



**European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
Vacancy for the Seconded National Expert
Environmental Infectious Disease Epidemiologist
in the Office of the Chief Scientist
(ECDC/SNE/2012/OCS-EIDE)**

Applications are invited for the above Seconded National Expert post at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

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 from communicable diseases. Within this broad mission statement, the main technical tasks of the Centre fall into the following four categories:

- a. Scientific opinions, bringing together technical expertise in specific fields through its various EU-wide networks and via ad hoc scientific panels;
- b. Technical assistance and communication about its activities and results, and disseminating information tailored to meet the needs of its different audiences;
- c. Epidemiological surveillance and networking of laboratories, i.e. the development of epidemiological surveillance at European level and the maintenance of networks of reference laboratories;
- d. Early Warning and Response, based on 'round the clock' availability of specialists in communicable diseases.

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

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

Working in the Centre

The work in the Centre is characterised by a high level of professionalism and efficiency. We believe each and every staff member's contribution is important in making the Centre a good place to work with a strong team spirit. We can offer an opportunity of being an important part of a dynamically developing European Agency.

The Centre is organised in the Director's Office and five units: the Office of the Chief Scientist, the Surveillance and Response Support Unit, the Public Health Capacity and Communication Unit, the Resource Management and Coordination Unit and the Information and Communication Technologies Unit. ECDC strives to be a quality-driven, service-minded organisation that acts as one team. We expect all staff to live these values.

Description of the Office of the Chief Scientist

With high-level expertise in the main specific disease areas as well as in some important generic determinants of infectious diseases, the Office of the Chief Scientist drives the scientific agenda of ECDC, and oversees the quality of the scientific output of the Centre.

The Office works in three sections:

- **Disease Programmes:** Comprising the Heads of the eight Disease Programmes: antibiotic resistance and healthcare-associated infections; emerging and vector borne diseases; food- and waterborne diseases; HIV, sexually transmitted infections and hepatitis; influenza; tuberculosis; vaccine-preventable diseases; and Health Inequalities and Migrant Health. Leading the specific activities and projects linked to individual diseases or disease areas.
- **Scientific Advice Coordination:** Developing, maintaining, and improving the quality, consistency and transparency of the Centre's scientific advice procedures and outputs; fostering information exchange between ECDC and European public health scientists/stakeholders on questions related to the scientific advice processes and research coordination; and develop and promote evidence-based methods and tools for public health, including burden of disease.
- **Microbiology Coordination:** Striving to strengthen the capacity and capability of the EU public health microbiology system to provide timely and reliable information for infectious disease prevention and control at Member State and EU levels.

Job description

The Seconded National Expert will report to the Head of the Health Determinants Programme. The EU is facing a number of environmental challenges such as ecosystem decline, land use changes, loss of biodiversity, and global climate change, which manifests itself in raising temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, higher frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and shrinking mountain glaciers. It is widely believed that global climate change poses a substantial threat to human health. One threat is through changed transmission patterns of infectious diseases, whether vector-borne, food- and water-borne, or otherwise. Unfortunately, the pan-European capacity to analyse, predict and respond to changing communicable disease patterns is underdeveloped. Importantly, epidemiological and environmental data are often not linked, thereby preventing public health and environmental

agencies and scientists from gaining more comprehensive understandings of the multi-causal pathways that drive environmental and epidemiological change. Yet by linking existing data sets and harmonizing data models, changes in regional disease patterns can be related to environmental variables, leading to enhanced capabilities for disease surveillance and response. ECDC built the European Environment and Epidemiology (E3) Network, designed for linking environmental and epidemiological data. The E3 Network is intended to link epidemiologic data with meteorological variables, entomological data, water quality records, air quality measures, remote sensing information, geology, etc. ECDC is now looking for an Environmental Infectious Disease Epidemiologist to work in Stockholm as an SNE to participate with the E3 Network team on environmental and climatic drivers of communicable diseases.

She/He will contribute to the following areas of work and:

- Participate in environmental epidemiology studies of disease drivers that affect the incidence, prevalence, and geographic distribution of communicable diseases;
- Conduct quantitative analyzes of the associations between environmental/climatic drivers and communicable diseases;
- Help strengthen EU public health capacity in environmental epidemiology to monitor and respond to the shifting distribution of communicable diseases;
- Ensure smooth execution of projects/tenders related to environmental determinants of communicable diseases and to the E3 Network;
- Help process relevant environmental and satellite data required by the E3 Network;
- Contribute to the close links and easy sharing of scientific and technical information between the Centre and national/international surveillance structures, other networks, partners, stakeholders and the public as appropriate.

Qualifications and experiences required

A. Formal requirements

In order to be an eligible candidate the following formal requirements need to be fulfilled:

- Nationality of one of the EU Member States or of Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein or EU accession country or an EEA/EFTA country;
- Thorough knowledge of one of the languages of the Communities and a satisfactory knowledge of another language of the Communities to the extent necessary for the performance of his/her duties;
- At least three years experience of administrative, legal, scientific, technical advisory or supervisory functions.
- Be employed at the time of secondment for at least 12 months by a national, regional or local public administration or an IGO (SNE's employer must be at least part of the public sector or an independent university or research organisation that does not set out to make profit for redistribution).

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 three years professional experience in positions in the field of eco-epidemiology and environmental health, or related field;
- Academic qualifications: master degree or PhD degree in public health, environmental science, ecology, geography, or related field;
- Demonstrated expertise in predictive analysis in environmental or climate-based disease modelling, or related field;
- Demonstrable skills in the use of analytical tools and techniques: data manipulation, analysis of environmental and epidemiological links in time and space (measures of association); numerical ecology (e.g. analyses such as ecological niche modelling, population dynamic, multivariate analyse and predictive modelling) or related field;
- Experience with tools and techniques of geographical information system or related field;
- Experience in risk assessment in environmental epidemiology or related field;
- Excellent command of English, both written and spoken.

Personal characteristics/interpersonal skills:

- High level of service orientation;
- Strong inter-personal skills and ability to work well in a team;
- Quality driven;
- Good communication, advisory and leadership skills in a collaborative environment.

We have also identified experiences and skills that are advantageous for this post. These are:

- Research experience in eco-epidemiology of vector-borne, zoonotic disease and food and waterborne diseases that are triggered by environmental or climatic drivers;
- Experience with climate models;
- Familiarity with remote sensing, ESRI GIS packages;
- Ability in programming in STATA or R;
- Physician or veterinarian.

Appointment and conditions of secondment

The Seconded National Expert will be appointed on the basis of a recommendation made by the Head of Unit to the Director. The secondment will be authorised by the Director and effected by an exchange letters between the Director and the employer of the Permanent Representation of the Member State concerned.

The successful candidate will be seconded to the ECDC for an initial period of 18 up to 24 months. The period of secondment will be agreed between the employer and the ECDC. The secondment may be renewed.

For any further information on conditions of secondment, please refer to the Rules applicable to National Experts on the secondment to European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, which are available at the following link:

http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/aboutus/jobs/Documents/35_2009_Rules_applicable_to_National_Experts_on_the_secondment_ECDC.pdf

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 Expert 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 his/her independence.

Equal opportunities

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

Application procedure

For application to be valid, you must submit all of the following documents by e-mail:

- A detailed Curriculum Vitae in **European format** (available on <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu>);
- A letter of motivation;
- A letter of recommendation and support from the sending organization (employer).

Applications preferably in the working language of the Centre, which is English, should be sent by e-mail in Word or PDF format to Secondment@ecdc.europa.eu clearly indicating the vacancy reference (**ECDC/SNE/2012/OCS-EIDE**) and your family name in the Subject line. The application will be rejected if the dossier is incomplete.

Closing date for the submission of applications is **19 November 2012 at 24:00 CET.**

Protection of personal data

Please note that the personal information ECDC requests from applicants will be processed in line with Regulation (EC) N° 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. 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.