

Certificate of Appreciation

To whom it may concern,

We would like to recognize the outstanding contribution, effort, and dedication of Vanessa Zwisele to our team as a volunteer Advanced research assistant for the CoronaNet Research Project. Vanessa was active with our project from 2020-10-15 to 2023-03-20 and, in that time, coded and updated policy information for Switzerland. Without the support of our dedicated RAs, such as Vanessa Zwisele, we would not be able to sustain our pace of policy documentation which, to date, counts more than 100 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.

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

After gaining sufficient experience and expertise within CoronaNet, RAs are promoted to Advanced Research Assistant, which is the position currently held by Vanessa. This role involves coding an impressive number of 100 policies or more and being engaged as a research assistant for at least 3 months. Advanced research assistants have gained high expertise in PHSM data and the CoronaNet dataset. They have extensive knowledge of the taxonomy and the project structure, and provide support to other research assistants. With their considerable knowledge, they play an integral role in the success of the project.

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

- **Internship:** Vanessa 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.
- **Project Study:** Vanessa 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.

- **Project Manager:** Vanessa is an integral part of senior management team responsible for the selection, training, allocation, and monitoring of RAs. The Project Management team monitors and anticipates vacancies among RAs and country/regional managements and actively work to fill them to ensure staffing consistency. This role also provides support to country and regional managers in addressing performance and other issues that emerge within their teams. This role requires exceptional management and human-relations skills as well a strategic and problem-solving outlook to ensure smooth operation of CoronaNet.
- **PHSM Data Coverage Conference Coordinator:** Vanessa has supported CoronaNet in hosting and leading the COVID-19 PHSMs Data Coverage Network. The network provides the opportunity for different policy trackers to exchange and share key experiences in mapping government responses to COVID-19 and explore possibilities for collaboration and scientific exchange. Vanessa supported the conference organization—including planning the program and inviting speakers—in a role that required careful attention to detail, and excellent writing and organizational skills.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our thanks to Vanessa Zwisele 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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