

ASPHER Report: COVID-19 Situation Reporting across Europe

Week of April 18th, 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

- Due to the holidays in Europe, the ECDC and WHO epidemiological updates have not been produced as this compilation was being prepared.
- The [latest IHME modelling](#) indicates that the BA.2 surge is ending in Europe. Mask wearing globally is below 25%, the lowest since the institute began tracking this indicator. They recommend sharing antivirals and vaccines, maintaining surveillance to detect new variants, and for those at high risk of severe illness to continue wearing a face mask and avoid large crowds.

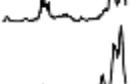
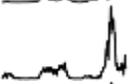
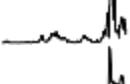
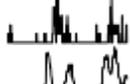
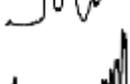
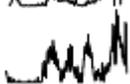
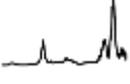
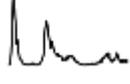
ASPHER is concerned about speculative talk about the 'end of the pandemic'. *Pandemic* is not defined by politicians, or by journalists. The *pandemic* is defined by the World Health Organisation, under strict decision-making process and not as mere opinion. A pandemic is "an epidemic occurring worldwide,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

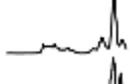
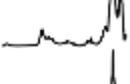
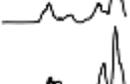
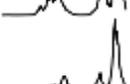
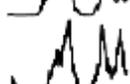
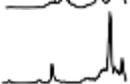
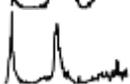
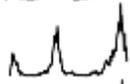
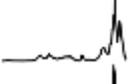
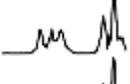
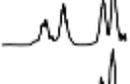
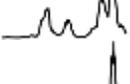
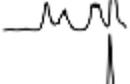
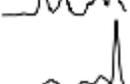
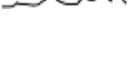
We will not come out of the pandemic until we seriously address the problem globally. We need global solidarity, commitment to [international preparedness](#) and [increased global production of vaccines](#). ASPHER is concerned that many countries are relaxing protections, at a time when there is still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

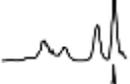
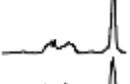
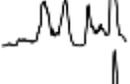
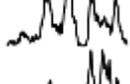
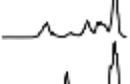
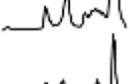
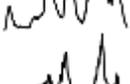
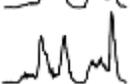
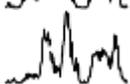
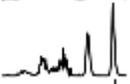
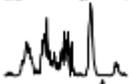
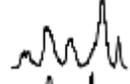
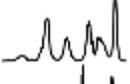
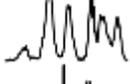
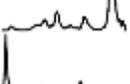
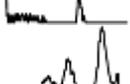
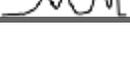
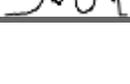
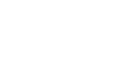
Alongside political initiatives which are throwing away proven measure to control the pandemic, there is the reality with Omicron variant, that primary health care and social care is not coping across Europe. Occupational health services are non- existant in many parts of Europe and therefore unable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

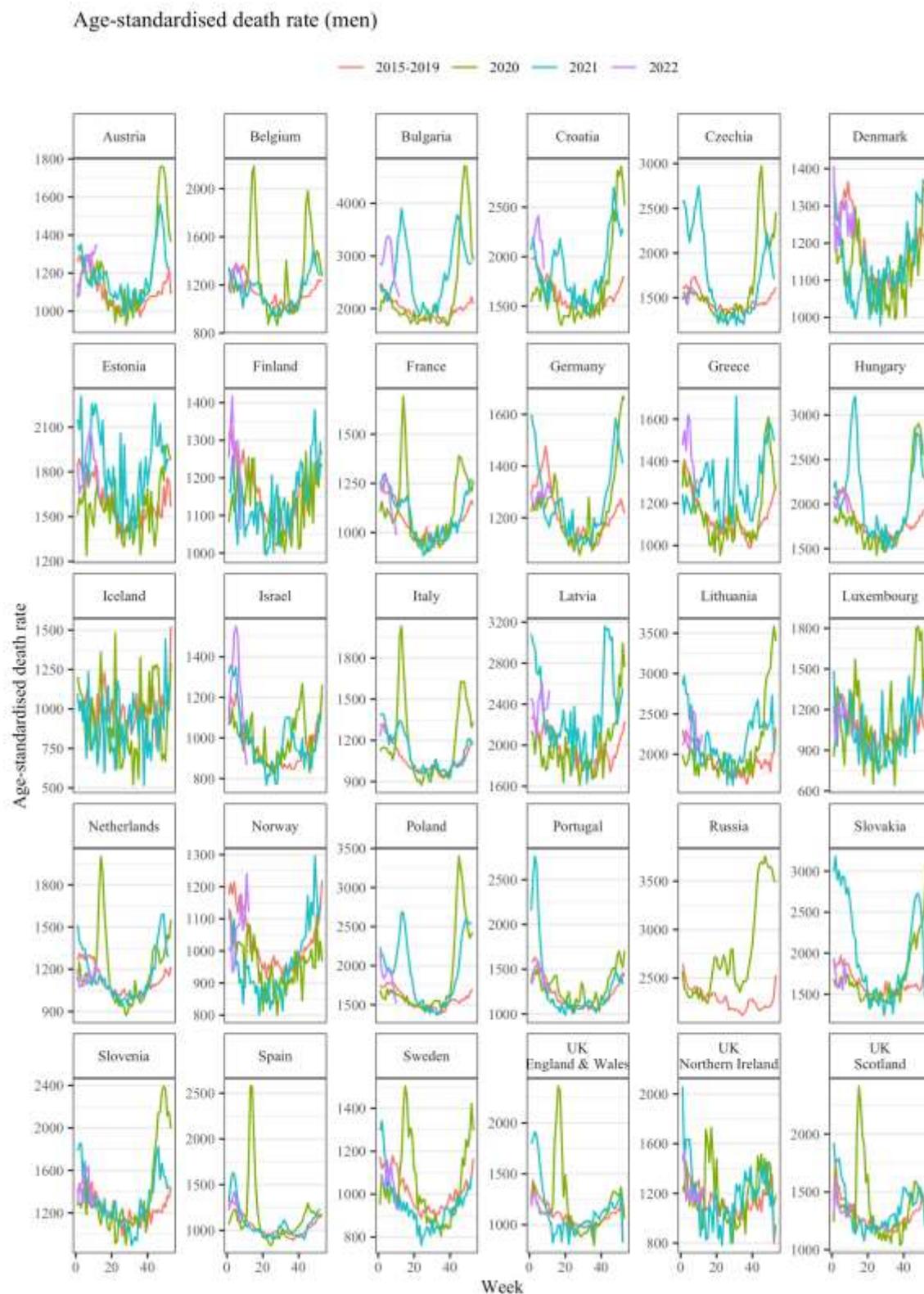
Rolling 7-day average of latest daily newly confirmed coronavirus cases, deaths, and proportion of people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in the countries of the WHO-Europe region ([Source: Our World in Data](#)).

| 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 (%) |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| France | 1,383.38 |  | 1.61 |  | 77.88 |
| Andorra | 1,265.06 |  | 0.00 |  | 69.04 |
| Germany | 1,091.65 |  | 1.58 |  | 75.41 |
| Luxembourg | 1,046.88 |  | 0.90 |  | 72.68 |
| Austria | 960.01 |  | 2.42 |  | 73.00 |
| San Marino | 848.49 |  | 0.00 |  | 69.46 |
| Italy | 835.82 |  | 2.04 |  | 79.32 |
| Monaco | 791.64 |  | 0.00 |  | 64.95 |
| Greece | 776.37 |  | 5.88 |  | 73.40 |
| Finland | 743.88 |  | 4.71 |  | 77.79 |
| Cyprus | 678.57 |  | 0.96 |  | 72.02 |
| Belgium | 674.12 |  | 2.25 |  | 78.53 |

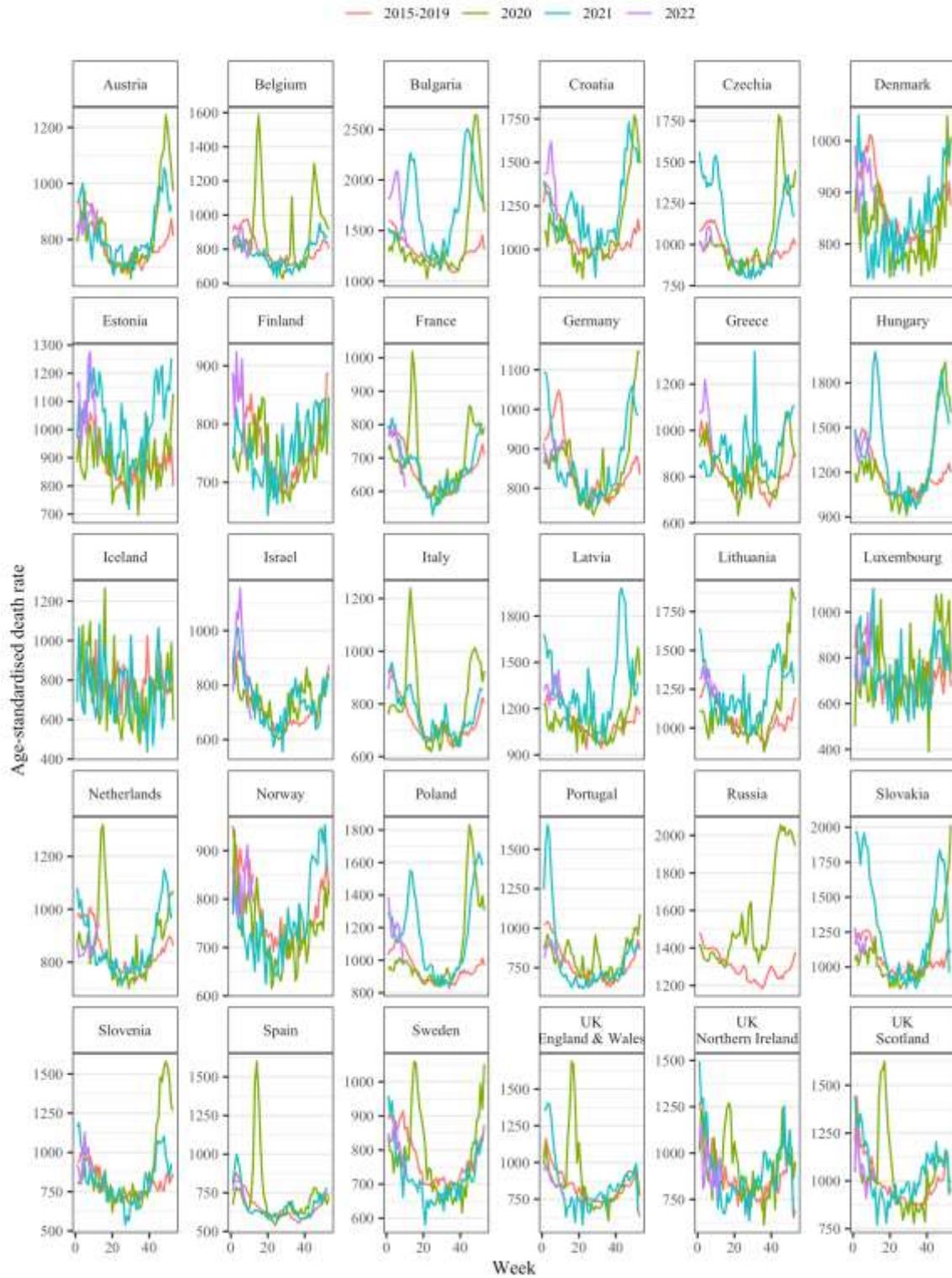
| WHO Europe region | Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed COVID-19 cases/million people | 30-day trend in cases | Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed deaths/million people | 30-day trend in deaths | Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (%) |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Portugal | 673.21 |  | 1.83 |  | 92.60 |
| Malta | 630.28 |  | 2.77 |  | 90.62 |
| Slovenia | 512.61 |  | 1.58 |  | 58.74 |
| Switzerland | 462.87 |  | 0.72 |  | 68.77 |
| Israel | 426.59 |  | 0.86 |  | 66.01 |
| United Kingdom | 390.77 |  | 3.12 |  | 72.96 |
| Lithuania | 355.25 |  | 2.39 |  | 69.66 |
| Slovakia | 349.43 |  | 4.06 |  | 50.74 |
| Estonia | 336.56 |  | 2.91 |  | 63.70 |
| Ireland | 308.31 |  | 1.75 |  | 80.65 |
| Denmark | 294.77 |  | 2.14 |  | 82.57 |
| Iceland | 236.68 |  | 0.78 |  | 78.69 |
| Netherlands | 205.25 |  | 0.42 |  | 72.20 |
| Czechia | 191.20 |  | 1.19 |  | 64.01 |
| Hungary | 152.02 |  | 2.36 |  | 64.26 |
| Croatia | 133.56 |  | 1.75 |  | 54.89 |
| Serbia | 129.62 |  | 0.77 |  | 47.58 |
| Montenegro | 114.18 |  | 0.23 |  | 44.96 |
| Bulgaria | 79.67 |  | 1.57 |  | 29.78 |
| Russia | 71.30 |  | 1.62 |  | 50.18 |

| 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 (%) |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Belarus | 63.71 |  | 0.39 |  | 58.26 |
| Romania | 61.03 |  | 0.87 |  | 42.31 |
| Sweden | 56.47 |  | 1.39 |  | 75.06 |
| North Macedonia | 53.85 |  | 0.48 |  | 40.14 |
| Georgia | 53.52 |  | 0.54 |  | 31.70 |
| Turkey | 52.40 |  | 0.25 |  | 62.34 |
| Moldova | 33.30 |  | 0.50 |  | 26.32 |
| Poland | 21.16 |  | 0.77 |  | 59.28 |
| Albania | 13.08 |  | 0.10 |  | 42.60 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 11.47 |  | 0.44 |  | 25.93 |
| Kosovo | 9.14 |  | 0.00 |  | 46.10 |
| Armenia | 4.48 |  | 0.05 |  | 33.02 |
| Azerbaijan | 1.43 |  | 0.04 |  | 47.31 |
| Kazakhstan | 1.13 |  | 0.00 |  | 48.53 |
| Uzbekistan | 0.94 |  | 0.00 |  | 42.19 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 0.26 |  | 0.00 |  | 19.06 |
| Spain | 0.00 |  | 0.00 |  | 86.32 |
| Tajikistan | 0.00 |  | 0.00 |  | 50.12 |
| Ukraine | 0.00 |  | 0.00 |  | 34.86 |

The age-standardised all-cause death rates in 2020, 2021 and 2022, and the 2015-2019 average by week and sex in selected countries of the WHO-Europe (Source: Human Mortality Database).

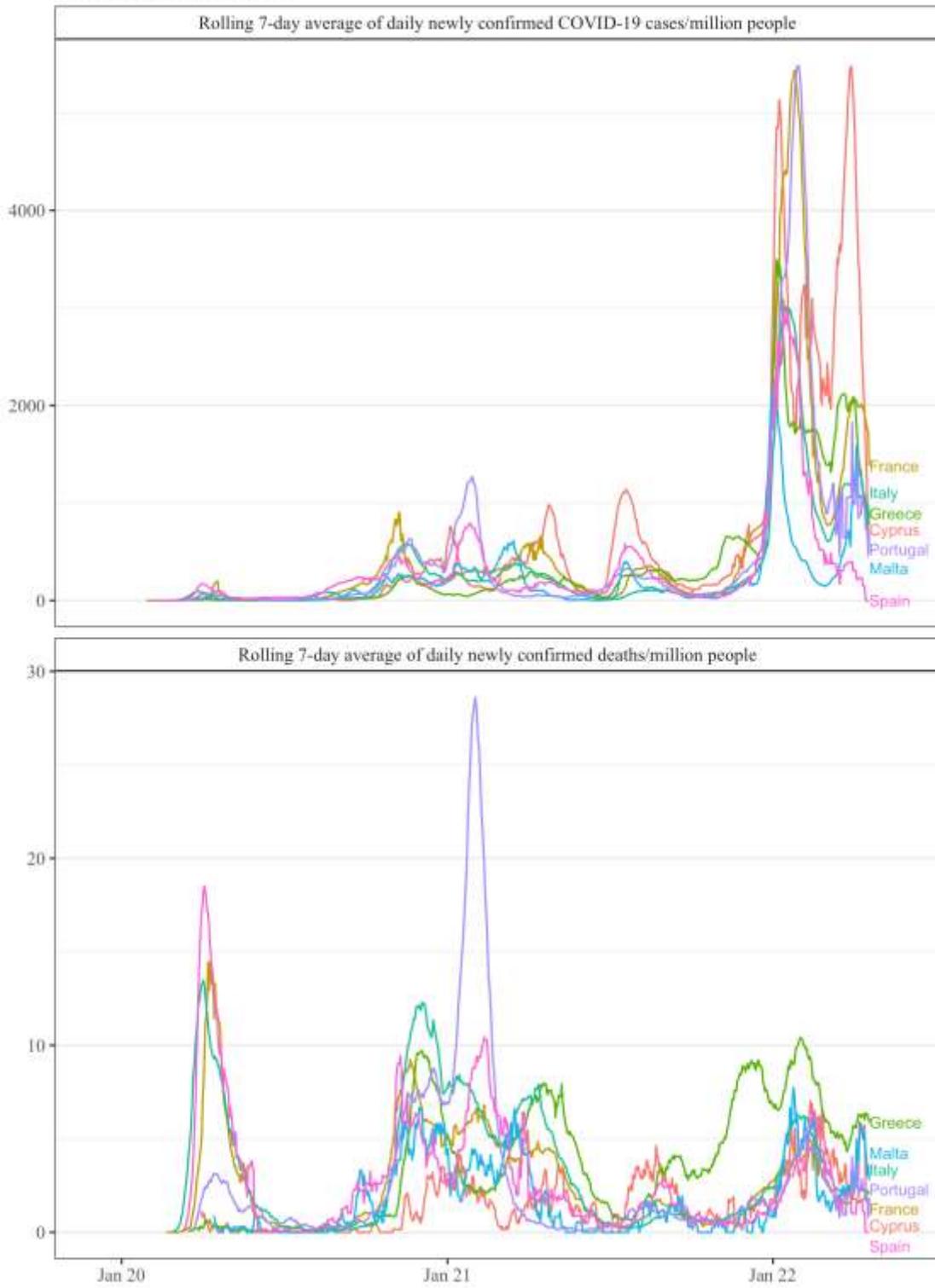


Age-standardised death rate (women)

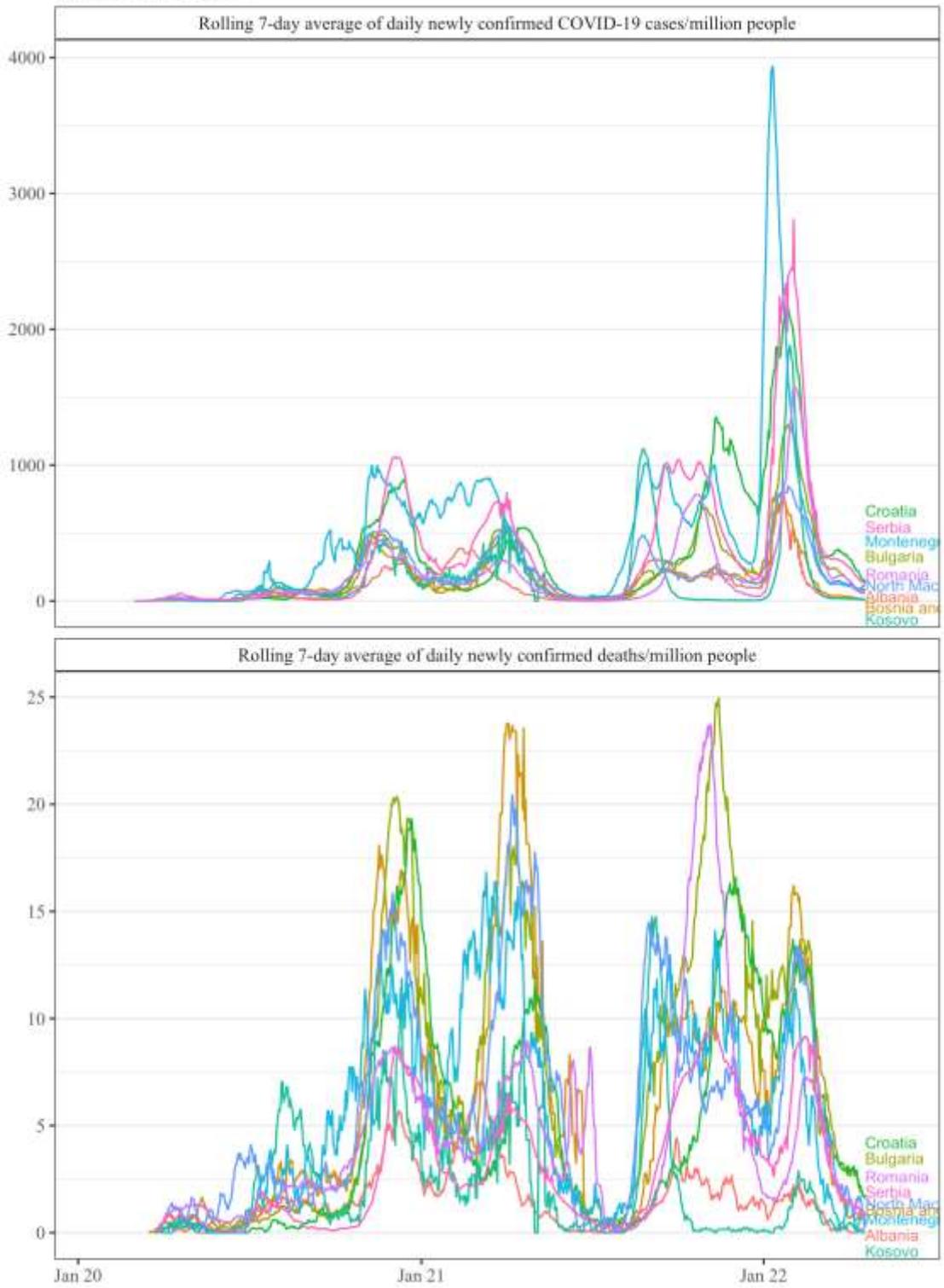


Rolling 7-day average of daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases and daily new confirmed COVID-19 deaths in sub-regions of Europe (Source: Our World in Data).

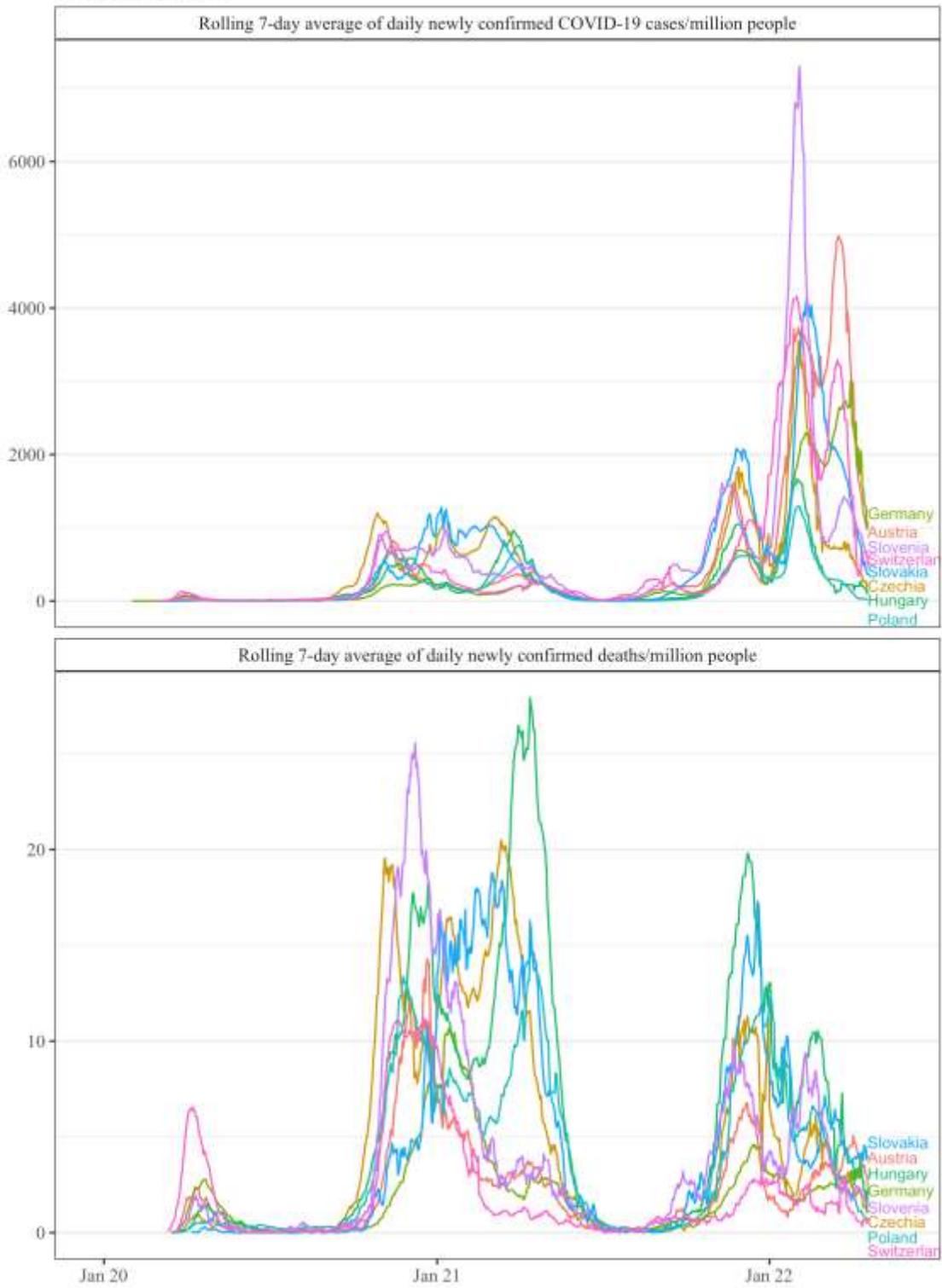
Mediterranean region



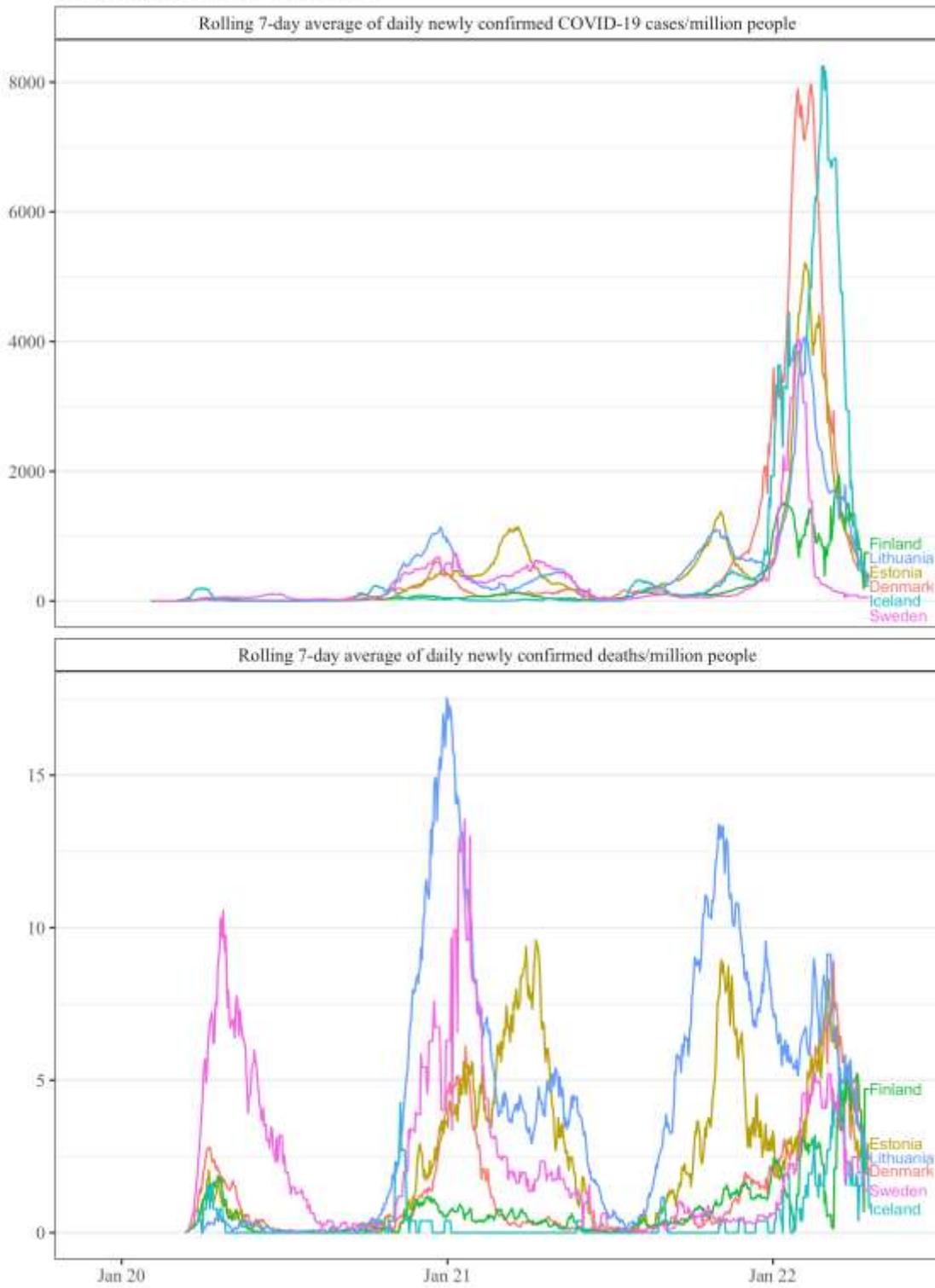
South-East region



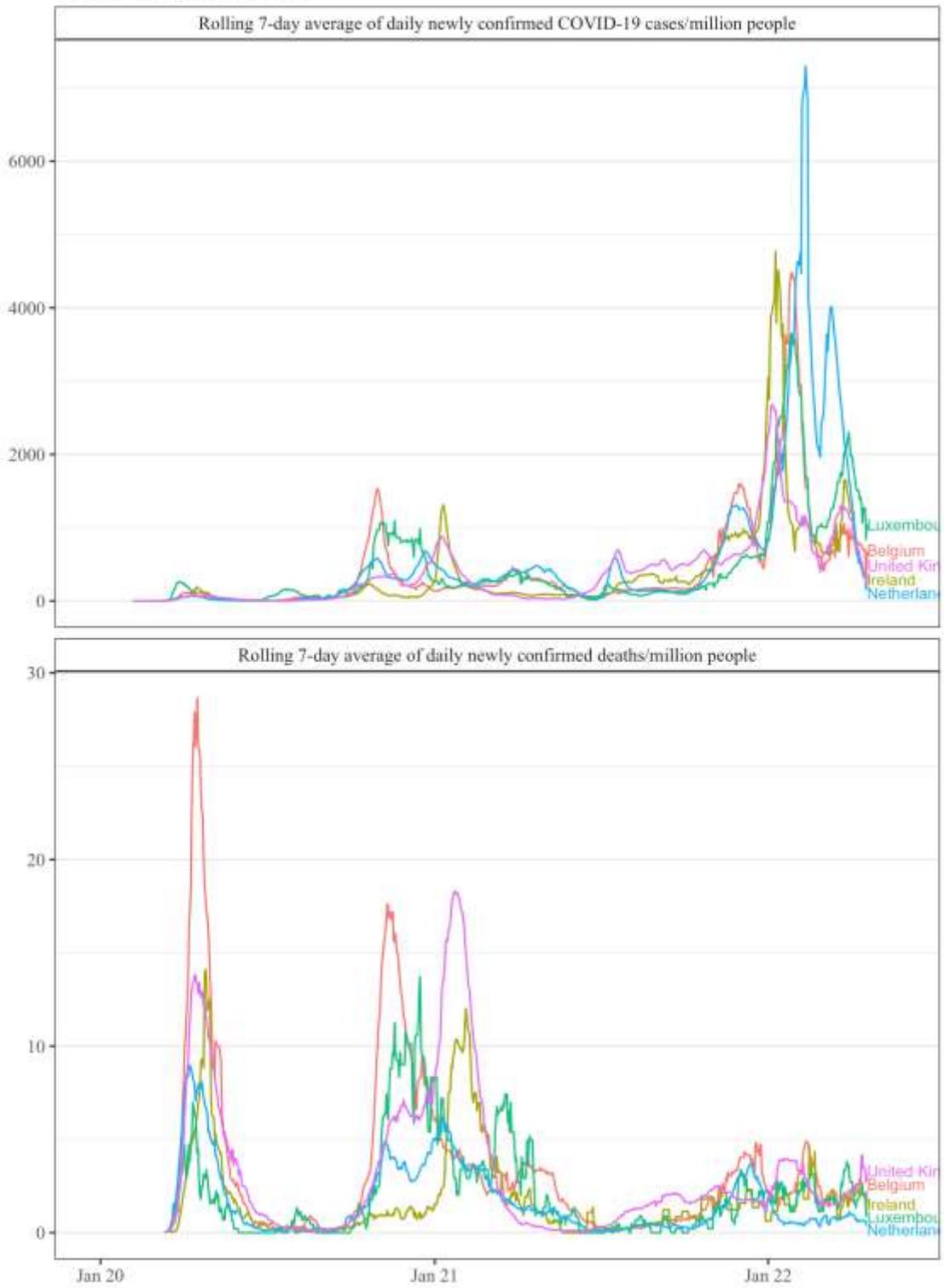
Central Europe



Baltics and Nordic Countries



North-Western Europe



Central Asia

