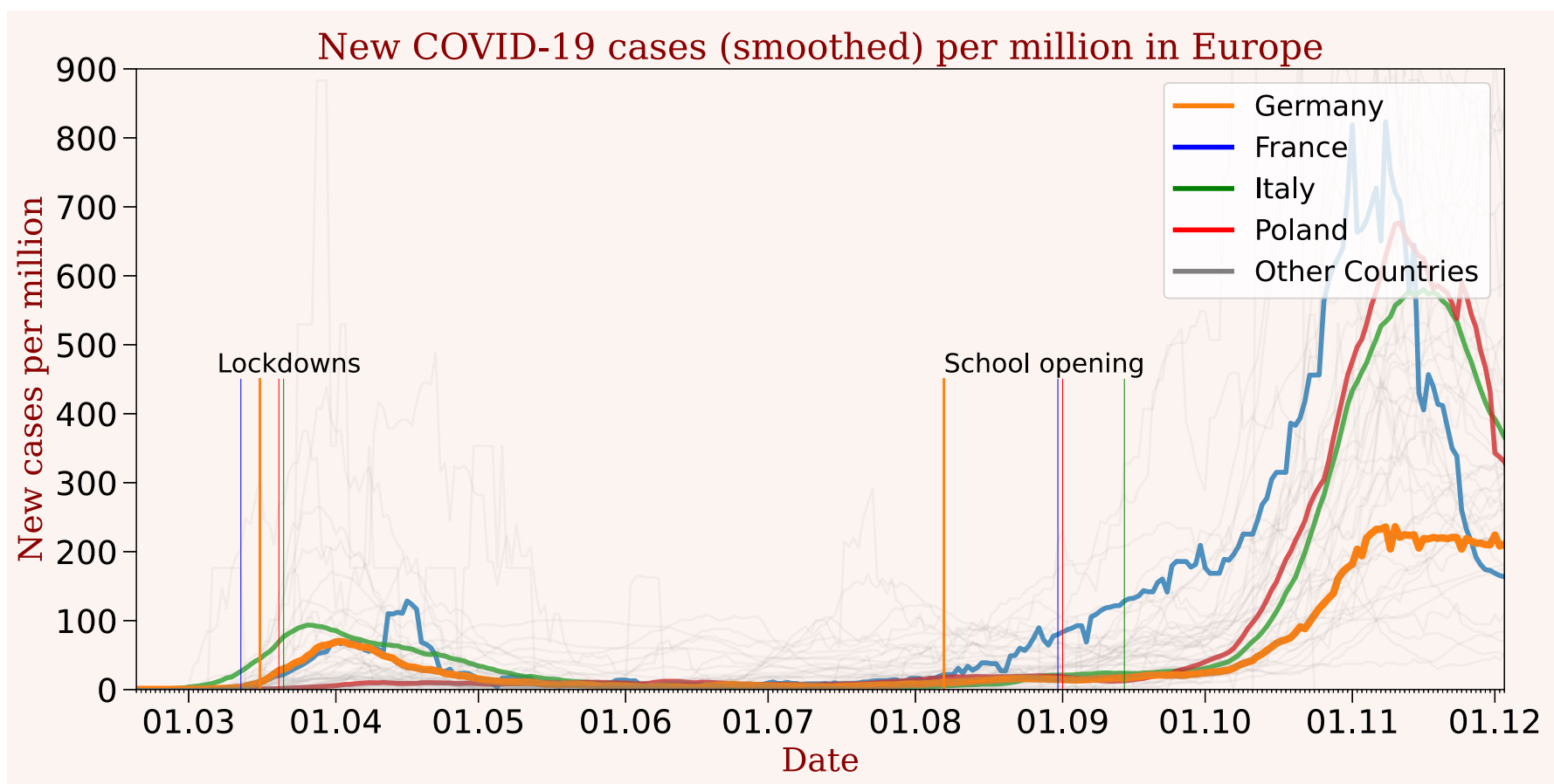# How has Germany tackled Covid-19?

Germany is undeniably a central part of Europe. Despite that, in comparison to the other countries, they're handling the second wave of the pandemic exceptionally well.
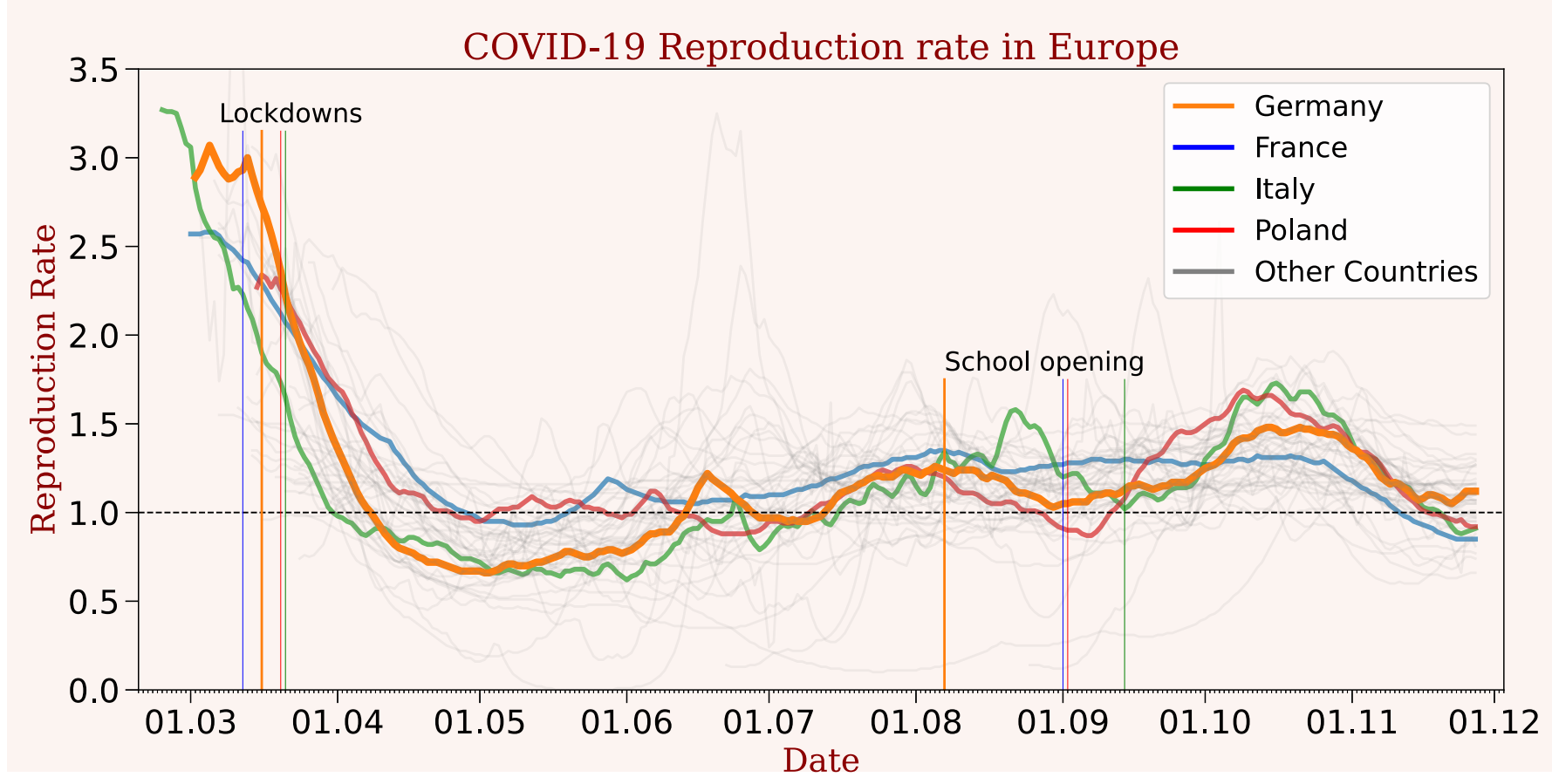
Pandemic spread

Especially during the second wave, with comparison to other countries, it's clear that Germany has handled the outbreaks very well. However it's diffcult to discern how is the pandemic progressing just from this data.

Data on this plot is smoothed by a 7-day average, to avoid problems with inaccuracies in testing (ex. less tests on weekends).

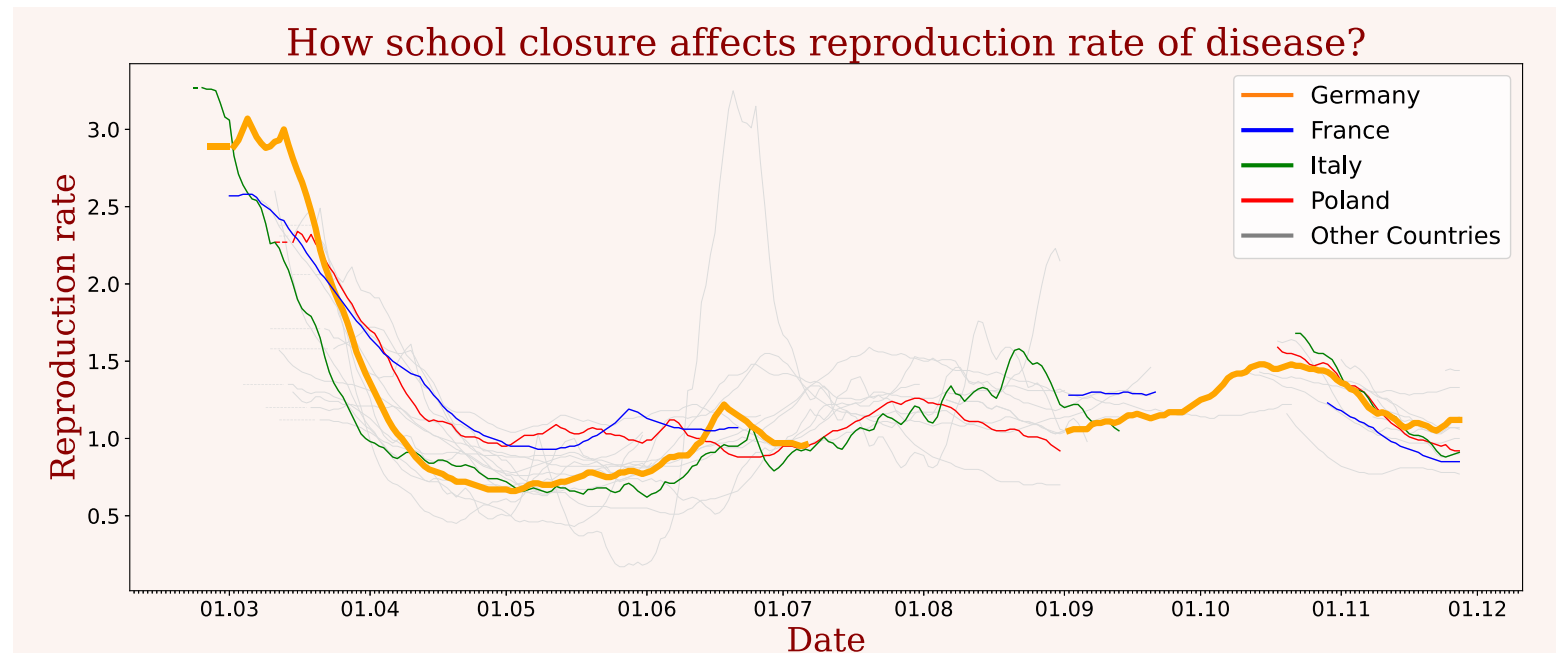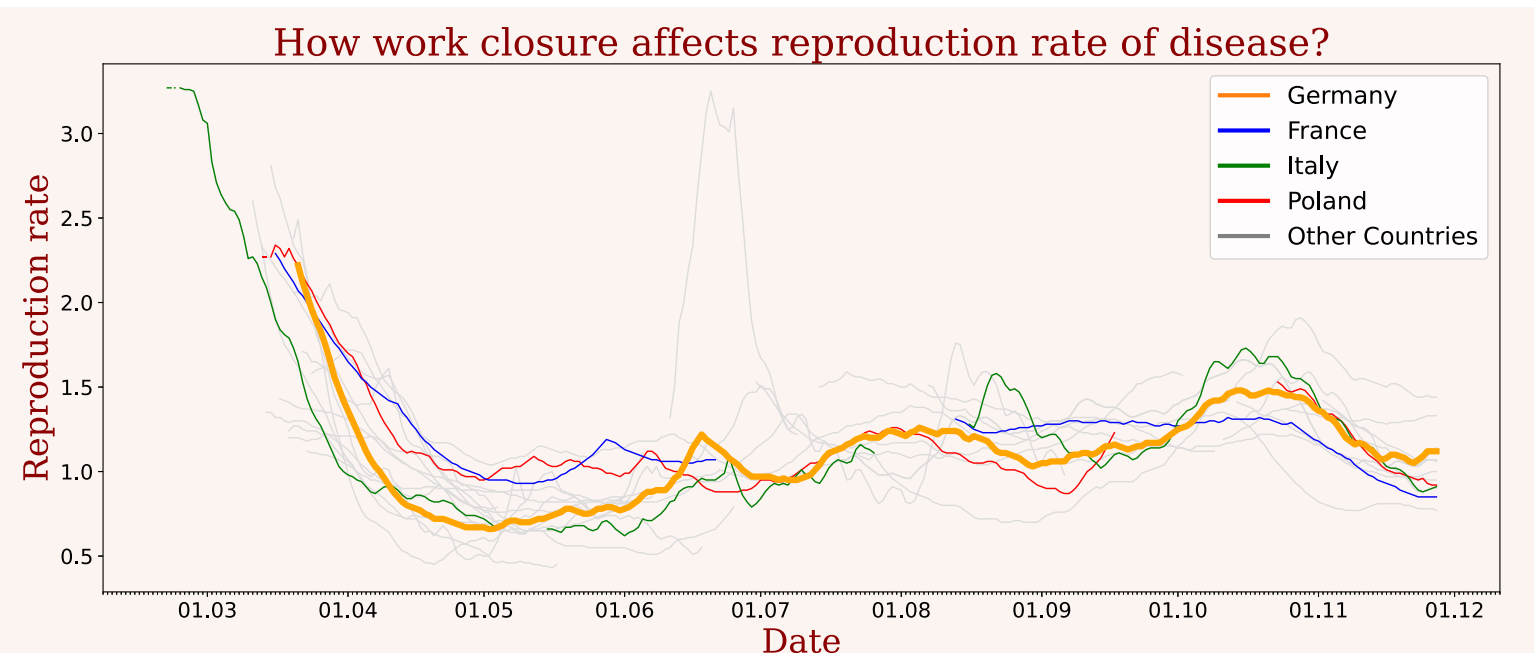New COVID-19 cases (smoothed) per million in Europe

Reproduction Rate

The reproduction rate is an expected number of people one ill person will infect. It's one of the most important measures, since when it's below 1, the epidemic is slowing down, and when it's above it's accelerating. For a major part of the pandemic the rate for Germany was below 1. How was that achieved?

COVID-19 Reproduction rate in Europe

Restrictions

At first reluctant to enforce economic restrictions, Germany has learned from their mistakes and took a much harsher approach ever since. Here, on the example of school and work closure, we can clearly see that the plentiful restrictions put in place have a definite effect on the progress of the pandemic. The plots are only shown during the corresponding closures.

How work closure affects reproduction rate of disease?

How school closure affects reproduction rate of disease?

Flattening the curve

The first wave of Covid-19 pandemic surprised everyone, therefore all countries suffered similar problems. Now, having much more data and scientific research, Germany has shown how important strong and continous restrictions are in curbing the second wave's expansion.

First Wave of COVID-19 in Europe

Second Wave of COVID-19 in Europe

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Data Source: https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus