

THE ImpleMéndez newsletter



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

Your ImpleMendez Core Management (CM) group

Chair

Dave Walsh

Vice-Chair

Yvonne Daly

Special coordinators

Science Communication Co-ordinator

Kristjan Kask

Grant awarding co-ordinator

Ivar Fahsing

WG1

Investigation and Interviewing

Leader: Lennart May

Co-leaders: Linda Geven, Telma Sousa Almeida, Becky Milne and Miet Vanderhallen

WG2

Law, Human Rights, Criminal Justice

Leader: Anželika Banevičienė

Co-leaders: Zeynep Reva, Denis Solodov and Ondrej Pavalek

WG3

Vulnerability

Leader: Lore Mergaerts

Co-leaders: Hanna Lahtinen and Laura Pajon

WG4

Institutional and Governmental Leadership

Leader: Vasylyna Yavorska

Co-leaders: Martijn van Beek, Ólafur Bragason and Monty Mountford

Latest developments

Updated Co-leads of the four Working Groups

We are pleased to share the updated list of Leads and Co-Leads for the four Working Groups.

Working Group 1

Lead: Lennart May (Germany);

Co-leads: Linda Geven (Netherlands), Telma Sousa Almeida (Portugal), Becky Milne (UK), Miet Vanderhallen (Belgium);

Working Group 2

Lead: Anzelika Baneviciene (Lithuania);

Co-leads: Zeynep Reva (Turkey), Denis Solodov (Poland), Ondrej Pavalek (Czech Republic);

Working Group 3

Lead: Lore Mergaerts (Belgium);

Co-leads: Hanna Lahtinen (Finland), Laura Pajon (UK);

Working Group 4

Lead: Vasylyna Yavorska (Ukraine);

Co-leads: Martijn van Beek (Netherlands), Ólafur Bragason (Iceland), Monty Mountford (UK).

As you can see, we are truly transnational and we are working together being separated only by our respective states' borders!

Webinar Summary: Recent Trends and Challenges in Recording Interviews

On Thursday, 6 November, the International Investigative Interviewing Research Group (iIRG), in cooperation with Davidhorn, hosted another session in the “In Conversation” webinar series titled “Recent Trends and Challenges in Recording Interviews”. The webinar featured three distinguished speakers (all of them are ImpleMéndez members!):

LIVE WEBINAR
Recent Trends and Challenges in Recording Interviews: iIRG in Conversation with Davidhorn

tinyurl.com/iirg-con

Dr. Ivar A. Fahsing
Res. Detective Chief Superintendent, Associate Professor at the Norwegian Police University College & Visiting Professor at the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Oslo. With over 15 years of operational experience as a senior detective in the Oslo Police Department and the NOKS of Norway, he brings a rare and authoritative perspective to the study and practice of policing and criminal investigations. Dr. Fahsing is also a member of the UNODC and INTERPOL expert group on the use of AI and neural networks in law enforcement.

Dr. R. Dian Dia-an Muniroh
Associate Professor in the Linguistics Study Program at Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia (Indonesia University of Education). She earned her PhD in Forensic Linguistics from RMIT University, Australia, in 2019. Since then, she has actively promoted forensic linguistics and delivered investigative interviewing training for academics and professionals across Southeast Asia. She is a member of the EU (COST) Action CA2128, ImpleMéndez.

Stig Knutsen
Chief Sales Officer (CSO), Davidhorn | Level 3 Investigative Interviewer. Stig has experience supporting police in delivering secure, compliant, and efficient interview recording solutions. He combines knowledge of evidence-based interviewing with expertise in technology deployment. As a long time contributor to iIRG and member of the ImpleMéndez network, Stig actively promotes ethical and effective interviewing practices through collaboration between practitioners, researchers, and technology providers.

Thursday 6 November at 15:00 / 3 PM (CET)
2:00 PM (GMT/London) / 21:00 PM (WIB/Jakarta) / 09:00 AM (EST/NYC)

- Dr. *Ivar A. Fahsing*, Associate Professor at the Norwegian Police University College and Visiting Professor at the University of Oslo;
- Dr. *R. Dian Dia-an Muniroh*, Associate Professor at Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia and member of the EU COST Action ImpleMéndez;
- *Stig Knutsen*, Chief Sales Officer at Davidhorn and Level 3 Investigative Interviewer.

During the discussion, the speakers explored emerging developments, ethical considerations, and technological innovations in the recording of investigative interviews.

They also shared perspectives on collaboration between researchers, practitioners, and technology providers to enhance evidence-based interviewing practices worldwide. The event attracted participants from across Europe and beyond, allowing an exchange of ideas on current trends in investigative interviewing in the context of new technologies. For more information about upcoming iIRG webinars, visit: <https://iirg.org/webinars>.

Interview on Méndez Principles on Polish TV

Our Action member, Denis Solodov from the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland, was invited, in november, to take part in an interview on the state television channel TVP3 Olsztyn, broadcast in the programme Punkt Widzenia (*Point of View*, in English). During the interview, Denis discussed recent developments in improving interviewing practices in Poland, with particular reference to the Méndez Principles.

He outlined the advantages of rapport-based interviewing models, addressed the progress achieved by the Polish team within the Implemendez COST Action, including ongoing efforts to adapt and disseminate these international standards in the Polish context. The full interview is available on the **TVP3 Olsztyn website (in Polish)**.



I. Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)

As ImpleMéndez enters Year 3 (beginning 1 November 2025), new funding opportunities are being prepared across several activity streams.

Short Term Scientific Missions are designed to support individual mobility, enhance collaboration, and strengthen networks by enabling members to visit host institutions in other countries (link to the list of eligible countries [here](#)). STSMs must contribute directly to the goals of the Action. Members are encouraged to consult the Action's aims and objectives before planning an STSM. Eligibility:

- Duration: 5 to 90 days (the Action particularly encourages visits of 1–2 weeks)
- Both the applicant and proposed host must be ImpleMéndez participants
- Preference will be given to applicants who have not previously received an STSM grant

Grantees must be affiliated with a COST Full/Cooperating Member country or a Near-Neighbour Country. Further regulatory details are available in the COST Annotated Rules ([here](#)). Grants offer contributions for travel, accommodation, subsistence, project implementation, and reporting. No invoices are required. The maximum possible grant is €4000, with an expected grant size of approximately €1500. ImpleMéndez plans to award 8 STSM grants during the period. A short scientific report must be submitted to both the host institution and the STSM Coordinator within 30 days after completion or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period, whichever occurs first. All funded STSMs must conclude no later than 30 September 2026.

Key Dates for STSMs:

- 10 November 2025 – Notification of new STSMs
- 19 January 2026 – Application window opens
- 2 February 2026 – Application window closes
- 6 February 2026 – Panel meeting and decisions

Applicants are encouraged to use the period before 19 January to secure a host.

II. Training Schools (face-to-face)

In 2026, the Action will host two in-person Training Schools, in addition to several online events. Funding for participation follows standard COST rules.

Scheduled Training Schools

- Dundee, Scotland – 10–11 June 2026 Training on ORBIT awareness delivered by the model's originators;
- Leuven, Belgium – 6–7 July 2026 Training focused on interviewing child suspects.

Although early-career researchers (under 40) and members from ITC countries are especially encouraged to apply, all interested ImpleMéndez participants are eligible. Each Training School will accommodate approximately 25 participants.

Selection Process

An Expression of Interest exercise will be conducted, with detailed guidance to follow.

- WG1 Lead Lennart May will chair the panel for the ORBIT Training School.
- WG3 Lead Lore Mergaerts will chair the panel for the Leuven Training School.

Key Dates for Training Schools

- 1 December 2025 – Expression of Interest opens
- 16 December 2025 – Expression of Interest closes
- By 2 February 2026 – Notifications issued

III. Conference Grants

Funding will also be available for approximately eight conference grants to support presentations at high-level academic conferences. Members are particularly encouraged to consider the International Investigative Interviewing Research Conference, taking place 8–10 July 2026 in Leuven, Belgium, due to its strong alignment with the Action goals.

Three categories of conference funding will be offered:

- Young Researcher Conference Grants
- ITC Conference Grants
- Dissemination Conference Grants (for work emerging directly from Implemendez activities)

Key Dates for Conference Grants

- 16 February 2026 – Application window opens
- 27 February 2026 – Application window closes
- 5 March 2026 – Panel meeting and decisions

KEY NOTICE

These announcements serve as an early notice of the timelines for each funding call so that members and new applicants may plan accordingly.

Applications **are not yet open** for any of the activities listed above.

Submission periods will begin on the dates provided.

Media Interviews Training School

Media Interviews Training School will be held online on 3 February 2026 12:00 – 14:00 UK Time (13:00 – 15:00 CET). The link to the session could be found in the Fiona's email, plus, [here](#).

Calls for cooperation

Emerging technologies subgroup meeting

On 19 November, during the Emerging Technologies subgroup meeting, members discussed the results of a survey prepared by Kate Haworth (UK) on interview recording, covering organizational, procedural, and evidential aspects. The plan is to produce a White Paper on interview recordings for law enforcement and policy makers. All members interested in the subgroup are welcome to contact our moderator and organizer, Irena Höglund Matthews (Sweden).

White Paper on Deception Detection in Investigative Interviews

Our colleagues have launched an international initiative to develop a White Paper on Deception Detection during investigative interviews. The goal of the White Paper is to reflect the current scientific consensus on approaches, tools, and techniques used in detecting deception, bridging perspectives from psychology, law, and investigative practice. Project Phases include:

1. *Expert Contributions*: Deception detection researchers are invited to submit short suggestions and insights for inclusion in the White Paper.
2. *Collaborative Drafting*: A small group of researchers and legal scholars will meet in person to review submissions and draft the document.
3. *Review and Feedback*: The draft will then be circulated among contributors and practitioners for comments and approval.
4. *Dissemination*: Once published, additional outputs such as police briefings, podcasts, and summaries will be prepared.

If you are a researcher in the field of deception detection, you are cordially invited to contribute your insights by completing a short survey (four questions, max. 250 words each). Survey link is [**here**](#). Submission deadline: *November 30, 2025*. Project Coordinators: Jaume Masip (Spain), Bruno Verschuere (Netherlands), Letizia Caso (Italy), Nicola Palena (Netherlands), Vincent Denault (Canada).

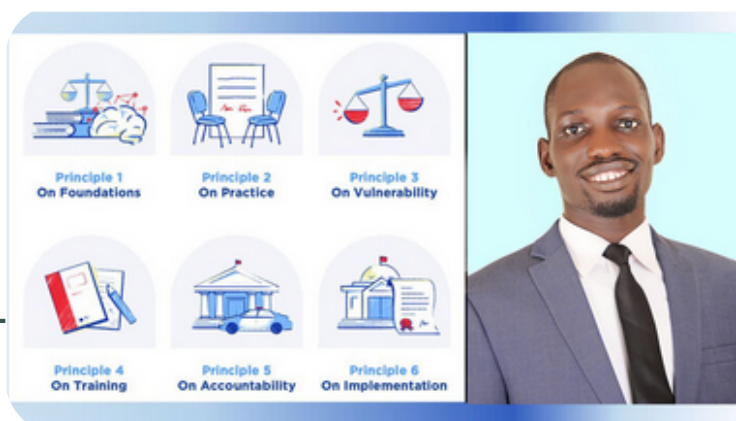
Successful ERC Synergy Grant application!

We are pleased to announce the successful European Research Council application submitted by our colleagues: *Prof. Shane O'Mara* (Ireland), *Prof. Dave Walsh* (UK), *Prof. Yvonne Daly* (Ireland) and *Dr. Bennett Kleinberg* (Netherlands). The forthcoming **JUSTICE project** is worth **10.4 million euros**! It is scheduled to commence in **April 2026** and will run for **six years**. The ImpleMéndez network is expected to play a significant role in the work that lies ahead! The JUSTICE project (Joining Unique Strategies Together for Interrogative Coercion Elimination) will bring together the disciplinary expertise of the four listed ImpleMéndez members, across psychology and neuroscience, criminal investigation, law, and data science to examine the ongoing use of coercion and aggression in investigative settings, and to endeavour to chart a course towards greater compliance with the Méndez Principles worldwide. The project will involve measuring and mapping of compliance with the Méndez Principles across jurisdictions; neurological studies on group decision-making and engagement during investigative interviews; empirical studies on the impact of being subjected to coercion in this context, and more. The JUSTICE team will also develop innovative technological tools to assist law enforcement investigators to conduct effective, human rights-compliant investigative interviews.

New publications

Applying the Méndez Principles in Uganda: Challenges and Opportunities by Jordan Megolonyo

A new article by Jordan Megolonyo (Uganda), Legal Officer at the African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV), offers an in-depth analysis of what it would take to apply the Méndez Principles within Uganda's criminal-justice system. The work highlights both the obstacles and the significant opportunities for reform. The author notes that Uganda already has a solid legal basis – the 1995 Constitution, the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, and procedural safeguards that prohibit the use of torture-derived evidence. However, persistent challenges in practice remain. Reported issues include confession-based investigative culture, insufficient training in psychology-informed interviewing, resource constraints, including lack of recording equipment, weak accountability mechanisms and limited access for oversight bodies, special-needs gaps for children, trauma survivors, and persons with disabilities. The author proposes a reform strategy: policy alignment across police, prosecution, and justice institutions, targeted training and specialised interview teams, audio-video recording of interviews, beginning with serious cases, strengthened oversight and accessible complaint mechanisms, pilot projects to generate evidence of success, partnerships with civil society and international actors, including ACTV. The link to the full article published on the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights [website](#).



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).

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

Share your achievements with us!



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