

ImpleMéndez newsletter



WELCOME TO THE THIRD EDITION OF THE **IMPLEMÉNDEZ NEWSLETTER OF 2026!**

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

Two more Méndez Centres to be launched!

ImpleMéndez continues to expand its global reach with the establishment of two new regional centres: the Dutch-language Méndez Centre for Investigative Interviewing and the Méndez Asia-Pacific Centre for Investigative Interviewing (MAPCII). Both initiatives aim to advance the implementation of the Méndez Principles through research, training, and collaboration with practitioners and policymakers. While the Dutch-language Centre is currently preparing for its official launch in early 2027, MAPCII will be launched at the end of April 2026, bringing together an interdisciplinary network across the Asia-Pacific region. More details are provided below.

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 Ondřej Pavelek

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

Dutch-language Méndez Centre
A new initiative is underway to establish a Dutch-language Méndez Centre for Investigative Interviewing, led by Miet Vanderhallen (Belgium), Lore Mergaerts (Belgium), Linda Geven (Netherlands), and Jenny Schell-Leugers (Netherlands). The Centre aims to promote and support the implementation of the Méndez Principles through a combination of research, training, and outreach activities. The Centre will focus on developing high-quality research, producing and disseminating

training materials and best-practice guidance, and delivering training programmes, including train-the-trainer initiatives. It will also engage with policymakers and practitioners through lectures, outreach, and advisory work, while providing expert input in professional and legal contexts.

The project was initiated in October 2025. A key early activity is the contribution to the Dutch translation of the Méndez Principles during 2026, followed by the development of a dedicated website. In Flanders, the initiative has already secured support from several partners, including the Association of Prosecutors-General, the Ministry of Justice, the National Police Academy, and the Institute for the Training of Magistrates. In the Netherlands, initial contacts have been established with the Police Academy and the Dutch Criminal Defence Lawyers Association, with further collaborations expected to develop in the coming months. These efforts will contribute to the official launch of the Dutch-language Méndez Centre, planned for early 2027.

Méndez Asia-Pacific Centre for Investigative Interviewing (MAPCII)

The Méndez Asia-Pacific Centre for Investigative Interviewing (MAPCII) is a newly established regional initiative aimed at advancing ethical, evidence-based investigative interviewing in line with the Méndez Principles across the Asia-Pacific region. The Centre is led by Dr Ching-Yu Huang (Taiwan) and Dr Kai Li Chung (Malaysia). MAPCII will bring together an interdisciplinary network of members from six countries—Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Taiwan—with plans to further expand its regional reach. The Centre's work will focus on five key areas: training and capacity building, interdisciplinary research, policy advocacy, regional collaboration, and community engagement. Through these activities, MAPCII seeks to promote good practice and strengthen the implementation of the Méndez Principles across diverse national contexts. The official launch of the Centre is planned for the end of April 2026, with further updates to be shared via [its website](#).

International Women's Day - Women of ImpleMéndez

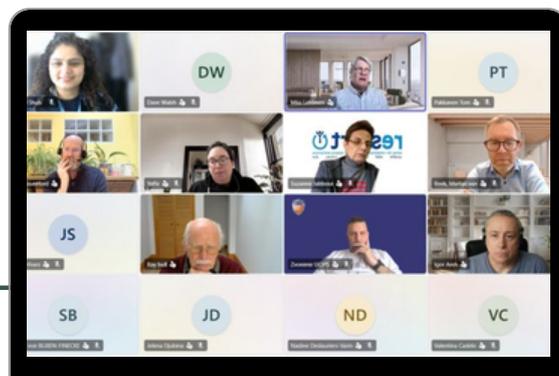
On 8 March 2026, ImpleMéndez marked International Women's Day by inviting members of the network to share their experiences in academic and professional contexts. **The result is a collection of personal reflections highlighting diverse pathways, challenges, and contributions of women across the network.** The testimonies reflect a wide range of perspectives, from experiences in research and leadership to work with vulnerable populations and engagement in practice. While each account is unique, common themes emerge around resilience, collaboration, and the importance of creating more inclusive and supportive professional environments. This initiative, led within the Diversity and Cross-Cultural Network (our ImpleMéndez colleague Samuel Pinheiro from Portugal), highlights the value of sharing lived experiences and reinforces the role of the ImpleMéndez community in supporting equality and inclusion.

Conversations with leadership - 2nd Edition, 10 March 2026

10th March 2026 saw the second event in the WG4 series 'Conversations with Leadership'. Through this series we aim to support all colleagues to make ImpleMéndez a success by gaining support from, and involvement of, leadership in their own countries.

The event focused on Finland and we were delighted to be joined by Chf Supt Dr Miia Lehtinen, serving police officer and member of the Finnish National Policing Board. Miia emphasised the importance of understanding and working with institutional hierarchies. We should remember that leadership includes more than just the top level of any hierarchy. Perspectives at the mid-level may be very different to those at the top and it is important to recognise such divergence in how we build our leadership relationships. Also discussed were: aligning ImpleMéndez outcomes with leadership goals such as focusing on enhancing public perceptions of quality of the criminal justice system, the benefits of international rivalry, leadership champions, and the positive impact of leaders who understand the value of research in supporting institutional ambition.

Our next event will be in early June - focused on the Netherlands. Invitations will be sent out once the event details are finalised so please keep an eye out for them. We look forward to seeing you at the next event!



Full Membership Online Meeting - 11 March 2026

The ImpleMéndez Full Membership Online Meeting on 11 March 2026 highlighted the continued growth and development of the network, which has expanded to over 400 members across 60 countries. Recent developments within ImpleMéndez reflect continued progress across funding, training, and network activities. Three STSM applications were successfully funded, and 24 conference grants have been awarded. The network continues to strengthen its visibility through its newsletter, website, and social media presence, while also expanding structurally with the establishment of three new Méndez Centres (German-speaking, Dutch-speaking, and Asia-Pacific). Recent and upcoming centre-related activities include the Limerick event on the work of Registered Intermediaries linked to the Irish Méndez Centre and a forthcoming event for the Norwegian Méndez Centre. Training remains a central focus, with multiple opportunities delivered and planned.

These include over 30 places for the Dundee ORBIT face-to-face training school, 25 places for the Leuven training on interviewing child suspects, and three online sessions held in February covering media training, rapport and language, and forensic linguistics in the context of the Méndez Principles. In parallel, webinars and Working Group meetings continue to be organised, alongside the development of 25 ongoing projects and new networks across the Action.

The meeting also outlined key upcoming events, including the Kraków (Cracow, Poland) in-person activities, and emphasised the importance of strengthening outputs and deliverables in the final phase of the Action. Discussions further addressed future planning,

ImpleMéndez Membership

Since October 2023

- ▶ Over 360% growth in members from 88 (October 2023) to 408 from 60 countries
- ▶ Gender balance 40% male/60% female
- 35% YRI

particularly the governance of Méndez Centres beyond October 2027 and the sustainability of ongoing networks and projects. Overall, the meeting reaffirmed the shared goal of advancing the implementation of the Méndez Principles through collaboration, research, and practical engagement across national jurisdictions.

German speaking Méndez Centre Activity in Bern, 13 March 2026

On 13 March 2026, the 10th Symposium on Police Law took place at the University of Bern, focusing on “Interviews in Criminal Investigations: The Potential of the Méndez Principles for Practice.” The conference was jointly organized by the University of Bern, the Swiss Police Institute, the Bern Cantonal Police, and ImpleMéndez / ZEFAB, and brought together around 230 representatives from police, prosecution services, the judiciary, and academia. Ten members of the ImpleMéndez network contributed with presentations, workshops, and discussions. The conference provided an important platform for professional exchange and significantly contributed to raising awareness of the Méndez Principles in Switzerland. ZEFAB – the Méndez Centre for German-speaking countries – will be formally launched at an event in September 2026.

International Week in Utrecht with the Méndez Principles in focus 9–13 March 2026

During the International Week in Utrecht on 9–13 March 2026, our ImpleMéndez colleague Prof. Dr. Birgitta Sticher (Germany) delivered a keynote lecture on *Implementing the Méndez Principles of Effective Interviewing*. The session introduced participants to the Méndez Principles as a framework for ethical, science-based investigative interviewing. Feedback from the audience was very positive, with strong engagement from students representing a range of European countries. The event highlighted an important gap, as the Méndez Principles remain relatively unknown among students in relevant educational fields. This underlines the continued relevance of ImpleMéndez activities in raising awareness and promoting the implementation of these principles across different educational and professional contexts.

Face-to-face multipurpose activity in Kraków (Poland) 24–25 March 2026

On 24–25 March 2026, the ImpleMéndez network held its first face-to-face activity for the current year in Kraków, Poland with a set of three co-located activities, kindly hosted by Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Kraków University, Law Department. The event brought together 30 members and around 40 trainees (who were law enforcement officers from Poland) for two days of collaboration, training, discussions, and knowledge exchange. The programme included three main strands:

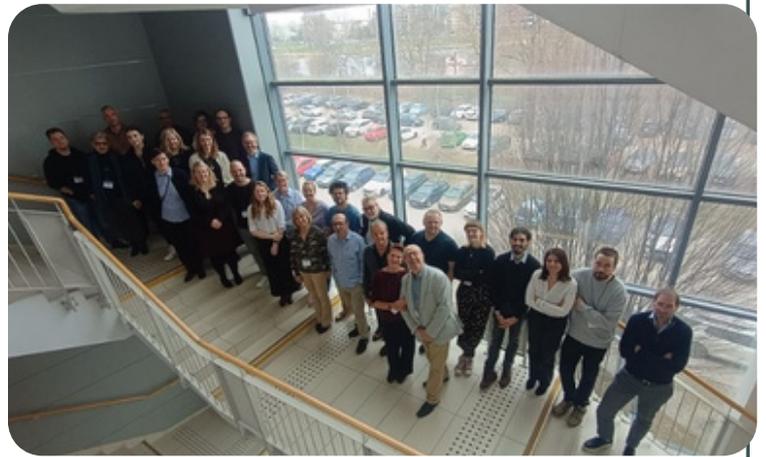
1. Project Polska

A major training initiative engaging over 40 participants, including police officers, border guards, prison staff, and legal professionals. Delivered by an international team of ImpleMéndez members (Martijn van Beek, Brian Quirke, Yvonne Day, and Dave Walsh), with support from several Polish ImpleMéndez colleagues (Olga Mazur, Marta Flis-Świeczkowska, Karolina Olszak-Häußler, Katarzyna Holewik, Marta Mikołajewska, Piotr Woldan, Denis Solodov), the sessions focused on introducing the Méndez Principles, building critical awareness, and covering practical aspects of investigative interviewing, planning and preparation, and the strategic use of

evidence and legal and procedural safeguards. Over the two days, participants took part in practical, scenario-based exercises.

2. Training Curriculum Development

For the first time, the Training Curriculum Network Group met in person after a series of online sessions. With a focused and effective team, participants finalised a shared training curriculum and materials to support teaching the Méndez Principles across the network. The materials are now stored online, with a decision on long-term access still pending. The group is currently seeking short English-language videos illustrating trauma victim responses and example statements—contributions can be sent to Thomas Skou Roer.



3. White Paper Meeting

A dedicated working session brought together 18 experts from academic, legal, and practitioner backgrounds to explore how research on detecting deception and assessing credibility aligns with the Méndez Principles. This work will contribute to the development of a forthcoming White Paper. Beyond the formal sessions, the event provided valuable opportunities for networking, cooperation, and advancing shared goals across the ImpleMéndez community. The Kraków meeting marks an important point in building a practice-oriented network committed to promoting ethical and effective techniques of investigative interviewing.

Online Conference: Transforming Investigative Interviewing 26 March 2026

On 26 March 2026, the online conference “Joint Operations: Transforming Investigative Interviewing Through Integrated Technologies” brought together experts and practitioners, including many ImpleMéndez colleagues, to discuss how technology is shaping investigative interviewing. The one-day (over five hours!) event included a series of presentations at the intersection of artificial intelligence, behavioural science, and criminal investigations. Topics ranged from synthetic memory and AI-generated testimony to the use of robots in building interviewer rapport, as well as the use of digital behavioural data to detect insider threats.

JOINT OPERATIONS
TRANSFORMING INVESTIGATIVE INTERVIEWING THROUGH
INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGIES

MARCH 26, 2026
11:00 am - 5:00 pm (GMT)

ONLINE CONFERENCE 2026

Time	Title	Speaker
11:00 - 12:00	Opening Keynote & Book Launch	Prof. Becky Milne & Prof. Ray Bull
12:00 - 12:30	Synthetic Memory & AI-Testimony	Dr. Brandon May
12:30 - 1:00	Rapport & Robots: Enhancing Interviewer Rapport Skills with AI	Prof. Laurence Alison
1:00 - 1:30	Detecting Insider Threats: Insights from Digital Behavioural Data	Prof. Coral Dando
BREAK		
2:00 - 2:30	Police Interrogation in the US	Dr. Brandon May
2:30 - 3:00	Developing A Model of Sexual Offence Complainant Interviewing: Justitia & JAT	Prof. Becky Milne & Dr. Patrick Tidmarsh
BREAK		
3:00 - 3:30	Man, Machine, & Investigative Management	DCI Eiríkur Valberg
3:30 - 4:00	Buried in Evidence: The Case for an AI Revolution in Criminal Investigations	Prof. Ivar Fahsing
4:30 - 5:00	Future of Investigative Interviewing & Closing Remarks	Prof. Becky Milne & Dr. Brandon May



CentreofForensicInterviewing.com

The programme also covered more practical and policy-focused issues, including police interrogation practices in the United States and approaches to interviewing victims of sexual offences. Later sessions looked at how human decision-making interacts with machine support in investigations and the increasing role of AI in analysing evidence. The conference closed with reflections on the future of investigative interviewing, pointing to both the opportunities and the challenges linked to new technologies. Overall, the event brought together academics and practitioners and offered a space for exchanging ideas on how technology can support more effective and ethical interviewing practices.

New Davidhorn Podcast with iIRG

A new episode of Beyond a Reasonable Doubt is out, featuring our ImpleMéndez colleagues Susanne H. Flølo and Christopher E. Kelly. The discussion explores a striking insight: every major interviewing framework – PEACE, KREATIV, ORBIT – ultimately comes down to the same fundamentals: stay respectful, ask good questions, and truly listen. So why does a confession-driven culture persist, even in systems that have formally adopted investigative interviewing? In this episode, host Børge Hansen speaks with leading members of the International Investigative Interviewing Research Group (iIRG) about what makes reform stick – and what keeps pulling it back.

[Watch now on YouTube!](#)



Calls for cooperation

Expression of Interest: Future Governance of Méndez Centres

ImpleMéndez members are invited to express interest in contributing to the future governance and oversight of the Méndez Centres following the conclusion of the COST Action in October 2027. While the Action continues over the next 18 months with ongoing activities, events, and outputs, initial steps are being taken to consider succession planning. As part of this process, agencies and organisations are encouraged to indicate their potential interest in supporting the continued development and governance of the Méndez Centres beyond the funded period. Interested organisations are asked to submit a brief expression of interest (maximum one page) by **Monday, 20 April 2026** to Fiona.

The expression of interest should include:

- A description of the agency or organisation
- The value it could bring to the ongoing development of the Méndez Centres
- A vision for how involvement in governance and oversight could function
- Any additional relevant information

Submitting an expression of interest is non-binding and intended solely to inform future planning considerations. For any questions, contact Yvonne Daly.

Call for Contributions: Training Programme on Legal Assistance for Victims

Members of ImpleMéndez are invited to contribute to the development of a new training programme for defence lawyers on advising and supporting victims of sexual violence and intimate partner violence during police interviews. The initiative, led by the Flemish Bar Association in collaboration with experts including our ImpleMéndez colleagues Lore Mergaerts and Miet Vanderhallen (Belgium), builds on previous work related to the SUPRALAT training for defence lawyers assisting suspects. The new programme aims to address the emerging need for structured guidance on legal assistance for victims at the police station, considering ongoing developments concerning victims' rights, which are not yet fully embedded in the Code of Criminal Procedure. The training will include an online theoretical component consisting of several modules, followed by a two-day practical skills training focused on confidential consultation and assistance during police interviews.

Contributions are sought from colleagues with relevant expertise in areas such as:

- Sexual criminal law
- Victim support systems and referral pathways
- Memory and its intersection with legal and psychological assistance
- Trauma-informed interviewing
- Investigative interviewing of victims
- Intimate partner violence and sexual violence
- Cross-cultural communication
- Vulnerability and bias in interviewing
- Secondary victimisation
- Rapport-building with victims

Although participation is unpaid, the initiative is considered highly valuable in advancing the implementation of the Méndez Principles.

Members willing to contribute are encouraged to complete the following form: **Legal assistance during victim interviews**.

Contributors will be acknowledged in the programme.

For further information or to express interest, members are encouraged to respond via the form.

Invitation to Contribute to a Multi-Author Publication

ImpleMéndez members who have contributed to the vignette project kindly led by our ImpleMéndez colleague Monty Mountford (UK) are invited to participate in the development of a multi-author academic paper. The vignettes, which consist of short country-focused narratives on leadership and leadership interactions during the lifetime of the project, have so far remained confidential, with only a limited number of anonymised excerpts previously shared at the Management Committee meeting in Vilnius. The next stage of the project involves conducting a thematic or narrative analysis of the full vignette collection, which is expected to include approximately 15–20 contributions. Prior to analysis, each vignette will be anonymised and shared with contributors for confirmation of accuracy and approval for use.

The process will follow established standards of confidentiality and data protection. Contributors are invited to join the co-author group, which currently includes five members. The aim is to involve all contributors in shaping the paper, including its structure, analytical approach, and potential publication outlets. While the lead author will undertake the primary drafting, collaborative input and feedback are strongly encouraged.

Members interested in participating are invited to express their interest (please, contact Monty Mountford: monty.mountford73@gmail.com). A draft outline of the paper will be shared with contributors for further input and discussion.

Call for Research Collaboration: Access to Anonymised Interview Materials

A request has been shared within the ImpleMéndez network regarding access to anonymised investigative interview materials for academic research purposes. Our ImpleMéndez colleague Jelena Djubina (Latvia) is currently preparing a conference presentation titled *Psychological vulnerability of suspects in postmodern societies and its implications for the implementation of the Méndez Principles*, alongside her PhD research and a forthcoming article on digitalisation as a socio-psychological factor in pathways to antisocial and criminal behaviour. In this context, she is seeking access to anonymised materials such as:

- audio recordings of investigative interviews
- anonymised interview transcripts
- training datasets or interview corpora used for research or training purposes

The request fully respects legal, ethical, and data protection constraints, and does not involve any identifying personal information. The focus of the research is on the interactional and linguistic dynamics of investigative interviews, particularly in relation to psychological vulnerability and references to digital environments (e.g. online platforms) within interview contexts. Members of the ImpleMéndez network who work with such datasets, or who are aware of existing resources or research groups, are invited to share information, guidance, or explore potential collaboration. Any input, including brief suggestions or pointers to relevant datasets, would be highly appreciated. Please contact Jelena: 064676@rsu.edu.lv.

Upcoming Online Meetings: Join, Collaborate, and Publish research papers together!

In the coming months, WG2 will host a series of online meetings focused on topics linked to the Méndez Principles. These sessions are an opportunity for discussion and a starting point for deeper cooperation in developing and publishing joint research papers.

1. **28 March 2026, 15:00 CET** "The right to remain silent" (host/moderator: Anželika Banevičienė)
2. **19 April 2026, 10:00 CET** "Interview recordings in criminal proceedings: legal, institutional, and tactical issues" (host/moderator: Denis Solodov)
3. **03 June 2026, 14:00 CET** "Lawyers as Safeguards in Investigative Interviews: Comparative Practices and the Development of Méndez Principles-Based Monitoring Checklists" (host/moderator: Zeynep Reva)
4. **22 June 2026, 09:00 CET** "Social work, law and the Méndez Principles" (host/moderator: Ondřej Pavelek)

The meetings are intended as working spaces bringing together different perspectives from across the Network. Participants are encouraged to use them as a platform to exchange ideas, identify common research interests, and (ideally) build small collaborative teams that can take these or other topics further toward joint publications in peer-reviewed internationally oriented scientific journals. Links to join the meetings will be shared within the ImpleMéndez network soon.

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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