

## Certificate of Appreciation

To whom it may concern,

We would like to recognize the outstanding contribution, effort, and dedication of Melody Bechler to our team as a volunteer Expert research assistant for the CoronaNet Research Project. Melody was active with our project from 2021-06-21 to 2022-08-22 and, in that time, coded and updated policy information for Croatia. Without the support of our dedicated RAs, such as Melody Bechler, 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](http://www.coronanet-project.org).

Melody has been a country expert for Croatia. This role involves researching and creating a comprehensive overview of government policies enacted in Croatia 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 Melody. 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, Melody took on the following additional roles within CoronaNet:

- Melody participated in a credit-bearing internship through Nazarbayev University (Kazakhstan), earning 6 ECTS credits. Through an internship, Research Assistants get an insight into, and contribute to, special projects and managerial aspects of CoronaNet, working closely with members of the international team. Interns are expected to contribute 120-140 hours of independent work towards CoronaNet activities and to show initiative in taking on new tasks and projects.
- Data Integration Advisor: This role involves assessing at least 250 policies and integrating more than 200 policies from other datasets as a research assistant. Data Advisors have gained substantial experience in evaluating and coding external PHSM data into the CoronaNet dataset.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our thanks to Melody Bechler 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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