Certificate of Appreciation

To whom it may concern,

We would like to recognize the outstanding contribution, effort, and dedication of Natalia Filkina-Spreizer to our team as a volunteer Expert research assistant for the CoronaNet Research Project. Natalia Filkina-Spreizer has been active with our project since 2020-05-20 and, in that time, coded and updated policy information for Albania, Angola, Belarus, Canada, China, Colombia, Comoros, Croatia, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Grenada, Hungary, Iceland, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Lithuania, Mexico, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Russia, Sudan, Switzerland, Taiwan, United States. Without the support of our dedicated RAs, such as Natalia Filkina-Spreizer, we would not be able to sustain our pace of policy documentation which, to date, counts over 70 thousand policies from virtually every country in the world.

The CoronaNet Research Project is working to gather comprehensive and global data on government responses to the COVID-19 crisis. This work includes gathering information about which governments are responding to the coronavirus, toward whom policies are targeted (e.g. other countries), the types of policies enacted (e.g. travel restrictions, banning exports of masks) and their timing and duration. For more information, see www.coronanet-project.org.

Natalia Filkina-Spreizer has been a country expert for Albania, Angola, Belarus, Canada, China, Colombia, Comoros, Croatia, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Grenada, Hungary, Iceland, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Lithuania, Mexico, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Russia, Sudan, Switzerland, Taiwan, United States. This role involves researching and creating a comprehensive overview of government policies enacted in Albania, Angola, Belarus, Canada, China, Colombia, Comoros, Croatia, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Grenada, Hungary, Iceland, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Lithuania, Mexico, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Russia, Sudan, Switzerland, Taiwan, United States as well as collecting and entering new and updated policy information related to COVID-19. Becoming a country expert requires passing a series of trainings on how to code data in the CoronaNet database, which uses a custom Qualtrics survey instrument, keeping up with policy coding on a weekly basis, and attending weekly country- or regional coordination meetings as well as project-wide meetings.

Based on their performance, RAs are promoted to Advanced and then to Expert RAs, which is the position held by Natalia Filkina-Spreizer. This role involves coding an outstanding number of 250 policies or more and being engaged as a research assistant for at least 6 months. Expert research assistants have gained extensive knowledge of PHSM data and the CoronaNet dataset. They are actively involved in the development of the taxonomy and the project structure, and guide other research assistants. With their profound expertise, they play a fundamental role in the success of the project.

In addition to being a country expert, Natalia Filkina-Spreizer took on the following additional roles within CoronaNet:

- Regional Manager: This role involves leading a group of RAs. It involves oversight and support of RAs, including conducting regular performance and activity appraisals to guarantee the develop-

ment of a consistent and up-to-date dataset. Regional Managers are the first point of contact for RA questions regarding research and organizational issues. The role requires a profound knowledge of the construction of the dataset and strong leadership and management skills in order to foster a team spirit among the RAs, enhance their motivation, and develop a positive work environment.

- Country Manager: This role involves leading a group of RAs. It involves oversight and support of RAs, including conducting regular performance and activity appraisals to guarantee the development of a consistent and up-to-date dataset. Regional Managers are the first point of contact for RA questions regarding research and organizational issues. The role requires a profound knowledge of the construction of the dataset and strong leadership and management skills in order to foster a team spirit among the RAs, enhance their motivation, and develop a positive work environment.

- Data validation: This role involves re-coding data previously collected by other RAs in order to verify and ensure coding consistency. This role, which is only open to experienced and high-performing RAs at CoronaNet, requires extensive additional training in the project's collection procedures, high attention to detail, and ability to work well in a team setting.

- Data cleaning: This role requires Natalia Filkina-Spreizer to identify errors in the policy entries and clean them through updates in the Qualtrics survey. This role involves high attention to detail and an ability to perform repetitive tasks over a long period with high accuracy.

- Data Science Analyst: The work of data scientists at CoronaNet consists of the technical management of the rapidly evolving policy dataset as well as managing the technical infrastucture needed to keep CoronaNet running smoothly. The data science team further works to identify opportunities for leveraging the data for research and analysis by both internal and external parties. Membership requirements for the data science team include prior coding or analytics experience, having strong problem-solving skills, creativity, and the ability to work with different data architectures.

- Project Study: Natalia Filkina-Spreizer has participated in a practical experience 'Project Study' module at the Hochschule für Politik at the Technical University of Munich. Through this module, students receive 18 ECTS for 500 hours of practical employment with CoronaNet. Project Study students are incorporated into every aspect of the project–such as coding, validation, cleaning, and managing of data–and also gain significant management experience through leading other RAs as country/regional managers or through managing special projects.

- Natalia Filkina-Spreizer was a part of the Eurasian Management Team, which involved leading and coordinating the work of RAs collecting data for Eurasian countries. It involves oversight and support of RAs, including conducting regular performance and activity appraisals to guarantee the development of a consistent and up-to-date dataset. Managers are the first point of contact for RA questions regarding research and organizational issues. The role requires a profound knowledge of the construction of the dataset and strong leadership and management skills in order to foster a team spirit among the RAs, enhance their motivation, and develop a positive work environment. Data collection for Eurasian countries is supported by a grant from the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our thanks to Natalia Filkina-Spreizer for supporting these important and time-sensitive collection efforts and for being part of the CoronaNet community.

Luca Messerschmidt, Principal Investigator

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