Profile - EXPERT PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE CAPACITIES AND CAPABILITIES in EU candidate and potential candidates (EU Enlargement)[1] countries and European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)[2] partner countries (Reference ECDC/EX/2020/001)

1. Background

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) is an EU Agency aimed at strengthening Europe's defenses against infectious diseases and it works in three key strategic areas: it provides evidence for effective and efficient decision-making, it strengthens public health systems, and it supports the response to public health threats. Apart from support to EU/EEA countries, ECDC is providing technical assistance to EU candidate and potential candidates (EU Enlargement) countries and European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) partner countries. This technical assistance is funded by the European Commission under the Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) or European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI).

In the framework of ENI, on 27 March 2020, the European Commission Directorate-General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations and the ECDC signed an agreement for the implementation of the EU Initiative on Health Security. This will enable tailor-made support to strengthen public health systems' preparedness and response capacities of the EU Enlargement countries and the ENP partner countries, thus improving health security in the European neighborhood.

In order to implement the EU Initiative on Health Security, work programme aims at ensuring strong partner countries' capacities to monitor, assess, detect, respond and prevent threats from communicable diseases. Key outputs will include initial assessments of partner country capacities in surveillance, preparedness and response following procedures and methodologies of ECDC. Based on the analysis of state of art, tailored activities will aim at strengthening Epidemic Intelligence in partner countries; empowering partner country experts to perform comprehensive Risk Assessment; raising the level of preparedness and coherence of response to Public Health Emergencies, as well as ENP partner countries possible integration into ECDC work. In order to support delivery of mentioned outputs, ECDC invites experts to express their interest to provide their expertise in the following areas:

   a. Comprehensive documentary analysis based on collected information and data about country's public health emergency preparedness and response capacities and capabilities, including:

      i. Reports of the implementation of IHR, Joint external evaluation reports and other assessments, conducted to assess public health emergency preparedness and response planning;

      ii. Health emergency preparedness and response self-assessment reports (collected by ECDC);

      iii. Reported response activities in the context of Covid-19 pandemic (collected by ECDC);

      iv. Analysis of public health preparedness and response plans and other relevant documents (publicly available or provided by the counterparts);

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[1] Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey. *This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence
[2] Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine**, Tunisia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. **This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

v.   Summary of key areas/recommendations considered important for further improvement.

b. Comprehensive documentary analysis and development of methodology for an evidence-based and scientifically justified integration of ENP partner countries into the work of ECDC.

Communication between ECDC and experts will be done in English.

2.   Selection criteria for the profile

a.   University degree in public health, epidemiology or a related area;

b.   A minimum of 5 years relevant experience in performing work in international environment, in the area of infectious diseases (surveillance, Public health emergency preparedness and response, epidemiology);

c.   Good knowledge of health system organisation and planning, as well as international health law;

d.   Good writing and analytical skills, as demonstrated by at least one example of analytical work in relations to analysis of public health emergency preparedness and response, including a list of publications;

e.   Minimum C1 level of English. Knowledge of French/Russian/Arabic would be considered as an advantage;

f.   Good knowledge of MS Office.

The selection criteria will be verified against the CV in the Expert Directory. Candidates who do not meet the selection criteria will not be considered for assignments.

3.   Place of delivery

The assignment can be delivered in the country of residence of selected experts. Follow-up field visits to partner countries might be organised, in which case these costs will be reimbursed separately in accordance with the contract. Regular virtual meetings with ECDC may be organised during the assignment as per contracted agreement.

4.   Time limit to express interest for this profile and validity of the list

The list resulting from this notice is valid until 30-11-2025. Interested parties may submit an expression of interest at any time prior to the last 3 months of validity of the list, meaning no later than 31-08-2025.

5.   Exclusion criteria

Before being offered a contract, any selected candidate must provide a declaration on honour (see link at *Declaration on honour*), signed and dated by an authorised representative, stating that they are not in one of the situations of exclusion listed in that declaration on honour.

6.   How to express interest

Experts may express their interest to this profile by uploading their CV to ECDC expert directory and inserting the Reference Number of this call for expression of interest from a drop-down list under the tab "Reference" in Expert Directory.