

ASPHER Report: COVID-19 Situation Reporting across Europe

Week of March 7th, 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

- Compared to the previous week, the number of the number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths has continued to decline globally by 5% and 8% respectively. The European region experienced an 18% decline in cases and a 15% decline in new COVID-19 deaths. ([link](#))
- The EU/EEA experienced a high but sharply decreasing overall case notification rate. All countries reported a decreasing case notification rate when compared with the previous week. An impact on mortality is being observed, with increasing trends in death rates forecast in 11 countries in the next two weeks. Increasing case rates among those aged 65 years and older were reported by seven countries, and this age shift has led to a gradual increase in the proportion of Omicron cases reporting severe outcomes. ([link](#))
- The ECDC has started monitoring a new recombinant variant between Delta and Omicron. There have been several reports of recombinants between Delta and Omicron from several countries, which likely emerged during the period of co-circulation of Omicron and Delta in late 2021 and early 2022. This recombinant reported by the UK has the largest spread of these recombinants but has so far only been detected in small numbers and has not been detected outside of the UK. There is no suspicion that it is associated with any changes in transmissibility, immunity, or severity. ([link](#), [link](#))


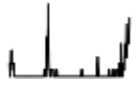


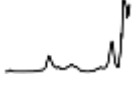

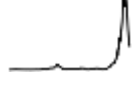

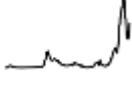
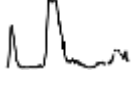
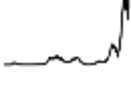

ASPHER is concerned about speculative talk about the 'end of the pandemic'. *Pandemic* is not defined by politicians, or by journalists. The *pandemic* is defined by the World Health Organisation, under strict decision-making process and not as mere opinion. A pandemic is "an epidemic occurring worldwide, 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*.


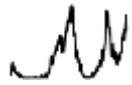




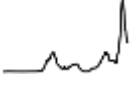









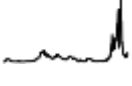
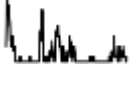
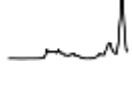

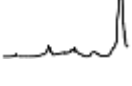

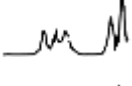

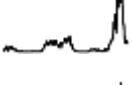

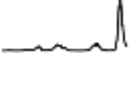

We will not come out of the pandemic until we seriously address the problem globally. We need global solidarity, commitment to [international preparedness](#) and [increased global production of vaccines](#). ASPHER is concerned that many countries are relaxing protections, at a time when there is still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


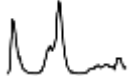




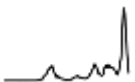


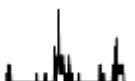



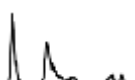
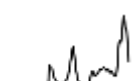



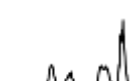



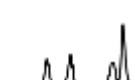




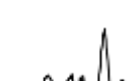
Alongside political initiatives which are throwing away proven measure to control the pandemic, there is the reality with Omicron variant, that primary health care and social care is not coping across Europe. Occupational health services are non- existant in many parts of Europe and therefore unable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

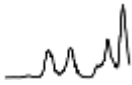









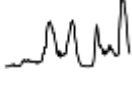

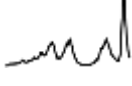

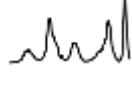



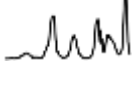








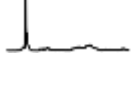
ASPHER supports the [VACCINE-plus approach](#) to pandemic control; or what we have called ‘[COVID-DO IT ALL](#)’. We recognize the importance of following [non-pharmacological interventions](#) as well as achieving a high level of vaccine uptake. Vaccine hesitancy still needs to be understood and addressed 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	6,684.37		3.10		78.49
Netherlands	3,658.37		0.45		71.95
Austria	3,480.52		3.63		72.67
Denmark	2,662.96		7.35		81.58
Switzerland	2,557.97		1.08		68.71
Germany	2,300.97		2.97		74.93

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 (%)
Estonia	2,298.76		6.25		63.42
Cyprus	2,234.52		4.14		72.02
Slovakia	2,154.92		5.77		50.53
Lithuania	1,690.16		8.18		69.55
Finland	1,451.78		5.28		76.36
Greece	1,367.80		5.36		72.82
Portugal	1,113.45		2.28		92.57
Luxembourg	1,113.04		1.57		71.85
Andorra	1,006.50		1.85		68.84
Slovenia	856.02		3.85		58.64
France	810.08		2.21		77.66
Czechia	727.88		4.01		63.86
San Marino	701.47		0.00		64.22
Israel	698.08		1.60		65.90

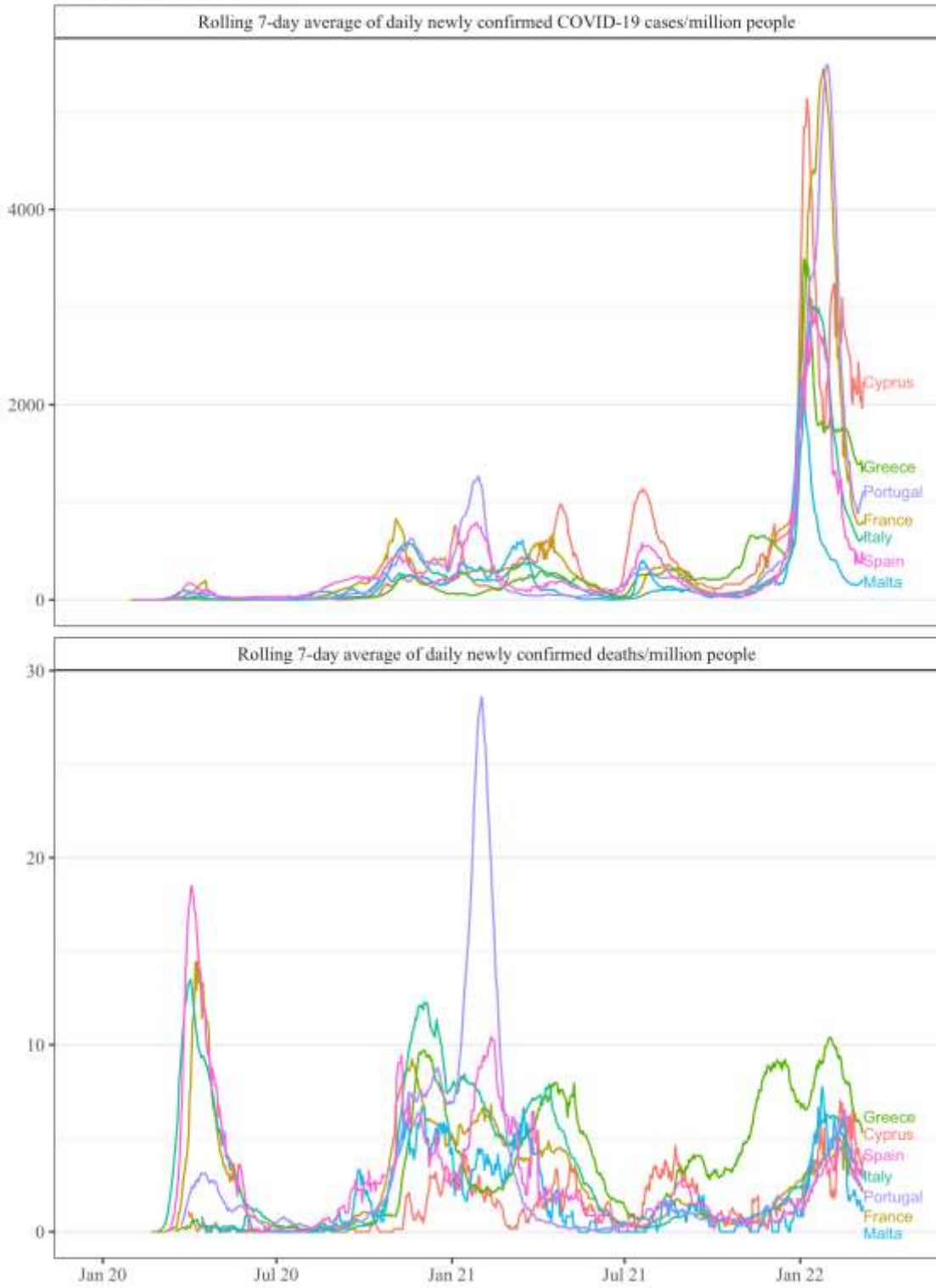
WHO Europe region	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed COVID-19 cases/million people	30-day trend in cases	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed deaths/million people	30-day trend in deaths	Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (%)
United Kingdom	679.38		1.53		72.00
Ireland	665.88		1.81		79.94
Italy	661.56		2.84		78.88
Georgia	601.11		8.29		31.40
Monaco	578.37		0.00		64.95
Russia	566.05		4.96		49.43
Belgium	556.10		1.40		78.16
Turkey	464.13		1.95		62.16
Spain	377.39		2.98		83.65
Serbia	344.61		4.32		47.52
Croatia	317.03		5.22		54.69
Poland	304.12		4.47		58.87
Hungary	262.52		6.58		64.11
Romania	261.14		3.85		42.19

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	249.56		6.77		29.72
Malta	212.86		1.38		89.91
Sweden	177.18		4.32		74.74
Belarus	176.79		1.53		49.06
Montenegro	171.05		1.59		44.67
North Macedonia	162.43		4.80		39.98
Moldova	128.16		2.48		25.95
Armenia	66.66		3.56		31.03
Bosnia and Herzegovina	55.33		5.25		25.93
Azerbaijan	45.48		1.52		46.91
Albania	31.58		0.55		41.73
Kosovo	29.74		0.40		45.88
Kazakhstan	10.32		0.25		47.44
Kyrgyzstan	2.82		0.22		17.86

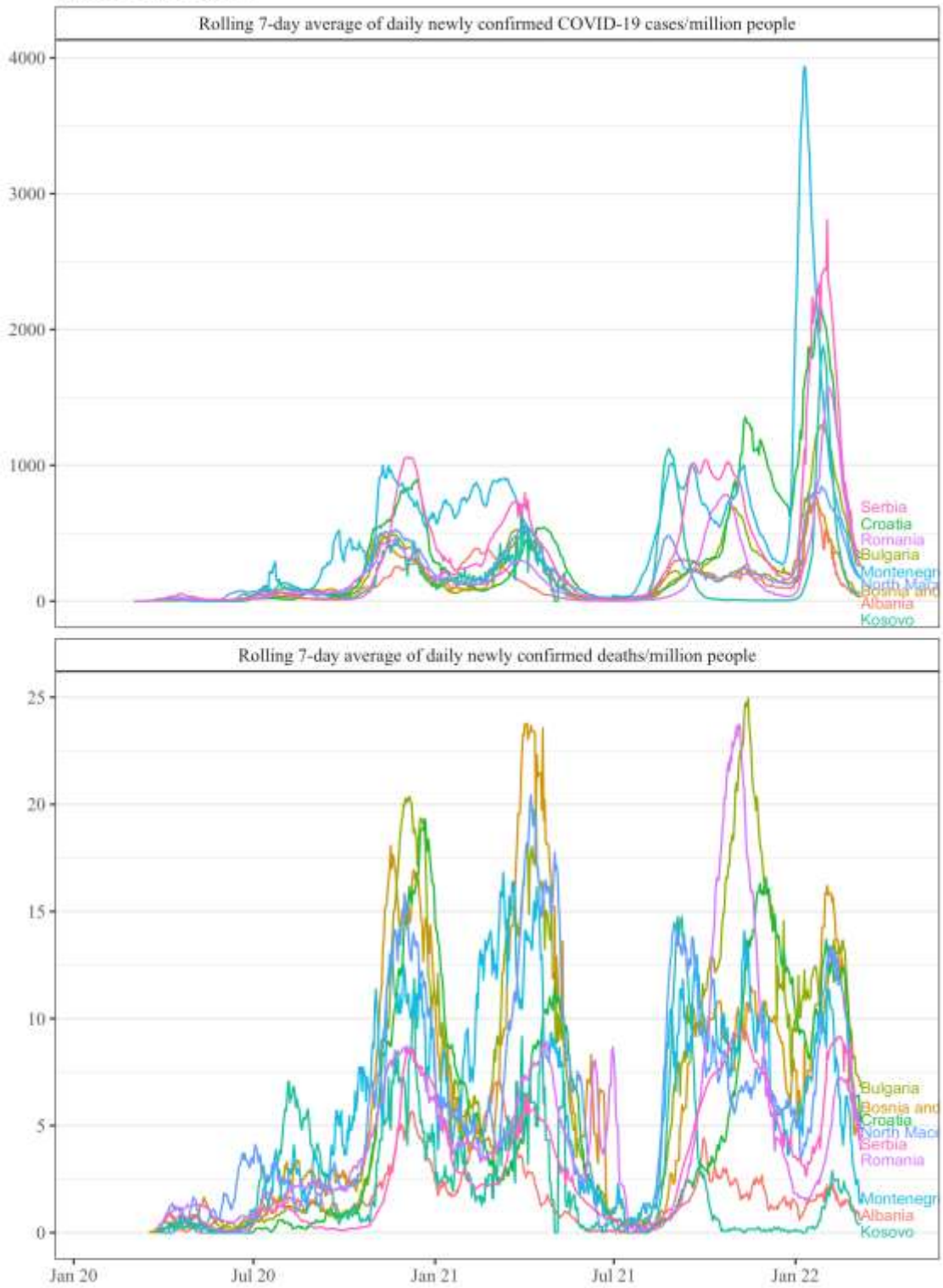
WHO Europe region	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed COVID-19 cases/million people	30-day trend in cases	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed deaths/million people	30-day trend in deaths	Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (%)
Uzbekistan	2.08		0.00		38.78
Tajikistan	0.00		0.00		42.13
Ukraine	0.00		0.00		35.02

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

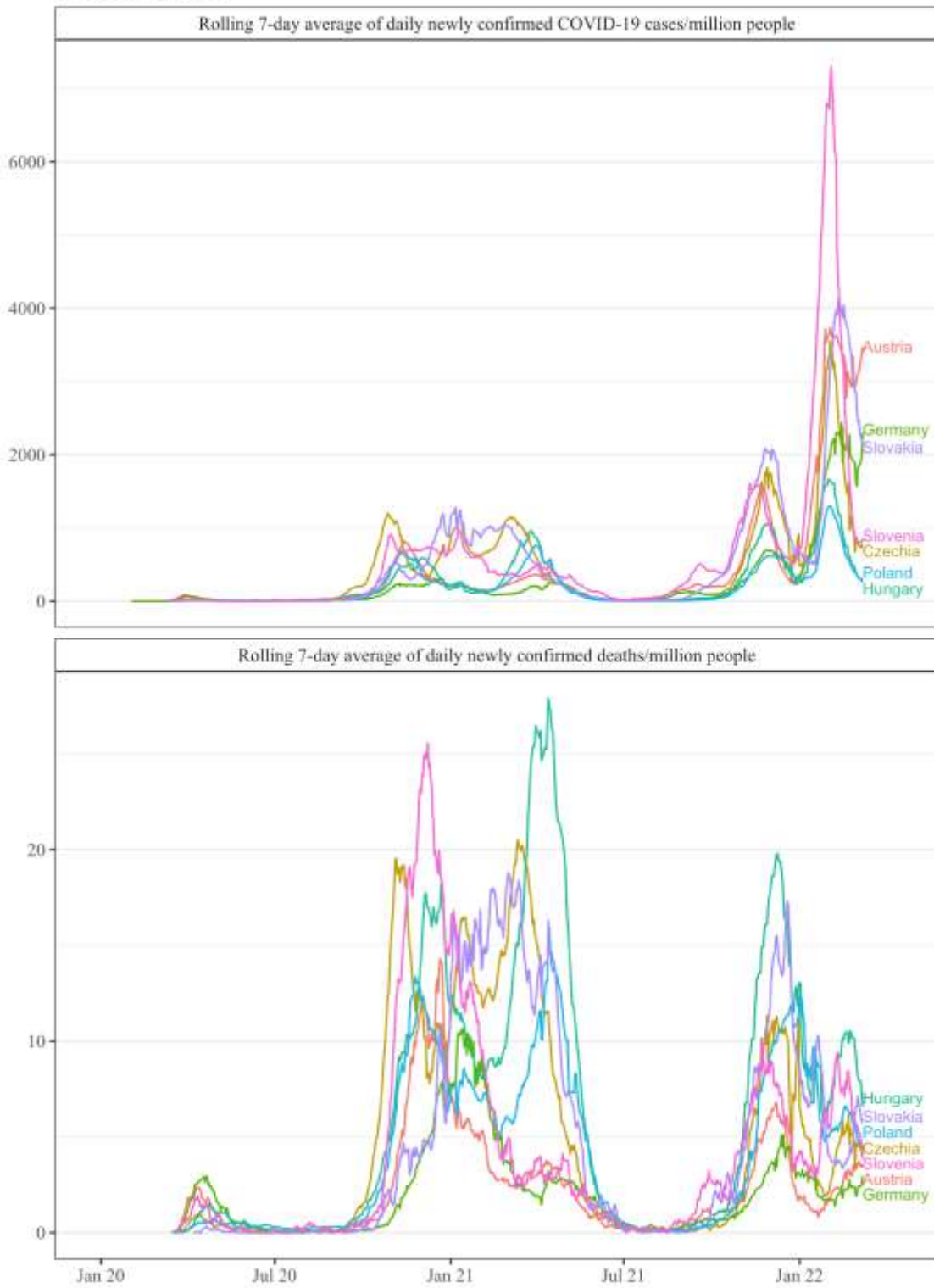
Mediterranean region



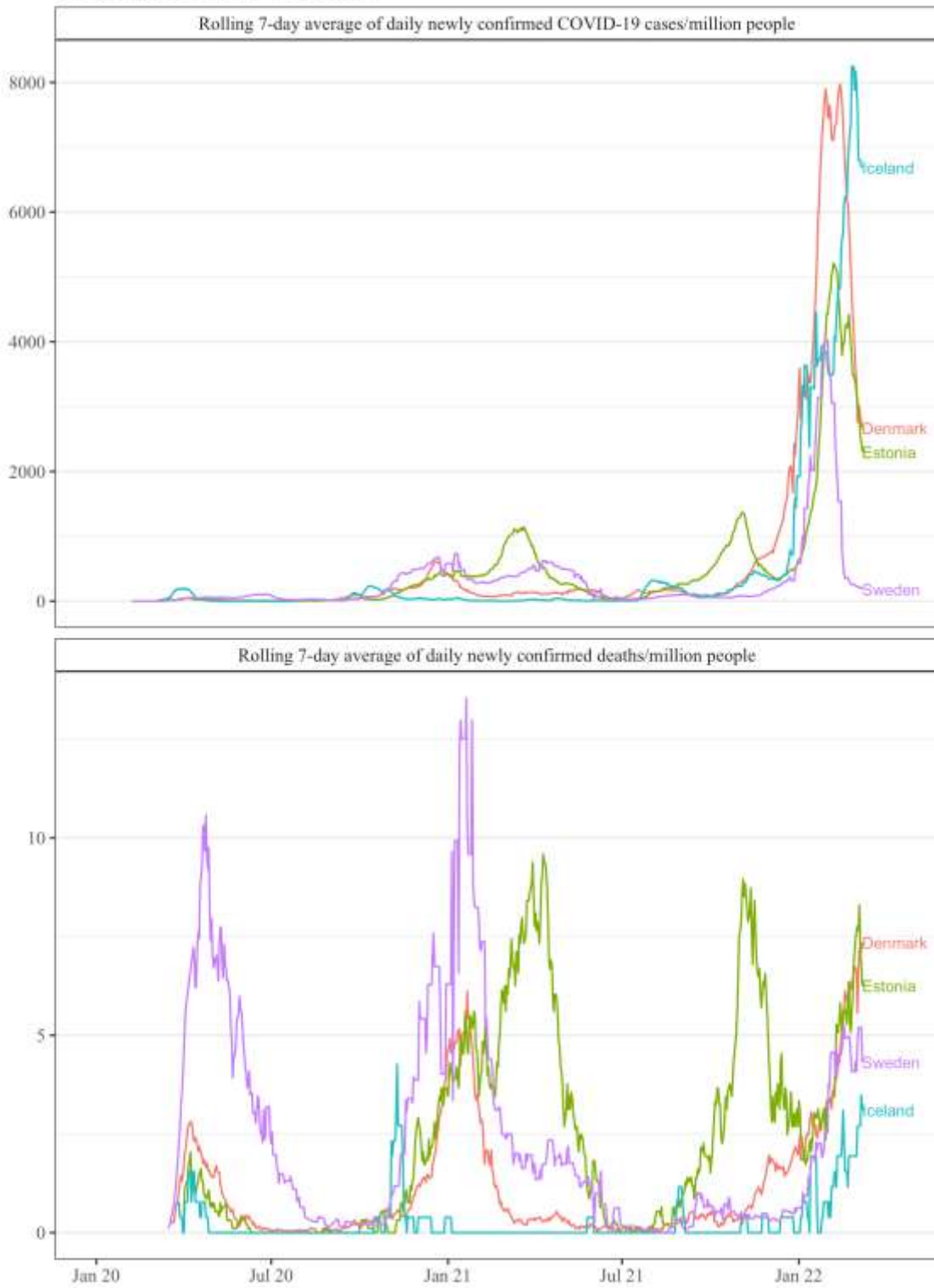
South-East region



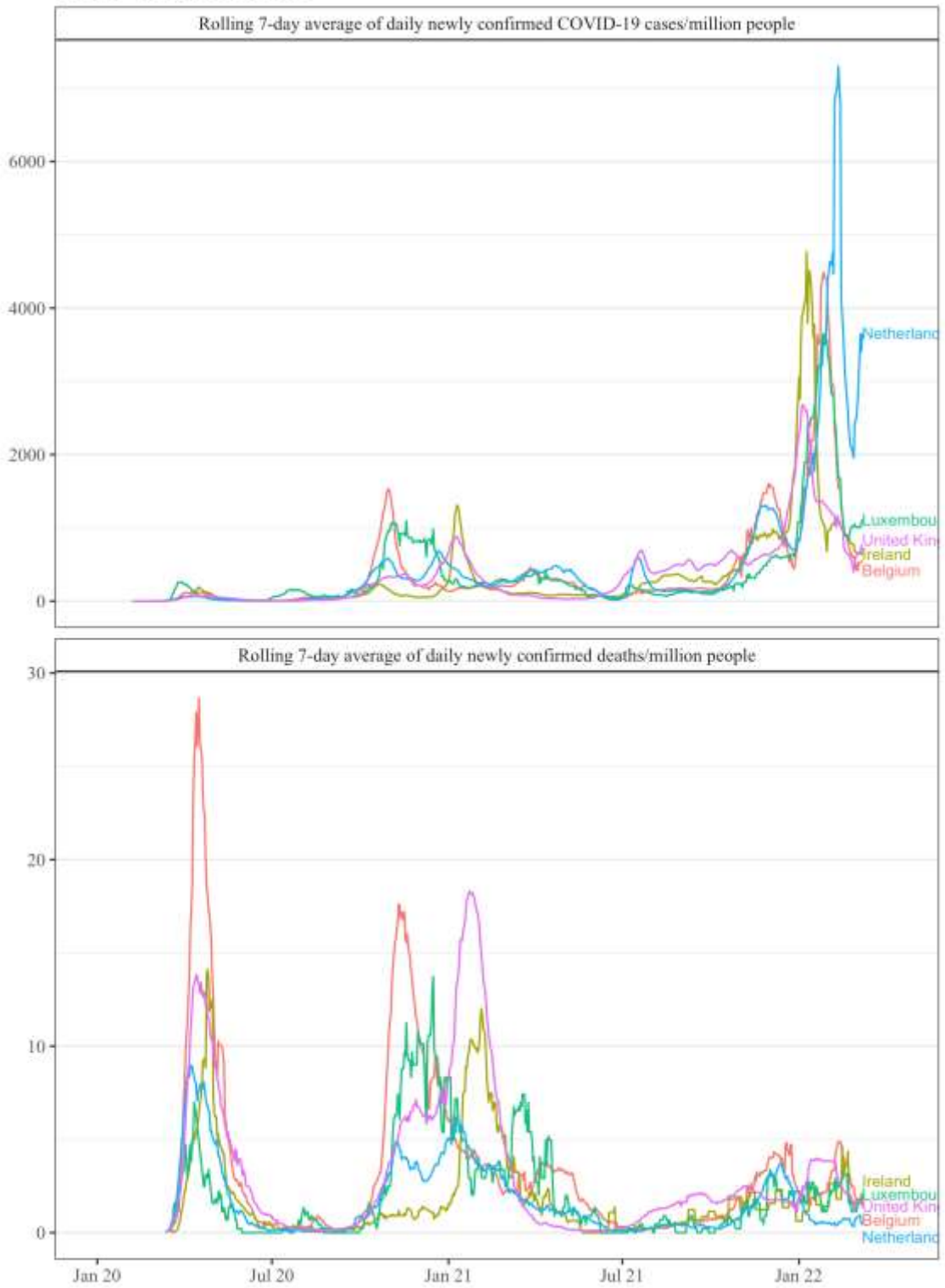
Central Europe



Baltics and Nordic Countries



North-Western Europe



Central Asia

