

Principal Expert Public Health Foresight and Determinants

Unit: Scientific Methods and Standards
Reference: ECDC/AD/2021/SMS-PEPHFD

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 post is located in the Scientific Process and Methods (SPM) Section, within which the jobholder will report to the Head of Section. The SPM Section is based within the Scientific Methods and Standards Unit. The jobholder will provide expertise and leadership on public health foresight and determinants of infectious disease epidemiology and impact to inform strategic decisions and policy in the area of infectious disease prevention and control.

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

- Lead and implement the Centre's foresight activities in close collaboration with experts across ECDC (e.g. epidemiologists, statisticians, mathematical modellers, surveillance, epidemic intelligence and disease experts);
- Analyse emerging topics and conceive and implement foresight studies/projects using the most appropriate methodological approach to address the questions at hand;
- Coordinate and contribute to activities that increase the understanding of the inter-relationships between different drivers of infectious disease and key factors impacting public health including but not limited to environmental, demographic and socio-economic factors by critically appraising and collating existing evidence and supporting the development of new evidence;
- Establish and further strengthen professional relationships and partnerships with public health foresight and health determinants experts at global, EU and Member State level and with academia;
- Keep abreast with research and policy developments in the area of public health foresight and determinants;

- 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 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;
- Degree in biomedical sciences, social sciences, public health, epidemiology, demographics or related field;
- Proven experience in the design and analysis of foresight studies and experience with different foresight techniques and methodologies such as horizon scanning, driver analysis, scenario development;

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.

- Proven experience in managing large scale projects, integrating diverse data streams and coordinating the input of experts from across different disciplines;
- Proven experience in applying and critically appraising quantitative and qualitative research methods and experience with presenting complex scientific and technical content to different audiences including non-technical audiences;
- Good understanding of infectious disease epidemiology, surveillance and other public health information systems, health determinants and indicators, and in addition an understanding of health care systems;
- Excellent command of English, both written and spoken.

Personal characteristics/interpersonal skills:

- Quality driven with excellent analytical and problem-solving skills;
- Good oral and written communication skills and ability to communicate effectively across disciplines and scientific areas as well as with non-technical audiences;
- Ability to work collaboratively in a multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural environment and build strong working relationships;
- Committed to continuous learning and keeping abreast of developments within their field of expertise;
- Results orientated with good organisational, team and project management 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 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 English⁵. 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 is on 26 August 2021 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.

⁵ 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.