

ImpleMéndez newsletter



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

Latest developments

MC Meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania

On 4–5 August 2025, the Management Committee (MC) of the ImpleMéndez network convened at Vilnius University, in a meeting kindly organized by our Lithuanian colleagues Ilona Laurinaitytė and Anželika Banevičienė. The event brought together representatives from across Europe and beyond, who reviewed the progress of the Action, shared their experiences, and set strategies for the upcoming COST year.

Key updates

- **Significant membership growth:** Since October 2023, membership has expanded by more than 300% (!), now including 59 countries and 125 institutions. This growth reflects the recognition of the Méndez Principles as a foundation for effective, scientifically sound, and human rights-compliant interviewing practices.
- **Research and capacity-building:** The network has produced over 30 publications, with many more to come. Projects are advancing in areas such as human trafficking, forensic linguistics, emerging technologies, war crimes investigations, and cross-cultural dialogue. Several new initiatives, including a Training Curriculum Network and regional groups in Poland, Turkey, and the Western Balkans, are showing promising developments.
- **Events and networking:** Members exchanged updates on national projects from Brazil, Ukraine, Poland, Portugal, and Finland. Upcoming activities include training schools, regional meetings, and workshops that will promote deeper collaboration and engagement.

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: Vasylyna Yavorska

Special coordinators:

Kristjan Kask

Science Communication Co-ordinator

Ivar Fahsing

Grant awarding co-ordinator

Plans for the next phase of ImpleMéndez Action

- **Gender Equality Plan:** Integrating equality measures into all levels of activity.
- **Collaboration with Méndez Centres:** Strengthening connections and exploring a mentoring matrix between established and emerging Centres.
- **Publications:** Producing an edited book that will bring together contributions from across the network, combining scientific and practice-oriented perspectives.
- **Outreach and engagement:** Extending activities into Asia and additional European regions and developing training resources for practitioners and policymakers.
- **High-profile events:** Preparing for a major conference in Geneva in 2026, focusing on legal safeguards under the Méndez Principles and the investigative interviewing model.

The Committee emphasized the importance of

- **Deepening collaboration with stakeholders** – policymakers, justice institutions, and civil society – to facilitate implementation of the Principles.
- **Engaging the public and media**, including plans for the 5th Anniversary of the Méndez Principles in 2026, with potential events in Istanbul (Turkey) or Leuven (Belgium).
- **Supporting members** with resources, training, and networking opportunities, ensuring that our network continues to grow.

The Vilnius meeting confirmed that ImpleMéndez is not only expanding in scope and membership but also consolidating its role as a key agent in promoting humane, effective, scientifically and legally sound approach to investigative interviewing and information gathering worldwide.



EAPL conference in Vilnius (Lithuania) 4–8 August 2025

This year conference of the European Association of Psychology and Law (EAPL) entitled “Technological advancements and application in legal psychology” included a strong contribution from members of our network, with presentations on investigative interviewing, human rights, new technologies and the criminal justice system. Contributions from ImpleMéndez Members included workshops and symposia on investigative interviewing highlighting the content of the Méndez Principles (Francesco Pompedda, Kristjan Kask), comparative studies across jurisdictions, presentations covered human trafficking, forensic linguistics, emerging technologies in conducting investigative interviews and training (Francesco Pompedda, Ray Bull, Ilia Solodov, Ching-Yu Soar Huang), credibility assessment (Julia Korkman, Miet Vanderhallen, Kristjan Kask, Nicola Palena, Letizia Caso, Jaume Masip), psychological biases (Rashid Minhas), training (Olga Mazur, Thomas Skou Roer, Olafur Orn Bragason), and vulnerable interviewees (Hanna Lahtinen, Anželika Banevičienė, Zeynep Reva, Ilona Laurinaitytė, Aura Preda, Eva Veldhuizen-Ochodničanová, Irma Melunovic, Francesco Pompedda, Laura Pajon Moreno, Dave Walsh, Lore Mergaerts, Rebecca Milne). Sessions on policy and practice included national case studies from Brazil, Ukraine, Poland, Portugal, Lithuania, and Finland, basically mirroring the themes discussed previously at the MC meeting.

The conference program showed how ImpleMéndez network is linking research and practice through publications, training schools, and collaborations. It also demonstrated the geographic reach of our Action, with active projects in Europe, Latin America, and Asia-Pacific.



Implementation of the Méndez Principles in Mexico

Over spring and summer 2025, an online seminar series brought together legal professionals, academics, and students from Mexico and beyond to discuss the implementation of the Méndez Principles (a total of 641 registered attendees online!). This global framework promotes a shift from coercive interrogation toward rapport-based, information-gathering interviews.

Seminar highlights:

- **April 25** – *Framework of the Méndez Principles*: Dr. Eduardo Pérez-Campos Mayoral introduced their history, ethics, and potential for transformative change.
- **May 2** – *Effective vs. Coercive Interviews*: Dr. Adriana Reyes Flores examined core differences and highlighted rapport-based practice.
- **May 31** – *Linguistic Barriers*: Dr. Alberto Hijazo Gascón addressed challenges in police communication.
- **June 7** – *Detecting Deception*: Dr. Jaume Masip explored methods for identifying deception in interviews.
- **June 21** – *Training and Accountability*: Prof. Lucía Fernanda Araya emphasized the need for proper training to embed the Principles in practice.
- **July 5** – *Human Memory in Interviews*: Prof. Victor Moloeznik examined the role of memory in shaping testimony.

The seminar offered practical knowledge for legal professionals, forensic psychologists, human rights advocates, and students. It laid the groundwork for applying the Méndez Principles in Mexico, supported by contributions from experts in Mexico, Spain, and Argentina. The organizers thank all speakers and participants for their commitment. The discussions marked a step forward in promoting effective and humane investigations, and they look forward to continuing this dialogue in future events.

Our thanks to all ImpleMendez colleagues who contributed!

- INTRODUCCIÓN.
- MARCO CONCEPTUAL.
 - Intenciones y estrategias del mentiroso.
 - Perspectiva activa.
- TÉCNICAS DE DETECCIÓN.
 - Técnica SUE.
 - Cantidad y tipo de detalles.
- LA MEJOR MANERA DE DETECTAR MENTIRAS.



Vamos a ver algunas de las afirmaciones sobre estándares científicos de los “Principios de Méndez”

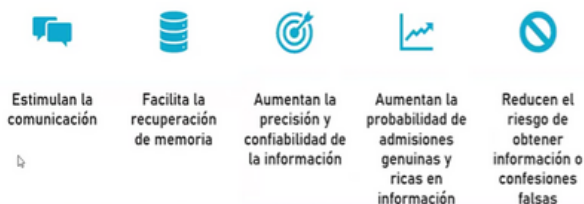


Principio 3 : Mayor vulnerabilidad

- Factores de riesgo:
 - Edad, sexo, género, identidad o expresión de género u orientación sexual
 - Nacionalidad o etnia
 - Cultura o religión
 - Discapacidad física, intelectual

Entrevistas no coercitivas:

Entrevistas efectivas



Dissemination conference in Bali, Indonesia
our colleague, Dobrinka Chankova (Bulgaria), received the Best Presenter Award!

The 17th Global Conference on Business and Social Sciences, “Contemporary Issues in Management and Social Sciences Research” (CIMSSR-2025), organised by the Global Academy of Training and Research (GATR), took place on 20–21 August 2025 in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia. The event brought together more than 150 participants from 39 countries across six continents. Our colleague Dobrinka Chankova presented on the topic “Does Implementing Mendez Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering Serve Victims of Crime?” within the sub-theme Multidisciplinary Perspectives in Social Sciences and Humanities Research. The presentation highlighted the activities of COST Action CA 22128, including the establishment of Mendez Centres, training schools, publications, translations, and various dissemination tools. The presentation generated significant interest among participants, many of whom were introduced to the Mendez Principles for the first time. Her presentation was recognised with the Best Presenter Award and the GCBSS Distinguished Academic Award, underlining the contribution of research on effective interviewing and victim support to the wider academic community. Our warmest congratulations to Dobrinka!



Year 3 Activities & Training Schools

The following activities are scheduled for Year 3:

- **26 November 2025** – Media Interviews Training School (online)
- **11 February 2026** – Training School: Introduction to Forensic Linguistics and the Méndez Principles (online)
- **25 February 2026** – Training School: Introduction to Interpreter-assisted Interviews and the Méndez Principles (online)
- **17–18 March 2026** – Krakow: Project Polska meeting / Assessing Credibility & Detecting Deception Workshop / Training Curriculum Network Group Meeting
- **14–15 April 2026** – Geneva: Safeguarding Human Rights Conference
- **11–12 May 2026** – Istanbul: Méndez Principles 5th Anniversary Conference / Management Committee Meeting

- **10–11 June 2026** – Dundee: Orbit Training School; Barriers & Enablers to Implementation Project meeting
- **6–7 July 2026** – Leuven: Child Interviewing & Méndez Principles Training School
- **3 September 2026** – Oslo: Méndez Centre event
- **8 September 2026** – Dublin: Méndez Centre event
- **15 September 2026** – Lisbon or Porto (subject to approval): Méndez Centre event

Please note that the dates are awaiting final confirmation and some are expected to change. Invitations for all meetings and training schools will be issued around November 2025!

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](#).



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

Stay tuned for more...

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