## Report on Observership Programme Experience

Name: Simona Jakovchevska

**Educational/Work Background:** Master Student in the field of Molecular Biology, Research Assistant at the Research Center for Genetics and Biotechnology "Georgi D. Efremov", Skopje, North Macedonia

**Date of submission:** 30.04.2024; **Place of Stay:** MGZ-Medizinisch Genetisches Zentrum, Munich

In April 2024, I had the privilege of participating in an Observership programme financed by the European Society of Human Genetics (ESHG). This report outlines my experiences and learnings while I was observing the Research and Development department in the mentioned institution. Throughout the programme, I gained valuable insights into different areas of genetics, research methods and clinical practices.

Having the chance of interacting with experts in the field helped me better understand cutting-edge tools such as long read sequencing and liquid biopsy, which are state of the art molecular approaches in diagnosing and/or monitoring treatment responses in patients. These tools were not only essentially used for providing optimal patient care in this company, but also played a crucial role in researching various disease pathomechanisms. In addition to the laboratory approach, I had the opportunity to observe project management and organizing workflows for multiple ongoing projects in the R&D department. This experience taught me several tools and skills for improving teamwork and effectively organizing tasks within multidisciplinary teams. Those two aspects directly apply to my work and gave me motivation for improvement and research ideas. Overall, the programme was immensely helpful in enhancing my knowledge and skills in the field of human genetics.

My experience during the Observership programme was overwhelmingly positive. The host institution fostered a motivating atmosphere for both learning and collaboration. I was particularly impressed by the professionalism and expertise of the staff, who consistently offered guidance and support. Additionally, interacting with the staff enriched my experience, allowing for fruitful discussions and knowledge exchange. Their non selfish advice helped me a lot with writing of my thesis. The cultural immersion in MGZ further enhanced my overall experience, providing a wellrounded learning opportunity.

In conclusion, my participation in the Observership programme financed by the ESHG was a transformative experience. I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to learn from experts in the field and engage with peers from around the world. I am confident that the knowledge, skills and networking acquired during this programme will greatly benefit my future endeavours in the field of human genetics.

Signature:

Simona Jakovchevska