

Principal Expert Digital Surveillance

Unit: Public Health Functions

Reference: ECDC/AD/2022/PHF-PEDS

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 General Surveillance and Data.

He/She will be responsible in particular for the following areas of work:

- Lead the ECDC efforts to progressively implement infectious disease surveillance based on electronic health records and other electronic health data sources. This includes the coordination of large projects with substantial budget administration as well as supporting Member States with expert advice, and ensuring that ECDC data infrastructures and processes are updated for hosting, analysing and disseminating such data;
- Work as part of a team which includes more junior eHealth surveillance experts and experts from other areas, such as data management and IT;
- Chair the ECDC eHealth taskforce to ensure coordination of eHealth activities across the Centre;
- Design and implement digital infectious disease surveillance based on existing databases in Member States, e.g. electronic health records, laboratory information management systems, disease and vaccination registries, overseeing the development of appropriate ECDC data processes and analysis pipelines and the application of artificial intelligence for data validation, analysis and automated reporting;
- Design and carry out validation studies on the data obtained from such surveillance systems to ensure their fitness for purpose;

- Assess Member State surveillance data sources and, based on identified weaknesses, such as data gaps, data availability delays or lack of representativeness, inform possible improvement actions for EU surveillance;
- Support relevant European Commission and Member State efforts, such as Joint Actions on eHealth surveillance and real-time surveillance;
- Provide scientific coordination for the integration of ECDC data in the European Health Data Space (EHDS);
- Contribute to running, maintaining, evaluating and further developing surveillance systems, tools, processes and outputs, including collaborating with ECDC project teams and external contractors to review deliverables and perform acceptance tests;
- Produce technical reports, peer-reviewed scientific articles and oral presentations;
- Actively liaise and collaborate with internal and external stakeholders and contribute to coordination of the EU/EEA surveillance network;
- Procure external services in line with EU public procurement rules, as required;

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:

- At least 9 years of professional experience¹ (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 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;
- 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:

¹ Compulsory military service is always 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).

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.

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.

Professional experience/knowledge:

- At least 5 years of professional experience acquired in positions relevant to the job description, preferably including experience with secondary use of electronic health record data for surveillance or research purposes;
- A university degree in the field of public health or epidemiology. Alternatively, a post-graduate degree in applied field epidemiology (e.g. EPIET or equivalent such as a national field epidemiology training programme);
- Proven work experience in carrying out public health surveillance (preferably of infectious diseases) at regional, national or international level, including specific experience in evaluating public health surveillance systems;
- Proven experience and advanced skills in data analysis using statistical software (preferably R), including experience in developing algorithms for case identification and information retrieval from clinical or laboratory electronic databases;
- Proven experience in communicating scientific information to authorities, scientists as well as to a wider audience, especially through oral presentations, technical reports and by publishing scientific articles (at least one peer-reviewed article as a first author);
- Excellent command of English, both written and spoken.

Personal characteristics/interpersonal skills:

- Excellent analytical skills;
- Results-oriented and able to take initiative;
- Strong organisational skills and ability to work under pressure;
- Good negotiation skills and experience in managing change;
- Ability to work collaboratively and build strong working relationships.

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 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 16 May 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.