

ImpleMéndez newsletter



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

Our team is growing!
Now we have 325 members representing
56 countries!

Invitation to All ImpleMéndez Members

Online Information Session on Establishing a Méndez Centre

12 June 2025, 11:00 AM CET

All ImpleMéndez members interested in exploring the process of establishing a Méndez Centre in their country or region are warmly invited to attend an online meeting led by ImpleMéndez Vice Chair, Professor Yvonne Daly.

This session will provide valuable insights into:

- The Protocol for the approval of Méndez Centre proposals;
- The roles and expectations of Méndez Centres within the ImpleMéndez framework—and beyond;
- Examples of how existing Centres have successfully engaged with stakeholders prior to their establishment;
- And much more...

There will also be a Q&A session, offering participants the opportunity to ask questions and seek further guidance. We encourage all interested members to attend and take this opportunity to learn more about contributing to the sustainable growth of the Méndez Principles through local and regional initiatives. The link to the meeting via MS Teams has been send to all members by Fiona on 21 May 2025, 11AM (CET time zone). So, please, check your email boxes!

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

Statement from the Méndez Principles Steering Committee Co-Chairs

The Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee of Experts for the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering have issued a statement marking four years since the launch of the Principles. The statement reflects on the progress made and encourages others to assess and share their own experiences with implementing the Principles. As of now, the Méndez Principles are available in 17 languages. Link to the Statement [here](#).

Latest developments

Irish Méndez Centre

In April, the Irish Méndez Centre for Investigative Interviewing hosted two significant events advancing ethical and evidence-based interviewing practices.

- **April 16, 2025:** The Centre conducted a one-day training session for members of An Garda Síochána (the Irish police). The training focused on rapport-based interviewing techniques and the application of the ORBIT framework, aimed at enhancing the quality and reliability of investigative interviews.
- **April 28, 2025:** An expert knowledge exchange event was held at the Trinity College Institute for Neuroscience, focusing on the functioning of memory and psychological insights on investigative interviewing.

These events reflect the Centre's ongoing commitment to capacity-building, professional development, and the implementation of the Méndez Principles in Ireland.

More details [here](#).



Conference in Rzeszów

Our colleagues, Denis Solodov and Olga Mazur (Poland), took part in the prestigious international conference on forensic sciences organized by the University of Rzeszów and the Polish Forensic Science Society. The presentations covered the use of artificial intelligence in assisting the preparation of forensic expert interviews (D. Solodov), and the impact of investigator training on the interrogation strategies used with suspects. The presentations (after appropriate redaction) will be published as chapters in a monograph by a renowned publishing house.

Events in Bucharest, Romania

On May 7–8 2025 several of our Action members were involved with events in Bucharest (Romania). On May 7, Valentina Cadelo (APT) collaborated with key criminal justice professionals to support the completion of the Romanian translation of the Méndez Principles. Across both days, two parallel training schools were conducted:

- “Introduction to the Méndez Principles”, led by Coral Dando, Ray Bull, and Dave Walsh;
- “Introduction to the Méndez Principles in Adult Witness Interviews”, led by Amina Memon, George Visu, and Kristjan Kask.

These events represent an important step forward in promoting effective and ethical interviewing practices within Romania’s criminal justice system



Meetings in Malmö, Sweden

On May 6–7, 2025, several members of our Action gathered in Malmö, Sweden, for a series of collaborative meetings. On May 6, one group—comprising members from nine different countries—focused on exploring the potential establishment of a Nordic-Baltic Méndez Centre for Investigative Interviewing. Meanwhile, other participants met on both May 6 and 7 to discuss the barriers and enablers to implementation within the context of their ongoing projects under the Action. These meetings provided a valuable opportunity for strategic dialogue and cross-border collaboration to advance the goals of the Méndez Principles.



Conference in Freiburg

On May 15–16, 2025, the Conference on Guidelines for Effective and Fair Interviewing in Criminal Proceedings took place in Freiburg, Germany. The event featured 18 distinguished speakers and panelists—including Juan Méndez, Ivar Fahsing, and Rebecca Milne—and was attended by approximately 50 high-ranking legal professionals from across Germany, including judges, legal practitioners, researchers, and policymakers.



Live Webinar on Technology in Investigative Interviewing

On Tuesday, 13 May 2025, a live webinar titled "The Use of Technology in Investigative Interviewing" was held in collaboration with the International Investigative Interviewing Research Group (IIRG). The session featured expert presentations from ImpleMéndez members Dr. Kate Haworth, Dr. Brandon May, and Adrian Gates, who shared cutting-edge insights into how emerging technologies are transforming investigative interviewing practices. Topics included the integration of digital tools, remote interviewing methods, and ethical considerations in tech-assisted interviews. The webinar drew strong interest from practitioners, researchers, and students across time zones, highlighting the growing relevance of technology in modern criminal justice systems.

Research cooperation opportunities

Fully Funded PhD Opportunity at Abertay University: Trauma and Technology in Video-Recorded Interviews with Victims of Sexual Crimes

Abertay University in Dundee, Scotland, is offering a fully funded PhD studentship titled "Trauma and Technology: Identifying Best Practice for Video-Recorded Interviews (VRIs) with Victims of Sexual Crimes." The program is set to begin in October 2025, with an application deadline of 28 May 2025. Read more [here](#).

Jennifer Heuschling is working to advance the case for the recording of suspect interviews in Luxembourg and is seeking support from fellow ImpleMéndez members. She is particularly interested in receiving published papers, studies, or reports that demonstrate the value of recording interviews. These can include direct arguments in favour of recording suspect interviews and empirical studies or fieldwork examples that implicitly highlight the importance of recordings (e.g., studies based on recorded interviews that would not have been possible otherwise). If you have relevant publications or resources, please send them directly to Jennifer Heuschling at Jennifer.HEUSCHLING@police.etat.lu

Your contributions will help support evidence-based advocacy for improved interview practices in Luxembourg.

Call for Contributions: Training Curriculum Materials

As part of the ImpleMéndez initiative, we have established a Training Curriculum Network Group tasked with developing training materials, schedules, curricula, and exercises that support the implementation of effective investigative interviewing practices. To enhance this effort, we aim to create a shared database that all ImpleMéndez members can access for inspiration and practical resources when planning their own training sessions. To launch this resource, we invite each of you to contribute any relevant materials you may have, such as:

- Training schedules
- Curricula or syllabi
- Descriptions of practical exercises
- Instructional or demonstration videos
- Any additional materials labelled by topic

The more concrete and detailed your contributions, the easier it will be for fellow members to adapt and apply them to their own contexts.

While English versions are preferred, materials in your native language are also welcome if translation is too burdensome. Once we have collected sufficient material, we will provide access to the shared Google Drive folder, so all members can benefit from each other's expertise and creativity.

Please send your materials to: Thomas Skou Roer – thor@kp.dk. We thank you in advance for your valuable contributions and look forward to building a strong, collaborative resource together.

Call for Abstracts

The Vulnerable Accused in the Criminal Justice System (VACJS) Conference Cardiff University, Wales, 10–11 September 2025 DEADLINE: June 2nd

We are pleased to remind you that the Vulnerable Accused in the Criminal Justice System (VACJS) Conference will take place at Cardiff University, Wales, on 10–11 September 2025. The event is supported by the Centre for Law and Society of Cardiff University, the Society of Legal Scholars, and the ImpleMéndez Action. ImpleMéndez members are encouraged to attend, present, and participate. The call for abstracts is open. Link is [**here**](#).

Important! Limited number of reimbursed places are available for ImpleMéndez participants. Priority will be given to:

- Young researchers (under 40 years of age at the time of application);
- Those based in Inclusiveness Target Countries;
- Participants whose abstracts are accepted for the conference;

In addition to the quality and relevance of submitted abstracts, priority will be given to those who:

- Commit to participating in an ImpleMéndez workshop at the conference, and
- Contribute to a report relating to their area of expertise and the Méndez Principles.

Reimbursed participants can also contribute to a Special Issue journal publication. When submitting your abstract to VACJSConference@cardiff.ac.uk, please also include:

1. A statement confirming that you wish to be considered for a reimbursed place;
2. Your age (to confirm if you qualify as a young researcher);
3. Whether you are based in an Inclusiveness Target Country;
4. Confirmation of your willingness to participate in the ImpleMéndez workshop and contribute to the related report.

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**](#).



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***The newsletter has
been prepared by
Ana Sofia Silva and
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