

Certificate of Appreciation

To whom it may concern,

We would like to recognize the outstanding contribution, effort, and dedication of Viggo Kalandaridis to our team as a volunteer Advanced research assistant for the CoronaNet Research Project. Viggo was active with our project from 2020-05-18 to 2021-02-21 and, in that time, coded and updated policy information for Sweden. Without the support of our dedicated RAs, such as Viggo Kalandaridis, 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.

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

- TUM Course: Viggo participated in the course ‘Analyzing the Coronavirus Pandemic in Real Time: An Introduction to Evidence-Based Global Public Policy’ course at the Hochschule für Politik at the Technical University of Munich. The course gave students experience in applying quantitative and statistical analyses in order to generate original research to help us better understand the politics of the pandemic. In this course, the concept of ‘evidence-based public policy’ was introduced and explored on the basis of students’ own work to address a variety of questions about the drivers and consequences of the public policies adopted across the globe in response to the pandemic.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our thanks to Viggo Kalandaridis 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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