



CALL FOR APPLICATION FOR THE SELECTION OF TEMPORARY STAFF

No AD.2024.04 — Principal forensic scientist, Laboratory network Temporary agent AD 8 — 5-year contract

EMCDDA

The EMCDDA is one of the European Union's decentralised agencies. Established in 1993 and based in Lisbon, it is the central source of comprehensive information on drugs and drug addiction in Europe.

On 2 July 2024, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) will become the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA).

To address the growing need for forensic and toxicological data, specialist expertise and better coordination between laboratories in the EU Member States, Article 15 of Regulation (EU) 2023/1322 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2023 on the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1920/2006 ⁽¹⁾ stipulates that the Agency shall set up a network of forensic and toxicological laboratories ('the network') active in investigations of drugs and drug-related harms. As part of this, the EUDA is establishing a competence centre to manage the work of the network.

The EMCDDA is an equal opportunities employer and accepts applications without 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.

For further information on the EMCDDA, please visit:

<https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/>

Position

The position we are recruiting for is currently situated within the Risks to Public Safety and Security unit, and the selected candidate will be reporting to the Head of the Risks to Public Safety and Security Unit.

The job holder will be the senior technical expert in the competence centre established to support the network of forensic and toxicological laboratories active in investigations of drugs and drug-related harms. They will be responsible for leading the EMCDDA/EUDA actions that support and strengthen national and EU-level preparedness and responses to cross-border security and public health threats related to drugs, new psychoactive substances and precursors.

Main duties

The successful applicant will be requested to perform the following main tasks and responsibilities:

- provide technical expertise related to the forensic analysis of drug-related samples, including bulk samples and body fluids;

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 166, 30.6.2023, p. 6–47. See: <https://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1322/oj>



- support data collection and information exchange with EUDA's stakeholders, including EU institutions, Reitox national focal points and other relevant partners;
- manage the exchange of information and data on new developments and trends generated by the network, to advise and respond to queries and technical requests from a range of stakeholders, including from EU institutions, Reitox national focal points and other relevant partners
- coordinate the EU network of forensic and toxicology laboratories established under the EUDA;
- develop, in conjunction with the network, training to enhance the competence of forensic experts involved in the analysis of drug-related samples;
- promote the implementation of quality assurance schemes related to the analysis of drug-related samples and the further harmonisation of data collection and analytical methods at European level;
- support the further harmonisation of data collection and analytical methods;
- actively foster relations with existing forensic and toxicology expert groups and organisations active in the same areas as the network;
- organise meetings of the network;
- manage the preparation of rules and procedures for identifying and financing projects undertaken by the network and to oversee the development, updating, and revision of the EUDA's guidance documents and operating procedures relevant to the post;
- define and manage contracts of the network;
- provide technical expertise to EU institutions, Reitox national focal points and other relevant stakeholders;
- actively contribute to the evidence-based reports prepared by the EMCDDA/EUDA;
- represent the EMCDDA/EUDA in scientific and institutional meetings, training events, and any other events relevant to the work of the Agency.

The job holder may be required to contribute to other areas of work, according to the needs and priorities of the EUDA.

In order to perform the duties of the post and ensure effective communication with the different actors and stakeholders involved, the main working language required for the job is English.



1. Job requirements

1.1. Eligibility requirements

Introduction

The selection procedure is open to applicants who satisfy the eligibility criteria below, on the closing date for application.

General requirements

- Be a national of one of the Member States of the European Union, Norway or Türkiye.
 - Have fulfilled any obligations imposed by the laws concerning military service, if applicable.
 - Produce the appropriate character references as to the suitability for the performance of the required duties.
 - Be physically fit to perform the duties of the post ⁽²⁾.
-

Education requirements

- A level of education which corresponds to completed university studies attested by a diploma when the normal period of university education is four 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 one year when the normal period of university education is at least three years.
-

Professional experience requirements

- Have at least nine years of relevant professional experience starting with the first position occupied after the completion of the diploma or certificate required for admission to this selection procedure, as mentioned above.
-

Language requirements

- Possess a thorough knowledge (mother tongue or minimum level C1) of one of the official languages of the European Union and,
 - A proven satisfactory knowledge (minimum level B2) of another of these languages to the extent necessary for the performance of the required duties ⁽³⁾.
-

⁽²⁾ As a condition for appointment, the successful candidate shall be medically examined in order that the EMCDDA may be satisfied that he or she fulfils this requirement, as foreseen in Article 12(d) of the Conditions of employment of other servants of the European Communities.

⁽³⁾ In addition, in order to be eligible to a first promotion, the staff member shall prove a working knowledge of a third EU language.



1.2. Essential requirements

Introduction

All eligible applications, according to the afore-mentioned criteria, will be assessed against the requirements listed below solely based on the information provided by the candidates in their application.

Please note that non-compliance with at least one of the essential selection criteria will result in the exclusion of the candidate from the selection process.

On the basis of the application

1. A university degree in a relevant scientific area such as pharmacology, toxicology, chemistry, pharmacy, forensic science, biology, medicine or similar;
 2. Proven experience of at least three years working in an operational forensic laboratory;
 3. Experience of managing projects, such as developing and delivering training, conceptualising and/or developing and/or implementing systems or tools on topics relevant to the post;
 4. Proven ability to draft high-quality technical papers and documents in English suitable for the different customers, stakeholders and partners of the EUDA (technical, scientific, policy, professional and general public).
-

On the basis of the interview

1. Expert knowledge of the routine and advanced techniques used in the forensic examination of illicit drugs, new psychoactive substances or drug precursors and related chemicals;
 2. Working knowledge of forensic toxicology;
 3. Knowledge and understanding of data processing, analysis and interpretation of complex datasets;
 4. Ability to work in a team, as well as independently while adopting a flexible work approach that allows the individual to switch between a leading and supporting role as required by the individual task;
 5. Proven ability to draft high-quality technical papers and documents in English suitable for the different customers, stakeholders and partners of the EUDA (technical, scientific, policy, professional and general public); applicants are will be requested to provide up to three samples of their work;
 6. Ability to demonstrate creativity and innovation coupled with precision in fulfilling professional tasks;
 7. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
-



On the basis of the written test

1. Ability to communicate effectively in writing and excellent written communication skills in English;
 2. Capacity to think critically and analytically in the interpretation of data, research and practical findings.
-

1.3. Advantageous requirements

Introduction

Advantageous criteria constitute additional assets and will not result in exclusion, if not fulfilled.

On the basis of the application

1. A postgraduate or doctoral degree in a subject relevant to the post;
 2. Experience of managing and implementing systems or tools on topics relevant to the post;
 3. A working knowledge of pharmacology.
 4. Experience of working in a multicultural/multilingual, international environment including experience of engagement with international networks relevant to the post;
 5. Experience of working in a laboratory holding accreditation to international standards such as ISO/IEC 17025/2017, or a similar quality assurance scheme.
-

On the basis of the interview and written test

1. Ability to analyse and critically interpret heterogeneous data and information derived from the analysis of drug-related samples;
 2. Awareness of wider aspects of the drug phenomenon as a whole including drug policy approaches;
 3. Knowledge of the functioning of the European Union institutions and, in particular, of the role of the EUDA.
-

2. Submission of applications

2.1. Overview

Procedure

- Interested candidates must apply for this post through the EMCDDA e-recruitment application, accessible via this link: <https://e-recruitment.emcdda.europa.eu>.
- To make an online application candidates will need to create their EMCDDA profile using a valid e-mail address and a password.
- During the application procedure, candidates should ensure that they clearly indicate how they meet the selection criteria in their application.



- All sections of the application should be completed in English in order to facilitate the selection procedure.

Deadline for applications

The closing date for the submission of applications is extended until 22/03/2024 at 23.59, Lisbon time.

2.2. Selection procedure

Selection on files

- During the selection on files, the selection committee assesses, on the basis of each application file received, whether candidates meet the requirements set for admission, eligibility and selection.
- The essential requirements have a maximum of 10 points each. Non-compliance with at least one of the essential selection criteria will result in the exclusion of the candidate from the selection process.
- The advantageous requirements have a maximum of 5 points each. Advantageous criteria constitute additional assets and will not result in exclusion, if not fulfilled.
- On this basis, the selection committee will select the candidates that obtain at least 60% of the total points available to rank their compliance with the essential requirements and with the advantageous requirements.
- The maximum number of invitees for an interview shall be 10. This ceiling may be altered, depending on the number of applications received, by decision of the appointing authority/authority authorised to conclude employment contracts (AA/AACC). Should the case arise that there are various candidates scoring the same number of points in the 10th ranking, the number of candidates to be invited will be increased accordingly to accommodate this.

Interview and written test

- The selected candidates will be invited to carry out an interview and a written test.
- Interviews will be held by the selection committee, either at the EMCDDA/EUDA premises or remotely (online).
- The candidates will be assessed on the basis of the essential requirements mentioned above out of a maximum of 10 points each and the advantageous requirements above out of a maximum of 5 points each.
- Candidates will be asked to undergo a written test, either at the EMCDDA/EUDA premises or remotely (online).



- The written test will be assessed on the basis of the essential requirements mentioned above and a maximum of 30 marking points will be available for this purpose.
-

Reserve list

- The work of the selection committee ends with the preparation of a draft reserve list of candidates considered suitable to occupy the position advertised, to be proposed to and approved by the AA/AACC of the EMCDDA/EUDA.
 - Only candidates who reach 70% of the marking points can be included in the reserve list for appointment.
 - On the basis of the adopted reserve list, the AA/AACC of the EMCDDA/EUDA may offer a contract of engagement.
 - Candidates shall note that inclusion in the reserve list does not guarantee recruitment, which will depend, among other things, on availability of vacant posts and budget.
 - The established reserve list may be used in order to fill similar positions within the EUDA.
 - The reserve list will be valid until 31/12/2026 and may be extended by decision of the EUDA appointing authority/authority authorised to conclude employment contracts.
-

Selection committee

The selection committee for this selection procedure will be composed as follows:

- Brendan Hughes (chairperson and member designated by the EMCDDA Staff Committee)
- Andrew Cunningham (member)
- Ana Gallegos (member)
- Marisa de Oliveira (member)

The selection committee's work and deliberations are strictly confidential and any contact, either direct or indirect, with its members is strictly forbidden. The confidentiality principle is intrinsic to all steps of the recruitment procedure and is in accordance with Article 6 of Annex III to the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Communities.

Information on the process

Due to the high volume of applications expected, only candidates selected for interview will be contacted. Candidates who have not been contacted by the EMCDDA by 31/05/2024 should consider that their application has been unsuccessful.



For up-to-date information on the process of this selection procedure, please visit the EMCDDA's website at the following link:

<https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/about/jobs>.

Applicants invited for interview may be entitled to a flat-rate contribution towards travel and subsistence expenses. Information will be provided together with the invitation letter.

3. Conditions of employment

Legal framework

A contract offer will be made pursuant to the Staff Regulations of Officials and the Conditions of employment of other servants of the European Union, for a five-year period according to Title II Temporary Staff, Chapter 1, Article 8 of these Conditions.

(<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1594050364017&uri=CELEX:01962R0031-20140101>).

Place of employment

The place of employment will be Lisbon, Portugal, where the EMCDDA/EUDA has its seat.

Remuneration

The remuneration consists of a basic salary and, where applicable, additional allowances, paid on a monthly basis, and reimbursements, paid upon their evidenced occurrence, less income tax and social security.

Monthly basic salary

- The job holder's monthly basic salary, for AD 8 step 1 will be approximately 7,977.14€.

Correction coefficient

- A correction coefficient is applied to the remuneration of staff members in order to make up for differences in living conditions, as compared to Brussels and Luxembourg.
- For Portugal, the local weighting factor is 96.6% for 2024.

Examples of net monthly salaries are presented below

AD 8 - Step 1:

- a) Minimum final net salary (without any allowances): 5,757.84€
- b) Final net salary with expatriation allowance: 6,990.78€
- c) Final net salary with expatriation, household and 1 dependent child allowance: 8,145.56€

Income tax

- Income tax is levied progressively at a rate of between 8% and 45% of the taxable portion of your salary.



- A special levy (6%) is calculated on the part of the remuneration exceeding the minimum remuneration.
- The salary is exempt from Portuguese tax.
- For more information please see the protocol on the immunities of the European Union.

Social security

Staff members pay a community tax at source and contribute to:

- health insurance and accident insurance;
- EU pension scheme;
- unemployment insurance.

Depending on the individual family situation and the place of origin, the job holder may be further entitled to:

- Expatriation or foreign residence allowance.
- Family allowances:
 - household allowance;
 - dependent child allowance;
 - pre-school allowance;
 - education allowance.
- Taking up duties allowance:
 - installation allowance;
 - daily allowance intended offset costs of temporary residence;
 - reimbursement of removal expenses;
 - initial travel from place of recruitment to the place of employment for the staff member and direct family.

Annual leave

- Staff members are entitled to annual leave of 24 working days plus EMCDDA/EUDA holidays, which correspond to some Portuguese national holidays and Easter, Christmas and other events.
- Additional leave days are granted for age and grade and to those entitled to the expatriation allowance. Special leave is granted for certain circumstances such as marriage, birth of a child or other family events.

For more information consult our website: <https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/>.

Confirmation of engagement

Staff engaged by the EMCDDA/EUDA are required to serve a probationary period of nine months.



and security clearance

Successful applicants may be required to undergo a security vetting and clearance procedure.

Declaration of commitment to serve public interest independently

Staff engaged by the EMCDDA/EUDA are 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.

EMCDDA/EUDA staff are required to carry out their duties and conduct solely with the interests of the EMCDDA/EUDA and of the European Union in mind; they shall neither seek nor take instruction from any government, authority, organisation or person outside their institution. EMCDDA/EUDA staff shall carry out the duties assigned objectively, impartially and in keeping with the duty of loyalty to the EMCDDA/EUDA and to the European Union.

Protection of personal data

All personal data collected for this selection process will only be used for the purposes of this selection procedure and will in no case be transmitted to any third party.

Any data provided will be treated in the strictest confidence and with high standards of security.

All documents provided to the EMCDDA/EUDA during this selection procedure will be kept in the EMCDDA/EUDA's files and will not be returned to applicants.

Application documents will only be kept for as long as it is mandatory to fulfil the requirements of existing auditing/control procedures applicable to the EMCDDA/EUDA.

For further details please read carefully the 'Privacy statement' as published on the EMCDDA website at the following link:

https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/about/data-protection_en.

4. Request for review and appeal procedure

Request for review

A candidate who feels that a mistake has been made during the selection procedure may ask to have their application reconsidered by sending, within 20 calendar days from 31/05/2024, a request for review, quoting the number of the selection procedure concerned to the chairperson of the selection committee at the following address:

EMCDDA
Chairperson of the selection committee
Praça Europa 1, Cais do Sodré
1249-289 Lisbon
Portugal



The selection committee will reconsider the application and notify the candidate of its decision within 45 calendar days of receipt of the letter.

Appeal procedure

If a candidate considers that they have been adversely affected by a particular decision, they can lodge a complaint under Article 90(2) of the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Communities and Conditions of employment of other servants of the European Union, at the following address:

The EMCDDA Director
Praça Europa 1, Cais do Sodré
1249-289 Lisbon
Portugal

The complaint must be lodged within three months. The time limit for initiating this type of procedure (see Staff Regulations <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1594050364017&uri=CELEX:01962R0031-20140101>) starts to run from the time the candidate is notified of the act adversely affecting them.

Like all citizens of the European Union, candidates can make a complaint to the European Ombudsman:

European Ombudsman
1 avenue du Président Robert Schuman — CS 30403
67001 Strasbourg Cedex
France
<https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/pt/make-a-complaint>

Note that complaints made to the Ombudsman have no suspensive effect on the period laid down in Articles 90(2) and 91 of the Staff Regulations for lodging complaints or for submitting appeals to the Civil Service Tribunal under Article 270 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Note also that, under Article 2(4) of the general conditions governing the performance of the Ombudsman's duties, any complaint lodged with the Ombudsman must be preceded by the appropriate administrative approaches to the institutions and bodies concerned.

5. EMCDDA contact

E-mail: Recruitment@emcdda.europa.eu

Recruiter: Leila Mekkaoui

Date of publication : 04/03/2024