

ImpleMéndez newsletter



We are now 402 members from 60 countries!

WELCOME TO THE FOURTH EDITION OF THE
IMPLEMÉNDEZ NEWSLETTER OF 2026!

Your ImpleMendez Core Management (CM) group

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Kristjan Kask

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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*

Virtual Launch of the Méndez Asia-Pacific Centre for Investigative Interviewing (MAPCII)

On 29 April 2026, the Méndez Asia-Pacific Centre for Investigative Interviewing (MAPCII) was launched during an online event that brought together participants from across the region and beyond. MAPCII aims to promote ethical, evidence-based investigative interviewing practices in the Asia-Pacific region, in line with the Méndez Principles. The Centre is led by Dr Ching-Yu Huang (National Taiwan University, Taiwan) and co-led by Dr Kai Li Chung (University of Nottingham Malaysia). The launch also highlighted a growing regional network of experts involved in the initiative, with representatives from Taiwan, Malaysia, Australia, Indonesia, New Zealand and the Philippines. Their expertise covers investigative interviewing, forensic linguistics, and work with vulnerable groups.

MAPCII will be the third Méndez Centre, joining:

- the Norwegian Méndez Centre for Investigative Interviewing;
- the Irish Méndez Centre for Investigative Interviewing.

And two more will follow in the coming months:

- the Dutch-language Méndez Centre;
- the Méndez Centre for Effective and Fair Interviewing for German-Speaking Countries (ZEF).

Welcome (5 minutes)
 Panel discussion (45 minutes)
 Q&A (10 minutes)
 Closing (5 minutes)

Please put your questions in the chat, we will moderate the questions.
 Thank you! 😊

Esteem panelists:



Dr Agus Irianto
 Deputy For Legal Affairs and Cooperation, National Narcotics Board of The Republic of Indonesia



Dr Rudy Gahar
 Training Director of Philippine Investigation and Forensic Science Academy (PIFSA); Dean of Criminology, Polytechnic College of La Union, Philippines



Detective Senior Sergeant Glen Turner
 Practice Leader for Investigative Interviewing



Dr Chih-Hung (James) Shih
 Chair of the Department of Criminal Investigation, Central Police University, Taiwan

Chair:

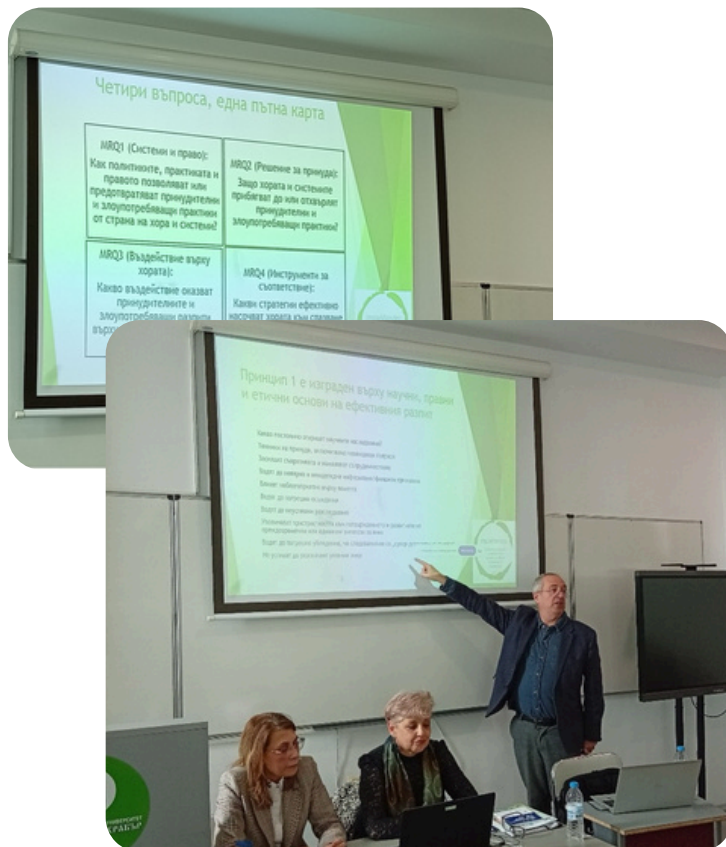


Prof. Georgina Heydon
 Forensic Linguist, Criminology and Justice Studies, RMIT University

The creation of MAPCII expands the reach of the Méndez Principles and strengthens regional capacity for fair, transparent, and rights-based investigative interviewing. More information [here!](#)

Visit of Professor David Walsh to Varna Free University

From 13 to 17 April 2026, Prof. David Walsh (UK), the Chair of our COST Action, visited Varna Free University in Bulgaria. During the visit, Prof. Walsh delivered a public lecture titled *Towards a better (and more effective!) way of interviewing suspects*. The lecture addressed the challenges of applying the Méndez Principles—international standards for effective investigative interviewing adopted under the auspices of the United Nations in 2021. The event brought together students, academics, and practitioners, including judges, prosecutors, investigators, and representatives of the Ministry of Interior.



A Bulgarian translation of the Méndez Principles, prepared within the project, was also presented in brochure form. Prof. Walsh also held a working meeting with the Vice President of the University, Mr Yani Yanev, and the Dean of the Faculty of Law, Assoc. Prof. Elisaveta Kalinova.

Discussions focused on opportunities for academic cooperation and the further development of education in criminal investigations. In addition, Prof. Walsh gave an interview to Radio Varna (details below). The visit contributed to strengthening academic cooperation and promoting awareness of evidence-based, rights-compliant investigative interviewing.

Online webinar on *Evaluating Investigative Interviewing Research and Training* 20 April 2026

We are pleased to share a brief recap of the first part of the webinar series “What’s in the box? Evaluating investigative interviewing research and training,” organised within the Investigation, Interviewing and Interrogation Working Group framework.

The series brings together leading experts to reflect on the current state of evidence in investigative interviewing, addressing both research and training perspectives. Each webinar features a focused presentation followed by an engaging discussion with participants. The first webinar, focused on research, was held on 20 April 2026 and delivered by Professor Christopher E. Kelly. The presentation explored key developments, challenges, and directions in investigative interviewing research, followed by a lively discussion that allowed participants to critically engage with the topic.

The second part is planned for **1 June 2026** and will be led by Professor Becky Milne, addressing training in investigative interviewing. The session will provide insights into how research is translated into practice, highlighting effective approaches and areas for future improvement.

WG2-led International Conference in Geneva *Advancing safeguards in investigative interviewing*

On 23–24 April 2026, WG2, together with the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, organised the international conference “Safeguarding Against Ill-Treatment in Interrogation: Aligning Disciplines for Effective and Fair Interviewing” in Geneva. Hosted at Villa Moynier, the event brought together experts from law, psychology, human rights, and investigative practice to explore interdisciplinary approaches to ethical, evidence-based interviewing.

The list of participants included among others Emily Alison (UK), Ralf Alleweldt (Germany), Knut D. Asplund (Norway), Anželika Banevičienė (Lithuania), Barbara Bernath (UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture), Ray Bull (UK), Valentina Cadelo (APT, Switzerland), Andrew Clapham (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Switzerland), Alexis Comminos (International Committee of the Red Cross, Switzerland), Yvonne Daly (Ireland), Roxanna Dehaghani (UK), Mark Fallon (ClubFed, LLC, USA), Paola Gaeta (Geneva Academy, Switzerland), Maya Hertig Randall (University of Geneva, Switzerland), Nicole Hogg (APT, Switzerland), Suzanne Jabbour (UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture), Michael Kellett (APT, Switzerland), Olga Kosevaliska (North Macedonia), Lorenzo Nesti (Italy), Andra Nicolescu (Guernica Magazine, USA), Gavin Oxburgh (UK), Victoria Priori (Geneva Academy, Switzerland), Zeynep Reva (Turkey), Robert Roth (University of Geneva, Switzerland), Therese Rytter (European Committee for the Prevention of Torture), Denis Solodov (Poland), Mark Thomson (Méndez Principles Steering Committee), Morris Tidball-Binz (UN Special Rapporteur), Violeta Vasiliauskienė (Lithuania), Vasylyna Yavorska (Ukraine).

Safeguarding Against Ill-Treatment in Interrogation: Aligning Disciplines for Effective and Fair Interviewing

23–24 April 2026
Geneva, Villa Moynier



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THE GENEVA
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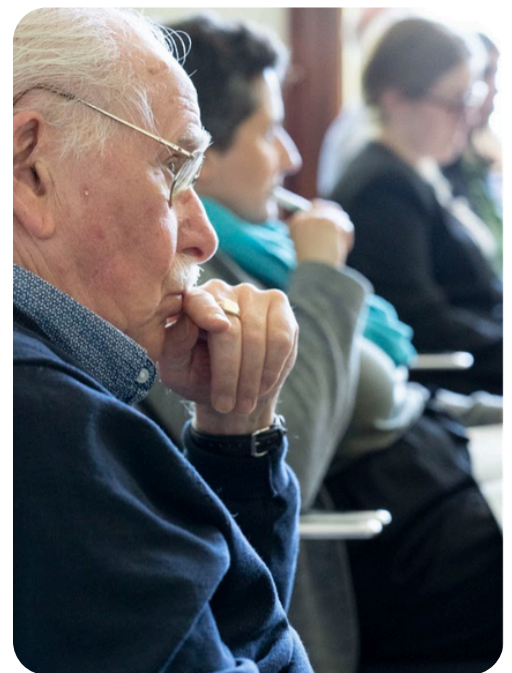


The conference opened with remarks by Professor Cécile Aptel (Geneva Academy) and Professor David Walsh and was organised around four main themes. Day 1 focused on integrating legal safeguards into interviewing practice, as well as juvenile justice and vulnerability. Discussions highlighted the need to better connect legal standards with everyday interviewing practices, particularly when working with children and other vulnerable groups.

Day 2 began with a reflection by Professor Juan Méndez and continued with sessions on transparency in interviewing and the management of informal questioning. Participants emphasised that tools such as audio-visual recording and access to interview materials are not only essential safeguards that enhance accountability and prevent ill-treatment but also support professional learning. The event closed with remarks by Mark Thomson, co-Chair of the Steering Committee that wrote the Méndez Principles and former Secretary-General of the APT, who highlighted the importance of continued cooperation within the ImpleMéndez framework and ongoing dialogue across professional communities.

Across both days, a consistent message emerged: implementing the Méndez Principles effectively requires close collaboration across disciplines. Legal safeguards, scientific insights, and practical experience need to work together to ensure that interviewing practices are both effective and rights compliant. The conference contributed to strengthening shared understanding and ongoing international efforts to promote fair, transparent, and humane investigative interviewing.

WG2 would like to acknowledge the significant contribution of Steven J. Barela (Switzerland) and Anna Rosalie Greipl (Switzerland), whose efforts were instrumental to the conference.

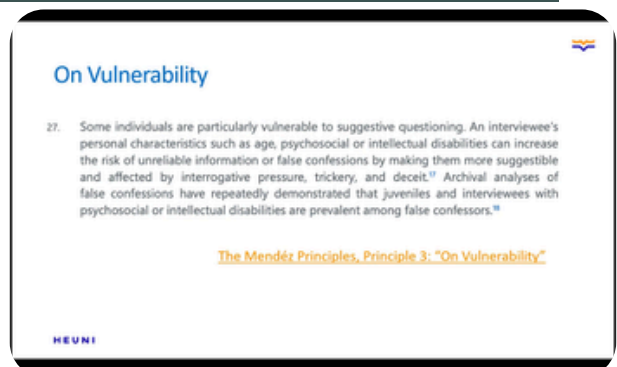


[LinkedIn](#) post of the Geneva Academy about the event [here](#).

[Instagram](#) post [here](#).

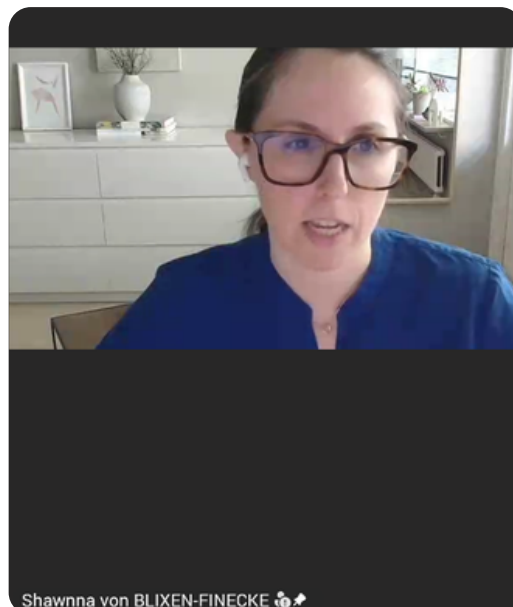
Barnahus Network Online webinar together with ImpleMéndez: *Interviewing Child Suspects – Towards Rights-Based Guidance* **27 April 2026**

The Barnahus Network and the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI), in collaboration with the ImpleMéndez project, organised a webinar workshop to review draft guidance for investigative interviews with child suspects. The webinar explored best practices for interviewing child suspects, building on the Méndez Principles and existing guidance



for interviewing child victims and witnesses. Key issues included balancing rapport-building with safeguards against coercion, reconciling accuracy-focused interviewing with the right not to self-incriminate and addressing differences in national practices.

The discussions are expected to contribute to the development of guidance that is legally sound, practically relevant, and adaptable across European contexts. The webinar was aimed at investigative interviewers, legal and children's rights experts, researchers, and practitioners working with children in the justice system. Participants were encouraged to contribute their experience and insights to help shape practical and rights-based guidance. The event was organised as part of the E-ViVI project, which seeks to strengthen access to justice and uphold respect for all parties involved in the criminal process.



WG2 Meeting Summary 28 April 2026

An online WG2 meeting was held on 28 April 2026. Key points of discussion included reflections on the expert meeting *Safeguarding Against Ill-Treatment in Interrogation: Aligning Disciplines for Effective and Fair Interviewing* (Geneva, 23–24 April 2026), a new initiative to strengthen collaboration in research and joint article writing, and initial ideas for developing online training activities. Following the main meeting, a cluster discussion took place focusing on a potential scientific article on *Right to remain silent in the context of the Méndez Principles*.

Colleagues who are interested in contributing to this publication but were unable to attend are invited to express their interest by contacting a.baneviciene@mruni.eu by 5 May.

Reminder of upcoming online meetings on collaboration and publishing research papers within the Action Network

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

- **19 April 2026, 10:00 CET** *Interview recordings in criminal proceedings: legal, institutional, and tactical issues* (host/moderator: Denis Solodov)
- **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)
- **22 June 2026, 09:00 CET** *Social work, law and the Méndez Principles* (host/moderator: Ondřej Pavelek).

These meetings are intended as working spaces that bring 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, form small collaborative teams that can develop 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.

Landmark Méndez Principles conference in Sofia ***Protection of Citizens' Rights in Criminal Proceedings: The Méndez Principles and their Application in Bulgarian Practice***



This conference attended by around 50 people including judges, lawyers, academics from the legal discipline, and students was the final stage of a EU funded project that was awarded to our members Associate Professor Zdravka Krasteva from the University of Sofia. Among the presentations were those made by other ImpleMéndez members, including Professor Ray Bull (UK), Sigrid Buseth (Norway), Professor Dave Walsh (UK), Knut Asplund (Norway), Mirela Andreeva (Bulgaria), and Associate Professor Zdravka Krasteva herself.

Read more about this event **on the Faculty of Law website**. It is in Bulgarian, but it can be easily translated automatically.

Guidelines for assessing vulnerability in criminal proceedings

A new set of guidelines developed within the ImpleMéndez project addresses a key issue in investigative interviewing: how to identify and respond to vulnerability during criminal investigations, police interviews, and broader criminal proceedings. The author is our Action member Professor Lore Mergaerts (Belgium), assisted by Knut Asplund (Norway).

The guidance highlights that vulnerability is not limited to specific groups but can arise from a wide range of factors, including age, mental and physical condition, situational stress, and the circumstances of detention.

Recognising and properly assessing these factors is essential to ensuring fair treatment, safeguarding rights, and improving the reliability of information obtained during interviews. Building on the Méndez Principles, the guidelines emphasise that effective interviewing must integrate legal and procedural safeguards at every stage. These include respect for the right to silence, access to legal assistance, and protection against coercion—core elements of human rights-compliant interviewing. The document also underlines the practical implications for investigators and practitioners.

Participants are encouraged to use them as a platform to exchange ideas, identify common research interests, and, ideally, form small collaborative teams that can develop 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.

Interview with Prof. David Walsh on reforming interrogation practices for Radio Varna, Bulgaria

In an interview with Bulgarian National Radio (Radio Varna), Professor David Walsh (UK) discussed the need to rethink traditional interrogation approaches and move towards methods grounded in law, science, and ethics. Reflecting on current practices, Prof. David Walsh emphasised the importance of shifting away from confession-driven models towards information-gathering approaches that prioritise reliability, transparency, and respect for fundamental rights.



The discussion also addressed the broader challenge of reforming “the interrogation room” – not only as a physical space, but as a professional and institutional culture. Emphasis was placed on training, accountability, and the integration of interdisciplinary knowledge to improve both the quality of investigations and the protection of individuals involved.

The reflections reinforce key themes discussed during recent ImpleMéndez events and underline the continuing need for international dialogue and cooperation in advancing ethical, rights-compliant interviewing practices.

Link to the interview [here!](#)

ImpleMéndez WG3 and iILRG webinar 21 May 2026

Ahead of this year’s practitioner-focused masterclass, the International Investigative Interviewing Research Group (iILRG), in collaboration with the ImpleMéndez network, is hosting a preview webinar as part of the “iILRG in Conversation” series. The masterclass itself will take place on 6–7 July in Leuven and will focus on interviewing child suspects, bringing together leading trainers and experts for two days of practical, practice-oriented learning. As a preview, the 21 May (16:00 CET) webinar will be led by the trainers involved in the masterclass, offering an overview of the key themes and approaches that will be explored in more depth during the training. The session will provide an opportunity to engage with the topic in advance and gain insight into current approaches to interviewing child suspects.

New publications

The latest issue of *Society and Law* (Issue 2/2026) features an article by Ruzhena Kondeva (Bulgarian District Prosecutor) and Dobrinka Chankova (Bulgaria) on the integration of applied psychology into the Mendez Principles for ethical interviewing.

Full reference: Kondeva, Ruzhena, and Dobrinka Chankova. "Izpolzvane na metodi i kriterii na prilozhnata psihologiya pri prilagane printsipite na Mendes" [Use of methods and criteria of applied psychology in implementing the Mendez principles]. *Obshchestvo i pravo* [Society and Law], no. 2 (2026)

A new investigative interviewing book from Frank Maurer, published on 29th April, is entitled *Technique and tactics of questioning: Conduct interrogations. Evaluate statements. Avoid wrong decisions*. The book is significantly influenced by the Méndez principles and the interviewing. It transfers the Méndez principles to the German-speaking market on the basis of the interrogation model PEACE, with the corresponding acronym PEEKAA. It is the first work in Germany to deal explicitly and in terms of content with the Méndez Principles and the standards of legal, scientific and ethical nature that apply to judges, prosecutors and police, etc., and to provide concrete information and recommendations.



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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