

# Call for application for Fellows in the ECDC Fellowship Programme EPIET and EUPHEM paths, EU-track (ECDC/Cohort 2024 (2024-2026) - EPIET/EUPHEM)

Candidates are invited to apply for a post as a fellow in the ECDC Fellowship Programme, the *Field Epidemiology path* (EPIET) and/or *Public Health Microbiology path* (EUPHEM), EU-track, which is managed by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC, the Centre).

The Centre is located in Stockholm, Sweden. The legal base for the Centre is Regulation (EC) N° 851/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 establishing a European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control<sup>1</sup>.

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

## Description of the Training Programme

The ECDC Fellowship Programme is a two-year competency-based training with two paths; the field epidemiology path (EPIET) and the public health microbiology path (EUPHEM). Both provide training and practical experience in intervention epidemiology (EPIET) and in public health microbiology (EUPHEM) at national and/or regional centres for surveillance and control of communicable diseases and in laboratories with public health function at collaborative training sites in the European Union and European Economic Area Member States (EU/EEA).

The programme is aimed at EU/EEA health and public health professionals with previous experience in public health and a keen interest in intervention epidemiology and public health microbiology. The programme trains EU/EEA fellows in the core competencies required for the investigation and control of communicable disease threats in and beyond Europe. The programme consists of two tracks, the EU-track and the MS-track. In the EU-track, EU/EEA nationals are trained in a Member State different from their country/countries of citizenship.

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<sup>1</sup> Official Journal No. L 142 of 30 April 2004, page 1

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During the two-year training programme, the fellows will work to meet the following programme objectives:

- To contribute to strengthening the prevention, preparedness, surveillance and control of infectious diseases and other cross-border health threats or issues of public health concern in the EU/EEA Member States and at EU level, supporting the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2022/2371
- To contribute to enhancing response capacities for effective field investigation and communicable disease control at European, national and community level to meet public health threats, in particular for the EU response to cross-bored threats to health
- To contribute to strengthening the European and global network of public health professionals through the use of state-of-the-art, shared standards and methods, good practices and common public health objectives
- To contribute to knowledge transfers and capacity building within and between Member States
- To facilitate innovative inter-disciplinary and multi-sector cooperation and communication to achieve the above objectives while adjusting to emerging needs
- To contribute to the reduction of disparity across Europe in the prevention, preparedness, surveillance and control of communicable diseases

The fellows in the EU-track are placed in one of the acknowledged EPIET or EUPHEM training sites outside their country/ies of nationality or citizenship. An updated list of available training sites will be provided online to the candidates before the face-to-face selection interviews take place.

Under the professional supervision of the training site supervisors, the fellows will carry out activities at the training site related to epidemiological and microbiological investigations and interventions, including surveillance, outbreak investigation, applied public health research, teaching/training, public health management and communication. For EUPHEM, activities will also include Biorisk management, laboratory investigation and quality management.

The programme's intended learning outcomes are described in detail in the [ECDC Fellowship Programme Manual](#). It is strongly recommended to read the ECDC Fellowship Programme manual before applying to the EPIET/EUPHEM programme.

## Qualifications and experiences required

### 4.1 Eligibility criteria

In order to be eligible for the ECDC Fellowship Programme, candidates for both paths need to fulfil the following set of formal requirements:

- Have a thorough knowledge (minimum B2) of at least two official languages of the EU/EEA, one of which shall be English.
- Be a national of a Member State of the EU/EEA; and
- Be entitled to her or his full rights as a citizen.

In addition, depending on the path they apply for, candidates need to fulfil the following formal requirements:

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Specific eligibility requirements for EPIET path:

1. Completed post-secondary education (university studies) attested by a diploma<sup>2</sup> in medicine, public health, epidemiology, veterinary medicine, nursing, biology, microbiology, pharmacology, biomedicine, bioinformatics or other health and social sciences, at the level of Masters' degree or equivalent<sup>3</sup>; and
2. At least two (2) years of work experience in public health or applied epidemiology. (Work during a PhD could count as work experience if it is in applied public health/epidemiology.)

Specific eligibility requirements for EUPHEM Path:

1. Post-secondary education attested by a diploma<sup>2</sup> in medicine, biology, microbiology, veterinary medicine, pharmacology, bioinformatics or biomedicine, at the level of graduate diploma, Masters' degree or equivalent<sup>3</sup>; and
2. At least three (3) years of work experience in microbiology; or a PhD degree in microbiology or equivalent (e.g. clinical microbiology specialisation, veterinary medicine specialisations, or a specialisation in any microbiology field).

#### 4.2. Selection criteria

Fellows are selected based on criteria relating to professional and personal characteristics/interpersonal skills and the possibility to benefit from the programme. References to EPIET or EUPHEM in parenthesis below refer to the path that these skills and experience are most relevant for.

##### Professional skills and experiences

- Experience in public health and/or epidemiology (EPIET)
- Scientific background in microbiology, and skilled in microbiological techniques and software (EUPHEM)
- Scientific background in epidemiology, and a basic knowledge of biostatistics, including skills in epidemiological/biostatistical analysis and software (EPIET)

##### Personal characteristics/interpersonal skills

- Strong commitment to field epidemiology (EPIET)/public health microbiology (EUPHEM) in the EU/EEA
- Good organisational skills
- Ability to work in interdisciplinary teams, manage a broad range of responsibilities and competing priorities
- Good command of scientific writing and oral communication in English

##### Advantageous criteria

- Experience in public health and/or epidemiology, including skills in epidemiological/biostatistical analysis and software (EUPHEM)
- Ability to undertake independent work, demonstrating logical, analytical and innovative thinking
- Experience of international activities and multicultural awareness
- Understanding the public health regulatory framework and requirements in the Member States

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<sup>2</sup> Only diplomas and certificates awarded in Member States of the EU/EEA, or equivalent certificates issued by authorities in an EU Member State shall be considered.

<sup>3</sup> Time invested towards a Master's degree doesn't count as work experience

# Appointment of EPIET/EUPHEM EU-track fellows

The Director of the Centre will appoint EU-track fellows based on a shortlist proposed by the EPIET and EUPHEM Selection Committees. This call for application is the basis for the establishment of the Selection Committees' proposal. Candidates should note that the proposal may be made public and that inclusion in the shortlist does not guarantee appointment. The shortlist of candidates will be established following an open selection process.

The fellow will be employed by the training site. The fellow will be reimbursed for removal to the Member State of training within EU/EEA, both for taking up the post and upon completion of the fellowship.

The successful candidates will be required to take up their post on 9 September 2024, the start date of the programme. No later starting date is foreseen, and applications cannot be carried over to subsequent years.

Information about the conditions and all the detail steps of the selection process for EU-track fellows can be found in the [Administrative Decision](#).

## Waiting list

A waiting list will be drawn up by ECDC. In case a post becomes available, ECDC will contact the candidates on the waiting list. In these instances, candidates may be requested to accept or decline the offer within a short time prior to the start of the Fellowship.

## Equal opportunities

ECDC values diversity 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 applications to be valid, you must proceed in two steps:

**Step 1.** Apply online for your desired path/s, providing the following elements:

- a. Online application form (Link below)
- b. Submit the [ECDC Fellowship Application Form](#) (Other application formats will not be accepted)
  - EPIET: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/EPIETEUtrackC2024>
  - EUPHEM: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/EUPHEMEUtrackC2024>

**Step 2.** Email the Case id that will be provided through this online submission to [ecdc.epietfellow@ecdc.europa.eu](mailto:ecdc.epietfellow@ecdc.europa.eu) clearly indicating EPIET or EUPHEM\_Surname in the Subject line and the Case id, in the text of the email. For example: EPIET Smith. Text: cfa0f65d-5213-42f2-b46f-de0a9e68f363.

Applications must be in English, the working language of the Centre. You may be requested at a later stage to supply documentary evidence in original in support of the statements that you make for this application.

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The application will be rejected if the dossier is incomplete or if your application form is not the format of the provided ECDC Fellowship Application Form.

Your application will be forwarded to the [National Focal Point for Training](#) of your respective EU/EEA Member State/s of nationality and/or citizenship for their review. NFP-Ts or their delegates might arrange interviews with candidates of their Member State and may score and rank candidates according to the documentation you provide. These scores and ranks are shared with the Selection Committees who will take them into account during the selection process.

Closing date for the submission of applications is **15 October 2023, at 24.00 CEST (Central European Summer Time)**.

All candidates will be notified of the outcome of their application, after the selection committee decision.

## Privacy statement

Any personal data collected by ECDC will be processed solely for the purposes of the selection process and performance, management and follow-up of the ECDC training activities in accordance with [Regulation \(EU\) n. 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. The details on the processing of the personal data for the selection process can be found [here](#) and for the performance, management and follow-up of the ECDC fellowship [here](#). Data subjects have the right to access and rectify their personal data at any moment. For more information on personal data protection and related documents, reference is made to the ECDC website. Queries or requests concerning the processing of personal data may be addressed to the relevant ECDC data controller or the Data Protection Officer ([dpo@ecdc.europa.eu](mailto:dpo@ecdc.europa.eu)). Fellows are advised to contact their relevant training site for advice on personal data retained by the training site and its respective retention, processing, and distribution. Data subjects have the right of recourse to the [European Data Protection Supervisor](#).