



The ImpleMéndez Newsletter

COST Action CA22128 – Establishing Networks to Implement the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations

#5 · May 2026

Welcome to the FIFTH EDITION of the ImpleMéndez Newsletter of 2026!

WE ARE NOW 433 MEMBERS FROM 60 COUNTRIES

Your ImpleMéndez 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, Miet Vanderhallen

WG2

Law, Human Rights, Criminal Justice

Leader: Anzelika Baneviciene

Co-leaders: Zeynep Reva, Denis Solodov, Ondrej Pavelek

WG3

Vulnerability

Leader: Lore Mergaerts

Co-leaders: Hanna Lahtinen, Laura Pajon

WG4

Institutional & Governmental Leadership

Leader: Vasylyna Yavorska

Co-leaders: Martijn van Beek, Olafur Bragason, Monty Mountford

EVENT

Istanbul Symposium & MC Meeting

11–12 May 2026

Members of the COST Action gathered in Istanbul for the international symposium "Five Years of the Méndez Principles: From Vision to Practice", hosted in collaboration with Ozyegin University. Full article continues on next page.

NETWORK

ImpleMéndez Gender Breakdown

As of February 2026, the ImpleMéndez Network was comprised of 406 members, 59.6% of which were women, a figure that is in line with the prevalence of women in the areas relevant to the Action. This gender breakdown was reflected in every Working Group, having corrected the underrepresentation of women previously found in WG4. The Action's Management Committee and Action Leadership positions also reflected these figures, and there was an even split between men and women for the Mandatory Leadership positions.

OPPORTUNITY

COST Info Day 2026

16 June 2026

ImpleMéndez members interested in applying for a new COST Action are invited to participate in the upcoming online COST Info Day 2026, which will take place on 16 June 2026 from 10:00 to 11:15 CEST. The session will provide practical information on the COST Open Call, proposal preparation, participation rules, and evaluation procedures. It may be particularly useful for researchers considering submitting a COST Action proposal this year, especially in view of the conclusion of the ImpleMéndez Action next year.

Registration (obligatory!) and further information:

cost.eu/cost-events/online-cost-info-day-2026/

EVENT

Istanbul Symposium & MC Meeting

11–12 May 2026

On 11–12 May 2026, members of our COST Action network gathered in Istanbul (Türkiye) for the international symposium "Five Years of the Méndez Principles: From Vision to Practice" and the subsequent Management Committee Meeting, hosted in collaboration with Ozyegin University. The two-day event brought together researchers, practitioners, and institutional representatives from across Europe and beyond to reflect on five years of progress in advancing ethical, evidence-based investigative interviewing practices in line with the Méndez Principles.

The symposium on 11 May 2026 was opened by Prof. Dr. Ozlem Yenerer Cakmut — Dean of the Faculty of Law, Ozyegin University (Türkiye), and Prof. Dave Walsh. The keynote lecture was delivered by Prof. Dr. Juan E. Méndez. In his presentation entitled "The Méndez Principles: Building Ethical Interviewing Cultures: Progress and Prospects", he discussed the development and significance of the Méndez Principles in the context of ethical interviewing standards.



The first discussion panel, entitled "Where Do We Go From Here? Future Challenges & Opportunities", was moderated by Kristjan Kask (Estonia) and Prof. Dr. Ozlem Yenerer Cakmut (Ozyegin University, Türkiye). The speakers included Prof. Ray Bull (UK) and Prof. Dave Walsh. The second panel focused on the challenges and prospects of implementing the Méndez Principles across Europe. It was moderated by Prof. Dr. Ozlem Yenerer Cakmut and Kristjan Kask

(Estonia), and featured Yvonne Daly (Ireland), and Nicole Hogg (the Secretary General of the APT, Switzerland).

The afternoon session included the panel "Diversity in Implementation. National and Pan-European Experiences", moderated by Prof. Ivar Fahsing (Norway) and Assoc. Prof. Hamid Basegmez (Ozyegin University, Türkiye). During this panel, representatives from various European countries presented their experiences: Hanna Lahtinen (Finland), Julia Korkman (Finland), Denis Solodov (Poland), Olga Mazur (Poland). Further presentations were delivered by Zeynep Reva (Türkiye), Zeynep's co-presenter Asst. Prof. Esra Çetinoz, and Therese Rytter (Switzerland).

The conference programme included scientific presentations, panel discussions, students' poster session, and exchanges of experiences concerning the implementation of international standards in the field of human rights protection and investigative interviewing tactics. Participants discussed, among other topics, the practical application of ethical interviewing principles, contemporary challenges related to the protection of interviewees' rights, and the role of scientific research in the development of international standards.

The Action extends its sincere thanks to [Ozyegin University](#), the local organising team, especially Zeynep Reva, speakers, contributors, and all participants whose engagement and expertise made the event possible.

The Management Committee Meeting on 12 May provided an opportunity to review progress across the Action's working groups and projects, assess current deliverables, and plan strategic activities for 2027. Discussions addressed future training schools, publications, regional centres, practitioner engagement, dissemination strategies, and the development of collaborative research outputs. The Istanbul meeting also highlighted the growing international reach of the ImpleMéndez network, including developments relating to the Irish, Norwegian, German-speaking, Dutch-speaking, and Asia-Pacific Méndez Centres, alongside expanding cooperation projects across Europe and beyond.

At the MC Kristjan Kask gave an update on the ImpleMéndez book in which many members have offered to write

a Chapter. Becky Milne and Ivar Fahsing discussed the progress on the Framework for Investigative Transformation (FITs), and Lorraine Hope presented the findings of the Performance Review Team that covered the progress of the various sub-projects, networks and Méndez centres. Dave and Yvonne discussed the importance of meeting deliverables and identifying, measuring and evidencing impact. The Management Committee also considered what sub-projects should be supported in 2027 and what training schools should be undertaken in the final year of ImpleMéndez, and possible locations for face-to-face activities. A record of such considerations has been distributed to members.

And a discussion was held in regard to the future governance of the Méndez Centres. The MC voted to support iIRG as the organisation that will undertake this role once ImpleMéndez ceases in October 2027, and are very grateful to Chris Kelly and Susanne Floelo (current iIRG co-chairs) for supporting this proposal.



WEBINAR

WG3 Webinar – in collaboration with iIRG: Interviewing of Child Suspects

21 May 2026

On 21 May 2026, ImpleMéndez, in conjunction with iIRG, hosted a webinar entitled "Child Suspect Interviewing", organised as a prelude to the upcoming Training School to be held in Leuven on 6–7 July 2026, ahead of the bi-annual iIRG conference. The webinar addressed the under-researched topic of child suspect interviewing, with a particular focus on the remaining questions and challenges facing practitioners in this field. Our ImpleMéndez colleague Miet Vanderhallen served as chair and moderator throughout the session, bringing together a panel of leading experts from research, legal practice, and frontline policing.

The webinar opened with a presentation by Dr Julia Korkman — Professor of Practice at Åbo Akademi (Law), Adjunct Professor in Legal Psychology at the University of Helsinki, and Senior Programme Officer at the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI) — on the importance of addressing child suspect interviewing as a research and practice priority. Dr Korkman, who currently serves as President of the European Association of Psychology and Law, brought to the session her extensive expertise in investigative interviewing, memory, and decision-making within legal contexts.

The panel discussion featured three further experts: Dr Vicky Kemp (Principal Research Fellow and Co-Director of the Criminal Justice Research Centre, University of Nottingham), whose recent Nuffield Foundation study was the first in England and Wales to engage directly with children about their experiences in police custody; Kristel

Jansens, a Belgian defence lawyer and former police officer with a specialisation in representing minors and training legal professionals on legal assistance within the Flemish Bar Council; and Michèle Nelen, a Specialized Chief Inspector in a Belgian local police force and TAM (technique for audiovisual interviewing of minors) instructor with recognised expertise in the interviewing of minor suspects. The session concluded with a Q&A exchange and closing remarks by Miet Vanderhallen.

WIKIPEDIA

ImpleMéndez's Wikipedia Page – Update

Dear colleagues, an important development regarding the Méndez Principles on Effective Interviewing Wikipedia page is now being shared with the network. The page has been revised and is once again live in [the main space](#).

While the [new version](#) is considerably shorter and still evolving, it represents an important step forward in aligning the article with Wikipedia standards and advancing the longer-term goal of future translations.

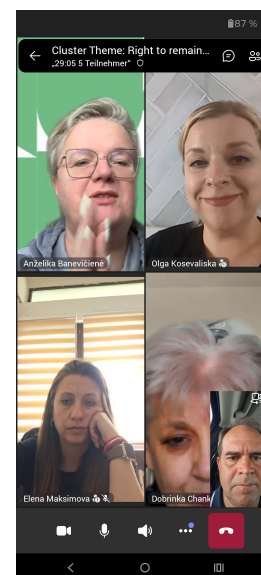
Further targeted suggestions are now being discussed with the editor involved in the revision process, with the aim of building carefully on this solid foundation. Additional reviews and comments from the community would be highly valuable in supporting the next stage of development. Many thanks again to everyone who contributed to reaching this stage.

WORKING GROUP

WG2 Cluster Meetings on Collaborative Research Publications

WG2 members participating in the Cluster on research-based publications concerning the right to remain silent recently met online to discuss the structure of a joint research paper and key thematic issues. The working title of the paper is "*The Right to Remain Silent in the Context of the Méndez Principles*." At present, the research team includes contributors from nine countries. The next meeting, aimed at finalising the conceptual framework and initiating the drafting process, is scheduled for 8 June 2026. The meeting link will be distributed within WG2. *Chair of the cluster:* Anzelika Baneviciene (Lithuania).

WG2 will also organise additional thematic cluster meetings designed to facilitate international collaboration on research papers intended for submission to high-ranking Scopus-indexed journals. Information and links to all meetings have been distributed within WG2.



Upcoming WG2 Cluster Meetings

1. *Lawyers as Safeguards in Investigative Interviews: Comparative Practices and the Development of Méndez Principles-Based Monitoring Checklists*

Chair: Zeynep Reva (Türkiye)

3 June 2026, 14:00 CET

2. *Interview Recordings in Criminal Proceedings: Legal, Institutional, and Tactical Issues*

Chair: Denis Solodov (Poland)

8 June 2026, 10:00 CET

3. *Social Work and the Méndez Principles*

Chair: Ondrej Pavelek (Czech Republic)

22 June 2026, 11:00 CET

REPORT

Council of Europe CPT 34th General Report

The Council of Europe's European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) has published its 34th General Report, presenting developments and findings from monitoring activities carried out throughout 2024. The report highlights ongoing concerns regarding prison overcrowding, informal prisoner hierarchies, psychiatric detention practices, and safeguards against ill-treatment across Council of Europe member states.

According to the report, the CPT conducted 20 monitoring visits during 2024, covering prisons, police custody facilities, immigration detention centres, psychiatric institutions, and social care establishments. The Committee emphasised that prison overcrowding remains one of the most serious structural challenges across Europe, contributing to deteriorating detention conditions, violence, limited rehabilitation opportunities, and the risk of inhuman or degrading treatment.

The CPT also raised concerns about the persistence of informal prisoner hierarchies in several prison systems, particularly in countries formerly part of the Soviet Union. The report notes that large-capacity dormitory accommodation and insufficient staffing continue to facilitate intimidation, exploitation, and violence among prisoners.

Another major focus of the report concerns involuntary psychiatric treatment and the use of restrictive practices such as seclusion and mechanical restraint. While the CPT acknowledged examples of good practice, it called for stronger safeguards, improved oversight, and greater investment in psychosocial therapies and community-based mental health care.

The Committee further stressed the importance of transparency and cooperation with member states, noting that an increasing number of countries are now participating in the automatic publication procedure for CPT reports and government responses.

The Report also refers to the importance of improving interviewing methods in line with the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering (Méndez Principles), thus reflecting the growing international recognition of ethical, rapport-based interviewing methods as an important safeguard against coercion and other forms of illegal and unethical ill-treatment. According to the document, "particular emphasis should be placed on improving interview methods, in line with the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering (Méndez Principles). For the CPT, training and other relevant measures have a lasting impact when they are supported by management and, even more effectively, by political leaders who promote and implement zero-tolerance policies on violence" (p. 9).

[Click here to access the report!](#)

INITIATIVE

ImpleMéndez Initiative on Contributions to the CPT

ImpleMéndez members will soon be invited to contribute to a new initiative aimed at preparing country-based reports for the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT). The initiative follows discussions within the Action and valuable guidance provided by ImpleMéndez colleague Therese Rytter, who has extensive experience working with the CPT. Under this new approach, members from the same country will be asked to work collaboratively on a short national document addressing the interviewing of victims, witnesses, and suspects within their respective legal systems and practices. The aim is to provide practical and research-based insights into current interviewing approaches, safeguards, and challenges at national level.

Over the coming weeks, members will receive emails inviting them to coordinate with other ImpleMéndez participants from their country and begin preparing these contributions. It is envisaged that, within approximately six months, the national reports will be compiled into a broader comparative submission to the CPT, ideally including contributions from all COST member countries represented within ImpleMéndez.

SURVEY

New Survey Highlights the Needs of Early Career Researchers in COST Actions

A survey-based report on Career Development for Young Researchers and Innovators provides insights into the experiences, motivations, and challenges of Early Career Researchers (ECRs) participating in COST Actions.

The survey collected responses from 40 young researchers involved in COST Actions across Europe, including PhD candidates, postdoctoral researchers, assistant professors, and independent researchers. The findings confirm that COST Actions are widely perceived as valuable platforms for international networking, collaboration, and career development. Expanding professional networks, participating in international collaborations, and gaining research experience emerged as the strongest motivations for engagement. At the same time, the report identifies challenges faced by ECRs. Respondents highlighted limited networking opportunities, administrative barriers, lack of funding, and difficulties accessing leadership positions. Many participants also pointed to the absence of structured mentorship programmes and the uneven visibility of opportunities within COST Actions. One of the central conclusions of the report is the strong demand for more systematic support mechanisms for early-career researchers.

The report also proposes the development of a pan-European Young Researchers' Network within COST, aimed at strengthening collaboration, mentorship, visibility, and interdisciplinary exchange across Actions. Recommendations include creating dedicated young researcher platforms, introducing mentor-mentee schemes, supporting ECR-led initiatives, and enhancing institutional recognition of leadership roles undertaken within COST Actions.

Despite the identified challenges, most respondents stated that they would recommend participation in COST Actions to other early-career researchers, particularly because of the opportunities for international networking, collaboration, and professional growth.

[Click here to access the report!](#)

PUBLICATION

Publications Following the ImpleMéndez Meeting in Sarajevo

We are pleased to inform you that, following the ImpleMéndez meeting held in Sarajevo in October 2025, all

submitted papers successfully passed the peer-review process and will be published in the journal Criminal Justice Issues (Online ISSN: 2637-269X). Several original scientific papers focusing on the implementation of the Méndez Principles and investigative interviewing practices in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Türkiye, and Montenegro were accepted for publication in the June 2026 issue. The editorial team of Criminal Justice Issues, Adnan Fazlic and Irma Deljkic, expressed their appreciation to all contributors for their participation and submitted manuscripts. Authors will receive direct Open Journal System links to their published papers once the online versions become available.

In addition, the following review scientific paper will also appear in the June 2026 issue: *Beyond Compliance: Choice Architecture as a Tool for Embedding the Méndez Principles in Turkish Criminal Procedure*.

The article titled *Implementation of the Méndez Principles in Official In Personam Communication by Representatives of State Agencies in the Republic of Serbia* was accepted as a review scientific paper and will be published in the December 2026 issue, as the peer-review process was finalised after the last editorial board meeting.

Calls for cooperation

PODCAST

ImpleMéndez Podcast

We are looking to record more episodes for the ImpleMéndez podcast! If you would like to be interviewed, or interview someone you know, to discuss relevant topics regarding gender equality/inclusivity, gender-related experiences in research and practice, human rights, policing, and the ImpleMéndez Principles, please reach out to Samuel Pinheiro (samuelalexandrepinheiro8@gmail.com) to set it up!

OPPORTUNITY

Consultancy Opportunity: Méndez Principles in Lebanon

Restart Centre, in partnership with Penal Reform International, has launched a consultancy opportunity focused on the implementation of the Méndez Principles on Effective Interviewing in Lebanon. The consultancy will support the development of a context-specific guideline on the Méndez Principles in Lebanon and a trainer-ready curriculum for use within Lebanese law enforcement and military training institutions.

This opportunity may be of particular interest to professionals and organisations engaged in effective interviewing practices, torture prevention, criminal justice reform, law enforcement training, human rights and accountability initiatives.

[To know more about this subject, click here!](#)

TRAINING

CEPOL Training Course: Interviewing Techniques in Migrant Smuggling Cases

26–30 October 2026, Loures, Portugal

The CEPOL training course "Interviewing Techniques in Migrant Smuggling Cases" will take place at the Institute for Judiciary Police and Criminal Sciences in Barro, Loures, Portugal, from 26 to 30 October 2026. As part of the programme, expert-led sessions will focus on testimony credibility assessment, techniques for interviewing migrant adults, and approaches to interviewing migrant children in the context of migrant smuggling investigations. The programme also includes practical training sessions involving cooperation between trainers and participants. The course is designed for police officers investigating migrant smuggling cases, immigration service officials, and second-line border guards with at least three years of operational experience. Participants will engage in advanced discussions and practical exercises dedicated to investigative interviewing and specialised interviewing techniques in complex migrant smuggling cases.

Important note: CEPOL is currently looking for experts to lead the sessions on testimony credibility assessment (27 October 2026), techniques for interviewing migrant adults in the context of migrant smuggling (28 October 2026), and techniques for interviewing migrant children in the context of migrant smuggling (29 October 2026). If you are interested, please contact Marta Matos Gonçalves: marta.goncalves@pj.pt.

The Reminder

Those submitting a paper for publication should follow the COST Annotated Rules to ensure proper recognition of COST funding. Use the following formula:

"This article is based upon work from COST Action CA22128 (ImpleMendez), supported by European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)."

Newsletter prepared by

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Share your achievements with us!

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