

Governmental Institute of Public Health of Lower Saxony (Niedersächsisches Landesgesundheitsamt - NLGA)

Seven reasons why you should decide for the NLGA

- highly motivated, multi-professional team
- strong national and international network
- instant access to subject experts in
 - epidemiology
 - statistics
 - microbiology (including BSL3)
 - geography
- EPIET graduate on site, one current EPIET fellow (started 2014), three FETP fellows completed their training at the institute (started 2008, 2010, 2012)
- interface position between local and national public health actors: you will be acquainted with different perspectives of the German public health system
- central location in Germany and Europe
- *Hochdeutsch* (modern standard German) is spoken throughout the whole area

Overview NLGA

The Governmental Institute of Public Health of Lower Saxony is the main institute surveilling communicable and non-communicable diseases in Lower Saxony. It provides political advice to the government of Lower Saxony on health issues. The headquarters are located in Hanover.

The NLGA comprises four departments:

- Dep. 1: Administration (e.g. internal organization, personnel management, budget, education and professional training, and health communication/internet).
- **Dep. 2: Communicable Diseases (e.g. virology, clinical bacteriology, health protection, hospital hygiene, infectious disease epidemiology, surveillance).**
- Dep. 3: Environmental Health (e.g. environmental medicine, -hygiene and epidemiology of non-communicable diseases).
- Dep. 4: Special tasks of Public Health Authority (e.g. health reporting and Trust authority of the Register for cancer in Lower Saxony (EKN))

Further fields of activity as quality management, the Centre for Health and Infectious Disease Hazards (ZGI) and public relations are primary administrated by the president of the NLGA.

Number of employees: 180

Mayor tasks

The NLGA is the competent state authority responsible for the prevention, detection and control of emerging health hazards as well as health reporting within Lower Saxony. It collaborates with other institutions of the public health system and coordinates measures in incidents affecting more than one district.

The NLGA provides scientific information on health protection for the government, the ministry of health and other public health actors (e.g. health professionals and the local public health departments (LPHD)) in Lower Saxony.

Further tasks are to collect, to analyse and to interpret epidemiological data and to conduct laboratory investigations. These tasks include the identification and examination of disease clusters as well as management of the notification system and communication with other institutions of the public health service on national and local level. Other major tasks are the surveillance and the analysis of infectious diseases and other pathogens which are hazardous to the general population.

Profile of Lower Saxony

- 2nd largest federal state of Germany
- location: northern Germany; border to The Netherlands and the North Sea
- capital: Hanover
- inhabitants: 8 Mio
- districts: 46
- sights of interest: Lueneburg Heath (<http://www.lueneburger-heide.de/>), Harz Mountains (970m) (<http://www.nationalpark-harz.de/en/>), North Sea (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Sea), Old cities of Celle (<http://www.celle.travel/>), Göttingen (<http://www.goettingen-tourismus.de>), Hildesheim (<http://www.hildesheim.de>) and Hanover (<http://www.hannover.de/english/index.html>).

Profile of the city of Hanover

- Capital of Lower Saxony
- Inhabitants: 520,000
- *Hochdeutsch* (modern standard German) is spoken throughout the whole area
- Central location in Germany, by train you can reach
 - Hamburg in 1:20 h
 - Berlin in 1:30 h
 - The Netherlands in 2:45 h
- Very good infrastructure
 - Airport
 - very good highway connections
 - ICE-train-connections (esp. Cologne-Berlin, Hamburg-Munich)
 - fully developed, budget-friendly public transport
 - well developed cycling trails
- University city
- Trade fair city
- Variety of sports, cultural and other leisure activities (e.g. theatres, opera house, museums, national and international music events (classical, jazz, soul, rock, pop, folk, ...), movie theatres)
- “green city“ (e.g. lake Maschsee, Eilenriede forest, Zoo, Royal gardens of Herrenhausen)
- Beautiful old city centre
- housing situation: wide variety of rental apartments (from low budget to high standards); different town districts with varying flair



Being a fellow at the NLGA

Description of workplace and resources

- Two-person office
- Data processing: high-powered PC with basic software, flat screen, fast Internet access, personal email account
Software: MS Office, EpiInfo, STATA, bibliographic software, necessary software on request
Access to notification data
- In-house library with more than 50 journals, such as Lancet, New England Journal, Epidemiology & Infection, Infection, etc.
Further Libraries in Hanover: Hanover Medical School (MHH), Veterinary College (TiHo) and the Leibniz University
- Supervision: besides the main supervisor and the head of department, there is a strong multi-professional team at the NLGA, all are ready to help with any questions and are available for cooperation
 - Statistics: two graduated statisticians
 - Epidemiological expertise: eleven MPH and/or MSE graduates
 - Geographical expertise: Two graduated geographers
 - Microbiological expertise: close collaboration with the bacteriological, and virological laboratories that are part of the infectious disease department, including a BSL3 facility
- Weekly academic sessions (telephone conferencing) with all German EPIET and FETP fellows
- Quarterly meeting (two days) with all German EPIET and FETP fellows at the RKI in Berlin
- Regular team meetings
- Visits to local public health departments
- Laboratory placement
- Cooperation with universities:
 - MHH - Institute of Epidemiology, Public Health and Health Care;
 - Veterinary College (TiHo) - Institute for Biometry, Epidemiology and Information Processing
 - Technical University of Braunschweig

Skill acquisition opportunities

As a fellow at the NLGA you have the opportunities to

- design, conduct and analyse epidemiological studies
- evaluate/enhance surveillance systems
- conduct outbreak investigations in cooperation with the local public health authorities
- formulate recommendations regarding specific information requests for public health actors, the ministry and the general public
- formulate recommendations regarding outbreak management and infection control
- practice public health service at the interface between national authorities and local public health departments
- participate in short-term international assignments

Like all EPIET- and PAE- fellows in Germany, the NLGA fellow has the opportunity to enrol in the Master of Science in Applied Epidemiology (MSAE) programme (120 ECTS points) which is organised by RKI and Charité University, the medical university of Berlin.

Supervision

- Main supervisors
 - Elke Mertens, Dr. rer. cur. (Nursing Science), MSAE, FETP Alumna
 - Johannes Dreesman; Dr. rer. nat., MSE; Head of the institute
- Further supervisors and subject experts
 - Matthias Pulz, Dr. med; head of NLGA, Microbiology
 - Armin Baillot, Dr. med; Virology/Serology/Molecular Biology
 - Konrad Beyrer; Dr. med., MPH, Epidemiology/Vaccination
 - Martina Scharlach, Dr. phil., MPH, Epidemiology/Geography
 - Masyar Monazahian; Dr. rer. nat.; Virology;
 - Holger Scharlach; Dr. phil., Geography/Health communication
 - Further Specialists in Microbiology, Virology, Hygiene and other special disciplines

Contact

Elke Mertens

NLGA

Roesebeckstraße 4-6

30449 Hannover

+49 (0) 551 4505 303

Elke.mertens@nlga.niedersachsen.de