

ASPHER Report

COVID-19 Situation Reporting across Europe

Week of February 15th 2021

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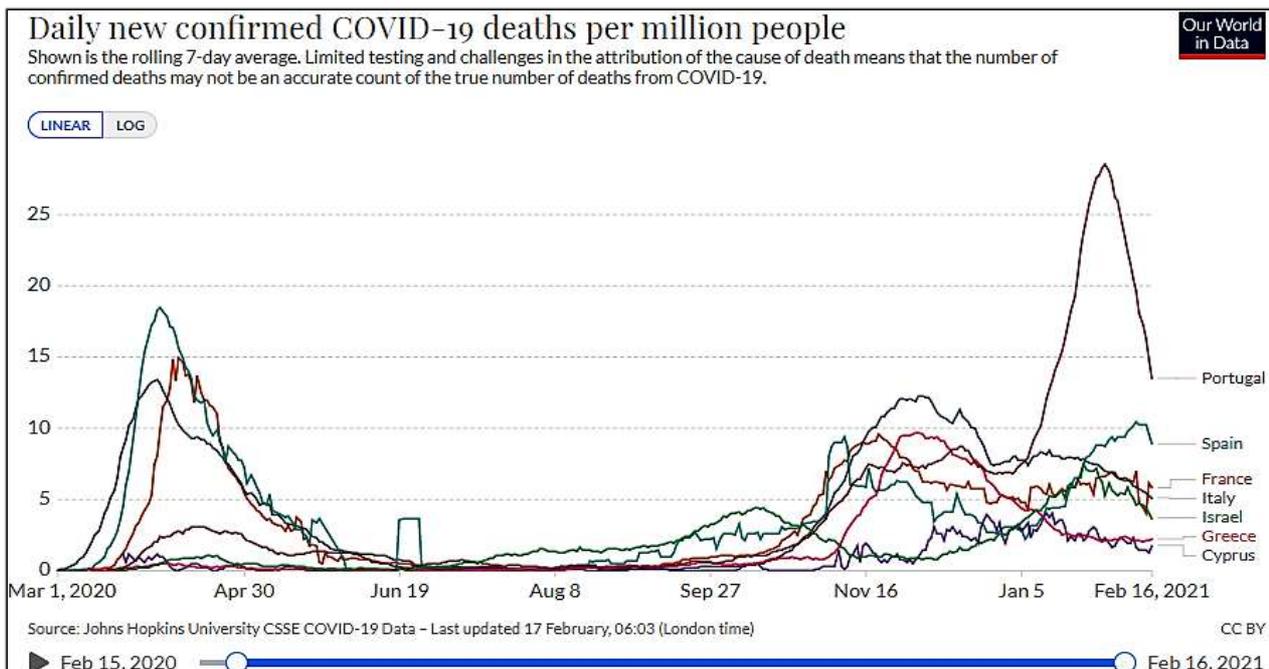
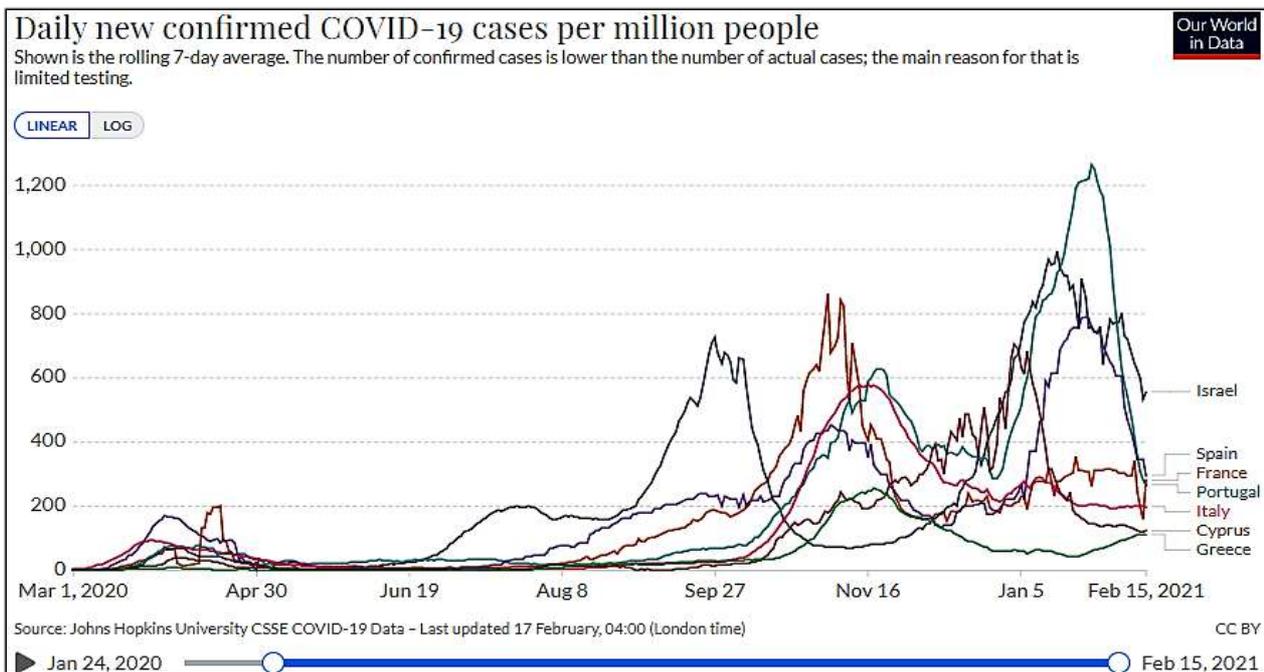
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This is ASPHER's weekly surveillance report. We hope it is complementary to other resources such as ECDC and Our World in Data, where the reader can go for more detailed information. Please give us your feedback: is the presentation helpful to you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

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 cost over two million lives up to the moment (2,403,641) and the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases has surpassed 0.1 billion with the highest number in Americas (48,457,101) followed by Europe (36,806,380), South-East Asia region (13,225,290), Eastern Mediterranean (6,047,981), Africa (2,741,429), and Western Pacific (1,544,034) according to the WHO statistics (1).

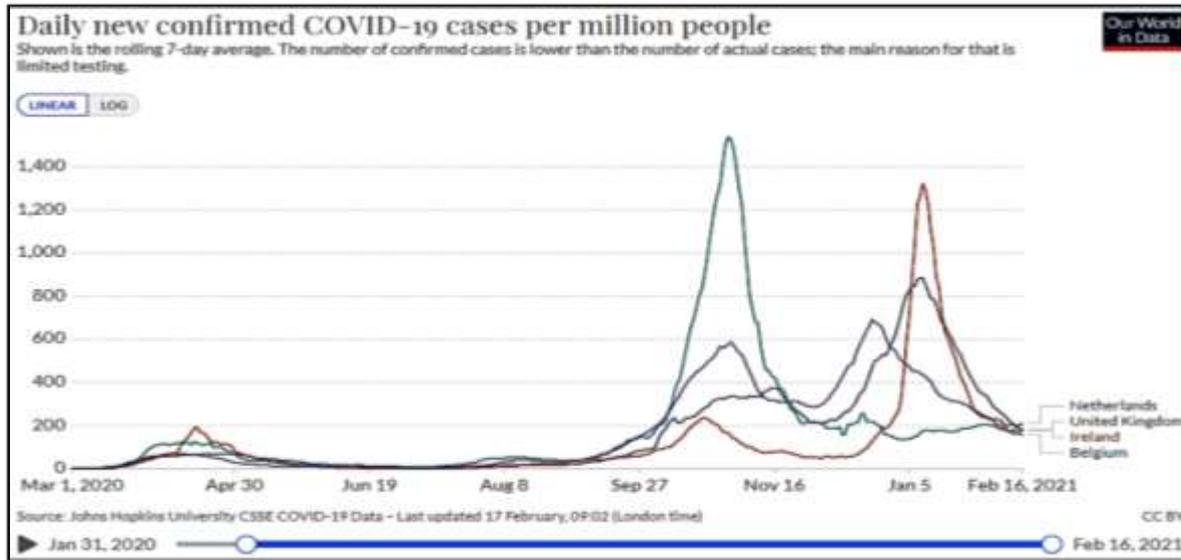
As per WHO weekly epidemiological report, European region is contributing 34% of cumulative covid-19 confirmed cases worldwide. Overall, Europe has seen a declining trend in the number of new cases and new deaths at 18% and 19% respectively in comparison to previous week. France, United Kingdom and Russian Federation have reported highest number of new cases 195.4, 143.3, 71.7 respectively per 100,000 population. And the highest number of new deaths were reported from United Kingdom (4816), Russian federation (3465) and Germany (3443) (2).

In **Mediterranean** countries the 7-day rolling average of daily new COVID-19 confirmed cases per million people, between the 9th to 15th February is high in Israel (557.28), Spain (296.99) and France (281.30), followed by Portugal (268.15) Italy (199.69) Cyprus (122.98) and the least in Greece (113.06) (3). In Portugal the figures for rolling 7-day average of daily new confirmed deaths are reduced nearly to half compared to the previous week (22.37) though still higher (13.52) than its neighboring country Spain (8.92). In France, Italy, Israel, Greece and Cyprus it is below 10 at 5.83, 5.12, 3.71, 2.25, 1.79 respectively (4).



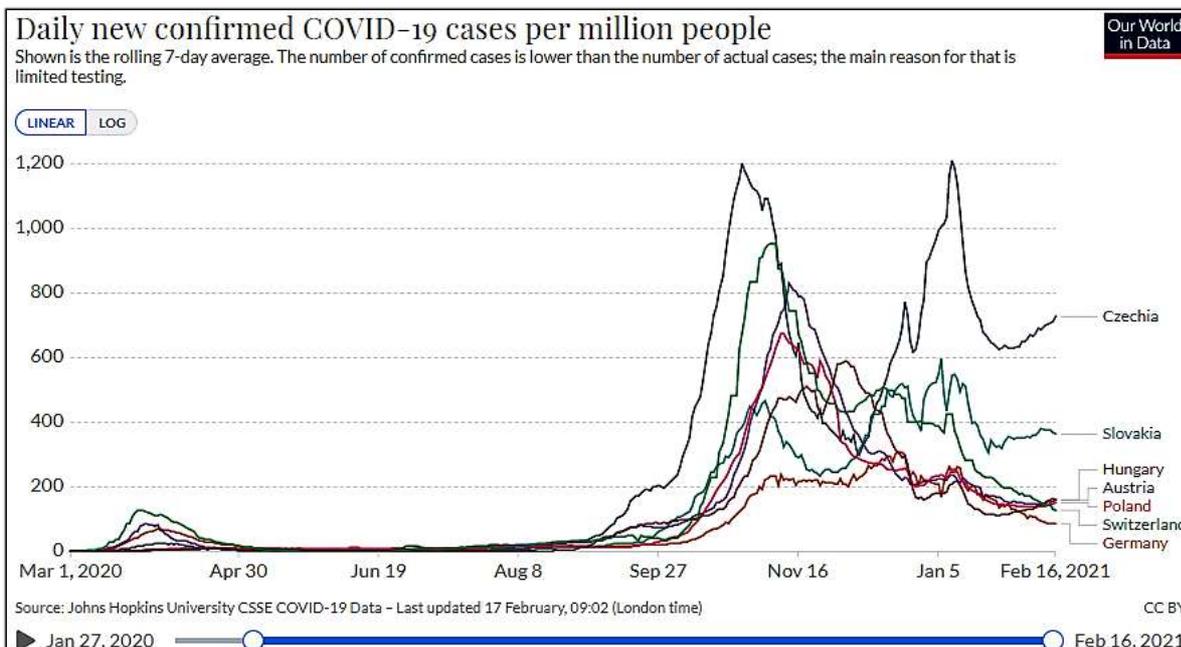
Northwestern Europe:

Among Northwestern European countries, Netherlands has reported high rolling 7-day average number of daily new confirmed covid-19 cases per one million population (211.27) followed by United Kingdom 182.19, Ireland 173.73, Belgium 158.65. Also research about variants of concern in England shows that the extent of UK variant transmission in Netherlands is at community level also the number of new infections and deaths from new variant compared to the old variant have been increased (5).



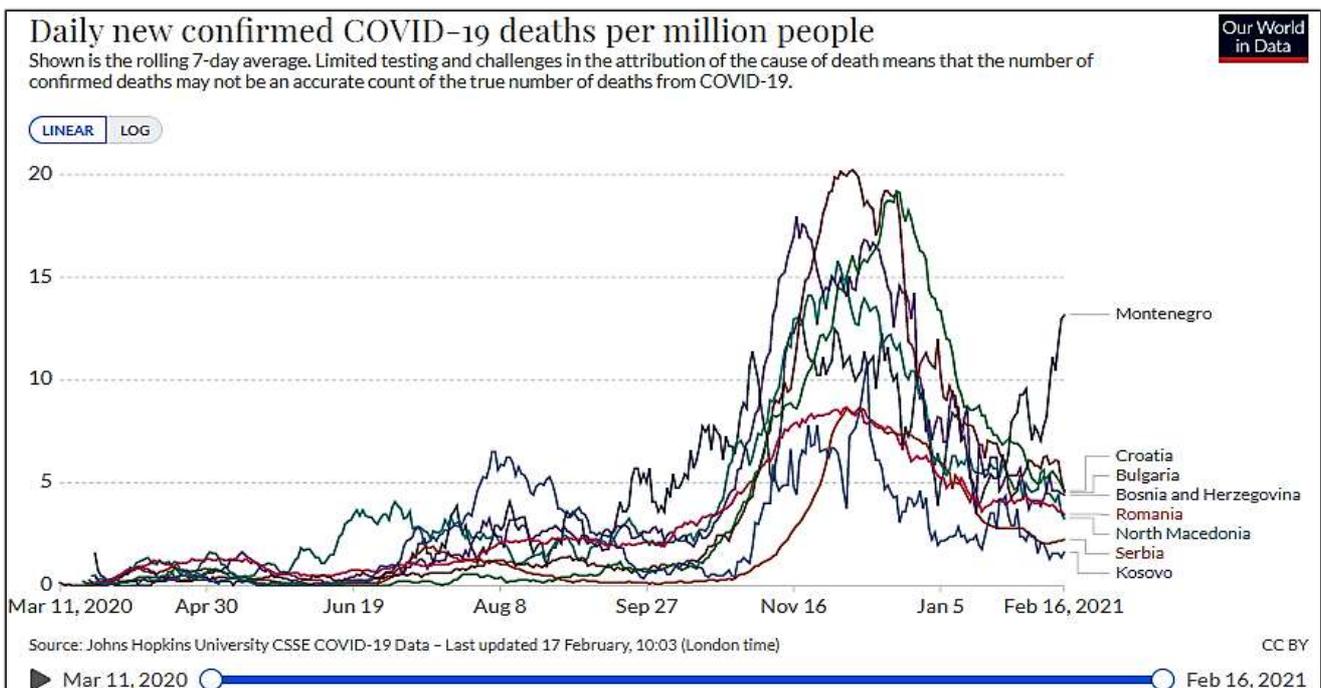
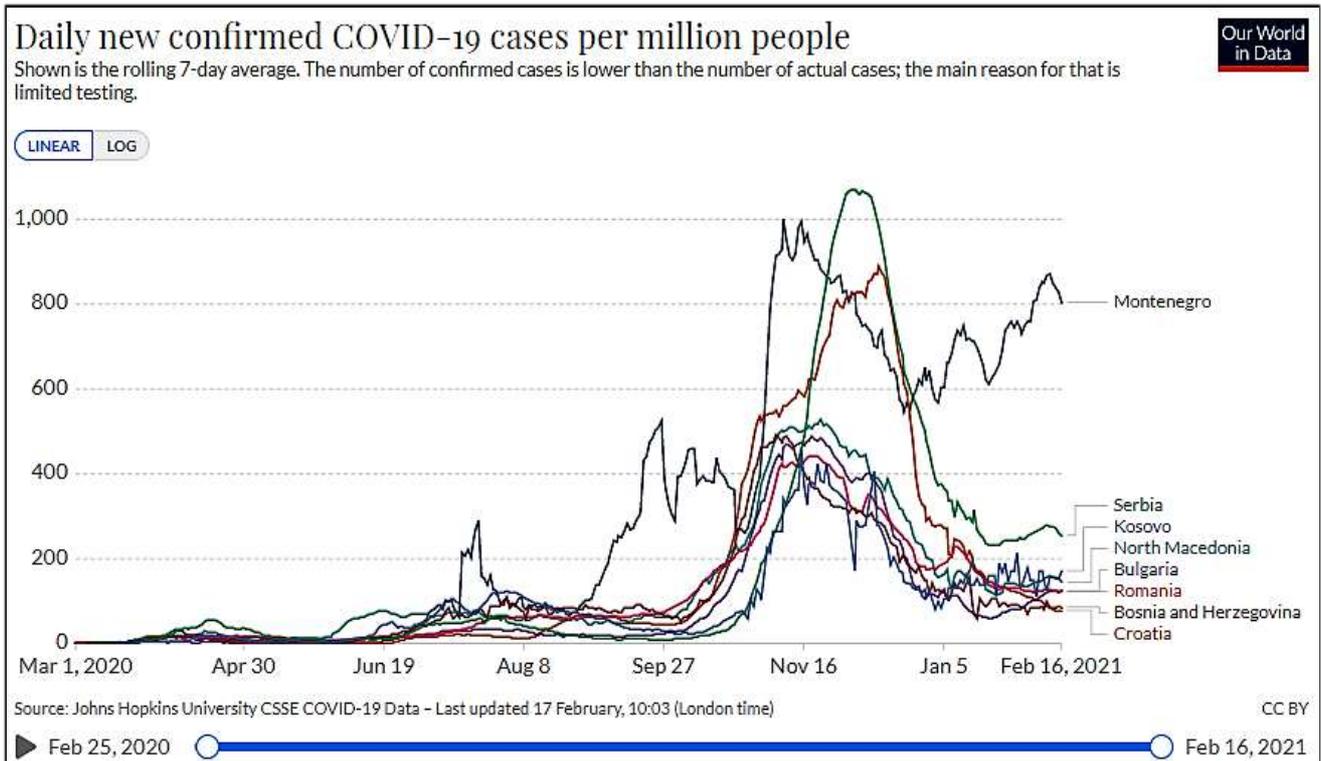
Central Europe:

In central Europe, Czech Republic stood first with its rolling 7-day average of daily new cases at more than 700 per million people followed by Slovakia 363.42, Hungary 161.01, Austria 159.35, Poland 150.94, Switzerland 128.19 and Germany 86.47. Slovakia has reported high 7-day rolling average of daily new deaths 17.82 and the least is seen in Switzerland (2.15) (6) (7).



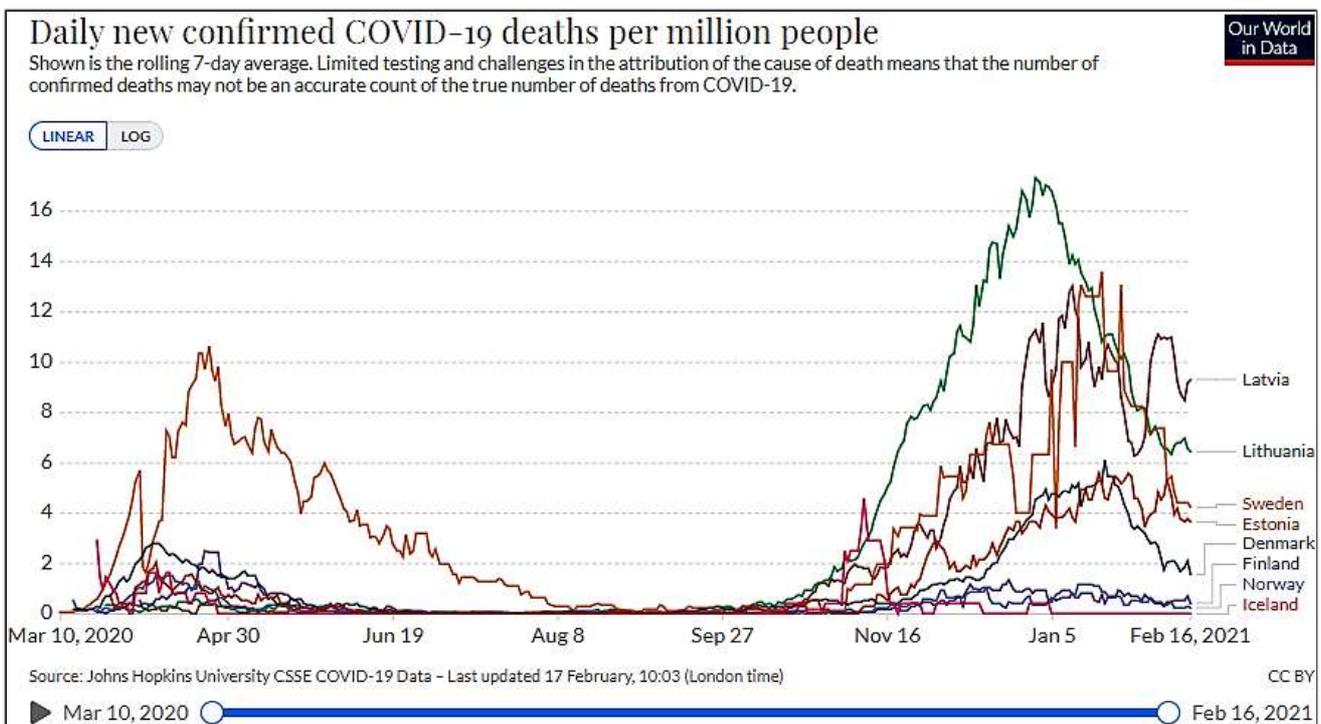
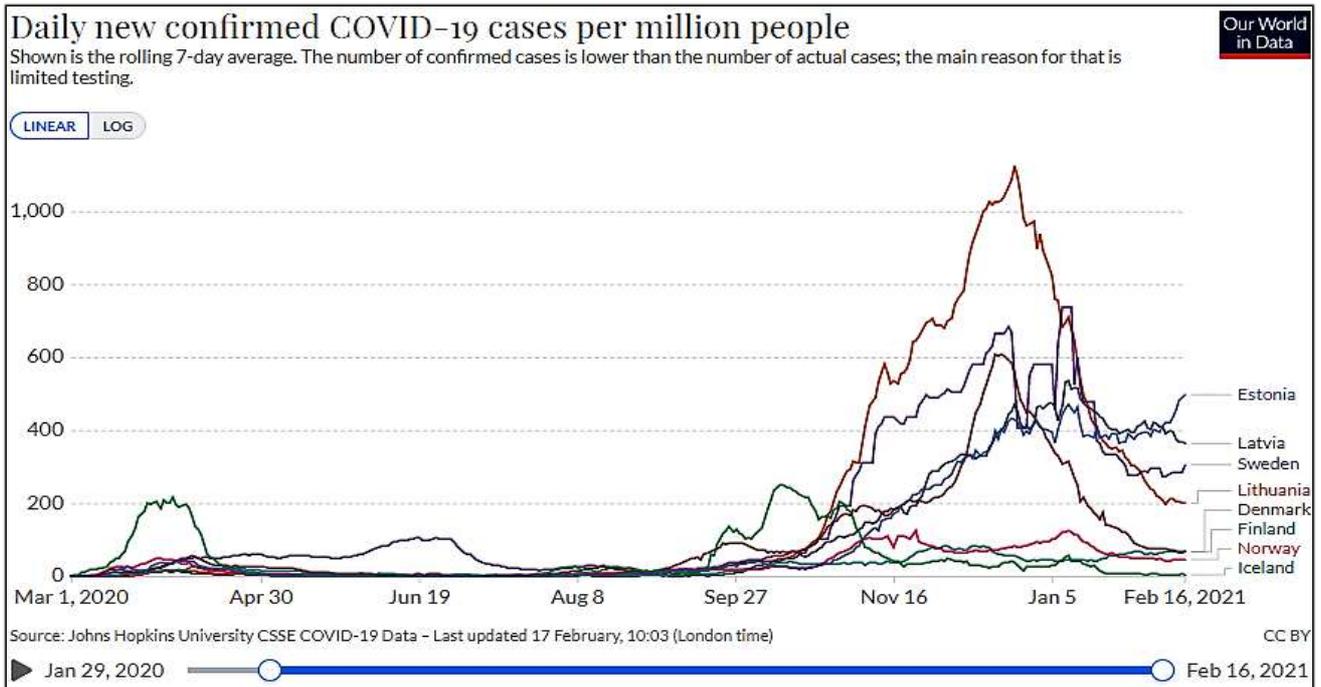
South-East Europe:

Montenegro is one of the countries facing bad hit by COVID-19. The rolling 7-day average of daily new confirmed cases and deaths are significantly high in Montenegro at 804.29 and 13.19 respectively (8) (9).



Scandinavian Countries:

Among Scandinavian countries, the 7-day rolling average of daily new deaths is peaking in Latvia at 9.32 and the least numbers are reported in Finland, Norway at 0.44, 0.26 respectively and null in Iceland. Reported number of daily new cases rolling 7-day average is high in Estonia 499.15 and the 14-days infection rate rose to 626.2 per 100 thousand inhabitants from 544.63 (10).



New weekly reports from The Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) University of Washington

IHME, the Gates Foundation funded health information service has started producing weekly *Executive COVID-19 Briefing Summaries for the European region* to best support decision-makers, hospital associations, researchers, and any other relevant organizations working towards the COVID-19 response in their country. There is a European summary report and country specific reports. We strongly recommend these for more a in depth look at country and European data. If you are interested in receiving regular, weekly updates and policy-relevant summaries on the COVID-19 trends and projections for their countries/regions can sign up for the mailing list via the following link: https://uwhealthmetrics.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b1b0Qlx2J6DAQdL.

For the week of 12th February 2021 their conclusion is:

Based on the latest data available, **one of the key conclusions is that over the next four months**, the decline in transmission and deaths will be largely determined by the following two factors: **1)** continued vaccine scale-up, and **2)** declining seasonality. Contrary to that, two factors could slow or completely reverse this decline and lead to a less favorable outcome: **1)** the spread of variants B.1.1.7. and B.1.351, and **2)** an increase in behaviors that favor COVID-19 transmission. As daily cases continue to decline and vaccination increases, the behavioral response – including mobility – is likely to change.

Special report this week : COVID-19 situation in Czechia

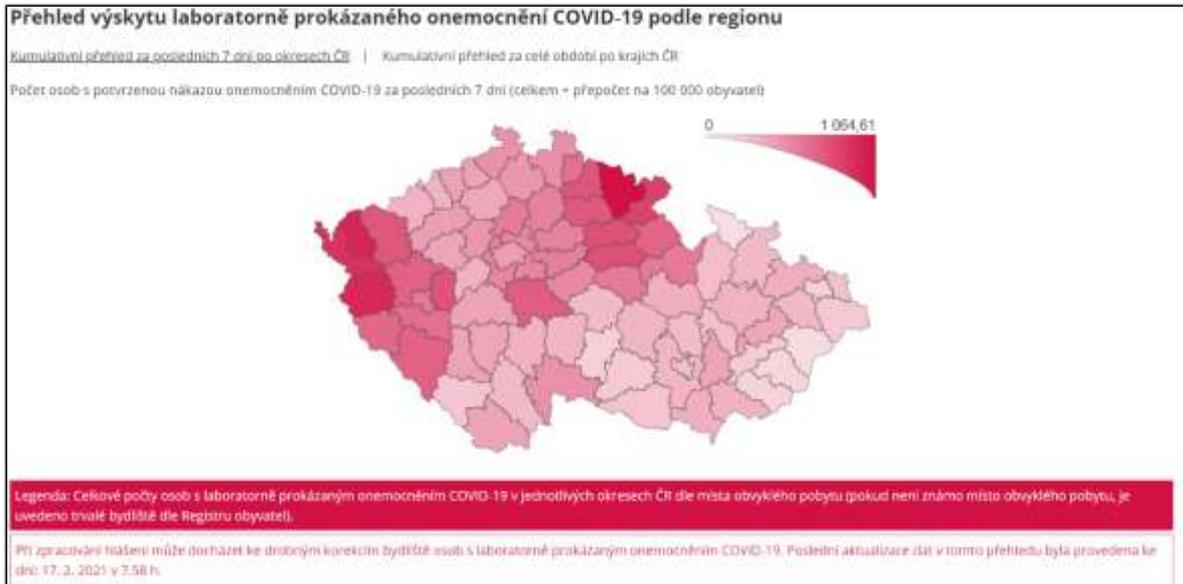
Vladimir Prizasky

Cases of newly detected COVID-19 positivity reported by Regional PH authorities in the last 14 days, 3.2.-16.2.2021, Czech Republic (3)

- Total number of newly detected cases in last 14 days is 108436, and the 14-days incidence is 1032,7 cases per 100000 population. Last calculated R value is 1.08. On 16.2.2021 there are 106211 active cases and 6171 hospitalised cases registered. Cumulative number of **deaths** is 18596, CFR is 1,67.



- **Geographical distribution** of cases per 100000 population detected in the last 7 days, as of 16.2.2021



Range is from 155 to 1065 per 100000 population.

- **Age and sex distribution of cases** in Prague, cumulative number of cases. For any shift from the beginning of pandemic in CR more calculations would be needed. Similarly for all the rest of regions. In all other regions the situation is similar reflecting small age and gender structure discrepancies.



- In last few weeks so called British variant is replacing original one. At the moment we estimate that in average there is 40% of strains **B117**, however some districts may reach as much as 80%. This influences speed of transmission.
- **Trend of hospitalisation** in the last 14 days (3.2.-16.2.2021) shows increase of actually hospitalised cases (blue line) from 5909 to 6171 and those hospitalised in ICU (red line) increased from 1008 to 1196.



- This trend leads to overload of the health care system that is now stretched at its limits. From existing capacity 4726 ICU beds only 766 are available (16%). However regional differences are significant. 5,4% in Prague, 9% in Karlovy Vary and 58% in Vysocina. Situation of the hospitals overload is forcing us to transport patients to remote hospitals with some more free capacity. If the overall capacity fall below 10% CR is considering to request assistance from German neighbouring regions.
- **Confinement** is applied in 3 districts, Cheb and Sokolov in the West border neighbouring Germany and Trutnov neighbouring Poland.
- **Vaccination**- Total number of fully vaccinated persons is 181908 (about 2,1% of estimated target population over 19 year, approx. 8,5 milion persons) as of 16.2.2021. Total number of vaccinations is 483833.
- Vaccine hesitancy is detected as a serious problem with about 48% hesitant population (media). This decreases with age. About 70% of population aged 60+ is interested in vaccination.

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