

Principal Expert Microbial Safety of Substances of Human Origin

Unit: Disease Programmes

Reference: ECDC/AD/2020/DPR-PEMSSHO

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

Job description

ECDC is currently looking to recruit a Principal Expert for the area of work microbial safety of substances of human origin. ECDC will also establish a reserve list, which may be used for any future vacancies in this area.

The EU Directives on blood, cells and tissues, and organs create common frameworks that ensure high standards in the procurement, testing, processing, storage, distribution and import/export of substances of human origin (SoHO) across the EU community. ECDC's role in this area is the provision of scientific advice / risk assessment and development / operation of a communication system on issues related to potential threats from communicable diseases related to substances of human origin. ECDC collaborates closely with the European Commission and the European Medicines Agency to fulfil these tasks.

The jobholder will report to the Head of the Disease Programme Sexually Transmitted Infections, Blood-borne Viruses and Tuberculosis. He/She will be placed in the Sexually Transmitted Infections, Blood-borne Viruses and Tuberculosis Disease Programme, in the Air-Borne, Blood-Borne and Sexually Transmitted Infections section in the Disease Programme Unit.

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

- Scientific advice related to microbial safety of blood and blood components, tissues and cells, and organs - substances of human origin (SoHO);
- Coordination of the development, implementation and day-to-day operation of guidance and tools for preparedness activities for maintaining microbial safety of SoHO;
- Assisting Member States in strengthening systems for control and prevention of infectious diseases transmission through SoHO including data collection, analysis reporting and dissemination;

- Strengthening links and cooperation between the Centre and the National competent authorities for substances of human origin (SoHO), national SoHO establishments, World Health Organization, European and international bodies and other relevant networks, partners and stakeholders;
- Collaboration with the SoHO team of the European Commission and actively attend regular meetings of the team and relevant national competent authorities;
- Commissioning and managing projects or studies, consultancies in relevant areas, but also be prepared to initiate, carry out and/or supervise feasibility studies regarding microbial safety of SoHO and preventive interventions;
- Coordinating and facilitating across the Centre the activities related to SoHO, including contributing to the annual work plan and providing input into relevant ECDC-funded projects on the microbial safety of SoHO;
- Contributing to other activities of ECDC, as required, in his/her field of expertise including ECDC risk assessments;
- Contributing to the Response and 24/7 duty systems 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.

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.

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;
- Medical degree with specialization in transfusion medicine or transplantology or related topic or experience in haemovigilance;
- Sound knowledge of evidence and issues related to communicable disease threats related to human tissues and cells, including blood;
- Proven experience in methods to validate and analyse data on infectious diseases transmissible through SoHO, as well as in communicating the results of these analyses to authorities, the scientific community and to wider audiences;
- Familiarity with activities and policies within the EU as regards to infection prevention and control of SoHO;
- Proven experience with methods for evidence based medicine and guidance development;
- Experience in project management and leading experts or multidisciplinary teams;
- Excellent level of English, both written and spoken.

Personal characteristics/interpersonal skills:

- Quality driven and service minded;
- Ability to work collaboratively and build strong working relationships;
- Results orientated;
- Committed to continuous learning and keeping abreast of developments within their field of expertise;
- Ability to work under pressure and effectively manage multiple responsibilities;
- Ability to empower, motivate and lead others.

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 2f) 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 8**.

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 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 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.

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.