

ASPHER Report: COVID-19 Situation Reporting across Europe

Week of January 10th, 2022

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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?

Key messages

- As of 7 January 2022, a steep increase in COVID-19 cases over the past two weeks has been observed in several EU/EEA countries. ([link](#))
- The overall epidemiological situation in the EU/EEA region is characterised by a high overall case notification rate which has increased rapidly in the past two weeks and an elevated death rate which decreased compared to the previous week. ([link](#))
- The hospital admission rate has increased compared to the week before Christmas, while the ICU admission rate remained stable since the start of December ([link](#)).
- According to data collected by the ECDC, Omicron is now the dominant variant in Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, France, Iceland, Ireland, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden. ([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.

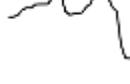
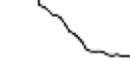
The current situation demands international consensus on a long-term strategy to minimize the transmission of virus variants, not only by rapid vaccination but also by increasing vaccine confidence and improving accessibility to vaccines to prevent further waves. Despite vaccination status, non-pharmaceutical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

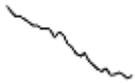
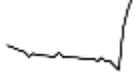
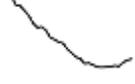
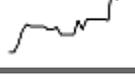
ASPHER remains concerned that countries are unprepared and complacent about the responses that will be needed by health services and public health authorities this autumn. Read our statement [here](#).

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](#)).

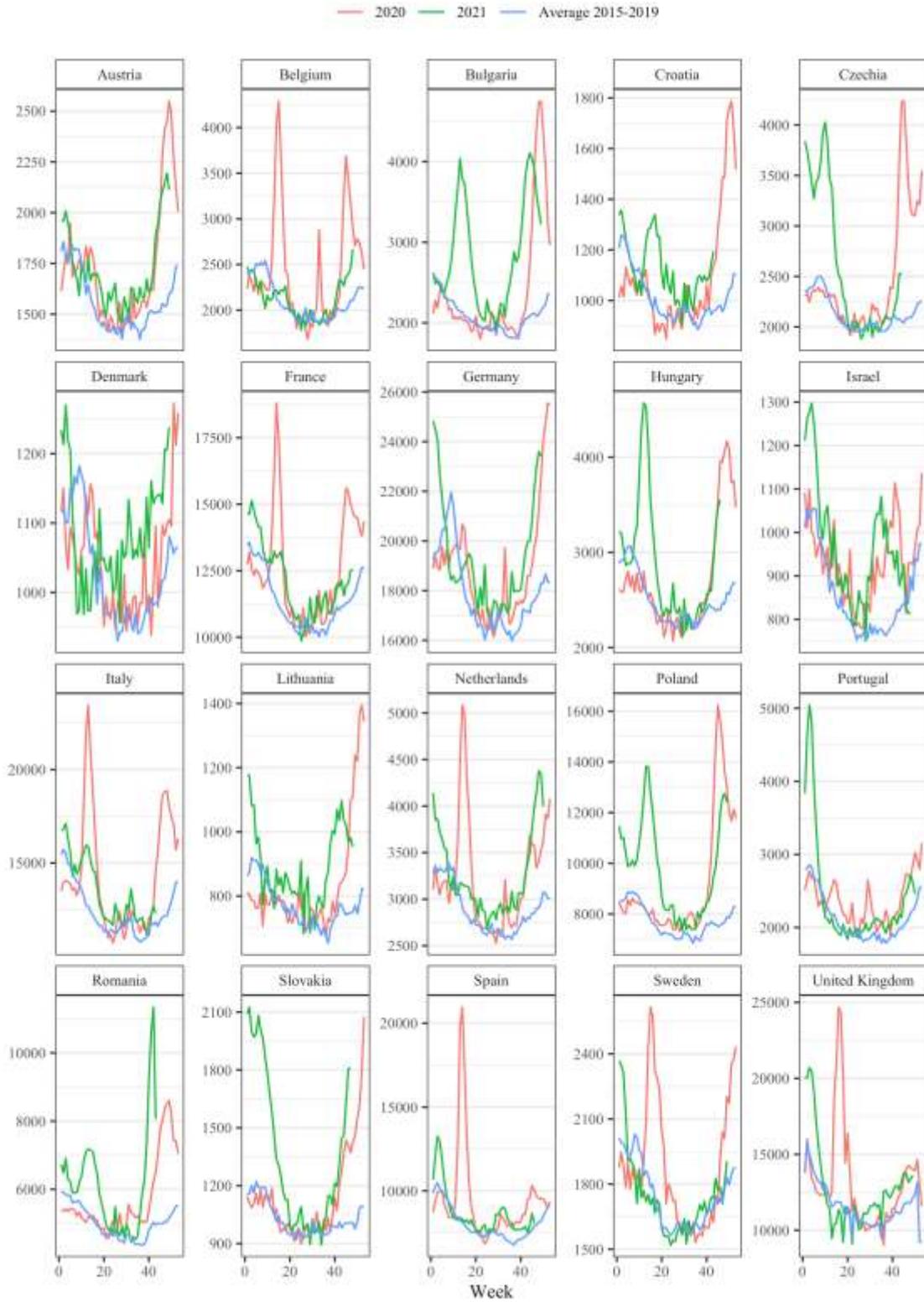
WHO Europe region	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed COVID-19 cases/million people	30-day trend in cases	Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed deaths/million people	30-day trend in deaths	Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (%)
Andorra	6,428.70		1.85		66.44
Cyprus	4,916.75		3.19		68.97
San Marino	4,330.66		4.20		63.76
France	4,001.79		3.19		74.47
Monaco	3,983.52		10.84		58.98
Montenegro	3,936.44		6.37		43.66
Denmark	3,535.29		2.51		80.34
Iceland	3,473.50		0.39		77.10
Greece	3,314.83		6.74		68.55
Switzerland	2,881.81		1.95		67.27
Italy	2,740.91		3.50		74.69
United Kingdom	2,515.75		2.81		69.96

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 (%)
Spain	2,413.66		1.72		81.46
Luxembourg	2,403.63		2.92		67.69
Israel	2,347.60		0.37		64.36
Belgium	1,882.05		1.63		75.82
Slovenia	1,767.84		3.30		57.57
Netherlands	1,598.01		0.97		71.38
Malta	1,594.65		2.49		84.81
Croatia	1,579.51		9.28		53.10
Finland	1,326.21		1.65		74.95
Estonia	1,136.12		1.83		61.96
Serbia	1,121.04		3.10		46.90
Lithuania	1,068.24		6.11		68.55
Austria	969.90		1.52		72.80

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 (%)
Georgia	870.26		9.91		29.51
Turkey	749.23		1.76		61.07
Bulgaria	739.90		12.26		28.21
Czechia	628.13		4.92		62.54
Slovakia	575.49		6.51		47.63
North Macedonia	569.67		4.18		39.22
Germany	530.49		2.63		71.37
Hungary	523.91		7.61		62.63
Bosnia and Herzegovina	493.52		8.89		22.08
Albania	477.46		1.04		36.91
Poland	329.33		8.16		56.29
Romania	265.77		1.59		41.23
Moldova	147.01		2.63		24.60

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Belarus	109.41		1.51		37.81
Russia	109.08		5.30		46.19
Kosovo	105.41		0.00		44.34
Ukraine	95.50		3.81		32.34
Kazakhstan	76.73		0.55		45.02
Azerbaijan	50.46		1.03		45.93
Armenia	45.48		1.01		24.95
Kyrgyzstan	26.68		0.30		15.34
Uzbekistan	6.52		0.05		32.72
Tajikistan	0.00		0.00		29.70
Ireland					77.22
Portugal					89.86
Sweden			0.94		73.13

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



Country situation reports

Denmark

The situation in Denmark is still characterised by a high infection incidence. Nevertheless, the Government has introduced a number of reductions of Covid-19 restrictions working from 16th January, especially in the cultural sector incl. sport and restaurants and cafés.

Czech Republic

In CR during last 14 days 27.12.2021-9.1.2022 we detected 82759 cases of SARS-CoV-2 positive persons. Daily average is 5911, which is incidence 773/100000 population. During that period also 3187 new hospitalisations were registered (3.9%). It is to note that in the daily counts the repeated infections are not counted. During the week 2.1.2022-9.1.2022 from 20297 samples investigated with RT-PCR 10146 (50%) were positive signalling Omicron variant. This proportion raised during that period from 31% to 79% by the 9.1.2022. ([link](#))

United Kingdom

Recorded case numbers falling but lateral flow test shortages in England and difficult to book on line in Scotland last week, also caution because case numbers mean issues with PCR testing capacity and time to results for cases not requiring healthcare intervention. NHS especially in England still under a lot of pressure.

SIREN study of reinfections shows significant increases since end of November ([link](#)).

Three per cent of the workforce is off because of COVID or self isolating in late December. Highest since records began on June 20th. ([link](#))

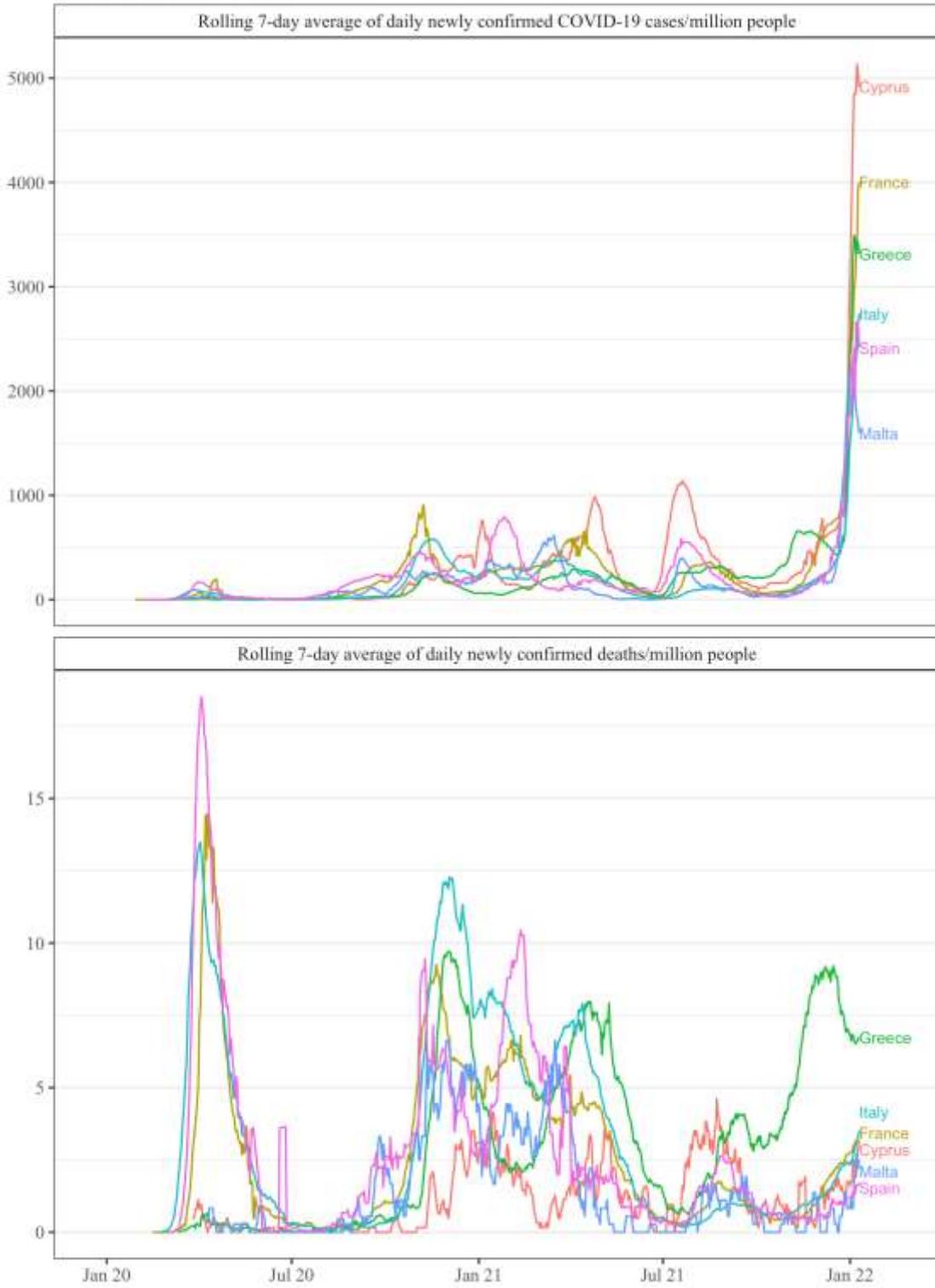
Scotland: Still approximately 10,000 cases per day ([link](#)). A mix of PCR and lateral flow tests are now reported. Most areas have rates above 1000 per 100,000 (Scotland 7 day is 1030.3). Last rolling update of positivity was down to 22.6%. For those aged 85 and over, there was a sharp peak on Jan 5th at more than 100 per 100,000, which is now down to around 58 per 100,000. There were 14 deaths and 155 admissions to hospital on January 14th. It is not clear whether the ICU admission rate is stabilizing. Restrictions on outdoor events are being lifted while indoor restrictions remain in place until at least January 24th.

71% over 18 population has had booster but there is evidence of ongoing gaps. Booster rates reach only 91% in over 80 years and under 70% in under 50s with 38% in 18-29 years. There has been slow uptake in care home and social care staff with 68% staff in care homes having had boosters and 68.7% staff in 'frontline' social care and only 83.3% healthcare staff. (Note: the low rates shouldn't reflect age as these persons are in special queues.) The vaccination rates are under 90% of those previously shielding, under 80% in those aged 16-64 with underlying conditions have had boosters, and 90% in those severely immunosuppressed.

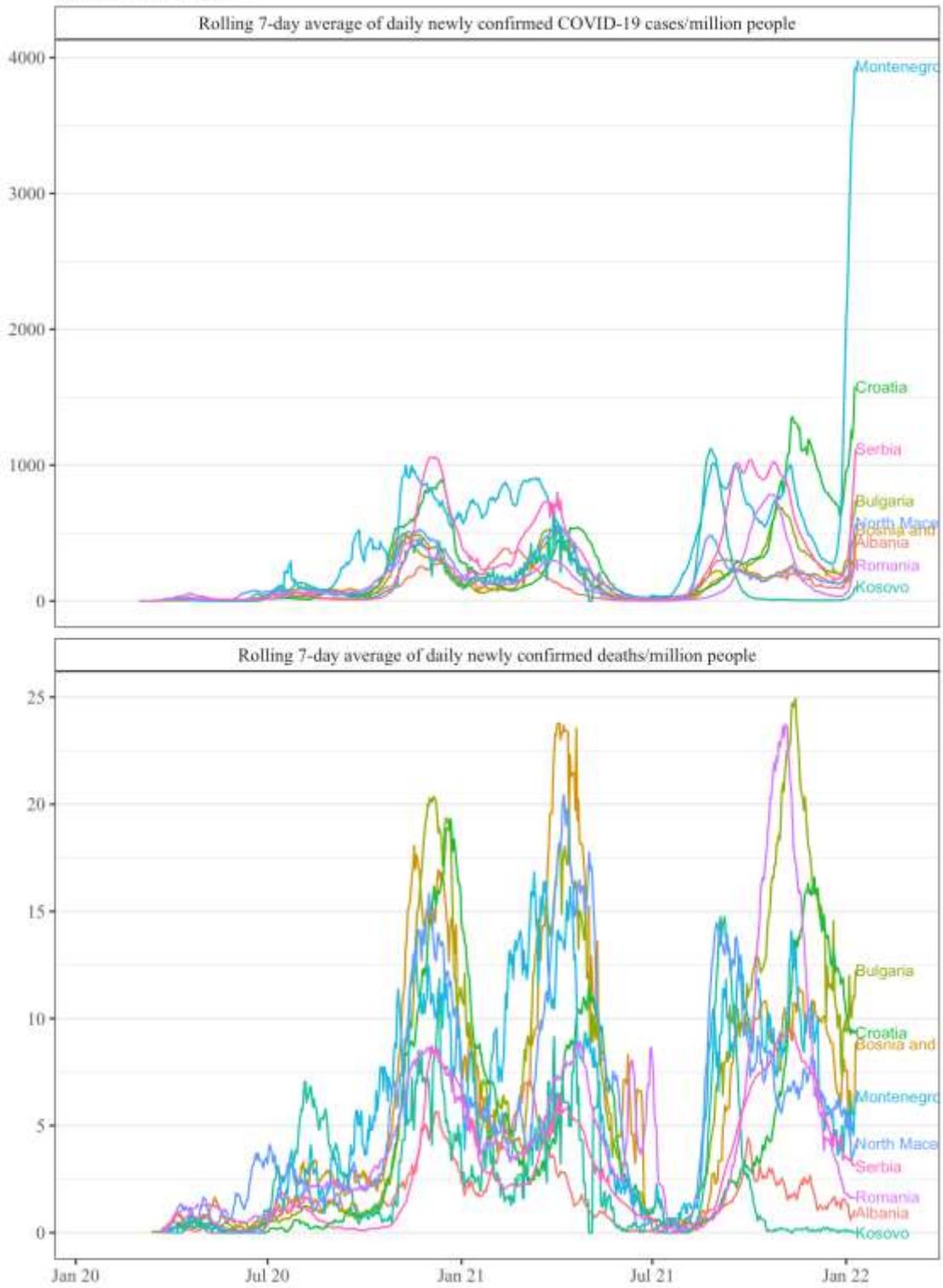
Wales: COVID wellbeing survey for December is showing significant levels of concern regarding COVID but much lower than in December 2020. ([link](#)) 70% of people are performing regular flow tests and 85% agree with use of COVID pass with a very high levels of concordance with public health measures. Only 51% are working from home. The survey was conducted before and increase in protection measures later in December 2021 and January 2022.

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](#)).

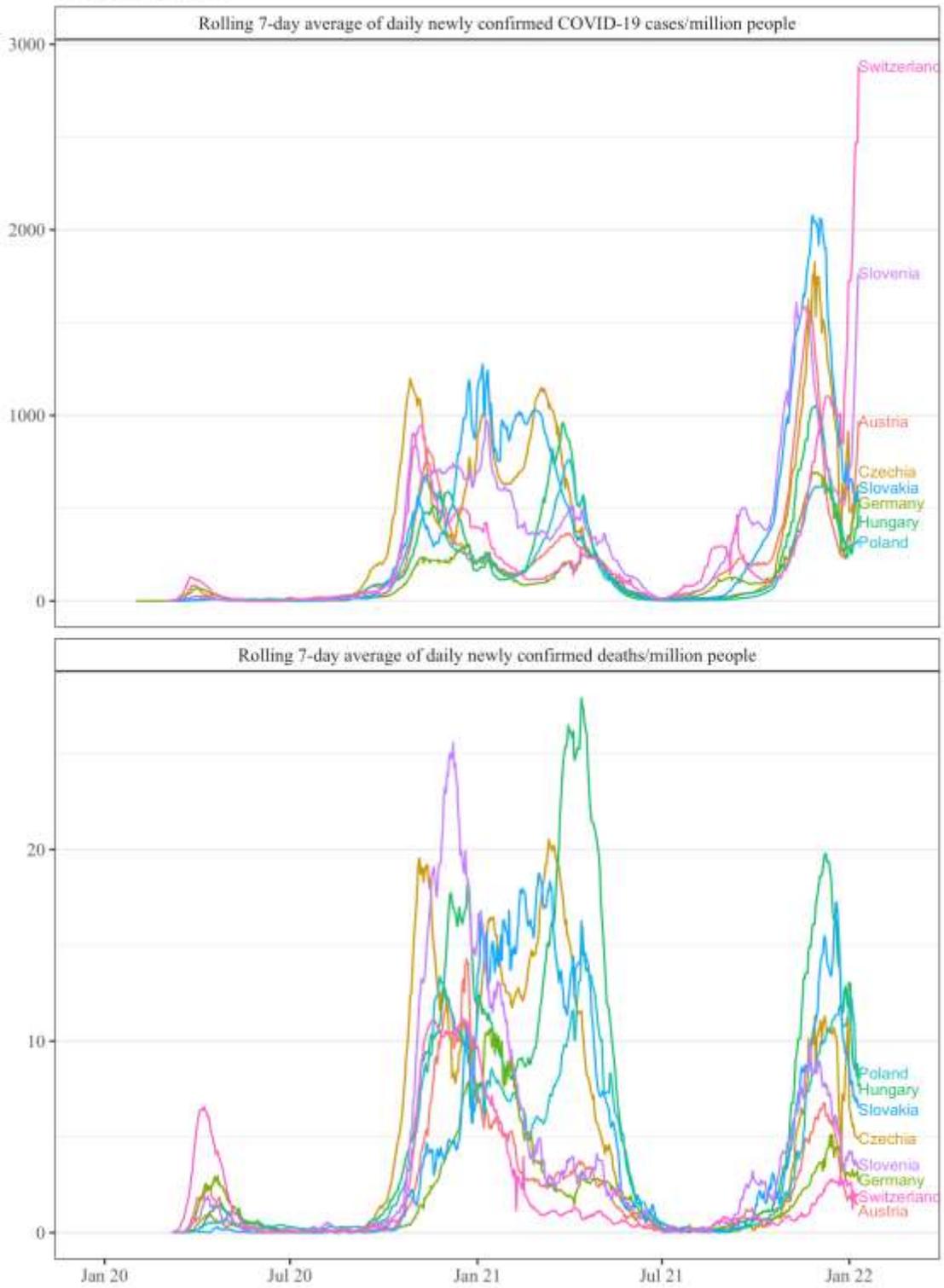
Mediterranean region



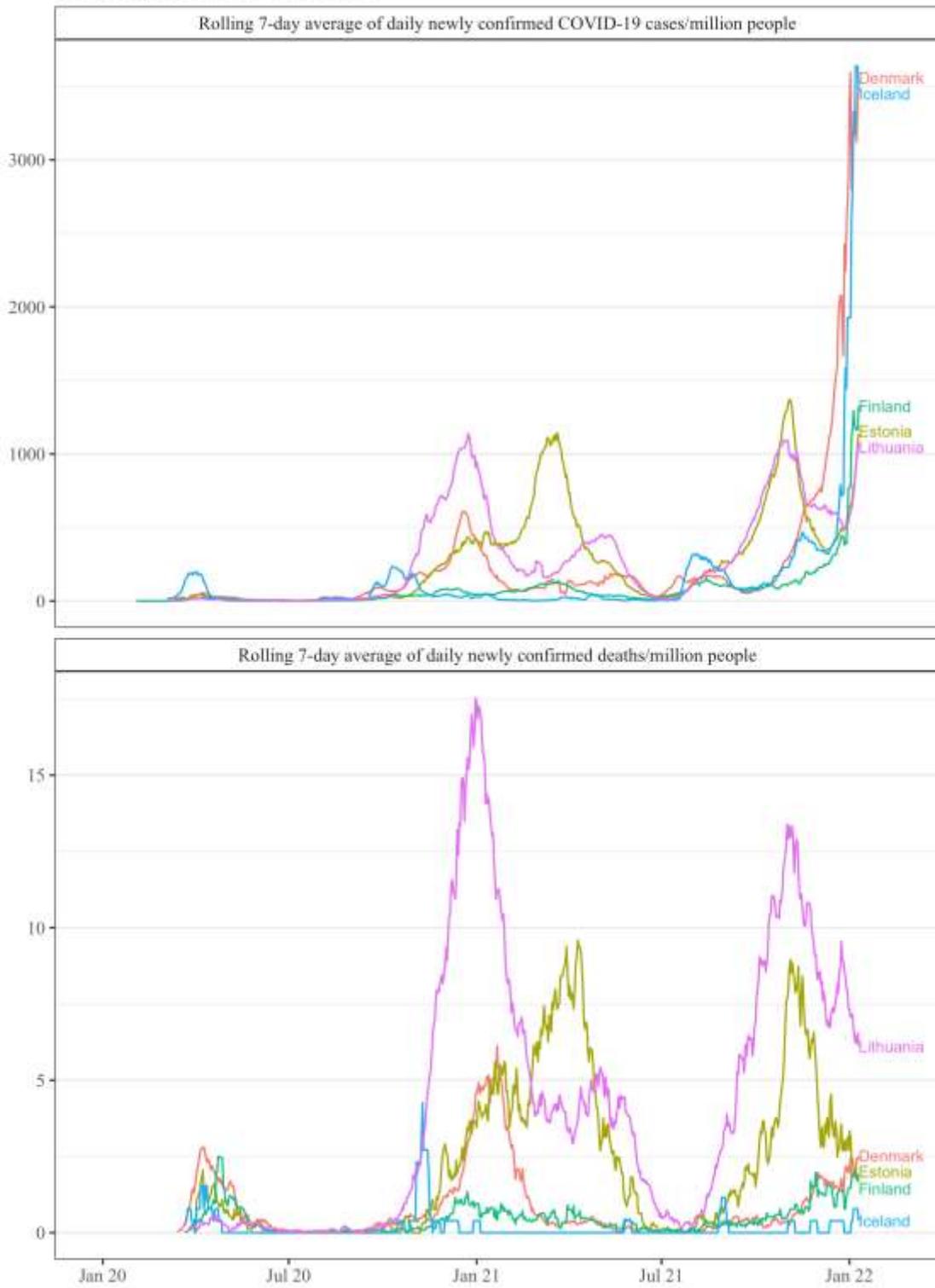
South-East region



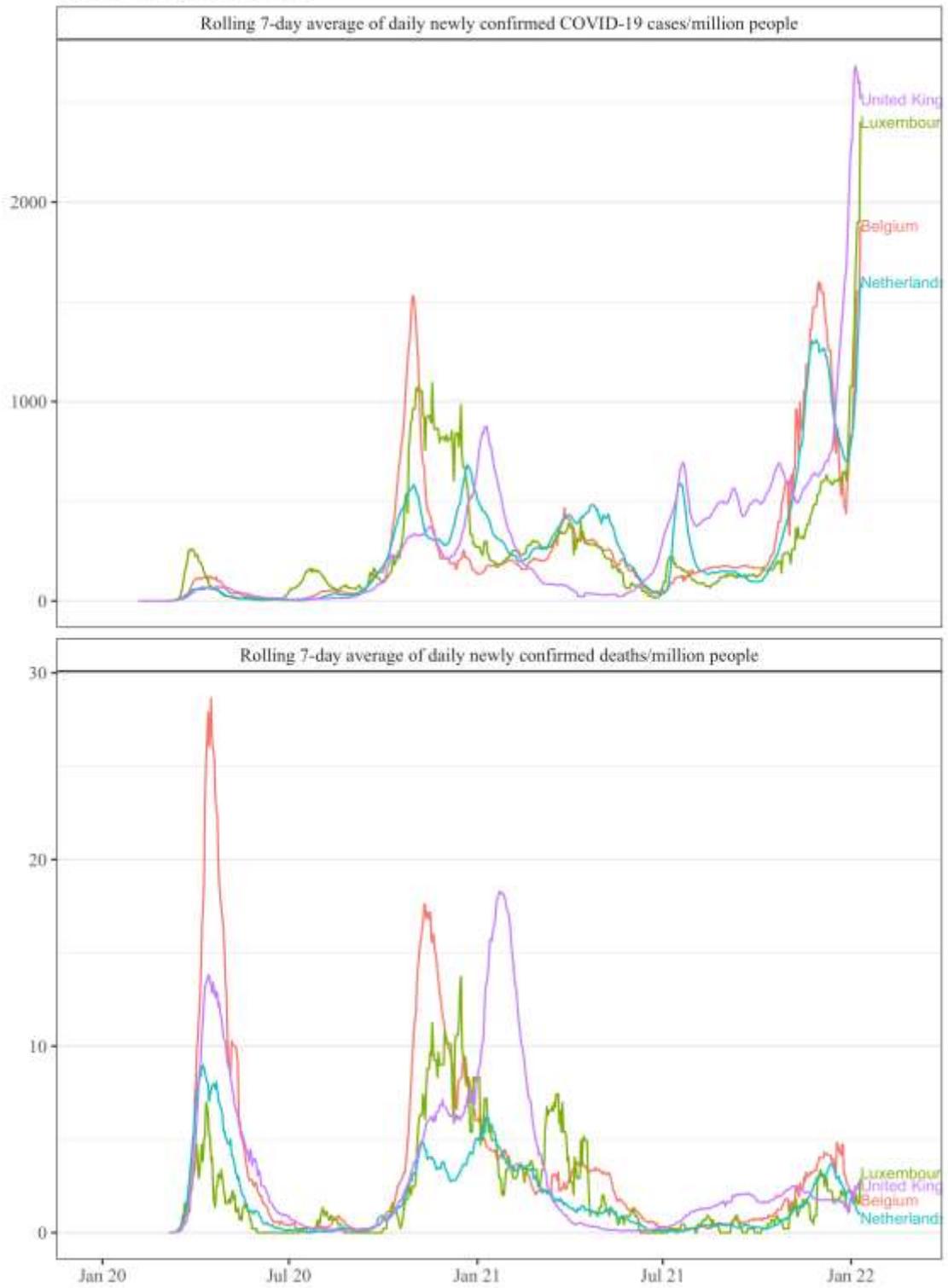
Central Europe



Baltics and Nordic Countries



North-Western Europe



Central Asia

