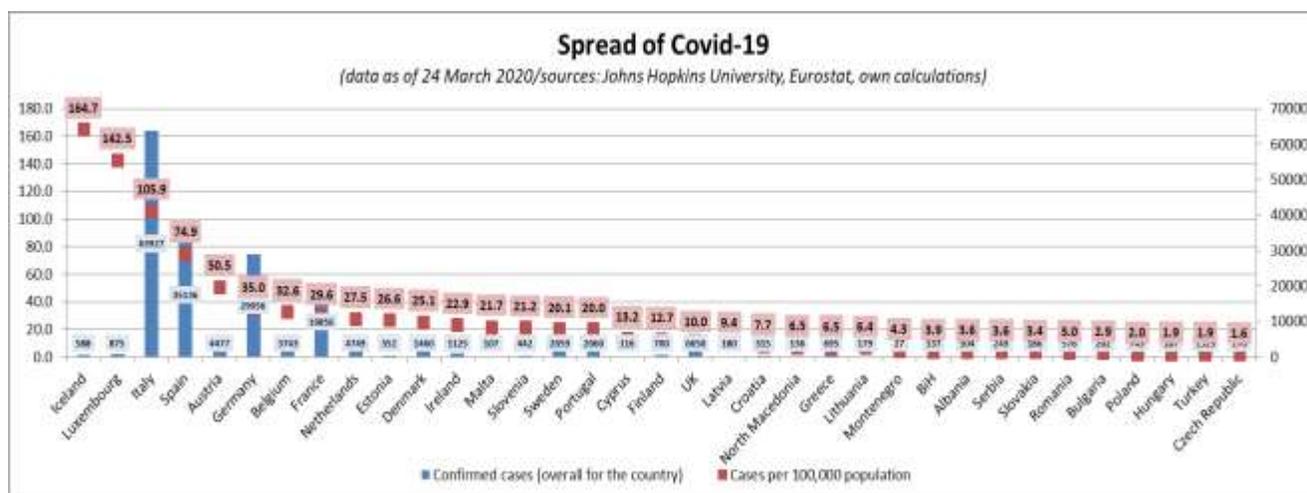


The Spread of Covid-19 and Health Indicators in Europe

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- Central and Eastern Europe so far is less affected by Covid-19 as in terms of overall confirmed cases as well as share of population.
- The CEE countries have lower average life expectancy, which reflects lower quality of life.
- These countries have overall much lower average healthy life expectancy.
- Generally, the CEE countries have much less efficient healthcare systems.

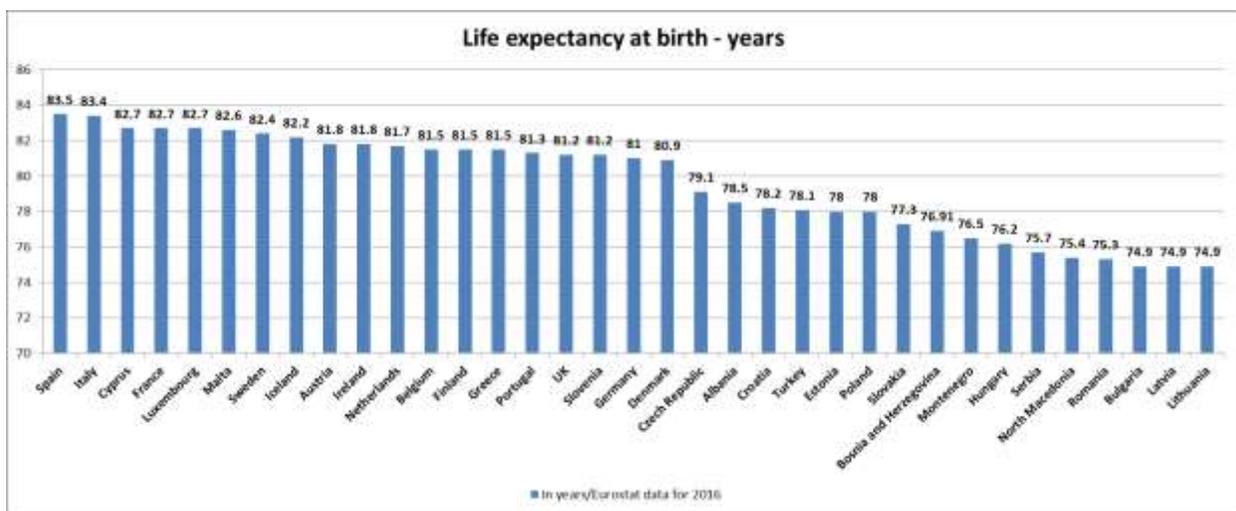
The data for the spread of Covid-19 shows that Italy and Spain are the most affected countries in Europe in terms of overall confirmed cases. In terms of confirmed cases as a share of population per 100,000 people, the small countries of Iceland and Luxembourg are most affected, but Italy and Spain follow immediately with respectively 105.9 и 74.9 cases per 100,000 people.



Central and Eastern Europe countries as a whole are less affected by Covid-19. For example Croatia has 315 confirmed cases or 7.7 per 100,000 people, in Romania there are 576 cases or 3 per 100,000 people and Bulgaria has 202 cases or 2.9 per 100,000. In this group, Estonia is the most affected with 353 cases

or 26.6 per 100,000 people and the Czech Republic is the least affected – 170 cases or 1.6 per 100,000 people.¹

The Catch-Up Index (<https://osis.bg/?p=2477&lang=en>), which measures the processes of convergence among 35 countries in Europe in economy, democracy, good governance and quality of life, uses a number of health indicators, which can help assess the risks with regard to Covid-19. These indicators are life expectancy, healthy life expectancy and an index for effectiveness of healthcare systems.



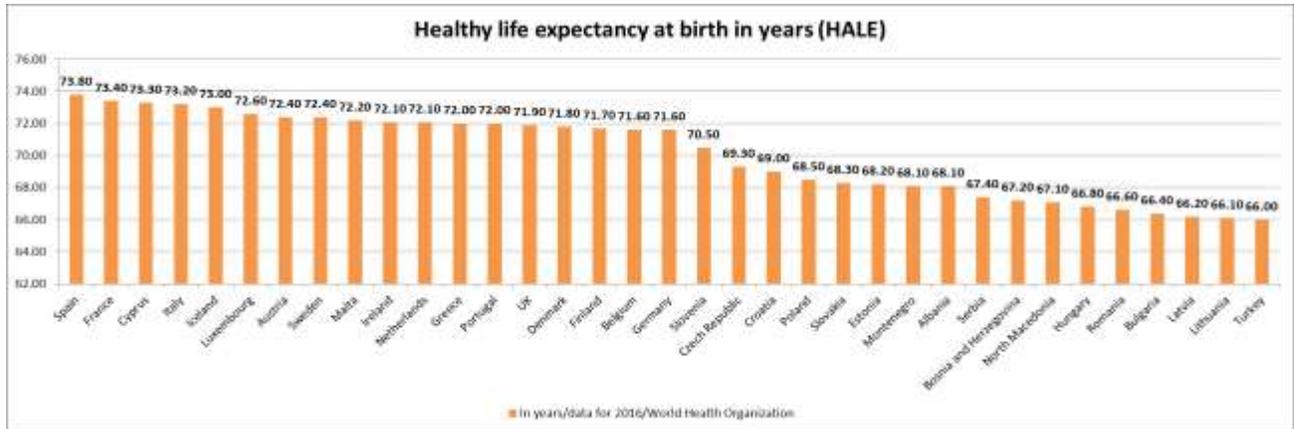
According to the life expectancy indicator, Spain and Italy are among the countries with the highest average life expectancy in Europe – respectively 83.5 и 83.4 years. At the same time, the Covid-19 spread data shows they are the most affected in Europe with respectively over 35,000 and 64,000 confirmed cases as of 24 March 2020. This somewhat paradoxical situation can be explained by the observation that the elderly are most affected by Covid-19. According to Eurostat data, Italy has the highest share of people over 80 years old – 7% and this share in Spain is 6.2% (data as of 2018).

The countries of Central and Eastern Europe have generally the lowest life expectancy in Europe, as for example it is 75 years in Bulgaria and 75.1 years in Latvia. Slovenia has the highest life expectancy in the region – 81.2 years, followed by the Czech Republic with 79.1 years.

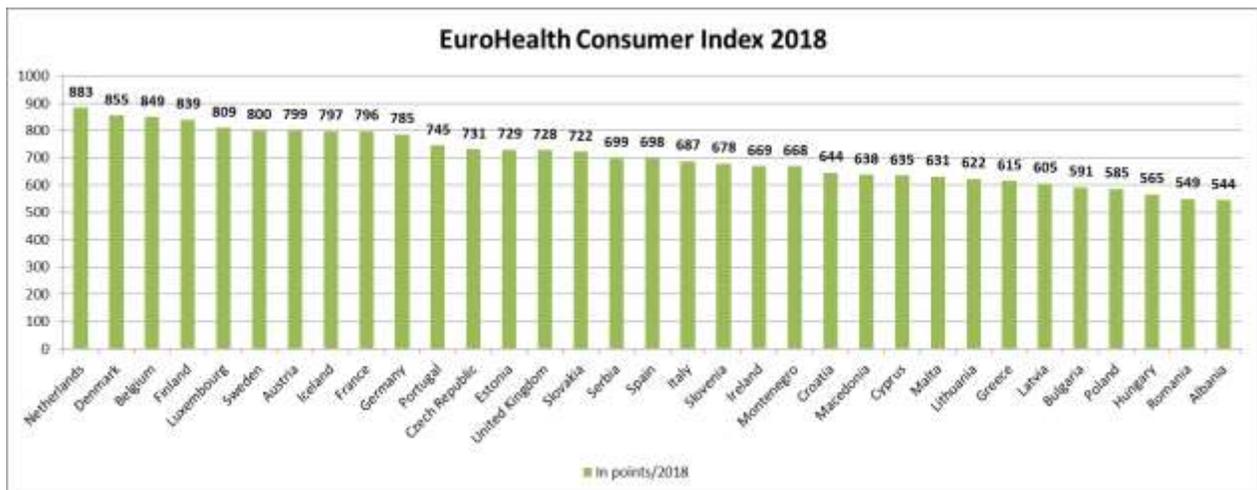
According to the indicator for healthy life expectancy, Spain is the country with the highest result – 73.8 years, and Italy follows suit with 73.2 years. The Cee countries are lagging substantially. Bulgaria is

¹ According to data as of 24 March 2020. The used data for the spread of Covid-19 are from Johns Hopkins University, published by Radio Free Europe.

towards the end of the ranking with 66.4 years, Romania – 66.4 years, Hungary – 66.8 years. Latvia and Lithuania are last in the group with 66.2 and 66.1 years respectively.



According to the index for efficiency of healthcare Euro Health Consumer Index (EHCI), the countries with the best results are the Netherlands with 883 points (about 4800 confirmed Covid-19 cases as of 24 March 2020), Denmark has 855 points (1460 confirmed cases). The most affected countries by Covid-19 Spain and Italy have similar results and are in the middle of the ranking with 698 and 687 points respectively and for example the UK has 728 points.



The countries of Central and Eastern Europe have generally poor results in the healthcare efficiency index. Romania with 549 points is second to last in the ranking, Hungary has 565 points, Poland has 585 points and Bulgaria has 591 points. Among the CEE countries, the best performers in healthcare are the Czech Republic with 731 points and Estonia with 729.