



CALL FOR APPLICATION FOR THE SELECTION OF TEMPORARY STAFF

No AD.2024.06 — ‘Threat assessment: data scientist’

Temporary agent AD 6 — 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).

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 Public Health Unit, and the selected candidate will be reporting to the Head of the Public Health Unit, under the day-to-day supervision of the Threat Assessment System coordinator.

The job holder will be responsible for coordinating scientific data and analysis linked to the new EUDA Threat Assessment (TA) system. Specifically, they will be required to use data analysis, statistical modelling and machine learning to support the full range of threat assessment-related tasks.

Main duties

The successful applicant will be requested to perform the following main tasks and responsibilities, under the coordination of the TA coordinator.

Data science-related activities:

- Collect, clean and analyse structured and unstructured data.
- Develop and apply various machine learning algorithms and statistical models to extract insights and patterns.
- Design and implement predictive models, recommendation systems and data-driven solutions.
- Support integration of rapid monitoring and expert elicitation techniques.
- Support drafting of data output-related sections of the EUDA health and security threat assessment reports.
- Pilot innovative analytical and triangulation approaches.
- Develop rapid sampling methods for key target groups.
- Identify relevant uses for AI and digital innovations.



- Ensure quality assurance mechanisms are in place for data and reporting.
- Stay updated with the latest advances in data science and AI technologies, including machine learning.

More generally to support the development of the TA service, including the following:

- Establish a database of national experts, undertake national preparedness assessments, develop processes, standard operating procedures and produce a EUDA manual on threat assessment methods.
- Undertake data checks, drafting reviews and evaluation as required.
- Support the work of ad hoc assessment teams.
- Support contracts linked to service development and operation.

The job holder may be required to contribute to other areas of work, according to the needs and priorities of the EMCDDA/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 ⁽¹⁾.

Education requirements

- A level of education which corresponds to completed university studies of at least three years attested by a diploma.

⁽¹⁾ 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.



Professional experience requirements

- Have at least three 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 ⁽²⁾.

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. University degree or postgraduate degree in data science, statistics, computer science, public health, or epidemiology.
2. A minimum of 2 years working with drug-related datasets related to monitoring/surveillance or research.
3. A strong track record of analysing and triangulating complex datasets including both epidemiological and qualitative sources evidenced by one or more scientific articles published in peer reviewed journals.
4. Strong proficiency in quantitative data analysis in the illicit drugs field, including statistical analysis, data modelling and data visualisation.
5. Proficiency in programming languages such as Python, R or Scala; familiarity with data manipulation and visualisation libraries.
6. Strong understanding of various machine learning algorithms (such as regression, classification and clustering) and experience implementing them in real-world scenarios.
7. Experience in project management, including planning, execution and reporting.
8. A good knowledge of the functioning of the European Union institutions and, in particular, the role of the EMCDDA/EUDA.

⁽²⁾ In addition, in order to be eligible to a first promotion, the staff member shall prove a working knowledge of a third EU language.



On the basis of the interview

1. An excellent understanding of issues relevant to the areas of illicit drugs research and monitoring.
 2. A good understanding of the potential contribution of data science to illicit drug research and monitoring.
 3. Demonstrate knowledge and skills associated with the latest advances in data science, machine learning and other AI technologies.
 4. An excellent understanding of the challenges of drug data analysis and triangulation in a threat assessment context.
 5. The ability to communicate effectively and summarise complex and technical issues so that they are understandable to non-technical audiences.
 6. Excellent knowledge of English as required by the specialised nature of the post.
 7. Experience of working in a multidisciplinary and multicultural environment.
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On the basis of the written test

1. Excellent statistical and analytic skills including the ability to prioritise and triangulate information from a range of diverse sources.
 2. Ability to draft high-quality text for different audiences.
 3. Ability to provide a high standard of quality assurance for written and data driven outputs.
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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. Experience with data querying languages (e.g. SQL) and big data technologies (e.g. Hadoop, Spark).
 2. Understanding of data protection and data confidentiality, ethical considerations and best practices for handling sensitive health and security related data.
 3. Ability to multi-task and balance different deadlines while delivering results on time.
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On the basis of the interview and written test

1. Experience of working with rapid assessment or threat assessment systems.
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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 04/03/2024 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.
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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 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 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.
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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.
 - 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 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 EMCDDA.
 - The reserve list will be valid until 31/12/2026 and may be extended by decision of the EMCDDA appointing authority/authority authorised to conclude employment contracts.
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Selection committee

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

Michael Evans-Brown (chairperson and member designated by the EMCDDA Staff Committee)

Alessandro Pirona (member)

Liesbeth Vandam (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 30/04/2024 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 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 payments.

Monthly basic salary

- The job holder's monthly basic salary, for AD 6 step 1 will be approximately 6,231.42€.

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 6 - Step 1 (less than 3 years of work experience):

- a) Minimum final net salary (without any allowances): 4,650.64€
- b) Final net salary with expatriation allowance: 5,613.77€
- c) Final net salary with expatriation, household and 1 dependent child allowance: 6,668.33€

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 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 and security clearance

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

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 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 staff are required to carry out their duties and conduct solely with the interests of the EMCDDA 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 staff shall carry out the duties assigned objectively, impartially and in keeping with the duty of loyalty to the EMCDDA 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 during this selection procedure will be kept in the EMCDDA'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.

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 30/04/2024, 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: Eilika Schlüter

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