

# ASPHER Report: COVID-19 Situation Reporting across Europe

Week of February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022

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*This is ASPHER's weekly surveillance report. We hope it is complementary to other resources such as ECDC and Our World in Data, where the reader can go for more detailed information. Please give us your feedback: is the presentation helpful to you and your colleagues? What other information would you like to see in it?*

## Key messages

- The overall epidemiological situation in the EU/EEA was characterised by a very high overall case notification rate, although this has been decreasing for two weeks. This decrease has largely been driven by a fall in rates among those under 50 years, where the rates have fallen from very high levels. Case rates among older age groups appear to have stabilised for the EU/EEA overall. However, 15 countries reported increasing trends compared to the previous week among people aged 65 years and above, which may lead to increases in severe disease in the coming weeks. The overall EU/EEA death rate remained elevated but stable. ([link](#))
- The ECDC reviewed the risk of COVID-19 in long-term care facilities. The report concluded that the risk posed in most EU countries is assessed as low-to-moderate for fully vaccinated LTCF residents and high-to-very high for partially vaccinated or unvaccinated LTCF residents. The report recommends rapidly ensuring full vaccination coverage of LTCF residents and all people in contact with them, scaling up testing and tracing capacities (incl. whole genome sequencing), and maintaining measures to prevent the risk of virus introduction into LTCF communities. ([link](#))
- The IHME analysis of the WHO EURO region highlights an Omicron wave moving from west to east that is infecting a large percentage of the population and will subside by April. They expect that the governments relaxing mandates will not lead to an increase in transmission given that the declines in cases are likely due to the exhaustion of susceptible individuals in the population. ([link](#))


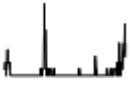





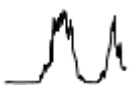




ASPHER is concerned about speculative talk about the 'end of the pandemic'. *Pandemic* is not defined by politicians, or by journalists. The *pandemic* is defined by the World Health Organisation, under strict decision-making process and not as mere opinion. A pandemic is "an epidemic occurring worldwide, or over a very wide area, crossing international boundaries and usually affecting a large number of people". We are still in the midst of the pandemic. We are also concerned at the misuse of the term *endemic* suggesting that COVID-19 has somehow become less serious. *Endemic* assumes there is a certain degree of predictability in the behaviour of the incidence and prevalence of the disease. Nothing enables us to state that there will be no new SARS-COV-2 variants: there is plenty of experience that there will be new variants. Nothing allows to predict what the characteristics of the new variants will be, or the planetary region or time when they will appear. Therefore, we are not in *endemic* conditions, we continue to be in the *pandemic*.


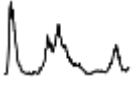


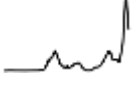
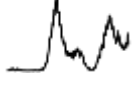






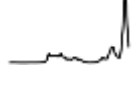

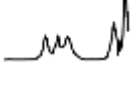
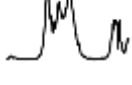
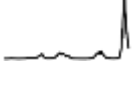

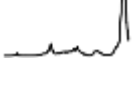

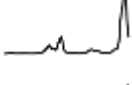

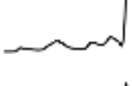

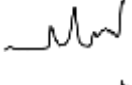



We will not come out of the pandemic until we seriously address the problem globally. We need global solidarity, commitment to [international preparedness](#) and [increased global production of vaccines](#). ASPHER is concerned that many countries are relaxing protections, at a time when there is still substantial transmission of the virus, outbreaks affecting young children, disrupting education and leading to unexpected numbers of children’s hospital admissions, and uncertain threats in terms of long COVID manifestations and late serious illness such as strokes and cardiac events. Hospital services continue to be confronted by high levels of serious infection, although intensive care services seem to be affected to different levels, in different areas.



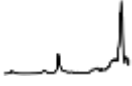





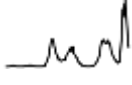

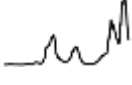

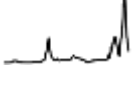



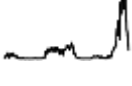



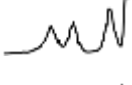







Alongside political initiatives which are throwing away proven measure to control the pandemic, there is the reality with Omicron variant, that primary health care and social care is not coping across Europe. Occupational health services are non- existant in many parts of Europe and therefore unable to address mass sickness absence or support workers in key industries suffering burnout. We urge governments to invest in additional measures to support primary care, social care and occupational health. Protection of our key service workers is a central concern.

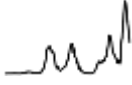




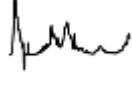






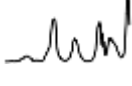



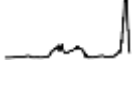

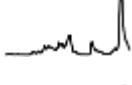



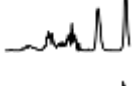





ASPHER supports the [VACCINE-plus approach](#) to pandemic control; or what we have called ‘[COVID-DO IT ALL](#)’. We recognize the importance of following [non-pharmacological interventions](#) as well as achieving a high level of vaccine uptake. Vaccine hesitancy still needs to be understood and addressed especially in Eastern parts of Europe. We need to protect frontline services, protect children, and protect vulnerable people. Current political moves in Europe are adding to the likelihood of increased transmission, creating more pressures on services, more likelihood of additional sickness absence, economic damage, and social disruption. The mindset of the ‘pandemic is over’ will have the dangerous impact of prolonging it.


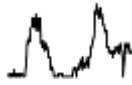

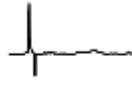
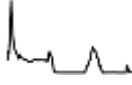
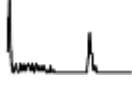
**Rolling 7-day average of latest daily newly confirmed coronavirus cases, deaths, and proportion of people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in the countries of the WHO-Europe region ([data](#)).**

WHO Europe region	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed COVID-19 cases/million people	30-day trend in cases	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed deaths/million people	30-day trend in deaths	Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (%)
Iceland	7,034.94		1.94		78.37
Denmark	5,837.92		5.80		81.56
Estonia	4,417.59		6.36		63.17
Slovakia	3,512.92		4.09		50.22
Georgia	3,048.56		10.95		31.24
Austria	3,026.09		3.22		72.16

WHO Europe region	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed COVID-19 cases/million people	30-day trend in cases	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed deaths/million people	30-day trend in deaths	Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (%)
Netherlands	2,580.85		0.78		71.91
Cyprus	2,479.74		6.22		71.88
Lithuania	2,369.58		6.43		69.49
Germany	2,272.46		2.78		74.52
Switzerland	1,713.96		1.13		68.48
Greece	1,655.81		7.82		72.00
Slovenia	1,628.34		7.83		58.58
Czechia	1,603.80		6.15		63.75
Israel	1,580.58		5.95		65.85
France	1,411.59		4.42		77.39
Portugal	1,326.62		3.85		91.49
Russia	1,138.32		5.20		49.07
Turkey	1,001.01		3.15		62.02
Finland	995.25		2.96		76.03

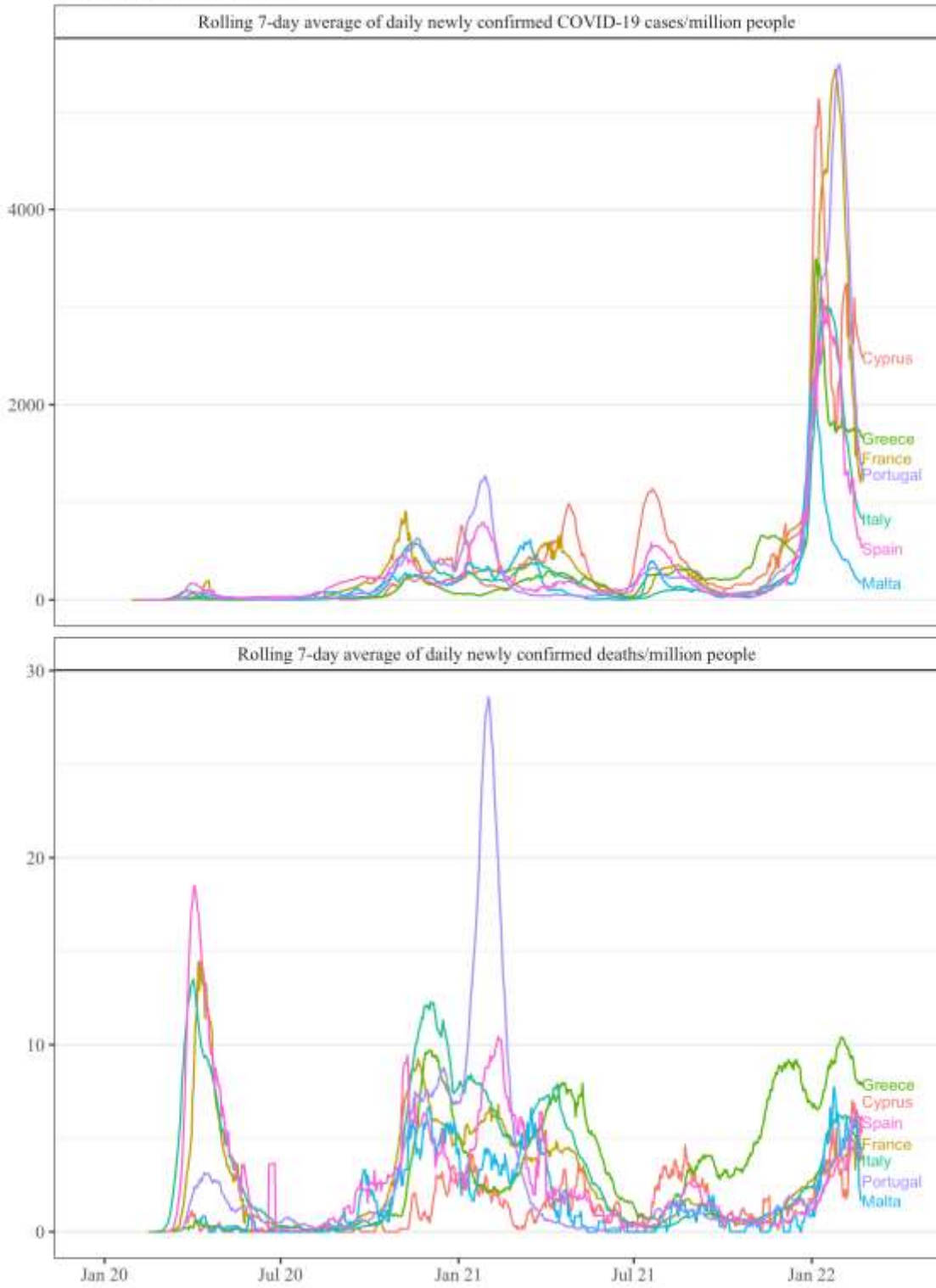
WHO Europe region	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed COVID-19 cases/million people	30-day trend in cases	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed deaths/million people	30-day trend in deaths	Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (%)
Luxembourg	876.97		1.57		68.27
Ireland	860.63		1.78		79.47
Andorra	847.68		1.85		68.79
Italy	826.18		4.33		78.35
Serbia	769.49		8.42		47.43
Croatia	754.49		11.23		54.52
Belgium	740.14		3.22		77.77
Belarus	701.54		1.73		47.63
San Marino	684.67		8.40		64.03
Romania	670.83		7.16		42.06
Ukraine	660.68		5.78		34.96
Monaco	657.90		3.62		64.95
United Kingdom	635.46		2.05		71.70
Hungary	613.81		10.02		63.92

WHO Europe region	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed COVID-19 cases/million people	30-day trend in cases	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed deaths/million people	30-day trend in deaths	Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (%)
Bulgaria	572.06		11.58		29.58
Poland	547.56		6.21		58.52
Spain	528.42		5.28		83.12
Montenegro	495.18		6.37		44.55
Armenia	391.25		7.36		29.55
North Macedonia	388.03		9.88		39.93
Azerbaijan	352.12		2.44		46.68
Moldova	344.11		5.47		25.66
Sweden	313.32		4.98		74.55
Malta	171.06		1.66		89.49
Bosnia and Herzegovina	159.38		10.29		25.93
Kosovo	147.98		1.92		45.63
Albania	97.66		1.54		41.37
Kazakhstan	49.21		0.57		47.07

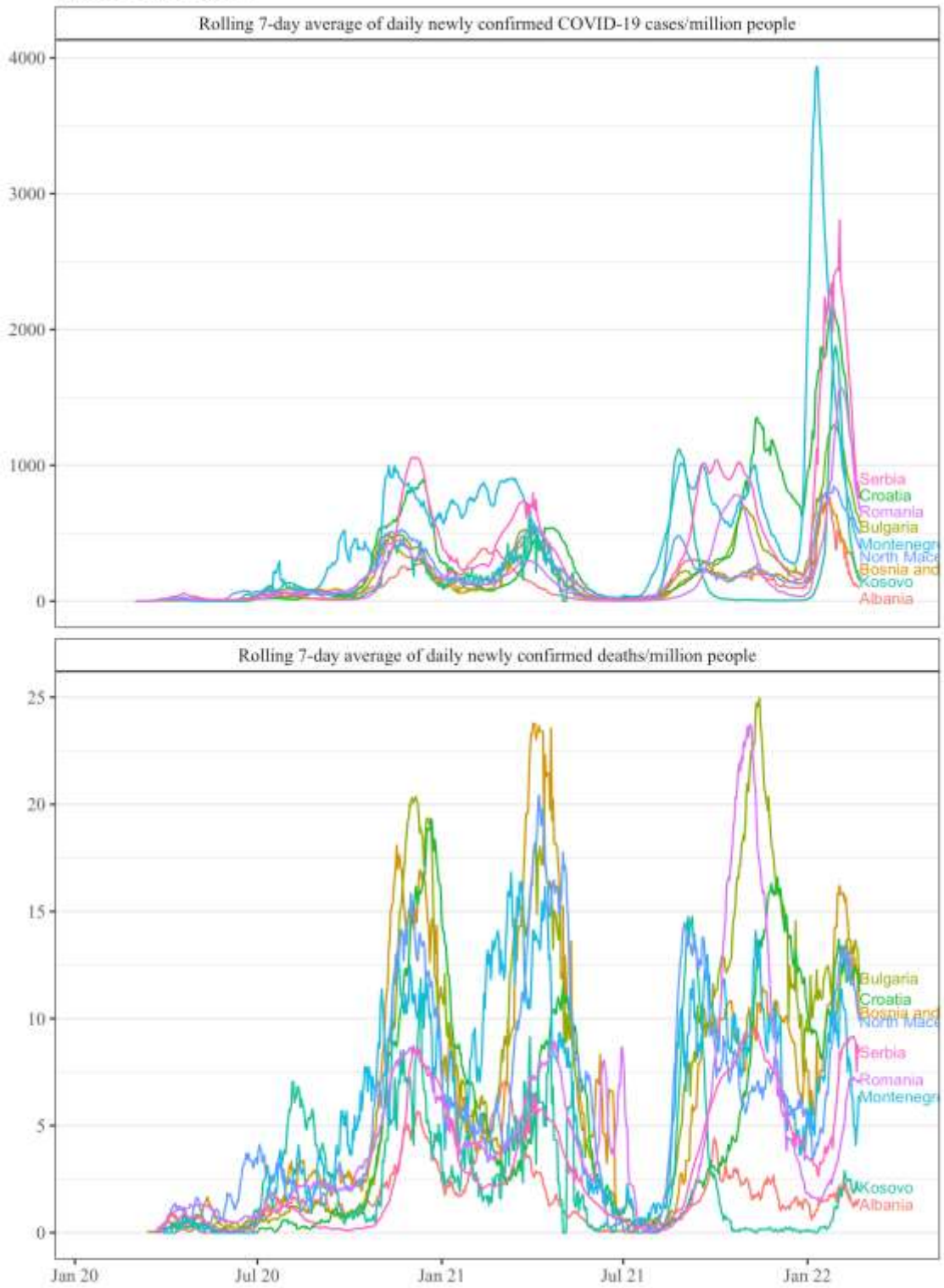
WHO Europe region	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed COVID-19 cases/million people	30-day trend in cases	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed deaths/million people	30-day trend in deaths	Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (%)
Uzbekistan	6.48		0.07		37.91
Kyrgyzstan	5.32		0.32		17.27
Tajikistan	0.09		0.00		39.71

Rolling 7-day average of daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases and daily new confirmed COVID-19 deaths in sub-regions of Europe ([data](#)).

### Mediterranean region

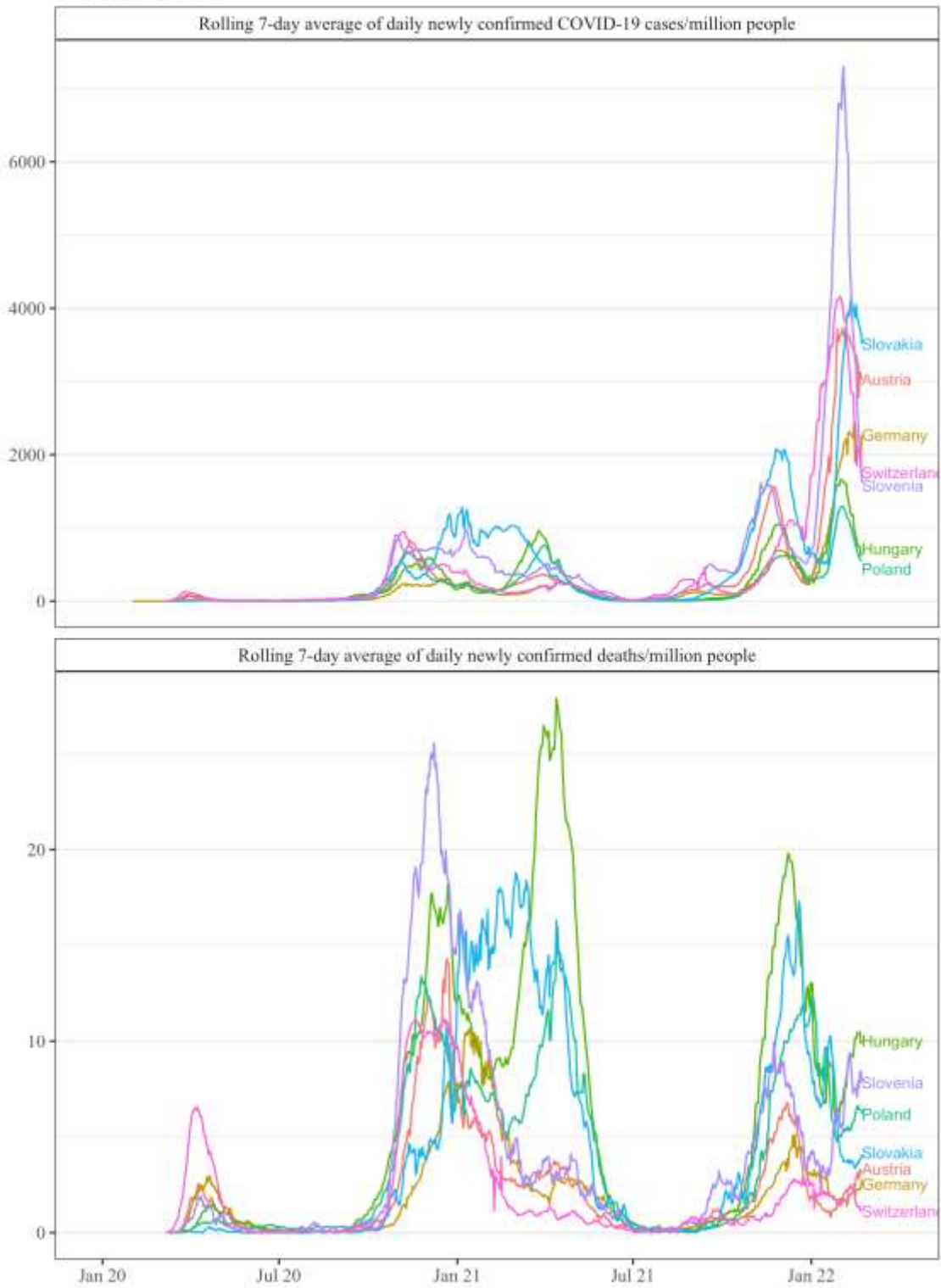


## South-East region

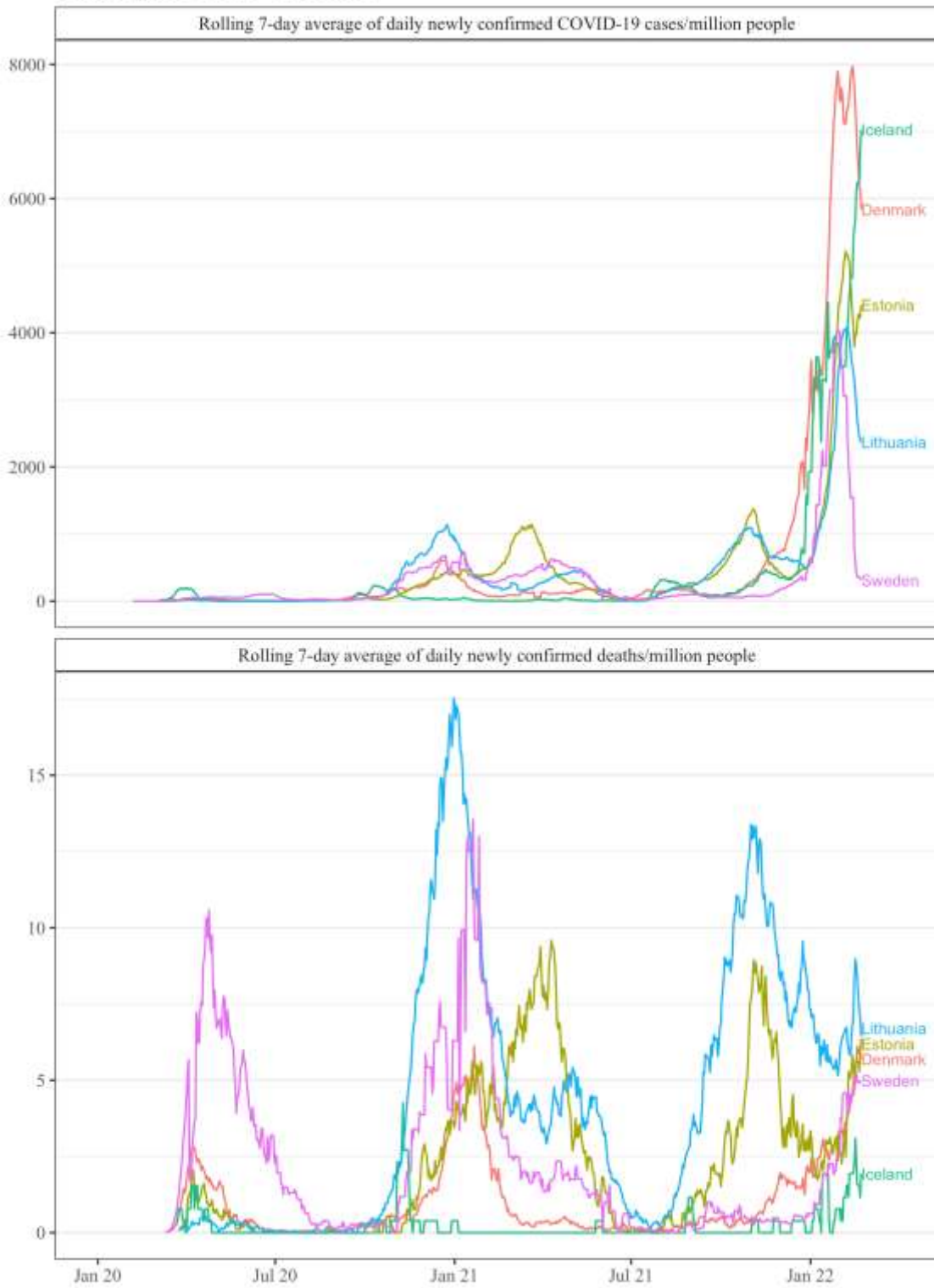




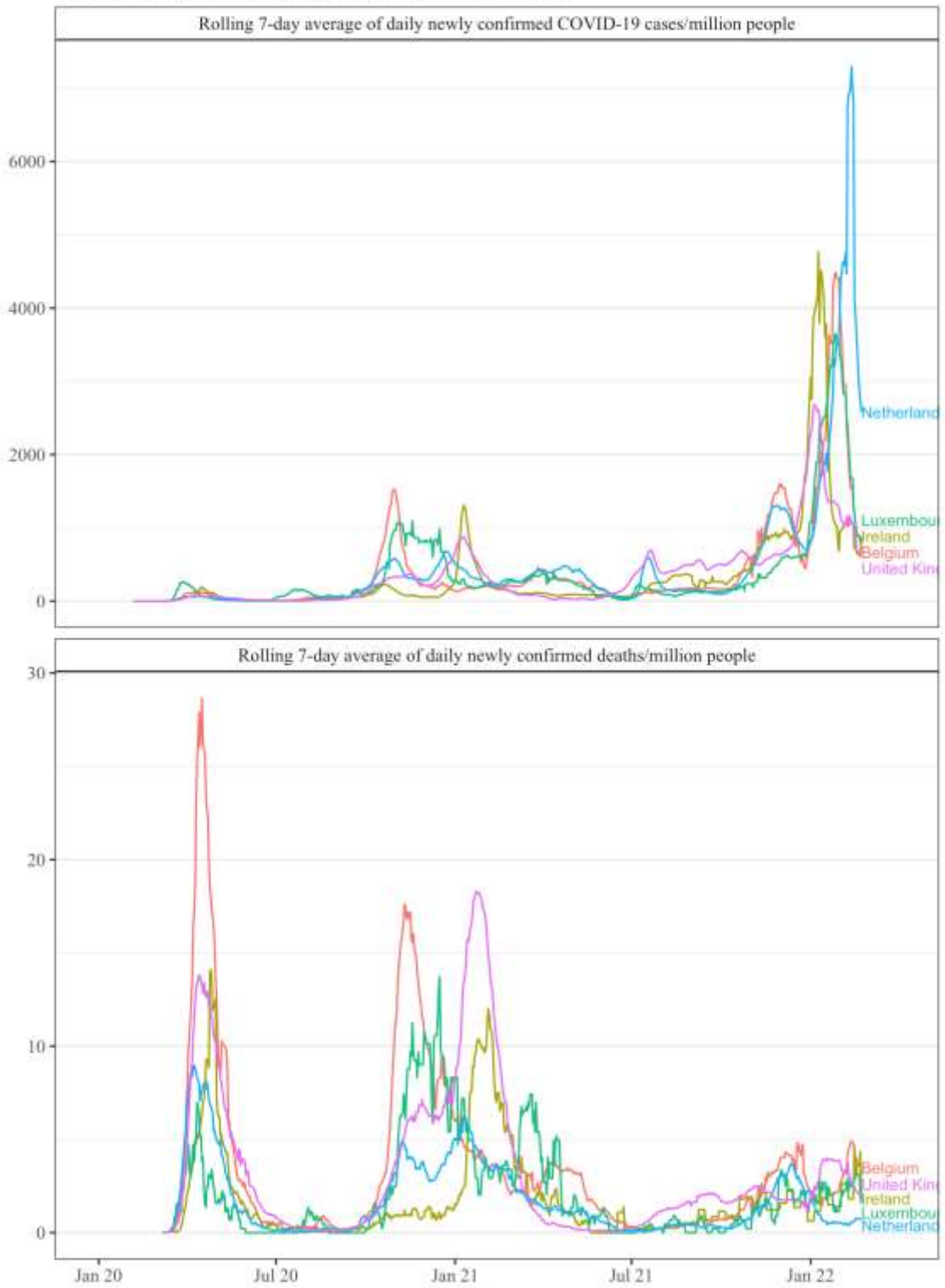
## Central Europe



## Baltics and Nordic Countries



### North-Western Europe (excl. UK and Ireland)



## Central Asia

