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<td>About COST and the COST Action ISO 903 “Enhancing the role of medicine in the management of European health systems - implications for control, innovation and user voice”</td>
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<td>Author:</td>
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COST is an intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology, allowing the coordination of nationally-funded research on a European level.

COST has a very specific mission and goal. It contributes to reducing the fragmentation in European research investments and opening the European Research Area to cooperation worldwide.

As a precursor of advanced multidisciplinary research, COST plays a very important role in building a European Research Area (ERA). It anticipates and complements the activities of the EU Framework Programmes, constituting a “bridge” towards the scientific communities of emerging countries. It also increases the mobility of researchers across Europe and fosters the establishment of scientific excellence in the nine key domains:

- Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences
- Food and Agriculture
- Forests, their Products and Services
- Materials, Physics and Nanosciences
- Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technologies
- Earth System Science and Environmental Management
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Transport and Urban Development
- Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health

In addition, Trans-Domain Proposals allow for broad, multidisciplinary proposals to strike across the nine scientific domains.

**ISCH COST Action IS0903**

COST Action IS0903 “Enhancing the Role of Medicine in the Management of European Health Systems - Implications for Control, Innovation and User Voice” (short: Doctors in Management) is an international research collaboration led and managed by the Centre for Innovation in Health Management (CIHM) at the University of Leeds.

The Action runs until the end of 2013 and aims to increase understanding as to how health management reforms have unfolded across different European states. In particular, how the role of the medical professions in the management of health care has changed and the impact this has had on areas such as control (organizational and occupational), innovation and user voice.

The main objective of the Action is to increase empirical, theoretical and policy relevant knowledge about the changing role of medical professionals in the management of healthcare. This Action is rooted in a number of recent trends in healthcare: the growing involvement of doctors in management
and changes in medical education, training and career structures. These changes are assumed to be positive, leading to improvements in organization learning and control, innovation and user voice. However the evidence supporting such conclusions remains fragmented. While changes in the relationship between management and medicine have received some attention at national levels, there is less research adopting a rigorous, comparative, interdisciplinary perspective. Focusing on hospital doctors the Action aims to address these limitations to advance theoretical, empirical and policy relevant knowledge. The wider benefit for society will be the identification of promising practices in healthcare management to facilitate policy change at both national and European levels. The Action will also contribute to goals of enhancing the mobility of clinical professionals and the user voice in healthcare.