

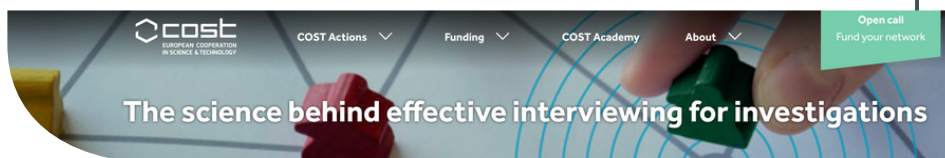
ImpleMéndez newsletter



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

Latest developments

Our Action introduced on the COST website



You can find the full version [here!](#)

To summarise, police and law enforcement interviews with suspects, victims, and witnesses are central to justice outcomes. The Méndez Principles (2021) present the first international framework for ethical, science-based interviewing, grounded in law, ethics, and psychology. They promote rapport-based, non-coercive methods to ensure reliable information and emphasise the importance of legal and procedural safeguards before, during, and after interviews. Despite the clear advantages of this model, many countries still rely on coercive, confession-driven methods, leading to abuses and miscarriages of justice. The ImpleMéndez Network, uniting over 350 members from 59 countries, brings together academics, practitioners, and policymakers. It is developing the Framework for Investigation Transformation (FIT), establishing Méndez Centres of Interviewing, and designing training materials. The strategic goal is to replace coercive practices with ethical investigative interviewing tailored to local contexts without compromising the Principles.

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

Working to stabilise the Wikipedia Web Page

As all of you know, the **Wikipedia entry for the Méndez Principles** is live! To maintain its credibility, prevent vandalism and provide accurate, well-sourced content, we need active editors. Members are invited to support the page by:

- **Watching the page** – log in and click the ★ at the top-right to receive change alerts.
- **Improving the text** – add citations, refine sentences, or fix typos (every edit boost reliability).
- **Cross-linking** – connect the page from related articles in law, psychology, human rights, and other fields to strengthen the wider knowledge network.

Once the English version is stable, the Wiki team aims to launch up to 30 language editions by year-end. Interested contributors can add their name and target languages to the Translation & Contribution Coordination Sheet. For questions or comments, please contact Steve Barela at steven.barela@unige.ch.

Working groups online meetings in September

All four Working Groups held their meetings in September to inform members of current developments and advise on future activities.

WG1, focused on investigation, interviewing and interrogation themes, held its meeting on 4 September 2025. The session reflected on the group's achievements and plans for the coming year. Among important highlights, WG1 grew to 276 members. Over the year, the group hosted several activities such as the WG1 members' meeting in February and a webinar in collaboration with illRG in May entitled "The Use of Technology in Investigative Interviewing". The latter featured three expert speakers: Kate Haworth on the benefits and limitations of audio-recording police interviews, Brandon May on the opportunities and risks of using generative AI tools in investigative interviews, and Adrian Gates on the Irish system and the justice implications of relying on typed summaries rather than audiovisual recordings. WG1 also reported progress across other initiatives, such as:

- child interviewing and Méndez Principles, led by Francesco Pompedda, which has already produced awareness materials and is preparing a masterclass at the illRG 2026 conference;
- interviewing human trafficking victims, led by Laura Pajon, which successfully delivered training schools in five countries and is preparing a policy briefing;
- from conflict to courtroom, embedding the Méndez Principles in investigations of war crimes across Eastern Europe, with 186 participants trained and three successful webinars;
- establishing a Méndez Centre in German-speaking countries, which has already held a training school and is planning a conference in Switzerland.

WG1 plans for 2026 include two WG1 meetings (February and October) and a webinar series on quality enhancement in interviewing, with sessions dedicated to research, training and practical techniques. A masterclass is also planned for the illRG conference in Leuven (6–10 July 2026)

During the WG2 meeting on 10 September, the members discussed progress in the third year of the Action. Key topics included a focus on legal safeguard issues in the context of the theory of change, ongoing activities on the Wiki webpage, the “Project Polska” initiative, and Professor Ray Bull’s lectures to law enforcement officers and students in Lithuania. The leader of WG2 informed members about opportunities for grants to support dissemination conferences, study visits, and training schools. Future steps, such as preparing joint articles and books, undertaking collaborative activities, and sharing ideas on how to connect with potential partners, were also discussed. The group reviewed the collection of deliverables and invited all participants to contribute related articles and other publications to the dedicated Google document.

WG3 met on 12 September. The group lead, Lore Mergaerts, announced a change in the co-leadership: Laura Pajon has joined the group as a co-lead and was officially welcomed in her new role. The group reflected on the key achievements of Year 2, including the EAPL 2025 Symposium as well as several flagship projects under WG3 supervision: Promoting the Implementation of the Méndez Principles, with the collaboration with the Swedish police completed and the international questionnaire rollout ongoing; the Vulnerability Training School, with more than 20 internal meetings held, the Portuguese translation of materials in progress, and publications and a policy brief in preparation; and the Vulnerable Accused in the Criminal Justice System Conference, with presentations and a workshop on the Méndez Principles completed, and blog posts, a joint report and a handbook in preparation. For the next COST year, WG3 will shift its focus towards written outputs—including publications, policy briefs and reports—while maintaining networking activities. Key upcoming events include webinars on interviewing children in January 2026 and on child suspect interviewing in May 2026, as well as a masterclass and training school on interviewing vulnerable suspects on 6–7 July 2026 in Leuven, held just before the illRG Conference. The next meetings are planned for Thursday 12 February 2026 from 14:00 to 15:00 CET and Tuesday 6 October 2026 from 13:00 to 14:00 CET.

The WG4 meeting on September 10, led by a new group lead Vasylyna Yavorska (Ukraine), reflected on the activities carried out during this COST year as well as future plans. Notable highlights include the preparation of the White Paper (Luna Filipović), which should synthesise findings from all WGs and outline recommendations for national stakeholders and policymakers, coordination with other WGs, support for grant applications to expand the reach of the Action and build sustainable networks. Looking ahead to 2026, WG4 plans to finalise and publish the White Paper, providing a framework for the application of the Méndez Principles, and to strengthen international collaboration by engaging with regional partners and academic institutions to ensure the long-lasting impact of the Action.

WG4 Vignette Project

WG4 Vignette Project is led by our colleague Monty Mountford in September 2025. The Project introduces a new way to share and inspire leadership in the implementation of the Méndez Principles. It offers short, accessible narratives called “vignettes,” which highlight the motivations, challenges, and successes of those promoting ethical investigative interviewing in their respective countries and regions. The vignettes are intended to support the Action members in their interactions with institutional leaders. The plan is to create a portfolio of 30 vignettes! For more information or to participate, please contact Monty (this can be done through the WG4 lead).

UN Special Rapporteur on Torture report “Trends and developments in the global struggle to end torture”

An annual UN report on torture has been published, in which the Special Rapporteur, Alice Jill Edwards, presents an overview of global trends and developments in the fight against torture and other ill-treatment. The report highlights the Méndez Principles alongside the Convention against Torture Initiative’s training tool on investigative interviewing as together providing a comprehensive set of resources for the effective documentation and investigation of torture and related ill-treatment. The Rapporteur also notes positive developments in the implementation of the Méndez Principles in Brazil, Mexico, Tajikistan, Thailand, and Ukraine. The full version can be found [here](#).

Eurocrim conference 2025 Athens, Greece

This year’s annual Eurocrim Conference in Athens, Greece, created a great opportunity for many of our ImpleMéndez colleagues to present and promote the Méndez Principles and investigative interviewing to academics and practitioners from around the world. Among the topics discussed during the four-day conference were police misconduct hearings in the Metropolitan Police (L. Skinns), addressing domestic violence cases and protecting vulnerable crime victims (A. Preda), understanding and dismantling disinformation and hate speech targeting immigrants from a forensic linguistic perspective (R. Sousa Silva), rural criminology issues (K. Smith), protecting minors’ rights during pre-trial stages of criminal proceedings and compliance with international and EU legal standards (A. Baneviciene), terrorism crimes during armed conflicts (V. Vasiliauskienė), utilising AI to assist lawyers in interviewing forensic experts following the investigative interviewing model (D. Solodov). It is also worth noting that next year’s Eurocrim Annual Conference will be held in Warsaw, Poland!

The Vulnerable Accused in the Criminal Justice System 10–11 September 2025, Cardiff University

The second international conference on “The Vulnerable Accused in the Criminal Justice System” was held on 10–11 September 2025 in the Glamorgan Building, Cardiff University. Building on the inaugural 2023 event in Birmingham, the conference brought together researchers, practitioners, and policy experts to examine the safeguarding, protection, and

participation of vulnerable suspects and defendants across jurisdictions. The keynote address, “Vulnerability, dignity and materiality: Joining up the dots and making an impact on police custody,” was delivered by Professor Layla Skinns (University of Sheffield). Our colleague Hanna Lahtinen (Finland) presented a project on developing guidance for law enforcement to identify and address the needs of accused neurodivergent individuals in the criminal justice system. Several ImpleMendez members also gave presentations, including Alan Cusack, Lütfiye Kaya Ciceralli, Brendan O’Mahony, and Katie Maras. In addition, the ImpleMendez Workshop on vulnerability and the Méndez Principles: from conceptualisation to implementation featured contributions from Lore Mergaerts, Roxanna Dehaghani, and Aura Preda (Romania). The workshop was organised by Roxanna Dehaghani (Cardiff University), Samantha Fairclough (University of Birmingham), and Harriet Pierpoint (University of South Wales), with valuable support from the ImpleMéndez network.



Training school in Tampere, Finland

Implementing the Mendez Principles: What Works and What Can Be Improved?



Finnish and international ImpleMéndez members, including Julia Korkman, Laura Pajon, Amina Memon, Gisle Kvanvig, Becky Milne, David Walsh, Hanna Lahtinen, and Francesco Pompedda, gathered at the Police University College in Tampere on September 15–16 for a training school focused on investigative interviewing. The event brought together key practitioners, including police detective chief inspectors, serious crime team leaders, prosecutors, representatives from the National Police Board, educators from the Police University College, and academics from both Finland and abroad.

Over two days, participants explored topics such as improving the quality of investigative interviewing in Finland, applying the Mendez principles, developments in interviewing practices in Finland, insights from other countries, addressing the needs of vulnerable interviewees, and the influence of cultural context. The atmosphere among the audience was enthusiastic, and following lectures and group discussions, a strong consensus emerged among the 60 participants on the necessary developments. Most importantly, actionable next steps were agreed upon!



COST Academy – Young Researcher Training Brussels, 2–3 September 2025

Our colleague, Ana Sofia Meneses-Silva (Portugal), attended the COST Academy Young Researcher (YR) Training in Brussels on 2–3 September 2025. This was a pilot training for running COST Actions and reunited 36 participants from all over Europe. On the first day of the event, the group had the opportunity to hear different perspectives and personal experiences from other COST members, including Adna Ašić, Daniel Patauner, and Amil Orahovac, who are highly experienced YRs in various actions. They shared useful knowledge on getting visibility and building relationships within Actions, and the three of them underlined the fact that COST provides excellent opportunities to develop soft skills, contribute freely to high-quality projects and join forces with senior researchers within the same research area. In the words of Amil Orahovac, COST truly is “a laboratory for collaboration”. At the end of the session, everyone had the opportunity for a Q&A and a meaningful discussion where the group could clarify all their doubts with Dr Emiljano Kaziaj (COST Science Officer). On the second day of the training, the participants were given the chance to enrol in a workshop on self-leadership provided by two enthusiastic trainers of StreetwiZe (Olivier and Davy).



This was a great “hands-on” moment to work on the concept of leadership and reflect on how we can lead ourselves as YRs to become more innovative. Then, the participants were given tips on how to find their strengths to perform better in their careers and how to work on the points they want to develop. Obviously, it could not miss several ice-breaking moments and networking opportunities among participants. Overall, the lesson to take away from these two days was: be active, stay motivated and contribute the best you can! The more you give, the more the network will give you back. Opportunities like these are essential not only for career and personal development but also for empowering and retaining YRs in Actions.



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.

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