

Certificate of Appreciation

To whom it may concern,

We would like to recognize the outstanding contribution, effort, and dedication of Meruyert Balgabek to our team as a volunteer research assistant for the CoronaNet Research Project. Meruyert Balgabek has been active with our project since 2021-01-11 and, in that time, coded and updated policy information for Russia. Without the support of our dedicated RAs, such as Meruyert Balgabek, 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.

Meruyert Balgabek has been a country expert for Russia. This role involves researching and creating a comprehensive overview of government policies enacted in Russia 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.

In addition to being a country expert, Meruyert Balgabek took on the following additional roles within CoronaNet:

- Internship: Meruyert Balgabek has joined and successfully finished an internship program as part of their work for CoronaNet. Through an internship, Research Assistants get an insight into, and contribute to, special projects and managerial aspects of CoronaNet. Interns are expected to participate consistently in CoronaNet activities and show initiative in taking on new tasks and projects.
- Meruyert Balgabek participated in a credit-bearing internship through Nazarbayev University (Kazakhstan). Through an internship, Research Assistants get an insight into, and contribute to, special projects and managerial aspects of CoronaNet. Interns are expected to participate consistently in CoronaNet activities and show initiative in taking on new tasks and projects. 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 Meruyert Balgabek for supporting these important and time-sensitive collection efforts and for being part of the CoronaNet community.

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Luca Messerschmidt, Principal Investigator

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