

## **Mission**

Personality disorders are among the most frequently occurring mental disorders. Yet they are diseases that receive too little attention in general and mental health care. It is not uncommon for therapists to consider a personality disorder only if the patient fails to respond or responds too slowly to treatment, or withdraws from treatment prematurely. Diagnosis of a "personality disorder" shifts responsibility for the failure of treatment often to the patient. This is one of the reasons why in mental health care personality disorders are associated -wrongly in many cases- with a lack of motivation or ability to change. For a long time, this line of thinking held back the development and broadly based implementation of effective treatments for this target population. Even in specialised institutes, innovations in care generally tend to come about slowly.

The mission of Viersprong Institute for Studies on Personality Disorders (VISPD) is to help create patient-focused, evidence-based and cost-effective care for patients with personality disorders. Specifically, VISPD aims to contribute to:

1. a realistic attitude among health care professionals towards the changeability and treatability of patients with personality disorders;
2. socially responsible, effective care for this category of patients;
3. early identification of personality disorders in primary health care (first-line);
4. high-quality assessment and diagnosis, and treatment selection for personality disorders in specialist mental health care (second-and third-line);
5. a patient-focused and up-to-date range of evidence-based treatments for personality disorders in specialist mental health care.