

The RKI research unit Evidence-Based Public Health, ZIG2, is currently looking to recruit three senior scientists.

The positions to fill are:

- Full time Research Scientist with advanced expertise in evidence reviews and quantitative research methods, start date 1 March or asap thereafter, end date 30 November 2027
- Full time Research Scientist with mixed method research skills, start date 1 March or asap thereafter, end date 31 December 2028
- Full time or part time Research Scientist with expertise in capacity building and development of training material, start date 1 March or later, end date 31 December 2028

More detail on each post can be found below.

If anyone is interested in any of the posts, they are welcome to send their CV and cover letter with an indication in the subject heading regarding which post they are interested in, to Heide Weishaar, at zig2@rki.de. She is also available for any queries via e-mail or phone (+49 160 666 7220).

**Research Scientist (m/f/d) – Evidence Reviews and Quantitative Research:
full time, location: Berlin, pay grade up to E14 TVöD,
fixed-term 1 March 2026 until 30 November 2027**

The successful candidate will work as one of the lead scientists in ZIG2 to support the team in its scientific work, with a focus on evidence reviews and quantitative research. They will also lead the evidence review function of ZIG2, providing expertise into evidence reviews (e.g. rapid reviews, scoping reviews, systematic reviews, meta analyses).

Key responsibilities

- Develop research proposals and projects in line with the ZIG2 strategy.
- Independently develop and implement advanced statistical modelling techniques in line with a research question and supervise and technically assist other staff in the development and implementation of these techniques.
- Conduct evidence reviews, including monitoring, managing and supervising externally contracted reviews, on public and global health topics.

- Guide junior staff on research-related tasks, including examination and interpretation of research results, supervision of publications, training of junior staff.
- Collaborate with senior RKI staff and obtain and integrate their feedback into ZIG2's work.
- Preparing and giving presentations and writing scientific articles.
- Maintain scientific awareness and intellectual agility with regard to research design, data, methods and analytical techniques within and across disciplines.
- Other tasks that fall within the scope of the ZIG2 team.

Required qualifications and competencies

- PhD in public health, medicine, epidemiology, biostatistics, economics, social sciences or related field or MD combined with several years of relevant professional experience.
- Several years of relevant professional experience or equivalent combination of training and experience.
- Experience in the independent development and execution of statistical modelling techniques, including confident handling of relevant software.
- Experience in conducting and publishing systematic reviews.
- Track record of co-authorship of several peer-reviewed scientific papers, presentation of results and representation of research at conferences.
- Experience in mentoring and developing junior staff in terms of soft and technical skills.
- Language skills (CEFR level): English at least C2; German and French language skills are an advantage.
- Experience in working with international partners is an advantage.

Research Scientist (m/f/d) PREPARE:

full time, location: Berlin, pay grade up to E14 TVöD,

fixed-term 1 March 2026 until 31 December 2028

The successful candidate will work as the lead scientist on three-year international research project titled PREPARE (Protocols to measure the Effectiveness of Public Health and Social Measures Applied in Response to Emergencies). The project is implemented in Guinea and Sierra Leone and focuses on the feasibility, contextual

adaptation and evaluability of Public Health and Social Measures (PHSM) in the context of future outbreaks and pandemics.

Key responsibilities

- Scientific contribution to and operational implementation of the PREPARE project in close coordination with the project leadership.
 - Overall leadership and implementation of the PREPARE project, including scientific work, collaboration with partners and stakeholders, work planning, timeline and resource management, and quality assurance across all project components.
 - Independent design, implementation and methodological development of the project's mixed-methods approach, including desk reviews and literature analyses as well as qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis, to support the contextual adaptation of WHO PHSM protocols and the assessment of feasibility, implementation and evaluability.
 - Ensuring scientific integrity and compliance with ethical standards and legal regulations throughout all project activities.
 - Collaboration with national public health institutes and academic partner institutions in Guinea and Sierra Leone, as well as with international partners (e.g. WHO, Norwegian Institute of Public Health), including technical alignment, work planning and communication of results.
 - Regular project-related travel to Guinea and Sierra Leone, including planning and on-site trainings, workshops and data collection activities.
 - Lead responsibility for the preparation of study protocols, ethics submissions, interim and final reports, as well as contribution to the development of further research proposals in the field.
 - Responsibility for the administrative and financial management of the project, including budget planning and monitoring, coordination of contracts and sub-agreements, and contribution to financial and donor reporting.
 - Preparation, interpretation and communication of results through peer-reviewed publications, presentations and policy-relevant formats.
 - Scientific supervision and mentoring of junior researchers, and contribution to internal training and knowledge exchange activities.
- Apply methodological expertise and innovation and critically reflect to advance research approach.

Required qualifications and competencies

- PhD in public health, medicine, epidemiology, biostatistics, economics, social sciences or related field or MD combined with several years of relevant professional experience.
- Proven experience in independently conducting public health research, including conception and implementation of research studies.
- Experience in collaboration with international partners.
- Both or at least one of the following:
 - Experience in the independent development and application of statistical modelling techniques and data analysis, or
 - Experience in the development and application of theory-driven and thematic analyses of qualitative data.
- Ability and willingness to travel to low- and middle-income countries in WHO AFRO once or twice a year for approximately one week.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills, including demonstrated experience contributing to multiple scientific publications and presenting results at conferences or other professional events.
- Experience in the supervision and development of junior staff with regard to both technical and interpersonal skills is an advantage.
- Track record of advanced academic writing and publishing, particularly peer-reviewed publications.
- Language skills (CEFR level): English at C1 level or higher; knowledge of French and German language skills are an advantage.

Research Scientist (m/f/d) SCAPHeR:

full time or part time, location: Berlin, pay grade up to E14 TVöD, fixed-term 1 March 2026 (or any time thereafter) until 31 December 2028

The successful candidate will be the lead scientist on a GHPP-funded, international capacity building project, titled “Strengthening Capacity in Applied Public health research among public service staff in GHPP regions (SCAPHeR)”. The project aims to strengthen capacity in applied public health research among national public health institute staff in the WHO AFRO and WHO EMRO regions.

Key responsibilities

- Scientific contribution to and operational implementation of the SCAPHeR project in close coordination with the project leadership.

- Overall leadership of the SCAPHer project, including scientific work, collaboration with partners and stakeholders, work planning, timeline and resource management, and quality assurance across all project components.
 - Ensure scientific integrity and compliance with ethical standards and legal regulations throughout all project activities.
 - Collaboration with the project co-investigators at the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ), Brazil, and the main project partners at the Namibian Ministry of Health and Social Services and the Jordan Centers for Disease Control.
 - Develop syllabi and material for in-person and online training on applied public health research in close collaboration with the project partners.
 - Deliver state-of-the art training for national public health institutes staff in the WHO AFRO and WHO EMRO regions on all aspects of applied public health research, including research project and protocol development, research design, ethics and data protection, data collection and analysis and research dissemination.
 - Advise on, review, support and monitor small-scale research projects developed and implemented by in-country partners.
- Apply methodological expertise and innovation and critically reflect to advance research and training approaches.

Required qualifications and competencies

- PhD in public health, medicine, epidemiology, biostatistics, economics, social sciences or related field.
- Proven experience in independently conducting applied public health research, including conception and implementation of research studies.
- Ability to independently coordinate and implement a complex project with a variety of stakeholders, including ability to independently lead a diverse team.
- Experience collaborating with international partners.
- Solid knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methods, including data analysis and related software.
- Proven experience in teaching and developing teaching material.
- Experience with online teaching / preparation of e-learning material and application of AI in teaching is an advantage.
- Experience in mentoring students / early career researchers; passionate about strengthening research capacity among early career researchers.

- Track record of advanced academic writing and publishing, particularly peer-reviewed publications.
- Experience writing funding proposals.
- Language skills (CEFR level): English at C1 level or higher; additional language skills (German, Arabic, French, Portuguese) are an advantage.
- Ability and willingness to travel to low- and middle-income countries in WHO AFRO and WHO EMRO once or twice a year for approximately one week.

For all posts, the following requirements apply:

- Willingness and ability to travel and participate in international assignments, including to low- and middle-income countries; health requirements (tropical fitness) must be met.
- Ability and motivation to work as part of an interdisciplinary, diverse team.
- Intercultural competence and respect of cultural differences.
- Flexibility and a positive attitude towards change and innovation.
- Good communication skills and an open, friendly demeanor.
- Target group orientation through clear, comprehensible written and verbal expression.
- Ability to take criticism and use constructive feedback to improve.
- Ability to work under pressure and with a constant level of performance, even with large amounts of work.
- Task and project management skills.
- Maximum amount of home office: 50%.