

Supplement

Supplementary information: *Predictive performance of multi-model ensemble forecasts of COVID-19 across European nations*

Participating teams

The following teams participated in the European Forecast Hub by contributing forecasts over the study period. Information below is taken from metadata provided by each team.

| Team | Authors | Methods | Metadata |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------|
| BIOCOMSC | Martí Català, Enric Álvarez, Sergio Alonso, Daniel López, Clara Prats | Empirical model based on cases and deaths dynamics. | BIOCOMSC- |
| University of Cologne | Tom Zimmermann, Arne Rodloff | Forecasts are based on TBATS - models (DeLivera, Hyndman and Snyder (2011)) and are updated daily for each German state. | Gompertz-CovidMetrics-epiBATS |
| Covid Metrics | | | |
| Epiforecasts / London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine | Nikos Bosse, Sam Abbott, Sebastian Funk | Semi-mechanistic estimation of the time-varying reproduction number for latent infections mapped to reported cases/deaths. | epiforecasts-EpiNow2 |
| epiforecasts | Sam Abbott | A Bayesian autoregressive model using weekly incidence data, application of the forecast.vocs R package. | epiforecasts-weeklygrowth |
| epiMOX | Giovanni Ardenghi, Giovanni Ziarelli, Luca Dede', Nicola Parolini, Alfio Quarteroni | Compartmental model SUIHTER | epiMOX-SUIHTER |
| European COVID-19 Forecast Hub | Katharine Sherratt, Nikos Bosse, Sebastian Funk | An ensemble, or model average, of submitted forecasts to the European COVID-19 Forecast Hub. | EuroCOVIDhub-ensemble |
| Frankfurt Institute for Advanced Studies & Forschungszentrum Jülich | Maria V. Barbarossa, Jan Fuhrmann, Stefan Krieg, Jan H. Meinke | An extended SEIR model with additional compartments for undetected cases | FIAS_FZJ-Epi1Ger |
| Helmholtz Zentrum fuer Infektionsforschung | Isti Rodiah, Berit Lange, Pratizio Vanella, Alexander Kuhlmann, Wolfgang Bock | Deterministic SEIR type model | HZI-AgeExtendedSEIR |

| Team | Authors | Methods | Metadata |
|---|---|---|----------------------------|
| ICM / University of Warsaw | Rafał Bartczuk, Łukasz Górski, Magdalena Gruzziel-Słomka, Artur Kaczorek, Jan Kisielewski, Antoni Moszyński, Karol Niedzielewski, Jędrzej Nowosielski, Maciej Radwan, Franciszek Rakowski, Marcin Semeniuk, Jakub Zieliński | Agent-based model | ICM-agentModel |
| IEM Health | Brad Suchoski, Steve Stage, Heidi Gurung, Sid Baccam | SEIR model projections for daily incident confirmed COVID cases and deaths by using AI to fit actual cases observed. | IEM_Health-CovidProject |
| ILM | Stefan Heyder, Thomas Hotz | Extended Kalman filter based on reproduction equation | ILM-EKF |
| Fraunhofer Institute for Industrial Mathematics ITWM ITWW | Jan Mohring, Neele Leithäuser, Michael Helmling | Integral equation model based on age cohorts taking into account vaccination and testing. The parameters are adjusted to the counted cases and deaths. | itwm-dSEIR |
| JBUD | Przemysław Biecek, Viktor Bezborodov, Marcin Bodych, Jan Pablo Burgard, Stefan Heyder, Thomas Hotz, Tyll Krüger, Jozef Budzinski | Forecasts of county level incidence based on regional reproduction numbers. | ITWW-county_repro |
| | | Heavily modified infection-age SIR-X model with waning immunity, vaccinations, seasonality and undetected cases. | JBUD-HMXK |
| MOCOS group | Marek Bawiec, Marcin Bodych, Tyll Krueger, Tomasz Ozanski, Barbara Pabjan, Agata Migalska, Przemysław Biecak, Viktor Bezborodov, Ewa Szczurek, Ewaryst Rafajłowicz, Ewa Rafajłowicz, Wojciech Rafajłowicz | Agent-based microsimulation model | MOCOS-agent1 |
| Masaryk University | Andrea Kraus, David Kraus | ARIMA model with outlier detection fitted to transformed weekly aggregated series. | MUNI-ARIMA |
| Department of Mathematics and Statistics Masaryk University Team | Veronika Eclerova, Lenka Pribylova | SEIAR model with A compartment of absent unobserved infected estimated from hospital data with incorporated mobility data dependence; optimized to the compartment of all exposed (unobserved included) | MUNI_DMS-SEIAR |
| Grzegorz Redlarski | Grzegorz Redlarski | Modified SIR method, applied to all districts. Forecasts for districts are summed up. | PL_GRedlarski-DistrictsSum |
| prolix | Loïc Pottier | Offsets obtained by correlations, best linear approximation of reproduction rates (using vaccination approximation) by least euclidean distance, and linear prediction. | prolix-euclidean |
| Robert Walraven | Robert Walraven | Multiple skewed gaussian distribution peaks fit to raw data | RobertWalraven-ESG |

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| Swiss Data Science Center / University of Geneva | Ekaterina Krymova, Dorina Thanou, Benjamin Bejar Haro, Tao Sun, Gavin Lee, Elisa Manetti, Christine Choirat, Antoine Flahault, Guillaume Obozinski | The Trend Model predicts daily cases and deaths using linear extrapolation on the linear or log scale of the underlying trend estimated by a robust LOESS seasonal-trend decomposition model. | SDSC_ISG-TrendModel |
| Statgroup19 | Marco Mingione, Pierfrancesco Alaimo Di Loro | Richards' curve based generalized growth model | Statgroup19-richards |
| Statgroup19 | Marco Mingione, Pierfrancesco Alaimo Di Loro | Richards' curve based generalized growth model taking into account spatial dependence | Statgroup19-spatialrichards |
| Universidad Carlos III de Madrid | David E. Singh, Miguel Guzman Merino, Maria Cristina Marinescu, Jesus Carretero, Alberto Cascajo Garcia | Agent-based parallel simulator that models individual interactions extracted from social networks and demographical data. | UC3M-EpiGraph |
| University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Health Sciences Team | Janez Zibert | SEIHR model extended with compartments for hospitals, intensive care units, asymptomatic cases, separate submodels for vaccinated and unvaccinated, divided to 5 age subgroups of population | ULZF-SEIRC19SI |
| UMass-Amherst | Dan Sheldon, Graham Gibson, Nick Reich | Bayesian compartmental model with observations on cumulative case counts and cumulative deaths. Model is fit independently to each state. Model includes observation noise and a case detection rate. | UMass-MechBayes |
| UNED | José L. Aznarte, César Pérez, José Almagro, Pedro Álvarez, Álvaro Ortiz, Fernando Blat | Bayesian time series models with ARIMA noise and fixed transfer functions for each input. | UNED-PreCoV2 |
| UNIPG_UNIMIB-UNISCUBA-UNISUBRIA | Paola Scudato, Fulvia Pennoni, Antonietta Mira | Bayesian Dirichlet-Multinomial models for counts of patients in mutually exclusive and exhaustive categories such as hospitalized in regular wards and in intensive care units, deceased and recovered | UpgUmibUsi-MultiBayes |
| University of Southern California | Ajitesh Srivastava, Frost Tianjian Xu | A heterogeneous infection rate model with human mobility for epidemic modeling. Our model adapts to changing trends and provide predictions of confirmed cases and deaths. | USC-SikJalpha |
| University of Virginia, Bio-complexity COVID-19 Response Team | Aniruddha Adiga, Lijing Wang, Srinivasan Venkatramanan, Akhil Sai Peddireddy, Benjamin Hurt, Przemyslaw Porebski, Bryan Lewis, Madhav Marathe, Jiangzhou Chen, Anil Vullikanti | An ensemble of multiple methods such as auto-regressive (AR)models with exogenous variables, Long short-term memory (LSTM) models,Kalman filter and PatchSim (an SEIR model). | UVA-Ensemble |

Summary of evaluated forecasts

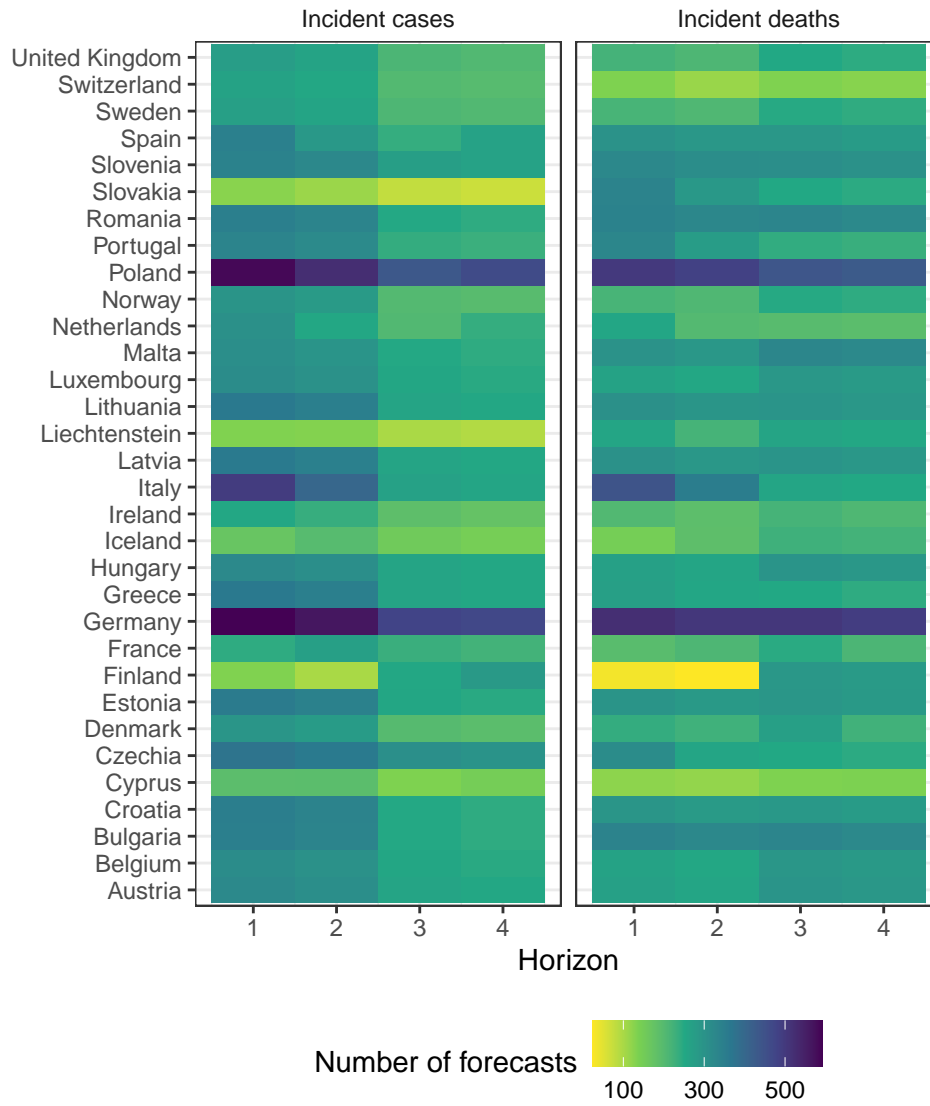


Figure 1: Total number of forecasts included in evaluation, by target location, week ahead horizon, and variable

Comparison of contributed forecasts and the Hub ensemble

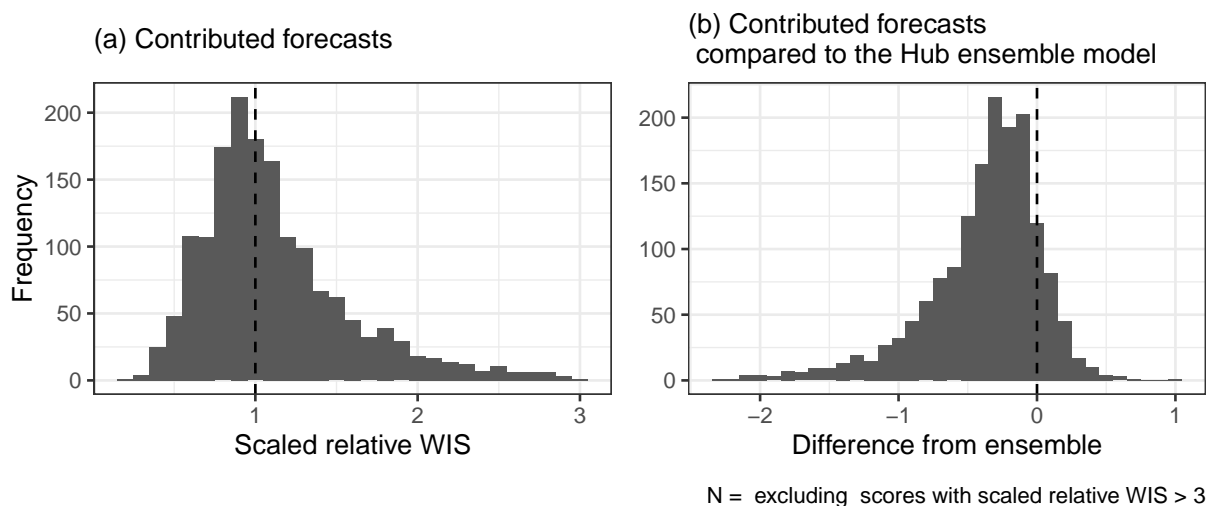


Figure 2: Comparison of scores between participating model forecasts and Hub ensemble of all available forecasts for each target

EPIFORGE guidelines for reporting of epidemic forecasting research

Table 2: EPIFORGE guidelines (Pollet et. al., 2021)

| Section of manuscript | Item | Checklist item | Reported on page |
|-----------------------|------|---|--|
| Title/Abstract | 1 | Describe the study as forecast or prediction research in at least the title or abstract | 1 |
| Introduction | 2 | Define the purpose of study and forecasting targets | 4 |
| Methods | 3 | Fully document the methods | 4,5,6,7,8 |
| Methods | 4 | Identify whether the forecast was performed prospectively, in real time, and/or retrospectively | 5 |
| Methods | 5 | Explicitly describe the origin of input source data, with references | 5 |
| Methods | 6 | Provide source data with publication, or document reasons as to why this was not possible | see Github epiforecasts/euro- hub-ensemble |
| Methods | 7 | Describe input data processing procedures in detail | 5,6 |
| Methods | 8 | State and describe the model type, and document model assumptions, including references | 5,6, Supplement Table 1 |
| Methods | 9 | Make the model code available, or document the reasons why this was not possible | see Github epiforecasts/euro- hub-ensemble |
| Methods | 10 | Describe the model validation, and justify the approach | 5,6 |
| Methods | 11 | Describe the forecast accuracy evaluation method used, with justification | 6,7 |
| Methods | 12 | Where possible, compare model results to a benchmark or other comparator model, with justification of comparator choice | 6,7 |

| Section of manuscript | Item | Checklist item | Reported on page |
|-----------------------|------|---|--|
| Methods | 13 | Describe the forecast horizon, with justification of its length | 5 |
| Results | 14 | Present and explain uncertainty of forecasting results | 8,9,10,11,12 |
| Results | 15 | Briefly summarize the results in nontechnical terms, including a nontechnical interpretation of forecast uncertainty | 12,13,14 |
| Results | 16 | If results are published as a data object, encourage a time-stamped version number | see Github epiforecasts/euro- hub-ensemble |
| Discussion | 17 | Describe the weaknesses of the forecast, including weaknesses specific to data quality and methods | 12,13,14 |
| Discussion | 18 | If the research is applicable to a specific epidemic, comment on its potential implications and impact for public health action and decision-making | 14,15 |
| Discussion | 19 | If the research is applicable to a specific epidemic, comment on how generalizable it may be across populations | 15 |

Following:

Pollett S, Johansson MA, Reich NG, Brett-Major D, Del Valle SY, Venkatramanan S, Lowe R, Porco T, Berry IM, Deshpande A, Kraemer MUG, Blazes DL, Pan-Ngum W, Vespigiani A, Mate SE, Silal SP, Kandula S, Sippy R, Quandelacy TM, Morgan JJ, Ball J, Morton LC, Althouse BM, Pavlin J, van Panhuis W, Riley S, Biggerstaff M, Viboud C, Brady O, Rivers C. Recommended reporting items for epidemic forecasting and prediction research: The EPIFORGE 2020 guidelines. PLoS Med. 2021 Oct 19;18(10):e1003793. doi: 10.1371/journal.pmed.1003793. PMID: 34665805; PMCID: PMC8525759.