

COGJUS

Laboratório de
Ensino e Pesquisa
em Cognição e Justiça

IMPACT REPORT 2025

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PRESENTATION

In CogJus – the Laboratory for Teaching and Research in Cognition and Justice – our mission is to promote and strengthen the use of evidence-based practices to **improve interactions within the justice and public safety systems with victims, witnesses, and suspects**, fostering procedures that are more ethical, effective, and aligned with human rights.

CogJus was founded in 2021 as a project linked to Fundação Meridional, in collaboration with the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR), Norway. Over the years, we have expanded our activities and are now also an NGO and a research group affiliated with the Graduate Program in Law at Atitus Educação.

Our work involves **continuous dialogue between researchers and professionals within the Justice and Public Safety System**, aiming to implement and improve evidence-based procedures for interviews, interrogations, and identification processes. Our activities focus on promoting technical training, developing applied research, and building networks dedicated to the exchange of knowledge and experiences, always aligned with national realities, grounded in science, and guided by human rights principles. In addition to specialized training programs, we produce educational materials and organize events that connect theory and practice, contributing to the professional development of those working within the system.

In this report, we present the main achievements, initiatives, and results accomplished in 2025 through the partnership with the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR), Civil Police officers from different Brazilian states, and other institutions. In addition to promoting transparency in our practices, we aim to provide relevant information to diverse stakeholders and contribute to the dissemination of ethical, effective investigative practices aligned with the Méndez Principles, reaffirming our commitment to strengthening a **more qualified Justice and Public Safety System in Brazil**.

Why do we need dialogue between Cognition and Justice?



Victims, witnesses, and suspects are essential sources of information for the Justice and Public Safety System. Through interviews, interrogations, and identification procedures, crucial information is produced for the investigation and adjudication of cases. These accounts can directly influence judicial decisions and have profound impacts on the lives of those involved. In this context, **the quality and reliability of memory-based evidence obtained through interviews, interrogations, and identification procedures are directly linked to the way in which they are conducted.**

Poorly formulated questions during an interview or interrogation may limit a person's account or induce responses, compromising the accuracy of the information obtained. Inadequate interviewing techniques may also contribute to the formation of false memories and inaccurate statements, or even lead innocent suspects to confess to crimes they did not commit. Decades of research indicate that the absence of standardized protocols and evidence-based training contributes to harmful practices, such as the use of suggestive questioning and procedures that violate fundamental rights.¹²³

¹Denault, V., & Talwar, V. (2023). From criminal interrogations to investigative interviews: A bibliometric study. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 14, 1175856.

²Associação de Prevenção a Tortura (2021). Princípios sobre Entrevistas Eficazes para Investigação e Coleta de Informações. https://www.appt.ch/sites/default/files/publications/appt_PoEI_POR_03.pdf

³Milne, R., & Bull, R. H. (Eds.). (2025). *Investigative interviewing: Psychology and practice*. John Wiley & Sons.

Flawed procedures are also common in eyewitness identification processes. An analysis of more than 300 wrongful conviction cases estimated that false identification was used as evidence in 70% of the cases that led to conviction.⁴ Similarly, in Brazil, a report by the Public Defender's Office of the State of Rio de Janeiro showed that, within a single year, 58 innocent people, 70% of them Black, were wrongly identified as perpetrators of crimes they did not commit.⁵

Errors in interviews, interrogations, and identification procedures have been studied by international researchers for more than five decades. This extensive body of evidence, grounded in Cognitive Psychology, identifies both the procedures that increase the risk of error and those that promote the collection of more reliable evidence. Cognitive Psychology examines how individuals perceive, process, understand, and recall information, whether they are victims, witnesses, suspects, or even professionals within the justice and public safety systems.

The application of Cognitive Psychology knowledge has promoted significant changes in justice systems around the world through the development of protocols, regulations, and training programs grounded in scientific evidence and human rights principles. In Brazil, CogJus works precisely to **foster this transformative dialogue between cognition and justice, promoting the adoption of more effective investigative practices.** For interviews and interrogations, CogJus advocates replacing coercive methods and suggestive questioning with Investigative Interviewing, an approach based on rapport-building and effective questioning techniques. This paradigm shift seeks not only to strengthen police practices, but also to ensure respect for due process. It has been recommended by researchers from various countries and international organizations, such as the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), through the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering (Méndez Principles), which established international standards for effective, non-coercive, and human rights-compliant investigative interviewing.

⁴West, E., & Meterko, V. (2015). Innocence project: dna exonerations, 1989-2014: Review of data and findings from the first 25 years. *Albany Law Review*, 79(3), 717-795.

⁵Defensoria Pública do Estado do Rio de Janeiro. (2021). Relatório revela 58 acusados injustamente identificados por engano. <https://www.defensoria.rj.def.br/noticia/detalhes/10660>



In addition to investigative interviewing, CogJus also advocates for the application of scientific methods to **eyewitness identification** procedures, a form of evidence based on witness memory and frequently associated with procedural errors. Improving these procedures involves their standardization according to internationally tested methods, ranging from the instructions provided to witnesses to the way suspects are presented and responses are recorded. These evidence-based practices are aligned with recent Brazilian regulations, such as Resolution No. 484 of the National Council of Justice and Ordinance No. 1,122 of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security regarding eyewitness identification procedures within judicial police investigations.

The modernization and standardization of procedures, grounded in the science of Cognitive and Eyewitness Psychology, represent a concrete path toward a more just and effective system. International experience demonstrates the effectiveness of these practices, which are now gaining momentum in Brazil through **collaboration between researchers and professionals in the justice and public safety sectors**. The provision of regular, science-based training contributes to the consolidation of a system that respects human rights while promoting effectiveness in law enforcement.

Introduction

The year 2025 marks a stage of consolidation of our main focus: the **Dissemination of Investigative Interviewing in Brazil**, a joint initiative of the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR), Fundação Meridional, and the Laboratory for Teaching and Research in Cognition and Justice (CogJus). Since 2021, CogJus has been working to disseminate Investigative Interviewing and evidence-based eyewitness identification procedures within a context marked by the absence of specific national guidelines for interviews and interrogations, as well as the use of confession-focused methods with limited scientific support. Since 2023, CogJus has made its impact reports publicly available on our website (cogjus.com).

In this context, the 2025 report describes the transition toward a stage of expansion, consolidation, and systematic evaluation of our initiatives. Across our areas of action, the report presents advances in introductory and advanced training in Investigative Interviewing, the strengthening of the GPS, the expansion and empirical evaluation of eyewitness identification training programs, cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, the organization of interinstitutional seminars, and the production and distribution of educational materials. Together, these results were marked by the increased participation of new Brazilian states and the generation of evidence regarding the effectiveness of these initiatives.



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1 Areas and Actions

The 2025 objectives were organized into areas that comprehensively integrate our actions. Each area describes its objectives, actions, and results, contributing directly to the expected outcome: the broad integration of ethical and effective investigative techniques in Brazilian law enforcement, with active engagement of police academies and alignment with human rights standards. The following sections present these areas.

1.1. Group of Supervising Teachers



Fonte: Academia de Polícia Civil de São Paulo

The Group Supervising Teachers (GPS) is a national network of instructors from state police academies, playing a strategic role in **multiplying Investigative Interviewing** within public institutions. The GPS acts as a link between CogJus and the states, adapting training programs to local realities and providing support to instructors. The group also functions as a space for sharing experiences, pedagogical support, and collaborative development of teaching materials. In 2025, the GPS gathered participants from all five regions of the country, with presence in 24 states.

Results

Expansion of the group

In 2025, the GPS consolidated itself as a national network with 52 participants, presence in all five regions of the country and activity in 24 states, surpassing the target set for the year. The group brought together professionals from different careers, delegates, clerks, agents, and psychologists with 43% women and 57% men.

Thematic study groups

As part of the training activities in the first half of 2025, thematic study groups were held to deepen understanding of Investigative Interviewing fundamentals and support instructors. The meetings addressed legal, historical, and scientific aspects related to the topic, with emphasis on memory and false memories. The discussions helped create a support material for instructors, intended as a foundational tool for preparing Investigative Interviewing courses in the states. This initiative reinforced the scientific and ethical foundation of GPS instructors and bridged theory and practice in interviewer training.

Regional Advance

Northern Region: Acre and Tocantins advanced mainly in offering initial Investigative Interviewing training. The training conducted in 2025 served as an entry point for the common curriculum and for the use of standardized CogJus materials.

Northeastern Region: Advances were significant in terms of numerical reach and diversification of strategies. Bahia, Alagoas, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Rio Grande do Norte, and Sergipe consolidated Investigative Interviewing as a core content in initial training courses, and in some cases, in advanced training.

Central-Western Region: In Goiás, the training continued work that had already been used as a laboratory for evaluating the effectiveness of the module aligned with the Méndez Principles in initial training. In Mato Grosso do Sul, an online training session disseminated knowledge on Investigative Interviewing in complex investigations, including those involving criminal organizations.

Southeastern Region: São Paulo stood out for implementing tiered training in 2025, including Tier I (initial training) and Tier II (continuing education, with a focus on supervised practice). Rio de Janeiro, Espírito Santo, and Minas Gerais focused on consolidating Investigative Interviewing in initial training courses, gradually aligning their curricula with the common curriculum and preparing to incorporate advanced training and specialized modules.

Southern Region: Paraná showed robust numbers of trained professionals in 2025, maintaining a focus on initial training and dissemination of basic Investigative Interviewing principles. Santa Catarina stood out for offering Investigative Interviewing training with supervision of real cases.



Number of professionals trained in Investigative Interviewing by GPS members (by state and region)



In 2023 and 2024, these objectives began to be systematically achieved through training programs that reached 4,665 professionals in 2023 and 6,242 in 2024, using standardized materials developed by CogJus and delivered by instructors affiliated with the GPS. With the 2025 results, which totaled 5,230 trained professionals, the project reached a cumulative total of 16,137 professionals trained between 2023 and 2025.

1.2. Tier 1 Training and Instructor Training

Context and Objectives

In 2025, CogJus focused efforts on consolidating a proposed unified Investigative Interviewing curriculum, structured in **progressive levels** and aligned with scientific evidence and human rights

Following a national seminar, technical meetings, and dialogue with police academies, justice system institutions, and Supervisory Teachers Groups, a tiered training model was defined: Tier 1 focuses on the conceptual fundamentals of the technique, Tier 2 on developing practical skills, and Tier 3 on specialized contexts and supervision of real cases. This process sought to ensure greater consistency, standardization, and progression in police training, while also responding to the need to establish common references for teaching Investigative Interviewing across the country.

Tier 1 Learning Assessment Instrument

In 2025, a standardized national instrument was developed and applied to evaluate learning at Tier 1 of Investigative Interviewing, based on scientific evidence from the field and Testimonial Psychology. Consisting of objective multiple-choice questions, the test measured participants' understanding across six central training areas and was applied in various training contexts in São Paulo, Paraná, and Mato Grosso do Sul, totaling 934 responses. Results showed that the instrument was capable of comparing performance across different states, formats, and audiences, and demonstrated significant learning gains, for example, in the São Paulo Civil Police (PCSP), where the average score rose from 6.63 to 7.79 and the pass rate from 32.8% to 70% after training. Among the groups analyzed, the FITE showed the highest performance, with a mean of 9.50 and a 100% pass rate, reinforcing both the effectiveness of the training model and the usefulness of the test as a monitoring and standardization tool.

Average performance and approval rate by state training program and course model

PCPR

In-person initial
(8h/c)

7,87 (SD = 1,21)
average score

73,4%
approval rate*

PCMS

Remote continuing ed.
(5h/c)

8,12 (SD = 1,74)
average score

73,4%
approval rate*

PCSP

(pre-test)

In-person initial
(8h/c)

6,63 (SD = 1,49)
average score

32,8%
approval rate*

PCSP

(post-test)

In-person initial
(8h/c)

7,79 (SD = 1,49)
average score

70%
approval rate*

FITE

(pre-test)

Remote instructor training
(30h/c)

7,82 (SD = 1,83)
average score

74,3%
approval rate*

FITE

(post-test)

Remote instructor training
(30h/c)

9,50 (SD = 0,60)
average score

100%
approval rate*

Initial Training in Investigative Interviewing Techniques (FiTE)

In 2025, CogJus promoted another online edition of the Initial Training in Investigative Interviewing Techniques (FiTE), aimed at Civil Police professionals with institutional interest in acting as **multipliers** in their states. The FiTE was designed as an introductory training to present the scientific, ethical, and technical foundations of Investigative Interviewing to officers who can subsequently contribute to spreading this content in police academies and training schools.

More than an initial course, the training integrates CogJus's strategy of consolidating a national network of trained professionals capable of supporting the implementation of evidence-based and human rights-aligned investigative interview practices. In 2025, **the initiative reached representatives from 21 states** and the Federal Police, with positive learning results in the Tier 1 test.



Participation in In-Person Training



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Autor/Organizador dos livros e artigos em Psicologia Investigativa

At the invitation of the Superior School of the **Civil Police of Alagoas**, our researchers delivered training on the collection of memory-dependent evidence, covering Investigative Interviewing and Person Identification.

Over one week, approximately 70 police officers participated in a two-day course combining theoretical content, practical activities, and analysis of interviews and real cases. The entire training was conducted in partnership with Lucimério Campos, a delegate from Alagoas trained by CogJus in 2024 and currently an institutional partner of the project.



Source: Superior School of the Civil Police of Alagoas

1.3. Advanced Training



In 2025, the advanced training area aimed to develop and test a Tier 2 Investigative Interviewing course model, targeted at active police officers and centered on practice.



The proposal sought to qualify professionals to handle more complex situations, such as interviews with uncooperative suspects, use of audiovisual recording, and structured supervision, always in alignment with the Méndez Principles, human rights, and Testimonial Psychology evidence.

In addition to training an initial group of officers in advanced techniques, the initiative also aimed to consolidate a common curriculum for in-person courses with intensive practice, producing evidence and materials that can be adapted and replicated by different police academies in coming years.

Advanced Training in Santa Catarina

The Investigative Interviewing training, held in person in Joaçaba, state of Santa Catarina, had 21 civil police officers in attendance and was taught by instructors from Acadepol/SC and CogJus. The program combined theoretical-practical content, simulated activities, and supervision stages, enabling the progressive development of competencies related to conducting investigative interviews.

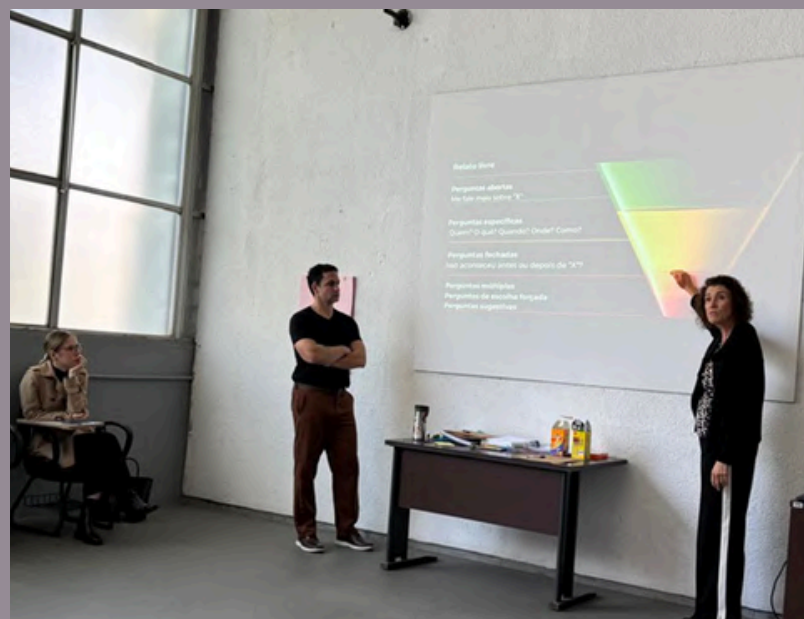


Source: Civil Police Academy of Santa Catarina

Overall, the training contributed to the technical improvement of participants and the strengthening of an institutional culture aligned with international best practices and the rights of those interviewed.

Advanced Training in São Paulo

The advanced Investigative Interviewing training held in São Paulo was structured as a pilot course, aimed at testing the feasibility of a 24-class-hour introductory curriculum distributed over three consecutive days, bringing together 18 police officers.





The program combined expository sessions and guided practical activities, with emphasis on simulations and structured feedback, enabling understanding of the theoretical foundations of Investigative Interviewing and supervised application of its essential components.

At the end of the course in São Paulo, participants completed a self-assessment form, whose responses were thematically analyzed to identify competencies developed, areas for improvement, changes in understanding of the role of interviewing, and level of confidence in conducting interviews.

Overall, results indicated advances in the assimilation of core Investigative Interviewing principles, notably rapport building, active listening, use of open-ended questions, communication neutrality, and attention to bias review, while also revealing greater awareness of remaining challenges, such as emotional control and the persistence of more directive practices. Together, the findings suggest the training contributed to strengthening technical, ethical, and communication competencies, and to the development of a more reflective approach aligned with best practices.

Below are examples of perceptions expressed by participants throughout the evaluation:

“Building rapport and practicing active listening are the strongest aspects during the interview, because I believe the interviewee needs to feel heard and understood, which facilitates spontaneous reporting and reduces resistance” (P1).

“I learned not to try to deduce or induce the testimony; I should gather as much information as possible through open-ended questions before moving to closed questions” (P5).

“The use of recording is liberating, as it allows me to focus on what is essential and irreproducible: the interviewee’s non-suggestive memory” (P18).

“I realized that I may often have assumed what happened and ignored other possibilities, which is why it is important to check alternative hypotheses” (P19).



1.4. Eyewitness Identification Training

Eyewitness identification training is a project area that aims to improve practices of the Brazilian Civil Police through the adoption of ethical, standardized, and evidence-based procedures, especially given the risks of false identifications and judicial errors.

Based on a remote course structured in 2024, the training entered a phase of consolidation and empirical evaluation, maintaining its offering through the Civil Police Academy of Santa Catarina and expanding its reach to participants from different states.

With a curriculum organized into nine modules, the course covered fundamentals of human memory, variables affecting eyewitness identification, and recommended procedures from the preliminary interview to recording the witness's decision and confidence level, in accordance with CNJ Resolution No. 484/2022 and international recommendations.

The methodology combined video lessons, forums, and practical exercises, with emphasis on active learning and the memory chain of custody. The training also included pre- and post-test instruments to evaluate changes in knowledge, attitudes, and practices. Eyewitness identification simulation results showed consistent improvements in participants' ability to apply best practices across different stages of the procedure.

The data presented in the table below provide a summary of the results obtained. It is possible to observe the proportion of participants who conducted identification procedures correctly after the training, as well as those who provided proper instructions and avoided confirmatory feedback. Overall, the results show that the training strengthened participants' ability to conduct identification simulations in a manner more consistent with scientific recommendations and legal standards.



Source: Videos from CogJus training materials.

Results of eyewitness identification simulations in the online training program

Conducting proper lineups

(suspect presented among similar non-suspects)

POST-TRAINING

67% ↑

Proper instructions to witnesses

Informing witness that suspect may not be in the lineup

PRE-TRAINING: 37,8%

POST-TRAINING: **81,4%** ↑

Informing witness they are not obligated to identify anyone

PRE-TRAINING: 34,2%

POST-TRAINING: **74,7%** ↑

Informing that investigation continues regardless of witness decision

PRE-TRAINING: 16,2%

POST-TRAINING: **58,6%** ↑

Feedback to the witness after the identification procedure

Reveal who the suspect was after the identification procedure.

POST-TRAINING **94%** ↓

Reveal when the witness identified a filler.

POST-TRAINING **75%** ↓

In addition to the training effectiveness results, the satisfaction survey completed by participants at the end of the course deserves attention. The feedback revealed a positive perception among participants. Officers highlighted the relevance of the techniques for improving professional practice and the usefulness of the content for conducting identification procedures. Also frequently mentioned was the intention to disseminate the acquired knowledge among colleagues in their units, indicating the potential for expanding the training's impact.

The course was essential for updating my knowledge and practices regarding eyewitness identification procedures. I should have taken it much earlier, as I now realize how much better I could have performed in the procedures I previously worked on. I shared the content with colleagues and, on my part, I will change the methodology used in my workplace.

The course is very good and I consider it essential for all police officers. It should be mandatory.

By far, one of the best distance learning courses I have ever taken. I have always been curious about the topic. I learned a great deal! I felt fulfilled!

1.5. Inter-Institutional Seminars

National Seminar on Investigative Interviewing

Between April 23 and 30, 2025, three events were held to strengthen Investigative Interviewing in Brazil, with support from the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights and the UK-Brazil Global Talent Exchange Scheme: the II National Seminar on Investigative Interviewing, held in Recife and Florianópolis; the International Seminar on Investigative Interviewing, in Recife; and the International Meeting on Investigative Interviewing, in Florianópolis. The activities brought together more than 40 instructors and faculty from civil police academies in 14 Brazilian states, as well as researchers and justice system representatives, in a program that integrated lectures, roundtables, practical training, and guided debates.

The events also featured the participation of international references in the field, such as Rebecca Milne, Renan Saraiva, and Susanne Hendrika Flølo, contributing to deeper discussion of the scientific bases, impact evaluation, sustainability, and global perspectives of Investigative Interviewing.





As the main outcome, the meetings facilitated the preliminary construction of a national framework for Investigative Interviewing training structured in three Tiers — theoretical knowledge, practical skill development, and supervision of real interviews — inspired by the model adopted in the United Kingdom. Progress was also made in discussing indicators for impact and engagement evaluation, reinforcing the project's role in promoting ethical, scientific, and sustainable practices with public safety institutions.

Roundtable: Legal Safeguards and Non-Coercive Techniques in Criminal Investigation

On June 13, 2025, APT and CogJus held a roundtable in Brasília to promote the Méndez Principles and prevent torture in the Brazilian criminal justice system, with support from national and international institutions. The meeting brought together actors from the judiciary, public prosecutor's office, police, public defenders, government, and civil society to discuss effective and non-coercive investigative interviews. Discussions emphasized the importance of ensuring legal safeguards in the first hours of custody, improving training and supervision of professionals, strengthening inter-institutional integration, and standardizing practices with attention to gender and race, as well as defining quality and efficiency indicators.



As a result, there was consensus on the need to advance the standardization of protocols, improve interview recording, and create monitoring mechanisms. As a follow-up, APT and CogJus began to coordinate technical support for developing protocols and training programs in the country.

International Meeting on Investigative Interviewing: Building Teaching Models and Cooperation

On November 10 and 11, 2025, the International Meeting on Investigative Interviewing was held at the São Paulo Police Academy, promoted by CogJus, ACADEPOL-SP, NCHR, and CTI. The activity brought together 35 participants from different Brazilian states and countries such as Chile and the Bahamas, along with international expert Richard Kempshall, with the goal of strengthening the teaching and application of Investigative Interviewing (II), promoting the development of tiered training models, and expanding inter-institutional cooperation.

The meeting resulted in alignment on principles and pedagogical guidelines for working with uncooperative interviewees and the strengthening of articulation between academies and international networks.



Source: São Paulo Civil Police Academy

Technical Inter-Institutional Seminar: Ethical and Scientific Advances in Hearings and Interrogations in the Scope of the Public Prosecutor's Office

On November 12, 2025, the São Paulo Superior School of the Public Prosecutor's Office, IDDD, APT/CTI, and CogJus held a technical inter-institutional seminar at MP-SP headquarters, focused on improving evidence-based testimony collection practices.



Source: Superior School of the Public Prosecutor's Office of São Paulo

The event addressed the PEACE model/Investigative Interviewing and the application of the Méndez Principles in hearings and interrogations, with a focus on strengthening the chain of custody of memory-dependent evidence.

1.6. Participation in Events

Workshop on Investigative Interviewing for Law Enforcement Agencies (AIRCOP)

Between March 17 and 19, 2025, the workshop “Investigative Interviewing for Law Enforcement Personnel within the AIRCOP Project” was held in Barbados, bringing together representatives from countries in the Caribbean region in

addition to representatives from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Norwegian Center for Human Rights, and CogJus. The activity aimed to align Investigative Interviewing practices with standards consistent with human rights, a gender perspective, and a trauma-informed approach, combining scientific foundations, the exchange of international experiences, and practical training. The meeting also included regional discussions on cooperation, supervision, and accountability mechanisms within the scope of Airport Communication Project.

Fonte: [United Nations](#)



Source: United Nations

Workshop in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Employment and the UNODC

In partnership with the General Coordination for Inspection to Eradicate Slave Labor and Combat Human Trafficking (Brazil) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the workshop “Investigative Interviewing Applied to Human Trafficking and Conditions Analogous to Slavery” was held on May 14 and 15, 2025, to train approximately 60 labor inspectors. The activity was part of the celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of the Grupo Especial de Fiscalização Móvel (Special Mobile Inspection Group), which is responsible for rescuing workers from conditions analogous to slavery in Brazil. The main objective was to apply Investigative Interviewing as a qualified listening tool in contexts of vulnerability and suspected human trafficking and slave labor.



As a result, an Investigative Interviewing manual for labor inspectors was developed jointly by CogJus, members of General Coordination for Inspection to Eradicate Slave Labor and Combat Human Trafficking, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The material brought together international best practices and the specificities of this context, strengthening institutional capacity to identify and assist victims in a humane and evidence-based manner.

ImpleMéndez Management Committee Meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania

On August 4 and 5, 2025, at the Faculty of Philosophy of Vilnius University in Vilnius, William Ceconello, representing CogJus, participated in the Management Committee (MC) and CIMP meetings of COST Action CA22128, within the scope of the ImpleMéndez project, aimed at disseminating and implementing the Méndez Principles. Our participation focused on transferring scientific evidence into training and operational practices in Investigative Interviewing, presenting the Brazilian experience, especially the joint work with the Group of Supervising Teachers (GPS) and the partnership with the Civil Police in developing a level-based curriculum. Topics highlighted included the planning, conduct, and evaluation of interviews, with emphasis on audiovisual recording and the chain of custody of memory.



Source: [ImpleMendez](#)

National Meeting with Homicide Department Managers

Between August 20 and 22, 2025, CogJus participated in an event organized by the Ministry of Justice and Public Security with managers of Homicide Departments from all Brazilian states, bringing together approximately 30 directors. In this context, CogJus delivered thematic presentations on Investigative Interviewing and Eyewitness Identification, emphasizing the foundations of the Eyewitness Psychology, the risks of memory contamination, standards for proper lineups, neutral instructions, and the recording of witness confidence levels. The discussions reinforced the central role of these practices as foundational elements of homicide investigation policy.



Source: [Polícia Civil do Rio Grande do Sul](#)

II Goiás Congress on Public Security and Human Rights



Source: Escola Superior da Polícia Civil de Goiás

On September 24 and 25, we participated in the II Goiás Congress on Public Security and Human Rights, focusing on regional alignment of training and the dissemination of Investigative Interviewing (II) in Brazil's Central-West Region, as well as raising awareness among police chiefs regarding its application in police work. The event included a roundtable presenting the foundations of the PEACE Model and an exchange of experiences among representatives from Goiás, Mato Grosso, and Mato Grosso do Sul, followed by a discussion with the audience. As outcomes, a joint action calendar for 2025–2026 was established, along with guidelines for curriculum standardization, supervision mechanisms, and the engagement of police leadership to responsibly expand Investigative Interviewing in an evidence-based manner.



Source: Superior School of the Civil Police of Goiás

CTI Regional Workshop on Safeguards in the First Hours of Police Detention



Between October 14 and 16, CogJus participated in the CTI Regional Workshop on Safeguards in the First Hours of Police Detention, held in Santiago. The workshop brought together representatives from 16 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to discuss best practices for the prevention of torture. Represented by researcher Denis Lino, CogJus presented the Brazilian experience in Investigative Interviewing, addressing its benefits, challenges, and impacts on improving the quality of investigations. Evidence regarding the low reliability of information obtained through torture and the importance of audiovisual recording as a tool for prevention and training were also discussed. As outcomes, contacts were established to strengthen the Inter-American Investigative Interviewing Network, with Chile and Peru expressing interest in partnerships and training initiatives.

International Seminar on Science, Technology and Innovation in Public Security (SICTI 2025)

CogJus participated in the VII International Seminar on Science, Technology and Innovation in Public Security (SICTI 2025), held at Santa Catarina Civil Police Academy. The event featured the participation of Ray Bull, from University of Leicester, internationally recognized as a leading reference on the PEACE Model. The seminar promoted the integration of psychological science and police practice in an event dedicated to topics such as artificial intelligence, chain of custody, and digital evidence. In addition to the general activities, a roundtable discussion was held with professors from Santa Catarina Civil Police Academy to discuss teaching strategies and the expansion of Investigative Interviewing in both initial and continuing police education. The participation emphasized that technological advances must be accompanied by ethical, structured, and assessable interviewing techniques aligned with the Méndez Principles.

2nd Congress on the Psychology of Testimony and Criminal Evidence

On November 24 and 25, CogJus participated in the 2nd Congress on the Psychology of Testimony and Criminal Evidence, held at the headquarters of AMAPAR in Curitiba. The event brought together judges, prosecutors, public defenders, lawyers, psychologists, and researchers under the coordination of judges Marcel Ferreira dos Santos and Mayra dos Santos Zavattaro, focusing on interdisciplinary dialogue regarding the practical and theoretical application of the Eyewitness Psychology in evidentiary contexts. The program included keynote lectures and thematic panels on false memories, special testimony procedures, eyewitness identification, and gender-based violence. Among the speakers were Ray Bull and Janaína Rolandi Matida, who addressed the critical analysis of memory-dependent evidence and the importance of evidence-based protocols.





2. Final Considerations



The year 2025 represented, for CogJus, the **consolidation** of the **dissemination** of evidence-based practices in the fields of Investigative Interviewing and eyewitness identification. The actions developed throughout the year demonstrate this progress by integrating **territorial expansion, curriculum standardization, the production of empirical evidence, and the strengthening of national and international cooperation networks.**

The expansion of training programs, the consolidation of the Group of Supervising Teachers (GPS) as an active national network, the organization of a level-based curriculum, and the implementation of standardized assessment instruments demonstrate CogJus's progress in structuring a consistent and replicable training model. These advances contribute to greater technical and institutional alignment in a context historically marked by the absence of national guidelines and by heterogeneous practices. In this context, the development and evaluation of training programs in Investigative Interviewing and eyewitness identification demonstrate the laboratory's capacity to produce evidence on impact, improve professional practices, and reduce the risks of errors. At the same time, its collaboration with institutions within the justice system, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, and international organizations reinforces its role as a bridge between scientific production, professional practice, and public policy development.

The seminars, workshops, and other interinstitutional spaces promoted throughout the year contributed to the alignment of guidelines, the engagement of leadership, and the construction of consensus around ethical, non-coercive, and human rights-oriented investigative practices. These processes indicate important progress in creating the conditions necessary for the institutionalization of the proposed changes.

In this context, 2025 can be understood as the year in which the foundations of a national model for training, supervision, and evaluation in Investigative Interviewing were consolidated. Beyond expanding its activities, the project was able to establish conditions for the sustainability and scalability of its actions, positioning the initiative as a strategic actor in promoting changes within the Brazilian justice and public security system. From this milestone onward, the main challenges lie in deepening these initiatives, focusing on the consolidation of complete training pathways, the expansion of supervision in real cases, the strengthening of coordination with public policies, and the expansion of territorial coverage — essential steps for the institutionalization and long-term sustainability of the advances achieved.

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