Background

The First International Conference on Missing Persons, supported by the Regional Government of Andalusia and held in Seville in November 2024, was founded on a fundamental principle: **placing missing persons and their families at the heart of the event**.

The first edition received **218 registrations**, with participants from many regions of Spain and from countries including the United Kingdom, Mexico, Italy, Portugal and France. The Conference brought together families, organisations, university researchers, law enforcement agencies, emergency services, and professionals in psychology, law, criminology and communications, creating opportunities for direct dialogue between those living with a disappearance and those who respond to it professionally. The presence of the National Centre for Missing Persons, under the Spanish Ministry of the Interior, also enabled direct exchanges with relatives of missing persons.

The event also helped identify challenges that remain unresolved: improving the coordination of search resources, adopting new technologies, strengthening legal responses, preventing disappearances among particularly vulnerable groups, and improving support mechanisms for families. The first edition also provided an opportunity to learn about procedures and experiences in other invited countries.

Full information here

OBJECTIVE

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MISSING PERSONS
Towards a European response

The 2026 edition aims to build on the **exchange of experiences and move towards European cooperation**.

By bringing a selected group of civil society organisations, families, public institutions, police and emergency services, universities and researchers together in Seville, we aim to share knowledge, identify common needs and explore ways to improve European cooperation on missing persons. The Conference will continue to place **missing persons and their families at its heart throughout the programme**, while placing particular emphasis on a European perspective and on concrete outcomes that can be carried forward after the event.

MAIN AREAS OF WORK

- **Data and the true scale of disappearances in Europe.** Differences in registration systems, definitions and classifications, and the need to move towards more consistent and comparable information.

- **Rights and legislation.** An examination of different legal frameworks and the protections available to missing persons and their families.

- **Search and cross-border cooperation.** Information sharing, protocols, alerts, and coordination among law enforcement agencies and organisations when a disappearance crosses national borders.

- **Accidents, disasters and major emergencies.** Coordination of search, rescue and identification operations, and mechanisms to provide information and support to families.

- **Technology and research.** Geolocation, drones, artificial intelligence, data analysis, databases and new tools for searches, with attention to their ethical and legal limits.

- **Long-term cases.** Case reviews, DNA, unidentified deceased persons, new investigative techniques and international information sharing.

- **Care and support for families.** Learning from different European models and exploring common principles for information, guidance, and psychological, social and legal support.

- **Civil society, universities and knowledge.** Strengthening specialist organisations and their relationships with institutions and the scientific community.

A CONFERENCE FOCUSED ON COOPERATION

The Second Conference will set aside dedicated working time for the participating European organisations. The intention is not to establish a new formal structure immediately, but to start with something simpler: **to get to know one another, share what each organisation does well, identify common needs and determine where we can work together**.

The question we want to ask in Seville is:

> What can we do together in Europe that none of us can do alone today?

Our aim is for the Conference not to end on 13 November, but to become the starting point for a lasting European working relationship.

INVITED SPEAKERS

ORGANISATION / BODY
• Initiative Vermisste Kinder
• Child Focus
• AMBER Alert Europe
• ARPD – Assistance et Recherche de Personnes Disparues
• The Smile of the Child
• Kék Vonal Child Crisis Foundation
• ISPCC – Irish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children
• National Missing Persons Helpline
• Commissario Straordinario del Governo per le Persone Scomparse
• Penelope Italia ODV
• SOS Il Telefono Azzurro
• Team A.R.S. – Persone Scomparse Italia
• Bezvests.lv
• Missing Persons' Families Support Centre (MPFSC)
• Centrum Internationale Kinderontvoering
• Fundacja ITAKA – Centrum Poszukiwań Ludzi Zaginionych
• MPIN – Missing Persons International Network (ITAKA)
• Associação Portuguesa de Crianças Desaparecidas – APCD
• Instituto de Apoio à Criança – IAC
• Locate International
• Missing People
• Missing Children Switzerland
• Österreich findet euch
• Association AVANE (Association d'Aide aux Victimes des Affaires Non Élucidées)
• European Forum for Restorative Justice

Practical information
Dates: 11, 12 and 13 November 2026
Venue: Fundación Cajasol · Plaza de San Francisco · Seville, Spain
QSDglobal will cover **accommodation for invited representatives on the nights of 11 and 12 November**, as well as **meals and lunches during the Conference**. Each invited organisation will only need to cover **its representative's return travel to Seville, by air or rail**.

Organised by
EUROPEAN FOUNDATION FOR MISSING PERSONS QSDGLOBAL
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FUNDACIÓN CAJASOL
CONTACT:
comunicación@qsdglobal.com
www.qsdglobal.com