



European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

Call for expression of interest for Seconded National Experts (ECDC/2024/SNE)

Applications are invited for the secondment at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). The aim of secondment is to enhance and develop the relationship between ECDC and national institutions throughout Member States of the European Union.

The Centre is located in Stockholm, Sweden. The legal base for the Centre is Regulation (EC) No 851/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 establishing a European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control¹.

General description of the tasks and role of the ECDC

The mission of the Centre is to identify, assess and communicate current and emerging threats to human health posed by infectious diseases. Within this broad mission statement, the main objectives are:

- search for, collect, collate, evaluate and disseminate relevant scientific and technical data;
- provide scientific opinions and scientific and technical assistance including training;
- provide timely information to the Commission, the Member States, Community agencies and international organisations active within the field of public health;
- coordinate the European networking of bodies operating in the fields within the Centre's mission, including networks that emerge from public health activities supported by the Commission and operating the dedicated surveillance networks;
- exchange information, expertise, and best practices, and facilitate the development and implementation of joint actions, following a One Health approach.

See also the Centre home page at <http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/Pages/home.aspx>

¹ Official Journal No. L 142 of 30 April 2004, page 1

The Centre is especially looking for candidates in the following areas:

- **European and International Cooperation**
- **Communication:** Press and Media, Internal Communication
- **Disease Programmes:** infectious disease experts (epidemiologists, microbiologists, and behavioural scientists) with experience from working with surveillance analysis and prevention/control programmes at national and/or international level to be assigned to one of our four disease programme sections or to one of our two horizontal programmes on Prevention and One Health:
 - Vaccine Preventable Diseases and Immunisation section
 - AMR and Healthcare-Associated Infections section
 - STI, Blood-Borne Viruses and TB section
 - Epidemic-Prone diseases section (covid-19, influenza, food- and waterborne, emerging and vector-borne diseases).
- **General surveillance and Epidemic Intelligence:** (1) Support the production of the Surveillance Atlas of Infectious Diseases and the Annual Epidemiological Reports; (2) Support routine and ad-hoc disease-specific surveillance data collection, management, analysis and visualisation; (3) Support the overhaul of the European Surveillance System (TESSy); (4) Support projects aiming to set up routine use of electronically stored health data for surveillance purposes; (5) Support routine global epidemic intelligence (EI) gathering, processing and output production and the automation of these processes; (5) Contribute to the response duty system and the 24/7 EI duty system of ECDC.
- **Microbiology and Molecular surveillance:** (1) Define, implement, and carry out disease specific surveillance with integrated genomic typing, including defining surveillance objectives, designing surveillance protocols and developing analysis plans; (2) Analyse, interpret and communicate genomic typing data both from routine surveillance systems and in the context of multinational outbreak investigations. This entails issuing surveillance and outbreak reports and recommendations for disease control and prevention; (3) Contribute to and coordinate microbiology projects, both disease specific and with a cross-disease dimension. Such projects aim at supporting diagnostic and genomic typing capacity building in Member States, improving, and standardising the quality of diagnostic methods (e.g. through EQAs), providing trainings in specific areas, and increasing the value and impact of microbiology outputs.
- **Emergency Preparedness and Response:** (1) Support EU/EEA and third countries, and the European Commission in emergency preparedness and response related activities through scientific evidence, literature reviews, technical reports, guidance documents as well as the development of simulation exercises, In and After Action Reviews, trainings and further targeted capacity building and assessment activities; (2) Support the timely production of high quality and evidence based rapid risk assessments and other related outputs in response to potential communicable disease threats; (3) Support cross-border outbreak investigations with particular emphasis on data collection and analysis; (4) Contribute to the response duty system and the 24/7 duty system of ECDC.

- **Public Health Training:** (1) Support in the design, development, implementation and evaluation of training content and activities, applying adult learning methodology that includes blended learning, interactivity and train the trainers; (2) Provide technical and mentoring support of EPIET and EUPHEM fellows, contributing to monitoring their progress; (3) Support quality improvement and curricular updates of the ECDC fellowship programme; (4) Networking activities; and (5) Contribution to support countries when developing their strategies for workforce development, including the establishment of national field epidemiology training programmes.
- **MediPIET:** Provide technical and mentoring support of MediPIET fellows, contributing to monitoring their progress (as part of the scientific coordination team); Contribution to support partner countries of the EU Initiative for Health Security when developing their strategies for workforce development, including the establishment of national field epidemiology training programmes; Support the MediPIET training site supervisors and other national health professionals in knowledge transfer activities (e.g., train the trainers); Contribute to promote the participation of all partner countries in the capacity building activities, through communication, advocacy and quality assurance actions.
- **Eurosurveillance** - The scientific journal contributes to transferring and translating scientific knowledge, by assuring sound quality of published articles through scientific evaluation of submissions, including selecting peer reviewers, and scientific editing as well as engaging in various outreach activities (social media, training). The journal's regularly updates its editorial policies following publication ethical standards. Interested experts should have experience in infectious disease epidemiology, prevention, and control as well as science communication and preferably also training.
- **Scientific process and methods:** ECDC scientific advice and recommendations must be based on the best available evidence, ethical, timely and relevant to meet Member States needs. This requires clear processes, consistency, quality assurance as well as support and guidance to ECDC staff to identify, compile, interpret and communicate evidence of different type to different audiences to have the intended impact. (1) Development of processes and methodological guidance for ECDC staff involved in the identification, analysis, interpretation, contextualisation and communication of scientific knowledge and the provision of public health advice including rapid advice during crisis times (2) The candidate should have at least some experience with reviews, expert/stakeholder consultation, expert opinion elicitation, scientific evidence management, translation/communication, impact assessment, development of public health evidence synthesis, guidelines and recommendations.
- **Biostatistics and modelling:** 1) Contribute to the functionality of ECDC's mathematical modelling and health economics toolbox, including modelling of specific diseases, estimates of burden of disease and assessments of the impact of public health interventions; 2) Perform advanced statistical analyses of epidemiological data, developing and applying data analysis algorithms and contributing to infectious disease surveillance reports and other outputs; 3) Provide mathematical modelling and biostatistics support to other teams at ECDC, and contribute to ECDC internal and external modelling and biostatistics capacity building and teaching activities; 4) Collaborate with epidemiologists, infectious disease experts, public health professionals, biostatisticians and modellers at the Centre and other European and international public health and research institutions. Background and skills: Experience in statistical analysis and/or mathematical modelling in public health. Background in epidemiology, public health, or related fields. Experience in R or other programming languages and

collaborative code sharing (GitHub or similar). Strong English language skills, experience in communicating results from quantitative methods to different audiences.

- **Futures and strategic foresight:** Driving the relevance and impact of public health foresight in the Centre and for partners and stakeholders in the Member States, by further advancing the ECDC Foresight Programme. This may include: developing futures literacy; helping design and implement relevant foresight projects and functions; integrating qualitative and quantitative forward-looking approaches; building foresight capacity; embedding systematic horizon scanning processes; institutionalising strategic foresight and futures thinking into public health operations and strategic management. Prior experience in several of these areas would be essential, with ideally experience in managing large-scale foresight programmes.
- **Knowledge Management:** (1) Develop and maintain an understanding, through dialogue with internal and external stakeholders as appropriate, of priority knowledge areas and their context (challenges, knowledge needs etc.). (2) Identify, gather, filter, and actively share knowledge of value to users within each priority knowledge area. (3) Ensure that knowledge and learning outcomes are properly documented in the form of knowledge assets (e.g., guidelines, checklists, lessons learned, processes etc). (4) Manage and administer knowledge capture and transfer processes such as peer assist, lessons learned, case studies and storytelling. (5) Establish, manage, and sustain engagement and participation within Communities of Practice. (6) Help ensure that knowledge management processes are effectively integrated into business and project processes.
- **Information Technologies** with experience in software development, IT service management or administration of IT infrastructure, preferably in the Public Health sector.

Qualifications and experiences required

In order to qualify for secondment at ECDC, candidates need to meet the following criteria:

- Current employment in the national, regional or local public sector or international civil service (alternatively candidates may be employed in non-profit or voluntary sector) for at least 12 months before the start of secondment and guarantee to remain in the service of the current employer throughout the period of secondment;
- Thorough knowledge of English (ECDC's language of daily operations); and a satisfactory knowledge of another EU language;
- Preferably nationality of one of the EU Member States or the EEA/EFTA Member States or an accession country; exceptionally candidates with another nationality can be considered for secondment;
- At least three years' relevant experience in an administrative, advisory, scientific, technical or public health functions related to the above mentioned areas.

General conditions of secondment

During the period of the secondment, the national expert remains in employment by the respective national institution and is paid by the employer including the continuation of social security and pension rights coverage. Therefore, before application is considered, the employer needs to be in full support of possible arrangement with ECDC for a secondment.

The initial duration of secondment is from six months up to two years (to be agreed between the current employer and ECDC). The secondment is renewable once or more; however, the total duration of secondment cannot exceed four years. Please note that secondment does not lead to subsequent employment at the ECDC.

For any further information, please refer to the Rules applicable to National Experts on the secondment to ECDC, which are available at the following link:

<http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/aboutus/jobs/Pages/seconded-national-expert.aspx>

The place of employment will be Stockholm, where the Centre has its activities.

Declaration of commitment to serve the public interest independently

The seconded national experts will be required to make a declaration of commitment to act independently in the public interest and to make a declaration in relation to the interests that might be considered prejudicial to their independence. The seconded national experts may be asked to divest themselves of any interests deemed by ECDC to pose a potential conflict of interest.

Equal opportunities

ECDC applies equal opportunities and accepts applications without any distinction on the grounds of age, race, political, philosophical, or religious conviction, gender, or sexual orientation and regardless of disabilities, marital status or family situation.

Application procedure

For application to be valid, you must submit **ALL** required documents by e-mail:

- A detailed Curriculum Vitae in **European format** (available on <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu>);
- A letter of motivation indicating areas of interest and possible time frame of secondment;
- A supporting letter from the employer confirming the wish to second the candidate as well as confirming the employment of the candidate for the last 12 months and during the whole period of secondment at ECDC.

Applications, preferably in English, should be sent by e-mail in Word or PDF format to Secondment@ecdc.europa.eu. The application will be rejected if the dossier is incomplete.

The closing date for the submission of applications is **20 September 2024, 11:59:59** (midday) **Stockholm time.**

Protection of personal data

Please note that the personal information ECDC requests from applicants will be processed in line with REGULATION (EU) 2018/1725 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC. The purpose of processing of your personal data is to support the selection procedures at ECDC. This processing may involve distribution of this data to other Community institutions. For further information or exercise of your rights (such as the right to access or the right to correct my data), contact can be taken with the Human Resources section.