

ASPHER Report: COVID-19 Situation Reporting across Europe

Week of September 12th, 2022

Authors: Rok Hrzic^{1,2,3}, Nadav Davidovitch^{3,4*}

¹ Maastricht University, the Netherlands

² ASPHER Young Professional

³ ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force

⁴ Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel

Corresponding Author: 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 global number of weekly cases and deaths continues to decline rapidly.
- The [ECDC country overview report](#) also highlights a decreasing trend in cases, falling by 13% compared to the previous week, reaching 9% of the pandemic maximum. A similar decreasing trend was observed for case rates among people aged 65 years and above, reaching 26% of the pandemic maximum. Four countries reported increasing trends in hospital or ICU admissions/occupancy rates.

Selected recent COVID-19 publications

Puntmann, V. O., Martin, S., Shchendrygina, A., Hoffmann, J., Ka, M. M., Giokoglu, E., Vanchin, B., Holm, N., Karyou, A., Laux, G. S., Arendt, C., De Leuw, P., Zacharowski, K., Khodamoradi, Y., Vehreschild, M. J. G. T., Rohde, G., Zeiher, A. M., Vogl, T. J., Schwenke, C., & Nagel, E. (2022). Long-term cardiac pathology in individuals with mild initial COVID-19 illness. In *Nature Medicine*. Springer Science and Business Media LLC. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-022-02000-0>

- Persistent cardiac symptoms in previously well, home-isolated individuals after a bout of mild COVID-19 may, at least in part, relate to mild chronic inflammatory cardiac involvement.

Letourneau, N., Luis, M. A., Kurbatfinski, S., Ferrara, H. J., Pohl, C., Marabotti, F., & Hayden, K. A. (2022). COVID-19 and family violence: A rapid review of literature published up to 1 year after the pandemic declaration. In *eClinicalMedicine* (Vol. 53, p. 101634). Elsevier BV. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eclinm.2022.101634>

- Restrictions aimed to limit the spread of COVID-19 may have increased the risk factors and incidence of family violence in communities.

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

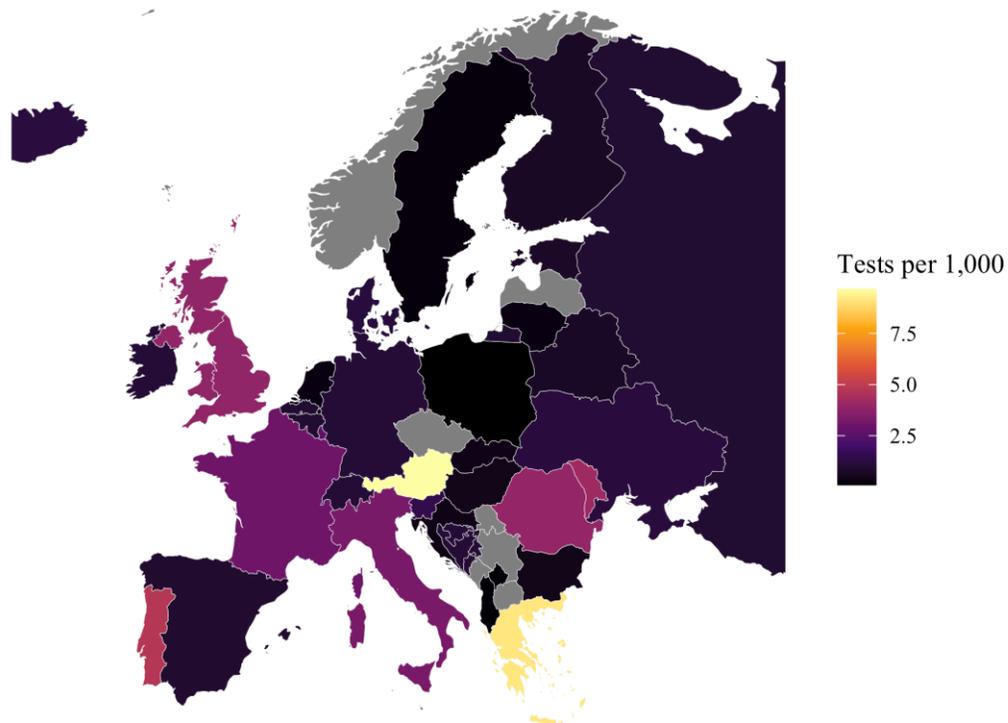
and not as mere opinion. A pandemic is “an epidemic occurring worldwide, or over a very wide area, crossing international boundaries and usually affecting a large number of people”. We are still in the midst of the pandemic.

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](#)).

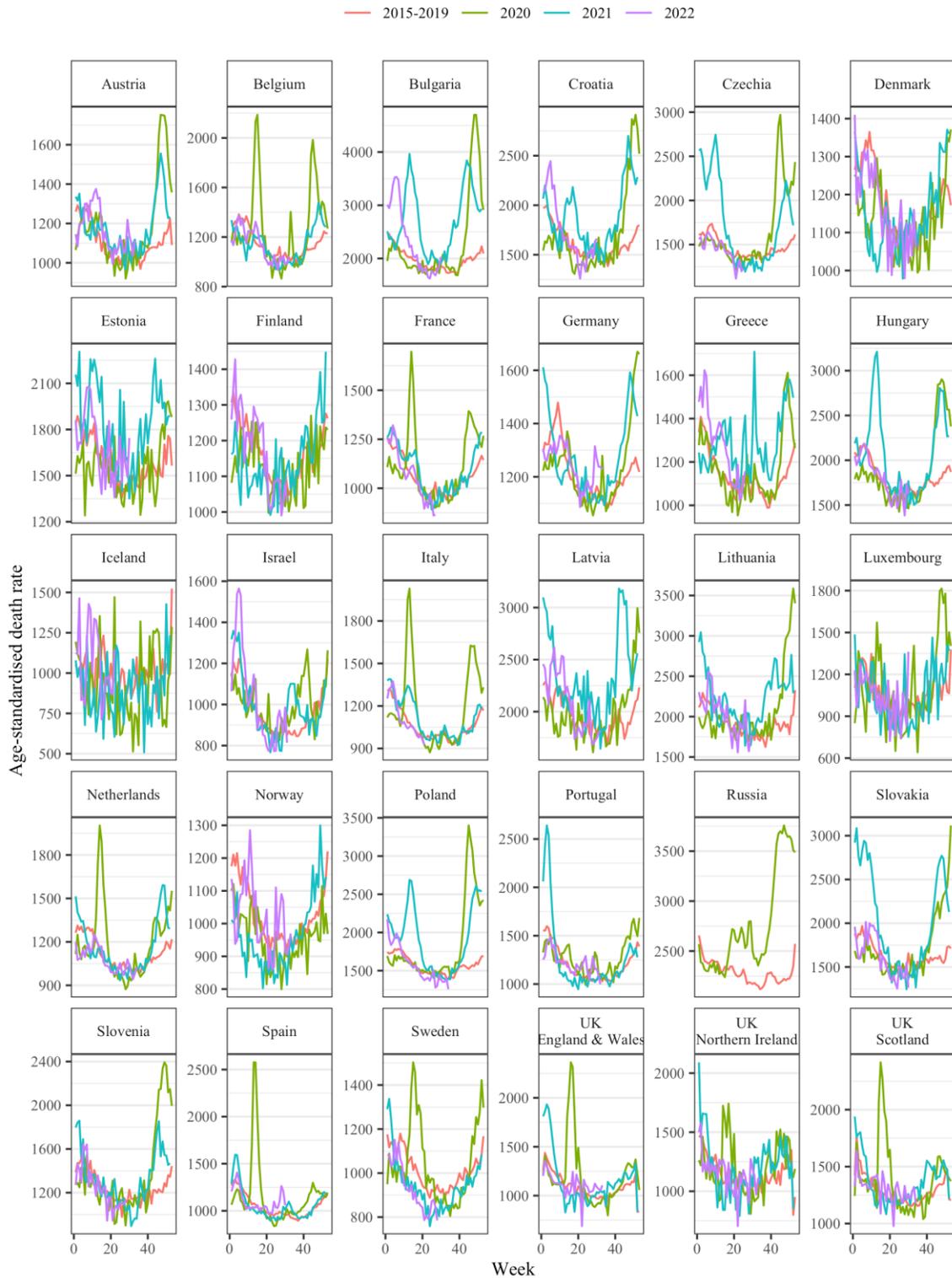
| WHO Europe region | Daily new tests/thousand people | 30-day trend in tests | Daily newly confirmed COVID-19 cases/million people | 30-day trend in cases | Weekly hospital admissions/million people | 30-day trend in weekly hospital admissions |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|---|--|
| Georgia | 0.93 | | 1,008.29 | | | |
| Slovenia | 1.50 | | 774.34 | | 47.89 | |
| Greece | 9.12 | | 576.54 | | 92.05 | |
| Austria | 9.66 | | 465.23 | | | |
| Serbia | 0.92 | | 445.94 | | | |
| Germany | 1.06 | | 359.06 | | 37.66 | |
| Luxembourg | 2.55 | | 348.14 | | 1.57 | |
| Russia | 0.96 | | 332.23 | | 165.34 | |
| Cyprus | 75.00 | | 297.99 | | 25.67 | |
| Lithuania | 0.27 | | 297.49 | | | |
| France | 2.99 | | 268.10 | | 37.30 | |
| Italy | 3.26 | | 264.22 | | 32.80 | |
| Switzerland | 1.05 | | 238.68 | | 12.89 | |
| Portugal | 4.74 | | 217.31 | | | |
| Moldova | 4.17 | | 189.36 | | | |
| Belgium | 0.98 | | 183.12 | | 34.53 | |
| Czechia | 0.35 | | 179.72 | | 65.46 | |
| Belarus | 0.74 | | 166.60 | | | |
| Andorra | 1.15 | | 155.45 | | | |

| 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 |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|---|------------------------------------|---|
| Hungary | 0.45 |  | 151.54 |  | | |
| Croatia | 0.38 |  | 141.94 |  | 127.84 |  |
| Denmark | 1.23 |  | 132.94 |  | 52.61 |  |
| Armenia | 0.53 |  | 131.80 |  | | |
| Finland | 0.72 |  | 118.68 |  | | |
| Iceland | 1.24 |  | 112.64 |  | 24.40 |  |
| Israel | 2.82 |  | 100.77 |  | 19.59 |  |
| Romania | 3.92 |  | 99.10 |  | | |
| Poland | 0.09 |  | 94.48 |  | | |
| Turkey | 1.59 |  | 92.06 |  | | |
| Estonia | 0.75 |  | 85.80 |  | 53.38 |  |
| Bulgaria | 0.45 |  | 71.93 |  | | |
| United Kingdom | 3.85 |  | 69.49 |  | 63.70 |  |
| Ukraine | 1.21 |  | 67.88 |  | | |
| Netherlands | 0.28 |  | 67.87 |  | 20.17 |  |
| Sweden | 0.23 |  | 60.00 |  | | |
| Ireland | 1.04 |  | 59.53 |  | 54.53 |  |
| Spain | 0.92 |  | 47.01 |  | 41.91 |  |
| North Macedonia | 0.38 |  | 43.13 |  | | |
| Albania | 0.13 |  | 41.63 |  | | |

| 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 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|---|------------------------------------|---|
| Slovakia | 0.39 |  | 38.89 |  | | |
| Malta | 2.73 |  | 35.80 |  | 23.25 |  |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 1.07 |  | 33.72 |  | | |
| Azerbaijan | 0.23 |  | 33.45 |  | | |
| Kosovo | 0.12 |  | 14.59 |  | | |
| Kazakhstan | 2.08 |  | 11.72 |  | | |

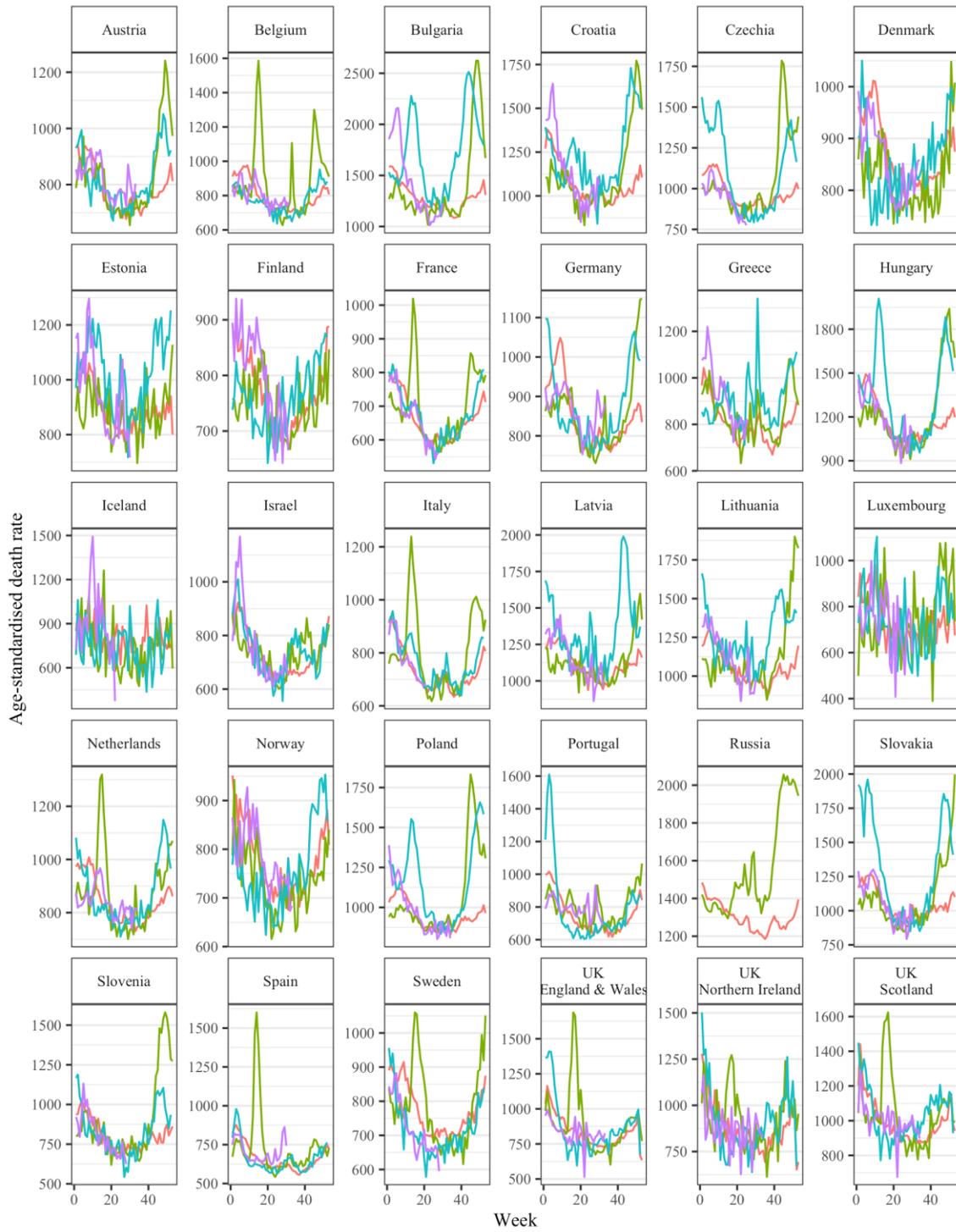
The age-standardised all-cause death rates in 2020, 2021 and 2022, and the 2015-2019 average by week and sex in selected countries of the WHO-Europe (Source: Human Mortality Database).

Age-standardised death rate (men)



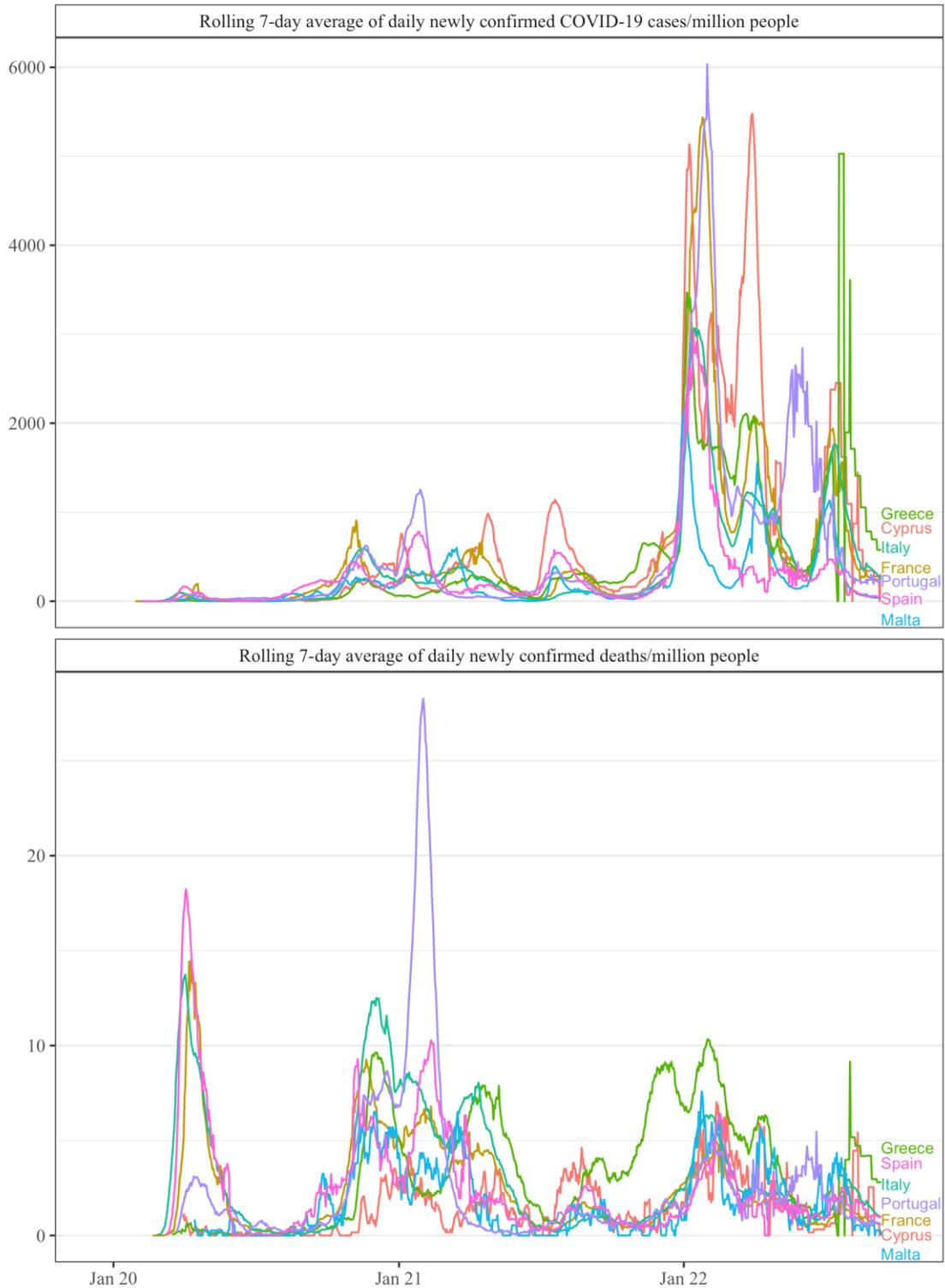
Age-standardised death rate (women)

— 2015-2019 — 2020 — 2021 — 2022

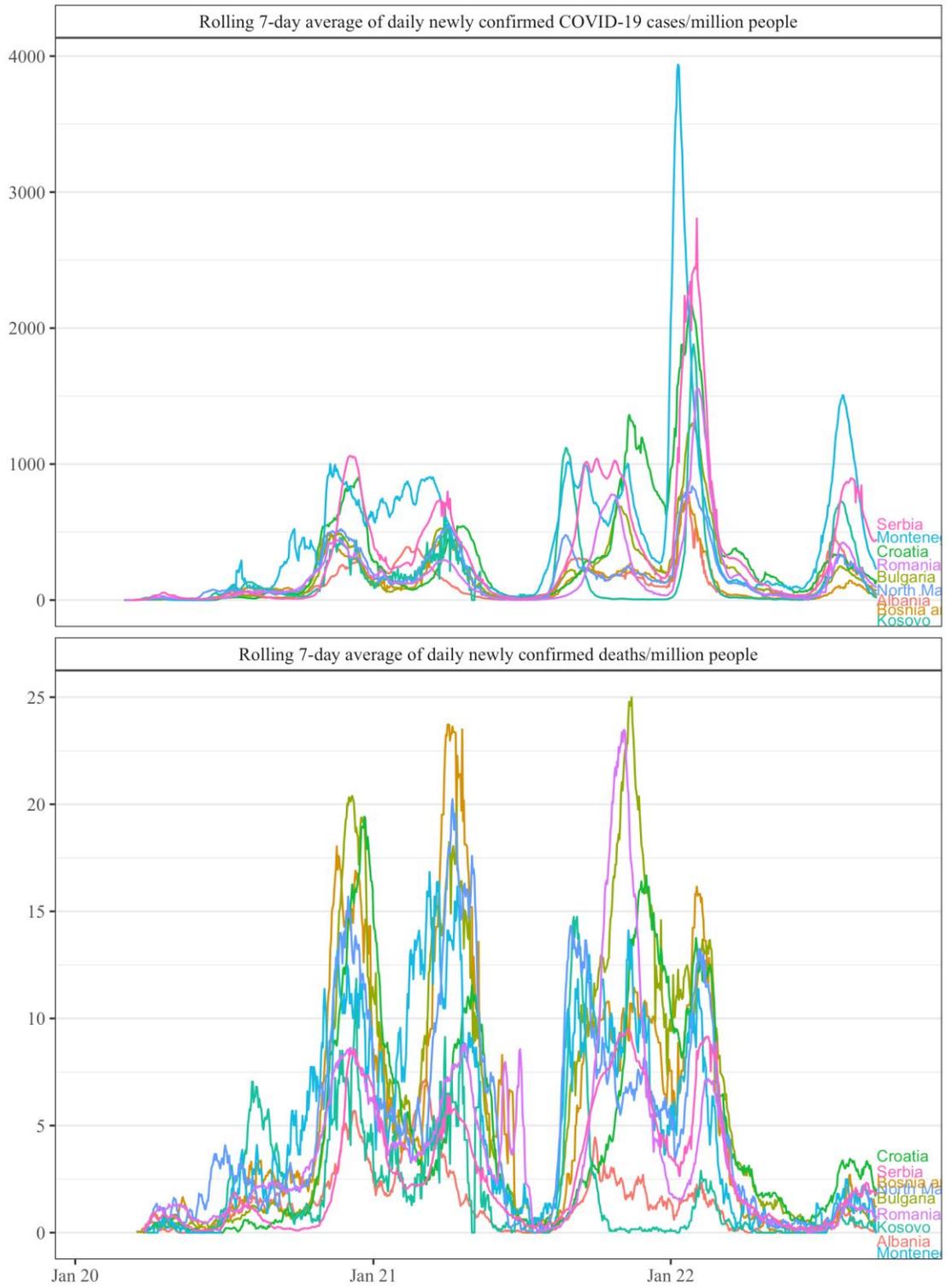


Rolling 7-day average of daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases and daily new confirmed COVID-19 deaths in sub-regions of Europe (Source: Our World in Data).

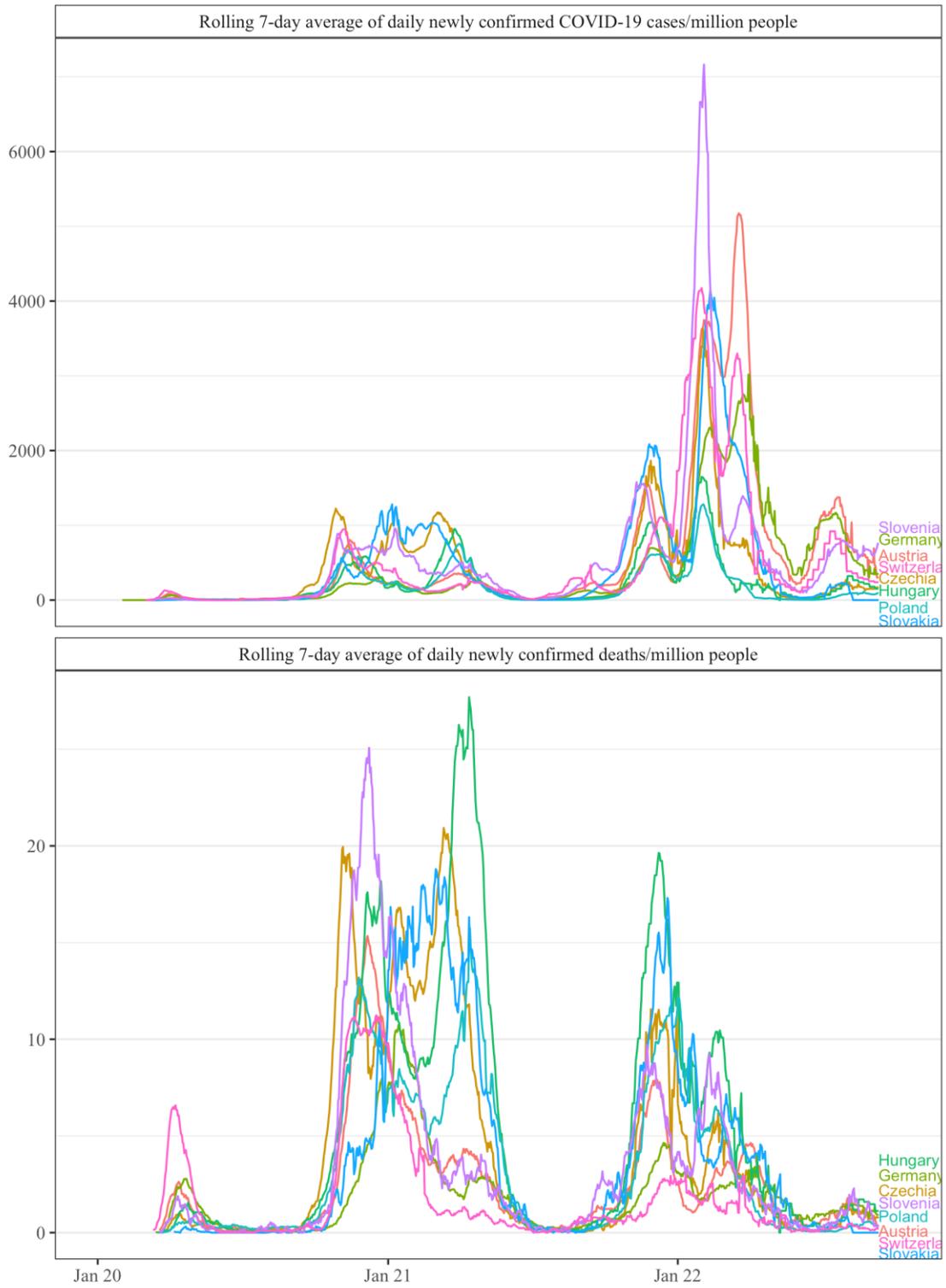
Mediterranean region



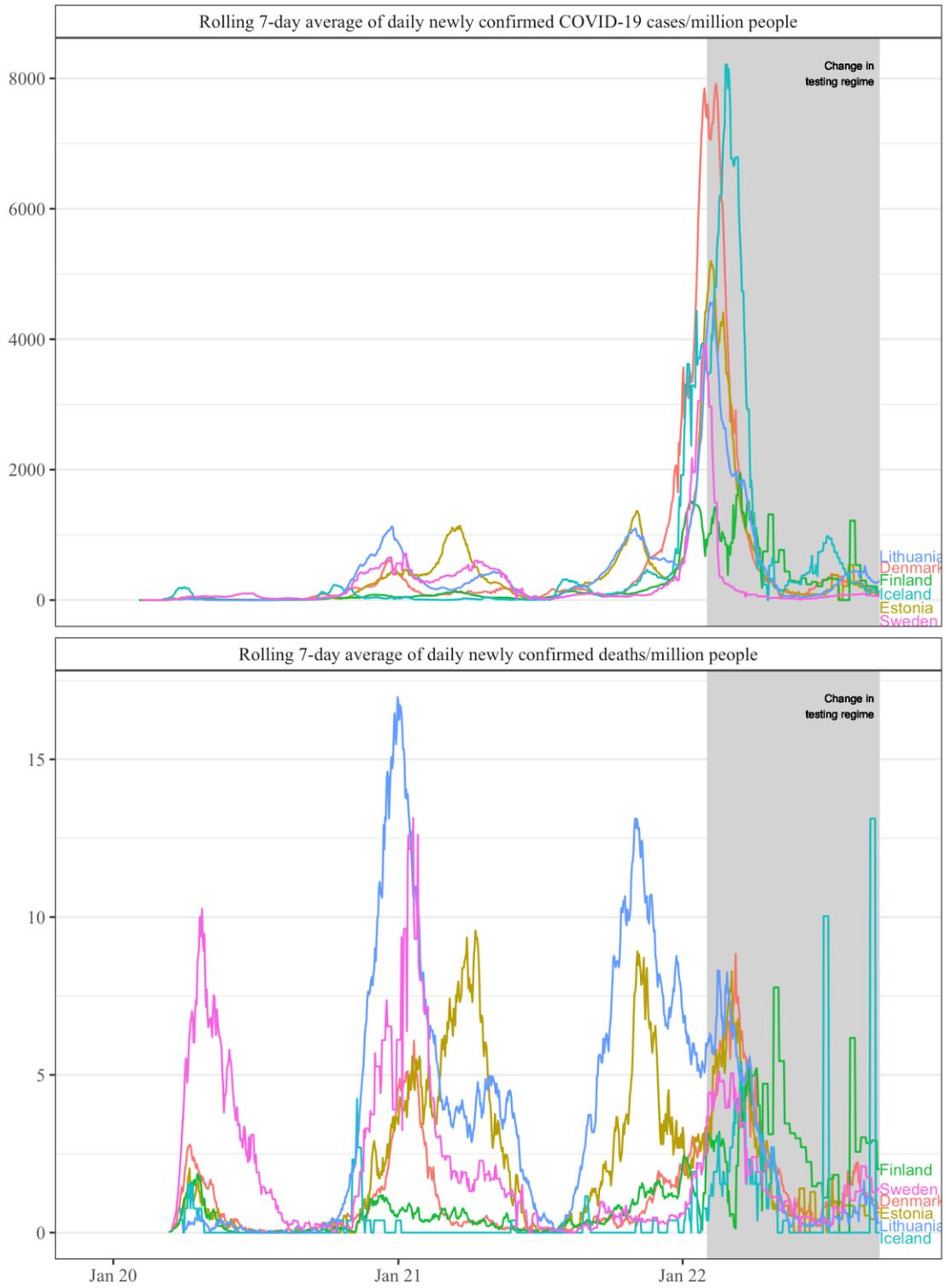
South-East region



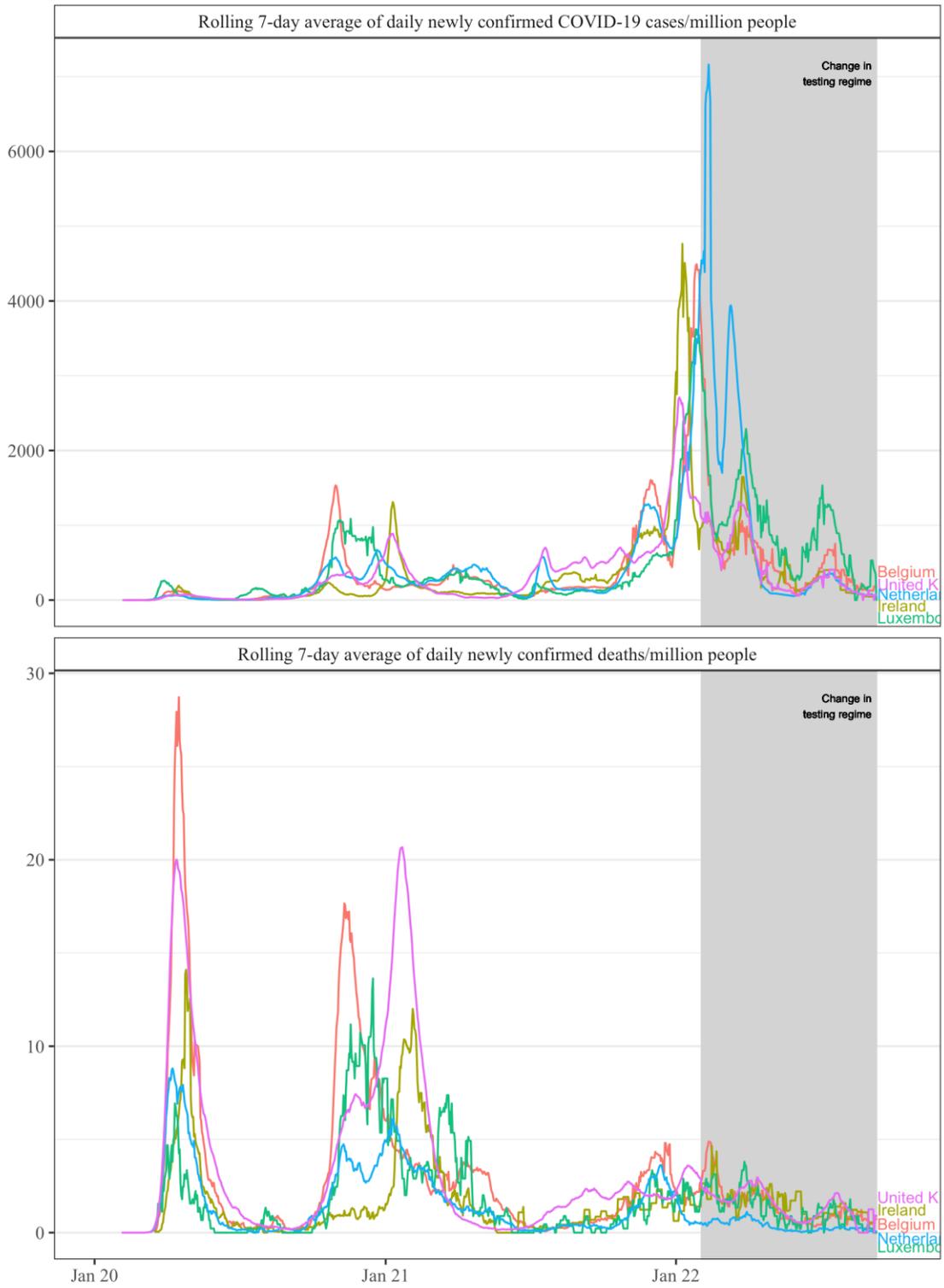
Central Europe



Baltics and Nordic Countries



North-Western Europe



Central Asia

