

Certificate of Appreciation

To whom it may concern,

We would like to recognize the outstanding contribution, effort, and dedication of Ghita Benhayoune to our team as a volunteer Advanced research assistant for the CoronaNet Research Project. Ghita was active with our project from 2020-07-09 to 2022-09-29 and, in that time, coded and updated policy information for Switzerland and Saudi Arabia. Without the support of our dedicated RAs, such as Ghita Benhayoune, 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.

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

- **Internship:** Ghita 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.
- **Data Cleaning:** This role requires Ghita 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.
- Ghita 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.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our thanks to Ghita Benhayoune 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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