

ImpleMéndez newsletter



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

Our team is growing!
Now we have 345 members representing 58 countries!

Training School on Interviewing Vulnerable Individuals Lisbon, 27–30 May 2025

Over the course of four intensive days, the international Lisbon Training School, hosted under the COST Action ImpleMéndez (CA22128) and generously supported by the Polícia Judiciária, brought together nine distinguished expert trainers – our colleagues, **Dave Walsh, Becky Milne, Ivar Fahsing, Laura Pajón, Delfina Alvoeiro, Paulo Marques, Telma Sousa Almeida, Cristina Ribeiro, and Rui Paulo** – and forty-one professionals representing nine countries including nine ImpleMéndez members. Throughout the programme, participants engaged with the challenges inherent in interviewing vulnerable individuals. Anchored in the Méndez Principles, the Training School facilitated a dialogue among police officers, academics, and policymakers. The collaborative environment fostered critical reflection on prevailing practices, the re-evaluation of common assumptions, and promoted the development of investigative interviewing approaches.



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

Training School on Interviewing Vulnerable Individuals Lisbon, 27–30 May 2025

Additional Events in Portugal

In addition to the Training School, our colleagues – **Rui Paulo, Rui Sousa-Silva, Rebecca Tipton, Laura Pajon** and **Telma Almeida** – organised three specialised workshops at ISPA – Instituto Universitário, conducted between 28 and 30 May 2025.

On **28 May**, a workshop entitled “Methodologies in Investigative Interviewing Research” concentrated on enhancing methodological aspects of investigative interviewing.

On **29 May**, another workshop entitled “Translating the Méndez Principles into Practice” examined the linguistic and cultural complexities associated with operationalising the Méndez Principles. Participants engaged in discussions concerning terminology standardisation, legal aspects, and the challenges posed by multilingual law systems across Europe.

On **30 May**, a workshop entitled “Human Trafficking: Identification, Interviewing, and Protection of Victims” convened practitioners from law enforcement and the justice sector in identifying and supporting victims of human trafficking. The workshop emphasised trauma-informed, legally sound, and ethical interview methodologies. The organisers, all COST members – Laura Pajon, Telma Almeida, Beatriz Almeida and Patrícia Gonçalves – express deepest gratitude to ISPA– Instituto Universitário for its generous hospitality and for providing an invaluable venue for scholarly discourse and interdisciplinary collaboration.



ImpleMendez & iIIRG Joint Event 15th May 2025

We are pleased to report that the recent joint event, hosted in partnership between ImpleMéndez and iIIRG, was a notable success. The event drew an impressive **296 attendees**, including **78 ImpleMéndez members**, reflecting the high level of interest and engagement within the community (sincere appreciation to Telma and Chris for their excellent work in co-organising this event!). All three speakers were members of ImpleMéndez, which highlights the depth of expertise within our network. The high level of participation underscores the strength of the collaboration between ImpleMéndez and iIIRG, and we look forward to further joint initiatives.



The poster for the webinar series "iIIRG in Conversation" features the iIIRG logo and the text "INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATIVE INTERVIEWING RESEARCH GROUP". The main title is "LIVE WEBINAR" and the subtitle is "The Use of Technology in Investigative Interviewing: A collaboration with ImpleMéndez". The event is scheduled for Tuesday, 13 May 2025, at 4:00 pm (CET) / 3:00 pm (BST) / 10:00 am (EDT). The speakers are Dr. Kate Haworth, Dr. Brandon May, and Adrian Gates. A QR code is provided for more information and sign-up.

Dr. Kate Haworth
Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the Aston Institute for Forensic Linguistics, of which she is a founding member. Prior to her academic career she was a practising barrister. Her research focuses on spoken language as evidence, and investigative interviewing. She has a keen interest in strengthening links between research and practice, and provides professional training based on her research.

Dr. Brandon May
Assistant Professor of Forensic Psychology (Florida Institute of Technology), Senior Lecturer for the Centre for Security and Intelligence Studies (University of Buckingham) and Deputy Director of the Centre of Forensic Interviewing. His research focuses on intelligence elicitation, decision-making, AI development and application, and non-kinetic threats (e.g., countering disinformation).

Adrian Gates
Former Detective and Sergeant in An Garda Síochána, the police service in the Republic of Ireland. He specialised in serious and complex crime, and was heavily involved in criminal investigation training design, delivery and policy implementation. A current Doctoral candidate at the University of Portsmouth focusing on the evidential consistency of written records from interviews with suspects.

tinyurl.com/iirg-con

ImpleMéndez **iIIRG**

Scan to learn more & sign up

Online meeting of the Emerging Technologies group 4th June 2025

On 4 June 2025, the ImpleMéndez working group on emerging technologies met online (the meeting was coordinated by Irena Hoglund Matthews) to bring together people from across the Action network and discuss next steps in this field. A key outcome of the meeting was the decision to develop a comprehensive overview of ongoing and planned research projects within the ImpleMéndez network that relate to the use of emerging technologies in investigative interviewing. This mapping exercise aims not only to consolidate existing knowledge but also to identify additional contributors within the network who may wish to join the group. A survey is planned to facilitate the collection of this information. Another anticipated outcome is the development of a publication offering an overview of emerging technologies relevant to investigative interviewing. The publication would provide recommendations for stakeholders on the effective use of these technologies. Work on this initiative has already begun, with a collaborative draft document now available for contributions via a shared Google Doc. The group has agreed to convene again in mid-September to assess progress.

Online meeting of the Training Curriculum Network group 5th of June 2025

The third online meeting of the Training Curriculum Network took place on the 5th of June to further collaborate on establishing a number of training standards that may assist ImpleMéndez members (and ultimately others also) in conducting their own localized training sessions in accordance with the Méndez principles. The Network aims to provide training programs with supporting training materials such as slides, videos, description of exercises, literature etc.

so that the trainings can be either a good starting point or a plug 'n play solution depending on the trainer and the training in question. The network is currently working on a 3-day in-person training course on an introductory level with slides and will continue that work after summer and expect that to be finished in November 2025. Earlier we had a call for inspiration and asked our fellow ImpleMéndez members to share their program, slides, videos etc. from their own trainings and we are grateful to have received materials from you we are still hungry for more so please do not hesitate to send your materials to Thomas Skou Roer, at thor@kp.dk. ALL materials will be accessible to ALL members once the training programs are completed. (Thomas Skou Roer)

Leadership & ImpleMéndez an update from Working Group 4

In Working Group 4 our role is to ensure that all the effort which has been put in during the project is sustained long into the future. This means ensuring we have the lasting interest and support of leadership at every level. Over the past 3 months we have been creating a series of short case studies which will ultimately be available to all ImpleMéndez members. These 'vignettes' provide real-world examples of the impacts upon leadership of either adopting or disregarding ethical investigative interview practices. The idea is to provide the evidence we all need to support our respective leaderships in understanding the benefits of adopting the Méndez Principles. We are aiming to build up a handbook containing enough vignettes to enable ImpleMéndez members to select those which best suit their own context and provide the evidence which will resonate the most with the leadership in their organisation or country. The first group of 8 vignettes will be presented to the Management Committee in Vilnius in August 2025. So, how can you help? Well, all of the vignettes created this far draw upon in the experiences of ImpleMéndez members, but we need more. We have a tremendous body of knowledge within the project, and we really want to hear from you. So, if you are willing to share your stories of leadership and investigative interviewing practices, both positive and negative, please get in touch.

Monty Mountford – Working Group 4 member (p2755687@my365.dmu.ac.uk)

Polish Ministry of Justice Delegation visits the Irish Méndez Centre for Investigative Interviewing

On June 9 and 10 a delegation from the Polish Ministry of Justice, along with ImpleMéndez member Dr Olga Mazur, visited the Irish Méndez Centre for Investigative Interviewing. The delegation, which included Deputy Minister Maria Ejchart and Przemysław Kazimirski (Head of the Prison Service Department), was hosted by Prof Yvonne Daly, Vice-Chair of ImpleMéndez and Co-Director of the Irish Méndez Centre. While in Dublin the delegation met with other ImpleMéndez members – Dr Lorraine Boran and Inspector Brian Quirke – and toured the Dóchas Centre (a women's prison). Delegation members also visited the offices of Fiosrú, the Police Ombudsman, and saw the Specialist Interview Suite recently established there for interviewing vulnerable individuals. They were very kindly hosted at Fiosrú by ImpleMéndez member David Grant and his colleagues. During the visit, Prof Daly gave a presentation on the legal and procedural safeguards under the Méndez Principles, Dr Boran presented on interviewing suspects with Autism, and Inspector Quirke gave an excellent talk on police interview training in Ireland (and abroad).

This was a wonderful knowledge exchange event resulting from the development of the ImpleMéndez network. And it included the presentation of a Méndez Centre mug!



Major consultations with stakeholders and academia in Poland 16th June 2025

On 16 June 2025, in Krakow (Poland), consultations were held to discuss the possibilities for implementing the Méndez Principles. The starting point of the discussion was the presentation of the Introduction to the Polish translation of the Méndez Principles, authored by Katarzyna Holewik, Olga Mazur, and Denis Solodov (with the support of the Association for the Prevention of Torture in Geneva). The Introduction served as a foundation for exploring how the Principles could be adapted and applied within the Polish legal and institutional context. The event was attended by representatives of key national stakeholders – the Ministry of Justice, the National Ombudsman for Children’s Rights, the National Anti-Torture Mechanism, the Police Headquarters, the Public Prosecutor’s Office, the Border Guard Service (investigative division), the Prison Service, the national Bar Association, the national Institute of Forensic Research in Cracow – as well as members of academia, including the National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution, Jagiellonian University, University of Rzeszów, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Police Academy in Szczytno, University of Warmia and Mazury In Olsztyn. The event was held in a hybrid format. The opening statement was delivered by Professor Dave Walsh, who presented the Méndez Principles, their development, and the associated international initiative to facilitate the implementation, i.e. our Action. During the discussions, the following topics were addressed:

- The recording of interviews and interrogations;
- Interviewing (interrogating) vulnerable persons;
- The participation of an interpreter in the interview (interrogation);
- The impact of a lawyer’s presence – whether a defence attorney or legal representative – on interviewing tactics and the real-life application of investigative interviewing methodology;
- Training in investigative interviewing.

The event lasted for five hours and was kindly organized by Olga Mazur. Presentations were delivered by Dave Walsh, Olga Mazur, Katarzyna Holewik, and Denis Solodov.

STSM on fostering accurate information gathering from vulnerable individuals within existing legal frameworks

Between 3 and 9 June Lore Mergaerts (KU Leuven) and Judit Szábo (OKRI) met in Budapest to exchange knowledge and experience to come up with action plans on how to move forward on improving current practices in Belgium and Hungary in light of the Méndez Principles. The STSMs specific goals were 1) to address Principle 3 on vulnerability within the Méndez Principles both from a national legal and practical point of view, as well as from a theoretical viewpoint; and 2) to gain insight into how obtaining accurate information from suspects can be improved by implementing the Méndez Principles in Belgium and Hungary, using how suspects are questioned in the framework of polygraph testing in both countries as a source of situational vulnerability. Hungary and Belgium are two of few countries within Europe in which polygraph

testing is (still) used, which is not straightforward in the light of obtaining accurate information following the Méndez Principles. The STSM contributed to building and strengthening a network to move towards legal frameworks, policies and practices that support ethical interviewing, taking into account sources of both situational and individual vulnerabilities. The STSM sparked ideas for addressing policy, training initiatives and co-authoring a policy brief and academic article. Definitely a collaboration to be continued! (Lore Mergaerts)

News from the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT)

Our colleagues at the **APT** have asked us to share three messages:

1. APT has published an open call for a consultancy to develop a guidance document on the implementation of the Méndez Principles. Details are [here](#), with a deadline of 4 July 2025.
2. APT's free online course on the Méndez Principles, hosted on the **Torture Prevention Village** (TPV), is now available in English, French, Spanish, and Brazilian Portuguese. Please feel free to disseminate this resource within your networks.
3. APT's compilation of existing references and case law related to the Méndez Principles is regularly updated. The current version is available [here](#), and it is regularly updated on the **APT webpage** on the Principles.

Ukraine War

Newspaper article on the Lisbon Training School and Yuriy Belousov interview

A Portuguese newspaper, *Expresso*, covered the Lisbon Training School and interviewed Yuriy Belousov, a member from Ukraine, about the War, the Méndez Principles and our COST Action! The full article can be found [here](#).

Méndez Principles Wikipedia Page Is Now Live!

After extensive development and collaboration with seasoned Wikipedians, the Méndez Principles on Effective Interviewing now has **its own Wikipedia page**. This will, hopefully, boost global visibility for the Principles. Our colleagues, who are responsible for the page, need the members' support though. Please, find an opportunity to check the page, click the in the top-right (when logged in), add citations that support scientific or legal foundations, make (even small) edits to improve accuracy, formatting, or clarity, which can strengthen the page's credibility and resilience. The work has been led by the Action member Steve Barela.

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...

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