



CORonavirus Vulnerabilities and INFORMATION
dynamics Research and Modelling

**COVID-19 vaccination
campaign in COVINFORM
countries: infographics &
best practices**

Bi-Monthly Report: 02

Authors

Elena Ambrosetti & Marina Zannella,
Sapienza University of Rome

Itamar Laist & Chaim Rafalowski,
Magen David Adom in Israel

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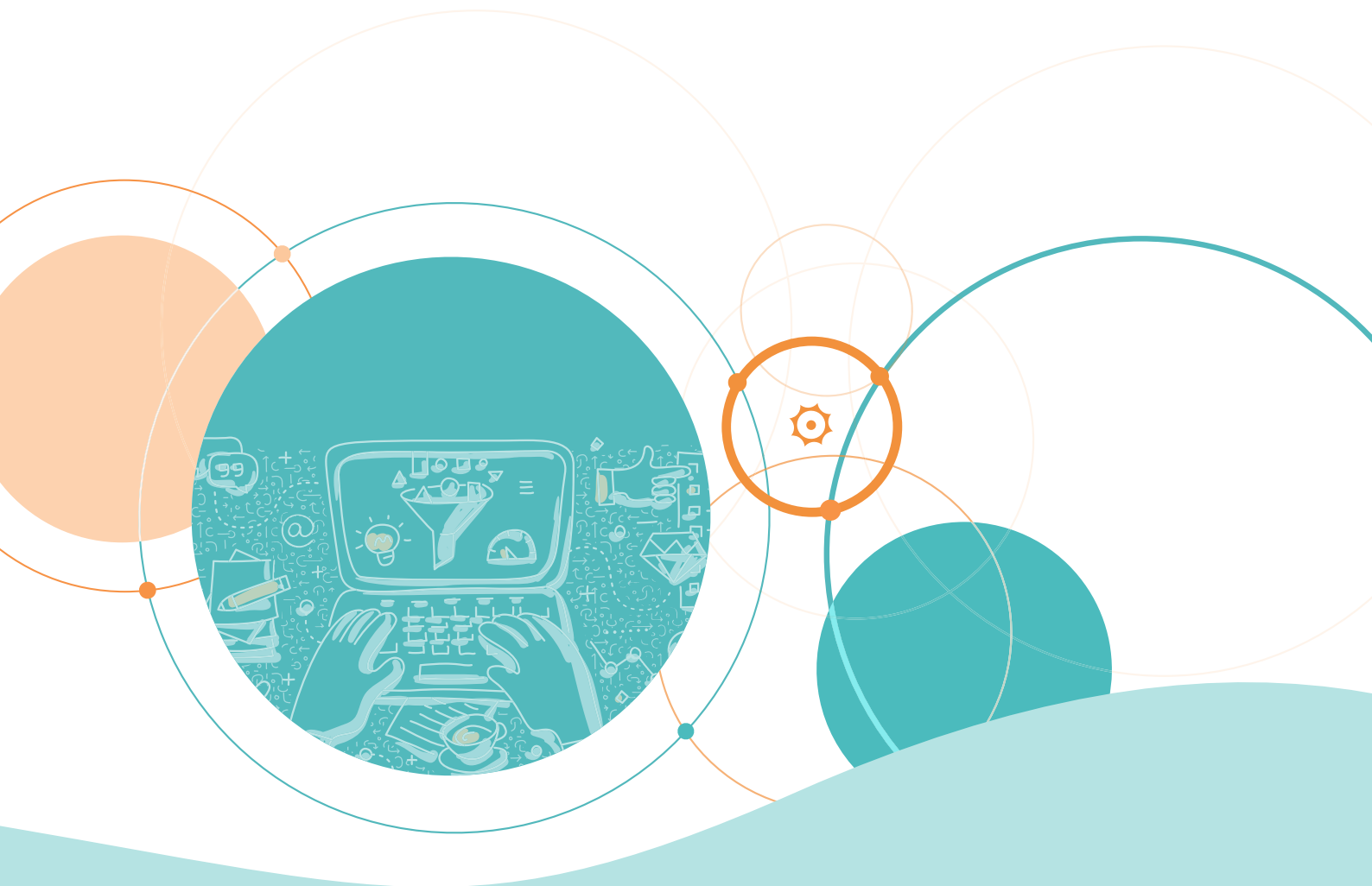
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The successful implementation of COVID-19 vaccination campaigns has been pointed out to be the only exit strategy from the pandemic. At the end of the first three months since the beginning of the vaccination efforts in COVINFORM countries, with this report we aim to provide a snapshot of the campaign deployment in each country through infographics providing detailed indicators related to the number of vaccinations and to the attitudes of the population about vaccination. Further, we aim to provide a brief report on the vaccination campaign in one of the COVINFORM countries:

Israel. The COVID-19 vaccination campaign of Israel has been widely recognized as one of the most effective around the world. Thus, it is relevant to get new insights about the strategy adopted by Israel to implement the COVID-19 vaccination campaign, by relying on the direct experience and testimony of Magen David Adom (MDA) in Israel, one of the partners of COVINFORM. In order to do so, we present both a brief report written by Itamar Laist (MDA) and an interview with Chaim Rafalowski (MDA) on the vaccination campaign in Israel.



VACCINATIONS IN COVINFORM COUNTRIES



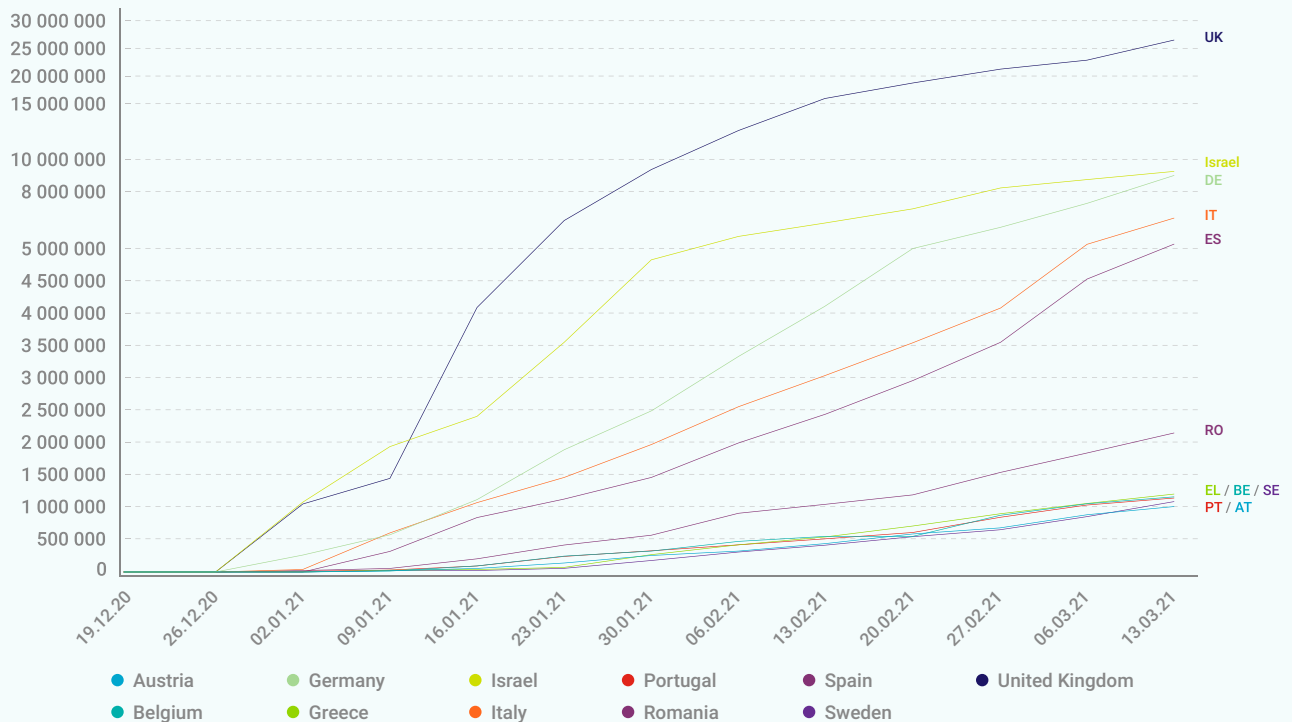
By the end of December 2020, COVID-19 vaccination efforts began in COVINFORM countries: vaccination campaigns started on the 8th of December in the UK, on the 20th December in Israel and between the 26th and 31st December 2020 in most European countries. Plans for the deployment of the COVID-19 vaccine identifying the main vaccination strategies (including the selection of priority groups by phase of implementation, as well as key elements of the logistics of implementation) have been developed by countries at the national level.

As vaccination campaigns progress at different paces in countries represented in the COVINFORM project, we provide an Infographic focusing on the main indicators related to the roll out of the vaccination campaigns.

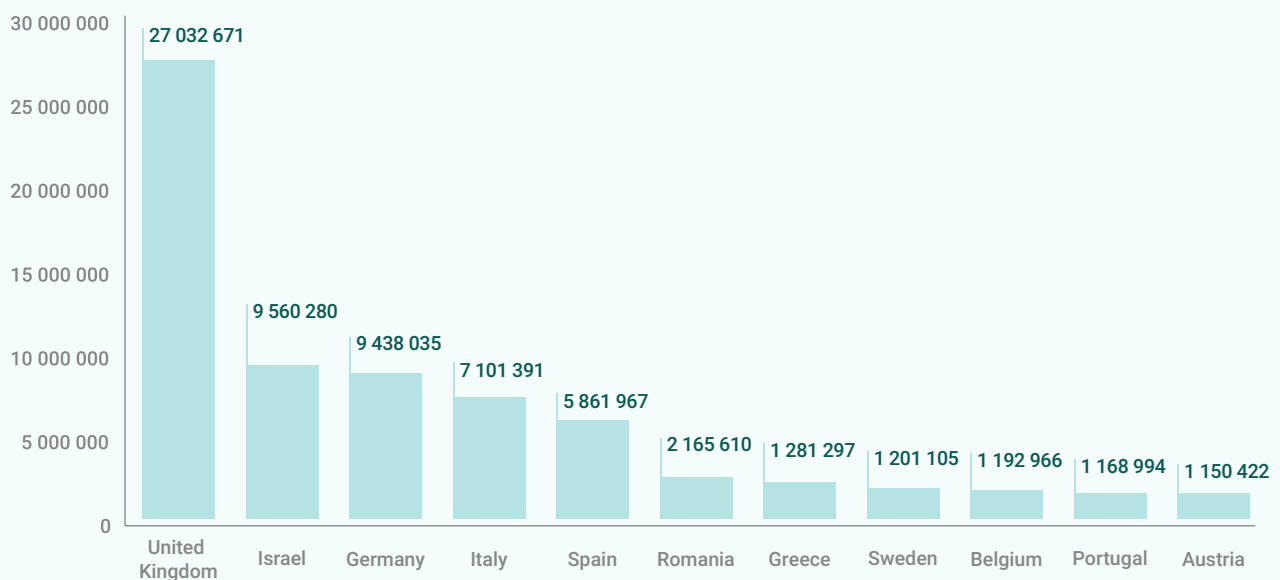


VACCINE UPTAKE IN COVINFORM COUNTRIES

Total number of vaccinations over time in COVINFORM countries

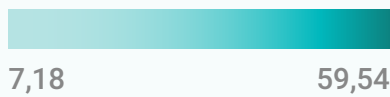


COVID-19 vaccine total doses administered in COVINFORM countries



These two graphs show the total number of COVID-19 vaccination doses administered in COVINFORM countries. In particular, the first graph presents the evolution over time of the doses administered since the beginning of the vaccination campaign in December 2020 to mid-March 2021 and the second graph the total number of vaccination doses administered the 16 March 2021. This is counted as a single dose, therefore, is different from the total number of people vaccinated, taking into account that people receive multiple doses.

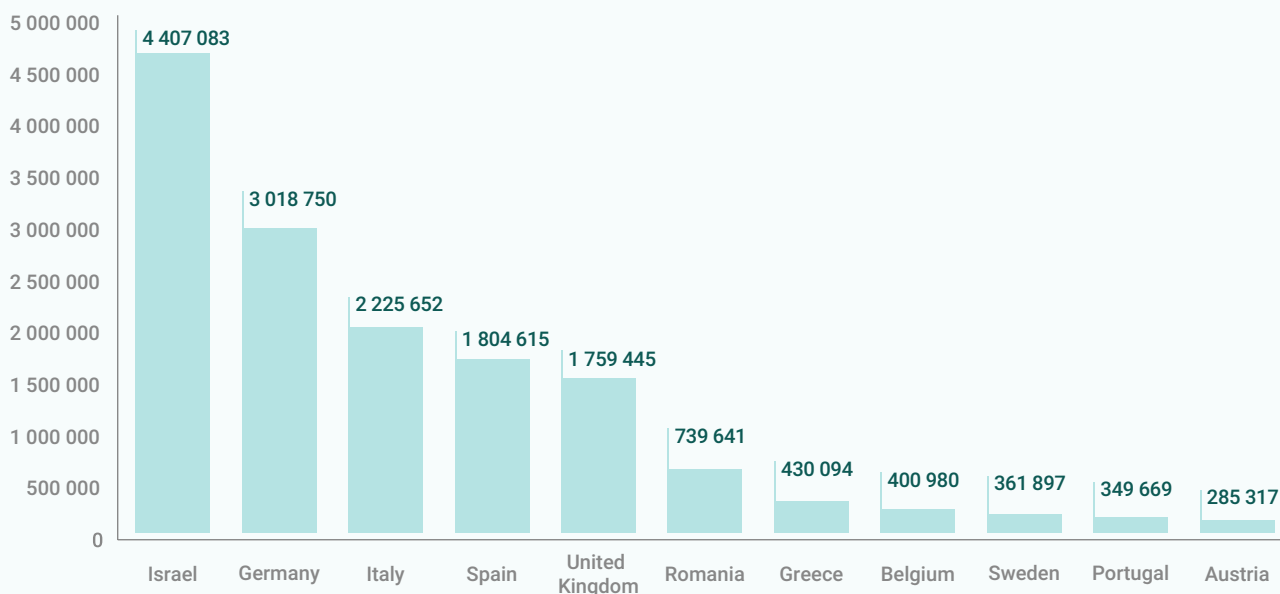
Share of population who received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine



This map shows the share of the total population in COVINFORM countries that has received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

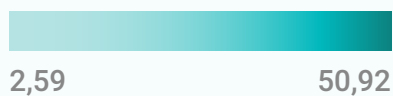


Total number of people who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in COVINFORM countries



The graph shows the total number of people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in each COVINFORM country at mid-March 2021.

Share of population fully vaccinated against COVID-19



This graph presents the share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (calculated as the ratio of the people fully vaccinated in each country to the total population of each country) in COVINFORM countries at mid-March 2021.

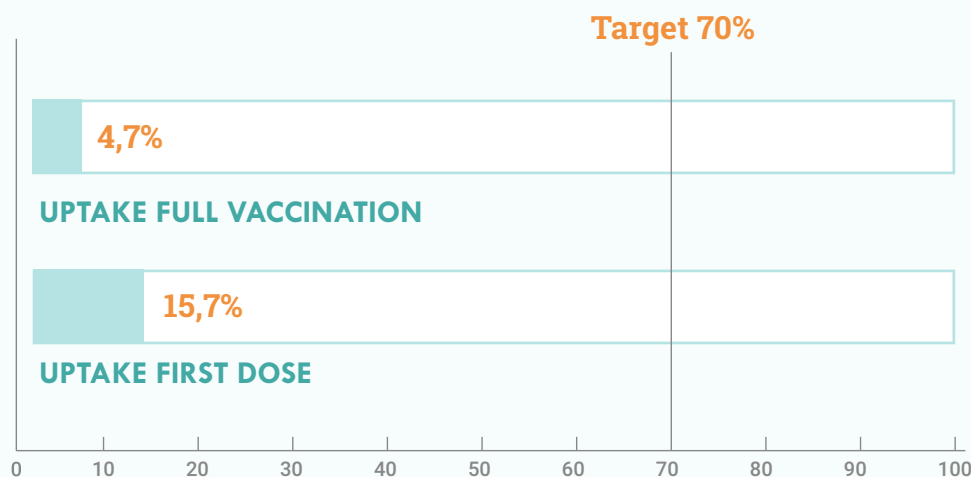
Cumulative uptake full vaccination
in the COVINFORM countries

4,7%

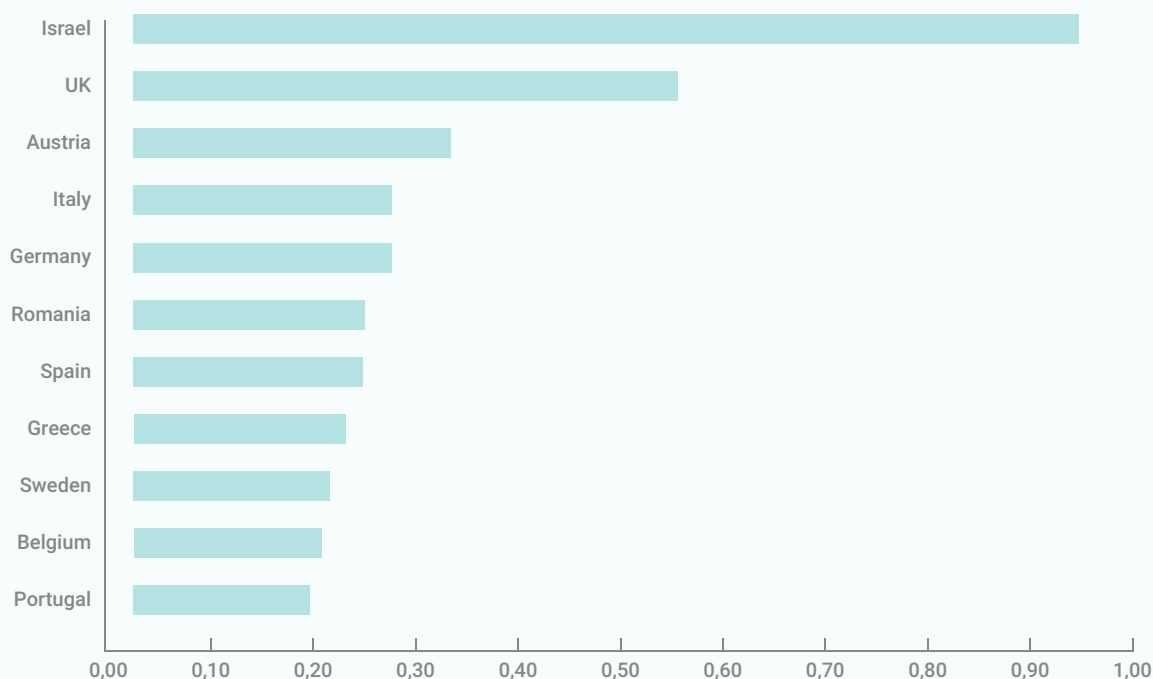
Cumulative uptake first dose
in the COVINFORM countries

15,4%

Progress in vaccine uptake in COVINFORM countries



Daily COVID-19 vaccine doses administered per 100 people in COVINFORM countries

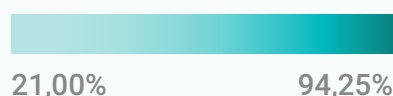


The table and the graphs above show respectively the percentage of the population resident in COVINFORM countries who received at least one dose and who was fully vaccinated against COVID-19 until mid-March 2021, the way to go to reach the objective of 70% of people fully vaccinated, and the number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered per 100 people (7-day average per 100 people of the total population in the week 10-16 March 2021).

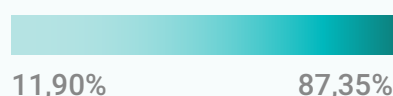
VACCINATION OF VULNERABLE POPULATION

COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in COVINFORM countries are designed in order to give priority in the vaccine distributions to the most vulnerable populations. Although all the COVINFORM countries are following this approach, there are some relevant differences in the definition of vulnerable population. For instance, some countries has defined as vulnerable population the health practitioners, thus they have to be vaccinated in the first phase of the vaccination campaign, while other countries have not. Here we present the figures of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign for people aged 80 and above: this category of the population has been recognized as vulnerable (because of age) in all the COVINFORM countries.

Culmulative uptake (%) of the first dose in people aged 80 years and above iin some COVINFORM countries



Culmulative uptake (%) of full vaccinations in people aged 80 years and above in some COVINFORM countries

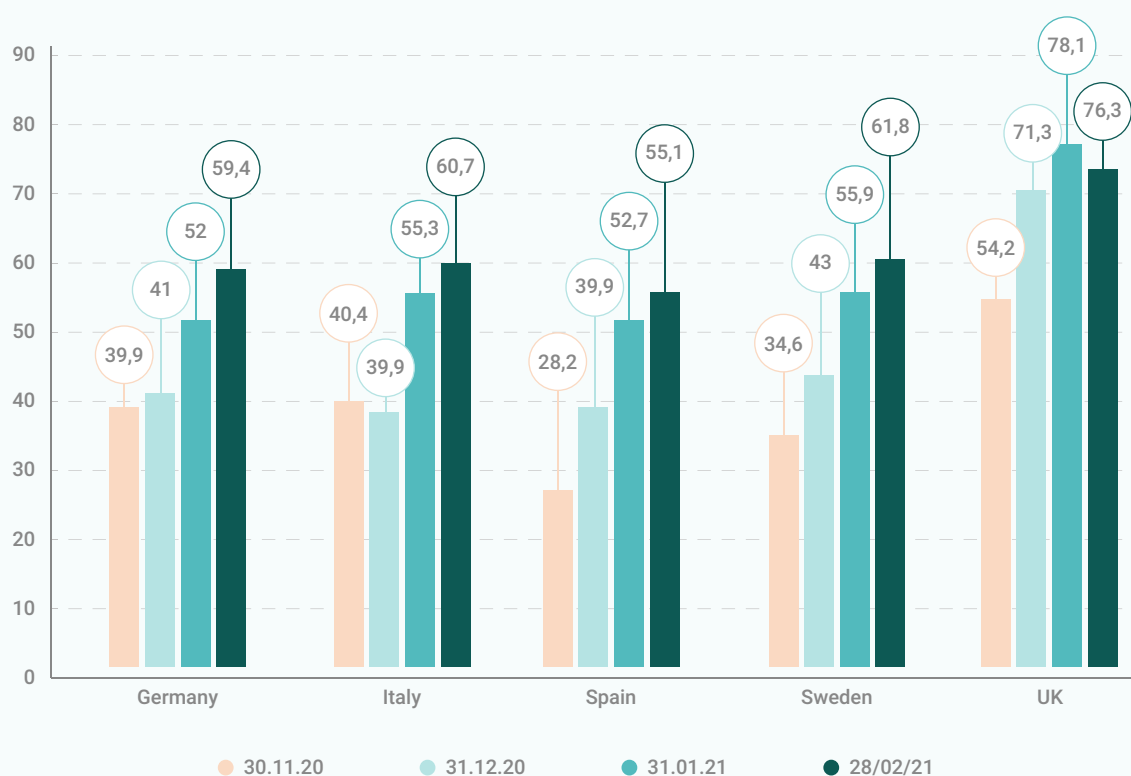


The two maps above represent respectively the percent of the people aged 80 and over (over the population of this age group) that received one dose of COVID-19 vaccines and that has been fully vaccinated in COVINFORM countries.

ATTITUDES ON VACCINATION

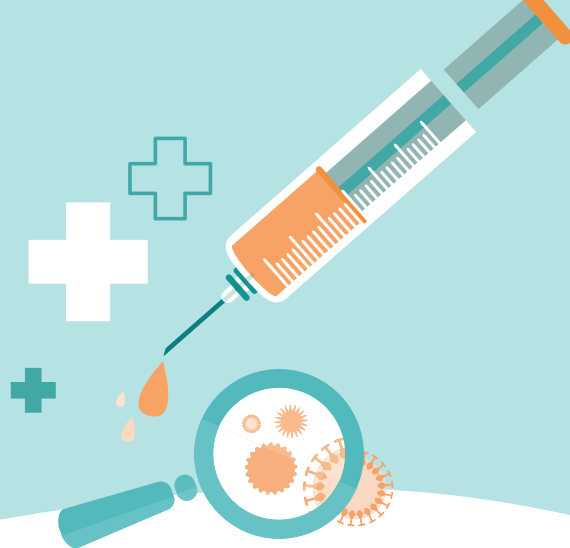
As we have stressed at the very beginning of this report, a successful COVID-19 vaccination campaign is the essential way out from the pandemic. Availability of the vaccines and attitudes toward vaccination are the two major barriers to managing the COVID-19 pandemic in the long-term. While the national states are responsible for making the vaccines available to their population, the individual attitudes toward vaccination are the most important indicator of the population willingness to respond positively to the vaccination campaigns adopted by the government, knowing that the vaccination is not mandatory. Here we present for some COVINFORM countries the results of a survey exploring people's behaviors and attitudes in response to COVID-19, realized by the Imperial College London. People were asked about their willingness of being vaccinated against COVID-19. The survey is repeated each month; therefore we can see the evolution of the people response to the vaccination campaign over time.

Attitudes on vaccinations in some COVINFORM countries: % who would get a vaccine if available



The chart above shows the attitudes on vaccinations against COVID-19 in some COVINFORM countries. Data were collected monthly starting from November 2020 by a survey exploring people's behaviors and attitudes in response to COVID-19 realized by the Imperial College London and are available through the YouGov COVID-19 Behaviour Tracker Data Hub.

BEST PRACTICE: THE COVID-19 VACCINATION IN ISRAEL



After the BioNTech/Pfizer vaccine against COVID-19 was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and European Medicines Agency (EMA), it was approved to be used in Israel by the Ministry of Health, the Israeli government initiated a vaccination campaign on December 20th, 2020. The BioNTech/Pfizer vaccine is the only vaccine given in Israel, and it is given twice (with the same dose) for each individual, 21 days between the doses. In the beginning, it was not recommended for people who recovered from COVID-19 to be vaccinated, but research showed that the antibodies level for recovered patients is lower than the one of vaccinated people, so now it is recommended for them to be vaccinated with one dose only three months after they recovered.

WHAT CATEGORIES OF POPULATION WERE PRIORITIZED?

As the number of available vaccines at the beginning of the campaign was limited, only people older than 60 years old or first-line health care personnel were able to be vaccinated. The first two persons to be vaccinated were the Prime Minister and the Minister of Health, both older than 60 and therefore entitled to the vaccine, to encourage the public to trust the vaccine. When the vaccine supply grew, more age groups were able to be vaccinated starting with persons 55 years and older, pregnant women (due to the peak of seriously ill pregnant women, most probably due to the effect of the British variant), then youth age 16-18 (in order to allow them to reengage in face to face classes before the final exams), followed by the rest of the population. Youth under the age of 18 (16-18) years old need to have one of their parents present or bring with them a signed approval from their parents.

All the people living in Israel are entitled to vaccination (including irregular migrants). Palestinians, living in the Palestinian territory, with working permits in Israel, are vaccinated with MODERNA vaccines.

The details of the contracts are a commercial secret, including the price and the quantities.

The Israeli Ministry of Health publicly announced that the government has enough vaccines, and two doses are secured to all those who are eligible.

THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE VACCINATION CAMPAIGN AND THE ROLE PLAYED BY MAGEN DAVID ADOM

The vaccination operation run by the Ministry of Health, targeting some six million people aged 16 and older as "eligible for vaccination", out of about 9.3 million inhabitants. The operation is based on two types of vaccination models- fixed sites and mobile sites. In the fixed sites the vaccination is done by the four Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO, to which all Israelis are affiliated under the mandatory medical insurance law), who are vaccinating more than 90% of the population. These sites include locations like the HMOs clinics, hospitals, shopping malls (that were closed during the lockdown), sports stadiums, convention centers, and other similar locations. The vaccines are given by nurses and emergency medical technicians (EMT). The mobile sites run by Magen David Adom (The Israeli National Society, member of the International Movement of Red Cross and Red Crescent, and the National Pre-hospital Care provider), giving their EMTs duly trained the authorization to administer the vaccine.

Firstly, Magen David Adom (MDA) was tasked to vaccinate all the population living in long-term care facilities and the staff there, an operation completed within seven weeks with the second dose administered to all the residents and staff.



Later MDA was tasked with organizing vaccination campaigns in communities with low vaccination rates, vaccination sites for irregular migrants, followed by workplaces, and in coordination with local authorities in places with large public convergence. On one occasion, MDA vaccinated during a festival in a nature reserve. Magen David Adom is using specially built trailers with refrigerators for this task.

The mobile campaigns created significant public attention, especially a campaign with Tel Aviv Jaffa municipality, where young people are vaccinated in pubs, and in Jerusalem's largest market.

For the HMOs vaccination sites, one needs to register for vaccinating. For most of the mobile sites, no registration is needed and people can simply walk in. After the first dose of the vaccine is given, an appointment for the second one is scheduled for 21 days later (or 28 days for MODERNA vaccines).

To date (March 14th, 2021), 5,129,901 people were vaccinated in Israel with the first dose of the vaccine, and 4,134,860 people received both doses. MDA vaccinated 397,954 persons with the first dose and 212,511 with a second dose. MDA uses a dedicated IT system to manage the operation, send text messages for the appointments and transfer the data in a secured format to the MoH.

Since the vaccination campaign began, a significant decrease in numbers of new cases and severe cases is demonstrated. This decrease is more significant among people older than 60 years old (an age group with a great majority of vaccinated people). Among the hospitalized patients, almost all were not vaccinated.

Magen David Adom, being a grass root, community-based organization mobilizes its volunteers, representing different groups in the Israeli society, to campaign in favor of the vaccines, explain the importance to the person and the benefit to the society, and to fight against rumors and vaccination hesitancy. We can see the positive impact of the person-to-person approach used by the volunteers. Magen David Adom, an organization proudly serving our society for more than 90 years, is proud to be part of the global fight against COVID 19, and lending a shoulder to protect our society against the pandemic.

INTERVIEW WITH CHAIM RAFALOWSKI, DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND EU PROJECTS COORDINATOR, MAGEN DAVID ADOM IN ISRAEL

Elena Ambrosetti and Marina Zannella conducted an interview with Chaim Rafalowski on Israel's vaccination programme.



Data Sources



Austria Ministry of Health

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

Government of Israel

Government of Romania

Government of the United Kingdom

Greece Ministry of Health

Imperial College London YouGov Covid 19 Behaviour Tracker Data Hub

Ministry of Health of Spain

National COVID-19 vaccine deployment plans in the EU27 member countries

National Health Service of Portugal

Open Data su consegna e somministrazione dei vaccini anti COVID-19 in Italia - Commissario straordinario per l'emergenza Covid-19

OurWorldinData

Public Health Agency of Sweden

Robert Koch Institut

Sciensano via covid-vaccinatie.be

The COVINFORM project

Acronym	COVINFORM
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Start	01 November 2020
Duration	36 months

Contact

Consortium	<p>SYNYO GmbH (SYNYO), Austria</p> <p>Magen David Adom in Israel (MDA), Israel</p> <p>Samur Proteccion Civil (SAMUR), Spain</p> <p>Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC), Italy</p> <p>SINUS Markt- und Sozialforschung GmbH (SINUS), Germany</p> <p>Trilateral Research LTD (TRI UK), UK</p> <p>Trilateral Research LTD (TRI IE), Ireland</p> <p>Kentro Meleton Asfaleias – Center for Security Studies (KEMEA), Greece</p> <p>Factor Social Consultoria em Psicossociologia e Ambiente LDA (FS), Portugal</p> <p>Austrian Red Cross (AUTRC), Austria</p> <p>Media Diversity Institute (MDI), UK</p> <p>Societatea Națională de Cruce Rosie Din România – Romanian Red Cross (SNCR), Romania</p> <p>University of Antwerp (UANTWERPEN), Belgium</p> <p>Sapienza University of Rome (SAPIENZA), Italy</p> <p>University Rey Juan Carlos (URJC), Spain</p> <p>Swansea University (SU), UK</p> <p>Gotenborg University (UGOT), Sweden</p>
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