The ImpleMéndez Newsletter

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

#10 · October 2026

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

WE ARE NOW 451 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: Thomas Skou Roer

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

WG2

Law, Human Rights, Criminal Justice

Leader: Anželika Banevičienė

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

WG3

Vulnerability

Leader: Lore Mergaerts

Co-leaders: Hanna Lahtinen, Laura Pajon

WG4

Institutional & Governmental Leadership

Leader: Vasylyna Yavorska

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

EVENT

ImpleMéndez Members Contribute to European Research on Neurodiversity and Investigative Interviewing

2 October 2026

Hanna Lahtinen and Zeynep Reva presented a comparative paper by seventeen authors at the University of Glasgow. Full story inside.

TRAINING

ImpleMéndez Training Schools 2027 – Save the Dates!

Deadline: 2 November 2026

Six face-to-face Training Schools in Sofia, Bulgaria (8–9 April 2027) and Turku, Finland (1–2 June 2027).

PUBLICATION

New ImpleMéndez Blog: Conversations with Leadership – Lessons from Ukraine

October 2026

Monty Mountford (WG4) publishes the first instalment of his blog series on leadership and the Méndez Principles.

EVENT

ImpleMéndez Members Contribute to European Research on Neurodiversity and Investigative Interviewing

2 October 2026

ImpleMéndez members Hanna Lahtinen and Zeynep Reva took part in person in the Criminal Law and Justice in the Age of Neurodiversity development workshop, held at the University of Glasgow on 2 October 2026, where Hanna Lahtinen presented the paper on behalf of the author group.

They are among the seventeen authors of *Effective Participation Begins at the Interview: A Comparative Analysis of Neurodivergence Accommodation across European Criminal Justice Systems*, led and coordinated by Telma Sousa Almeida: Telma Sousa Almeida, Paulo Barbosa Marques, Miet Vanderhallen, Lore Mergaerts, Joris Verheyen, Robin Kranendonk, Martijn van Beek, Hanna Lahtinen, Anni Lehtinen, Alan Cusack, Ezgi Ildırım, Zeynep Reva, Ray Bull, Rebecca Milne, Katie Maras, Roxanna Dehaghani and Martin Vaughan.

The paper argues that for neurodivergent people the conditions of effective participation are determined not at trial but at the investigative interview, and that this holds whether the person is questioned as a suspect, a victim or a witness. Seven European jurisdictions, Portugal, Belgium, the Netherlands, Finland, Ireland, Türkiye and the United Kingdom, are examined against a common six-dimension framework: the legal basis for accommodation at the investigative stage, mechanisms for identifying neurodivergence, accommodations applied in practice, professional training and its evaluation, evidentiary safeguards where accommodation fails, and the distance between formal entitlement and routine practice. Most of the national contributions were assembled through the ImpleMéndez network, and the analysis takes its normative bearings from Article 13 of the CRPD and the 2024 UN Manual on Investigative Interviewing.

The paper is being developed for the forthcoming special issue of the *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, *Criminal Law and Justice in the Age of Neurodiversity*, edited by Louise Kennefick and Esko Yli-Hemminki. The article will be published in this special issue in 2027, in the journal's first issue of the year.

TRAINING

ImpleMéndez Training Schools 2027 – Save the Dates!

Deadline: 2 November 2026

COST Action CA22128 ImpleMéndez is pleased to announce six face-to-face Training Schools, taking place in Bulgaria and Finland in 2027. These events will offer opportunities for researchers and practitioners to develop their knowledge and skills in ethical, science-based investigative interviewing in line with the Méndez Principles.

Sofia, Bulgaria | 8–9 April 2027

Three parallel Training Schools will be offered:

- Child Suspect Interviewing and the Méndez Principles
- Méndez Principles Training Curriculum
- Bias in Investigative Interviews

Turku, Finland | 1–2 June 2027

Three parallel Training Schools will be offered:

- ORBIT Training
- Emerging Technologies and AI in Investigative Interviews

• Forensic Linguistics, Interpreters and the Méndez Principles

Participants may attend one Training School per location, as the three schools at each venue will run simultaneously.

Registration and participation – look for Dave's email from 09.10.2026.

Places will be limited. Where demand exceeds capacity, selection will follow COST procedures, taking into account the order of responses and appropriate representation of Inclusive Target Countries (ITCs) and Young Researchers.

Important: The deadline for the return of the expressions of interest is 2nd November 2026.

OPPORTUNITY

Call for Conference Grant Applications

1–8 December 2026

Please note that on **1st December** a call for conference grant awards will open following enquiries about applying for conference grant awards such as **this one**, and indeed any other international ones relevant to ImpleMéndez.

Please do not attempt to apply for awards before **1st December 2026**.

On **8th December 2026** the call will close – so you have one week to apply. Please then mark your calendars!

In February 2027 it will re-open for a second phase of conference grant award applications and will close around two weeks later. You will be advised in due course of the opening and closure dates of the second call.

In each of these two calls there will be a total pot of 5000 Euros available. We anticipate the maximum award made individually will be 1000 Euros.

It is appreciated that for some of our members this amount may not cover all costs associated with conference attendance but the grant should be seen as a significant contribution towards the costs of registration fees, travel, accommodation etc.

Steps to take

When the call opens on 1st December go onto your profile on e-COST and apply for the grant.

If you are applying for the Investigative Interviewing conference in March 2027 in the Netherlands we are advised by the organisers that those who have submitted abstracts will have been advised by the end of November as to whether your abstract has been accepted.

For other conferences please await the acceptance of your abstract before applying. If the acceptance letter is unlikely to be received until after the closing date for grant applications then please see the note below for advice and guidance marked *.

Eligibility to Apply for a Conference Grant (COST rules):

• Conference Grants are only open to members from COST Member Countries and Near Neighbour Countries – see the two lists of countries **here** and **here**

• You must be intending to present an oral paper

• You must not have received funding from elsewhere for the same conference

Type of Grant to Apply for:

1. If you are under the age of 40, please select Young Researcher and Innovator Conference Grant

2. If you are over 40 and from an ITC (Eastern European countries, Türkiye, Greece and Portugal), please select Inclusiveness Target Countries Conference Grant

3. If you are over 40 and not from an ITC, please select Dissemination Conference Grant. But your presentation must relate to that work which has emerged from ImpleMéndez activities such as those conducted in the various sub-projects

How to Apply:

1. Submit your application on e-COST

2. Send Fiona (**fiona.walsh@dmu.ac.uk**) separately a copy of your Funding Breakdown Form (attached to the call email).

3. Send Fiona also a copy of the abstract acceptance

Documents e-COST requires when submitting your conference grant application:

• The relevant (YRIG, ITCG or DCG) Conference Grant Application (based on the e-COST template)

• Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral presentation

• Acceptance (or invitation) letter from the conference organisers*

• Other documents required by the Action (e.g., the Funding Breakdown Form)

* Before allowing you to submit your grant application, e-COST will ask you to provide an acceptance (or invitation) letter from the conference organisers. If – for the conference you are applying for an award for – you have not received this at the time of your application, please upload instead at that stage your proof of submission of the abstract or an email acknowledgement from the conference organisers that they have received your abstract. Please then send us the actual acceptance confirmation once you receive it later. If the conference organisers do not accept your submission, please let us know because you will not be eligible for payment of the grant without the letter of acceptance from the conference organisers.

Documents e-COST will require after the conference and for your conference grant to be paid:

• Report template

• Certificate of attendance

• Programme of the conference or book of abstracts/proceedings indicating the oral presentation

• Copy of the given oral presentation that has the COST and the ImpleMéndez logos upon it and acknowledgement of ImpleMéndez funding

In regard to the first call in December we aim to make a decision on the awards around the middle of December.

Payment of the awards will be made once you have attended the conference and submitted the appropriate documents and evidence of presentation that are listed above.

Best wishes – and good luck!

Calls for papers

OPPORTUNITY

Call for Papers: Special Issue on Juvenile Justice Education

Abstracts: 15 November 2026

The *Journal of Criminal Justice Education* (ISSN (print): 1051-1253; eISSN (online): 1745-9117) invites

submissions for a special issue entitled *International Criminal Justice Education Practices for Academics and Practitioners: Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Issues.*

The special issue will focus on innovative approaches to education and professional training in juvenile justice, including juvenile delinquency prevention, resocialisation, and the protection of child victims, witnesses, and offenders.

Of particular relevance to the ImpleMéndez network are contributions addressing the training of professionals who conduct investigative interviews with children, including approaches that promote ethical, effective, and child-sensitive interviewing practices.

Key dates:

Abstract submission deadline: 15 November 2026

Notification of acceptance: 30 November 2026

Planned publication: Late 2027

Submission and enquiries: Abstracts should be submitted directly to Dr Anželika Banevičienė, Special Issue Co-Editor and WG2 Leader of COST Action CA22128 ImpleMéndez. Email: **a.baneviciene@mruni.eu**

OPPORTUNITY

Call for Papers: Victimology Conference 2026

27–28 November 2026 · Online

The Romanian Society of Victimology invites researchers, academics, and practitioners to participate in the 7th edition of *Highlights on Victimology, Victimization and Victims*, taking place online on 27–28 November 2026.

Participation is free of charge!

The conference will explore emerging trends in victimology, victims' rights, victim protection, and interdisciplinary approaches to addressing victimization.

Among the topics is secondary victimization and the implementation of the Méndez Principles, with particular attention to investigative interviewing of victims.

Key information:

- 27 November – presentations in Romanian
- 28 November – presentations in English
- Format – online
- Registration and abstract submissions: **aura.preda@spiruharet.ro**

The conference offers an opportunity to exchange research findings, share practical experiences, and discuss developments in victim-sensitive investigative practices.

New publications

PUBLICATION

New ImpleMéndez Blog: Conversations with Leadership – Lessons from Ukraine

October 2026

Monty Mountford (UK), WG 4, has published the first instalment of his blog series, *Conversations with Leadership* (October 2026).

The article draws on a discussion with **Yuriy Bielousov**, former Head of the War Crimes Department at Ukraine's Prosecutor General's Office, exploring Ukraine's efforts to introduce ethical, science-based investigative interviewing practices amid the ongoing war.

The blog highlights the crucial role of leadership at all organisational levels in implementing the Méndez Principles. It examines how partnerships with the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU), engagement with police trainers, and constructive competition between law enforcement agencies can help drive institutional change.

Other key themes include the importance of audio and audiovisual recording, integrating ethical interviewing into organisational strategies and professional training, and bridging the gap between academic research and operational practice.

The central message: Implementing the Méndez Principles is not a one-time achievement but a continuous process requiring sustained leadership, institutional commitment, and collaboration between researchers and practitioners.

Read the full blog: ImpleMéndez website

PUBLICATION

Reid versus Méndez: New Experimental Evidence on the Defending Vulnerability Blog

21 October 2026

A new post on the *Defending Vulnerability* blog, a forum for expert commentary on the vulnerability of suspects and accused persons across the criminal justice system, presents an experimental study by Lütfiye Kaya Cicerali (Istanbul Galata University), Nesrin Duman (Istanbul 29 Mayıs University) and Eyyüb Ensari Cicerali (Istanbul Galata University), entitled ***Vulnerability Factors and Interrogation Outcomes: Evidence from an Experimental Mock Comparison of Reid and Méndez Approaches***.

Across two simulated crime scenarios, 44 participants were randomly assigned to either a Reid-style or a Méndez-style interrogation. The researchers compared how fair, stressful and ethical participants perceived the interrogation to be, how much accurate information they provided and whether they confessed, while also considering personality traits and social anxiety as potential vulnerability factors.

Participants questioned under the Méndez approach rated their interrogation as markedly fairer and more ethical than those in the Reid condition, and this came at no cost to the information obtained, since neither information provision nor confession outcomes differed significantly between the two approaches. Personality and social

anxiety did not moderate these effects, although the authors note that the small sample may have limited the power to detect such moderation.

We are delighted that the study explicitly acknowledges the support of our network: *This article is based upon work from COST Action CA22128 (ImpleMéndez), supported by European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST).*

Read the full post: Defending Vulnerability blog

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).

Newsletter prepared by

Sofia Meneses-Silva · Denis Solodov

Share your achievements with us!

anasofsilva14@gmail.com

denis.solodov@uwm.edu.pl

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY