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Key points

Week 53/2020 (28 Dec 2020 - 3 Jan 2021)

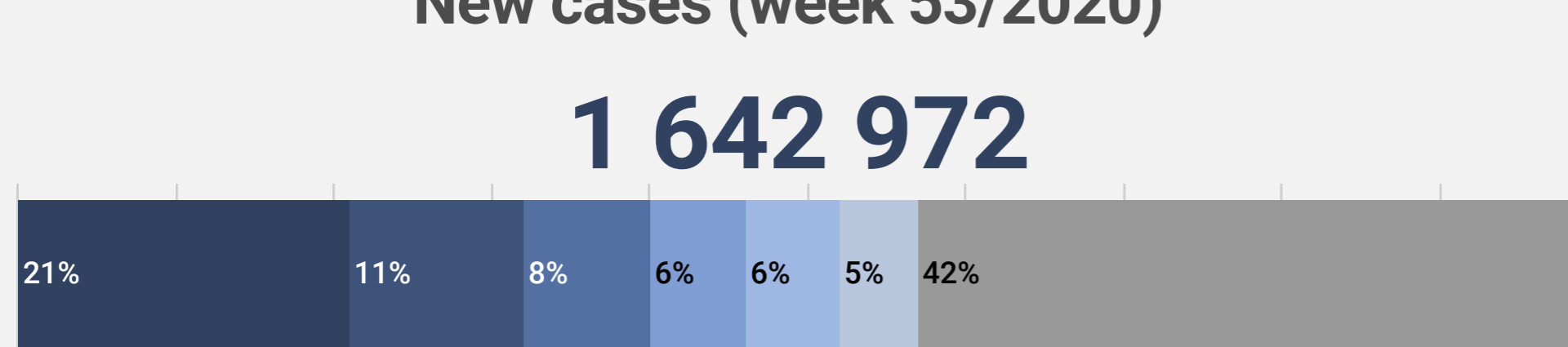
- The number of cases reported in the Region decreased by 2% to 1 642 972 in week 53/2020 (from 1 611 979 in week 52/2020)
- 58% (948 610) of the cases reported in week 53/2020 were reported from six countries: United Kingdom (21%; 343 784), Russian Federation (11%; 186 539), Germany (8%; 124 808), Italy (6%; 102 442), Turkey (6%; 98 662) and France (6%; 92 375). The remaining cases (42%; 694 362) were reported by 54 countries and territories, each accounted for <5% of the total cases reported in week 53/2020
- The crude incidence continues to vary across the region with a range from 1.3 per 100,000 population in Tajikistan to 2012 per 100,000 population in Gibraltar in week 53/2020
- Seven countries and territories had a crude incidence of ≥ 500 per 100 000 population in week 53/2020: Gibraltar (2012), Czech Republic (654), San Marino (588), Liechtenstein (587), Lithuania (581), Slovenia (524) and United Kingdom (509) (Figure 2A). A total of 22 countries had a crude incidence of ≥ 200 per 100 000 population in week 53/2020
- The 14-day cumulative incidence increased by $\geq 10\%$ in week 53/2020 in 16 countries and territories in the Region; an increase of $\geq 50\%$ was observed in nine of these countries and territories: Gibraltar, Ireland, Guernsey, Isle Of Man, Israel, Monaco, United Kingdom, Faroe Islands and Liechtenstein (see [EURO COVID-19 Dashboard](#) for recent trends)
- The number of deaths in the Region in week 53/2020 increased 6% to 33 762 (from 32 001 in week 52/2020) (Figure 1). The proportion of reported cases that died was 2.1% in week 53/2020
- 64% (21 772) of the deaths reported in week 53/2020 were reported by Germany (13%; 4 494), United Kingdom (12%; 4 165), Russian Federation (11%; 3 728), Italy (10%; 3 365), France (7%; 2 348), Poland (6%; 2 001) and Turkey (5%; 1 671). The remaining deaths (36%; 11 990) were reported from 48 countries and territories, each accounted for <5% of the total deaths reported in week 53/2020
- Community-transmission was reported by 35 countries and territories, 19 countries and territories reported cluster transmission, while 4 countries and territories reported sporadic transmission in week 53/2020
- For an interactive sub-national view of the recent COVID-19 situation in the WHO-EURO Region see the [WHO-EURO COVID-19 Subnational Explorer](#)

Summary overview

- The cumulative cases across the Region increased 6.5% to 27 025 667 cases in week 53/2020 (from 27 025 667 cases in week 52/2020) and cumulative deaths increased by 6.1% to 590 368 deaths (from 556 606 deaths in week 52/2020)
- As of week 53/2020, 63% (17 079 929) of cumulative cases were reported from the Russian Federation (12%; 3 236 787), France (10%; 2 643 239), United Kingdom (10%; 2 599 789), Italy (8%; 2 141 201), Spain (7%; 1 956 988), Germany (7%; 1 765 666), Turkey (5%; 1 417 697) and Poland (5%; 1 318 562). The remaining cases (37%; 9 945 738) were reported by 53 countries and territories, each accounted for <5% of the total cases reported until week 53/2020
- On 14 December 2020, authorities from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (United Kingdom) reported a new variant of SARS-CoV-2 to WHO. It was identified by viral genomic sequencing and is referred to as SARS-CoV-2 VOC 202012/01 (Variant of Concern, year 2020, month 12, variant 01). Initial analysis indicates that the variant may spread more readily between people. Investigations are ongoing to determine if it is associated with any change in the severity of infection, antibody response or vaccine efficacy. Please see [Disease Outbreak News](#) for further details
- 15 countries in the Region each reported a cumulative incidence of ≥ 5000 cases per 100,000 population: Andorra (10 585), Montenegro (7 879), Luxembourg (7 607), San Marino (7 273), Czech Republic (6 927), UK (6 563), Slovenia (6 018), Liechtenstein (5 842), Georgia (5 734), Belgium (5 639), Armenia (5 411), Lithuania (5 314), Switzerland (5 295), Croatia (5 156) and Israel (5 067) (Figure 2B)
- As of week 53/2020, 66% of cumulative deaths (387 630) were reported from Italy (13%; 74 985), UK (13%; 74 570), France (11%; 64 921), Russian Federation (10%; 58 506), Spain (9%; 51 257), Germany (6%; 34 272) and Poland (5%; 29 119). The remaining deaths (34%; 202 738) were reported by 51 countries and territories, each accounted for <5% of the total cases reported until week 53/2020
- 17.8% of cases were in persons aged ≥ 65 years in week 53/2020, a decrease from 36% in week 14/2020, while the percentage of fatal cases aged ≥ 65 years was 87.5% in week 53/2020 (compared to 91% in week 14/2020) (Figure 3)
- The latest weekly pooled EuroMOMO estimates show a substantial increased excess all-cause mortality overall for the participating European countries, coinciding with a reported increase in COVID-19 cases in several countries. This excess mortality is driven by a very substantial excess mortality in some countries, while other countries see normal mortality levels. The increased excess all-cause mortality is primarily seen among persons aged 45 years and older.
- In week 53/2020, 12 countries reported a total of 409 tests and 85 detections (20.7%) of SARS-CoV-2 in persons with influenza-like illness (ILI) in primary care sentinel surveillance (Figure 4)
- Overall, there were 786283 COVID-19 cases among the total of 8159076 tests (9.6%) reported to have been performed in 33 countries in week 53/2020 (Figure 5)

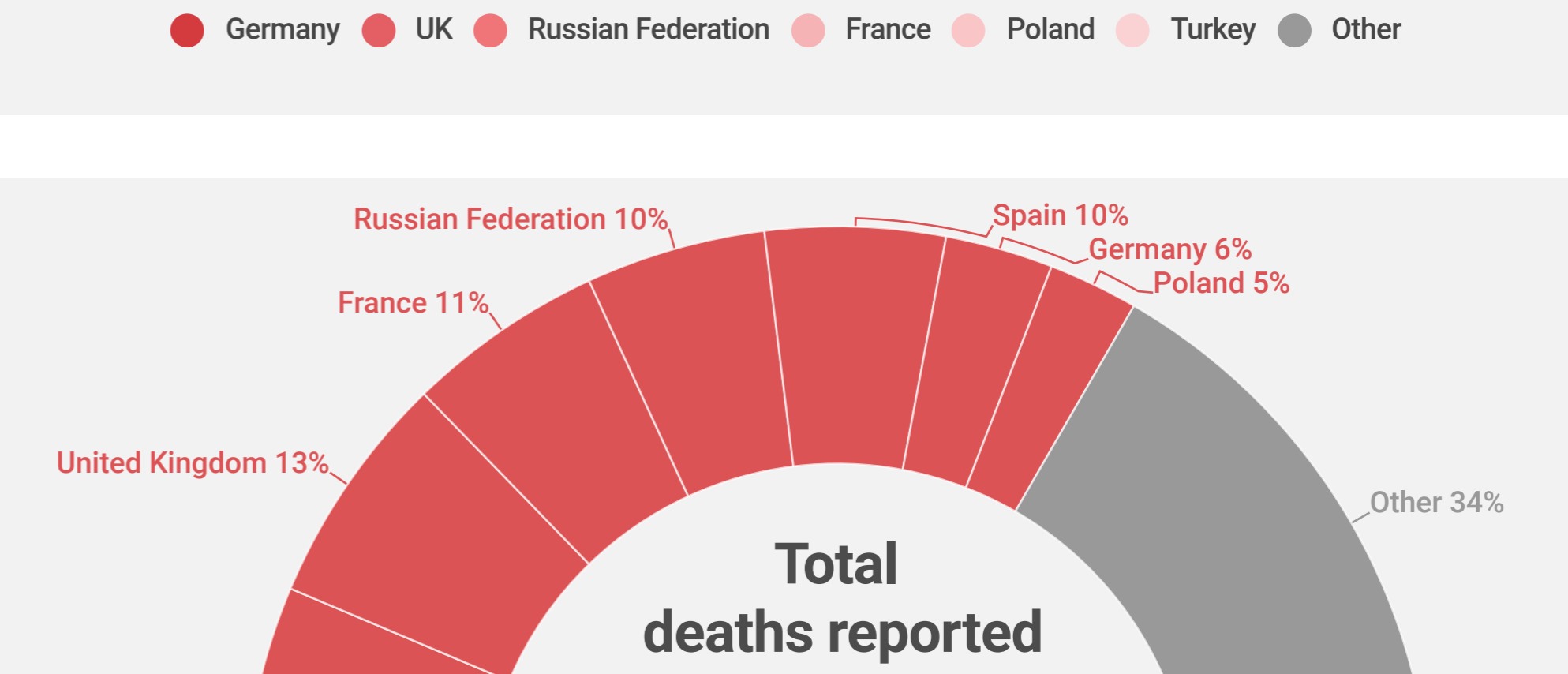
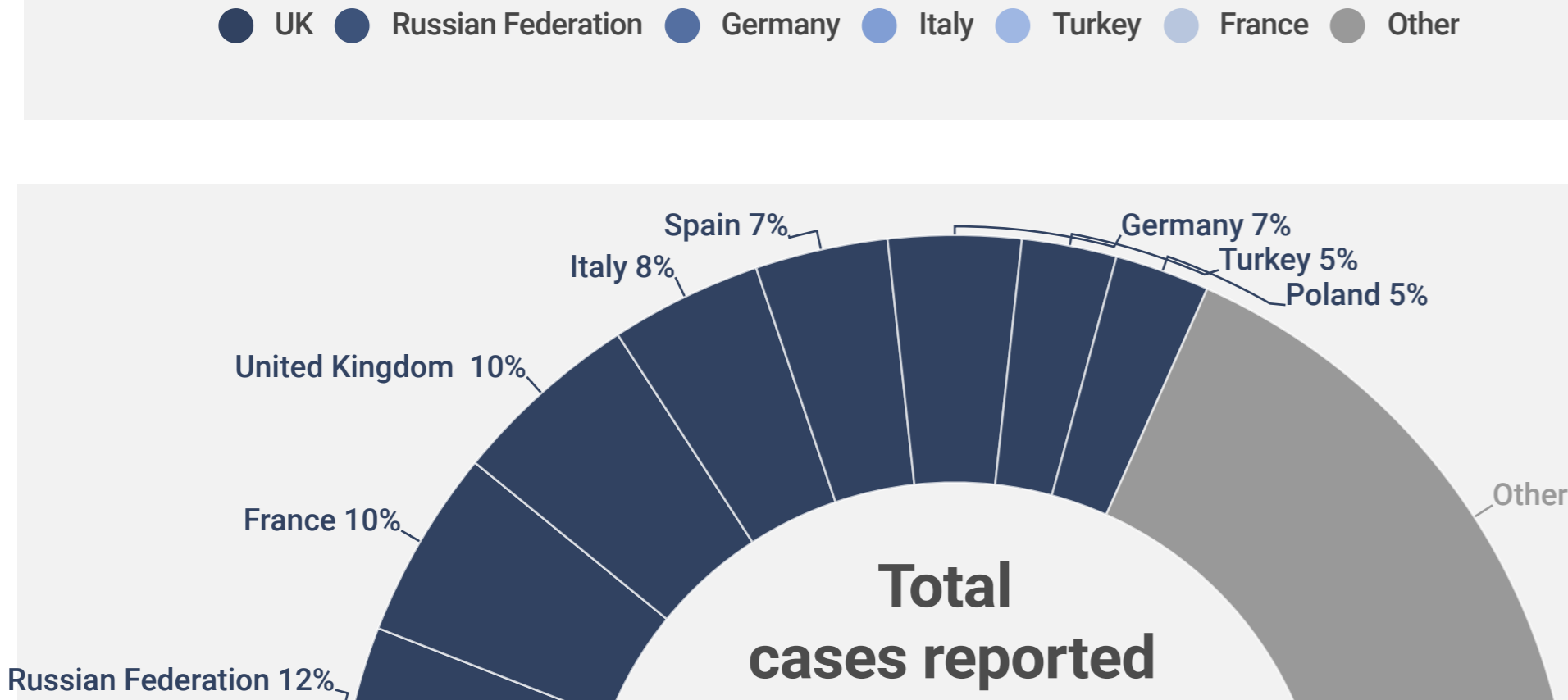
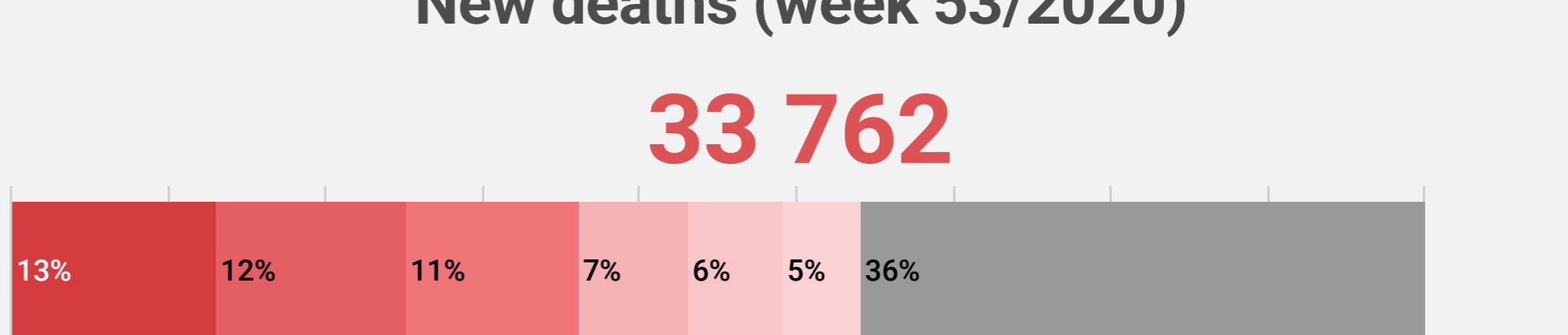
New cases (week 53/2020)

1 642 972



New deaths (week 53/2020)

33 762



Note: Reported cases and/or deaths from IHR States Parties may be subject to retrospective adjustments. * All references to Kosovo in this document should be understood to be in the context of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

For more detailed information see: [WHO Global situation reports](#) [WHO Global situation dashboard](#)

Figure 1: Number of COVID-19 cases (N=27 025 667) and deaths (N=590 368) by reporting week

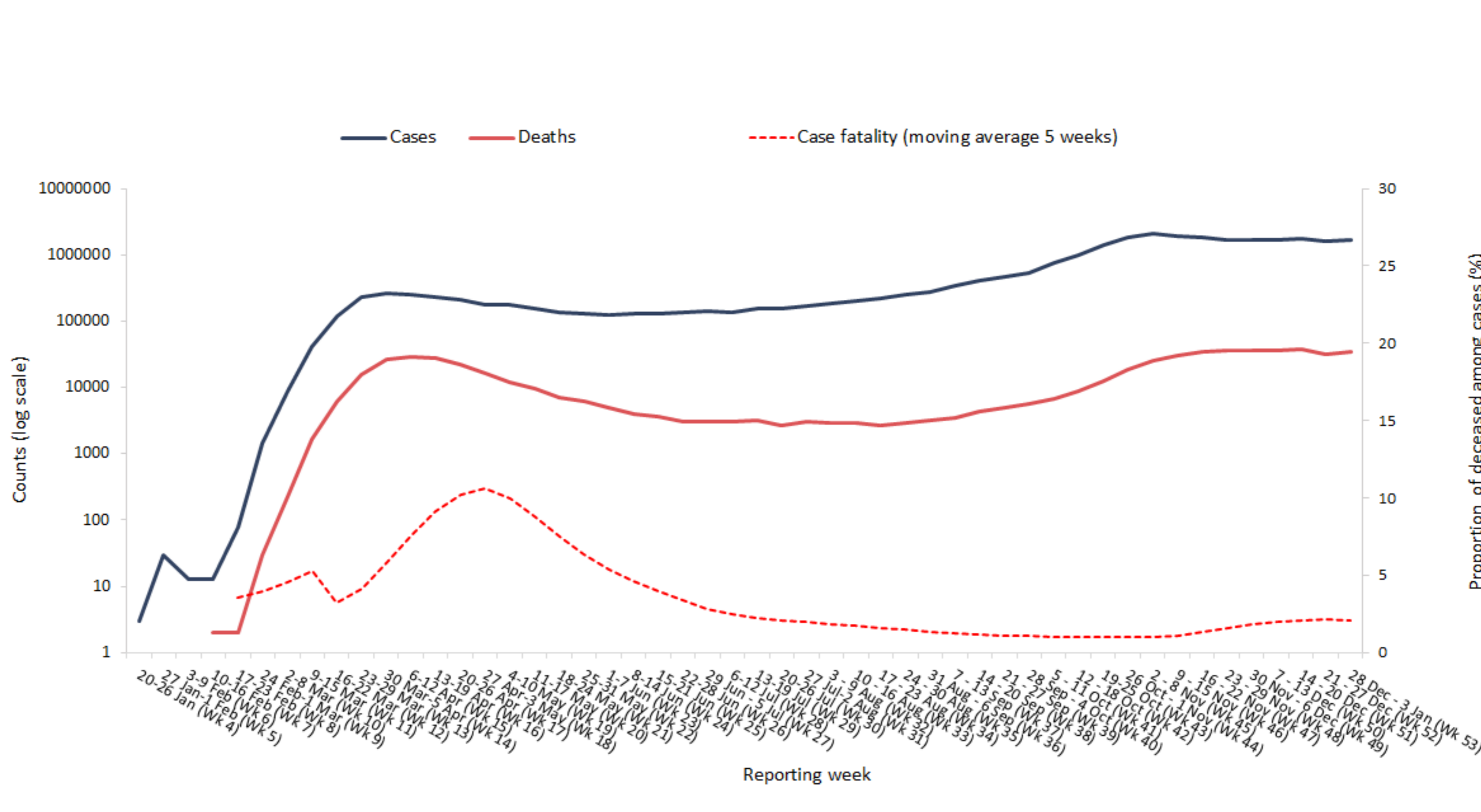


Figure 2A. COVID-19 incidence per 100,000 population and number of deaths by country for week 53

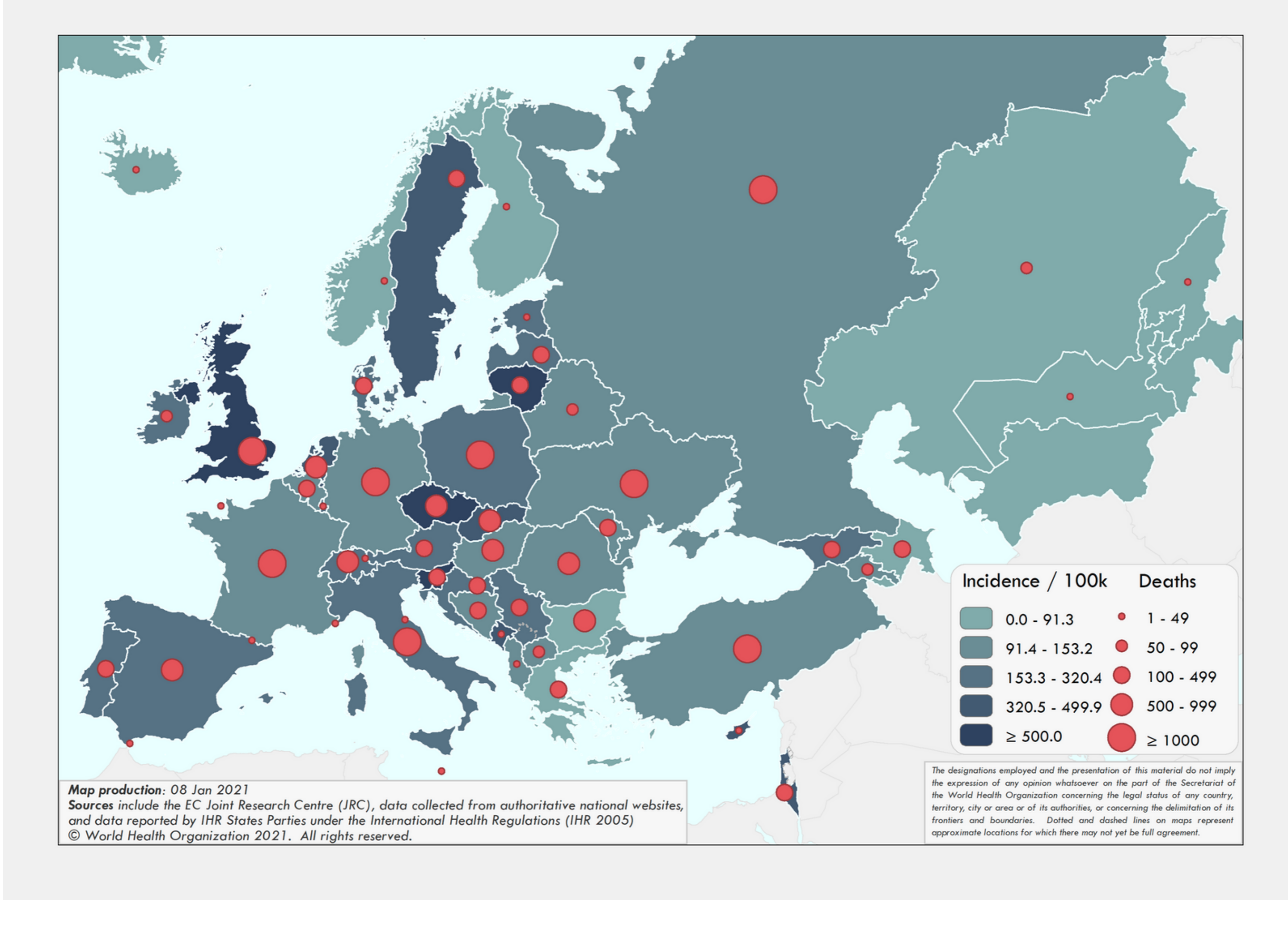
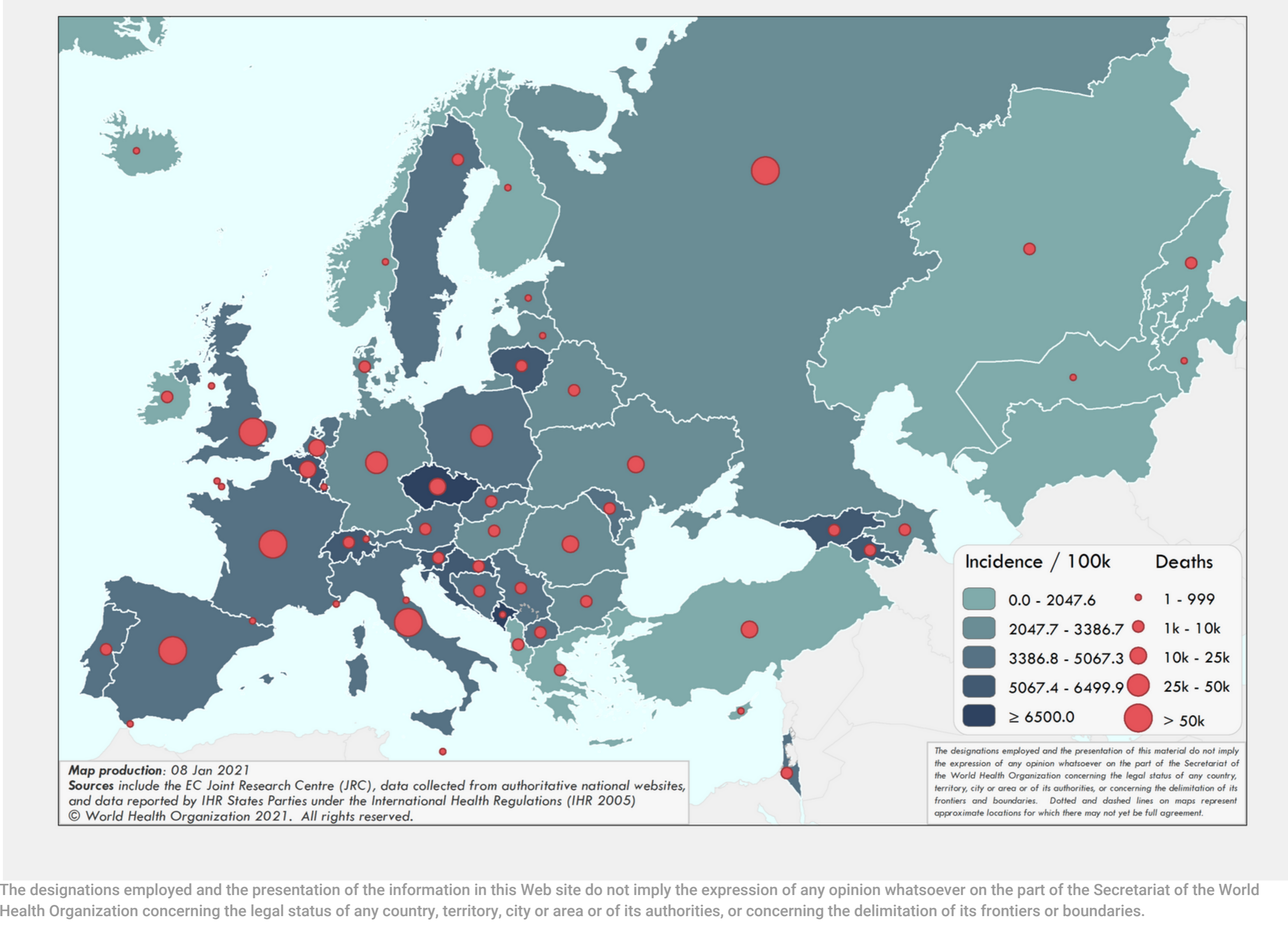


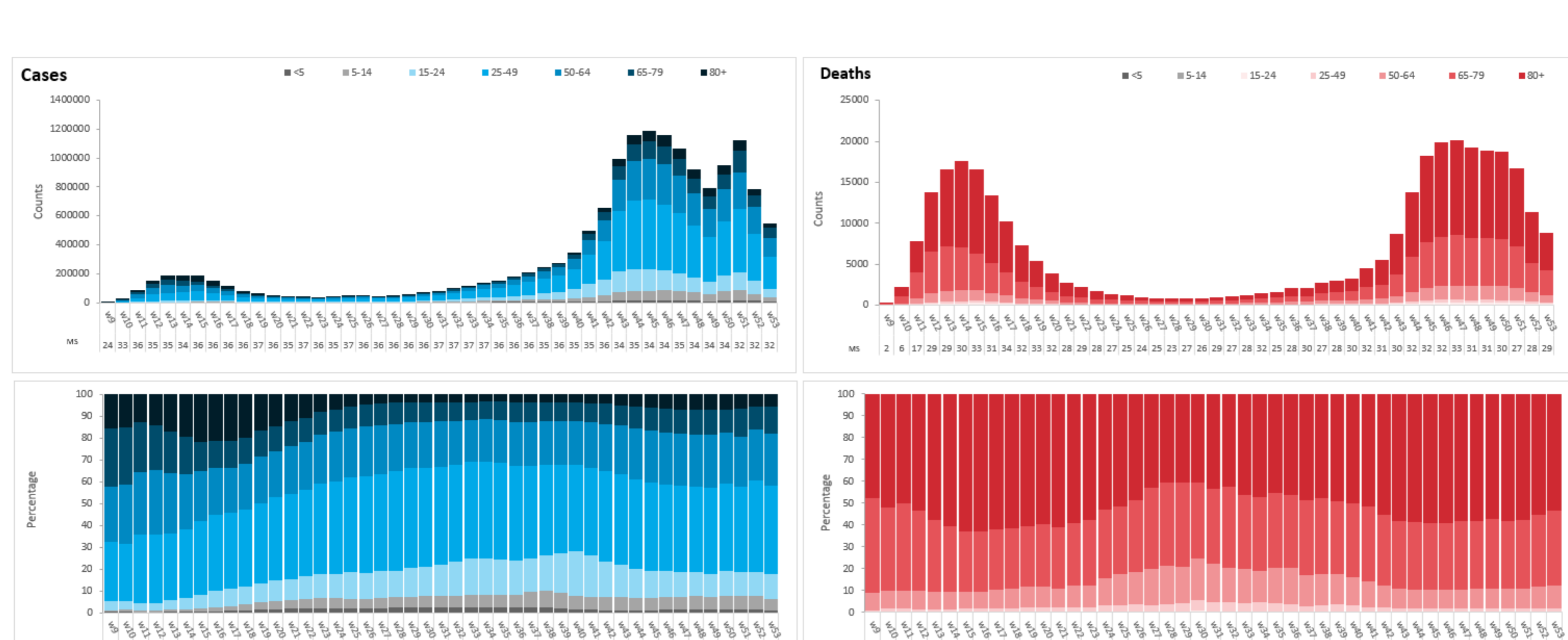
Figure 2B. COVID-19 cumulative incidence per 100,000 population and number of deaths by country



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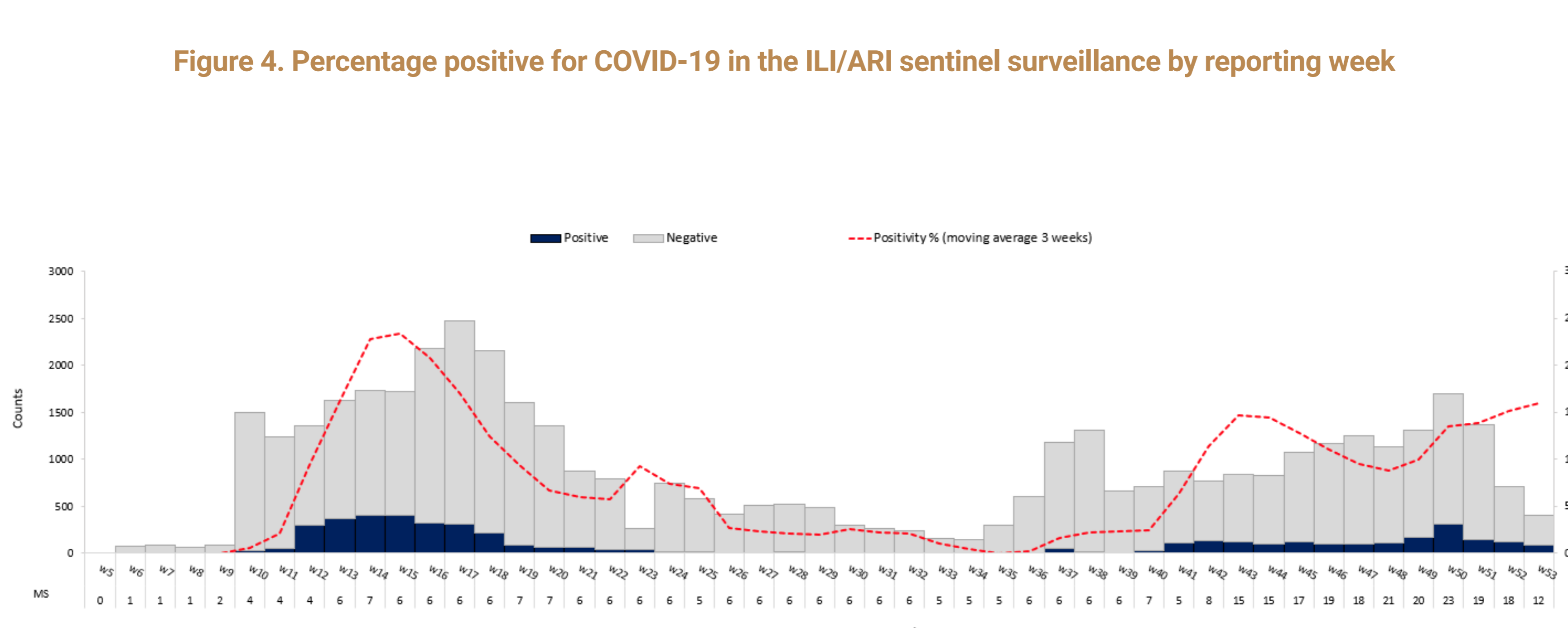
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Figure 3. COVID-19 cases (N=15 389 166) and deaths (N=327 444) by age group and reporting week



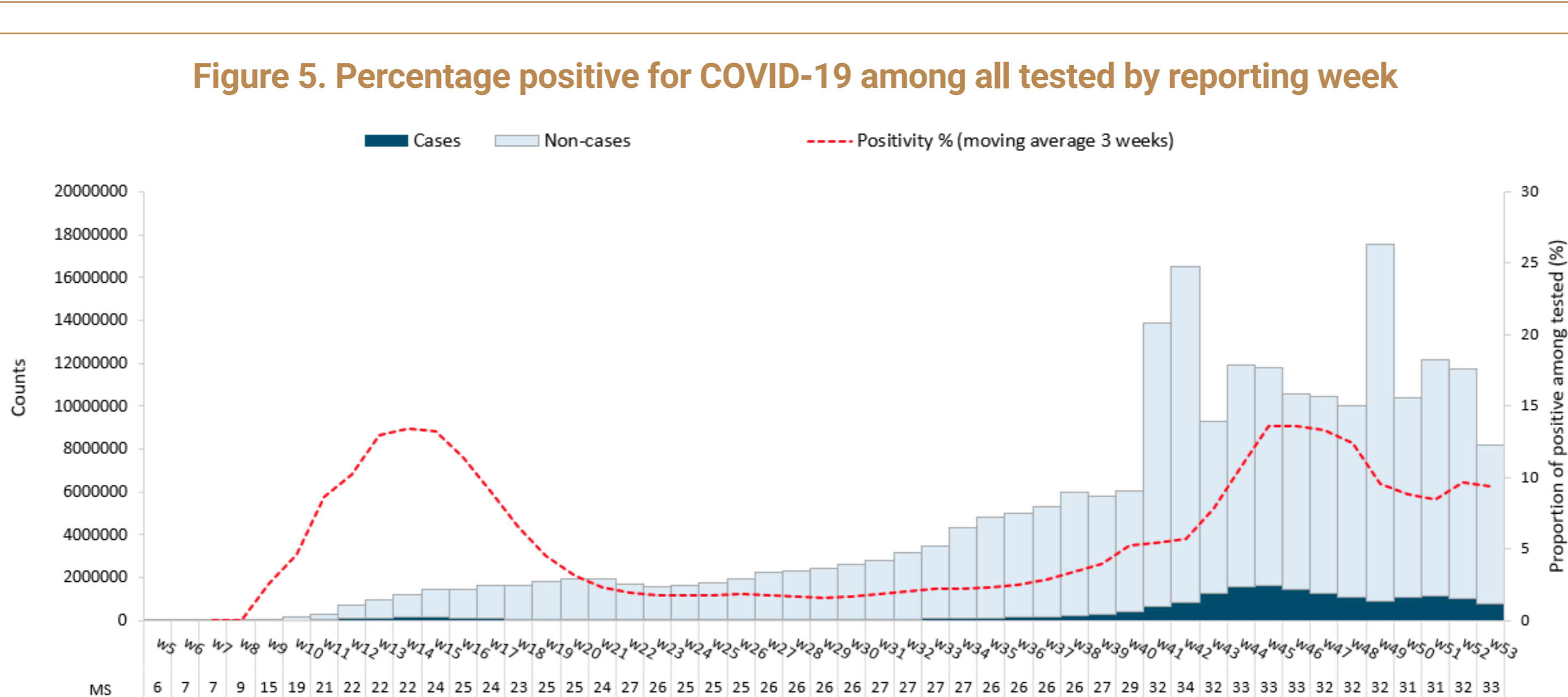
Source: Aggregate data from TESSy. MS: Member State

Figure 4. Percentage positive for COVID-19 in the ILI/ARI sentinel surveillance by reporting week



Source: Aggregate data from TESSy. MS: Member State

Figure 5. Percentage positive for COVID-19 among all tested by reporting week



Source: Aggregate data from TESSy. Note: Member States that report cases only (no testing data) are not included. MS: Member State