

# ASPHER Report: COVID-19 Situation Reporting across Europe

Week of July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Authors:** Rok Hrzic<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Nadav Davidovitch<sup>3,4\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Maastricht University, the Netherlands

<sup>2</sup> ASPHER Young Professional

<sup>3</sup> ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force

<sup>4</sup> Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel

Corresponding Author: [nadavd@bgu.ac.il](mailto:nadavd@bgu.ac.il)

*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

- The [WHO weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19 highlights](#) that the number of new weekly cases increased globally for the fourth consecutive week after a declining trend since the last peak in March 2022. At the same time, the number of new weekly deaths declined by 12% compared to the previous week.
- The [ECDC country overview report](#) highlights that cases among people aged 65 years and over increased in 22 of the 24 countries, corresponding to a 32% increase compared to the previous week at the EU/EEA level. The increasing transmission among older age groups is starting to translate into increases rates of severe disease. In 18 countries increasing trends in hospital or ICU admissions and occupancy rates are increasing.
- The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) are now [recommending](#) that second booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines be considered for people 60-79 years old and people at high risk of severe disease.

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.

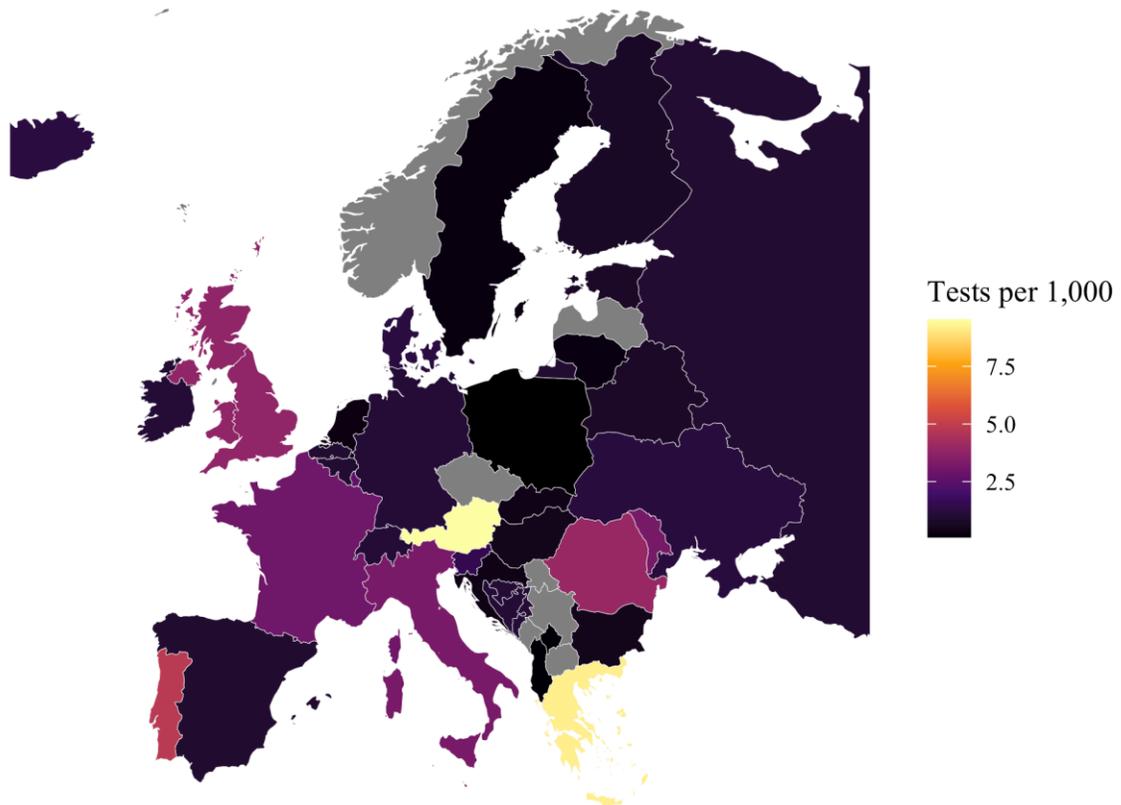
We are concerned with the rapid dismantling of non-pharmaceutical interventions against COVID-19 across Europe. In a [recent opinion paper](#), we advocate for European governments' continued recommendation for the use of face masks in high traffic public areas like public transport. The reality remains that the future evolution of the pandemic is highly uncertain. Primary health care and social care provision across Europe are not yet restored to pre-pandemic levels due to the burden of ever new variants of the virus. 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. 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 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.

**Latest COVID-19 test rates in the countries of the WHO-Europe region** ([Source: Our World in Data](#)).

New COVID-19 tests per 1,000 population



**Rolling average of latest COVID-19 test, case, and hospitalization rates in the countries of the WHO-Europe region ([Source: Our World in Data](#)).**

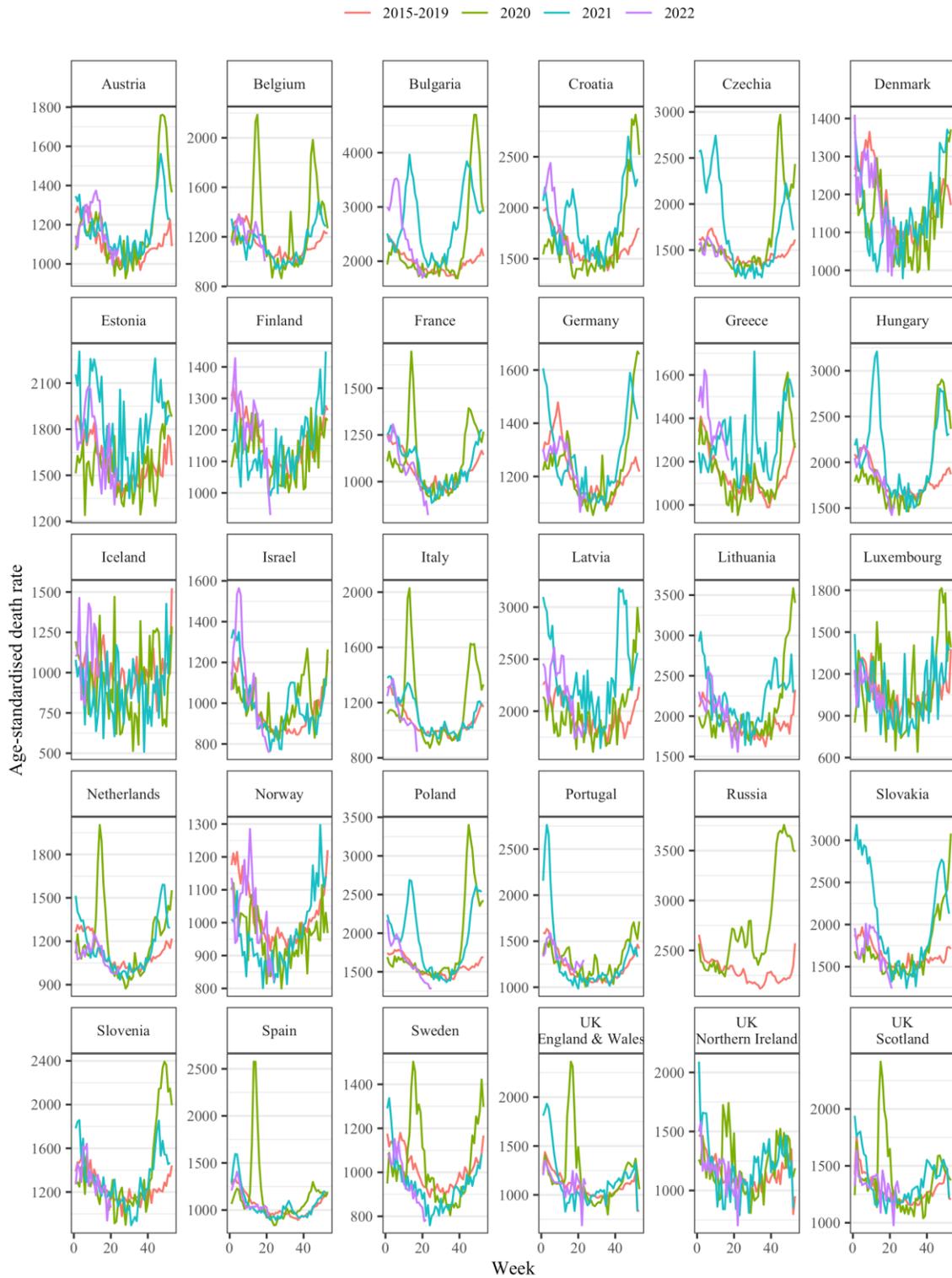
WHO Europe region	Daily new tests/thousand people	30-day trend in tests	Daily newly confirmed COVID-19 cases/million people	30-day trend in cases	Weekly hospital admissions/million people	30-day trend in weekly hospital admissions
Cyprus	75.00		2,377.85		29.02	
France	2.99		1,886.81		139.55	
Italy	3.20		1,756.88		65.65	
Greece	9.18		1,686.37		183.73	
Andorra	1.18		1,621.36			
Luxembourg	2.57		1,254.90		1.57	
Austria	9.53		1,159.32			
Germany	1.05		1,087.40		55.79	
Israel	2.82		1,044.04		132.71	
Malta	2.79		928.88		271.26	
Switzerland	1.04		920.15		18.13	
Iceland	1.25		846.34		24.40	
Portugal	4.80		718.48			
Belgium	0.98		674.35		85.88	
Slovenia	1.53		627.26		20.86	
Spain	0.94		429.71		113.53	
Ireland	1.04		401.57		164.39	
Denmark	1.24		400.25		97.53	
Estonia	0.75		385.23		59.40	

WHO Europe region	Daily new tests/thousand people	30-day trend in tests	Daily newly confirmed COVID-19 cases/million people	30-day trend in cases	Weekly hospital admissions/million	30-day trend in weekly hospital admissions
Netherlands	0.29		353.06		48.85	
Albania	0.13		335.34			
Finland	0.72		332.24			
United Kingdom	3.80		308.96		157.99	
Croatia	0.37		278.60		42.61	
Serbia	0.92		219.48			
Slovakia	0.39		209.06			
Lithuania	0.28		168.00			
Kosovo	0.12		158.16			
Romania	3.96		140.33			
North Macedonia	0.38		131.42			
Bulgaria	0.45		115.23			
Czechia	0.35		94.08		22.84	
Hungary	0.45		68.61			
Sweden	0.24		57.39			
Moldova	3.17		40.18			
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1.07		37.12			
Poland	0.09		25.68			
Kazakhstan	2.10		22.86			
Russia	0.96		22.41		53.42	

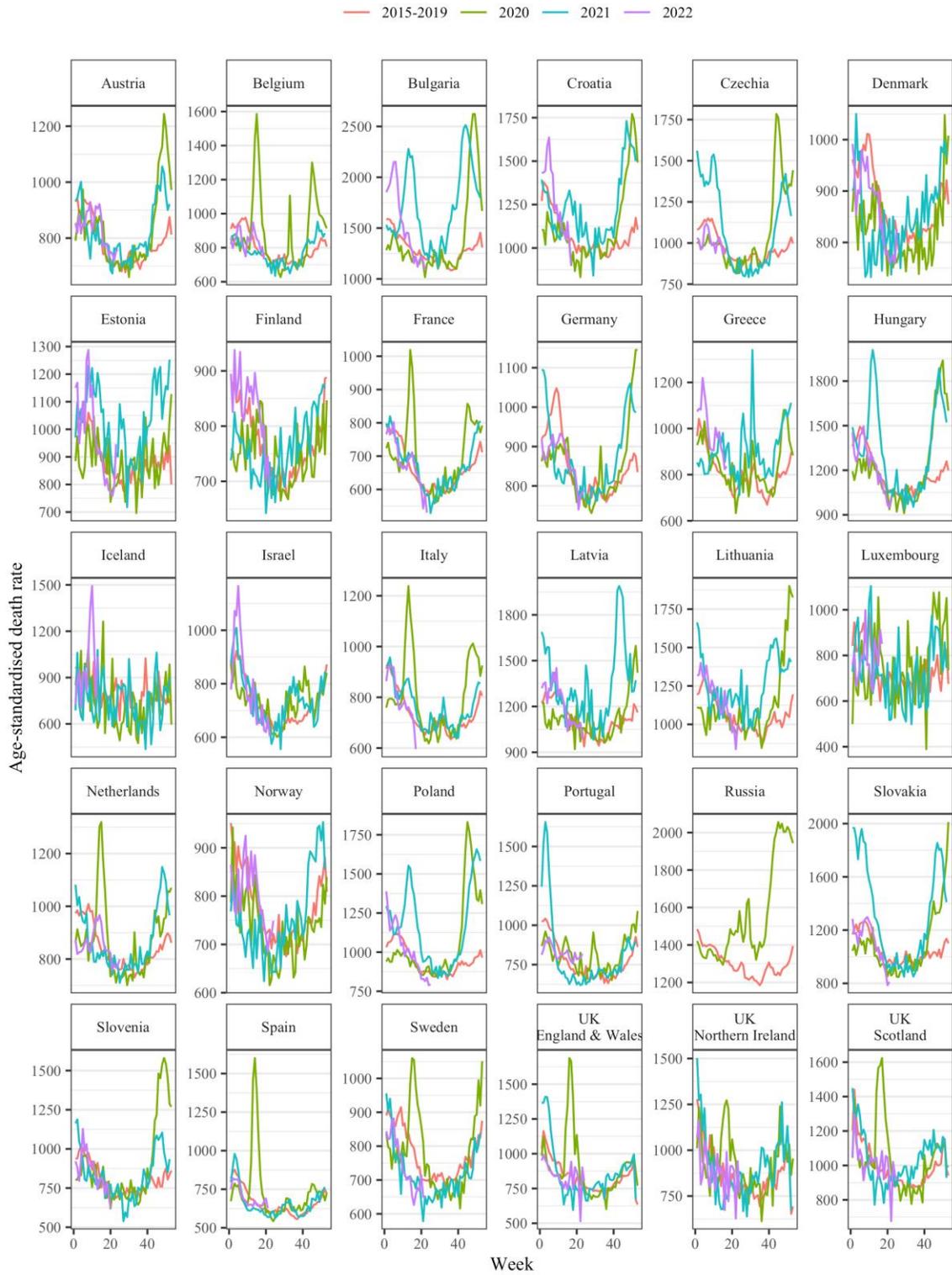
WHO Europe region	Daily new tests/thousand people	30-day trend in tests	Daily newly confirmed COVID-19 cases/million people	30-day trend in cases	Weekly hospital admissions/million hospital admissions	30-day trend in weekly hospital admissions
Armenia	0.49		18.12			
Ukraine	1.21		1.57			
Azerbaijan	0.23		0.00			
Belarus	0.75		0.00			
Georgia	0.88		0.00			
Turkey	1.58		0.00			

**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 (men)

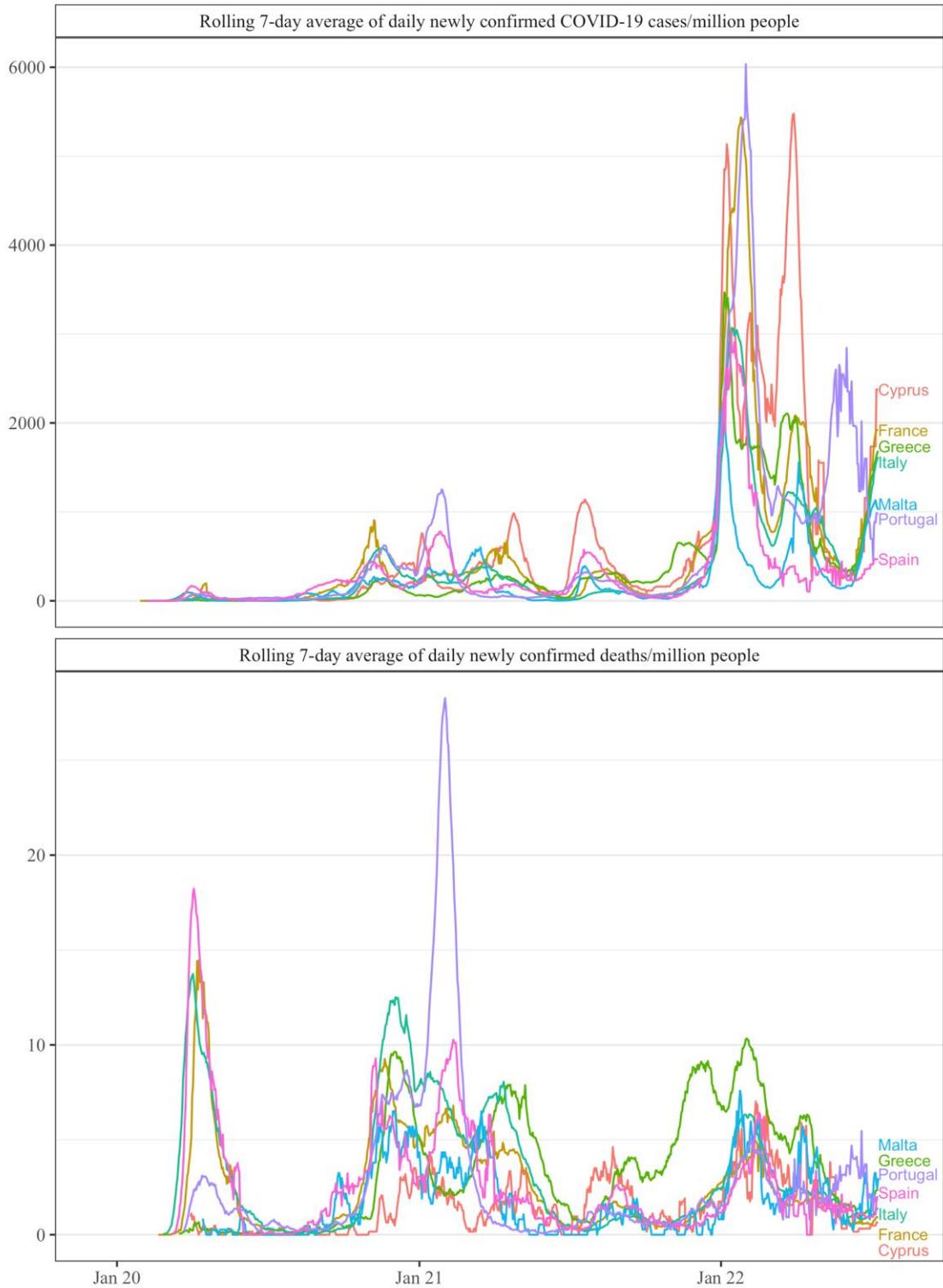


### Age-standardised death rate (women)

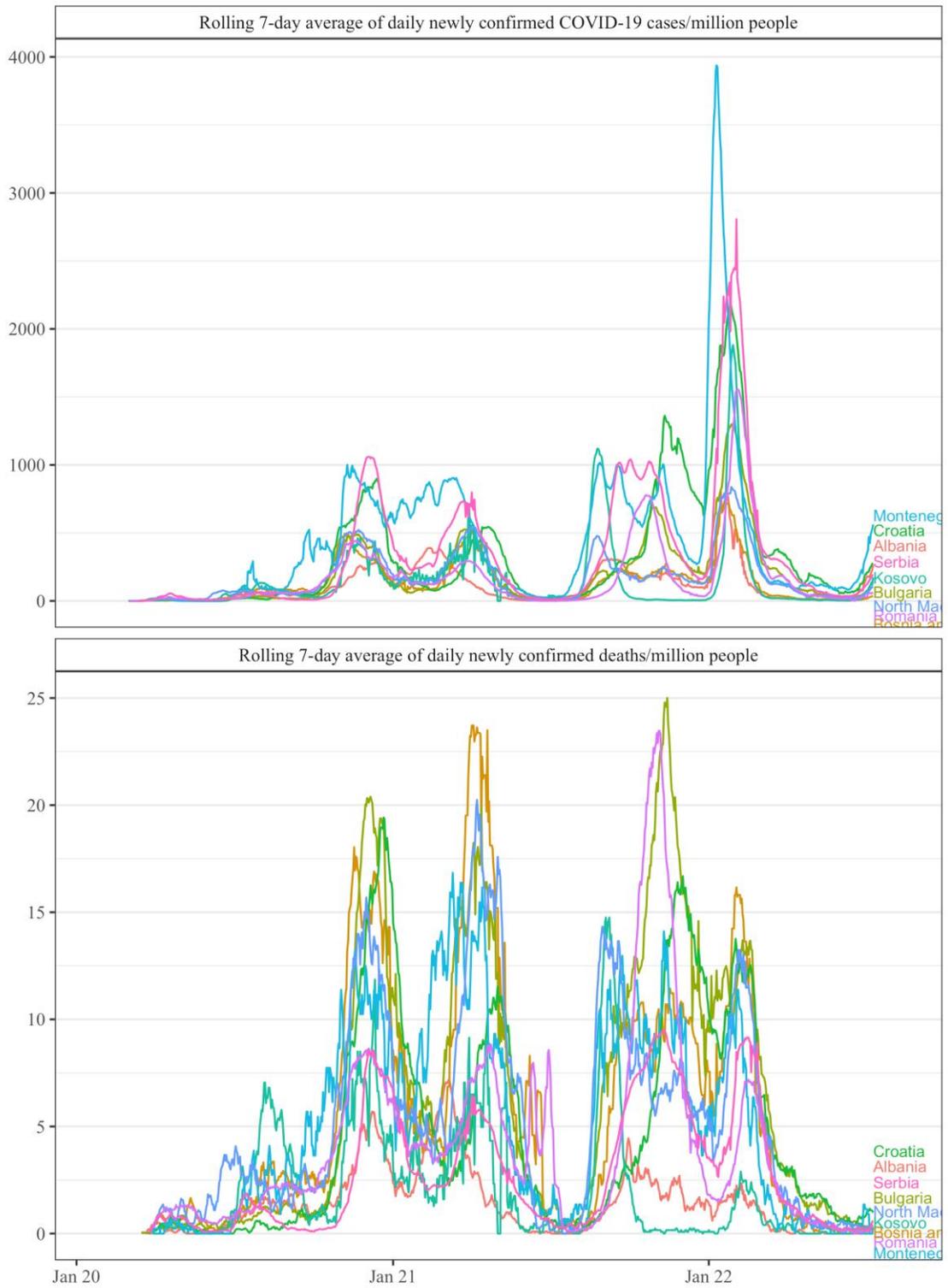


**Rolling 7-day average of daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases and daily new confirmed COVID-19 deaths in sub-regions of Europe (Source: Our World in Data).**

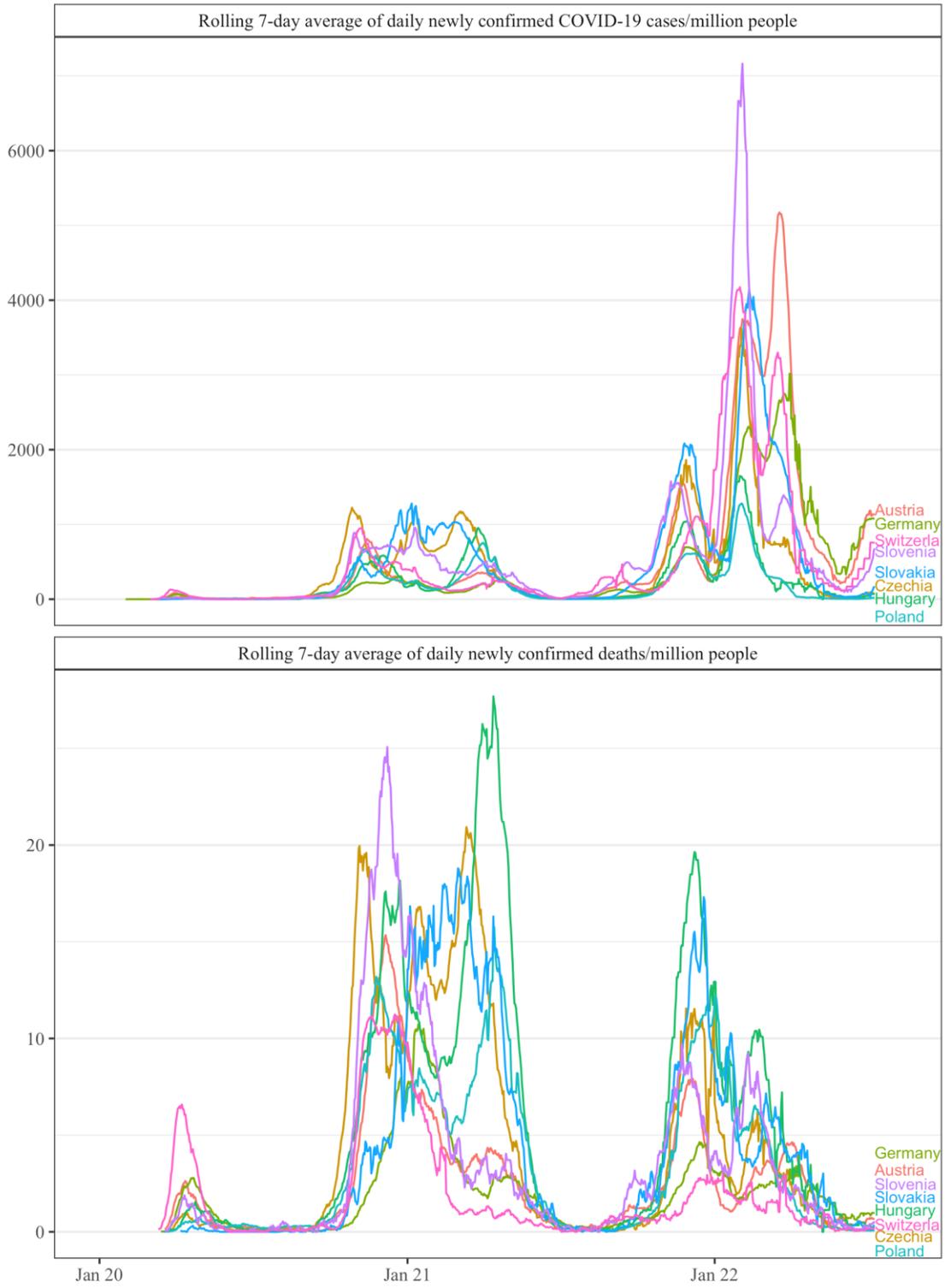
### Mediterranean region



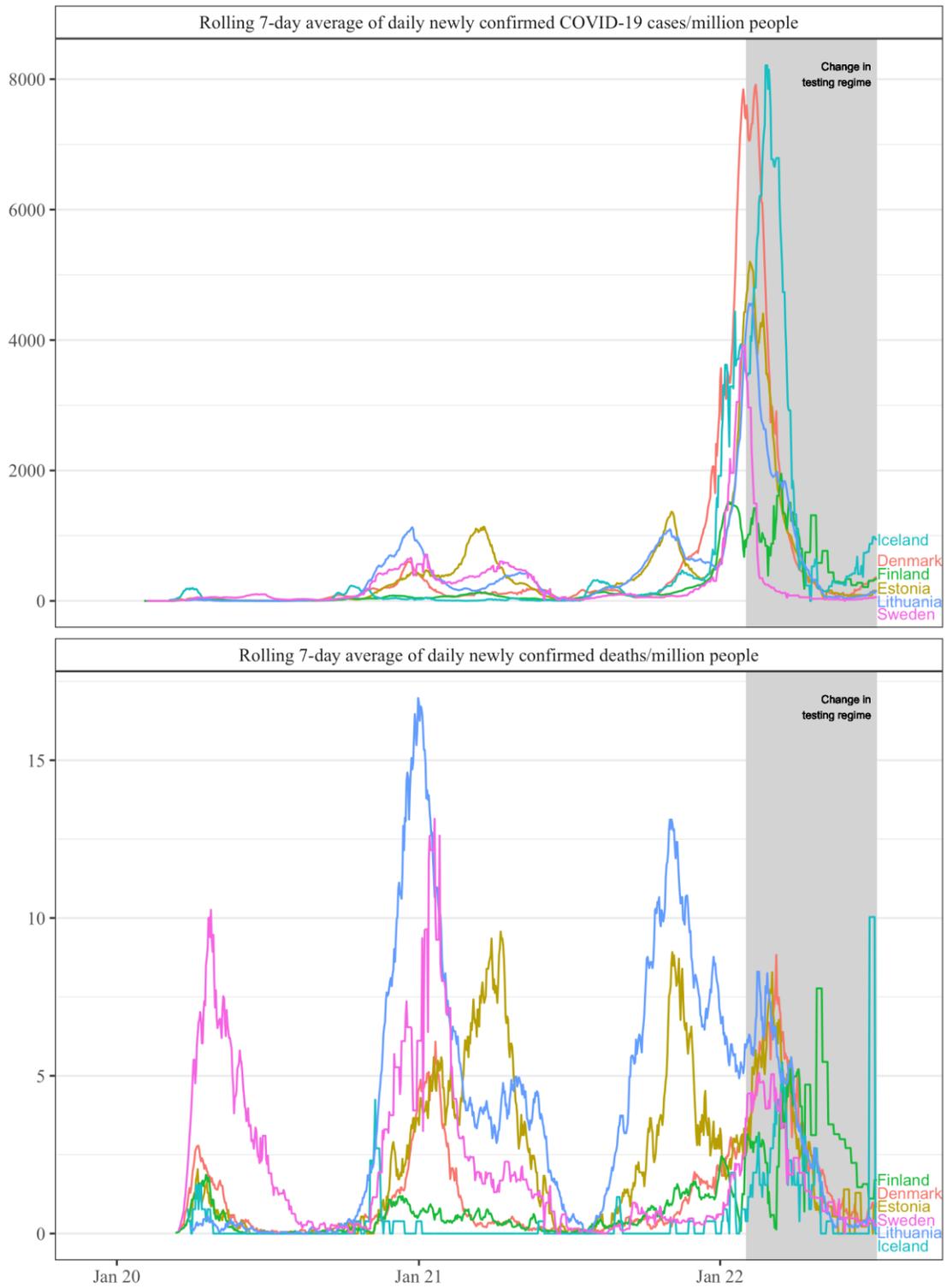
## South-East region



# Central Europe



## Baltics and Nordic Countries



# North-Western Europe

