







**FREE
NETWORK**

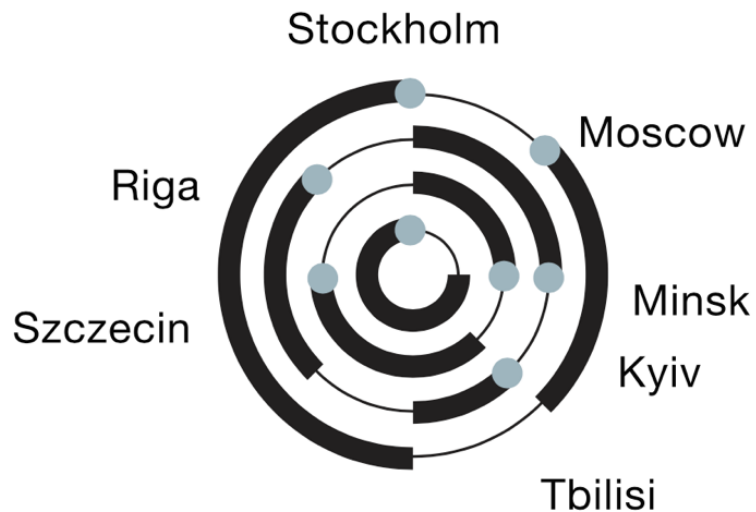
Addressing the COVID-19 Pandemic: Vaccination Efforts in FREE Network Countries

FREE NETWORK WEBINAR | 11.02.2021.

Agenda

-  Introduction of the FREE Network
-  COVID-19 situation in the region
-  Vaccination efforts in the FREE Network countries
-  Discussion and Q&A session

FREE Network



Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics (SITE)

Center for Economic and Financial Research (CEFIR at NES)

Belorussian Economic Research and Outreach Center (BEROC)



Kyiv School of Economics (KSE)

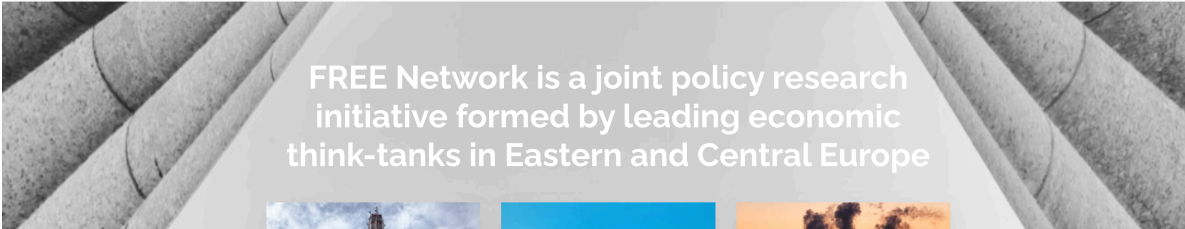
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Speakers



Jesper Roine, Professor at the Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics (SITE / Sweden)



Natalya Volchkova, Director of the Centre for Economic and Financial Research at New Economic School (CEFIR at NES/ Russia)



Lev Lvovskiy, Senior Research Fellow at the Belarusian Economic Research and Outreach Center (BEROC/ Belarus)



Iurii Ganychenko, Senior Researcher at Kyiv School of Economics (KSE/Ukraine)



Pavlo Kovtoniuk, Head of Health Economics Center at Kyiv School of Economics (KSE/Ukraine)



Yaroslava V. Babych, Lead Economist at ISET Policy Institute (ISET PI/ Georgia)



Michal Myck, Director of the Centre for Economic Analysis (CenEA / Poland)



Sergejs Gubins, Research Fellow at the Baltic International Centre for Economic Policy Studies (BICEPS/ Latvia)



Torbjörn Becker, Director of the Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics (SITE / Sweden)

COVID-19 and Situation in the Region

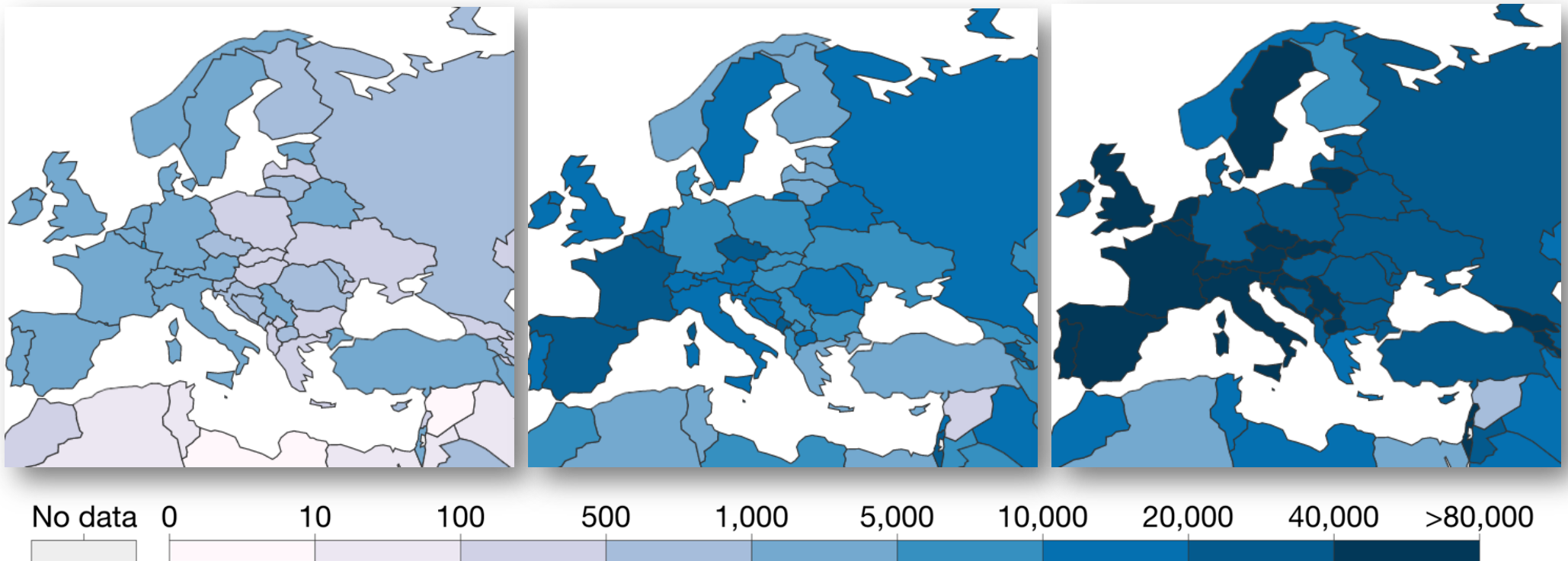


Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases per million people

Date: Apr 29, 2020
("Western / Eastern European divide")

Date: Oct 29, 2020
(after 6 months)

Date: Jan 29, 2021
(after 9 months)



*The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of total cases. The main reason for this is limited testing.

Data source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19
Visualisations: [OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus](https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus) • CC BY

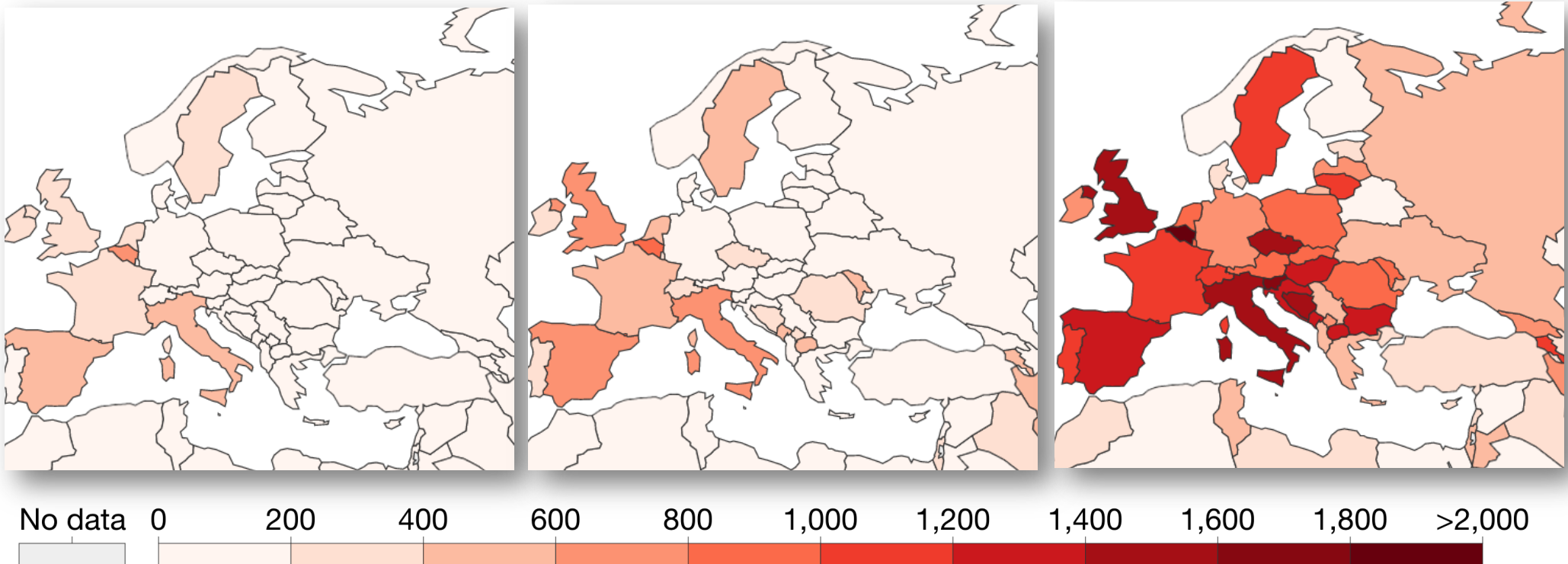


Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 deaths per million people

Date: Apr 29, 2020
("Western / Eastern European divide")

Date: Oct 29, 2020
(after 6 months)

Date: Jan 29, 2021
(after 9 months)



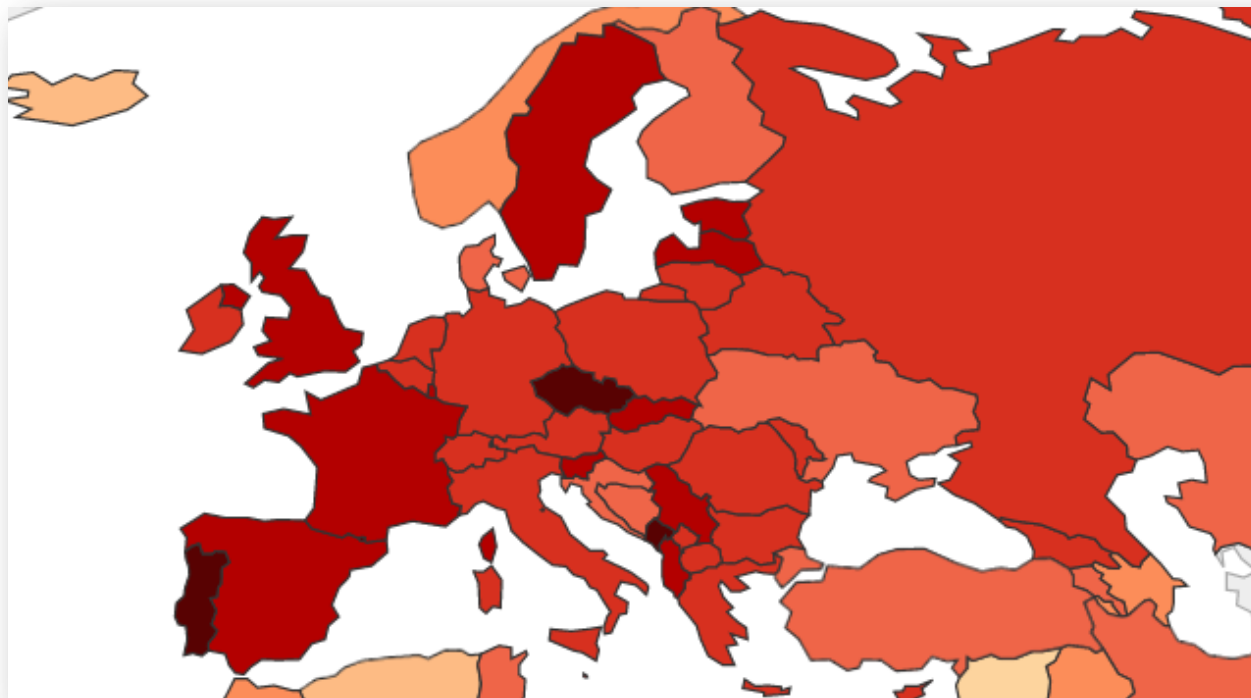
*Limited testing and challenges in the attribution of the cause of death means that the number of confirmed deaths may not be an accurate count of the true number of deaths from COVID-19.

Data source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19
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Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases 7-day rolling average per million people

Date: Feb 09, 2021



25 countries with the highest 7-day rolling average daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases per million people

Country	Start	End
Montenegro	3.18 in Mar 17	854.78 in Feb 9
Israel	0.10 in Mar 1	721.93 in Feb 9
Czechia	0.28 in Mar 1	675.24 in Feb 9
Seychelles	20.34 in Mar 14	656.61 in Feb 9
Monaco	12.74 in Mar 1	553.31 in Feb 9
Andorra	12.94 in Mar 2	545.43 in Feb 9
Portugal	0.20 in Mar 2	541.37 in Feb 9
San Marino	7.37 in Mar 1	509.33 in Feb 9
Spain	0.25 in Mar 1	469.37 in Feb 9
Saint Lucia	5.45 in Mar 14	433.33 in Feb 9
Estonia	0.19 in Mar 1	412.57 in Feb 9
Latvia	0.53 in Mar 2	412.17 in Feb 9
Slovenia	0.96 in Mar 5	403.92 in Feb 9
Lebanon	0.19 in Mar 1	398.17 in Feb 9
Bahrain	3.95 in Mar 1	383.51 in Feb 9
Albania	0.69 in Mar 9	376.97 in Feb 9
Slovakia	0.18 in Mar 6	358.81 in Feb 9
United Arab Emirates	0.12 in Mar 1	331.55 in Feb 9
United States	<0.01 in Mar 1	326.67 in Feb 9
France	0.26 in Mar 1	296.70 in Feb 9
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	9.01 in Mar 14	288.43 in Feb 9
Sweden	0.18 in Mar 1	276.80 in Feb 9
Malta	6.79 in Mar 7	274.04 in Feb 9
Serbia	0.15 in Mar 6	271.88 in Feb 9
United Kingdom	0.14 in Mar 1	252.52 in Feb 9

*Shown is the rolling 7-day average. The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of actual cases; the main reason for that is limited testing.

Data source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19
Visualisations: [OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus](https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus) • CC BY



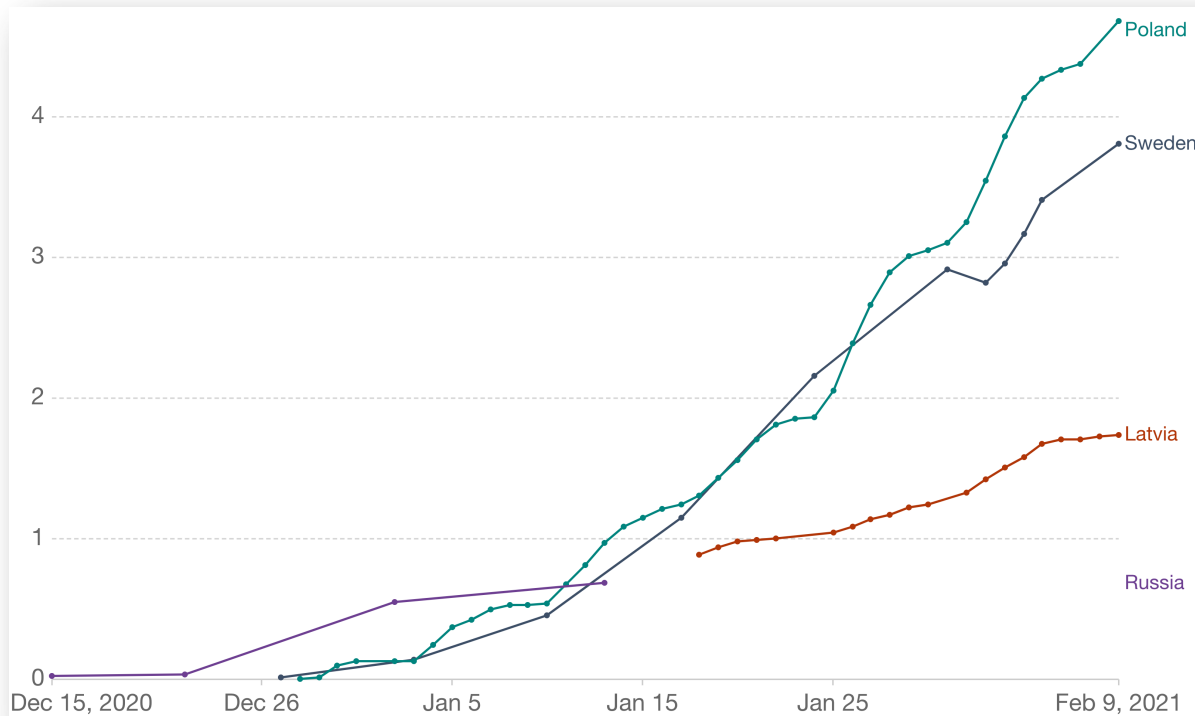
Vaccination efforts in the FREE Network countries



Cumulative COVID-19 vaccination doses administred per 100 people

This is counted as a single dose, and may not equal the total number of people vaccinated, depending on the specific dose regime (e.g. people receive multiple doses).

25 countries with the most cumulative COVID-19 vaccination doses administered per 100 people



Country	Start	End
Israel	<0.01 in Dec 19	67.38 in Feb 9
Gibraltar	1.25 in Jan 10	59.49 in Feb 8
United Arab Emirates	8.35 in Jan 5	45.77 in Feb 9
Seychelles	0.00 in Jan 9	42.40 in Feb 8
Cayman Islands	0.00 in Dec 26	20.71 in Feb 9
United Kingdom	0.13 in Dec 13	19.39 in Feb 8
Jersey	11.26 in Jan 24	14.68 in Jan 31
Isle of Man	4.18 in Jan 21	14.14 in Feb 9
United States	0.17 in Dec 20	13.05 in Feb 9
Bahrain	2.29 in Dec 23	12.51 in Feb 9
Guernsey	9.95 in Jan 24	9.95 in Jan 24
Faeroe Islands	8.17 in Jan 29	9.79 in Feb 8
Malta	0.03 in Dec 28	9.35 in Feb 9
Serbia	0.10 in Jan 8	8.00 in Feb 7
Bermuda	0.00 in Jan 10	7.86 in Jan 30
North America	0.09 in Dec 20	7.54 in Feb 8
Monaco	0.00 in Dec 30	6.12 in Jan 18
Denmark	0.11 in Dec 27	6.03 in Feb 8
Chile	<0.01 in Dec 24	5.58 in Feb 9
Iceland	1.43 in Dec 30	5.17 in Feb 8
Ireland	0.04 in Dec 31	4.87 in Feb 7
Romania	0.01 in Dec 28	4.84 in Feb 9
Lithuania	0.09 in Dec 27	4.77 in Feb 9
Switzerland	0.00 in Dec 23	4.77 in Feb 7
Slovenia	0.28 in Dec 27	4.72 in Feb 9
Poland	<0.01 in Dec 28	4.69 in Feb 9

Data source: Official data collected by Our World in Data
Visualisations: OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY

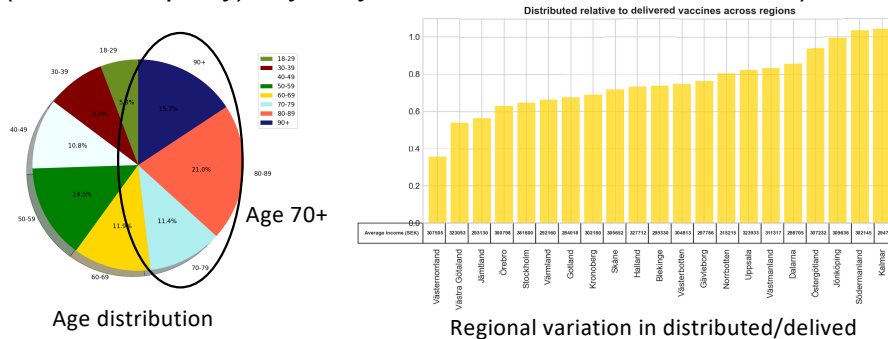
Sweden

Situation in May, 2020

- Strategy: “Limit the spread and protect the elderly”
- Swedish Public Health Agency responsible
- Failure, especially in protecting the elderly. More deaths than other Nordics neighbor countries (by an order of magnitude).
- Reliance on recommendations.

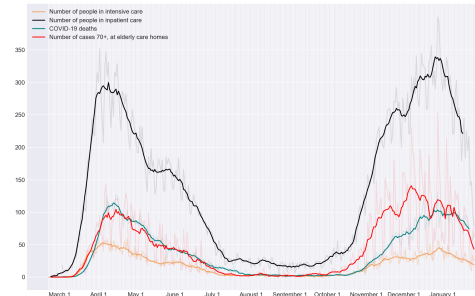
Vaccination status

- As of 10 Feb, 3.86% of pop have gotten dose 1 (1.05% has 2)
- Vaccines from Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, and Astra/Zeneca.
- Delivery problems major issue
- Public overall positive to vaccine. Above 80% say they will take vaccine (only 6% say no). Interesting differences across political affiliations (only 60% of “Sweden Democrats” (nationalist party) say they will take the vaccine if offered)



Situation in February, 2021

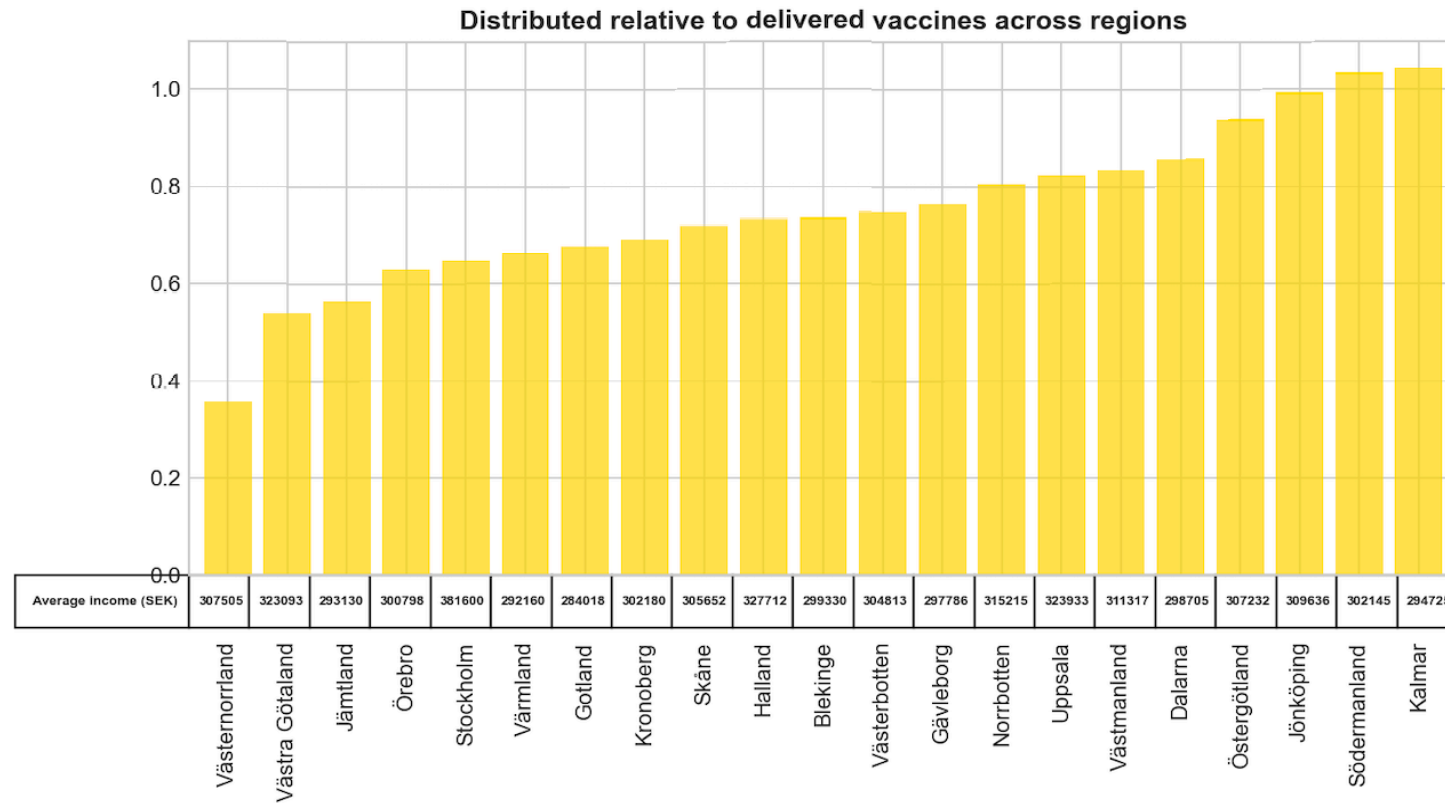
- Number of cases and deaths are high (but dropping)
- Total COVID-19 deaths above 12.000
- Currently worries about “3rd wave”... (due to upcoming sports vacations and new virus mutations)



Vaccination plans

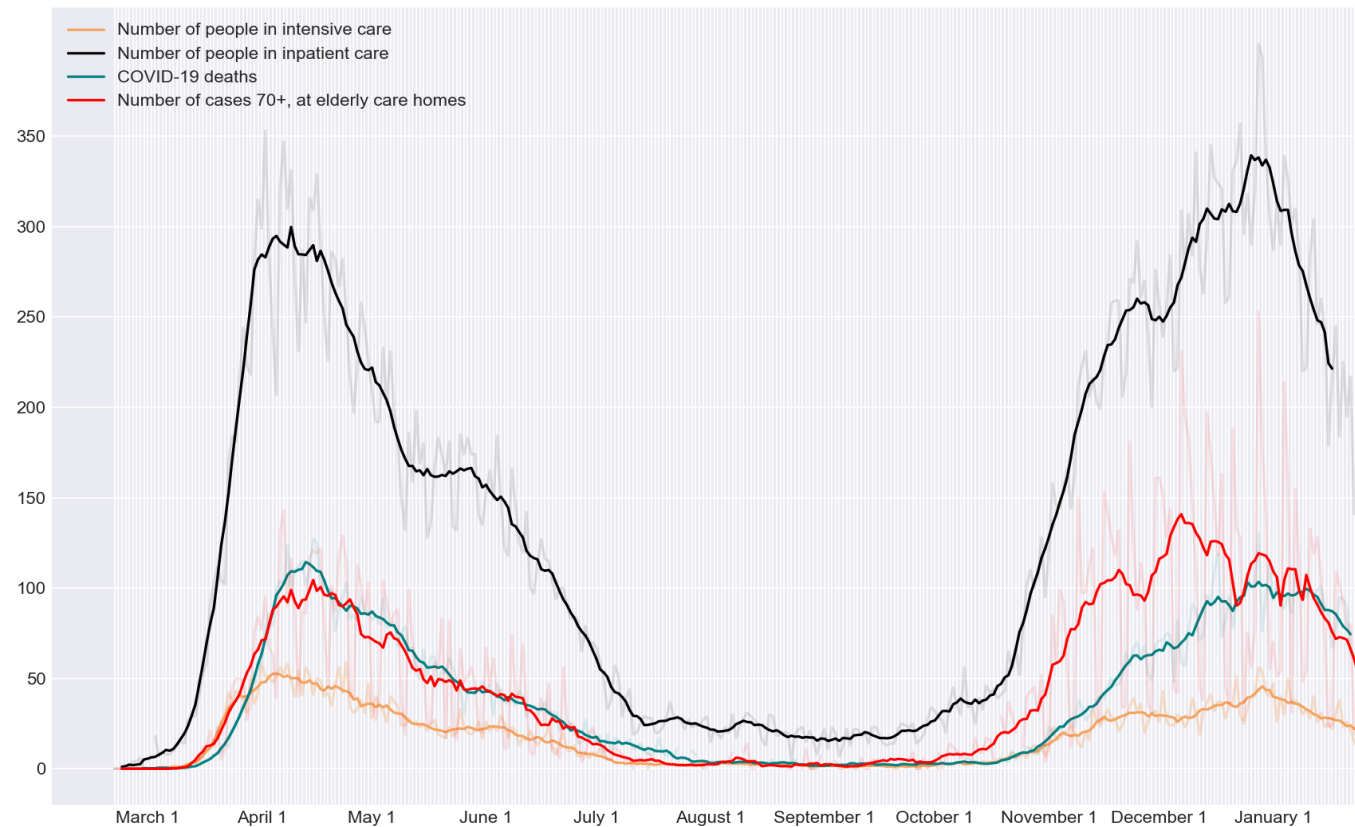
- Delivery and planning is centralized (Public Health Agency) but implementation on regional level.
- The priority order is a recommendation from PHA but regions decide on implementation. Difficult to assess implementation
- Overall, four priority waves, starting with elderly care homes and personnel in health care and elderly care, second group 65+ and other vulnerable groups
- Currently “blame game” on who’s at fault for slow vaccination pace. Deliveries clearly a problem, but also only 70% of doses distributed used (reported by week 4), with large regional differences.

Sweden

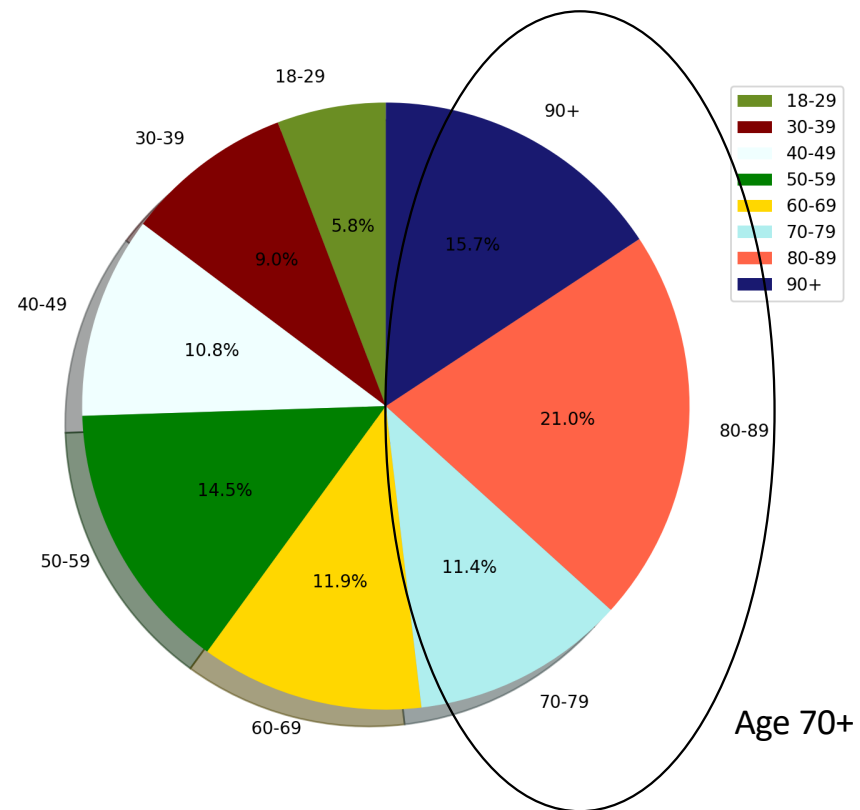


Regional variation in distributed/ delivered

Sweden



Sweden



Age distribution

Russia

Situation in May, 2020

9.16 million tests (as of May 26), more than 350 thousand confirmed cases. ~36% of confirmed COVID patients recovered;

165,000 specialized beds organized for coronavirus patients with serious complications (66% are used as of May 22).

Vaccination status

- Gam-COVID-Vac (Sputnik V) was registered on August 11, 2020. Limited vaccination started in Moscow on December 5 and free mass vaccination in country started on January 18.
- As of Feb. 7 8,6 mln full doses are produced and 5,3 mln delivered to hospitals.
- No precise information on vaccinated so far – more than 1 mln (around 1% of 18+ population)
- 50-70% of respondents in various surveys are fine with vaccination.
- There is no expectation that foreign vaccines will be available in Russia soon. Some people are counting on two others Russian vaccines (EpiVacCorona and Chumakov Institute)

Situation in February, 2021

4 012 710 confirmed cases

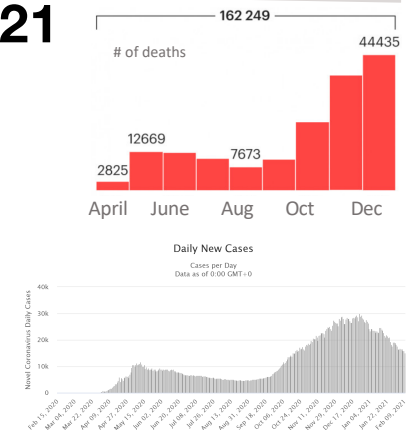
162 249 deaths because of COVID in 2020 (Rosstat data)

The number of active cases started declining around Dec 25, 2020

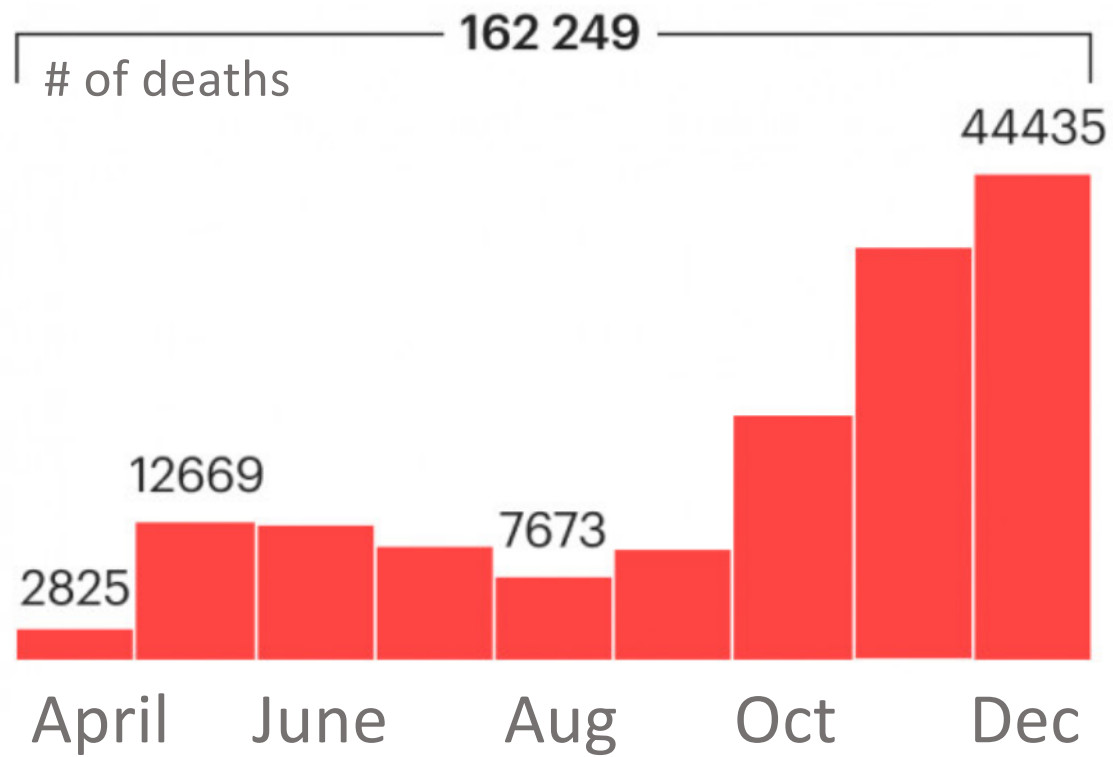
Currently it is at the level of the middle of October 2020. 426 700 active cases as of February 9

Vaccination plans

- Vaccination started first for people 18-60 years old based on professional priorities: military, medical professionals, teachers, and social workers. In January the vaccination extended for people above 60.
- Starting from January 18 anyone older 18 can freely register to get vaccinated. Waiting time is less than 1 week. And there is an option to get vaccine without registration in mobile stations (in Shopping Malls in Moscow)
- The officials expect that everyone can get vaccine before July 2021.
- The willingness of population to get vaccination will be the main restriction in medium term.



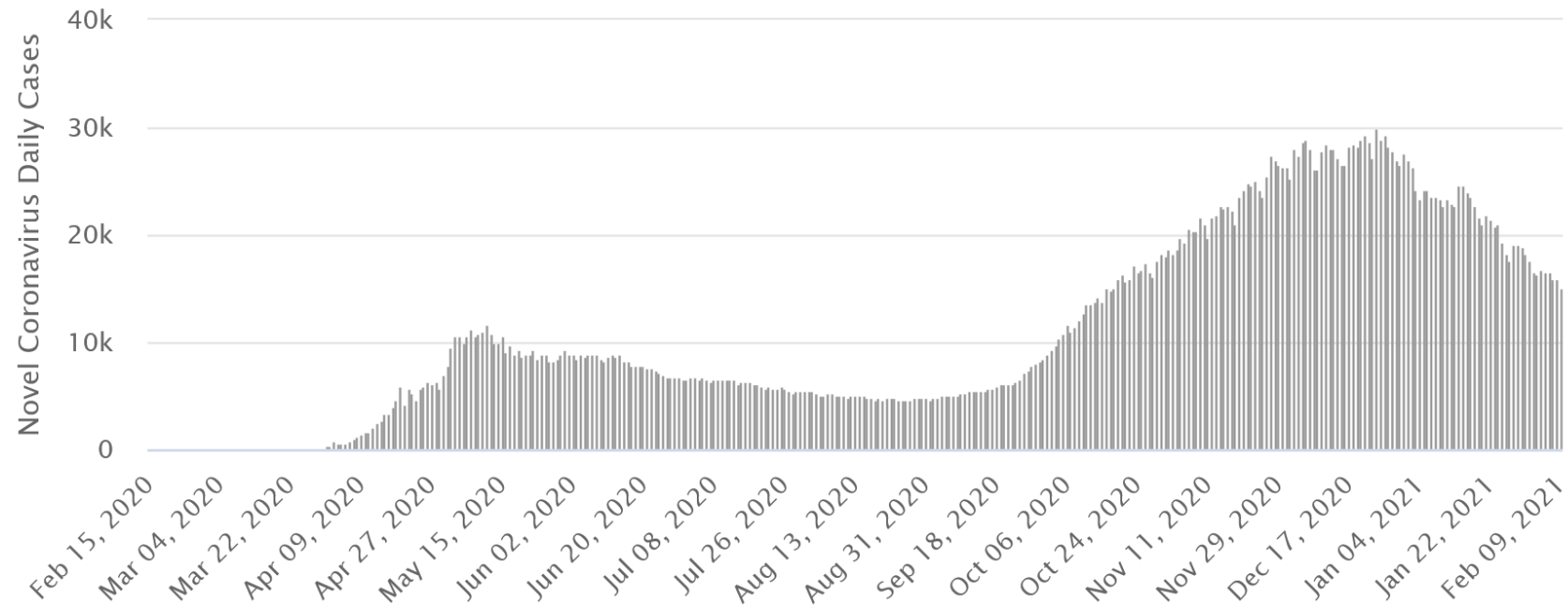
Russia



Russia

Daily New Cases

Cases per Day
Data as of 0:00 GMT+0



Belarus

Situation in May, 2020

Belarus (9.5 mln inhabitants) official number of cases doubling every week till Apr 29, plateauing at 900-950 cases per day thereafter. Official death toll is low and stable at 4-5 deaths per day.

Vaccination status

- ≤20000 doctors are vaccinated with Sputnik V
- 120-140 thousand doses are promised by Russia
- Unclear amount is promised by China by unknown date
- Public opinion is mixed

Situation in February, 2021

Official number of new daily cases 1700-2000
Official death toll related to COVID 1792 March 2020 – Feb 2021
Last trustworthy death data: 5600 (20%) excess mortality for March-July 2020.

Vaccination plans

- If take-up rate is low, teachers will be vaccinated in addition to medical workers
- By late March government plans to open production of Sputnik V in Belarus
- Doctors → Teachers → Trade personnel → ?
- Most of plans are not specific and rarely come from media

Belarus



Ukraine

Situation in May, 2020

Ukraine had 322,746 tests for about 40 mln population, with 669 deaths, 13,274 active cases, 8,439 recovered as of May 26. KSE estimates put the total number of deaths, assuming the current health policies at between 900 and 10,000 by the end of the year. The policies were drastically changed in August 2020.

Vaccination status

- Ukraine has not started its inoculation campaign yet.
- No vaccine shipment has arrived. There is a contract signed for Sinovac vaccine (1,9M doses). Government announced it agreed on another 12M doses of AstraZeneca and Novavax from Serum Institute of India; about 8M doses from COVAX are expected; and some 100K of Pfizer will arrive in Feb under COVAX.
- Data on population readiness differ. December poll showed 39% of population ready to be vaccinated. February poll said this number is 62%. More people trust EU and US manufactured vaccines (20% - 30% in December); while trust for Russian (12%), Chinese (6%) and Indian (3%) vaccines is low. Ukraine officially banned use of Russian vaccines.

Situation in February, 2021

Number of deaths raised to almost 24K as of February 9. The number of new daily cases shrank from 12K in November to 4K in February. The reason is a decrease in the rate of detection, and NOT in the spread of the disease. KSE recommends to track admission rates for analysis of the situation and decision making.

Vaccination plans

- The Government's plan provides for a target of 20M population coverage (50%) over 2021-2022.
- There is a ladder of priority groups, resembling that of most of other countries (frontline workers, age-related risk groups, people with chronic conditions etc.). The plan is concentrated only on covering priority groups. Vaccinations will be administered via mobile units and PHC network.
- The plan says only of priority groups eligible for registration in 2021-2022.
- The plan considers vaccine availability as a major bottleneck. However, demand from population, infrastructure for administering vaccines and logistics also must be considered in the future.

Georgia

Situation in May, 2020

Georgia was recognized as one of the rare success stories in fighting COVID-19 epidemic with limited resources.

Vaccination status

- First stage of vaccination is planned to start in late February.
- By end of February Georgia will receive first 29,250 doses of Pfizer vaccine. 1.4 million doses have been ordered through the COVAX platform. Pfizer/BioNTech, Astrazeneca and Moderna are currently considered.
- Public attitudes: According to latest NDI survey: 41% would not vaccinate; 41% would vaccinate, 17% do not know. The attitudes are very slowly shifting in favour of vaccination.
- However, the public is particularly mistrustful of the Sputnik vaccine and the vaccines developed in China. People say they do not trust the clinical trials data for these vaccines.

Situation in February, 2021

A massive 2nd wave of COVID-19 is coming to an end. Lockdown restrictions are gradually loosening this week, shops and schools are opening gradually. However, a third wave is being predicted to start as early as end of February.

Vaccination plans

- A three-stage vaccination plan was presented on Jan 21st. Stage 1: healthcare workers, people in long-term care facilities, people over 75 and in 65-74 age group. Stage 2: Essential service providers (police, etc.) and those 55-64 age group; people 18-54 with chronic illnesses; Stage 3: all others over 18. 60% of the population to be vaccinated by the end of 2021.
- An information module for vaccination registration is in place. Vaccination is not mandatory.
- Main challenges for the vaccination plan: #1. possible delays of vaccine shipments through COVAX platform, and no direct contacts with vaccine producers. #2. limited storage facilities for Pfizer-type vaccine – only 200,000 doses capacity.

Poland

Situation in May, 2020

Poland succeeded in avoiding an early eruption of infections, though in spring total daily cases were stable at approx. 400 per day. In May infections strongly localized in the region of Silesia.

Situation in February, 2021

Following an explosion of daily infections in Nov. and Dec. 2020 (over 25 thousand per day) the number of reported infections has fallen to about 3 to 6 thousand per day. Number of official daily COVID deaths fell from the peak of 674 (25.11) to about 250 per day.

Vaccination status

- Vaccination started with healthcare workers and older persons (80+ followed by 70+). 1,7m administered between 28.12.20 and 09.02.2021 (~45k per million)
- Currently approx. 70 thousand administered per day
- Approx. 100 million vaccine doses have been ordered.
- Initial surveys showed high level of skepticism towards the COVID vaccine (only 47% want to receive it)

Vaccination plans

- The National Vaccinations Plan:
 - Stage 0: Healthcare workers
 - Stage 1: Nursing homes; those aged 60+ (starting with 80+); military; teachers
 - Stage 2: Aged below 60 with pre-existing conditions; essential workers
 - Stage 3: Workers in sectors affected by lockdown, followed by other adults
- Registration: online, by phone or in person
- Public opinion's attitude towards vaccination and timely delivery of vaccine doses from producers remain key challenges

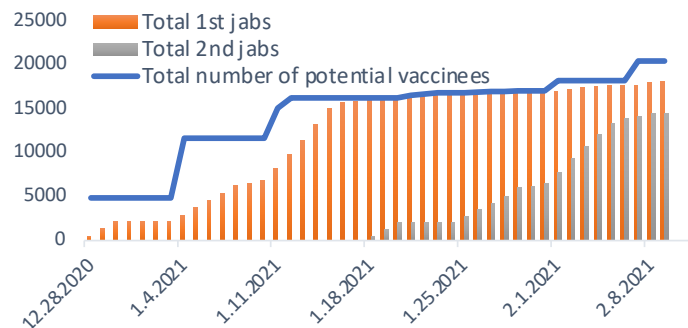
Latvia

Situation in May, 2020

Latvia (1.9 mln inhabitants) had the 2nd and the 6th lowest rates of, respectively, mortality (23 deaths) and infection (1,057 infected) in the EU. Closed airport/borders and schools/uni, large mobility drop, 2m distancing, but no masks. Total number of tests: 103,553.

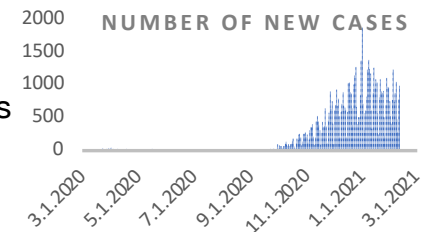
Vaccination status

- Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca are available for medical staff.
- Health Minister got sacked on 5 January, due to slow vaccination.
- By 25 January, 50% of population is ready to vaccinate (58% Latvian-speaking inhabitants, 37% Russian-speaking inhabitants).



Situation in February, 2021

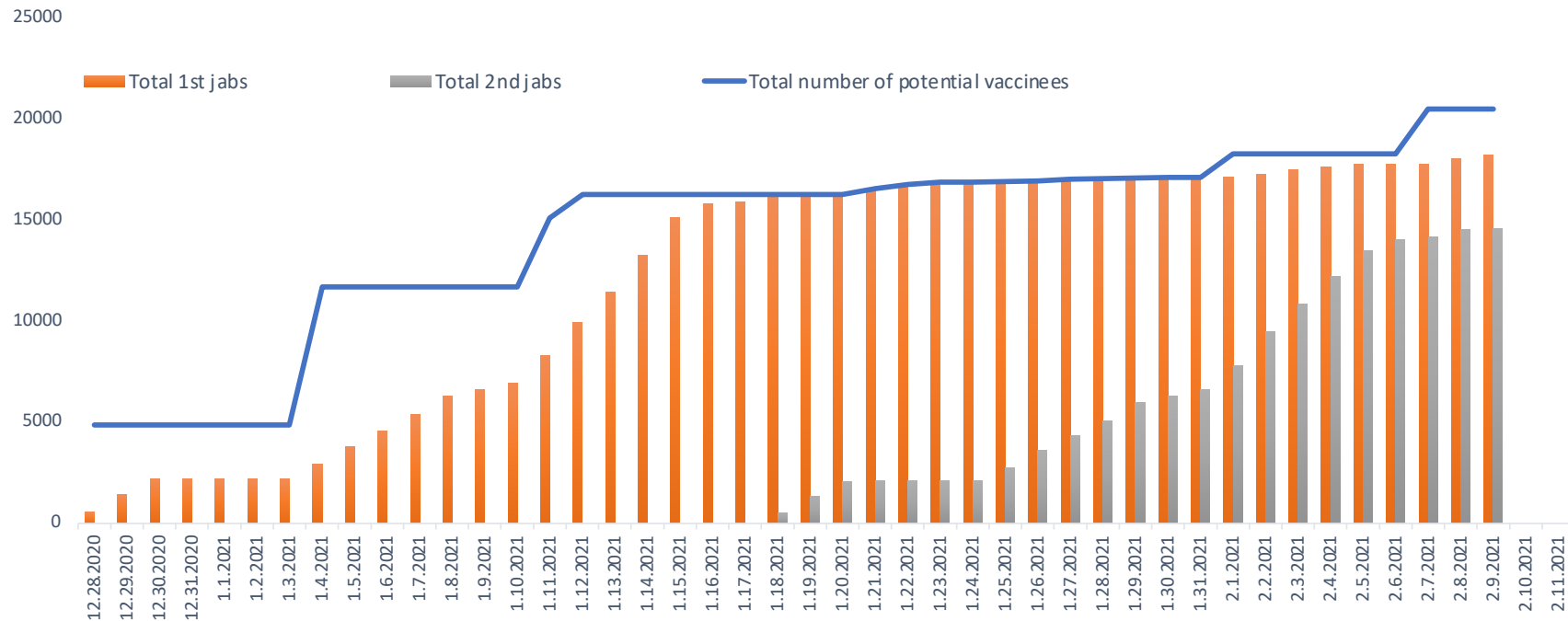
Friday-Sunday nights curfew. Non-essential shops and schools/uni are closed, 2m distancing, compulsory masks indoors. Tests / infected / diseased: 1,271,704 / 73,859 / 1,395.



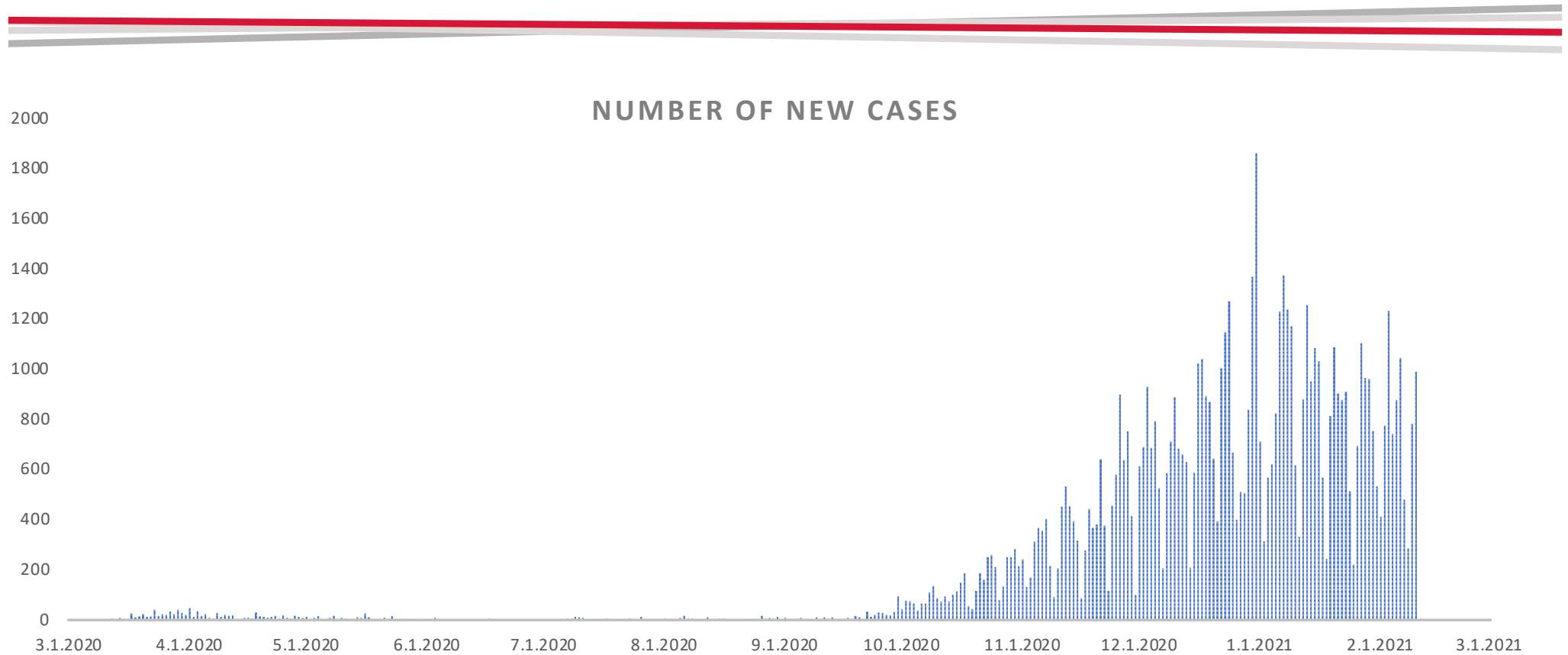
Vaccination plans

- **Goal:** 100,000 shots per week (from April onwards) to reach 70% of total population by the end summer. Vaccination is voluntary.
- **Order and timing:** **Q1:** 36K medical staff → 20K social care centres + key state officials → 187K >70yo + 166K chronic diseases → 241K 60-70yo → **Q2:** 50K educational institutions + 17K operative services staff + 11K army + 0.6K energy workers → special facilities (e.g., prisons, shelters) → **Q3:** 27K critical workers + religious organizations → other critical workers → **Q3/Q4:** everyone else.
- **Registration:** www.manavakcina.lv (70,000 people in 5 days).
- **Challenges:** (i) delays of vaccine shipments due to errors in purchase orders (Ministry of Health has wrongly declined initial Pfizer offer in Autumn 2020), (ii) lack of trust in vaccine and politicians among people, (iii) logistics.

Latvia



Latvia



Discussion and Q&A Session

