

Expert Microbiology

Unit: Public Health Functions

Reference: ECDC/AD/2020/PHF-EM

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

Job description

The Jobholder will report to the Group Leader of the Microbiology and Molecular Surveillance Group while working closely with the other teams from the Surveillance Section and the disease programmes. He/She will be placed in the Surveillance Section in the Public Health Functions Unit.

ECDC is currently looking to recruit two **Microbiology Experts** but will also **establish a reserve list which may be used for any future vacancies in this area.**

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

- Defining surveillance protocols and disease specific analysis plans, integrating genomic typing data into surveillance systems and outbreak investigations at EU level;
- Coordinating disease-specific laboratory networks, including liaising with the network on specific projects, providing feedback, drafting reports and other outputs;
- Optimising the management and application of molecular typing-based surveillance data, supporting innovation of surveillance systems with molecular typing-based components and ensuring their integration in ECDC routine surveillance outputs;
- Using various bioinformatics tools to perform analysis, visualisation, and interpretation of WGS data;
- Providing expert microbiology advice within ECDC, EU/EEA Member States and the European Commission on the analysis and interpretation of molecular typing-based data in the context of detecting, assessing, monitoring and communicating public health threats for the EU;
- Proactively identifying and coordinating microbiology projects with a cross-disease dimension, such as improving the quality of EQAs, providing trainings in specific areas, and proposing ways to increase the value and impact of microbiology outputs;
- Contributing to ECDC rapid risk assessments;

- Contributing to answering questions from the European Parliament, the Commission and Member States;
- Contributing to other activities of ECDC as required, within his/her field of competence;
- 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 of at least 3 years attested by a diploma¹;
- 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:

Professional experience/knowledge:

- At least 5 years of professional experience (following the award of the diploma), of which at least 3 years' professional experience acquired in positions relevant to the duties outlined in the job description, preferably including experience in clinical microbiology and / or a national public health laboratory;
- University degree within the field of microbiology, epidemiology, biosciences or another related area;
- Experience in setting up, operating, or evaluating regional, national or international public health surveillance systems, including systems with integrated molecular data;

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).

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.

- Experience in analysing, interpreting and communicating integrated microbiological and epidemiological data, including joint analysis and interpretation of WGS and epidemiological data, in the context of surveillance and outbreak detection and investigation;
- Experience with EQAs or diagnostic assay validation studies;
- Excellent command of English, both written and spoken.

Personal characteristics/interpersonal skills:

- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Ability to work collaboratively and build strong multi-disciplinary working relationships;
- Results oriented and ability to take initiative;
- Strong organisational skills and ability to work under pressure;
- Quality-driven and service-minded.

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 may 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 2(f) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Communities, for a period of five years which may be renewed. The appointment will be in grade **AD 5**.

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

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 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 and 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.