



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Babeș-Bolyai University seeks to fill the position of **scientific research assistant (DC6)**, vacant within the project **“Health Economic Policy Analysis with Real World Data (HEPARD)”, project number 101226455, Horizon Europe: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions for Doctoral Networks (MSCA DN)**, on a fixed-term contract of 36 months, full-time.

This position is part of HEPARD MSCA European funded doctoral network (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101226455>). The project is training early-stage researchers in advanced data analytics, causal inference and machine learning related to health policy topics. Specifically, it is training them to evaluate real-world policy impacts.

Focusing on lifestyle interventions, family support and insurance systems, the project combines economics, public health and data science to produce evidence that reflects Europe's diversity. It will help design fairer, more effective health policies for all.

The doctoral training programme offers:

- Core training in health economics, causal inference, micro-econometrics, health inequalities, epidemiology, and healthcare decision-making;
- Elective courses on data science, public health, implementation science, and empirical microeconomics;
- Two secondments: one academic (methodological training and collaboration) and one non-academic (policy experience);
- Network-wide workshops and conferences bringing together leading researchers, policymakers, and industry partners;
- Regular online meetings with research seminars, course follow-ups, and journal clubs;
- Career development training, including leadership, teamwork, communication skills, and grant writing.

The research assistant will primarily pursue doctoral studies and conduct independent research within the **HEPARD** project. He/she will apply state-of-the-art microeconometric methods for causal analysis to address research questions in empirical health economics.

Specifically, the research assistant will examine socio-economic, migration, and healthcare factors shaping maternity care decisions, leveraging survey data to inform policies for improved maternal health.

Key objectives include:

- Examine migration's impact on healthcare workforce distribution by comparing maternity care choices and utilization between native and migrant women in Romania. Model predictive factors and quantify costs of current and optimised distributions.

- Quantify healthcare costs of birth procedures in Romania (e.g., C-sections, natural births, length of stay, facility costs), focusing on Romania's status as having the highest caesarean rate in Europe.
- Develop a model to analyse maternal health trends (e.g., mortality ratio, cause-specific deaths, risk factors) alongside healthcare access indicators (e.g., antenatal care coverage, skilled birth attendance, C-section rates).
- Study tobacco use during pregnancy: investigate the patterns of tobacco use among pregnant women, including the prevalence of electronic nicotine delivery systems and the socio-economic characteristics of women who drop out of smoking cessation trials.

This position includes a three-months research stay at University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany.

The position offers:

- The opportunity to work with **rich Romanian administrative datasets**;
- A robust **methodological component**, including methods from causal inference and time series econometrics at the research frontier;
- A strong policy orientation, contributing **evidence-based recommendations** to improve social policy and the organisation of health care delivery to address socioeconomic inequalities;
- An **interdisciplinary research environment**, integrating economics, public health, and data science;
- Participation in **network-wide activities** including training in health economics, microeconomics, policy engagement, and transferable skills.

The remuneration including all mandatory taxes and insurances to be paid is about **2835 EUR / month** and the research assistant benefits from side support for mobility.

Required qualifications for applicants:

Eligibility criteria:

- Master's degree (120 ECTS) in Business, Economics, Engineering, Information Technology, Computational Science or related fields and very good programming skills;
- Must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Romania, for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately preceding the date of recruitment;
- Must have strong written and oral communication skills in English;
- Should be in the first four years of their research careers at the time of recruitment and have not been awarded a doctoral degree so far;
- Must be willing to reside in Romania for the entire 3-year appointment and to travel to other universities and partner organizations within the network for training activities and mobility periods.

The ideal candidate should have:

- A strong foundation in quantitative skills, including advanced knowledge of microeconometric techniques related to causal inference;
- A solid academic background in economics or a closely related field, preferably with expertise in health economics;
- Programming skills and experience with statistical data processing software (Stata, R, Python);
- A high level of intellectual curiosity, analytical rigor, and a strong commitment to policy-relevant research.

Application file

In order to apply for the vacancy recruitment process, the applicants will submit to **antonia.adam@ubbcluj.ro**, until **13.03.2026 at 16:00 (EEST – Romania time)** the following documents (with the subject: HEPARD – Application DC6):

1. a cover letter (emphasizing your specific interest, qualifications, and motivations to apply for this position);
2. a full CV (with the relevant details for checking the eligibility criteria);
3. names and contact details for two academics who can provide references about the candidate;
4. an academic record file including Bachelor's and Master's diplomas and corresponding transcripts; if the Master's program is ongoing, documents certifying the candidate's current status within the Master's program;
5. a proof of language proficiency in English (optional – will be tested during interview phase);
6. a self-declaration that the candidate has not resided/worked in Romania for 12 months during the last 3 years;
7. a copy of your passport/ID.

Application files selection

Applicants' files will be reviewed for eligibility within one working day from the end of the submission period in order to determine their suitability for the vacant position according to the specific criteria and requirements outlined in the published vacancy notice.

The results of the application files selection will be posted on **16 March 2026**, by indicating the registration number of the application file.

Appeals against the results of the application files selection can be submitted within one working day from the date of posting the results, to **Human Resources Department** (Str. I.C. Bratianu nr.14) or will email to **antonia.adam@ubbcluj.ro**.

Appeals will be answered within one working day after the submission deadline.

Only shortlisted candidates following the reviewing of application files will participate in the selection tests.

Recruitment proceedings

1. **Application files screening** according to the following criteria:
 - scientific/professional activity of the candidate;
 - experience in the required field;
 - quality of scientific collaborations, depending on the candidate's field of expertise;
 - candidate participation in research-development projects;
 - the scientific quality of the CV, including the transcript, is satisfactory.
2. **Interview based on the following criteria:**
 - professional knowledge;
 - skills and abilities required by the position;
 - candidate's motivation;
 - anticipated impact and benefits for the researcher and for the project;
 - previous experience in areas relevant to the HEPARD research program.

The interviews will take place online and the exact details (date, time, link) will be communicated to participants in advance.

The final score of the recruitment and selection process is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the scores obtained in the selection tests.

The candidate who obtained the highest final score will be admitted, but applicants must score a minimum of 7 points in each competition test.

In case of equal final scores, ranking is performed by considering the interview score as a tiebreaker.

Results and appeals

The results of the recruitment and selection process will be published on the official [website of the institution](#) in two working days after concluding the interviews, by indicating the registration number of the application file.

Candidates who are not satisfied with the outcome of their assessment will have the right to appeal within maximum one working day from the publishing of the results.

Appeals will be submitted to Human Resources Department (Str. I.C. Bratianu nr.14) **or** will email to [**antonia.adam@ubbcluj.ro**](mailto:antonia.adam@ubbcluj.ro). Appeals will be answered within one working day after the submission deadline.

NOTE: In order to be hired, the selected candidate has the obligation:

- to follow the procedure for the recognition/equivalence of study diplomas by the Ministry of Education and CNRED for EU and non-EU candidates, in order to be eligible to participate in the doctoral admissions process;
- to obtain doctoral student status at Babeş-Bolyai University following the admissions process to be held in the July 2026 session: <https://doctorat.ubbcluj.ro/eng/important-dates/>

We will support the selected candidate in completing the official procedure for the recognition of study diplomas.

Additional information can be obtained at <https://hepard.org/> or cristian.litan@econ.ubbcluj.ro with CC to madalina.agoston@ubbcluj.ro.

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