



**Call for expression of interest to join the new  
Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA)**

**Do you want to be at the forefront of the Commission's effort to combat serious threats to the health of European citizens?**

The creation of the HERA was recently announced by the President in her State of the Union speech. The Commission is now looking for AD officials willing to transfer to the new service.

The HERA shall work to improve preparedness and response to serious cross-border threats in the area of medical countermeasures, in particular by:

- strengthening health security coordination within the Union during preparedness and crisis response times, and bringing together Member States, the industry and the relevant stakeholders in a common effort;
- addressing vulnerabilities and strategic dependencies within the Union related to the development, production, procurement, stockpiling and distribution of medical countermeasures;
- contributing to reinforcing the global health emergency preparedness and response architecture.

The HERA shall be responsible for the following tasks:

- assessment of health threats and intelligence gathering relevant to medical countermeasures;
- promoting advanced research and development of medical countermeasures and related technologies;
- addressing market challenges and boosting the Union's open strategic autonomy in medical countermeasures production;
- swift procurement and distribution of medical countermeasures;
- increasing stockpiling capacity of medical countermeasures;
- strengthening knowledge and skills in preparedness and response related to medical countermeasures.

Once fully established, HERA's governance will be as follows:

- The HERA is a Commission service headed by a Director-General, assisted by the Deputy Head (at Director level) and 4 Units.

- HERA Board: shapes the strategic direction of EU and national health preparedness and response. The members will be Member States, the European Commission and with European Parliament as observer. The Director-General of the HERA will chair the Board;
- HERA network with similar national or regional authorities: contributes to ensuring medical countermeasures are available and accessible;
- HERA Advisory Forum with external stakeholders (industry, academia and civil society): advises on planning and implementation of scientific, health and industrial activities of HERA;
- Health Crisis Board: coordinates action in response to a crisis. Members are Member States, the European Commission with involvement of other institutions.

Budget:

€6 billion (2022-2027) from the Multiannual Financial Framework and NextGenerationEU;

€24 billion invested by other EU programmes such as Recovery and Resilience Facility, REACT-EU, and cooperation instruments.

More information can be found on [HERA: €30bn to protect against future health crises \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu/HERA)

**Meanwhile, we are setting up the HERA and looking for colleagues who are willing to make a difference. Do you believe that you have the drive, dedication, competences and skills to contribute to this effort?**

**Then come and join the HERA !**

The HERA will progressively grow, starting with 70 Staff in the beginning of 2022. To build this team the HERA is urgently looking for colleagues (see the profiles below) who will be transferred on one of the vacant posts in the HERA (see ‘How to apply?’ below).

Which profiles are we urgently looking for ?

General:

We look for AD level colleagues who show genuine interest, and ideally have hands on experience in the area of health, public health policies and health crisis management.

Candidates should underpin this experience with concrete examples of contributions.

The ability to analyse and prioritise, flexibility, versatility and resilience in tackling new challenges and tasks. The ability to work and deliver under time pressure as well as cooperatively within diverse teams, is essential. During crisis mode, weekend work will be usually required.

The job requires very good drafting and communication skills – including public speaking skills, the capacity to represent the Commission in internal and international meetings and conferences and in discussions and negotiations with demanding stakeholders.

Specific attention will be given to applications of candidates with experience in developing policies requiring a strong Stakeholder interest and involvement.

The selection process will seek to ensure a good balance of candidates in particular as regards experience, and gender.

The professional profiles we are looking for include experts in public health and crisis management, experts in global health policy, experts in healthcare systems, clinical scientists, experts in infectious diseases, experts in virology, experts in epidemiology, experts in surveillance and threats assessment, data managers/statisticians, engineers, regulatory and quality assurance specialists, experts in manufacturing, critical supply chain management in particular of medical countermeasures, legal experts (e.g. contract law, procurement, intellectual property rights, regulatory affairs in the field of pharmaceuticals, medical devices, etc.), project managers including financial management, and communication experts.

A very good knowledge of English is needed (oral and written).

The following profiles cover the most urgent needs. Any other related profiles that would be an asset for HERA operations could be considered.

#### Profile 1: Health preparedness and crisis management professionals

Experience and/or a sound knowledge in one or more of the following domains would be an asset: public health and crisis management, health research, industrial policy development, implementation in the area of medical countermeasures.

High stress resistance levels and good organisation skills, allowing channelling of important information streams towards the different participants in the crisis management processes.

The assignment comprises frequent contacts with a large variety of different stakeholders. In particular, the jobholder would contribute to the coordination of work in above-mentioned areas with DG SANTE, with other Commission services, EU agencies, in particular the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the European Medicines Agency (EMA), Member States, and external stakeholders.

#### Profile 2: Health preparedness project Officers

HERA will need to develop, with the assistance of the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) for its implementation, an ambitious investment programme capable to deliver on its mission and tasks.

The candidates should have experience in programme management and be able to demonstrate capacity to translate policy objectives into tangible and targeted interventions by means of well-defined and thought through projects.

Good financial management knowledge including the different instruments at the disposal of the HERA to ensure optimal use of the available financial resources. It includes also procurement and grant activities, preparing calls for tenders / proposals, evaluations, awards, notifications and draft contracts / agreements / amendments.

### Profile 3: Threat assessment and Intelligence Officers

The candidates should have experience and sound knowledge in threat assessment, and be able to support the continuous development and strengthening of intelligence gathering systems and activities, including development of IT tools, web-platforms, procedures and practices related to medical countermeasures.

Skills in maintaining dynamic databases for the identification and monitoring of public health threats, data collections, preparation of datasets or data flows and analysis, supporting data providers in their data preparation and data quality issues.

Skills and experience with modelling, simulation, and forecast activities is an important asset.

### Profile 4: Life science technology Officers

The candidates should have sound knowledge in relevant life sciences and engineering disciplines including medical technology development and experience gained within a medical technology company, biotech company, pharmaceutical company, or similar applied research environment within the life science and health;

Experience in areas such as research and development, regulatory affairs, clinical trials set up, manufacturing, logistics, market operations or supply chain management of medical countermeasures;

Good understanding of the pharmaceutical and biotechnology, medical device, diagnostics industry and the processes and procedures involved in bringing a product to the market, including the quality control, pre-clinical/clinical regulatory environment.

### Profile 5: Legal Officer

The candidates should have sound knowledge and expertise in relevant legal areas such as procurement and contract law, intellectual property rights, regulatory affairs knowledge gained while working with actors from the pharmaceutical and biotechnology, medical device, diagnostics or other relevant industries.

## How to apply ?

Applications should only be sent by E-mail to the functional mailbox HERA-HR-BUSINESS-CORRESPONDENT@ec.europa.eu, clearly mentioning your personnel number.

Please indicate in the subject field for which profile you apply.

This call is addressed to established AD officials<sup>1</sup> who can be transferred in the interest of the service (Article 7 of the Staff Regulation - SRs) to the vacant posts. This includes also senior experts, who, if selected, will be transferred to the HERA, keeping their senior expert type of post.

Established AD officials from Institutions other than the Commission can also express their interest. They may be transferred to the HERA after publication of a post (Article 29 SR) or seconded to the HERA, with the possibility to request their transfer to the HERA at a later stage.

Contract agents and laureates of AD competitions can also express their interest but will only be considered at a later stage if vacancies remain unfilled.

Deadline for application is 18/10/2021 but applications will be examined as soon as they come in.

Applications must be accompanied by relevant supporting information (motivation letter with description of relevant earlier experience as explained above and CV).

Pre-selected candidates will be contacted for an interview. All candidates will be informed about the state of play in due time.

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<sup>1</sup> Including Senior administrators in transition (AD14) and Principal administrators in transition (AD13).