

EPF Cannes, 24-26 March 2023

## **ILLUSIONS**

### **Proposal from Ad Hoc Group on Acting Out Patients**

**Title: From illusions, through to delusions, and ending with disillusionments**

#### **Abstract:**

In many of the more severely mentally disturbed patients who act out violently, we can trace from their early traumatic histories the necessary illusions they create of their worlds being 'normal'. This arises from abused children's adapting to their dependency on the loved but abusing primary carers. These traumatised children can become psychotic adolescents and young people when delusions can emerge. For treatment to enable working through, they need to give up their psychotic solutions and allow disillusionment to arise, including the mourning of the lives they had and the reality of their future healthier lives. In this workshop, case histories will be presented to illustrate each main stage of development in such patients.