

ASPHER Report

COVID-19 Situation Reporting across Europe

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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 ?

ASPHER is concerned that many countries are reducing social restrictions at a time when the incidence of COVID-19 is still very high, much higher than during the first wave, and with the Reproduction number over 1 in many countries. The relaxations are inconsistent between countries and will make international control of spread more difficult.

ASPHER recognises that there are pronounced January peaks of infection in many European countries including UK, Ireland and Portugal. This is a sad reflection of relaxations of COVID-19 social restrictions during the Christmas holidays.

ASPHER is concerned that governments maintain vigilance in social restrictions to reduce the spread of the virus as we move towards upcoming Easter celebrations.

ASPHER expresses its solidarity and support for colleagues in the Czech Republic, and calls on neighbouring countries to provide mutual aid to the Czech health services when possible.

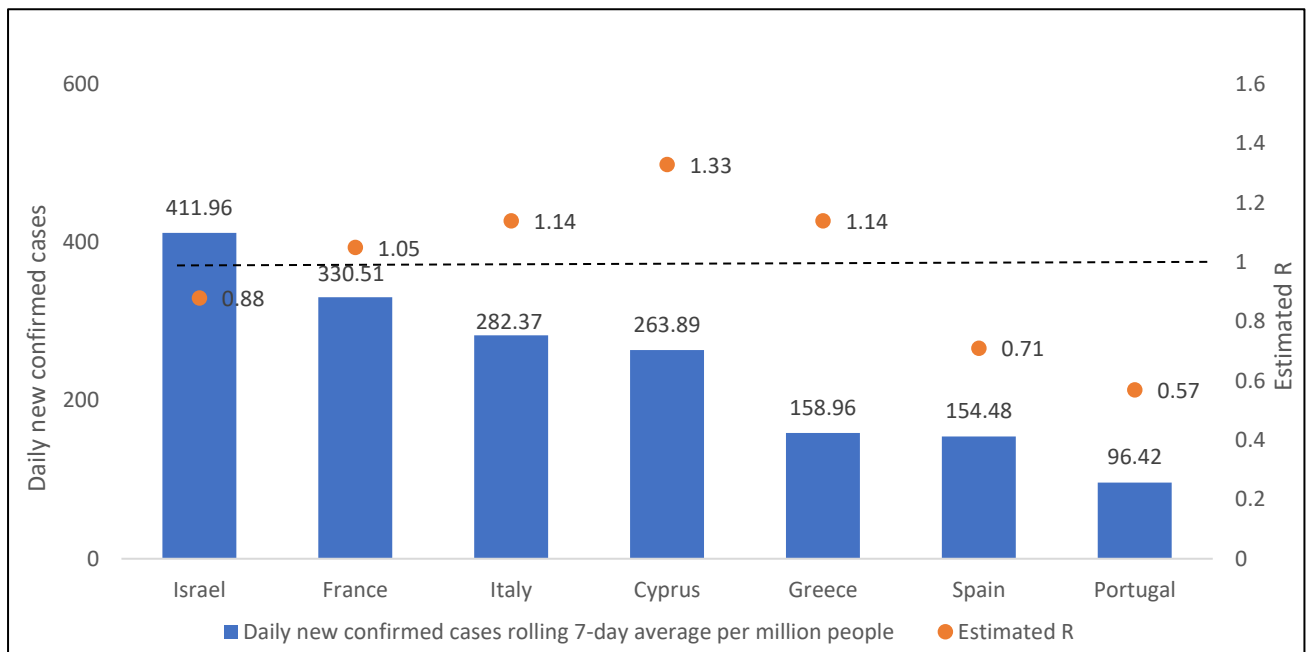
More generally ASPHER is concerned about the recognition of an increasing number of new variants of the SARS-COV2 virus. We believe there should be increasing international collaboration and capacity in the surveillance of the variants of the virus, surveillance of the outcomes of vaccination, resistance to infection and timespan of immunity. There needs to be coordinated global capacity towards anticipating new variants, and adapting vaccinations to meet anticipated changes of the virus. (see also: [link BMJ opinion](#))

COVID-19 cases have surpassed 0.1 billion with the highest number in Americas (50,709,269) followed by Europe (38,931,803), South-East Asia region (13,559,358), Eastern Mediterranean (6,449,232), Africa (2,857,860), and Western Pacific (1,631,837) according to the WHO statistics (1).

As per WHO weekly epidemiological report, the European Region is contributing 40% of cumulative COVID-19 confirmed cases worldwide. Overall, Europe has seen a rising trend in the number of new cases and decline in new deaths at 9% and 15% respectively in comparison to the previous week (2).

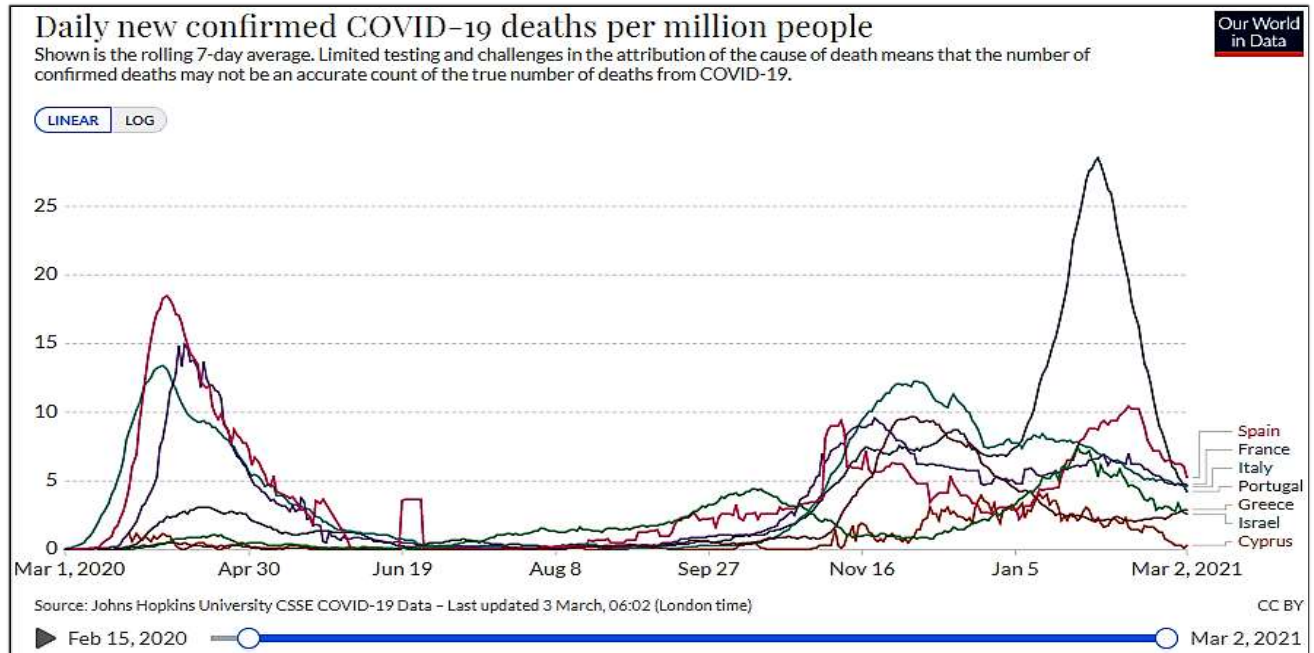
In **Mediterranean** countries the 7-day rolling average of daily new COVID-19 confirmed cases per million people is high in Israel (411.96.23), France (330.51.99) and Italy (282.37), followed by Cyprus (263.89), Greece (158.96), Spain (154.48) and lowest in Portugal (96.42) (3). However, the current effective reproduction number estimate is above 1 in Cyprus, Greece, Italy and France indicating the probability of progression of number of new cases (Figure 1) (4).

Figure 1



Source: 1. <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>- daily new confirmed cases
 2. <http://epidemicforecasting.org/country-rt-estimates>- estimated R

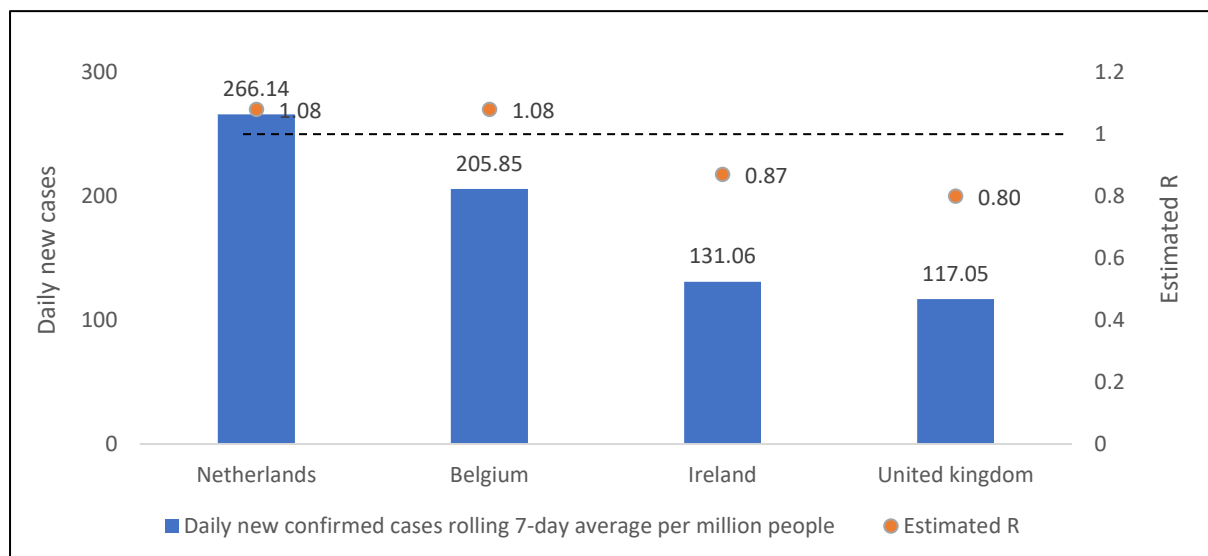
Figure 2



Northwestern Europe:

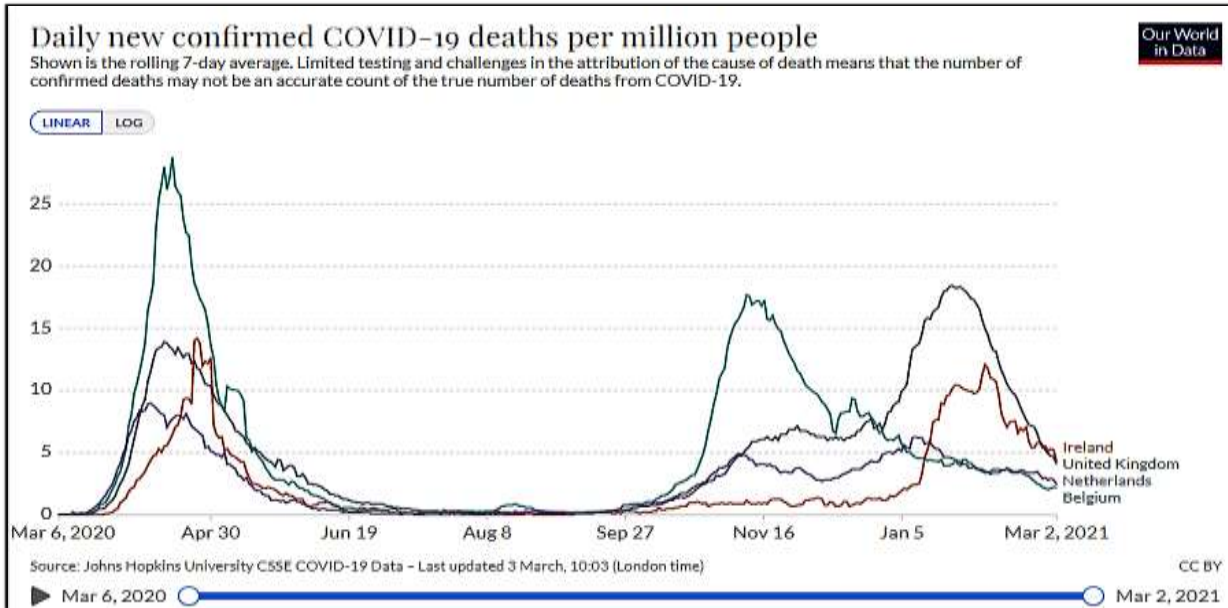
Among Northwestern European countries, Netherlands and Belgium have reported high rolling 7-day average number of daily new confirmed coronavirus cases per one million population above 200, also the current effective reproduction number estimate is >1 whereas the number of daily new confirmed COVID-19 deaths is 2.82, and 2.26 respectively. Although the rolling 7-day average of daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases is below 200 in Ireland (131.06) and UK (117.05), the number of new deaths is high at 5.27, 4.63 respectively compared to other two subregions (Figure 3&4) (5).

Figure 3



Source: 1. <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus> - daily new confirmed cases
 2. [http://epidemicforecasting.org/country-rt-estimates-estimated R](http://epidemicforecasting.org/country-rt-estimates-estimated-R)

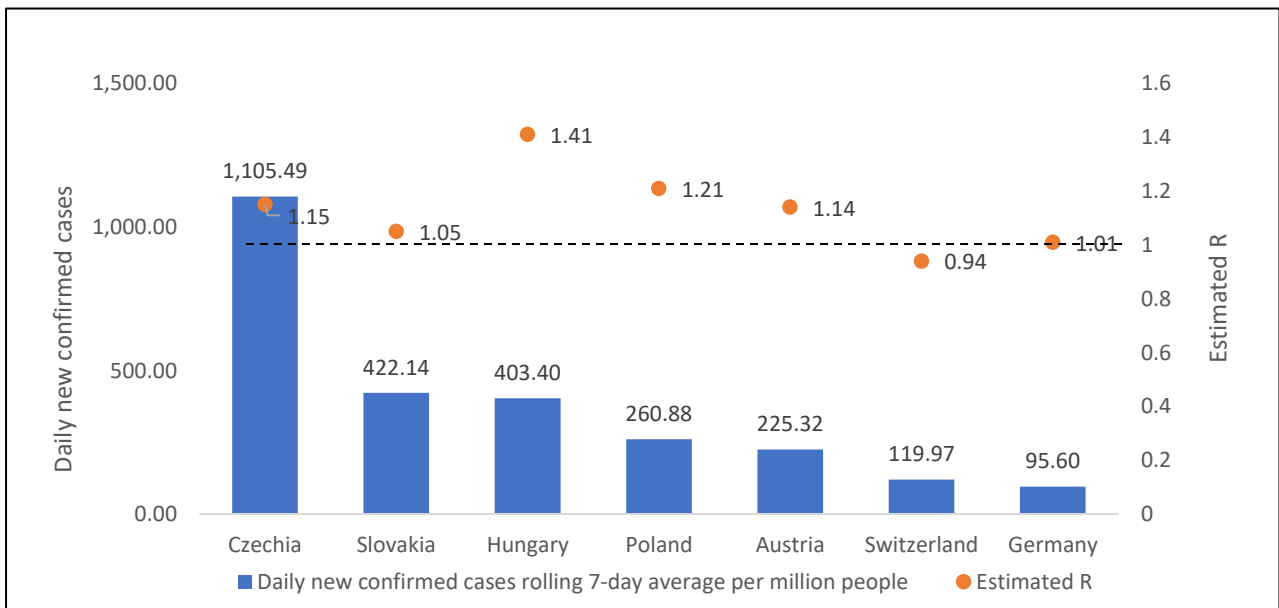
Figure 4



Central Europe:

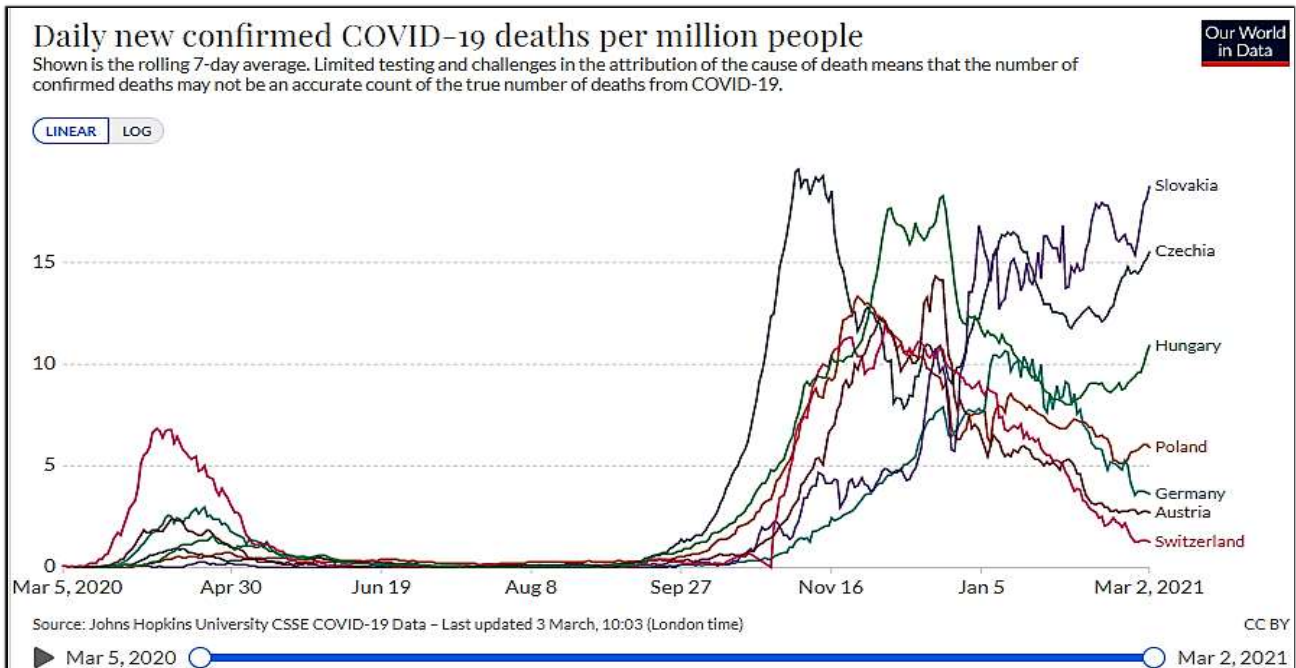
In Central Europe, the government of the Czech Republic has announced a new state of emergency (until 28th March) in view of rising number of COVID-19 infections also rapid spread of British variant (6). As on 3rd March the incidence rate in Czechia is 11,850.41 per 100,000 population (7). Slovakia has reported high 7-day rolling average of daily new confirmed corona deaths at 18.13 followed by Czechia (15.19), Hungary (10.51), Poland (6.06) Germany (3.67), Austria (2.81), and the least is seen in Switzerland (1.34) (8). The estimated R is more than 1 in all central European countries except Switzerland (Figure 5).

Figure 5



Source: 1. <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>- daily new confirmed cases
2. <http://epidemicforecasting.org/country-rt-estimates>- estimated R

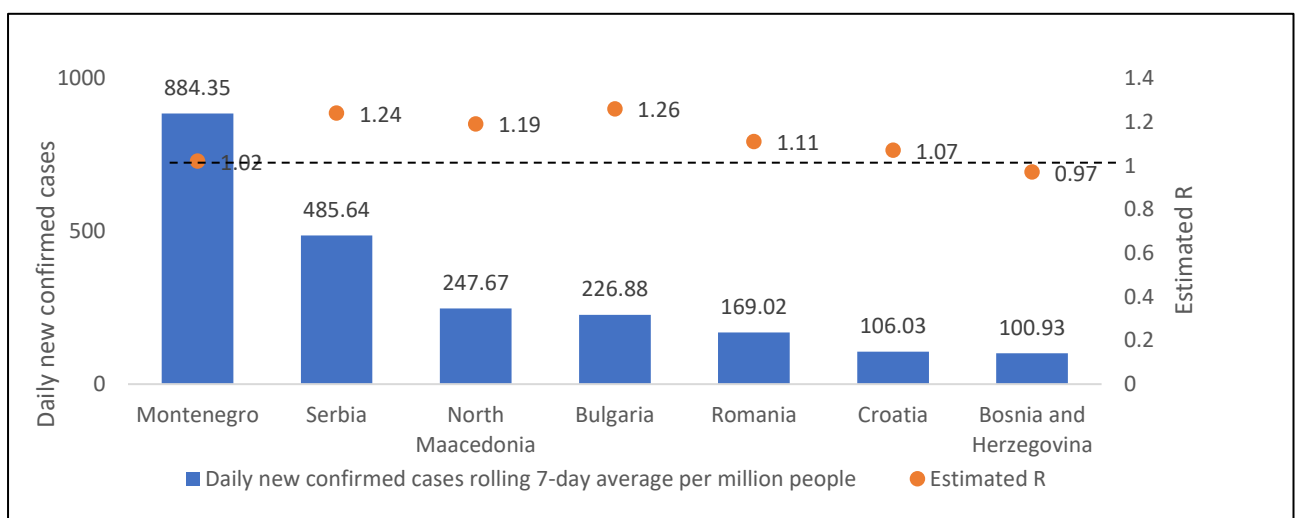
Figure 6



South-East Europe:

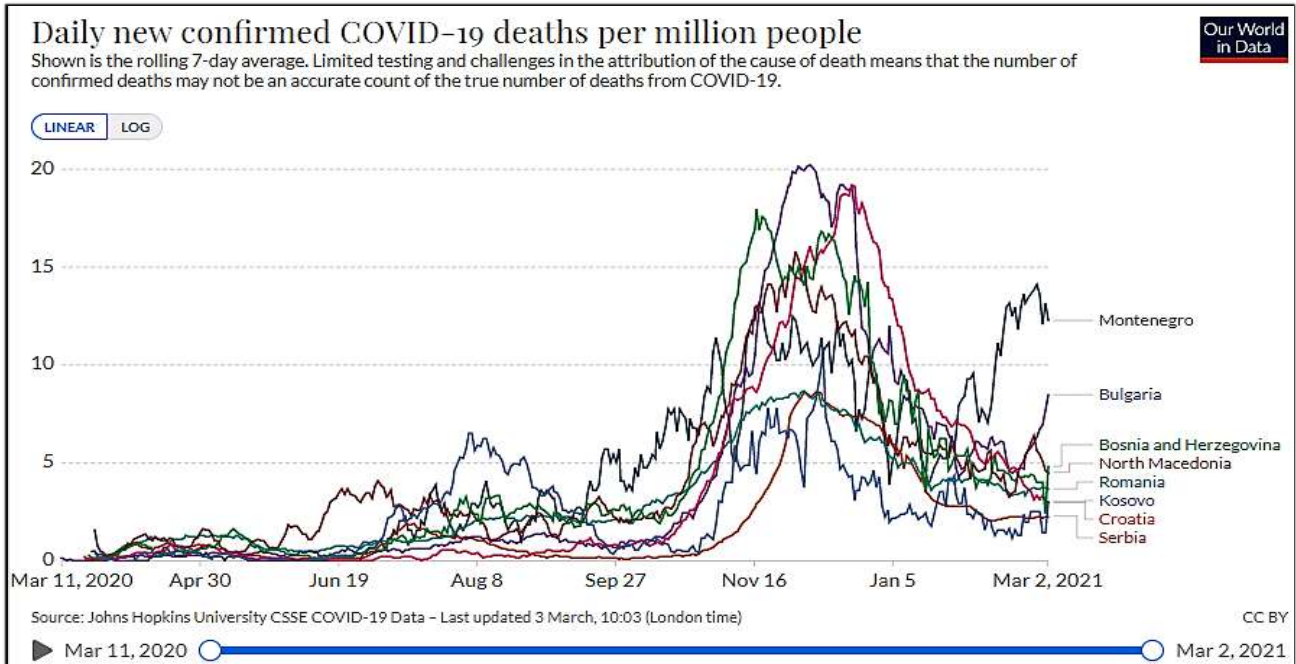
In Montenegro as on 3rd March, 12,238.92 per 100,000 population (7) and the rolling 7-day average of daily new COVID-19 confirmed cases and deaths is 884.35 and 13.19 respectively (Figure 7&8) (9). In order to contain the pandemic, the government of Montenegro has extended the lockdown period until 10th March with a new set of measures. Across South-East Europe the current effective reproduction number estimate is more than 1 in all countries with the highest in Bulgaria (1.26) and close to 1 in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Figure 7



Source: 1. <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus> - daily new confirmed cases
 2. <http://epidemicforecasting.org/country-rt-estimates>- estimated R

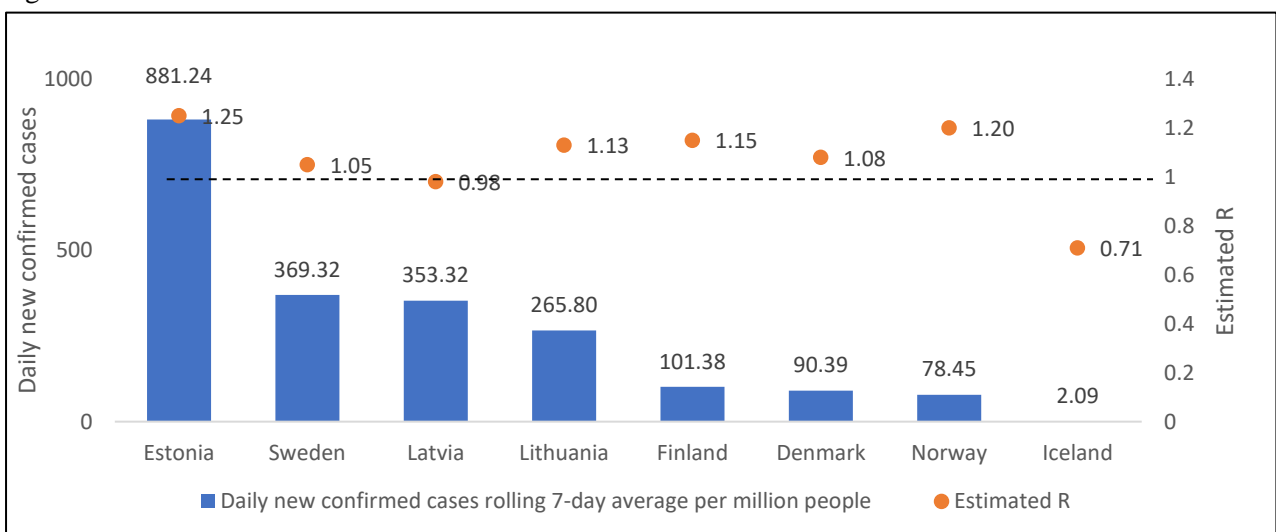
Figure 8



Scandinavian Countries:

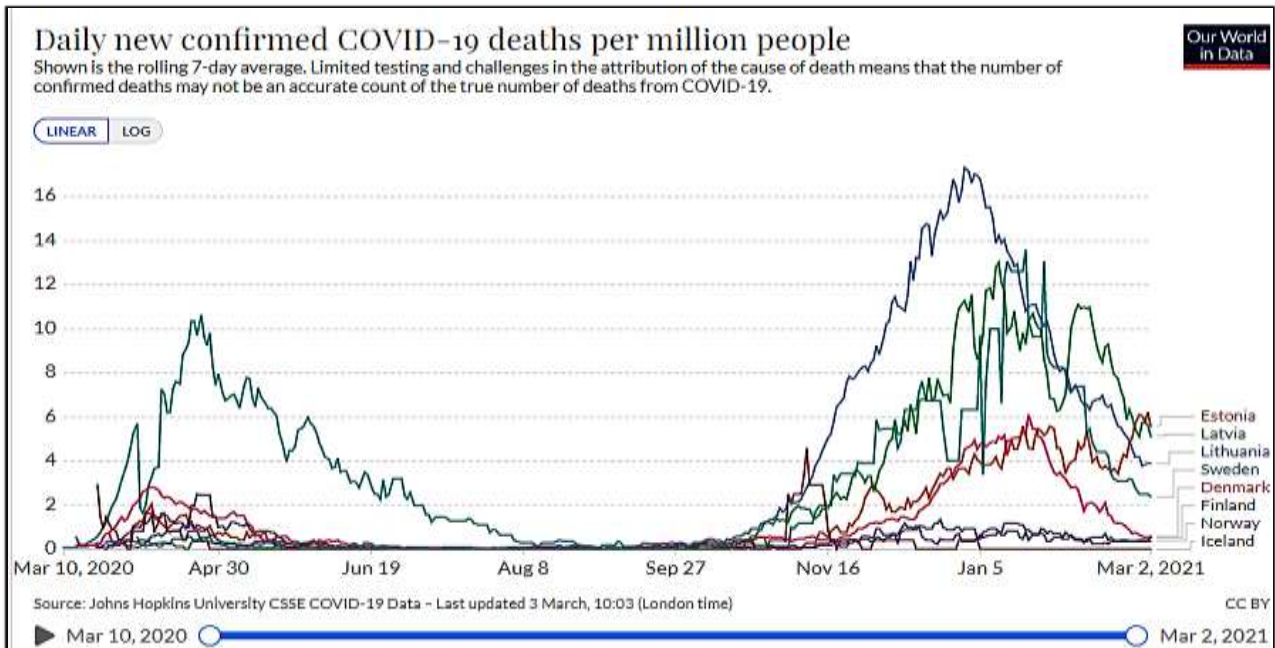
Among Scandinavian countries, the 7-day rolling average of daily new confirmed coronavirus deaths and cases is peaking in Estonia at 6.25, 881.24 respectively also the estimated R is high among Scandinavian countries (1.25) (Figure 9&10). The government of Estonia has embraced strict measures to contain the pandemic until end of March (10). Although the rolling 7-day average of incidence is below 100 still the estimated R is above 1 in Denmark (90.39, 1.08) and Norway (78.45, 1.20).

Figure 9



Source: 1. <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus-daily-new-confirmed-cases>
 2. <http://epidemicforecasting.org/country-rt-estimates-estimated-R>

Figure 10



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