

The role of the EFPP Delegate

The overall task of the Delegate is to embody the ethos of the EFPP and to promote the aims and purposes of the EFPP within their own National Networks or organisations and provide constant feedback and exchange from their NN or organisations to the EFPP Board. The EFPP Delegate has a dual representative role. He/She is a representative of his NN or organisation and Section (Adult, Child and Adolescent, Group, or Couple and Family) and is the official representative of that particular section of the EFPP. The Delegates are the vital link in a very complex organisational structure involving different roles within various areas of work with defined tasks:

1. The Representation Role (delegation tasks)

To represent and connect their organisations of psychoanalytic psychotherapy to their NN and to the EFPP; the reciprocal task is to represent the aims and ideas of EFPP to their NN or organisations in their own countries. The attendance to the biennial in presence and online delegates meeting and any other meetings involving his/her tasks of representation is mandatory. The delegate must report back to their national network or organisations and give any relevant feedback afterwards to the EFPP Board. In constitutional matters or organisational changes, the delegates will represent his NN or organization's view in terms of decisions and voting rights and will assume the task to work actively within his NN or organization on the items submitted to change.

2. Organisational Role (administrative tasks)

The Delegate is the designated person for all mailing or website delegates area activities, to receive information from EFPP or send notices from their NN or organisations. The Delegate will be provided with a password to log in to the Delegates area of the EFPP website. It is very important to have at all times valid and updated information about the delegate and his organisation's contact information. The Delegate is the contact person for the EFPP Treasurer, the Finance Officer, and the Administrative Secretary. The Delegate has the responsibility to see that the annual subscription fees are paid and that membership numbers are up to date. The Delegate will inform the Honorary Secretary and the Administrative Secretary of any changes regarding the name of his national organisation or network and the name and e-mail of the financial administrator of their organisation who will be responsible for paying the invoice for the annual subscription. He/She will notify the EFPP Administrative Secretary and the Section Chair of all changes in representatives in their NN or organisations particularly when Delegates step down and are replaced. He/She will inform about the election procedures and the vacancy in each section and will notify the Section Chair and Honorary

Secretary of any candidacy. All this relevant information should be updated coinciding with the biennial Delegates Meeting and will be stored in the EFPP Archive.

3. Linking role (communication tasks)

One of the most important roles of the delegate is the linking he/she does engage himself in multiple processes of communication both horizontal (Delegate – Section Delegates- Section Chair – Board – his NN or organization) and vertical (Delegate – Member of his NN or Organization). The communication reaches several levels of organizing and structuring topics: organizational level (discussion regarding the sections criteria and standard for training and membership and section bylaws and implementing in their NN or organizations as agreed and any other relevant organisational issue regarding the EFPP); scientific level (conferences, seminars and other academic activities of EFPP, EFPP Book Series etc), clinical level (study days, research and developments of the PP in their NN or organizations), informing level (sharing information in both ways, from their NN or organizations to EFPP and from EFPP website to their NN or organization). The delegates can propose and organize meetings with other delegates or members of his NN or organization to discuss matters of interest related to EFPP Membership.

The Delegate encourages participation at conferences, workshops, and other activities of the EFPP and the promotion of the EFPP Clinical Book Series and the EFPP E-Journal and disseminates the fliers concerning conferences and other workshops to the members of their organisations, informs their organisations about the information on the EFPP website.

4. Proactive role (creative tasks)

The Delegate has total freedom to explore a more creative side of his role by letting the Section Chair and the Board know what is his area of interest and in which way he/she would like to be involved in different activities and projects : proposing ideas for working group or study groups, collaborating with other delegates in different work frames to exchange theoretical or clinical ideas, participating in the organization of conferences, presenting papers or sharing perspectives from his country, collaborating with the board in the discussion of relevant organisational issues. This proactive role remains extremely important as the delegate is not seen as an administrative or formal tool within the EFPP organisational structure but as one of his most vital and transforming elements.

This is just an overview of the most common and important tasks of the delegate's role. While the role of a Delegate can be very satisfying, it requires a regular evaluation of the personal and time resources allocated and involvement. We encourage any communication regarding the need for a better understanding of this role and of support for some tasks. Also, we encourage delegates to find out if they have a particular interest or an area of expertise within the EFPP complex field of possibilities (working groups on certain topics, research areas, Efpp book series team, EFPP podcast etc).

Necessary requirements for becoming a delegate: good English skills, interest in organizational work, institutional experience and commitment.

The EFPP Welcoming Committee provides a platform for the new delegates to meet. There is an annual Zoom meeting to welcome the new delegates, to farewell the leaving delegates and to share experiences with the ones on the point of ending their mandates.