOME TO THE THIRD EDITION OF THE **IMPLEMÉNDEZ NEWSLETTER!**

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

## The ImpleMéndez Square

### Meeting Research Coordination Objectives:

1. Frameworks for Investigative Transformation (FIT)
2. Develop adapted models with key stakeholders
3. Introducing Mendez Centres
4. Disseminate agreed methodologies and tools

### Meeting Capacity Building Objectives

1. Building Networks with other members and key external partners
2. Developing a matrix of Mendez Centres
3. Developing practitioners
4. Developing our members (particularly younger researchers and those from ITCs and NNCs)

Help implement the Mendez Principles

### Meeting COST's expectations

1. Networking and Capacity Building
2. Meetings, training schools, dissemination, conference attendance, and short-term scientific missions

### Delivering Deliverables

1. Website
2. Designing training
3. Author Law notes, press releases, policy briefings, progress reports, FITs, professional publications, scientific articles, and an edited book

The **ImpleMéndez Square** illustrates key elements to consider in supported projects, networking, and related activities. For every activity, ensure you complete:

- at least one Research coordination objective;
- at least one Capacity building objective;
- one COST-mandated online or face-to-face activity;
- deliverable item 3 (and item 2, if applicable).

All four corners must be met before October 2027—completing only three is insufficient. The Square's centre represents the overall goal.

## Your ImpleMendez 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:

Kristjan Kask

Science Communication Co-ordinator

Ivar Fahsing

Grant awarding co-ordinator

## Latest Developments

### ImpleMéndez Webinar on Torture-Tainted Evidence with Alka Pradhan

**ImpleMéndez webinar #1** entitled “**Torture-Tainted Evidence: Theory, Investigation, and Litigation**” with **Alka Pradhan** occurred on 6.03.2025. Alka Pradhan is a human rights attorney specializing in litigating the effects of torture on fair trials, most notably before the Guantanamo Bay military commissions in *United States v. Khalid Sheikh Mohammad et al.* (the “9/11 case”), and at the International Criminal Court, where she is Associate Defense Counsel for Al Hassan Ag Abdoul Aziz. She has also filed applications before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the European Court of Human Rights, and numerous UN agencies and treaty bodies on issues at the intersection of international human rights and humanitarian law. She is an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School and was a member of the Drafting Committee for the Principles of Effective Interviewing for Investigations, or the “Méndez Principles,” which aims to end coercive or torture-driven interrogation practices around the world. Webinar was supported by the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC).

### The 1st episode of the ImpleMéndez Podcast

We are excited to share that the first episode of the ImpleMéndez Podcast is now available! To mark International Women’s Day (March 8th), our **Vice-Chair Prof. Yvonne Daly** spoke with Barbara Bernath, former Secretary General of the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT). They discussed women in leadership, human rights, policing, and the Méndez Principles in an insightful and engaging conversation. Listen [here!](#)

### Online webinar on how to write scientific papers for publication

On 10.03.2025, our colleague, **R. Dian Dia-an Muniroh**, Director of the Centre for Forensic Linguistics UPI and Vice President of the Indonesian Association of Applied Linguistics, delivered an online session on how to write scientific papers for publication. The presentation will be posted on the Action’s intranet.



### Visit to Norwegian Embassy in London

On 26th February, **eleven ImpleMéndez members** were amongst those invited to the Norwegian Embassy in London to celebrate the partnership between Norway, Ukraine and the UK that has been behind various initiatives to improve human rights and practice in criminal investigations (including investigative interviews).

## Upcoming events

### Apply for the Grants!

ImpleMéndez members are invited to apply for Dissemination Conference Grants and ITC (Inclusiveness Target Countries) Conference Grants. These grants are available in Year 2 of our Action, with applications particularly encouraged from Young Researchers as classified by COST. Check the list of COST ITCs [here!](#)

**Funding:** Up to €1,800 per grant for presenting at a high-level conference.

**Note:** Your presentation does not need to be accepted at the time of application.

**Deadline:** 31 March 2025

### Online Training School

Online Training School - **Writing Successful Grant Applications** will be held on 09.04.2025 at 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM (time in UK);

## Calls for Cooperation

### Call for a new project!

**Ana Cruz (Portugal)** is looking for members to join a new project around the topic “how prisoners are interviewed inside prison, when, for example, being investigated for drug trafficking or mobile phone possession”, please contact: [p6114@ulusofona.pt](mailto:p6114@ulusofona.pt).

### Call for Interviewees: Study on CSA/CSE Experiences in Criminal Proceedings

As part of the **ALUNA project**, researchers from the Fundamental Rights Research Centre (FRC) at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) are conducting a study on the obstacles faced by victims of CSA/CSE during criminal proceedings. Their work aims to identify key challenges, harmful practices, best practices, and recommendations for law enforcement, public prosecutors, and other stakeholders.

*Seeking interviewees for field research:*

- Voluntary & anonymous participation
- Online interviews (~1 hour)
- Consent form & information sheet provided beforehand

If you are interested or know someone who might be, please reach out to:

**Nadine El-Dekmak** – [Nadine.El-Dekmak@vub.be](mailto:Nadine.El-Dekmak@vub.be)

**Anna Maria Totokotsi** – [Anna.Maria.Totokotsi@vub.be](mailto:Anna.Maria.Totokotsi@vub.be)

## Our Achievements!

### Beyond a Reasonable Doubt – Podcast by Davidhorn

In the latest episode (20.03.2025) of the podcast “Beyond a Reasonable Doubt”, Prof. Laurence Alison and **Dr. Ivar Fahsing** explore the nuances of interviewing techniques in law enforcement, focusing on the Orbit model and its relationship with the PEACE model. The episode is entitled “PEACE and Orbit - a conversation with Prof. Laurence Alison” and you can listen [here!](#)

## New article: The Right to Complain About Mistreatment During Criminal Interrogations

We are excited to share a new article examining the right to complain about mistreatment during criminal interviews and interrogations in **Lithuania, Poland, and Serbia**. This research explores how national laws and practices address complaints related to coercion and ill-treatment during investigative procedures. It examines the effectiveness of existing safeguards and mechanisms for accountability in criminal justice systems in the light of the Méndez Principles.

Banevičienė, A., Ivanović, Z., & Solodov, D. (2025). The right to complain about mistreatment during criminal interviews and interrogations: Lithuanian, Polish, and Serbian law and practice. *Studia Prawnoustrojowe*, (67). <https://doi.org/10.31648/sp.10700>

## CEPOL Conference 2024/2025

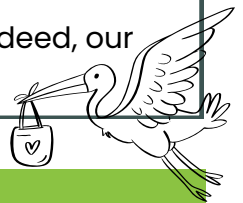
Fifteen of our colleagues— **Coral Dando, Dave Walsh, Denis Solodov, Ferid Azemi, Hanna Lahtinen, Ilze Berzina, Ivar Fahsing, Kristjan Kask, Laura Pajon Moreno, Luna Filipovic, Rachid Minhas, Rui Sousa-Silva, Paulo Marques, Silvia Tabusca** and **Timothy Mountford** — will participate in the annual CEPOL Conference. This event will bring together experts from various fields to discuss strategies for tackling High-Risk Criminal Networks (HRCN) and enhancing the fight against organised crime. This event will provide a platform to discuss evolving tactics and enhance prevention and enforcement strategies. In parallel, a networking meeting with CEPOL representatives will be held on 26 March 2025.

## Our family is growing!

**We have now over 300 members!** We are so pleased we reached this milestone so early in the project! We are just slightly over a third of the way through the project and we achieved the number of members that we thought we would achieve in two years time.

We have great news about our two members, Lennart May and Teresa Schneider. They are proud to announce the safe arrival of Elias Leano May on 17th February.

Many congratulations to them! Indeed, our ImpleMéndez family is growing!



## The Reminder

Those submitting a paper for publication should follow the COST Annotated Rules to ensure proper recognition of COST funding. In short: just use the following "formula": This article is based upon work from COST Action CA22128 (ImpleMéndez), supported by European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST). More details on the COST rules can be found **here**.



### Stay tuned for more...

Click to follow ImpleMéndez on social media:



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

### Share your achievements with us!



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