

ASPHER Report: COVID-19 Situation Reporting across Europe

Week of December 13th, 2021

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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
























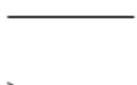




- EU/EEA countries are experiencing a high and rapidly increasing case notification rate and a low but slowly increasing death rate. Compared with the previous week, three countries (France, Liechtenstein and Luxembourg) moved to a higher category of concerns and nine countries (Austria, Belgium, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain) moved to a lower category ([link](#)).
- The forecasts predict stable trends in hospital admissions and stable trends in ICU admissions ([link](#)).
- The Omicron variant is being detected in increasing numbers in multiple EU/EEA countries, some of which now report community transmission ([link](#)). Mathematical modelling indicates that the Omicron VOC is expected to cause over half of all SARS-CoV-2 infections in the EU/EEA within the next few months ([link](#)).








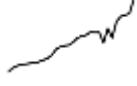








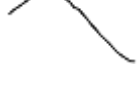









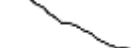

ASPHER recognizes the importance of following [non-pharmacological interventions](#) as well as achieving a high level of vaccine uptake. Vaccine hesitancy is a major pitfall stemming from the improvement in the vaccination rate particularly in Eastern parts of Europe. Mistrust in vaccines and false information are the driving factors for the population's low vaccine uptake. It is vital to address distrust to better handle the low vaccination rate. The decision regarding the idea of implementing mandatory vaccine passports and validation of these certificates should be made more clearer for the smooth operation of the process.

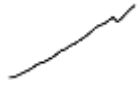





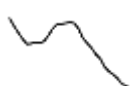






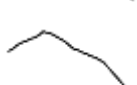






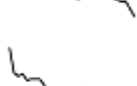







The current situation demands international consensus on a long-term strategy to minimize the transmission of virus variants, not only by rapid vaccination but also by increasing vaccine confidence and improving accessibility to vaccines to prevent further waves. Despite vaccination status, non-pharmaceutical interventions which complement vaccination must be followed.














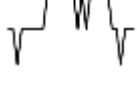



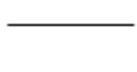
ASPHER remains concerned that countries are unprepared and complacent about the responses that will be needed by health services and public health authorities this autumn. Read our statement [here](#).

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](#)).

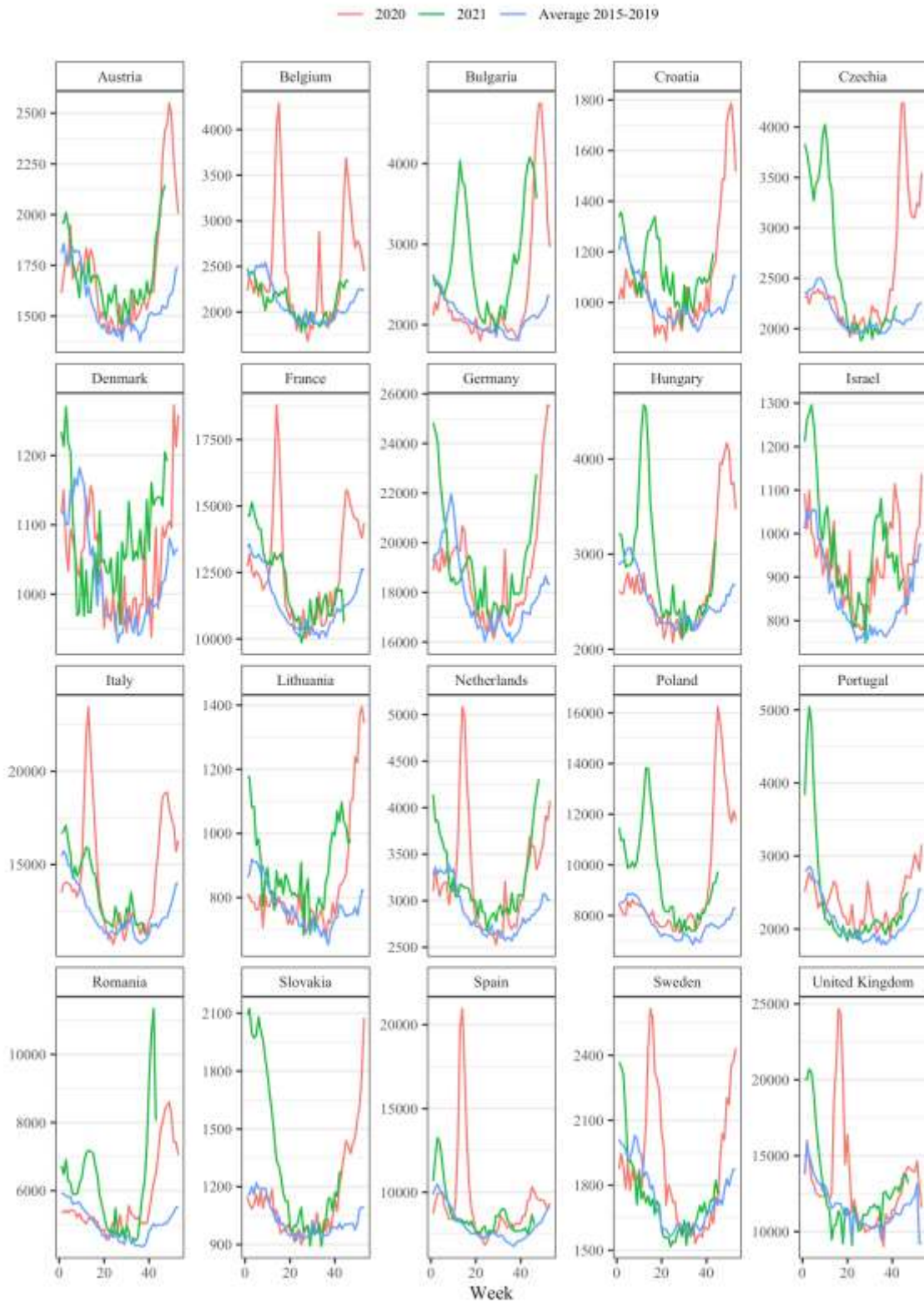
WHO Europe region	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed COVID-19 cases/million people	30-day trend in cases	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed deaths/million people	30-day trend in deaths	Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (%)
Andorra	1,494.06		0.00		65.07
Slovakia	1,419.75		13.47		43.45
Czechia	1,216.63		10.43		60.61
Denmark	1,146.19		1.65		77.29
Belgium	1,108.82		3.83		75.15
Switzerland	1,095.50		2.75		66.09
San Marino	1,037.51		0.00		69.83
Netherlands	1,011.96		3.68		74.37
Ireland	892.91		2.32		76.51
Georgia	852.24		13.28		26.46
Croatia	801.14		13.89		49.97
Monaco	766.34		0.00		58.98
United Kingdom	754.39		1.75		68.58
France	699.58		1.51		71.12

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 (%)
Slovenia	673.08		7.28		56.36
Cyprus	642.22		1.44		66.23
Lithuania	618.35		6.74		67.15
Germany	616.67		5.09		69.06
Hungary	613.46		18.88		61.24
Poland	585.66		10.61		54.74
Luxembourg	583.07		2.25		67.69
Greece	489.81		8.66		65.32
Austria	459.72		5.91		68.59
Spain	418.79		0.99		80.70
Portugal	387.76		1.71		88.84
Iceland	376.53		0.42		82.19
Estonia	355.96		4.31		60.59
Montenegro	290.70		5.91		42.03

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 (%)
Italy	283.14		1.52		73.37
Finland	275.99		1.52		73.59
Sweden	240.04		0.30		71.46
Turkey	231.52		2.19		59.92
Ukraine	212.15		9.56		28.91
Serbia	207.61		5.28		46.06
Russia	204.98		7.76		42.10
Bulgaria	188.54		9.86		26.75
Malta	168.57		0.83		84.08
Belarus	160.50		1.66		30.35
Bosnia and Herzegovina	148.48		9.59		22.08
North Macedonia	143.36		5.62		37.93
Moldova	115.45		5.29		23.80
Azerbaijan	112.14		1.69		45.16

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 (%)
Albania	100.59		1.24		34.54
Armenia	85.96		6.16		17.42
Israel	66.81		0.22		62.35
Romania	50.82		4.39		39.94
Kazakhstan	33.84		0.76		43.65
Kyrgyzstan	7.37		0.22		14.26
Uzbekistan	5.90		0.08		17.33
Kosovo	5.53		0.16		43.34
Tajikistan	0.00		0.00		26.59

Weekly deaths in 2021 and 2020 compared to the average in 2015-2019 in selected countries ([data](#)).



Country situation reports

Czech Republic

During the last seven days period (8-14 Dec), 84609 positive cases have been notified. About 30% positivity of tests indicate insufficient testing. The number of cases has a slowly descending trend. Weekly incidence for the country is 790/100000 with a minimum 392/100000 and maximum 983/100000 by regions. Spatial distribution is irregular throughout the country. $R_0 = 0.88$. Along with declining incidence also mortality is declining, 688 deceased during the last seven days. As of yesterday (14.12.2021) there were a total 5850 cases hospitalized (prevalence), and 966 from among them were in ICUs. Diagnostic tests have 30% positivity and epidemiological indications 15% positivity. There are 6 Omicron confirmed cases, two of them are travel related and remaining cases didn't report any travel history. We consider this endemic transmission. As the cases occur in the south Moravian region there is a suspicion of association with the epidemic situation in Austria. Czech government approved that stomatologists and pharmacists can vaccinate. That was not previously possible by law. Booster doses are possible after five month following the second dose. People 60+ and those with immunodeficiencies can have booster doses after five months following the second one. Children from 5+ can be now registered for vaccination. Respirators should be worn in inner spaces. In inner spaces they should be worn in case it is not possible to maintain a safe distance of 1.5m.

United Kingdom

The UK recorded highest ever case numbers - 78,610 -today, up from 59,610 yesterday. Hospitalisation have increased in London. A large rise in Omicron variant cases numbers have been reported. The parliament adopted new countermeasures, particularly requiring the [Covid pass](#) to get into nightclubs and many other venues. A [major acceleration of the booster programme](#) was announced by the Prime Minister on Sunday aiming to provide boosters to all over 18s by the end December. The Independent sage [recommended](#) prohibiting indoor gatherings between households, closing indoor hospitality and entertainment venues, all close contacts to isolate for 10 days, and a push for increase in vaccination rates especially targeting young people.

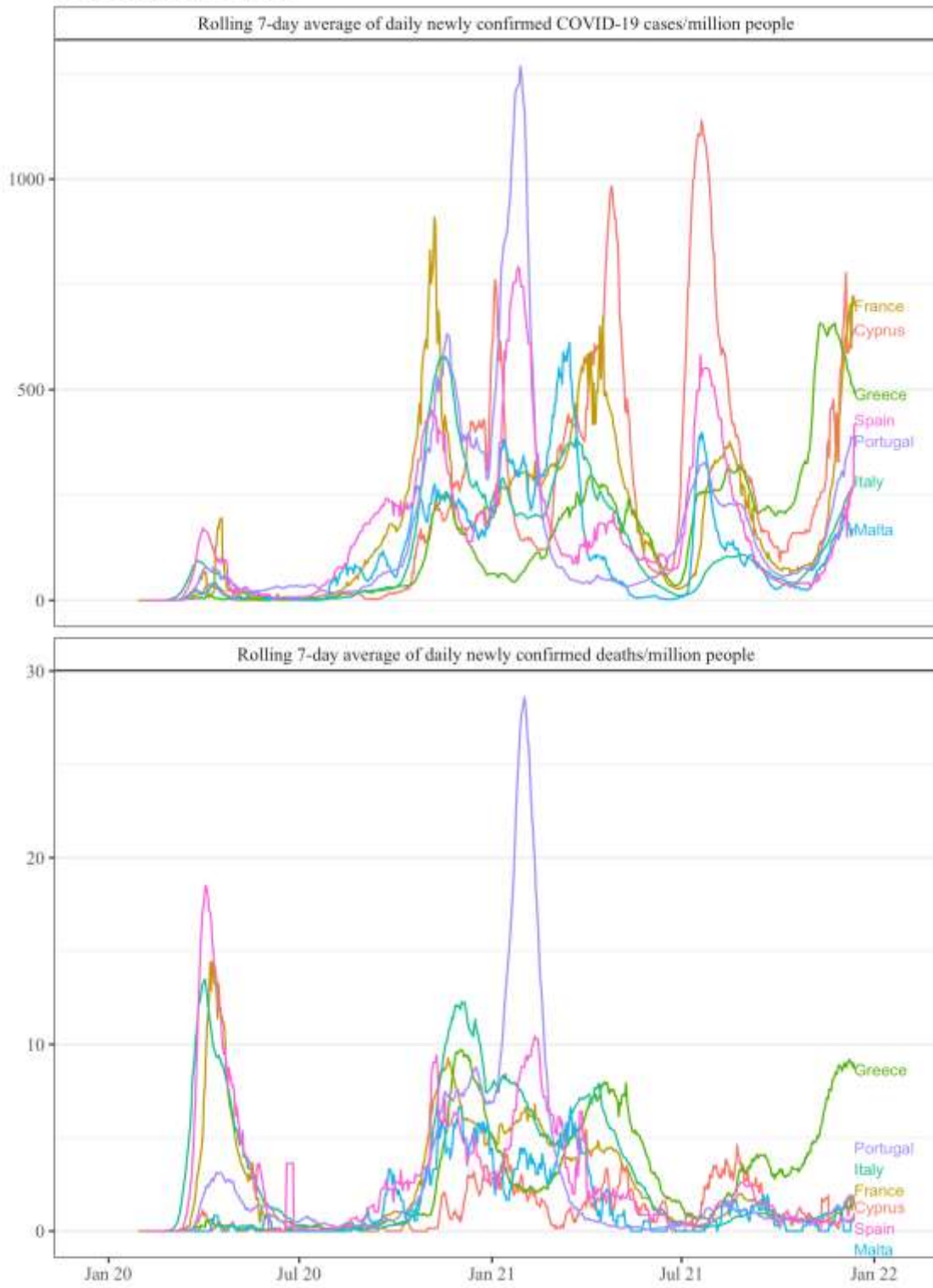
In [Scotland](#), 22,252 new cases were recorded in the most recent week, an increase of 11.2% from the previous week. Public Health Scotland is reporting sustained community transmission of the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2 across Scotland, which has exponentially increased since 23 November, and as of 12 December 2021, Omicron cases accounted for 22.6% of all cases reported. The variant is on a trajectory to rapidly replace Delta as the dominant strain of COVID-19 in Scotland. In the week ending 5 December 2021, 19,731 individuals were recorded in the contact tracing software, from which 31,182 unique contacts have been traced. New requirements in Scotland include employers being legally required to ensure working from home wherever possible; retail and venues to put in place measures to enable physical distancing; no more than 3 households in a group; vaccinate and always ensure negative lateral flow test before going out; and care home visitors limited.

Spain

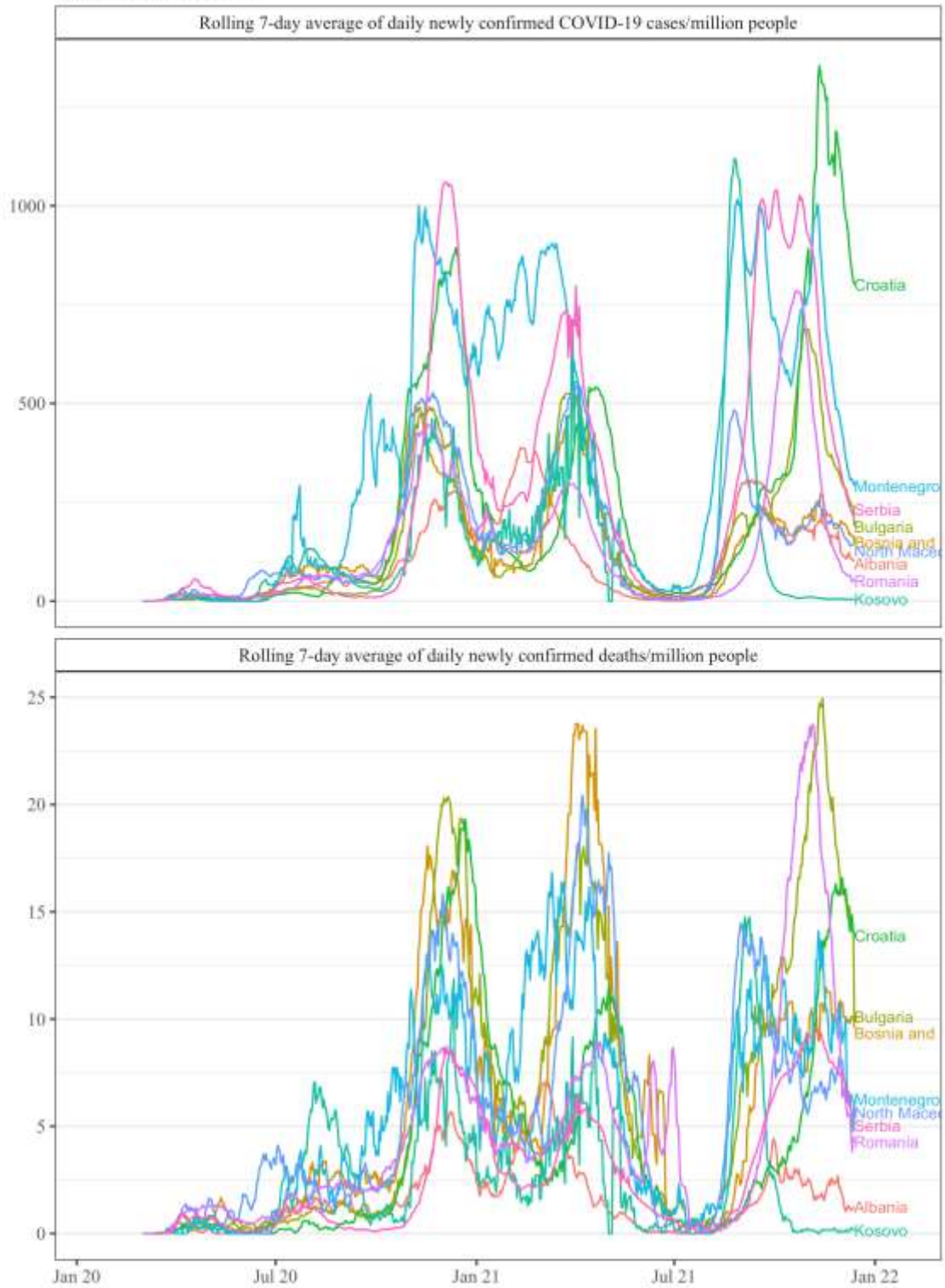
Spain began yesterday the vaccination of children aged between five and 11, in a new qualitative leap in the [fight against the coronavirus pandemic](#). The [rise in cases](#) registered in recent weeks in Spain has prompted the health authorities to take this step, which just a month ago was considered unnecessary by many experts. The Public Health Commission, which is made up of the central Health Ministry and the country's regional governments, approved pediatric vaccinations at a meeting held on December 7. Recommendations from the Inter-Territorial Council of the National Health System (CISNS), which brings together the central Health Ministry and the regions, state that vaccinating minors "can reduce the transmission in the family environment, in educational settings and in the community, contributing to the protection of the most-vulnerable populations." Over half of the 36 omicron cases detected in Spain caused by community transmission. The 14-day incidence rate of the coronavirus has now risen to 441 infections per 100,000, with an unequal distribution on North (some more than 1.000/100.000) and South Regions. The rate of hospital admissions rises much slower than in previous waves: 5.2% of beds are occupied by patients with covid, a figure that rises to 13.4% in ICUs. In Spain, the campaign to administer a third dose began in September and first targeted immunocompromised patients and residents of care homes. Later came [the over-80 population](#), then the over-60s and healthcare workers. Recently the Spanish government is considering expanding the third dose to people aged over 50 years.

Rolling 7-day average of daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases and daily new confirmed COVID-19 deaths in sub-regions of Europe from until 13th December 2021 ([data](#)).

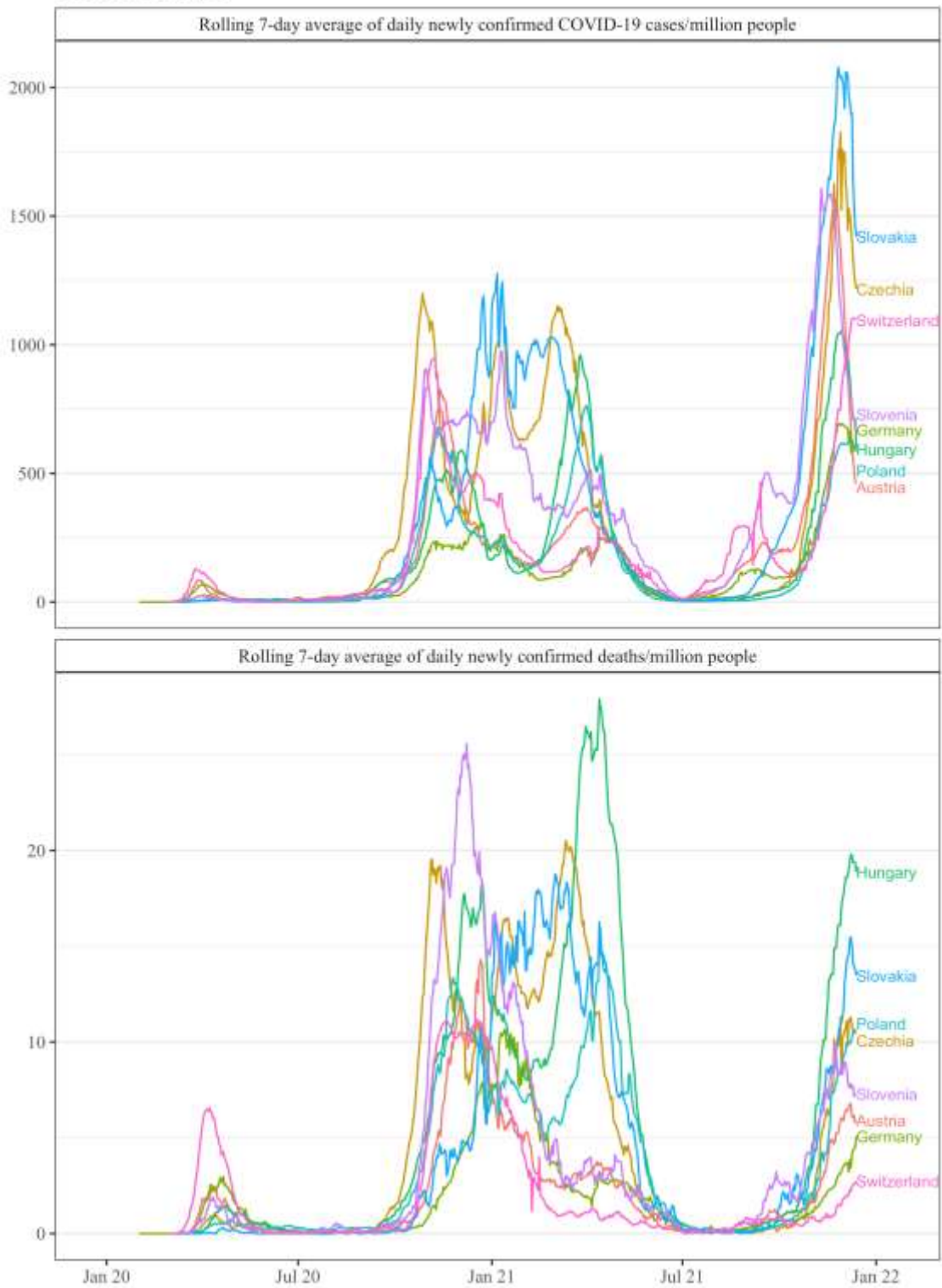
Mediterranean region



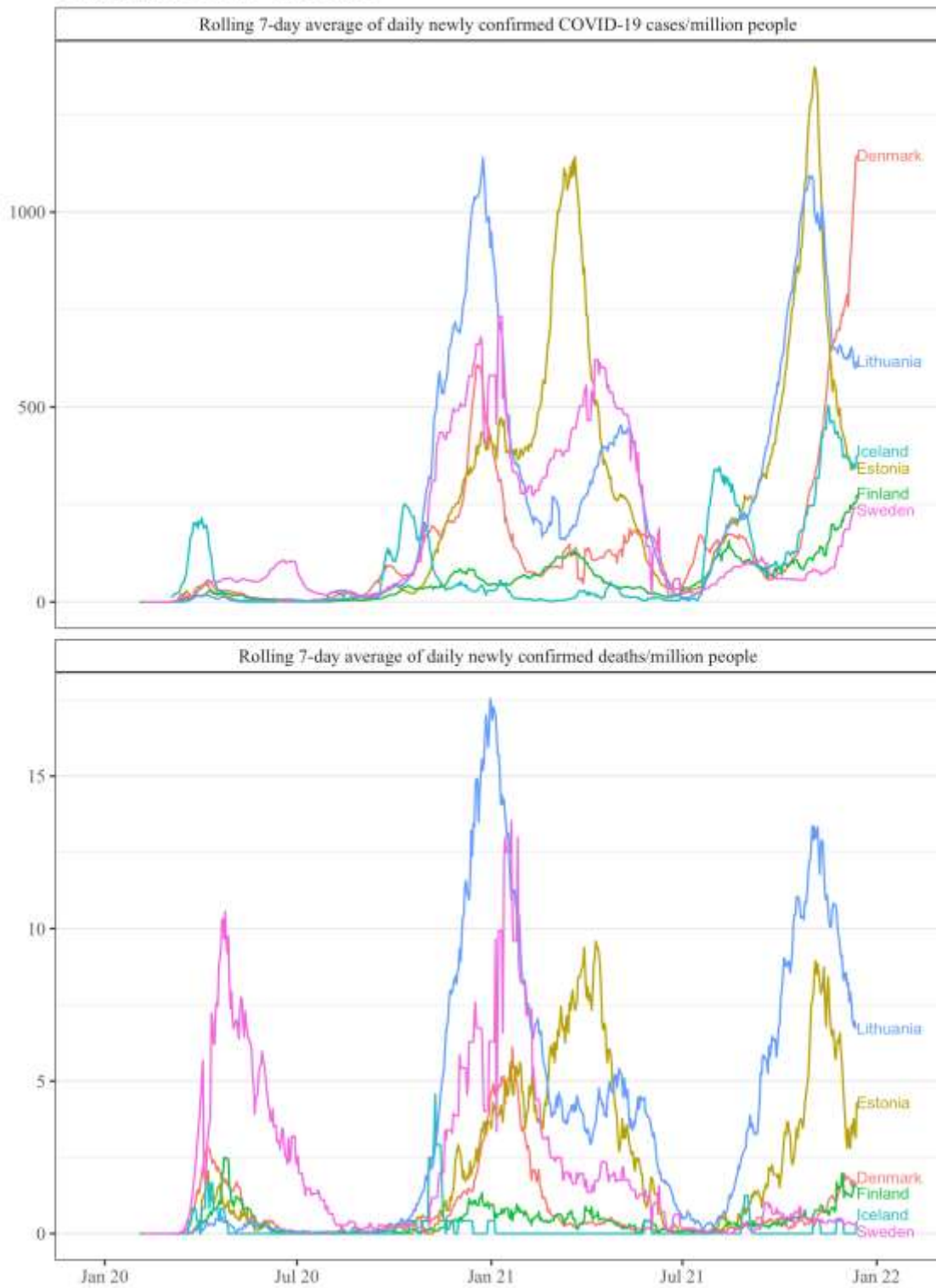
South-East region



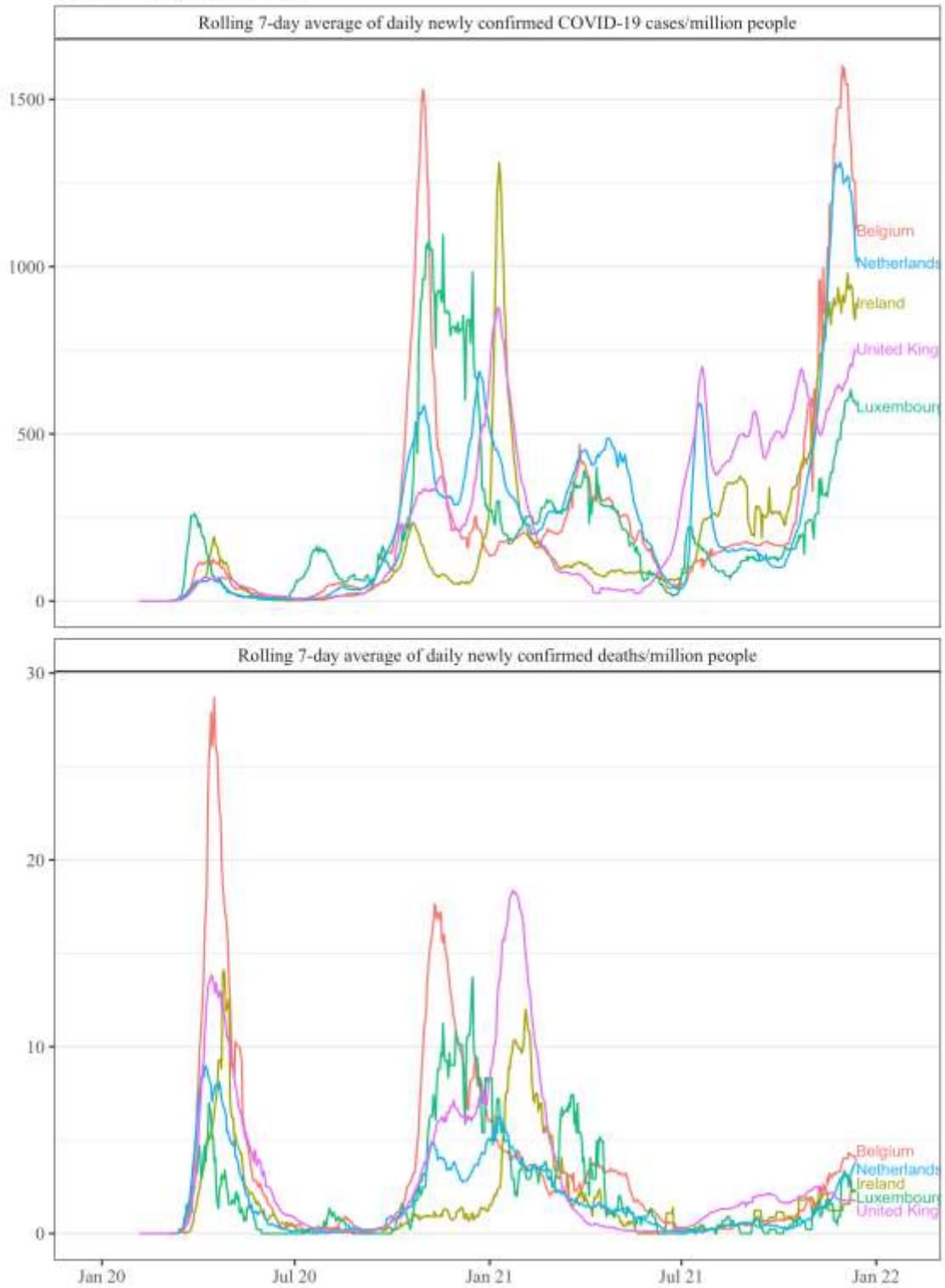
Central Europe



Baltics and Nordic Countries



North-Western Europe



Central Asia

