

ASPHER Report

COVID-19 Situation Reporting across Europe

Week of February 8th 2021

Authors: Pallavi Chatarajupalli^{1,2}, Ralf Reintjes^{1,3}, John Middleton^{3,4,*}

¹ HAW Hamburg University, Germany

² ASPHER Young Professional

³ ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force

⁴ ASPHER President

* Corresponding Author: john.middleton@aspher.org

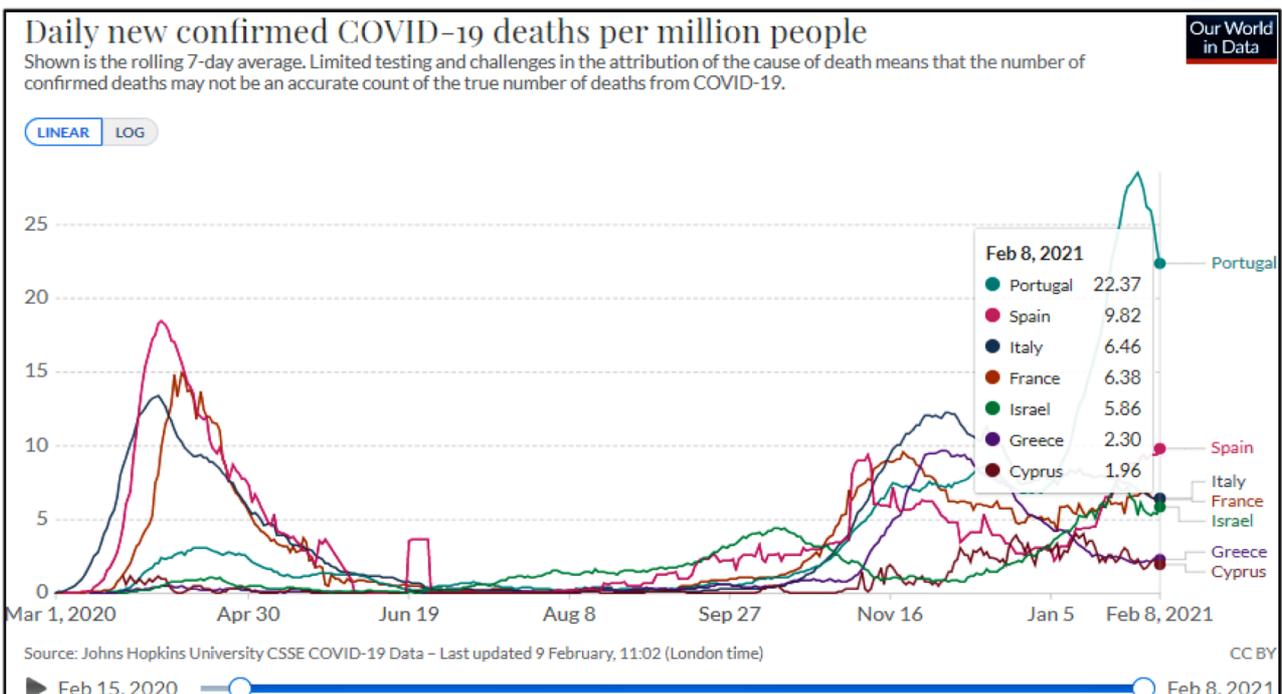
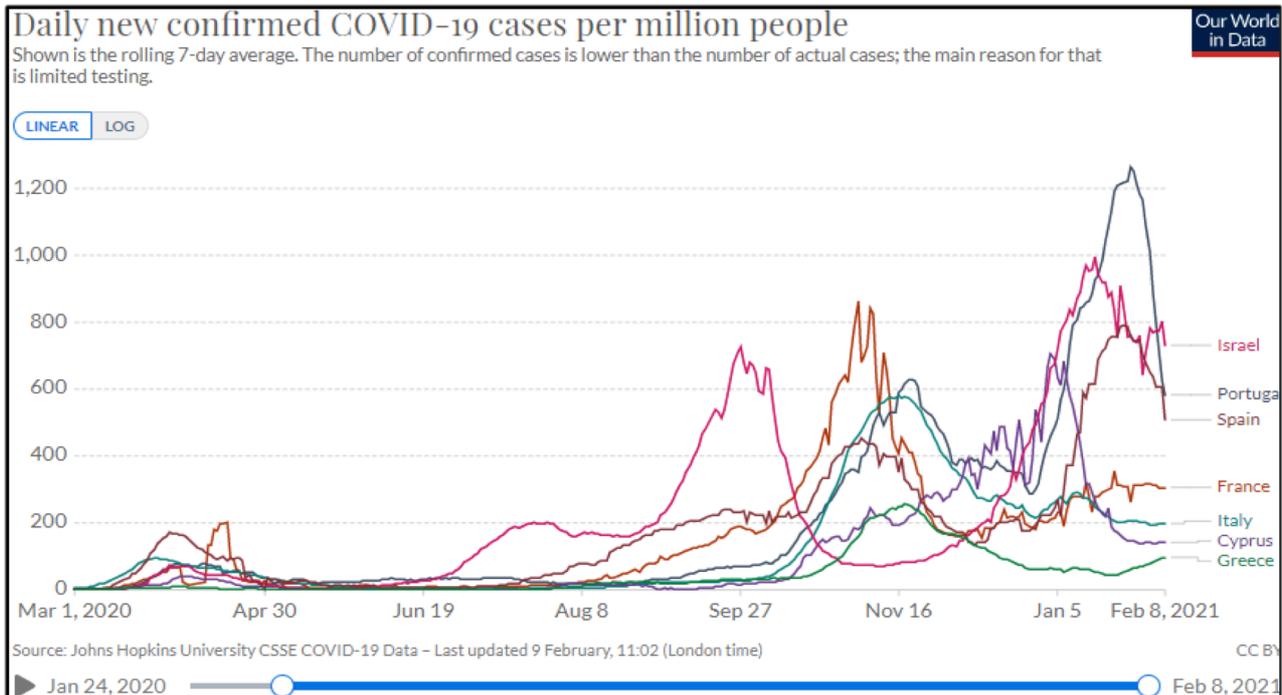
This is ASPHER's weekly surveillance report. We hope it is complementary to other resources such as ECDC and Our World in Data, where the reader can go for more detailed information. Please give us your feedback: is the presentation helpful to you and your colleagues? What other information would you like to see in it ?

Since the beginning of the pandemic COVID-19, the rapid spread of the virus in almost all the countries has resulted in considerable disruption of public health at a global level. The pandemic has curbed over two million lives up to the moment, and the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases has surpassed 0.1 billion with the highest number in Americas (47,276,977) followed by Europe (35,727,953) and South-East Asia region (13,077,080) according to the WHO statistics (1).

As per WHO weekly epidemiological report, European region is contributing 34% of cumulative covid-19 confirmed cases worldwide. Overall, Europe has seen a declining trend in the number of new cases and new deaths at 18% and 8% respectively in comparison to previous week (2).

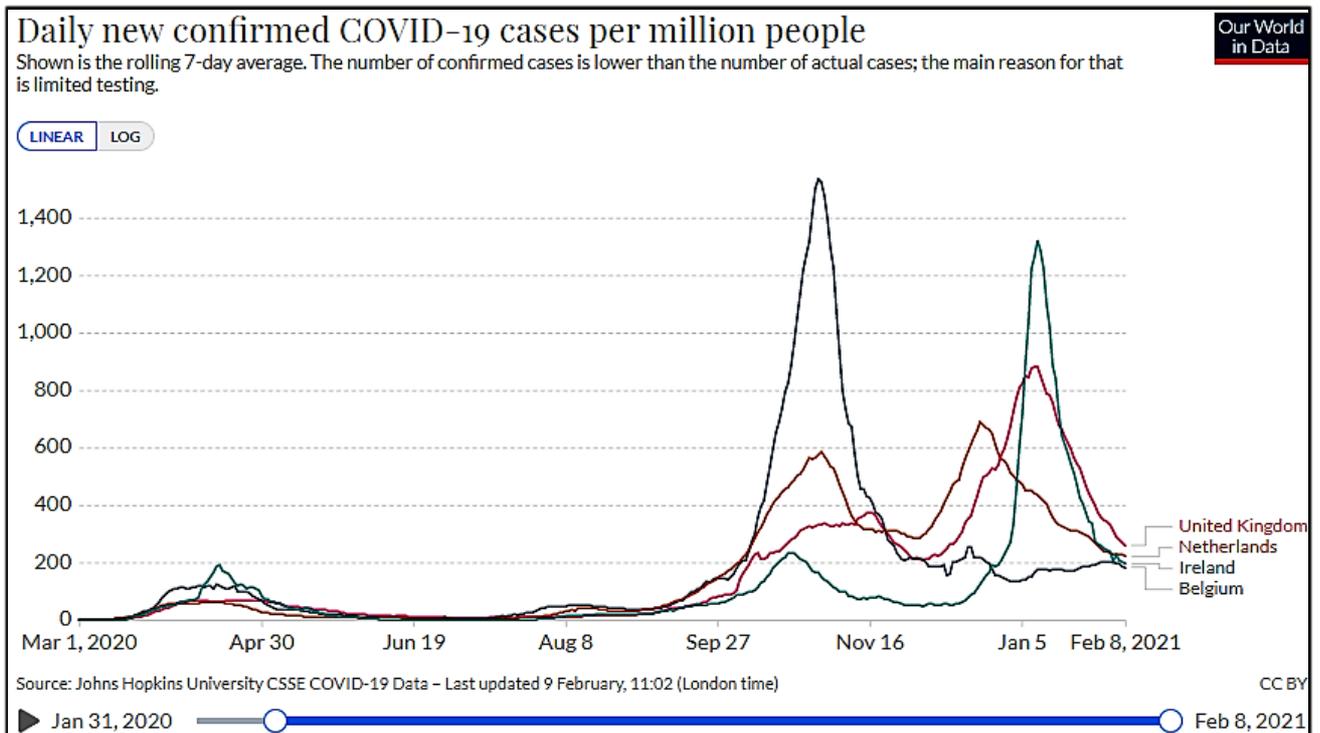
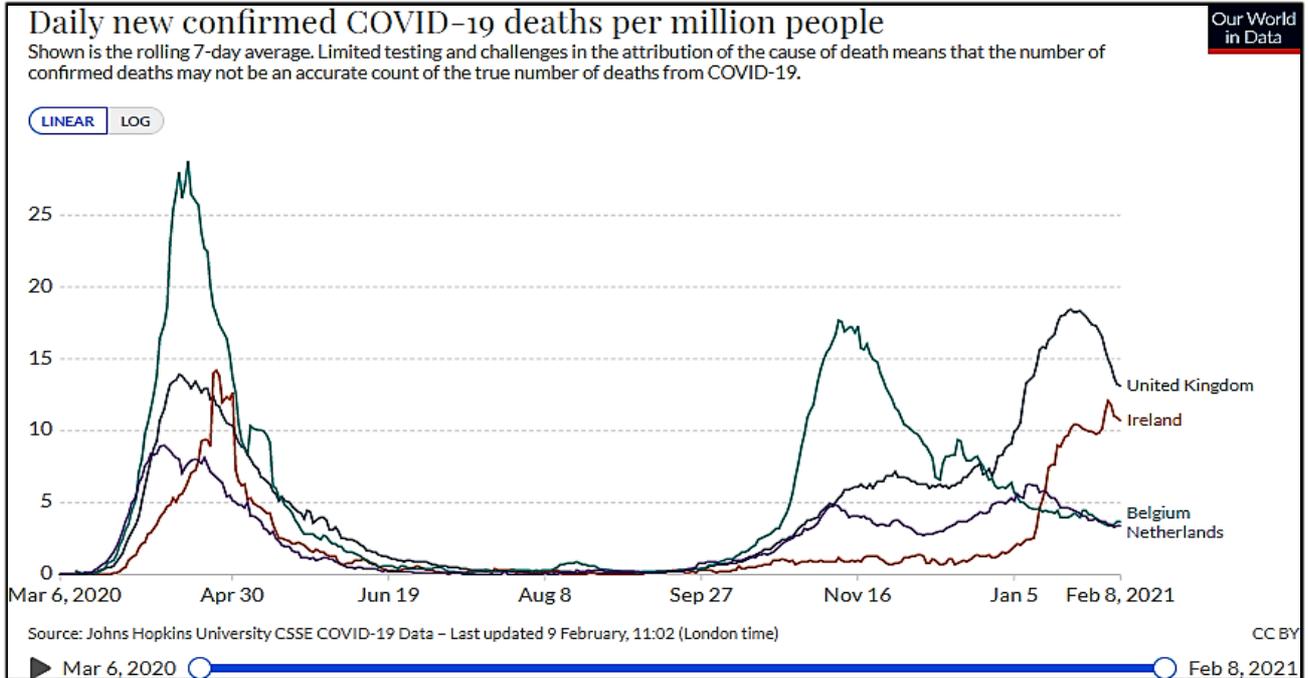
In **Mediterranean** countries the 7-day rolling average of daily new COVID-19 confirmed cases per million people, between the 2nd to 8th February is high in Israel (730.86), Portugal (582.79) and Spain (508.06), followed by France (306.44) Italy (197.88) Cyprus (141.57) and the least in Greece (97.04) (3). In Portugal the figures for rolling 7-day average of daily new confirmed deaths for the

same time period are more than two folds (22.37) than its neighboring country Spain (9.82). In Italy, France, Israel, Greece and Cyprus it is below 10 at 6.46, 6.38, 5.86, 2.30, 1.96 respectively (4). Recent epidemiological analysis in Portugal shows that the country is in downtrend trajectory of the epidemic. Though the epidemic is in peaks at the end of January (1669 per 100000 inhabitants), the cumulative incidence in past two weeks is nearly 1200 cses per 100, 000 population. Also the number of hospitalizations has reduced (5). There is concern about the emergence of a new California strain in the middle of the country. The British strain persists at levels over 605 in the south and Lisbon but not in the north (H.Lopes personal communication).



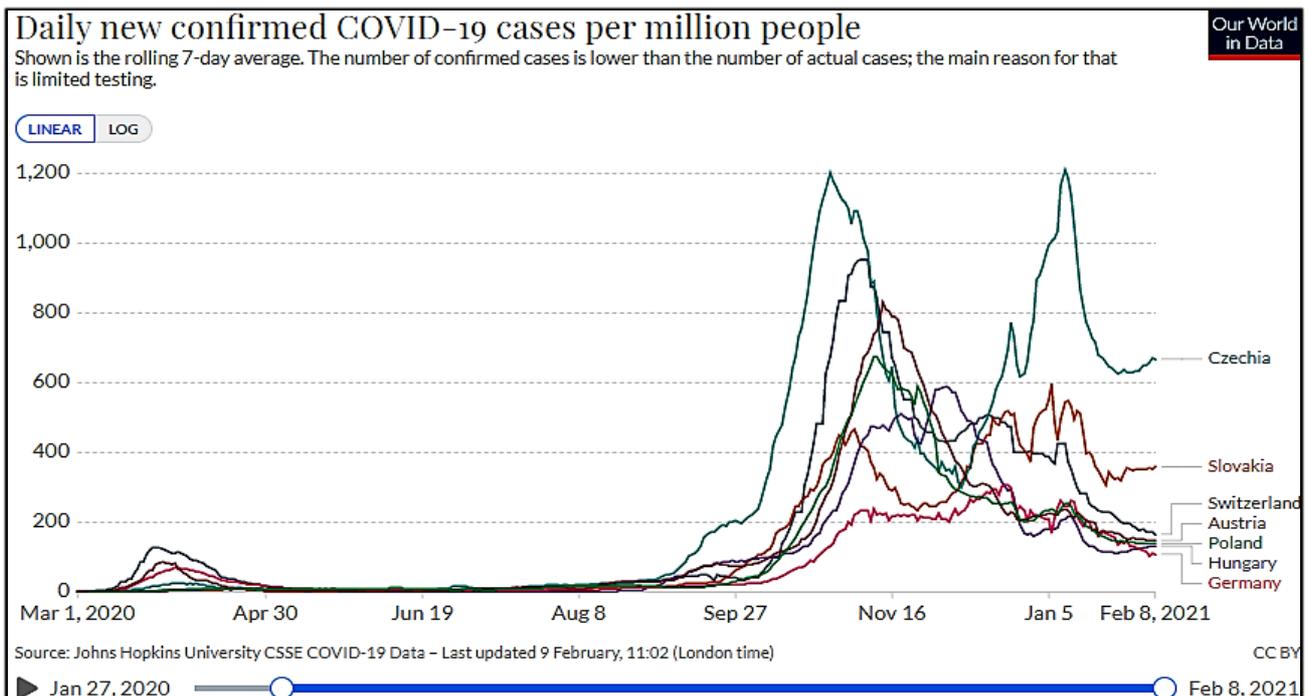
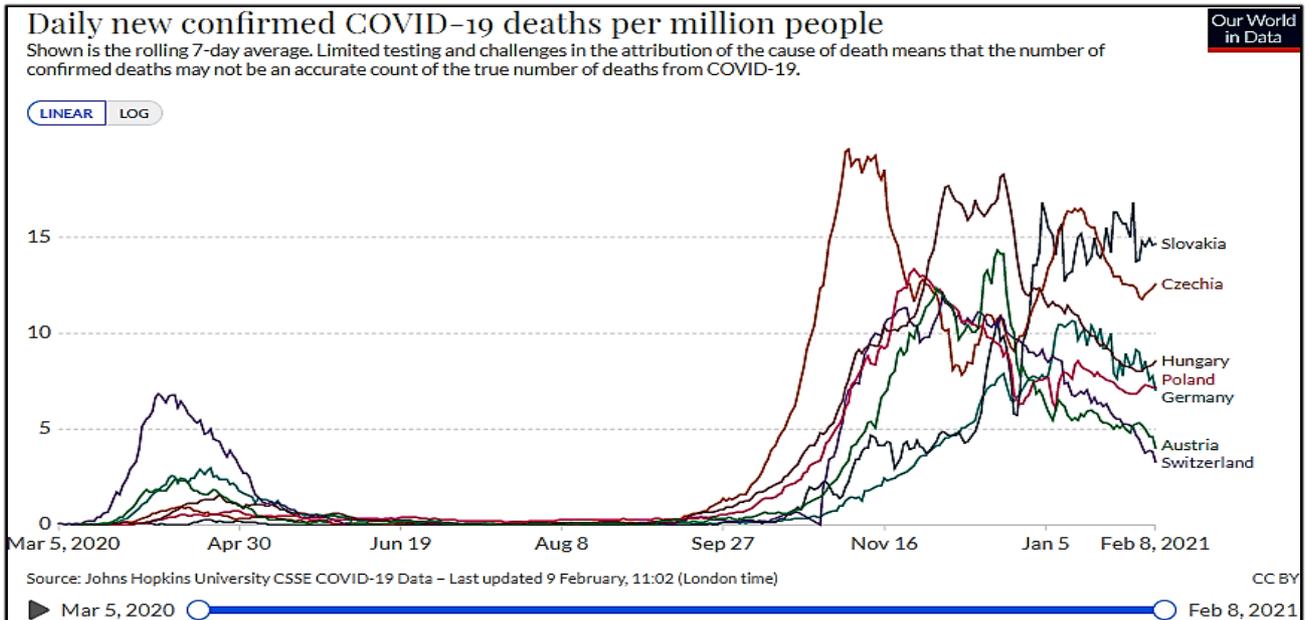
Northwestern Europe:

As on 5th February, with the estimated rate of reproduction ranging between 0.7 to 1 (6), UKs 7-day rolling average of daily new deaths and cases are 13.13, 261.92 per million people respectively which is high among four Northwestern European countries (Belgium- 3.69, 185.71, Netherlands- 3.40, 222.32, Ireland- 10.70, 198.01) (7) (8).



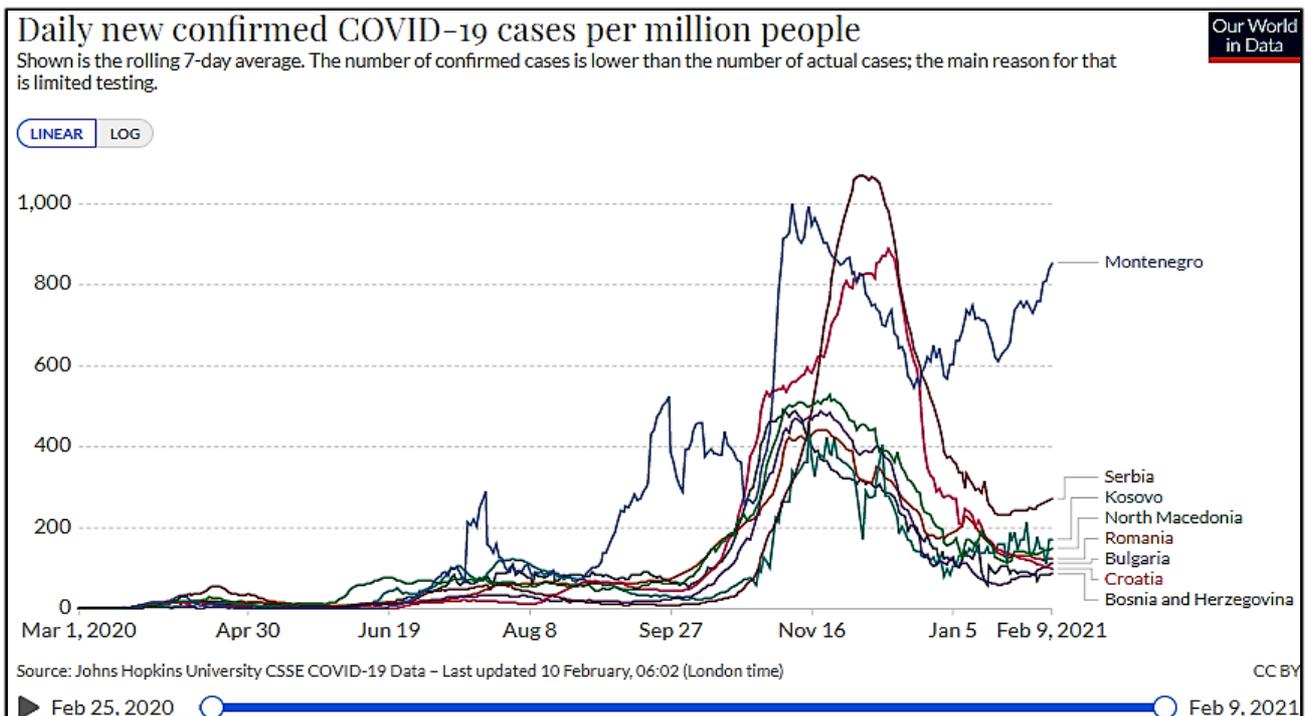
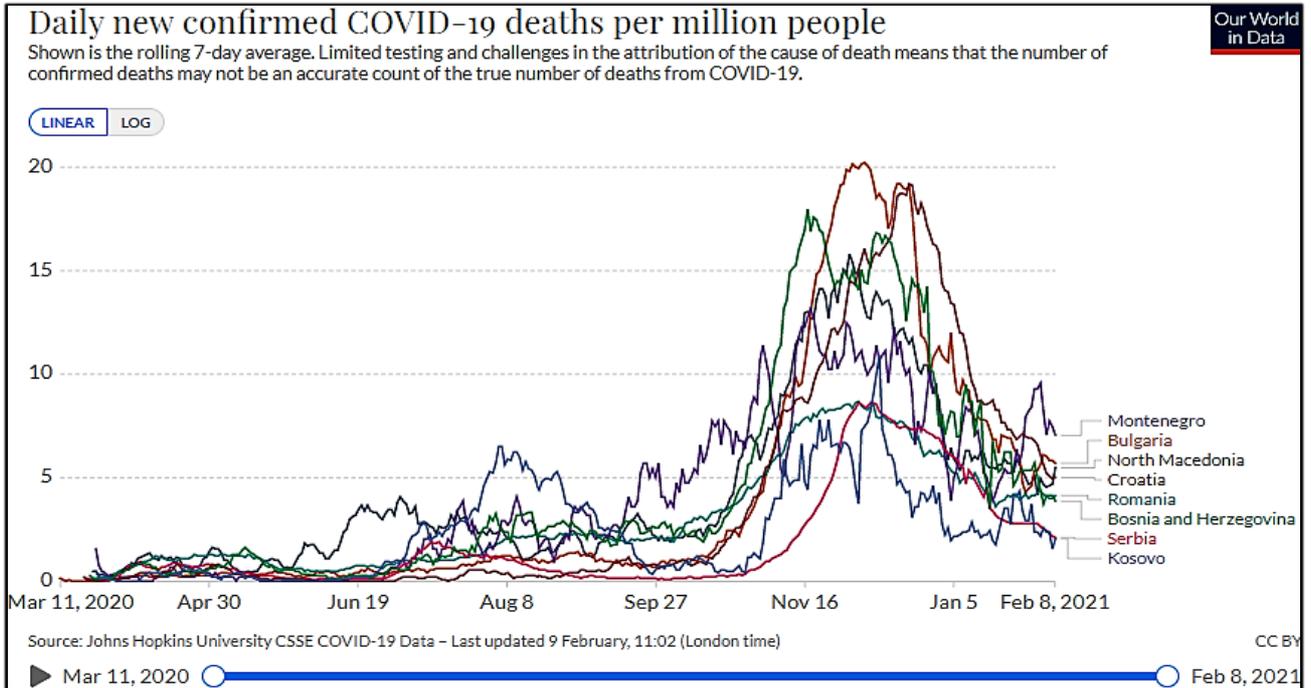
Central Europe:

Compared to south and West Europe, Central Europe was successful in containing the pandemic during first wave which resulted in lowering the infection rate (9). However, the epidemic curve began to rise in autumn after the relaxation in summer by loosening restrictions on travel, public gatherings, reopening of restaurants, bars, shops with social distancing measures (10) (11). Among central Europe, Czech Republic stood first with its rolling 7-day average of daily new cases at more than 600 per million people followed by Slovakia 359.15, Switzerland 166.02, Austria 148.69, Poland 138.90, Hungary 132.28 and Germany 109.12. Slovakia has reported high 7-day rolling average of daily new deaths 14.65 and the least is seen in Switzerland (3.28) (12) (13).



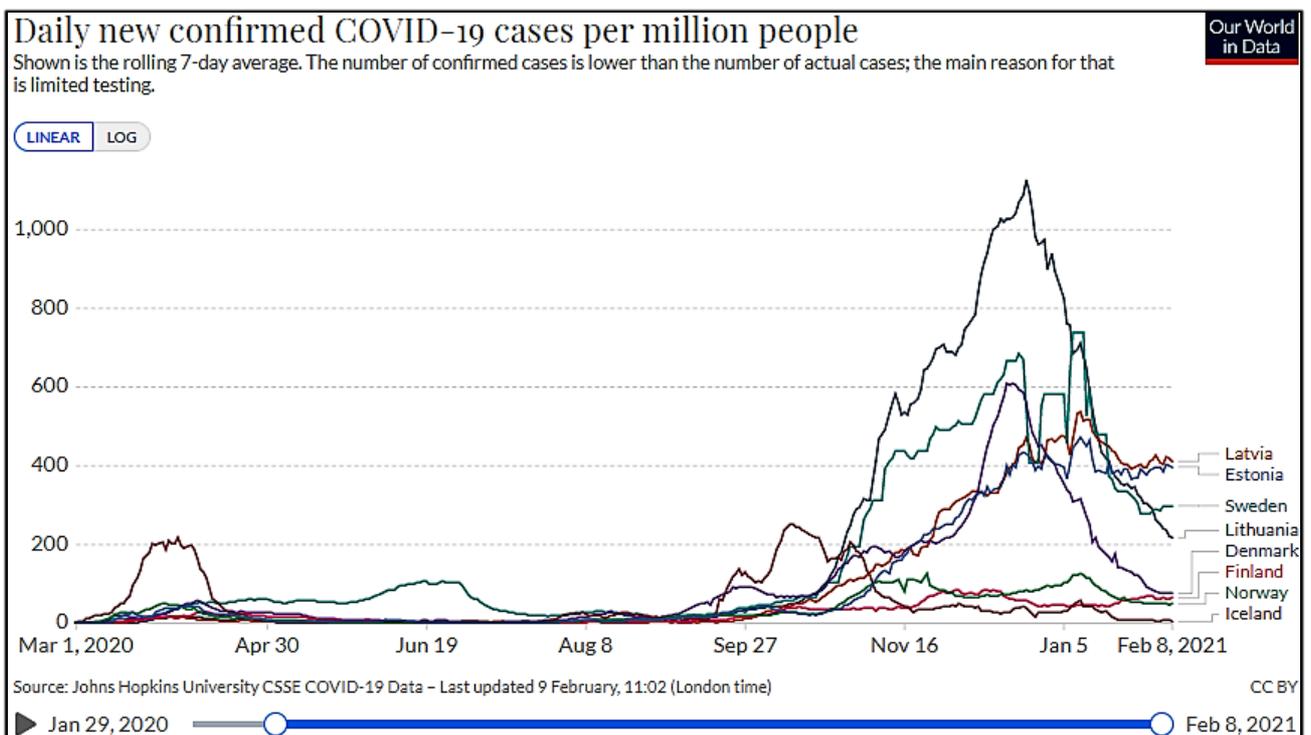
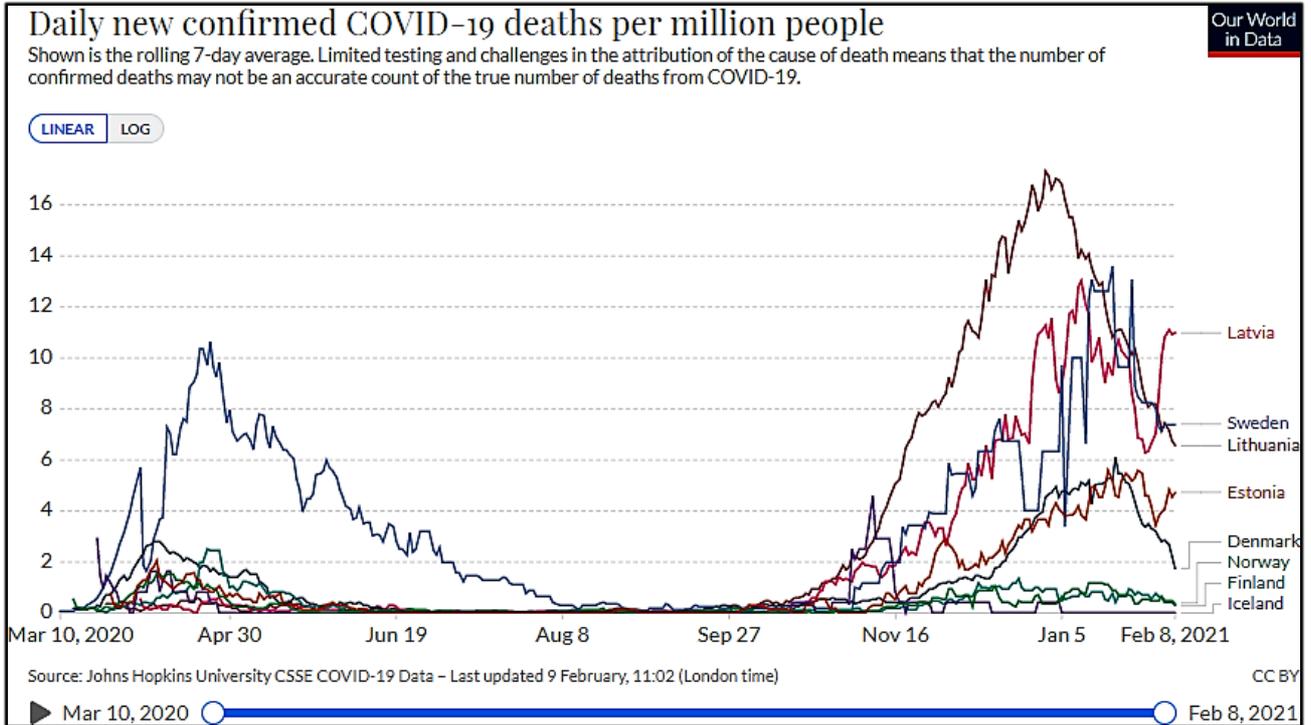
South-East Europe:

Montenegro is one of the countries facing bad hit by COVID-19. Currently Montenegro is classified as area with particular high risk of infection since the incidence is above 200 per thousand inhabitants in past 7 days (14). The rolling 7-day average of daily new confirmed cases and deaths are significantly high in Montenegro at 838.18 and 7.05 respectively (15).



Scandinavian Countries:

Among Scandinavian countries, the 7-day rolling average of daily new deaths and cases is peaking in Latvia at 10.98, 411.71 respectively. In contrast Iceland has reported no deaths in past 7 days and is very low in Norway (0.40), Finland (0.28) (16).



References:

1. WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard [Internet]. [cited 2021 Feb 7]. Available from: <https://covid19.who.int>
2. Weekly epidemiological update - 2 February 2021 [Internet]. [cited 2021 Feb 7]. Available from: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/weekly-epidemiological-update---2-february-2021>
3. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases - Statistics and Research [Internet]. Our World in Data. [cited 2021 Feb 12]. Available from: <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-cases>
4. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Deaths - Statistics and Research [Internet]. Our World in Data. [cited 2021 Feb 12]. Available from: <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-deaths>
5. Epidemia apresenta “tendência decrescente” - COVID-19 [Internet]. [cited 2021 Feb 12]. Available from: <https://covid19.min-saude.pt/epidemia-apresenta-tendencia-decrescente/>
6. Official UK Coronavirus Dashboard [Internet]. [cited 2021 Feb 10]. Available from: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk>
7. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Deaths - Statistics and Research [Internet]. Our World in Data. [cited 2021 Feb 12]. Available from: <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-deaths>
8. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases - Statistics and Research [Internet]. Our World in Data. [cited 2021 Feb 12]. Available from: <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-cases>
9. Central Europe buckles under coronavirus strain [Internet]. POLITICO. 2020 [cited 2021 Feb 10]. Available from: <https://www.politico.eu/article/central-europe-buckles-under-coronavirus-strain/>
10. Europe Hopes Summer Tourism Will Boost Economy Amid COVID-19 [Internet]. Time. [cited 2021 Feb 10]. Available from: <https://time.com/5859217/europe-tourism-coronavirus/>
11. Why Is Central Europe Seeing Spikes in COVID-19 Cases? | Time [Internet]. [cited 2021 Feb 12]. Available from: <https://time.com/5888765/central-europe-covid-19/>
12. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Deaths - Statistics and Research [Internet]. Our World in Data. [cited 2021 Feb 12]. Available from: <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-deaths>
13. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases - Statistics and Research [Internet]. Our World in Data. [cited 2021 Feb 12]. Available from: <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-cases>
14. Amt A. Montenegro: Reise- und Sicherheitshinweise (COVID-19-bedingte Reisewarnung) [Internet]. Auswärtiges Amt. [cited 2021 Feb 10]. Available from: <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/aussenpolitik/laender/montenegro-node/montenegrosicherheit/216330>
15. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Deaths - Statistics and Research [Internet]. Our World in Data. [cited 2021 Feb 12]. Available from: <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-deaths>
16. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Deaths - Statistics and Research [Internet]. Our World in Data. [cited 2021 Feb 12]. Available from: <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-deaths>