



The ImpleMéndez Newsletter

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

#7 · July 2026

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

WE ARE NOW 438 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

ANNOUNCEMENT

Our Action member Pau Pérez-Sales appointed UN Special Rapporteur on Torture

8 July 2026

Pau Pérez-Sales, a member of ImpleMéndez from Spain, has been appointed United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Full article on the next page.

EVENT

Implementing Investigative Interviewing Globally, Bodø

30 June – 2 July 2026

ImpleMéndez members, trainers and partners from Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia gathered in Bodø, Norway, for a three-day global workshop on implementing rights-respecting investigative interviewing. Full article on the next page.

EVENT

2026 iIIRG Conference in Leuven

8–10 July 2026

Over 250 researchers, practitioners and policymakers met at KU Leuven for the biennial conference of the International Investigative Interviewing Research Group. Full article on the next page.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Our Action member Pau Pérez-Sales appointed UN Special Rapporteur on Torture

8 July 2026

We are delighted to announce that Pau Pérez-Sales, a member of COST Action CA22128 ImpleMéndez from Spain, has been appointed United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The appointment was approved by the UN Human Rights Council on 8 July 2026. In this independent role, he will examine developments related to torture and ill-treatment, engage with states and other stakeholders, and report to the Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly.

Pau brings extensive clinical, academic and international experience, including many years of work with survivors of torture and other forms of serious human rights abuse.

We warmly congratulate Pau on this important appointment and wish him every success in the years ahead.



EVENT

From Research to Practice: Implementing Investigative Interviewing Globally, Bodø

30 June – 2 July 2026



From 30 June to 2 July 2026, ImpleMéndez members, trainers and partners gathered in Bodø, Norway, just north of the Arctic Circle, for a three-day global workshop entitled 'From Research to Practice: Implementing Investigative Interviewing Globally'. The workshop brought together participants from Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia to share hands-on experience in implementing evidence-based, rights-respecting investigative interviewing.

It was organised by the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR), a Méndez Centre for Investigative Interviewing, and the ImpleMéndez COST Action, in collaboration with the Norwegian Police University College.

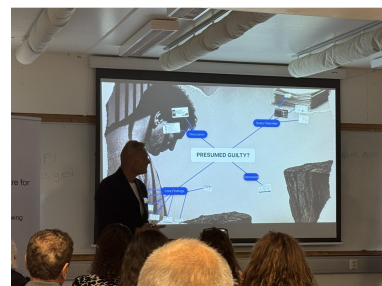
The first day, on Country Insights and Implementation Journeys, featured country presentations from partner institutions across the four regions. Speakers revisited lessons from the PEACE model (United Kingdom) and KREATIV (Norway) and how these have influenced national programmes, discussed how the Méndez Principles and the UN manual are applied in different national contexts, and reflected on key policy decisions, practical

steps and early successes, establishing a shared understanding of where each country stands and identifying common challenges across jurisdictions.

The second day, on Tools, Challenges and Co-Creation, continued the country case studies and opened thematic discussions on the tiers and certification of interviewers and instructors, skill-level frameworks, training tools such as vulnerability guides and checklists, and ways of bridging research and policing practice. A facilitated collaborative session then began drafting the workshop's main output.

The final day, hosted by the NCHR, deepened the practical application of these methods, focusing on strengthening rights-respecting interviewing in national systems, embedding training within institutions, and sustaining quality through monitoring and evaluation. A key outcome of the workshop will be an ImpleMéndez guide highlighting the key steps, common obstacles and successful strategies for implementing investigative interviewing around the world.

A warm thank you to Katarina Lavrinenko Friis-Olsen and Susanne Floelo for their organisation and hosting skills. The workshop closed with a shared commitment to keep building on this collaboration across the four regions represented in Bodø.



TRAINING

Training School on Interviewing Adolescent Suspects in Leuven, Belgium

6–7 July 2026

On 6–7 July 2026, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven) hosted a two-day Training School on the investigative interviewing of adolescent suspects. The event brought together trainers and participants from two COST Actions: CA22128 ImpleMéndez and CA22139 *Y-JustLang – Justice to youth language needs: human rights undermined by an invisible disadvantage*.

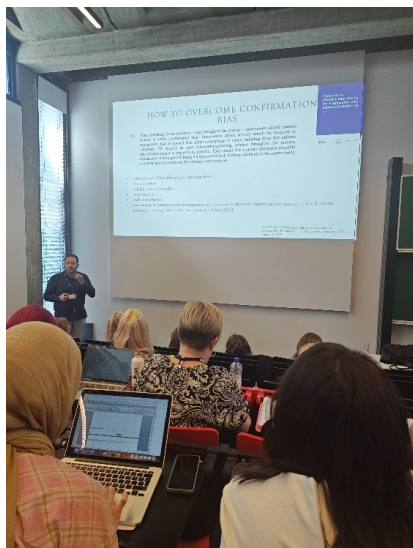
The programme focused on the developmental and linguistic vulnerabilities of adolescent suspects. Sessions covered adolescent development, rapport building, hypothesis-testing approaches to questioning, the role of language, and ways of adapting interview protocols to children and young people. Participants also took part in a two-part practical exercise and discussed the main principles of interviewing adolescent suspects.

The cooperation between ImpleMéndez and Y-JustLang linked evidence-based investigative interviewing with the language needs of children and adolescents involved in justice proceedings. It showed the importance of



considering communication difficulties, developmental factors and procedural safeguards together. The Training School gave participants an opportunity to exchange experiences, compare national practices and discuss the practical implementation of research-based interviewing standards. The discussions considered how these standards could be incorporated into professional training, policy and everyday practice.

The Training School was organised in cooperation with KU Leuven and the International Investigative Interviewing Research Group. Special thanks to Lore Mergaerts (Belgium) and her wonderful team!



EVENT

2026 iIIRG Conference in Leuven, Belgium

8–10 July 2026

From 8 to 10 July 2026, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven) hosted the biennial conference of the International Investigative Interviewing Research Group (iIIRG). Researchers, practitioners, policymakers and students from different countries (over 250 participants!) met to discuss current work on investigative interviewing, legal safeguards, vulnerability, memory, rapport, deception, artificial intelligence and interview recording.

The programme featured keynote lectures, thematic sessions, symposia, practitioner case studies and poster presentations. Prof. Dr Lilian Milnitsky Stein spoke about the dissemination and implementation of investigative interviewing. Prof. Dr Lennart May discussed the use of interviewing research in training and in the courtroom. Dr Philip Daeninck presented a defence lawyer's perspective on the right to remain silent.



The conference covered both well-established areas of interviewing research and newer developments. These included virtual reality, language technologies and the use of artificial intelligence in interview training, transcription and analysis. A wide range of legal, psychological, linguistic and technological perspectives appeared throughout the programme. Many presentations focused on how evidence-based and human-rights-compliant interviewing can be introduced into everyday professional practice.

ImpleMéndez is pleased to share that it funded 18 conference grants, enabling members of the Action to attend the conference and present their work to the international investigative interviewing community.

The conference also left plenty of space for discussion and networking. The opening reception, social activities

and conference dinner gave participants further opportunities to exchange ideas, compare experiences and establish new research contacts.

Once again, the event benefited from the excellent work of Dr Lore Mergaerts and her wonderful organising team. Their careful preparation and support created a welcoming atmosphere and contributed greatly to the success of the conference.



UPCOMING EVENT

Webinar: The Méndez Principles and the Role of the Lawyer in Investigative Interviews

8 September 2026

On Tuesday 8 September 2026 (17:00 GMT / 18:00 CEST), ImpleMéndez and the European Criminal Bar Association (ECBA) will host a one-hour online webinar, *The Méndez Principles and the Role of the Lawyer in Investigative Interviews*. Facilitated by Prof. Yvonne Daly (Dublin City University, Vice-Chair of ImpleMéndez), it will bring together two experienced criminal lawyers, Lucy Reynolds (United Kingdom) and Katarzyna Dąbrowska (Poland), to reflect on the Méndez Principles from a lawyer's perspective, addressing topics such as vulnerable interviewees and available supports, audio-visual recording, pre-interview disclosure, and the lawyer's role during investigative interviews. A Teams link will follow.

Calls for papers

OPPORTUNITY

International Conference on Investigative Interviewing

2–3 March 2027

The Netherlands Police Academy and the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement will jointly host a two-day international conference on investigative interviewing on 2–3 March 2027 in the Netherlands. The venue will be announced at a later date.

The conference will bring together researchers, police practitioners, trainers, educators, policymakers, psychologists, legal professionals and students. It will focus on current developments and future directions in investigative interviewing, including interviewing methods, interviews with victims, witnesses and suspects, vulnerability, culture, the Méndez Principles and innovative technologies. The programme will include keynote presentations by Prof. Dr Annelies Vredeveldt and Prof. Dr Dave Walsh, as well as interactive panel discussions, poster sessions and a special featured event, with further details to follow.

Call for abstracts. The call for abstracts is now open. Researchers, educators and practitioners are invited to submit proposals for oral presentations, symposia or posters. The submission deadline is 9 October 2026. [Abstracts should be submitted through the conference website](#), where the submission guidelines are also available.

OPPORTUNITY

1st Call for Papers: IAFLI Porto 2027

Deadline: 30 November 2026

The University of Porto will host the 18th Biennial Conference of the International Association for Forensic and Legal Linguistics (IAFLI) from **12 to 16 July 2027**, on the theme '*Disruptive Scenarios, Epistemological Challenges, and Improved Scientific Standards*'. Its themes span forensic and legal linguistics, including investigative interviewing and the **Méndez Principles**.

Anonymous abstracts of no more than **300 words** for individual papers and posters, in English, Portuguese or Spanish, should be submitted through the conference submission page (for the website click [here](#)) by **30 November 2026**; notifications of acceptance will be sent by **10 January 2027**. Questions can be emailed to forensic.linguistics@letras.up.pt.

New publications and podcasts

PUBLICATION

Five Years of the Méndez Principles: From Shared Standards to Sustainable Reform

A new article by Juan E. Méndez and Steven J. Barela, published by *Just Security*, reflects on the progress made during the first five years of implementing the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering.

The article demonstrates how the Méndez Principles are increasingly influencing criminal justice reform. Examples from the United States, Ukraine, Thailand and Brazil illustrate how evidence-based, non-coercive interviewing can be adapted to different legal systems and operational environments.

The article highlights the contribution of the ImpleMéndez COST Action and the emerging network of Méndez Centres, which bring together researchers, practitioners, policymakers and educators.

The new contribution also builds on *Just Security*'s continuing series of articles on the Méndez Principles, which



began with their launch in 2021 and has examined their scientific, legal, ethical and practical foundations. The series includes the 2024 article by Gisle Kvanvig, Steven J. Barela and Yvonne Daly on the United Nations Manual on Investigative Interviewing for Criminal Investigations, which considered how the Manual translates the Principles into practical guidance for ethical and effective interviewing. Together, these contributions document the development of the Méndez Principles from a shared international standard into an increasingly extensive framework for sustainable institutional reform.

Read the new article [here](#), and explore [Just Security's Méndez Principles series](#).

This month we also highlight three recent publications by members and colleagues of the ImpleMéndez network:

- *From Transparency to Trust: Mandatory Audiovisual Recording as a Measure for Ethical Interrogations in Bosnia and Herzegovina* — Adnan Fazlić & Irma Deljić, *Criminal Justice Issues / Kriminalističke teme*, 26(1), 11–24. <https://doi.org/10.51235/kt.2026.26.1.11>
- *Evaluating confessions in context: a policy-capturing study* — Madison B. Hynes & Brent Snook, *Psychology, Crime & Law*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1068316X.2026.2695308>
- *Norwegian police officers' preparations and accommodations when interviewing people with severe autism spectrum disorder: a vignette study* — Veerle Garrels, *Evidence Base: Criminal Justice Research, Policy & Action*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/30679125.2026.2695011>

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 (ImpleMéndez), supported by European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST).

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