

# ASPHER Report: COVID-19 Situation Reporting across Europe

## Week of March 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

- Compared to the previous week, the global number of new COVID-19 cases has decreased by 14%, while the number of deaths has sharply increased (43%) in part due to changes in coding in the Americas. The European region has experienced a 4% decrease in caseload a 17% decline in new COVID-19 deaths. ([link](#))
- The EU/EEA experienced a continued increase in case rates for the second week in a row, with an overall 14-day case notification rate that increased by 9.6% and a proportionally higher 23% increase among people aged 65 years and above. This increased transmission, particularly among the elderly, is resulting in worsening indicators of severity. Increases in hospital indicators were reported by eleven countries, including one with its highest levels of ICU occupancy due to COVID-19. Despite a 19% decrease of the overall EU/EEA death rate compared to the previous week, six countries reported increases in death rates, of which two reached their highest levels so far. ([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*.

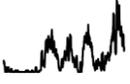
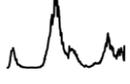
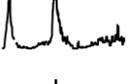
We will not come out of the pandemic until we seriously address the problem globally. We need global solidarity, commitment to [international preparedness](#) and [increased global production of vaccines](#). ASPHER is concerned that many countries are relaxing protections, at a time when there is still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

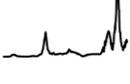
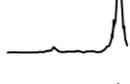
numbers of children's hospital admissions, and uncertain threats in terms of long COVID manifestations and late serious illness such as strokes and cardiac events. Hospital services continue to be confronted by high levels of serious infection, although intensive care services seem to be affected to different levels, in different areas.

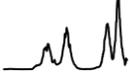
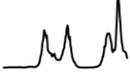
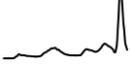
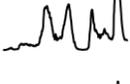
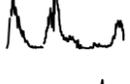
Alongside political initiatives which are throwing away proven measure to control the pandemic, there is the reality with Omicron variant, that primary health care and social care is not coping across Europe. Occupational health services are non-existent in many parts of Europe and therefore unable to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

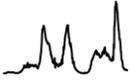
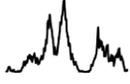
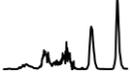
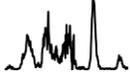
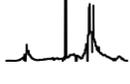
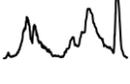
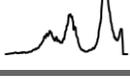
ASPHER supports the [VACCINE-plus approach](#) to pandemic control; or what we have called '[COVID-DO IT ALL](#)'. We recognize the importance of following [non-pharmacological interventions](#) as well as achieving a high level of vaccine uptake. Vaccine hesitancy still needs to be understood and addressed 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 (%)
Cyprus	5,466.81		2.23		72.02
Austria	3,759.74		4.38		72.86
Germany	3,079.43		3.25		75.23
Iceland	2,330.78		1.55		78.65
Luxembourg	2,208.30		3.60		72.51
Greece	2,038.58		5.00		73.20
France	1,980.11		1.62		77.77
Switzerland	1,877.36		1.28		68.77
Netherlands	1,848.87		0.86		72.01
Andorra	1,697.21		3.69		68.99
Slovakia	1,566.66		3.93		50.70
Ireland	1,460.05		1.43		80.42
Monaco	1,438.69		0.00		64.95

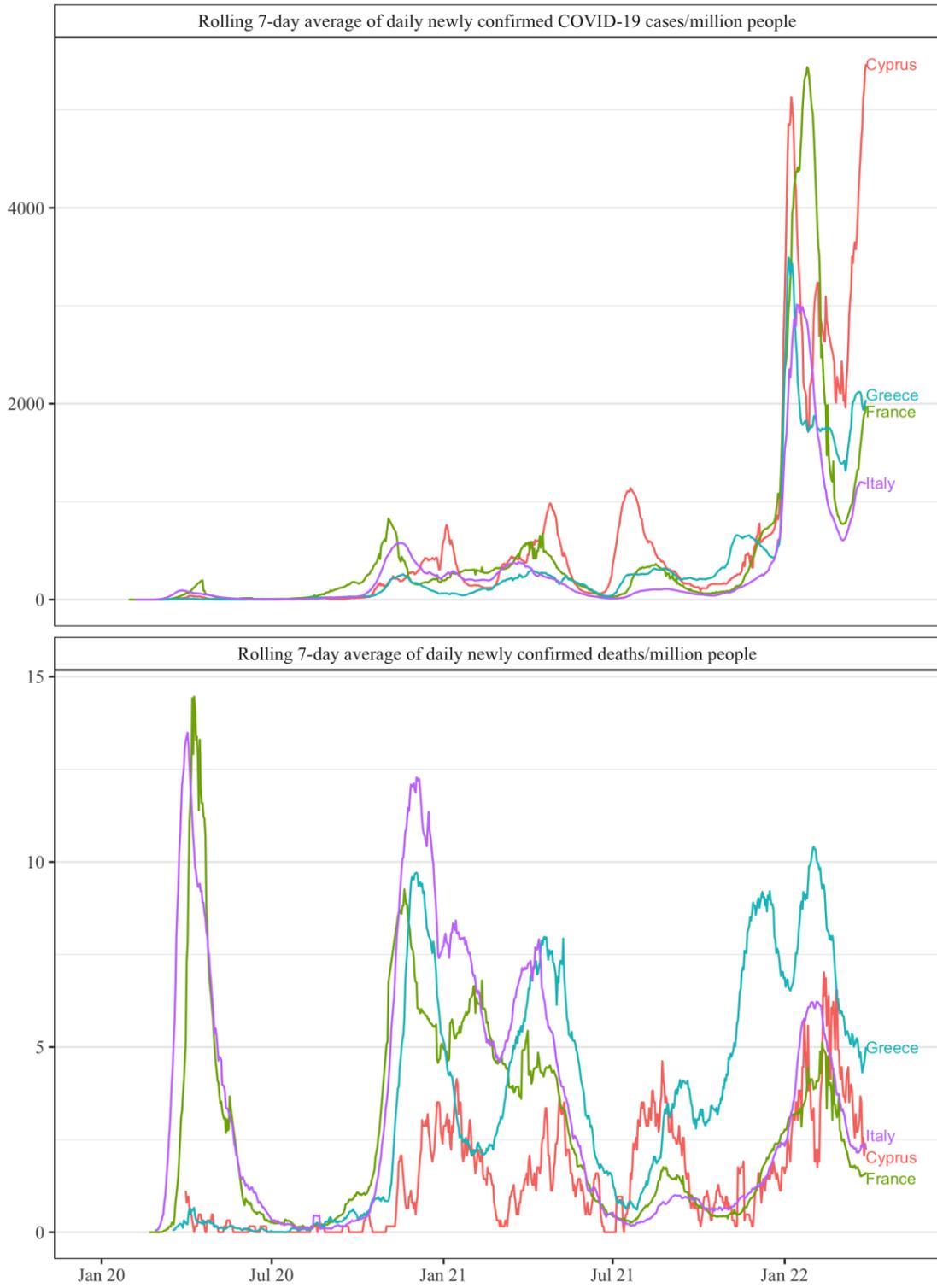
WHO Europe region	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed COVID-19 cases/million people	30-day trend in cases	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed deaths/million people	30-day trend in deaths	Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (%)
Israel	1,422.38		0.83		65.96
Finland	1,354.09		4.48		77.55
Slovenia	1,322.58		1.99		58.69
United Kingdom	1,209.24		2.20		72.42
Italy	1,193.85		2.26		79.20
Lithuania	1,118.91		5.68		69.61
Portugal	1,057.61		1.93		92.60
San Marino	999.71		4.20		69.40
Belgium	964.09		2.11		78.46
Estonia	935.61		5.28		63.59
Denmark	808.54		3.07		81.48
Czechia	765.47		2.96		63.95
Malta	715.26		1.94		90.33
Spain	395.84		2.11		85.82

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 (%)
Croatia	334.49		2.98		54.82
Serbia	271.53		1.52		47.58
Hungary	220.76		3.66		64.21
Poland	176.65		2.21		59.10
Bulgaria	176.38		3.07		29.72
Turkey	176.31		0.82		62.28
Romania	176.26		1.56		42.26
Russia	158.97		2.53		49.90
Georgia	141.72		1.87		31.56
Montenegro	124.65		0.91		44.82
Belarus	120.89		0.94		58.94
North Macedonia	116.27		1.85		40.10
Sweden	112.89		2.74		74.94
Moldova	69.90		1.10		26.19

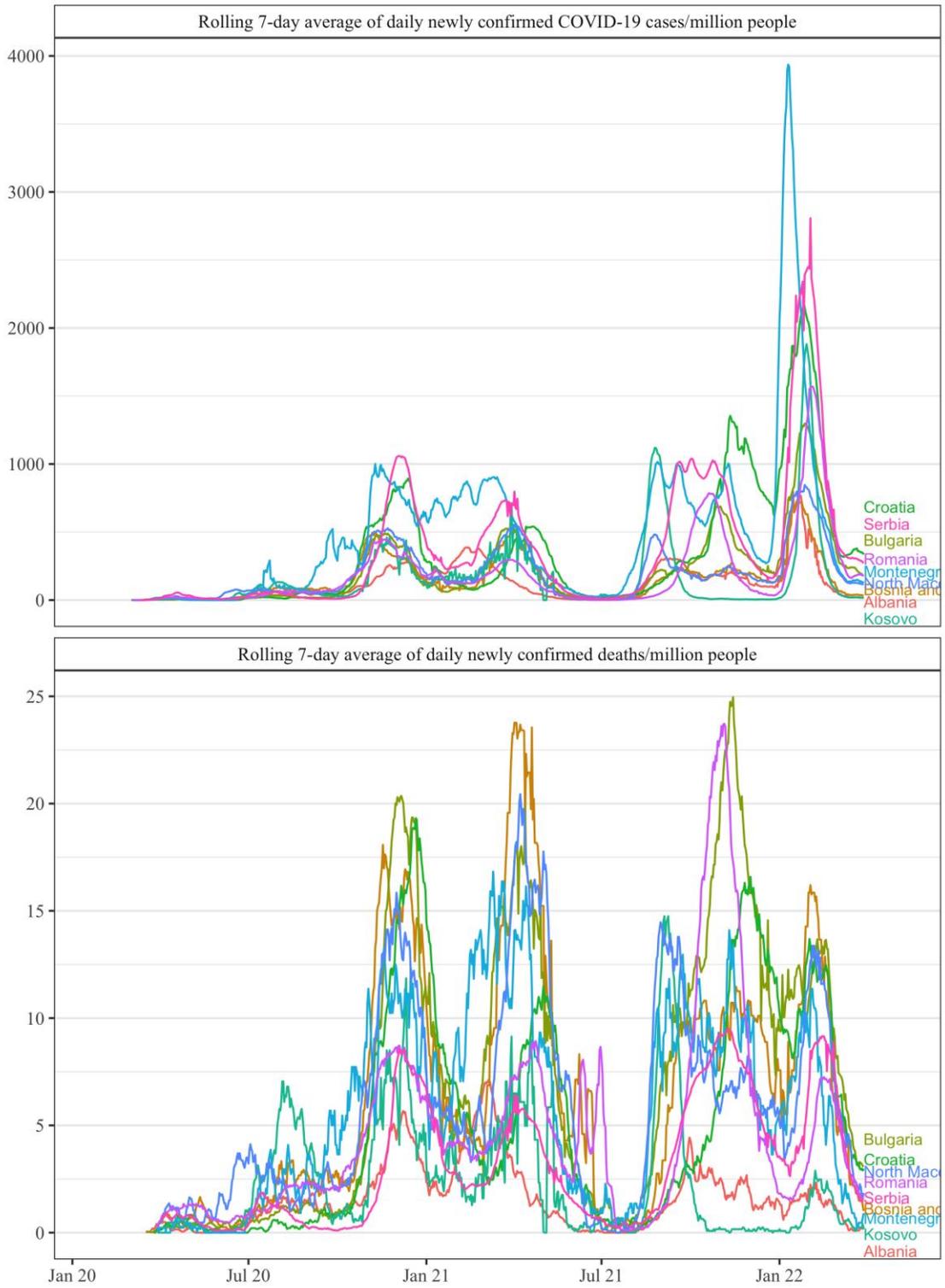
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Bosnia and Herzegovina	34.84		1.01		25.93
Albania	19.05		0.15		42.30
Kosovo	17.48		0.16		46.02
Armenia	6.26		0.48		31.97
Azerbaijan	3.76		0.29		47.14
Kyrgyzstan	1.79		0.11		18.63
Kazakhstan	1.48		0.04		48.16
Uzbekistan	0.70		0.00		40.82
Tajikistan	0.00		0.00		47.33
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](#)).**

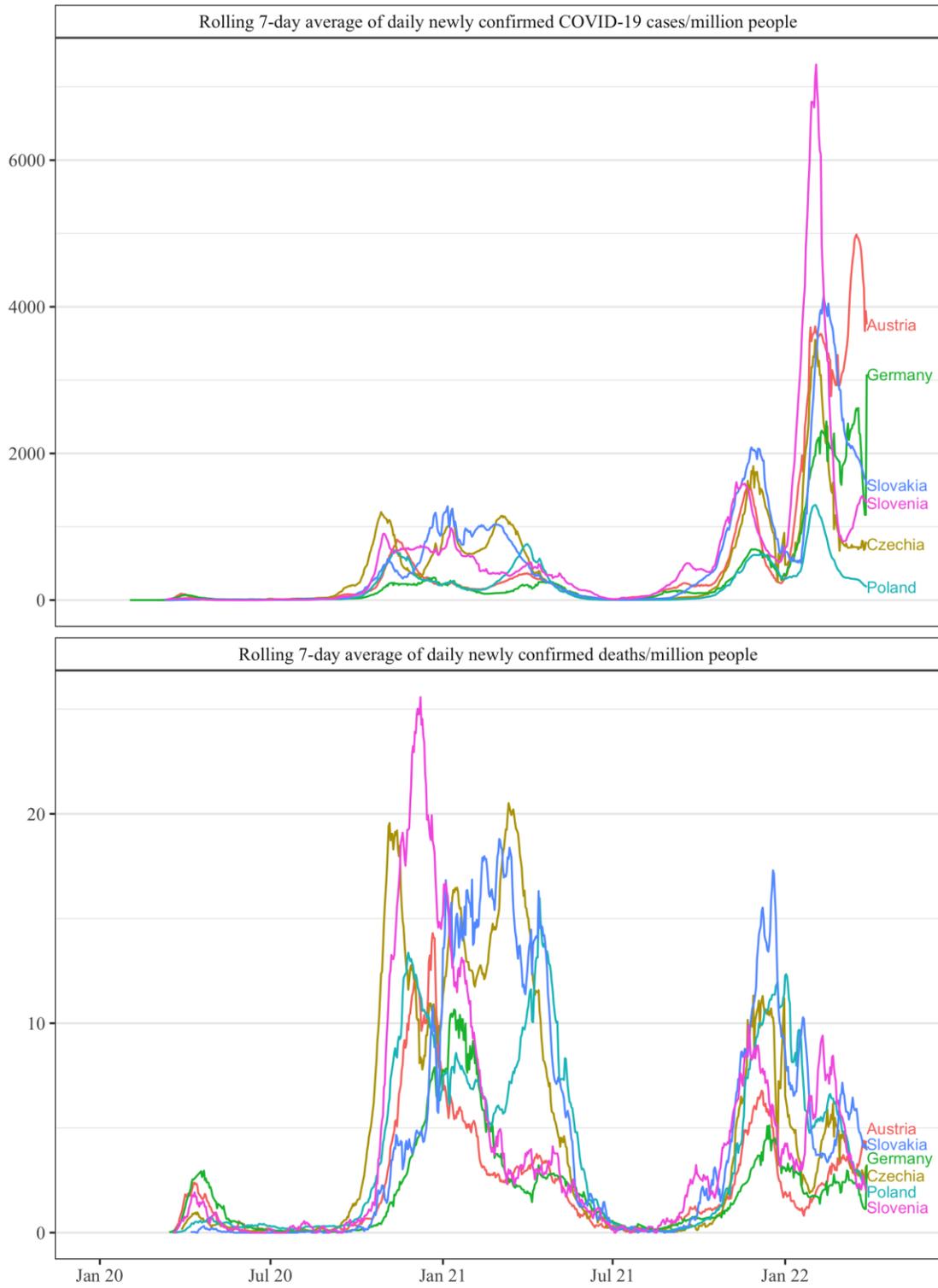
**Mediterranean region**



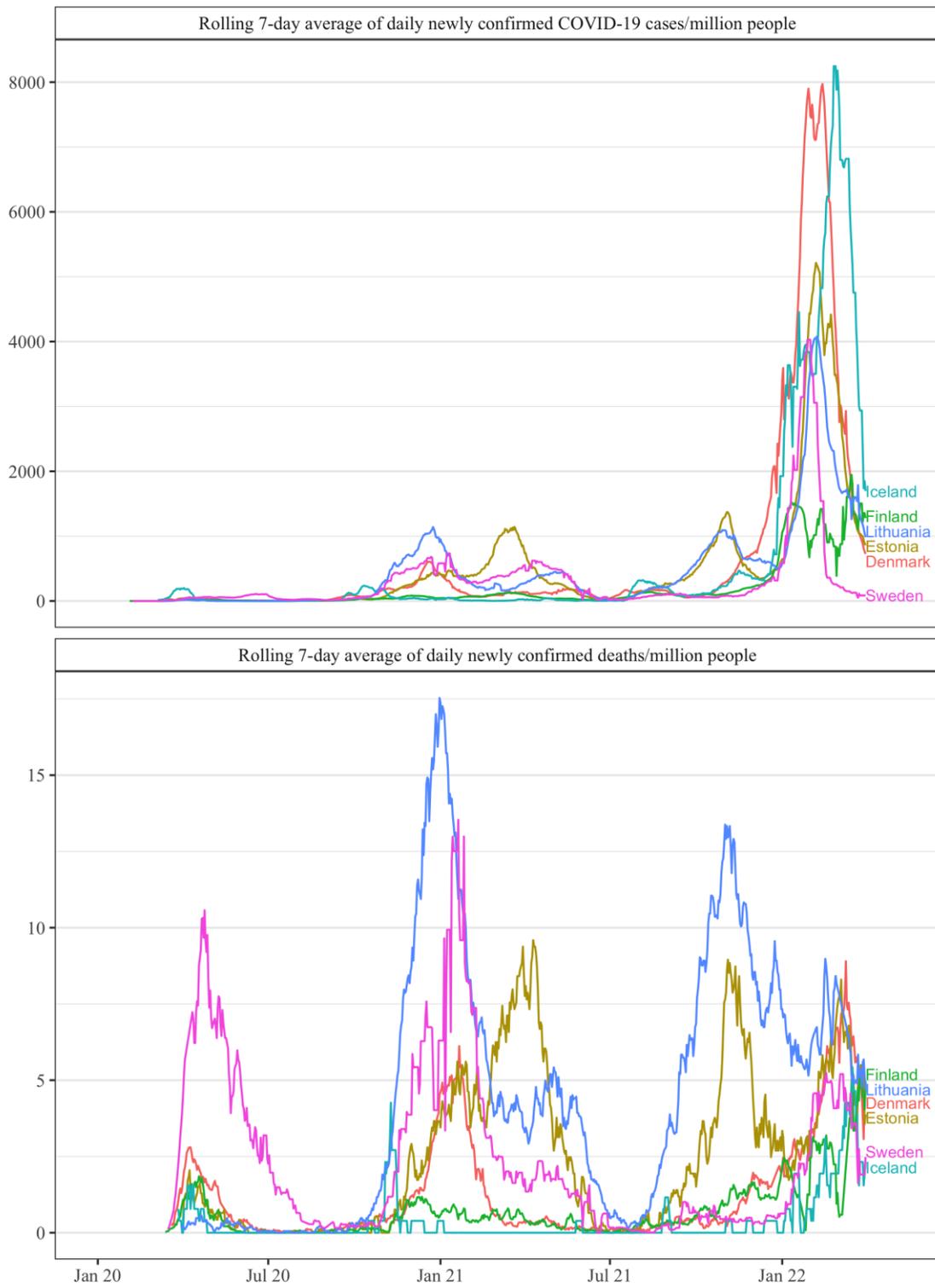
## South-East region



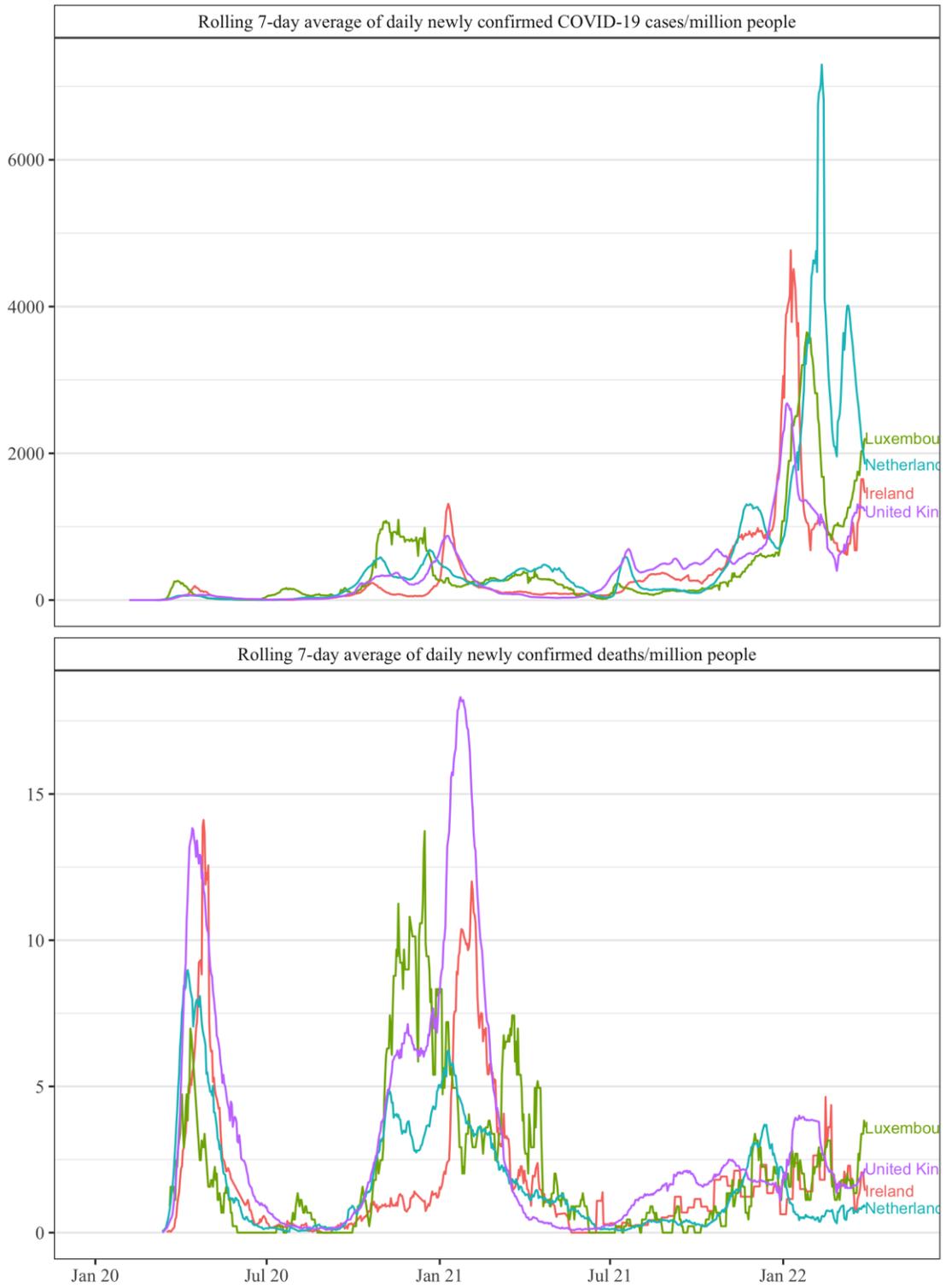
# Central Europe



## Baltics and Nordic Countries



# North-Western Europe



# Central Asia

