

# ASPHER Report: COVID-19 Situation Reporting across Europe

Week of February 28<sup>th</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. ([link](#))
- 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. ([link](#))
- Ongoing changes in testing strategies in some countries, including reduced population testing and a focus on severe cases, affect the reliability and comparability of reported all-age case rates as an indicator. ([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*.




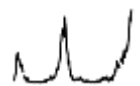

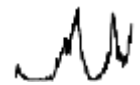

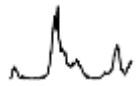




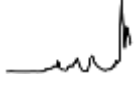

We will not come out of the pandemic until we seriously address the problem globally. We need global solidarity, commitment to [international preparedness](#) and [increased global production of vaccines](#). ASPHER is concerned that many countries are relaxing protections, at a time when there is still 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




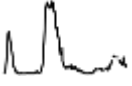
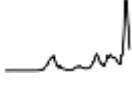

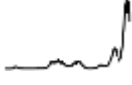







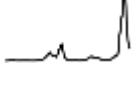
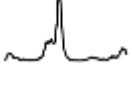
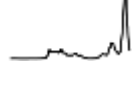


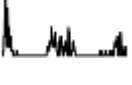
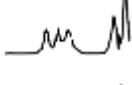



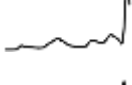

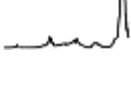

late serious illness such as strokes and cardiac events. Hospital services continue to be confronted by high levels of serious infection, although intensive care services seem to be affected to different levels, in different areas.



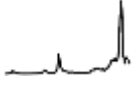
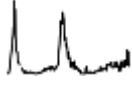






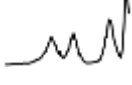



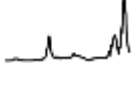


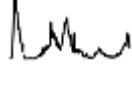


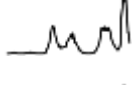

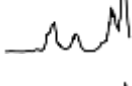



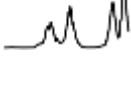

Alongside political initiatives which are throwing away proven measure to control the pandemic, there is the reality with Omicron variant, that primary health care and social care is not coping across Europe. Occupational health services are non-existent in many parts of Europe and therefore unable to 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.



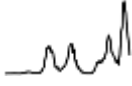



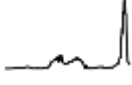

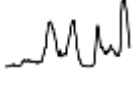

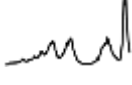





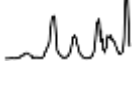

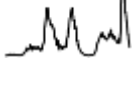









ASPHER supports the [VACCINE-plus approach](#) to pandemic control; or what we have called '[COVID-DO IT ALL](#)'. We recognize the importance of following [non-pharmacological interventions](#) as well as achieving a high level of vaccine uptake. Vaccine hesitancy still needs to be understood and addressed 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.



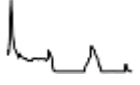

**Rolling 7-day average of latest daily newly confirmed coronavirus cases, deaths, and proportion of people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in the countries of the WHO-Europe region ([data](#)).**

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	8,179.99		1.94		78.49
Denmark	3,587.46		6.73		81.58
Estonia	3,351.98		7.44		63.33
Austria	2,978.89		3.32		72.57
Slovakia	2,861.43		6.58		50.42
Netherlands	2,465.28		0.70		71.93
Cyprus	2,114.62		4.30		72.02

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 (%)
Lithuania	1,895.27		8.18		69.53
Switzerland	1,755.53		1.08		68.66
Georgia	1,670.95		9.55		31.34
Germany	1,614.24		1.90		74.79
Greece	1,408.59		5.91		72.35
Luxembourg	1,012.00		1.35		71.85
Israel	1,011.41		2.77		65.88
Portugal	946.16		2.70		92.51
Slovenia	880.35		5.64		58.61
San Marino	869.49		0.00		64.22
Czechia	852.54		4.66		63.83
Finland	823.41		1.31		76.11
Russia	809.83		5.21		49.07
France	807.87		2.76		77.56

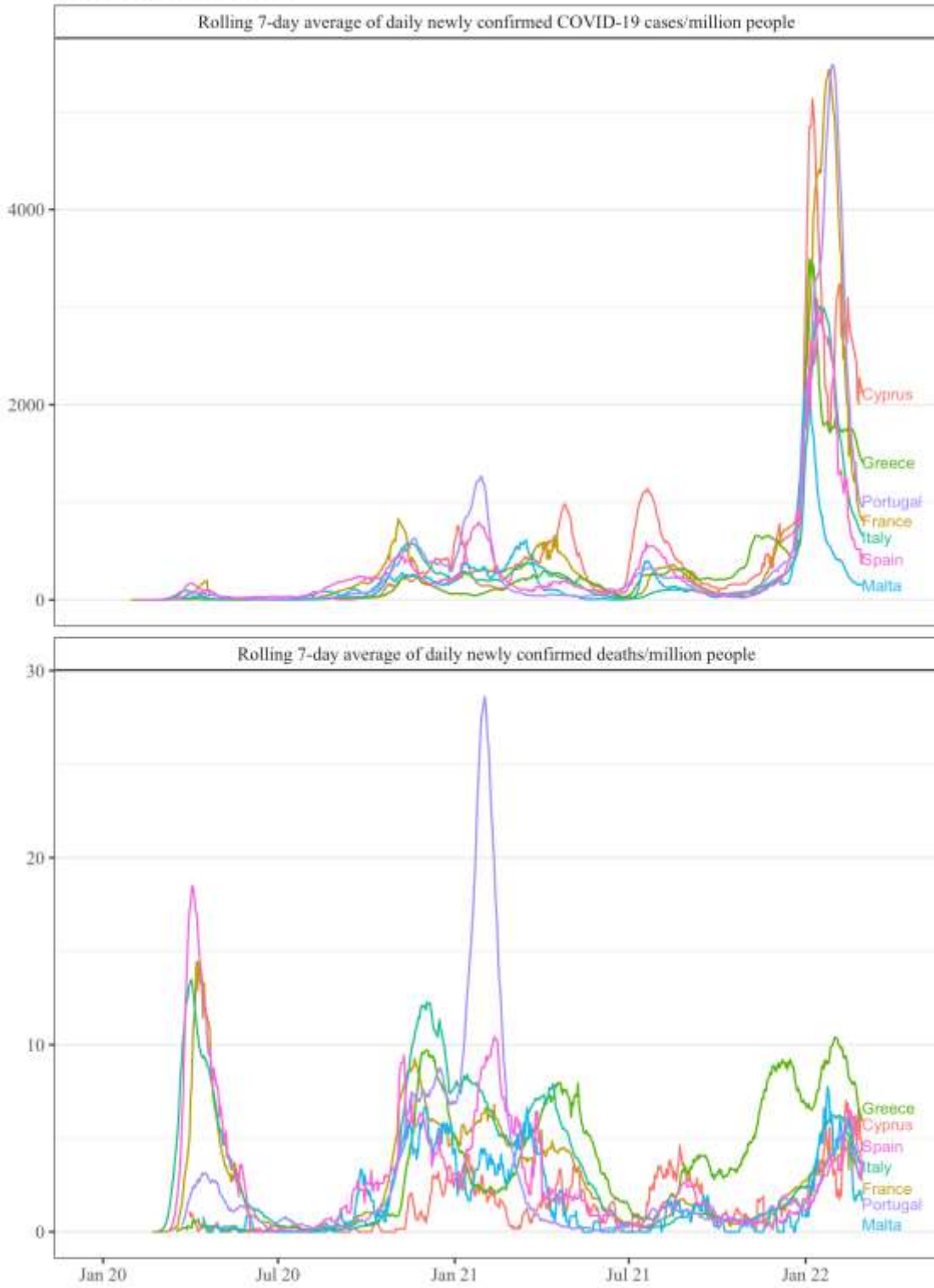
WHO Europe region	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed COVID-19 cases/million people	30-day trend in cases	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed deaths/million people	30-day trend in deaths	Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (%)
Turkey	795.84		2.79		62.11
Ireland	678.38		1.60		79.70
Italy	651.67		3.52		78.70
Monaco	643.44		0.00		64.95
Andorra	637.14		0.00		68.84
Ukraine	615.18		5.79		35.02
United Kingdom	611.56		1.71		71.86
Belgium	531.44		1.95		78.05
Spain	476.42		3.81		83.52
Belarus	471.62		1.53		49.06
Serbia	450.60		6.69		47.49
Croatia	441.31		6.86		54.64
Romania	417.16		5.52		42.13
Hungary	395.96		9.21		64.05

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 (%)
Poland	369.71		5.40		58.75
Bulgaria	347.17		8.12		29.67
Montenegro	259.53		2.96		44.61
Sweden	236.46		4.34		74.69
North Macedonia	228.49		6.17		39.98
Moldova	192.06		3.27		25.85
Armenia	175.48		5.97		31.03
Malta	147.26		1.66		89.75
Azerbaijan	121.54		2.21		46.68
Bosnia and Herzegovina	94.16		4.73		25.93
Kosovo	72.31		1.04		45.78
Albania	62.01		1.04		41.64
Kazakhstan	21.55		0.56		47.34
Uzbekistan	3.78		0.06		38.78

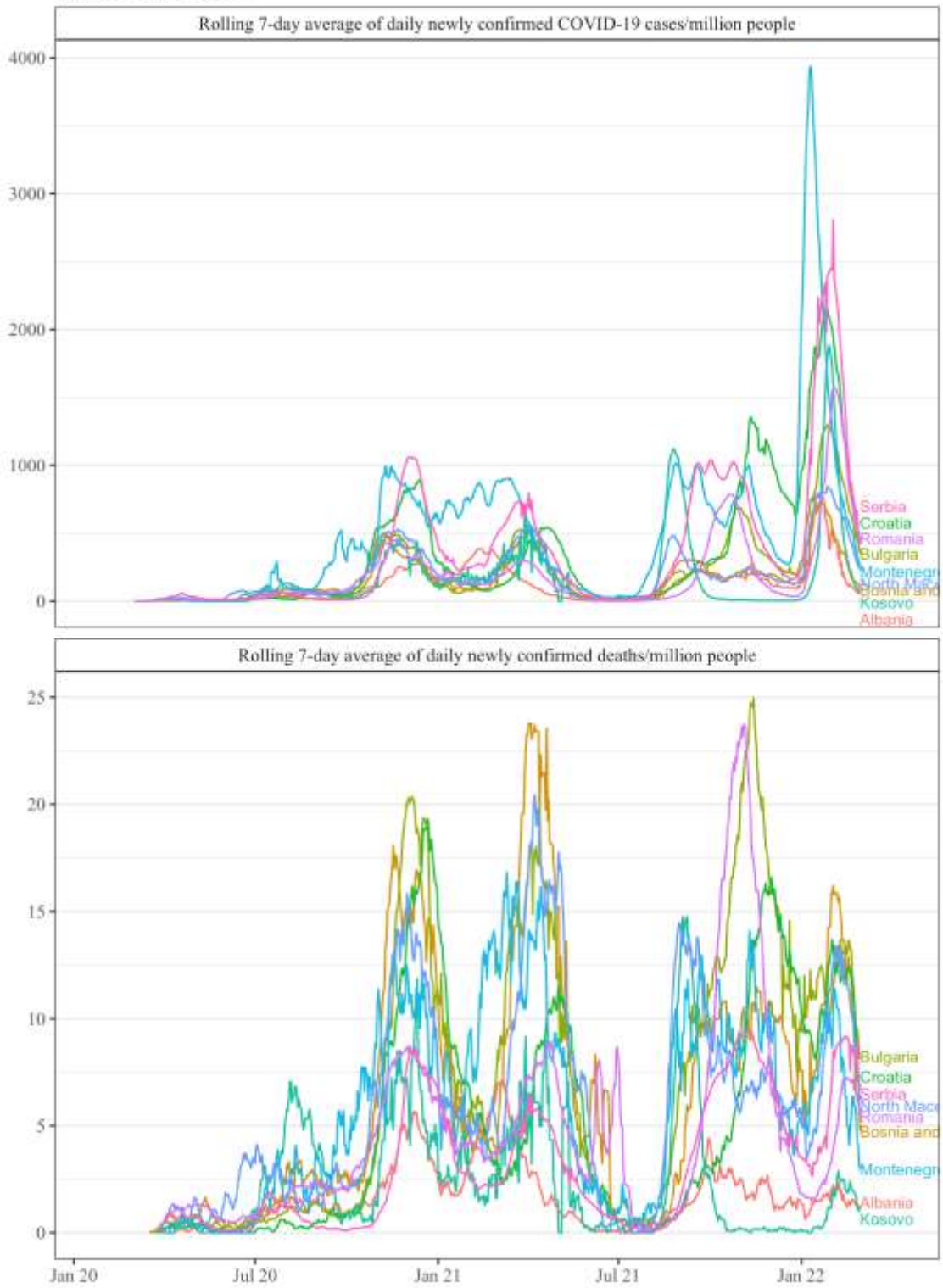
WHO Europe region	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed COVID-19 cases/million people	30-day trend in cases	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed deaths/million people	30-day trend in deaths	Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (%)
Kyrgyzstan	3.43		0.24		17.62
Tajikistan	0.00		0.00		42.13

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

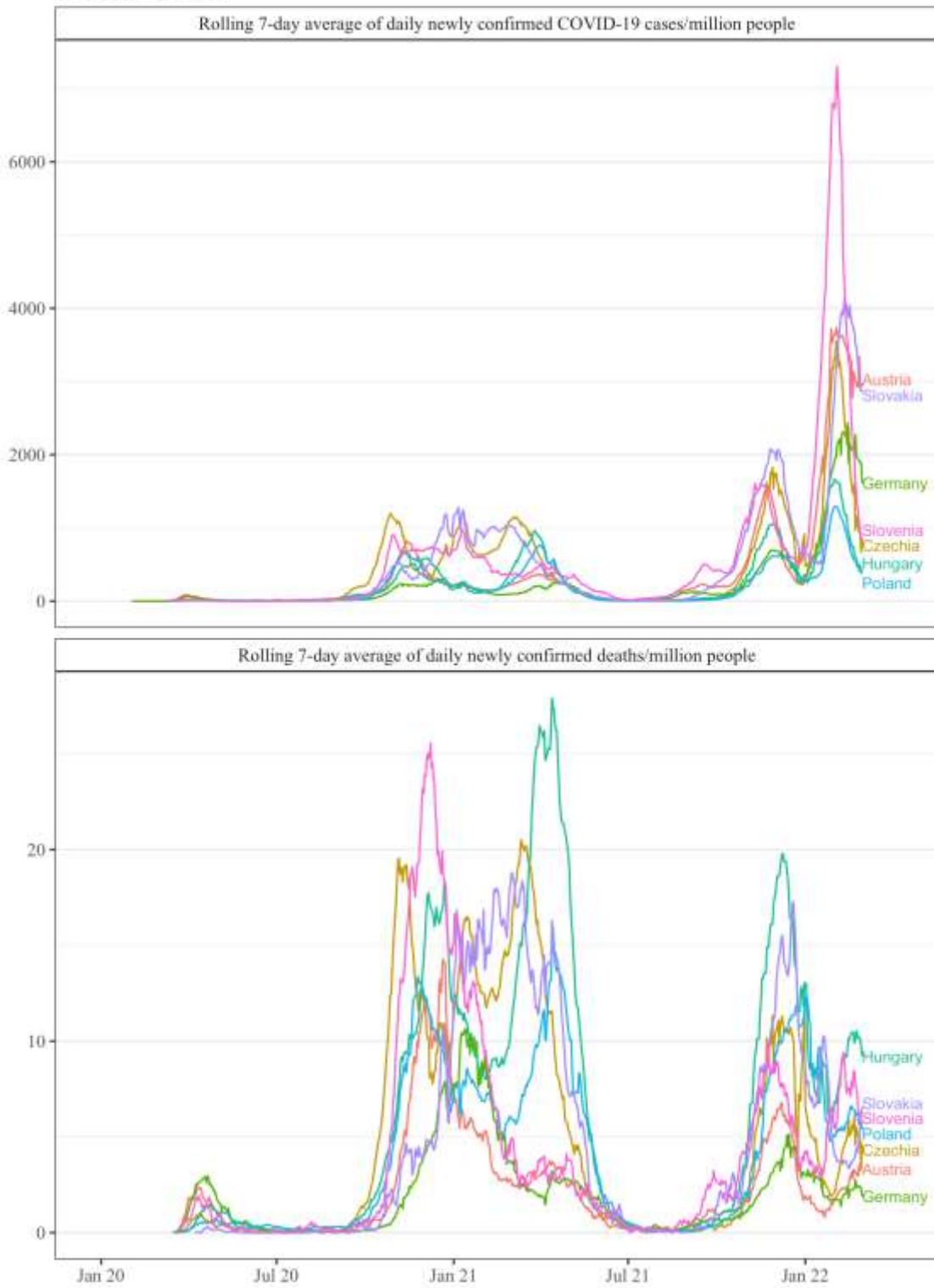


## South-East region

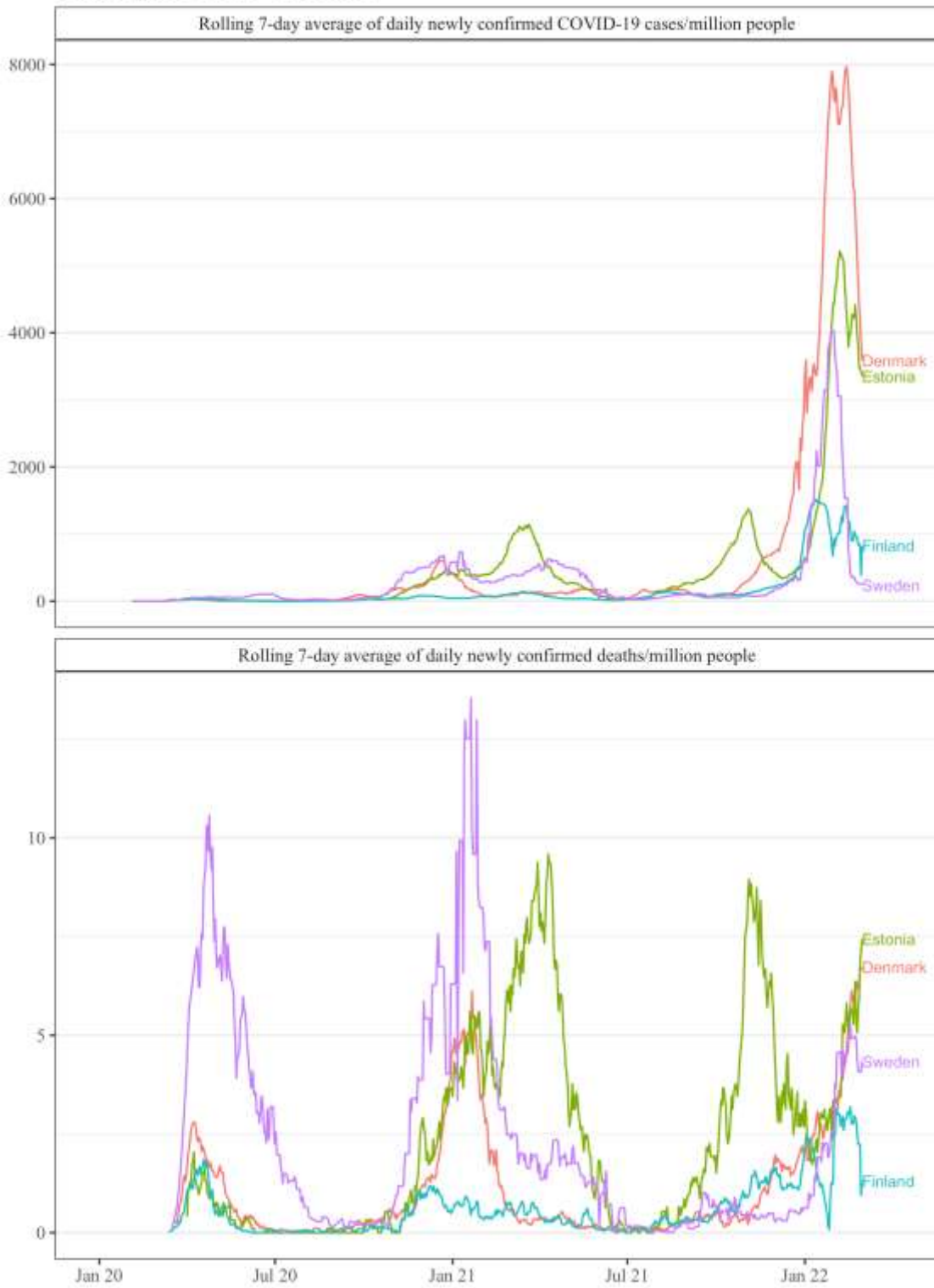




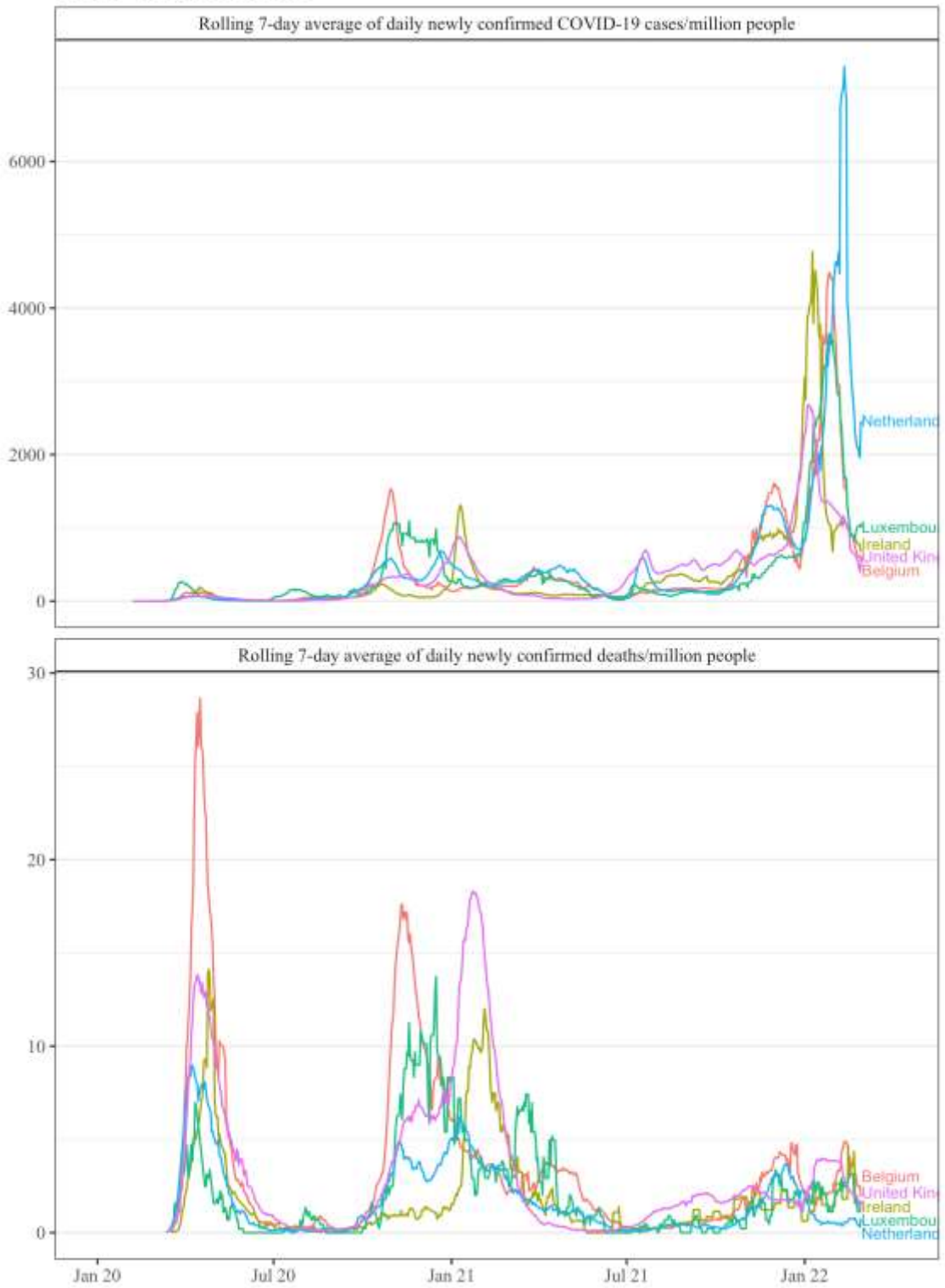
## Central Europe



## Baltics and Nordic Countries



## North-Western Europe



## Central Asia

