

Principal Expert Microbiology

Unit: Public Health Functions

Reference: ECDC/AD/2022/PHF-PEM

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

Job description

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 report to the Group Leader of the Microbiology and Molecular Surveillance Group and will be placed in the Surveillance Section within the Public Health Functions Unit. He/she will be working closely together with the other teams from the Surveillance Section, the ECDC disease programmes and other units.

The jobholder will be responsible in particular for the following areas of work:

- Contribute to the strategic alignment and lead the implementation of ECDC microbiology activities, in particular the integration of molecular typing into EU level surveillance and outbreak investigations, laboratory capacity mapping and strengthening and the establishment of a European reference laboratories network for public health;
- Lead and coordinate projects within the Microbiology and Molecular Surveillance Group;
- Provide scientific and technical advice and fostering high scientific standards in microbiology-related activities and outputs of the Centre;
- Provide microbiology expertise in support of health threat detection, response and risk assessments, including the interpretation of complex laboratory data;
- Contribute to ECDC rapid risk assessments and other technical outputs;
- Provide scientific support to and build strong working relationships with key stakeholders such as the European Commission and the EU/EEA Member States;
- Contribute to other activities of ECDC, as required, in his/her field of expertise;
- May be asked to contribute to the 24/7 duty system of ECDC.

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 attested by a diploma when the normal period of university education is 4 years or more, or a level of education which corresponds to completed university studies attested by a diploma and appropriate professional experience of at least 1 year when the normal period of university education is at least 3 years¹;
- At least 9 years of professional experience² (following the award of the diploma);
- 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 duties³;
- 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 citizen⁴;
- To have fulfilled any obligations imposed by the applicable laws on military service;
- 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 5 years of professional experience acquired in positions relevant to the job description;
- At least two years of practical laboratory experience with application of conventional and molecular techniques for microbial detection and characterisation, preferably in a microbiology reference laboratory at the national or international level;
- At least 5 years of experience in applied molecular epidemiology of infectious diseases (i.e. surveillance and outbreak investigation and response);
- Experience with pathogens' antigenic and genetic characterisation in the context of studies for informing public health policy decisions;
- Proven skills in communicating scientific information to authorities, as well as to a wider audience;

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 Compulsory military service is always taken into consideration.

³ 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).

In addition, in order to be eligible for a promotion through an annual promotion exercise the staff members have to have a working knowledge of a third EU language, as described in the applicable Staff Regulations and Implementing Rules.

⁴ 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.

- Good knowledge of the relevant EU policies and activities and understanding of ECDC's role in public health preparedness, communicable disease surveillance and response to cross-border threats;
- Excellent level of English, both written and spoken.

Personal characteristics/interpersonal skills:

- Proven experience in project management and leading experts or multidisciplinary teams;
- Ability to work collaboratively and build strong working relationships;
- Committed to continuous learning and keeping abreast of developments within their field of expertise;
- Excellent analytical and problem solving skills;
- Results oriented and ability to work under pressure, manage responsibilities and take initiative.

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 Temporary Agent, pursuant to article 2f) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union, for a period of five years which may be renewed. The appointment will be in grade **AD 8**.

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 for this vacancy, please create/ log in to your account via ECDC's e-recruitment system, complete all required sections of the application and submit it. **ECDC does not accept applications submitted by e-mail, mail or any other means.**

The closing date for the submission of applications is on 20/01/2023 at 11:59:59 (midday) Stockholm time. You are advised to submit your application well ahead of the deadline in case you face technical issues and/or if there is heavy traffic on the website. ECDC will not accept any applications after the deadline. Once you have submitted your application, you will receive an automatic e-mail message confirming receipt of your application. Please ensure that the email address you provide for your applicant account is correct and that you check your email regularly.

You can find an **e-recruitment user guide** and a guide on the ECDC recruitment and selection process on our website:

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

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

You can find the translation⁵ of this vacancy notice in all EU languages here:

<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/about-ecdc/work-ecdc/recruitment/vacancies/vacancy-translations>

⁵ While this vacancy notice has been translated into all official EU languages from its English original the language of day-to-day operations in the Agency is generally English. ECDC therefore prefers to receive the application in English.