

Scientific Officer Epidemic Intelligence and Threat Assessment

Unit: Public Health Functions

Reference: ECDC/FGIV/2022/PHF-SOEITA

Applications are invited for the above Contract Agent post at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

Job description

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ECDC plans to recruit one person for the above-mentioned vacancy. ECDC also aims to establish a reserve list, which may be used for any future vacancies in the area.

The jobholder will support the activities of the Centre related to epidemic intelligence and contribute to the surveillance, emergency preparedness and response activities. His/her role will be to detect, assess, prepare for and respond to serious cross-border health threats related to communicable diseases.

The jobholder will report to the Group Leader General Epidemic Intelligence. He/she will be placed in the Public Health Functions Unit.

The jobholder will be responsible for, or contributing to, the following areas of work, with the main focus being on epidemic intelligence activities:

- Contribute to event detection, assessment and communication, including integration of data from multiple sources (epidemic intelligence) using tools such as news aggregators, social media monitoring etc;
- Contribute to the collection, validation, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of communicable disease surveillance data;
- Support the operation, maintenance, evaluation and further development of epidemiological tools (databases, analysis packages, public health information systems and specific networks) for epidemic intelligence, surveillance and emergency preparedness and response;
- Contribute to the strengthening and integration of event-based and indicator-based surveillance, also including data from molecular and genomic typing as well as big data, for more accurate and comprehensive threat detection and assessment;

- Support EU/EEA and enlargement countries, and the European Commission in epidemic intelligence, surveillance, emergency preparedness and response related activities through scientific evidence, literature reviews, technical reports, guidance documents, simulation exercises, In and After Action Reviews, country visits, targeted capacity building, and the development of tools, assessment methodologies and training materials;
- Support the timely production of high quality and evidence based rapid risk/outbreak assessments and other related outputs in response to potential communicable disease threats;
- Support cross-border outbreak investigations with particular emphasis on data collection and analysis;
- Participate in field deployments to support response missions in EU/EEA Member States and third countries, in collaboration with EU stakeholders (e.g. DG ECHO and DG INTPA of the European Commission) and non-EU partners (e.g. WHO, GOARN, and other CDC's);
- Actively liaise and collaborate with internal and external stakeholders and participate in threat detection, surveillance, preparedness and response networks to strengthen ECDC's cooperation with EU/EEA Member States and enlargement countries;
- Contribute to the procurement of external services in line with EU public procurement rules, as required;
- Participate in the 24/7 duty system of ECDC;
- Contribute to other activities of ECDC, as required, in his/her field of expertise.

Qualifications and experiences required

A. Formal requirements

In order to be an eligible candidate you need to fulfil a set of formal requirements. These requirements are:

- A level of education which corresponds to completed university studies of at least three years attested by a diploma ¹;
- Thorough knowledge of one of the official EU languages and a satisfactory knowledge of another official EU language to the extent necessary for the performance of his/her duties²;
- Nationality of one of the EU Member States or of Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein;
- To be entitled to his or her full rights as a citizen³;
- To have fulfilled any obligations imposed by the applicable laws on military service;

1 Only diplomas and certificates that have been awarded in EU member states or that are the subject of equivalence certificates issued by authorities in the said Member states shall be taken into consideration.

2 Candidates with a non-official EU language or English as their mother tongue must provide proof of their level of a second language with a certificate (B1 or more).

3 Prior to the appointment, the successful candidate will be asked to provide a certificate from the police file to the effect of non-existing criminal record.

- Meet the character requirements for the duties involved; and
- Be physically fit to perform the duties linked to the post.

B. Selection criteria

To qualify for this post we have identified *essential criteria* with regard to *professional experience* and *personal characteristics/interpersonal skills*. These are:

Professional experience/knowledge:

- At least 3 years professional experience (following the award of the diploma) acquired in positions relevant to the job description;
- A university degree in the field of public health, epidemiology, health sciences, medicine, biomedical sciences, nursing, veterinary medicine, pharmacology, microbiology, virology, bacteriology, infectious diseases or another related area. Alternatively, a post-graduate degree or diploma in applied field epidemiology (e.g. EPIET or equivalent such as national field epidemiology training);
- Proven experience in epidemic intelligence, threat detection, outbreak investigation, surveillance and/or emergency preparedness;
- Knowledge and ability to work with databases, epidemiological tools and statistical software packages, to manage, share and analyse epidemiologic information including surveillance data;
- Proven strong analytical and epidemiological skills as well as experience in communicating scientific information to professionals, scientists as well to a wider audience, especially through oral presentations, technical reports and by publishing scientific articles;
- Excellent level of English, both written and spoken.

Personal characteristics/interpersonal skills:

- Quality driven and service minded;
- Ability to work collaboratively, build strong working relationships and understand the needs of stakeholders;
- Results oriented and able to take initiative;
- Very good organisational skills and ability to work under pressure;

Depending on the number of applications received, the selection committee may apply stricter requirements within the aforementioned selection criteria.

Equal Opportunities

ECDC is an equal opportunities employer and encourages applications from all candidates who fulfil the eligibility and selection criteria without any distinction on grounds of age, race, political, philosophical or religious conviction, gender or sexual orientation and regardless of disabilities.

Appointment and conditions of employment

The jobholder will be appointed on the basis of a shortlist proposed by the Selection Committee to the Director. This vacancy notice is the basis for the establishment of the Selection Committee's proposal. Candidates will be requested to undergo written tests.

Candidates should note that the proposal may be made public and that inclusion in the shortlist does not guarantee recruitment. The shortlist of candidates will be established following an open selection process.

The successful candidate will be recruited as a contract agent, pursuant to article 3a) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union, for a period of five years. The contract may be renewed. The appointment will be in **Function Group IV**.

Applicants should note the requirement under the EU staff regulations for all new staff to successfully complete a probationary period of nine months.

For any further information on contractual and working conditions, please refer to the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Communities, which are available at the following link:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A01962R0031-20140501>

The place of employment will be Stockholm, where the Centre has its activities.

Reserve list

A reserve list may be created and used for recruitment, should similar vacancies arise. It will be valid until 31 December of the same year as the application deadline and may be extended.

Application procedure

To apply please send a completed application to Recruitment@ecdc.europa.eu clearly indicating the vacancy reference and your family name in the subject line of the email.

For your application to be valid you must complete all required sections of the application form, which should be submitted in Word or PDF format and preferably in English⁴. Any incomplete applications will be considered invalid.

The ECDC application form and a candidate guide on the ECDC recruitment and selection process can be found on our website here:

<https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/about-us/work-us/recruitment-process>

The closing date for the submission of applications is on the **22 August 2022 at 23:59** Stockholm time. Further information regarding the status of this selection procedure, as well as important information regarding the recruitment process, is noted on our website and can be found using the above link.

Due to the large volume of applications received, only candidates selected for interviews will be notified.

⁴ This vacancy notice has been translated into all official EU languages from its English original. As the language of day-to-day operations in the Agency is generally English, ECDC prefers to receive the application in English.