

ASPHER Report: COVID-19 Situation Reporting across Europe

Week of December 20th, 2021

Authors: Rok Hrzic^{1,2}, Ralf Reintjes^{1,4}, Katarzyna Czabanowska^{1,4}, John Middleton^{4,5,*}

¹ Maastricht University, the Netherlands

² ASPHER Young Professional

³ HAW Hamburg University, Germany

⁴ ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force

⁵ 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?

Key messages

- The overall epidemiological situation in the EU/EEA region is characterised by a high overall case notification rate and a slowly increasing death rate. Increasing case notification rates and an epidemiological situation of high or very high concern are now observed, particularly in western and northern parts of the EU/EEA ([link](#)).
- Of 29 countries with data on hospital or ICU admissions or occupancy up to week 49 (week ending Sunday 12 December 2021), 12 reported an increasing trend in at least one of these indicators compared to the previous week ([link](#)). The forecasts predict stable trends in hospital admissions and decreasing trends in ICU admissions ([link](#)).
- Community-associated spread of the Omicron VOC is occurring in the EU/EEA and the Omicron VOC will probably become dominant in early 2022. The ECDC recommends a rapid reintroduction and strengthening of NPIs to reduce the ongoing Delta VOC transmission, slow down the spread of the Omicron VOC, and keep the COVID-19-related healthcare and disease burden manageable. ([link](#)).

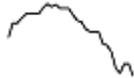
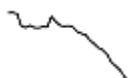
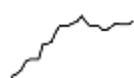
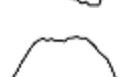
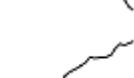
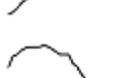
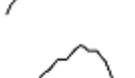
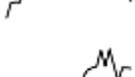
ASPHER recognizes the importance of following [non-pharmacological interventions](#) as well as achieving a high level of vaccine uptake. Vaccine hesitancy is a major pitfall stemming from the improvement in the vaccination rate particularly in Eastern parts of Europe. Mistrust in vaccines and false information are the driving factors for the population's low vaccine uptake. It is vital to address distrust to better handle the low vaccination rate. The decision regarding the idea of implementing mandatory vaccine passports and validation of these certificates should be made more clearer for the smooth operation of the process.

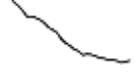
The current situation demands international consensus on a long-term strategy to minimize the transmission of virus variants, not only by rapid vaccination but also by increasing vaccine confidence and improving accessibility to vaccines to prevent further waves. Despite vaccination status, non-pharmaceutical interventions which complement vaccination must be followed.

ASPHER remains concerned that countries are unprepared and complacent about the responses that will be needed by health services and public health authorities this autumn. Read our statement [here](#).

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 ([data](#)).

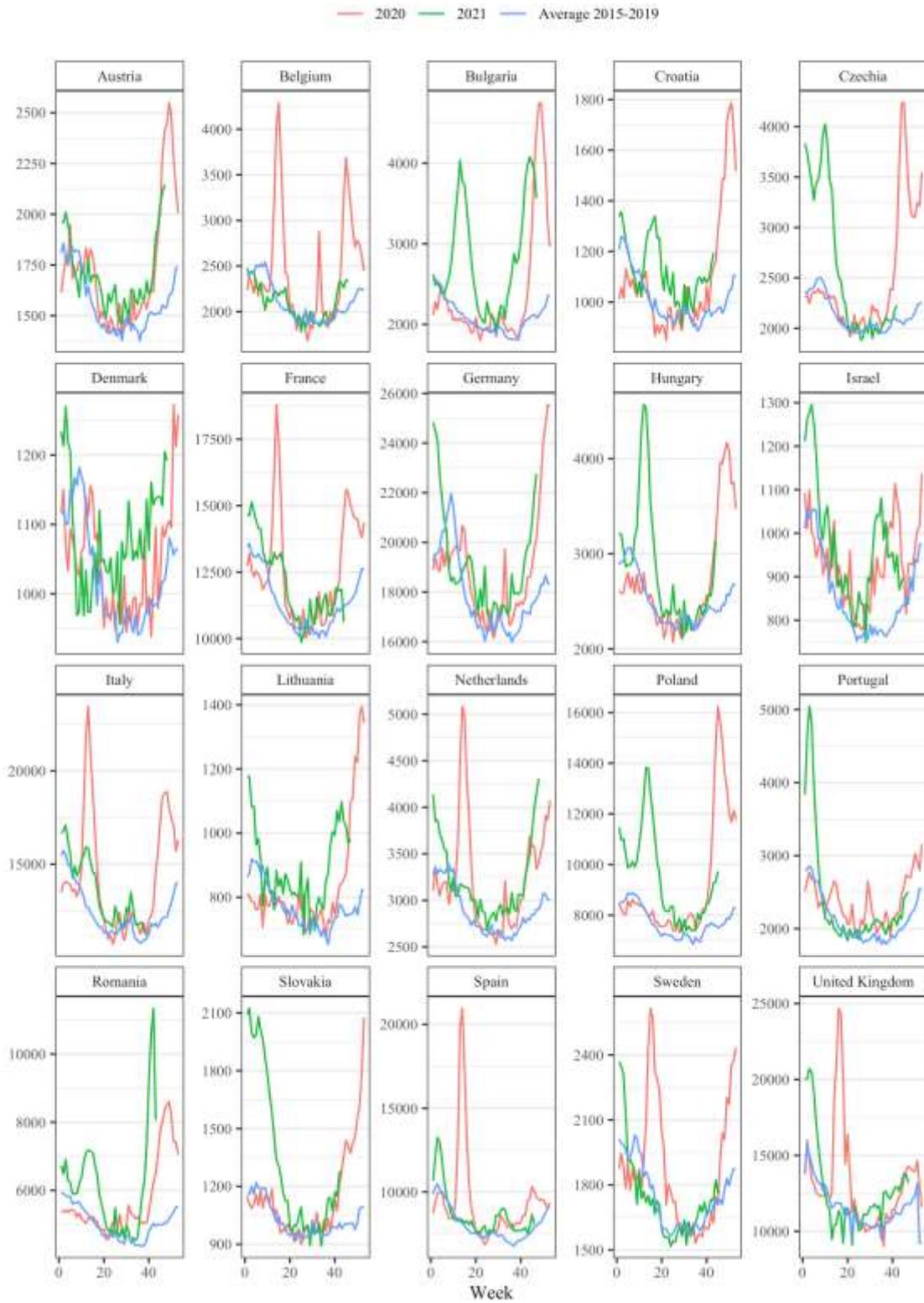
WHO Europe region	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed COVID-19 cases/million people	30-day trend in cases	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed deaths/million people	30-day trend in deaths	Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (%)
Andorra	2,995.50		7.39		65.35
San Marino	2,923.51		8.40		63.58
Denmark	1,601.45		1.50		77.73
United Kingdom	1,218.20		1.65		68.98
Monaco	1,055.52		3.62		58.98
Switzerland	997.32		2.62		66.44
Slovakia	988.33		17.08		43.87
Ireland	948.44		1.35		76.74
Czechia	913.62		9.82		61.38
Netherlands	815.33		3.03		74.65
France	782.74		2.20		72.14
Croatia	737.62		13.20		51.22

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 (%)
Belgium	711.82		4.43		75.40
Cyprus	706.31		1.91		66.63
Georgia	705.10		12.17		27.34
Luxembourg	614.13		1.80		67.69
Spain	596.67		0.94		80.85
Slovenia	585.25		5.57		56.73
Lithuania	585.05		8.18		67.57
Iceland	558.76		0.42		82.41
Poland	486.91		11.36		55.19
Portugal	439.08		1.73		89.10
Hungary	436.85		15.01		61.71
Germany	430.88		4.40		69.77
Greece	427.76		8.69		66.26
Estonia	421.50		2.48		61.15

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 (%)
Malta	409.94		0.00		84.22
Italy	395.53		2.01		73.68
Finland	357.71		1.31		73.63
Sweden	304.66		0.56		72.11
Austria	303.77		4.39		70.13
Montenegro	278.87		4.78		42.59
Bulgaria	250.76		14.56		27.23
Turkey	219.90		2.13		60.21
Russia	189.02		7.27		43.66
Ukraine	163.73		7.37		30.10
Serbia	150.66		3.99		46.16
Belarus	147.17		1.71		32.19
Bosnia and Herzegovina	141.39		8.27		22.08
North Macedonia	131.77		5.83		38.63

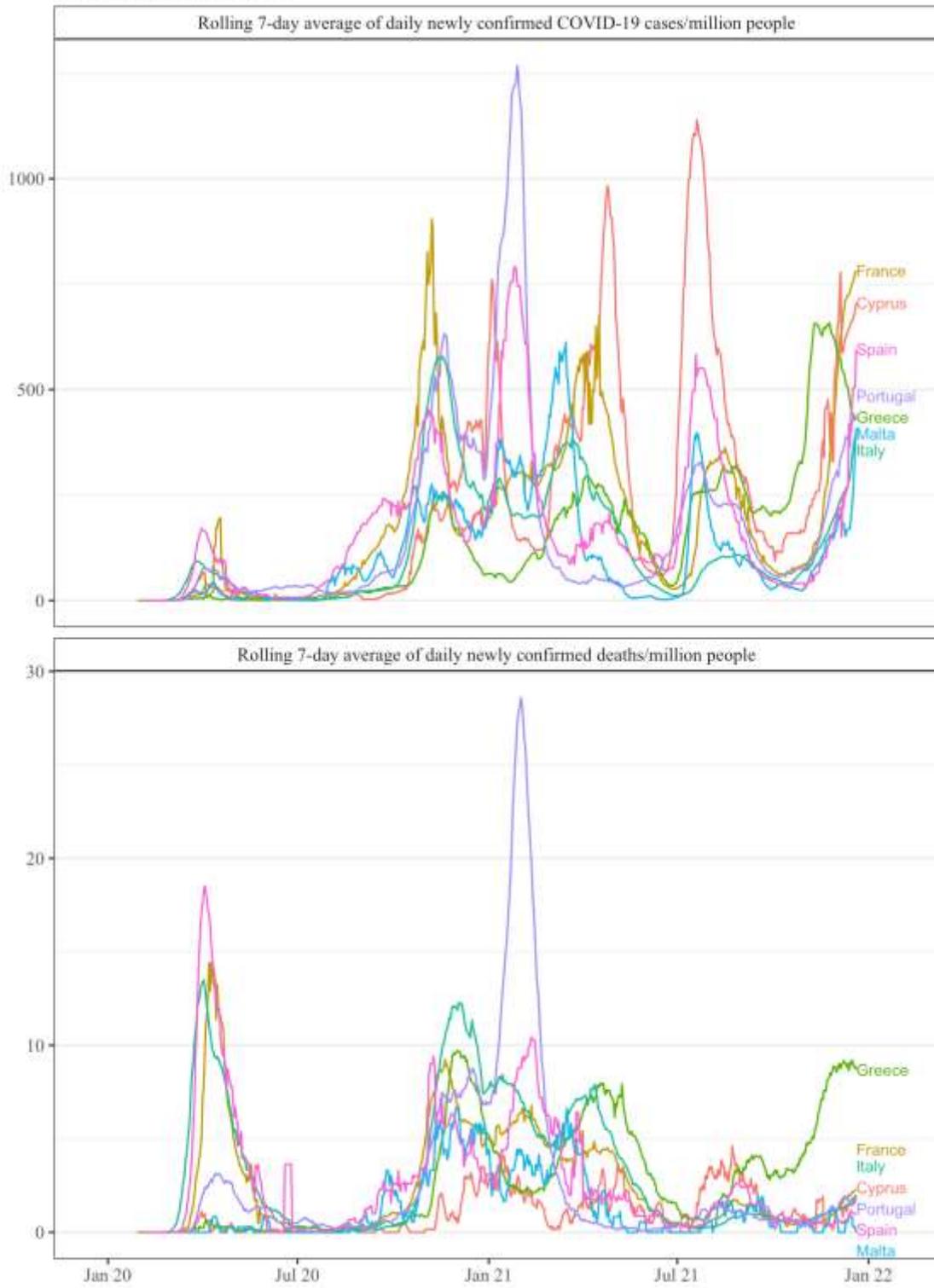
WHO Europe region	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed COVID-19 cases/million people	30-day trend in cases	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed deaths/million people	30-day trend in deaths	Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (%)
Albania	98.06		1.59		35.10
Israel	89.67		0.14		62.87
Moldova	86.13		4.54		24.01
Azerbaijan	82.40		1.45		45.41
Armenia	53.14		4.04		19.63
Romania	37.24		3.67		40.40
Kazakhstan	26.32		0.53		44.03
Uzbekistan	5.52		0.09		32.72
Kyrgyzstan	4.89		0.30		14.35
Kosovo	4.57		0.16		43.59
Tajikistan	0.00		0.00		32.89

Weekly deaths in 2021 and 2020 compared to the average in 2015-2019 in selected countries ([data](#)).

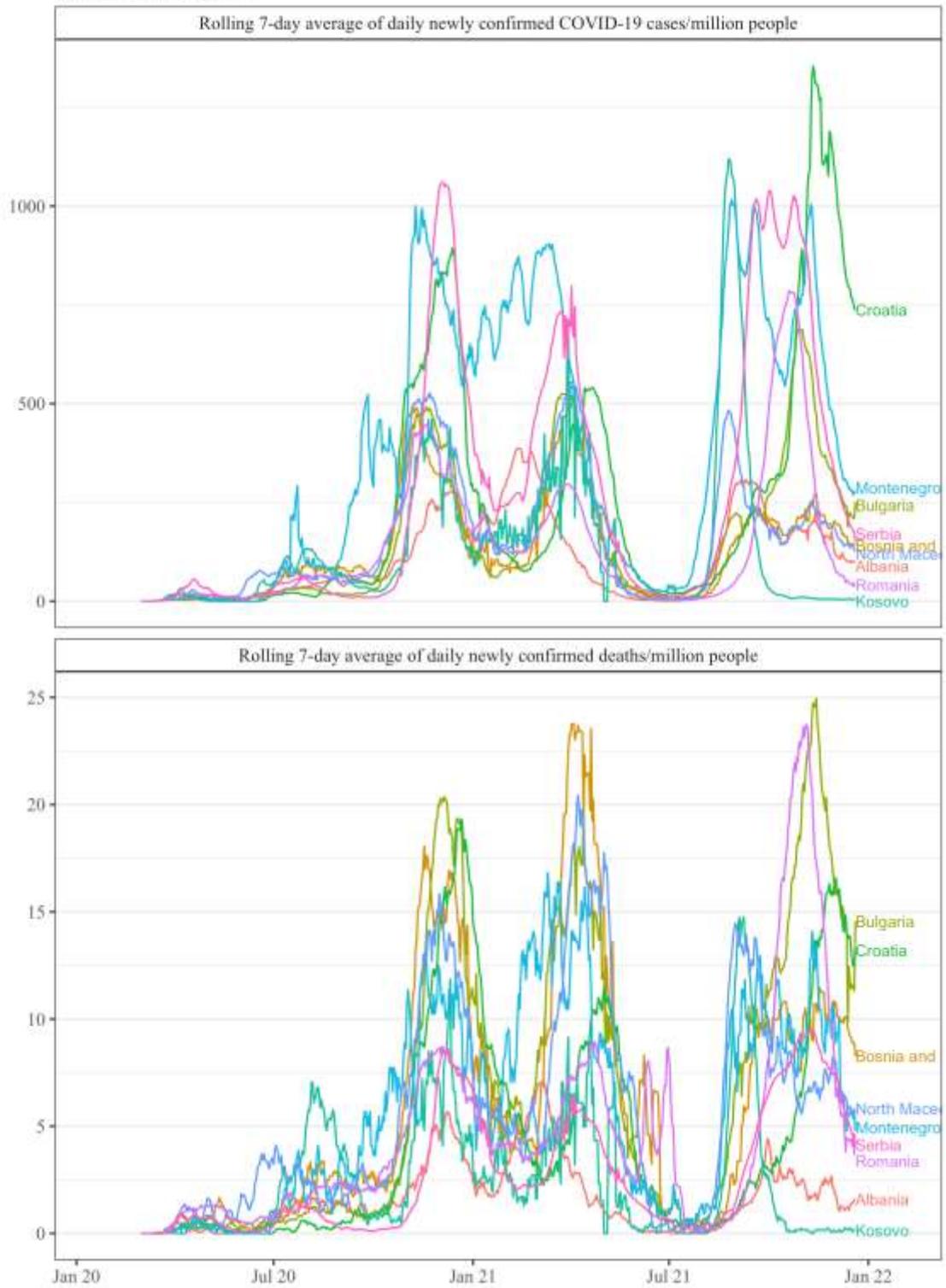


Rolling 7-day average of daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases and daily new confirmed COVID-19 deaths in sub-regions of Europe from until 20th December 2021 ([data](#)).

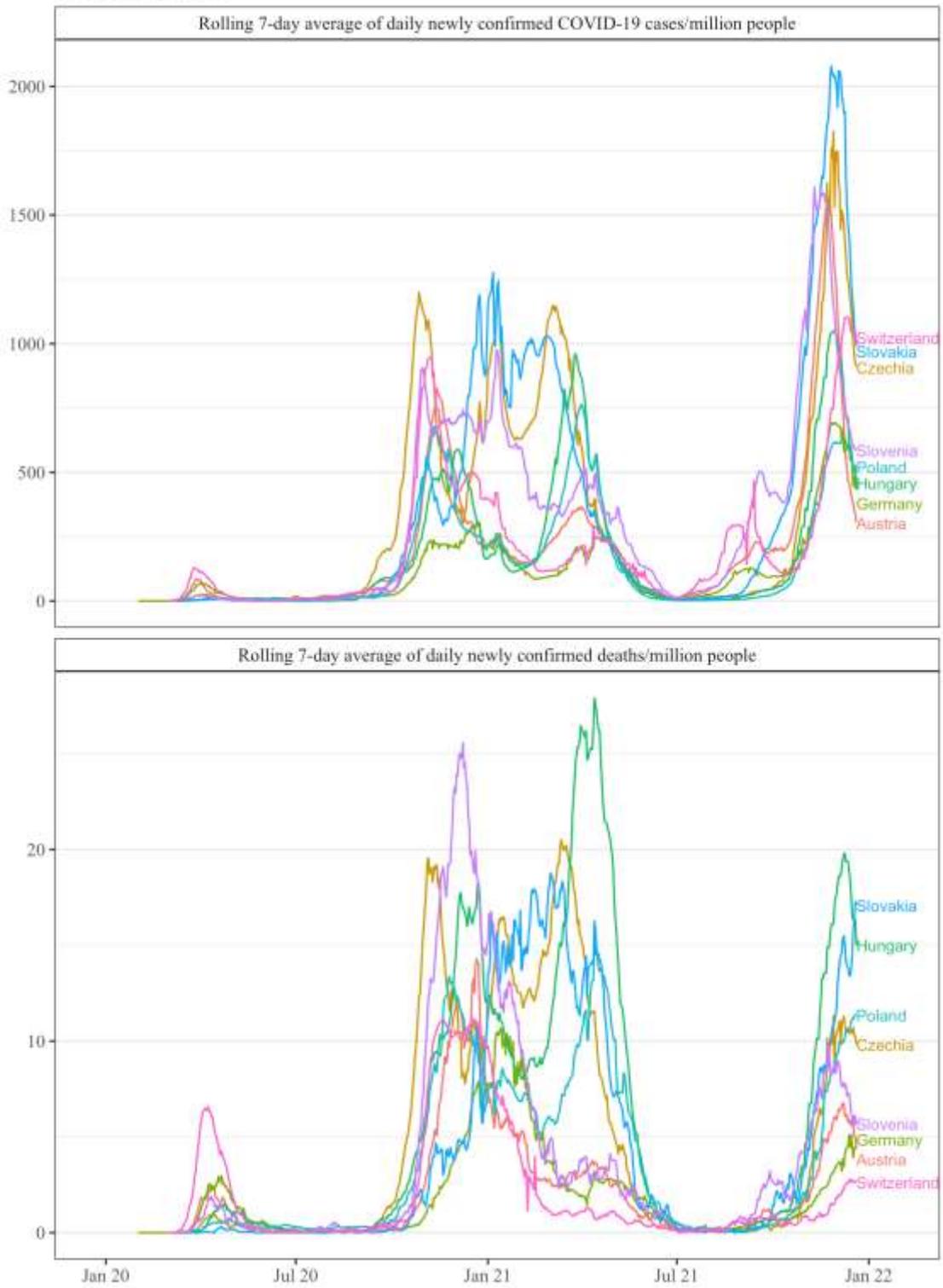
Mediterranean region



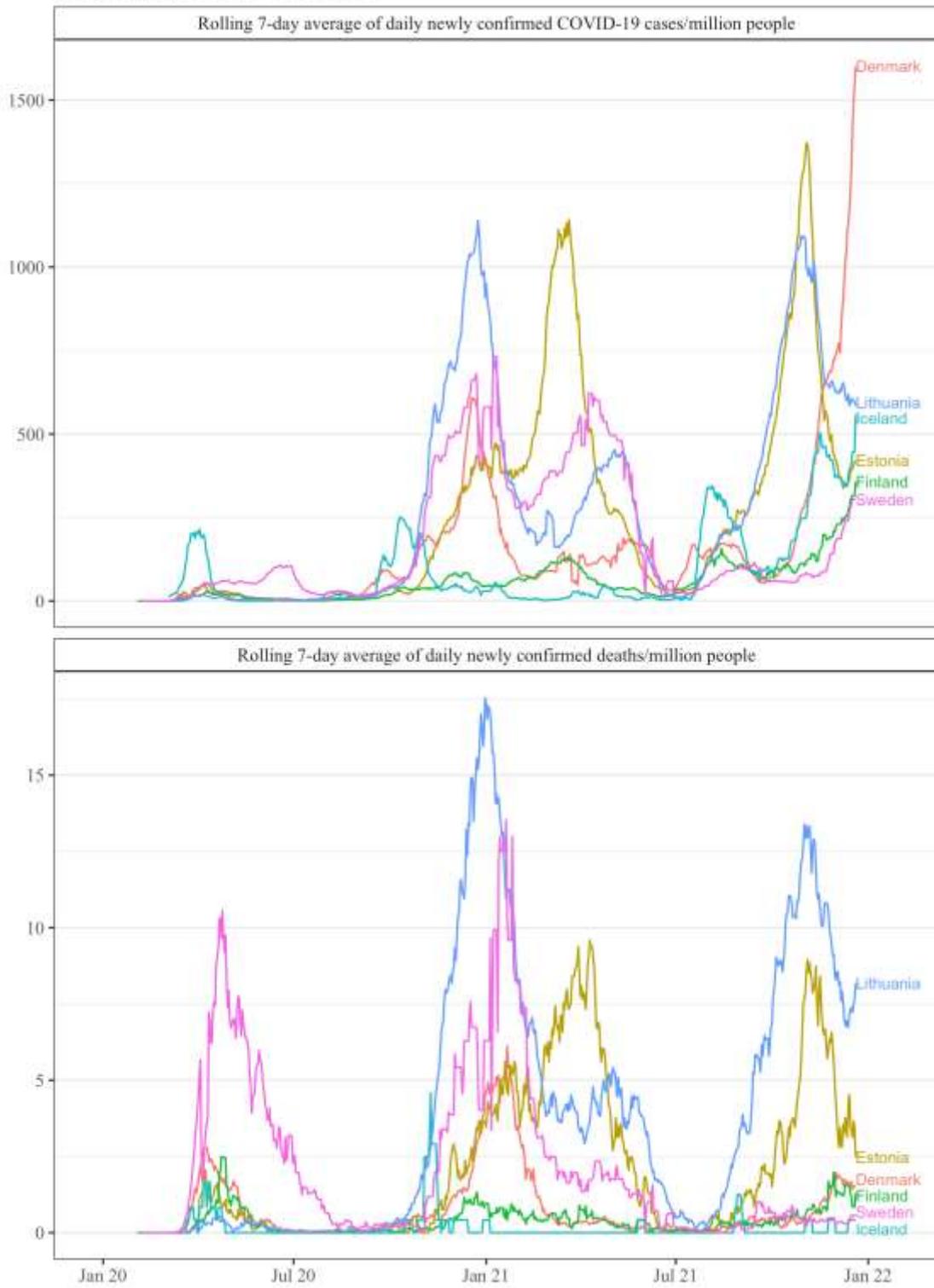
South-East region



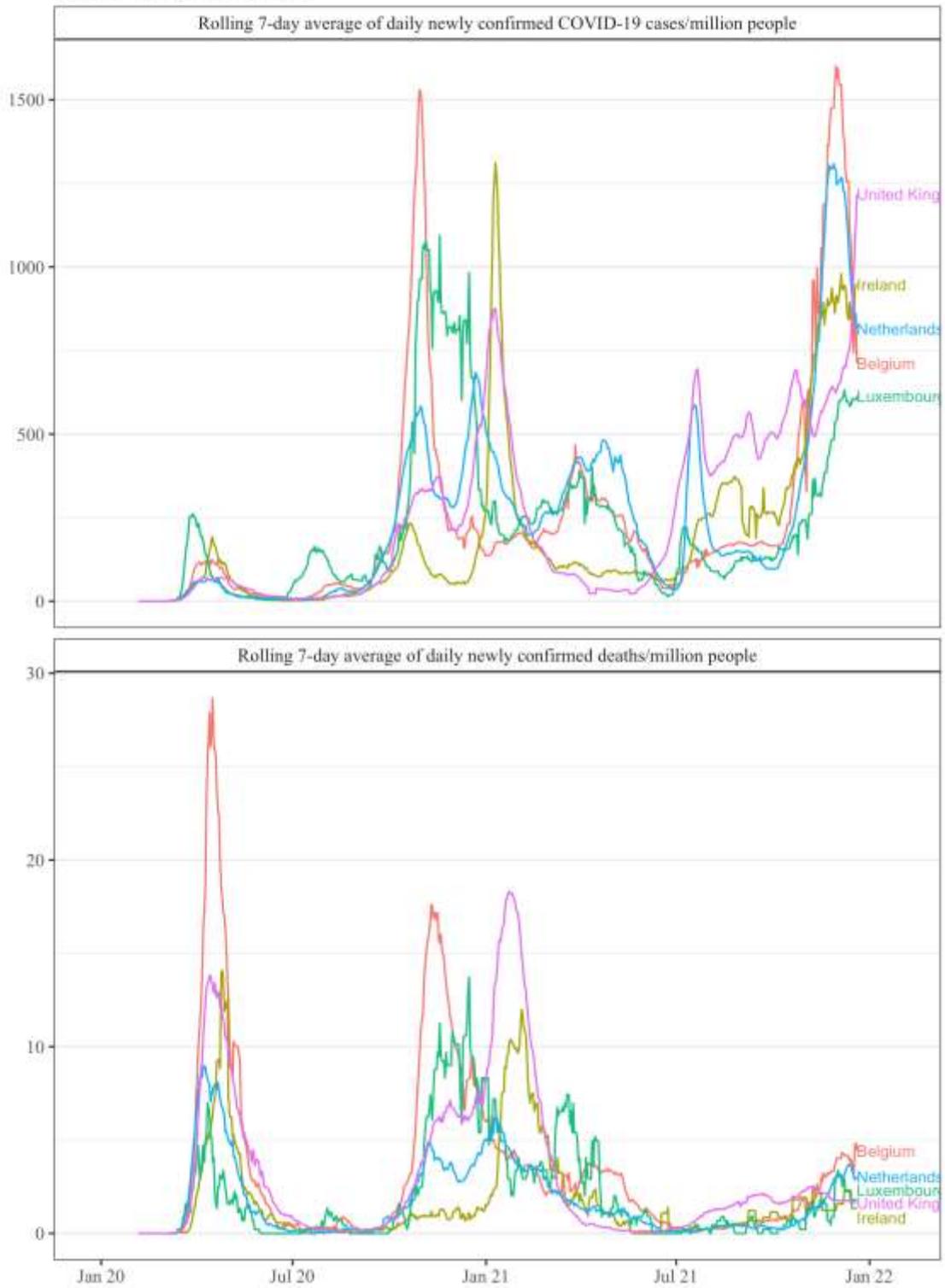
Central Europe



Baltics and Nordic Countries



North-Western Europe



Central Asia

