



Traineeship at Microbiology Coordination Section Draft Work Programme

Background information: The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control has a traineeship programme. The programme gives trainees an understanding of the Centre and its role within the activities of the European Union, enables them to acquire practical knowledge in one of the ECDC's Units and to obtain professional experience in the course of their work¹.

Profile of potential trainee at the Microbiology Coordination Section: University degree in microbiology, epidemiology and/or other public health disciplines, good command of English and strong interest in gaining knowledge and experience in public health microbiology coordination activities at an international level¹.

Period of traineeship: Six months, desired starting date is in March or April

Section, Unit: Microbiology Coordination section, Resource Management and Coordination Unit

1. Overall goal of traineeship:

The goal of this training period is to provide an opportunity for a junior expert to acquire practical knowledge on microbiology coordination at European Union level, to further improve organizational and communication skills and to gain experience of working in an international environment. This will be achieved through working on a specific project to develop a directory of expert and reference laboratories for human pathogens and through involvement in the day-to-day work of the Microbiology Coordination section at the ECDC. For more information on the traineeship programme, eligibility criteria, application deadlines and traineeship rules, please see <http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/aboutus/jobs/Pages/traineeships.aspx>.

2. Expected Outcomes:

- Contribution to developing a test version of searchable directory of expert and reference laboratories for human pathogens in the Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU)/European Economic Area (EEA)
- Insight into public health microbiology coordination work at ECDC
- Overall understanding of ECDC work and related public health activities in the EU/EEA
- Improved skills in project management, intercultural and interdisciplinary communication and collaboration
- Traineeship report finalized at the end of the training period, which summarizes main tasks and achievements and experiences acquired

¹ For more information, see Call for Applications Trainees
http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/aboutus/jobs/Documents/0903_Call_for_applications_trainees.pdf



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3. Activities / tasks²:

3.1. Microbiology Coordination

- Contribute to the development of a data resource (“yellow pages”) of pathogen and expert microbiology laboratories across the EU/EEA. At the first stage, this would be done using already available information from ECDC³ and the European Commission⁴
- Be actively involved in the design and prototype development of an easy to access, searchable directory for prompt information on existing expert and reference laboratories for human pathogens in the EU/EEA using the data compiled above.
- Take part in testing of the directory for rapid access to information needed and appropriate response to queries, including need for assistance with detection, confirmation and characterisation of rare or unknown pathogens.
- Participate in consultations with key stakeholders and internal experts to better understand whether the directory addresses their needs.
- Contribute to the development of a project proposal for further development and implementation of the directory.

3.2. General ECDC understanding

- Take part in regular team meetings at the Microbiology Coordination section
- Participate in expert consultations where appropriate to broaden knowledge and understanding of specific issues in communicable disease prevention and control
- Participate in broad ECDC activities and training opportunities such as internal seminars, appropriate external meetings, and disease specific programme (DSP) activities.

² The activities and tasks could be revised depending on the starting date of the traineeship and the progress of the ongoing work of the Microbiology Coordination Section

³ Survey of microbiology reference laboratories performed by ECDC in 2008

⁴ European Reference Laboratories System for Human Pathogens Option Project (EURLOP), DG Sanco