

# ASPHER Report: COVID-19 Situation Reporting across Europe

Week of April 25<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

- According to the [WHO weekly epidemiological update](#), the global number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths has continued to decline since the end of March 2022, decreasing by 24% and 12%, respectively, compared to the previous week.
- The [ECDC country overview report](#) highlights that transmission of COVID-19 remained high in the EU/EEA, with case rates continuing to decrease in all 30 EU/EEA countries. ICU indicators remained stable over the last weeks but at a relatively high level (last observed in November 2021 prior to the emergence of the Omicron VOC).
- A new [ECDC report](#) provides an updated overview of the progress with national COVID-19 vaccination strategies and deployment in EU/EEA countries. The cumulative vaccine uptake in the total EU/EEA population has reached 72.5% (range: 29.5–86.2%) for the complete primary course and 52.8% (range: 8.8–70.6%) for an additional dose. However, progress differs across countries, with two countries still reporting less than 50% of the total population having completed the primary vaccination course (Bulgaria and Romania). Vaccination is not mandatory in most countries. Seven countries have mandatory vaccination in place for different population groups, in particular healthcare workers and/or workers in LTCFs, and Lithuania is planning to make vaccination mandatory in the future.





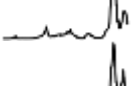



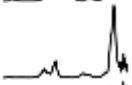
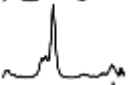






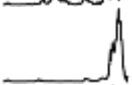

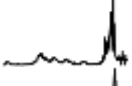



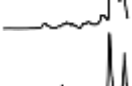

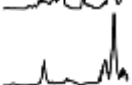

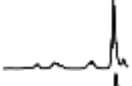









ASPHER is concerned about talk of the 'end of the pandemic'. *Pandemic* is not defined by politicians, or by journalists. The *pandemic* is defined by the World Health Organisation, under strict decision-making process and not as mere opinion. A pandemic is "an epidemic occurring worldwide, or over a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





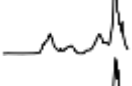







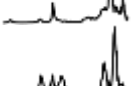

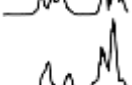

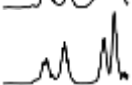
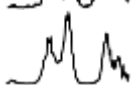




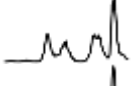

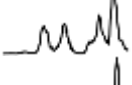

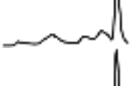



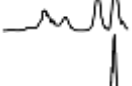

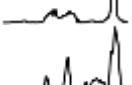

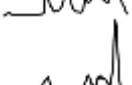


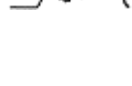


We will not come out of the pandemic until we seriously address the problem globally. We need global solidarity, commitment to [international preparedness](#) and [increased global production of vaccines](#). ASPHER is concerned that many countries are relaxing protections, at a time when there is still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

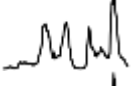

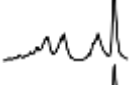





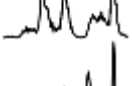

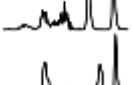
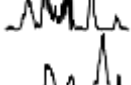
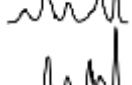


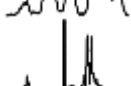




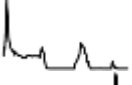





Alongside political initiatives which are throwing away proven measure to control the pandemic, there is the reality with Omicron variant, that primary health care and social care is not coping across Europe. Occupational health services are non-existent in many parts of Europe and therefore unable to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

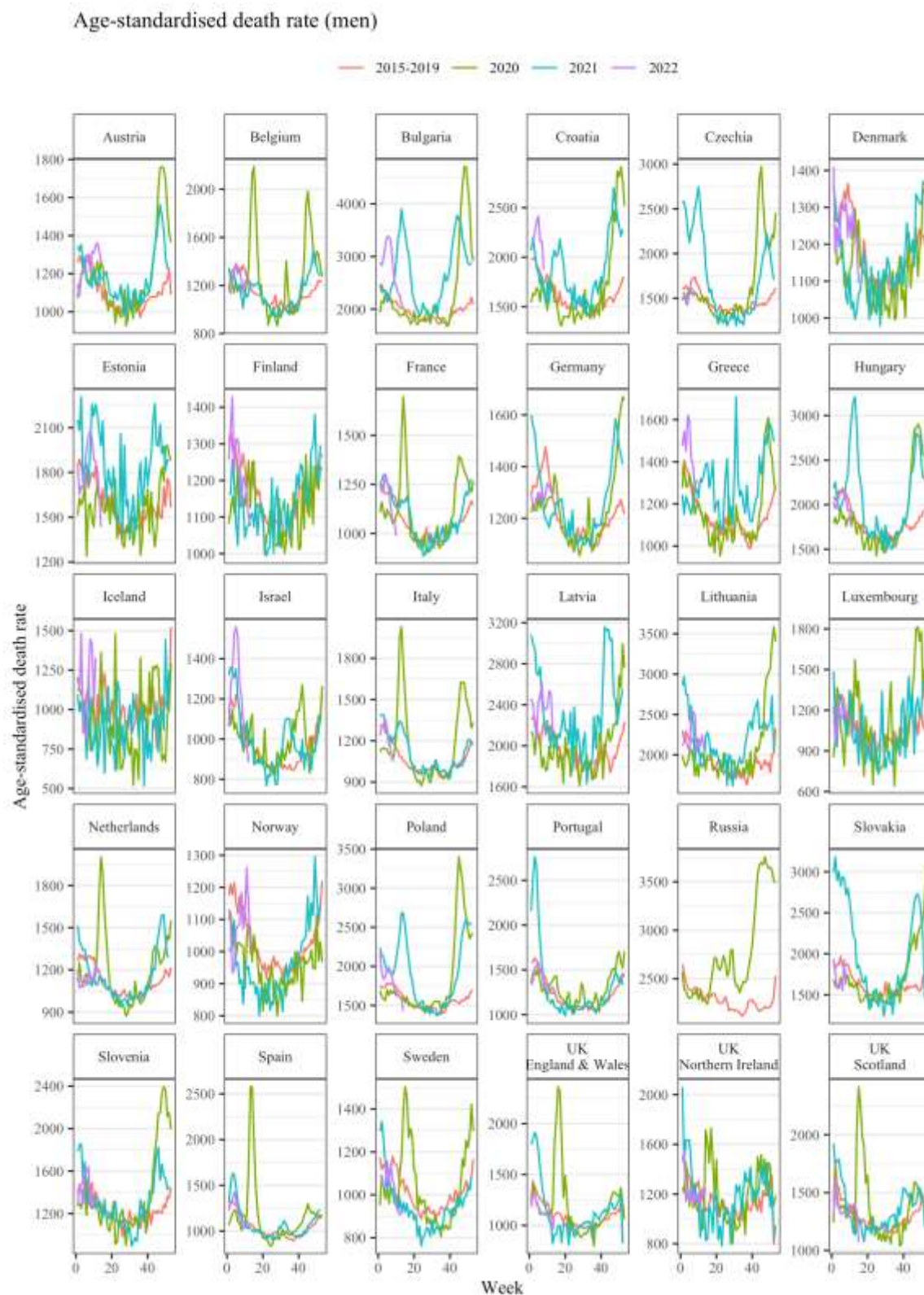
**Rolling 7-day average of latest daily newly confirmed coronavirus cases, deaths, and proportion of people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in the countries of the WHO-Europe region ([Source: Our World in Data](#)).**

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 (%)
Germany	1,494.57		2.60		75.44
Finland	1,310.27		3.12		77.83
France	1,269.54		2.20		77.91
Luxembourg	1,096.61		1.57		72.68
Italy	1,025.44		2.45		79.35
Portugal	1,015.22		2.37		92.60
Cyprus	974.96		2.87		72.02
San Marino	861.09		0.00		69.46
Austria	785.43		25.86		73.03
Monaco	712.12		3.62		64.95
Iceland	639.93		2.71		78.69
Andorra	561.43		0.00		69.04
Slovenia	558.72		1.44		58.75
Greece	532.36		3.79		73.42
Malta	476.65		4.43		90.68
Belgium	459.20		1.47		78.55
Israel	385.58		0.72		66.03
Slovakia	385.27		2.33		50.75

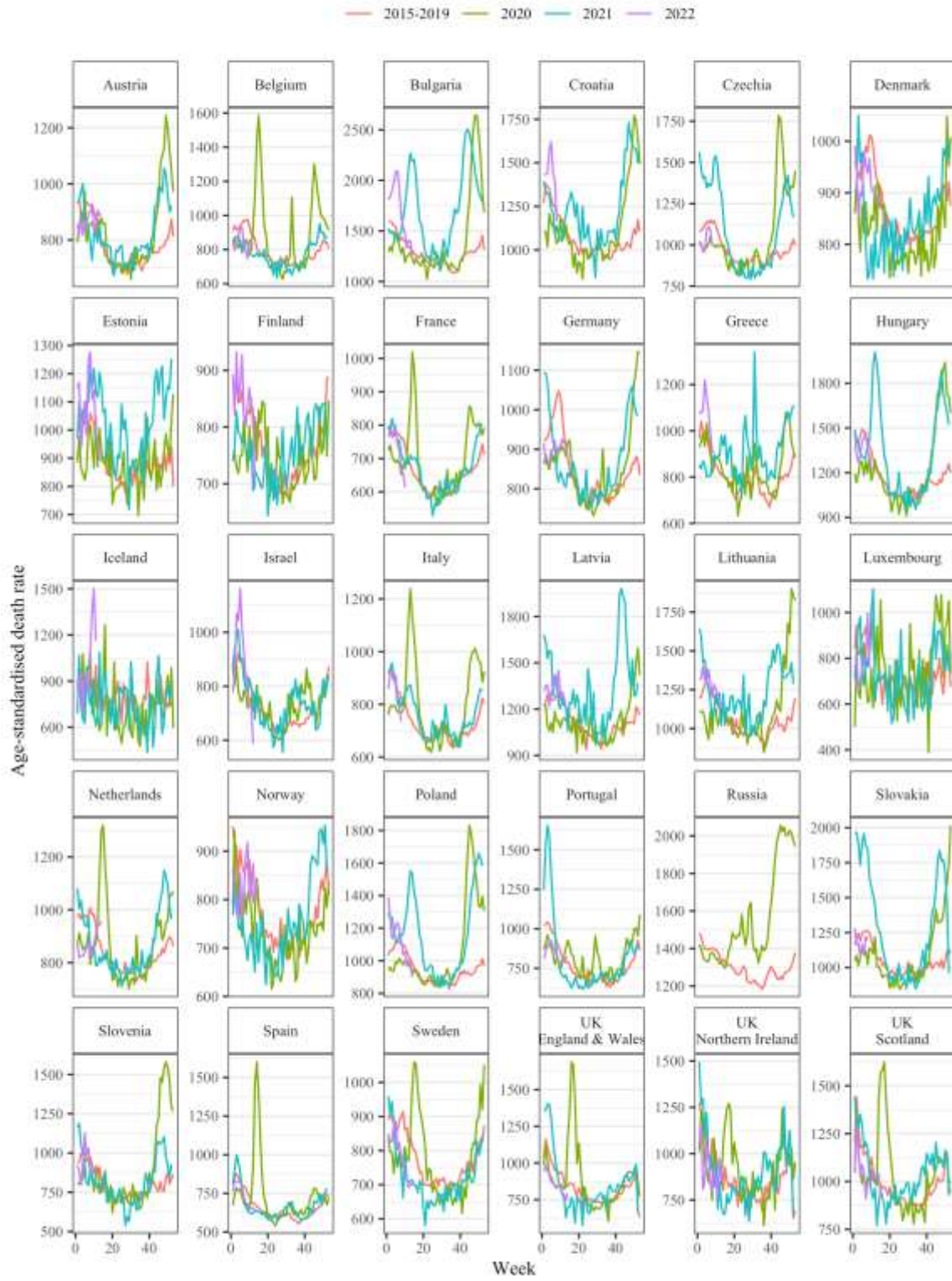
WHO Europe region	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed COVID-19 cases/million people	30-day trend in cases	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed deaths/million people	30-day trend in deaths	Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (%)
Switzerland	372.78		0.43		68.78
Spain	295.11		3.43		86.37
Lithuania	290.19		2.76		69.68
Estonia	279.85		0.86		63.73
United Kingdom	277.12		4.75		72.87
Denmark	266.60		2.38		82.55
Ireland	242.74		1.83		80.72
Czechia	180.73		1.23		64.03
Croatia	170.20		1.72		54.91
Hungary	166.36		2.40		64.28
Netherlands	133.70		0.56		72.22
Montenegro	122.83		1.14		44.98
Serbia	113.91		0.69		47.58
Bulgaria	75.30		1.30		29.80
Russia	56.93		1.23		50.38
Belarus	47.75		0.35		58.26
Romania	39.20		0.48		42.32
Sweden	33.63		1.18		75.08
Turkey	33.54		0.18		62.36
Georgia	32.84		0.22		31.72

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 (%)
North Macedonia	32.72		0.96		40.16
Moldova	29.18		0.14		26.33
Poland	26.46		0.52		59.32
Albania	16.26		0.00		42.68
Bosnia and Herzegovina	16.24		0.52		25.93
Kosovo	8.90		0.00		46.12
Armenia	2.60		0.00		33.02
Azerbaijan	1.55		0.01		47.33
Kazakhstan	0.93		0.00		48.62
Uzbekistan	0.80		0.00		42.19
Kyrgyzstan	0.19		0.00		19.17
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).

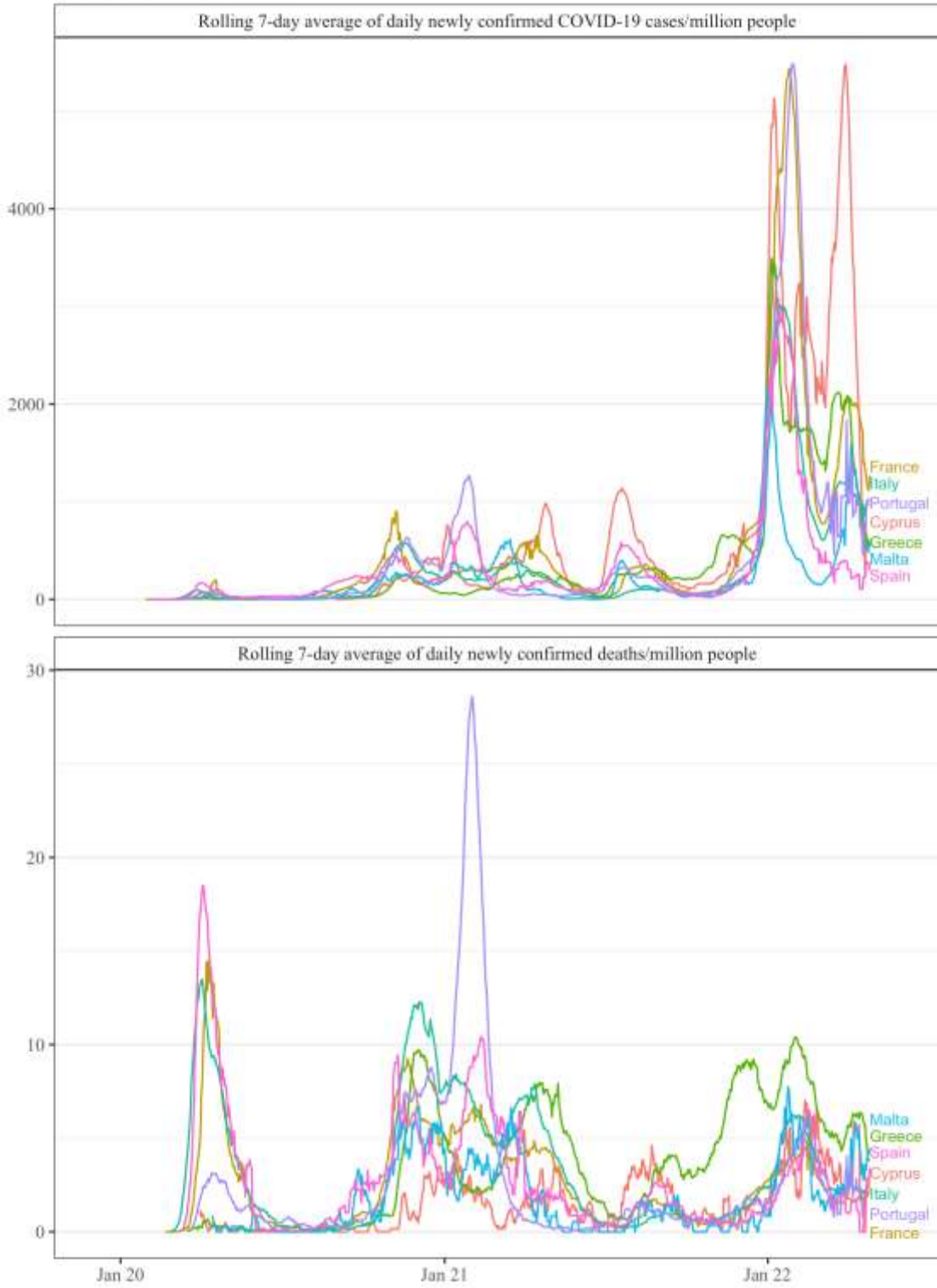


### Age-standardised death rate (women)



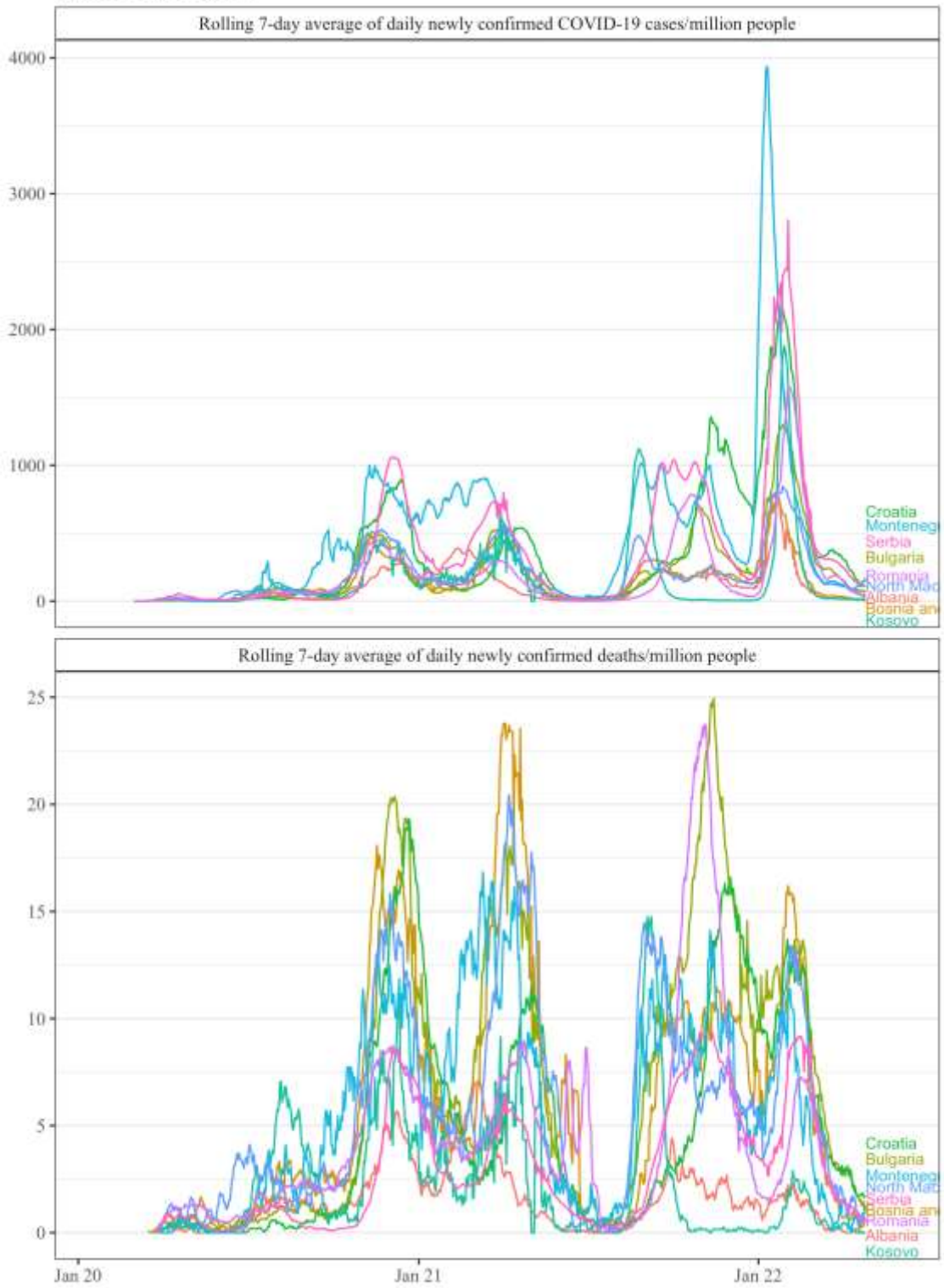
Rolling 7-day average of daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases and daily new confirmed COVID-19 deaths in sub-regions of Europe (Source: Our World in Data).

Mediterranean region

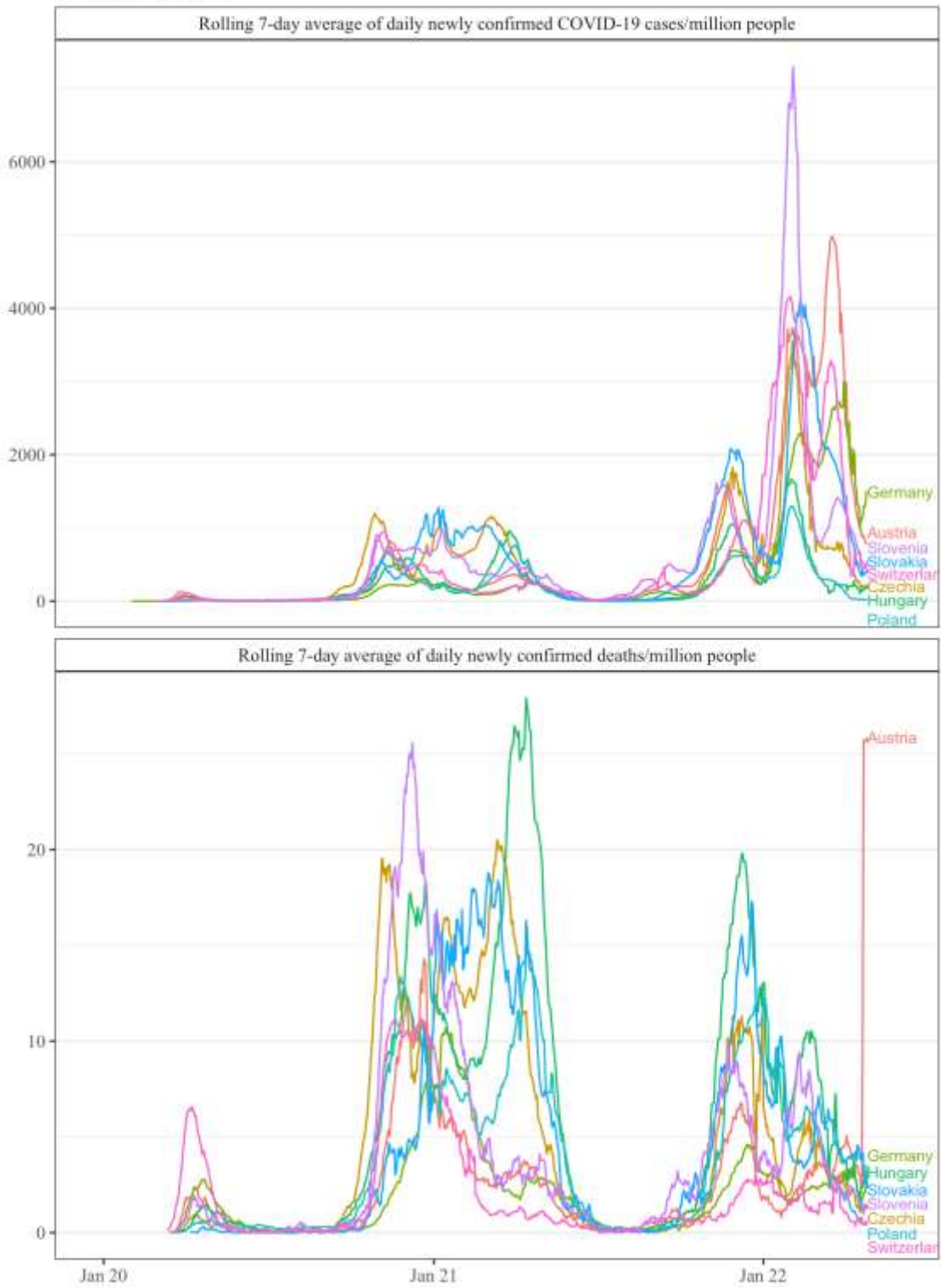




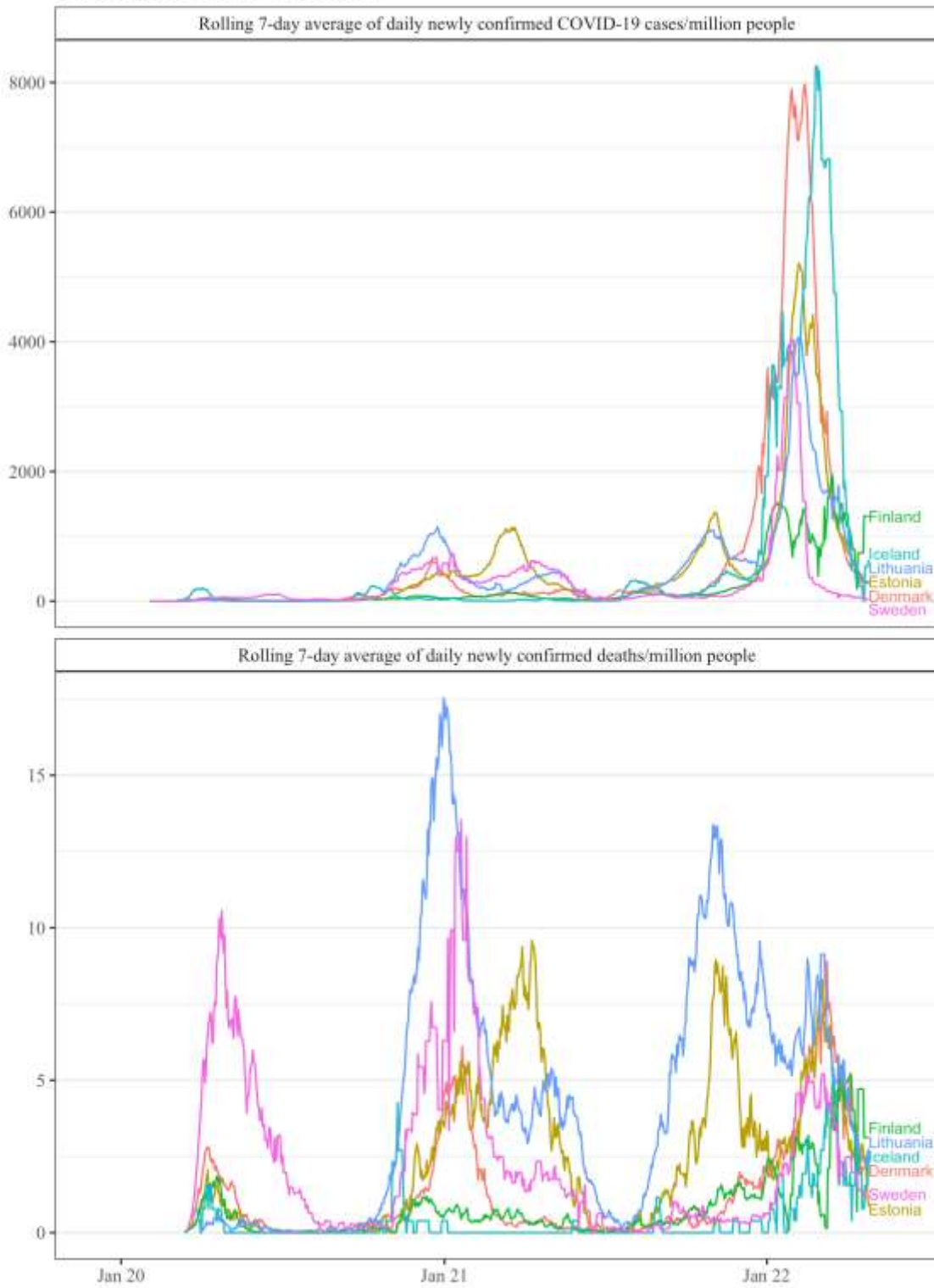
## South-East region



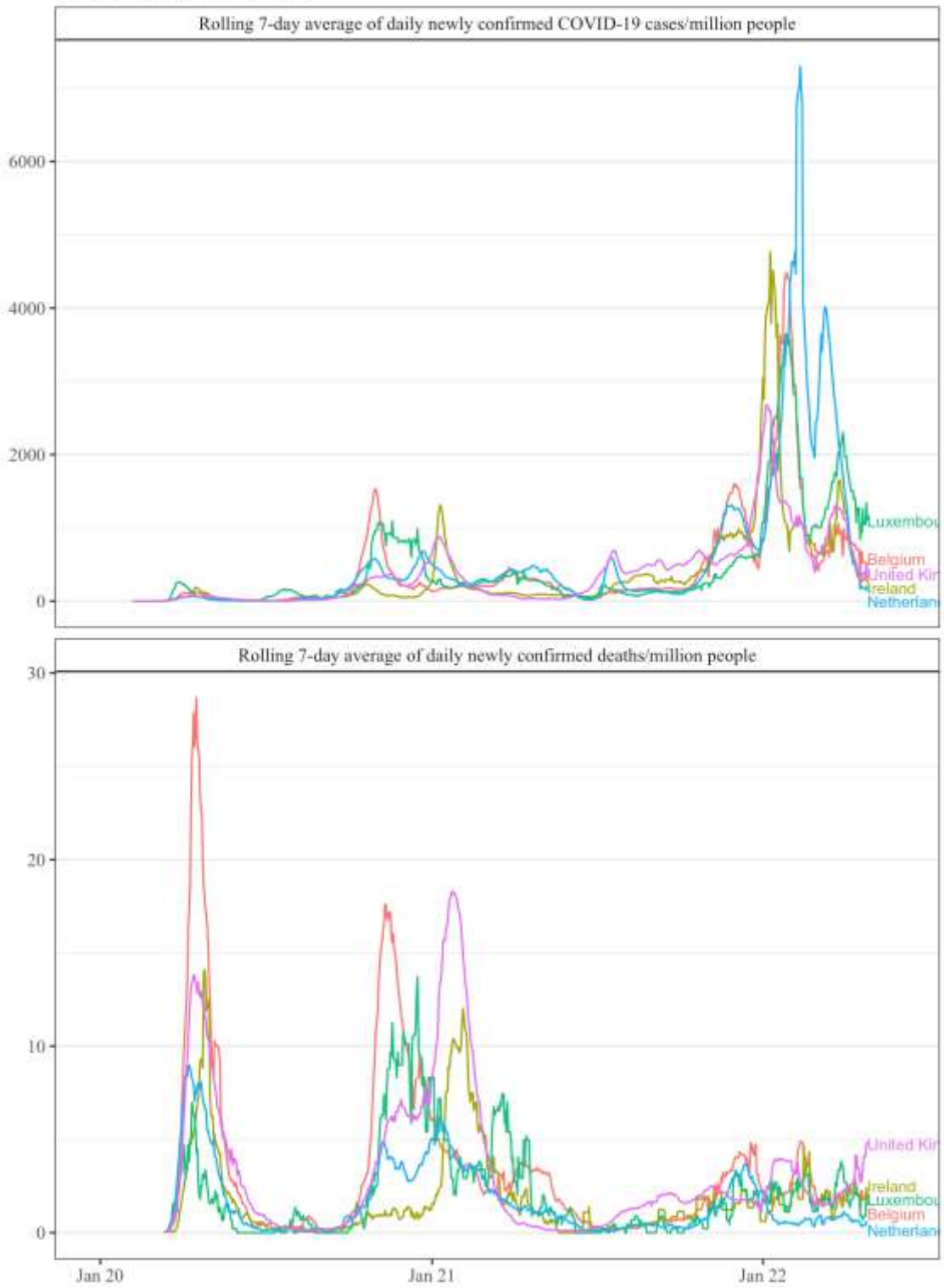
## Central Europe



## Baltics and Nordic Countries



## North-Western Europe



## Central Asia

