

# COVID-19 BURDEN TASK FORCE

International burden of disease conference  
Belgrade, Serbia, 15-16 September 2022

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# COST Action CA18218 European Burden of Disease Network

Technical platform to integrate and strengthen capacity in burden of disease assessment across Europe and beyond.

# European Burden of Disease Network

## working groups

WG1 – NCDs and Injuries



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WG2 – Infectious Diseases



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WG3 – Risk Factors



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WG4 – Methods



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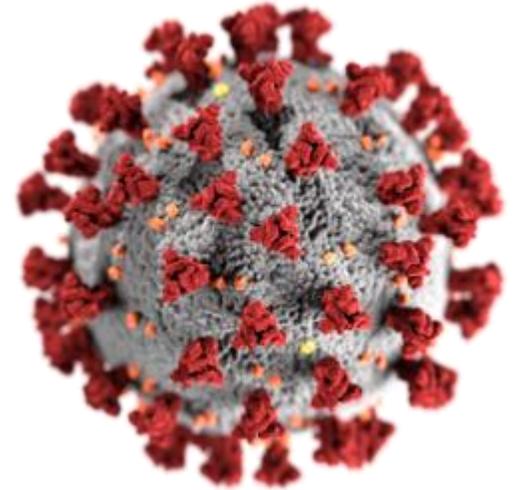
WG5 – Knowledge Translation



[Read more ...](#)

# COVID-19

- Infectious disease by SARS-CoV-2
- Declared as a pandemic by WHO in March 2020
- High public health impact globally



# COVID-19

- Perfect practical case to contribute to all aims of burden-eu
  - Research
    - Disease model, health outcomes
    - Data requirements
    - Computation
  - Building capacity
    - Burden of disease calculation
    - Knowledge translation



# Burden of COVID-19 Task Force

COST Action CA18218



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## Burden of COVID-19 Task Force

The European Burden of Disease Network established the Burden of COVID-19 Task Force, as a sub-group of [WG2 Infectious Diseases](#). The TF welcomes members who are conducting or interested in launching national studies to estimate the burden of disease of COVID-19.

Its aims are to:

- Share experiences in national burden of COVID-19 studies
- Support each other with calculations, model assumptions, data gaps
- Harmonize methodologies and align strategies for communicating results
- Discuss research projects and upcoming evidence on long-COVID

The TF meets approximately every six weeks. We select a different topic for each meeting, and focus mostly on technical discussions. We also have the opportunity to arrange ad-hoc meetings and discussions as needed/requested by members of the TF, and to use the [burden-eu discussion forum](#).

You can find the minutes of our meetings on the [Google Drive](#).

If you are interested in joining, contact [Sara Pires](#).

Other resources on COVID-19 disease burden are available on [this page](#).

# Burden of COVID-19 Task Force

- Provide guidance for data requirements, methodology and communicating results



Publication of a burden-eu guide on calculating COVID-19 DALYs

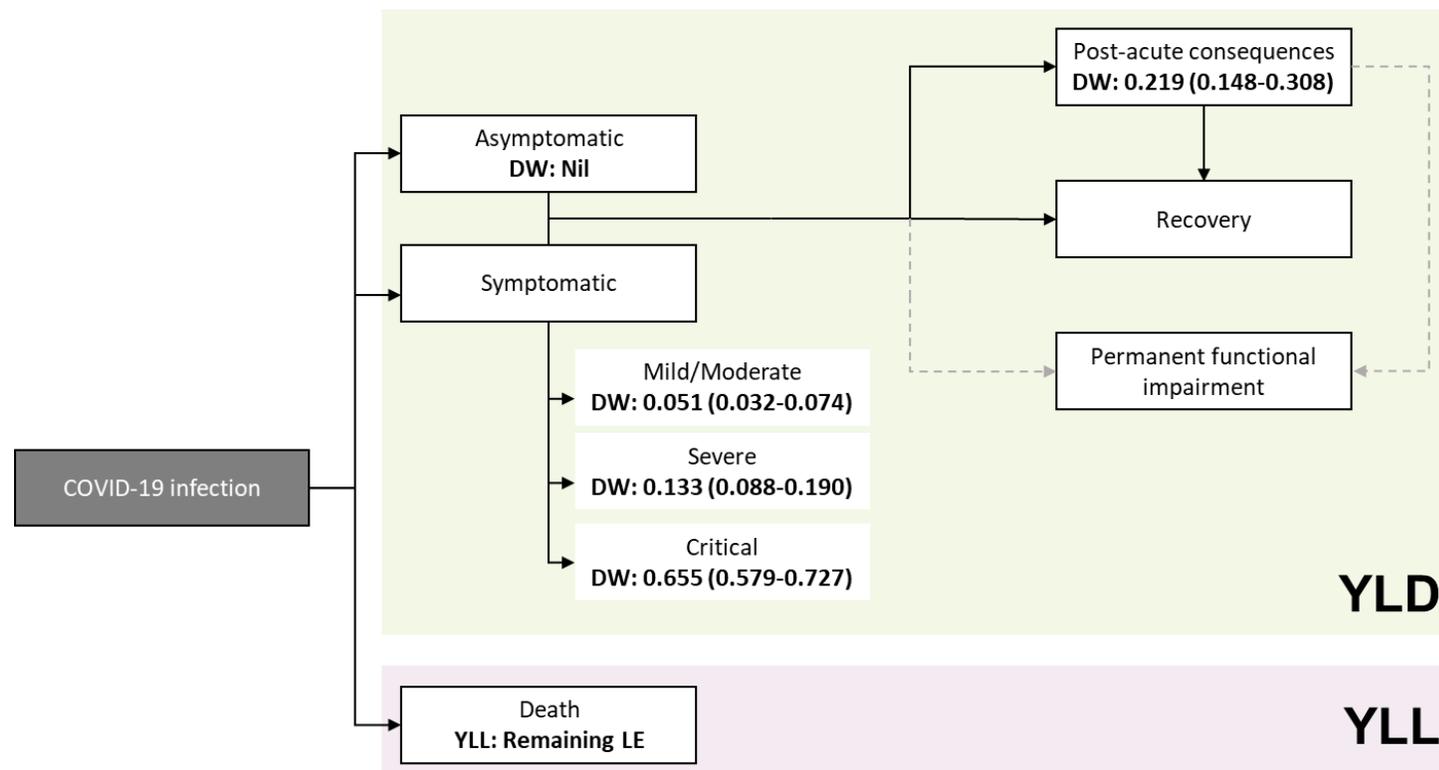
Published: 23 October 2020

# Burden of COVID-19 Task Force

## Burden of disease of COVID-19 PROTOCOL FOR COUNTRY STUDIES

### Contents

<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Purpose of this protocol .....	2
How to use this protocol .....	2
<b>BURDEN OF DISEASE STUDIES</b> .....	<b>3</b>
The disability-adjusted life year (DALY).....	3
Building a disease model .....	3
<b>IMPLEMENTING A BURDEN OF DISEASE STUDY OF COVID-19</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Planning a national study .....	5
Setting .....	5
Team .....	5
Data access and permissions .....	5
Disease model.....	5
Data requirements .....	6
Demographic data .....	6
Date requirements for years lived with disability .....	7
Date requirements for years of life lost.....	9
<b>CALCULATIONS</b> .....	<b>10</b>
Uncertainty.....	11
<b>NOTES ON KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION</b> .....	<b>12</b>
Use of COVID-19 disease burden estimates .....	12



# Burden of COVID-19 Task Force

- **Open** to all network members conducting or interested in implementing national studies.
- Regular **group meetings**
- **Ad-hoc meetings** with countries
- Long-COVID meetings
- Online **discussion forum**
- **Several studies launched**
  - harmonized approaches
  - comparable estimates

# Burden of COVID-19 Task Force

- Public webinars, attended by over 100 participants
- Website collects and continuously posts all published articles related to the burden of COVID



[Webinar] Burden of disease assessment for COVID-19: initial insights and future perspectives

Friday 21 May 2021, 14h-15h CET

Read more:



[Webinar] Quantifying COVID-19 disease burden

Friday 20 November 2020, 11h-12h CET

Read more:

# BoD COVID-19 Studies

## BoD-COVID Studies

**Netherlands**

**Scotland**

**Germany**

**Malta**

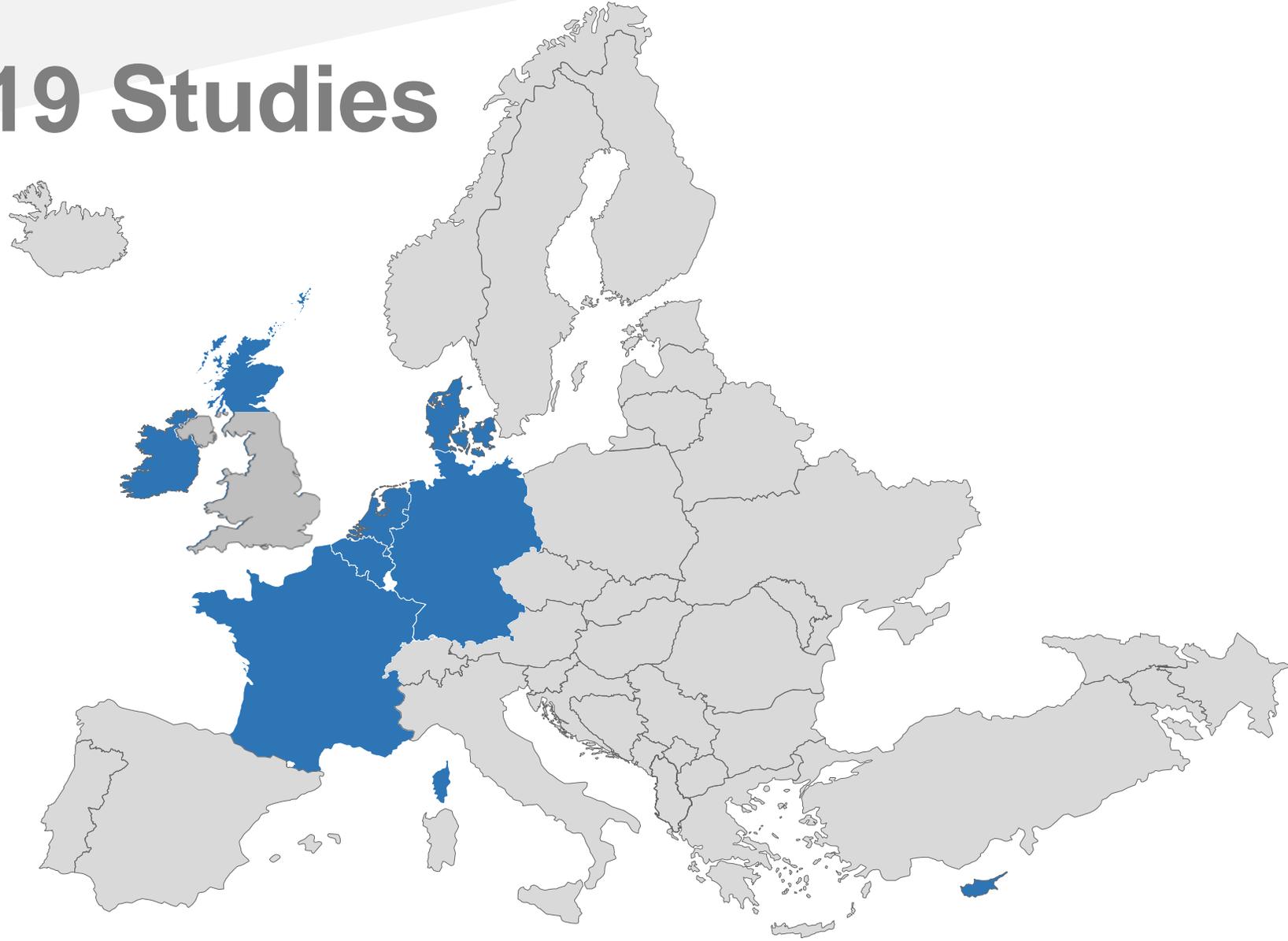
**Ireland**

**Denmark**

**France**

**Belgium**

**Ireland**



# BoD COVID-19 Studies

## Country adaptations

- Some countries included **post-acute consequences** of COVID-19 acute infections
- Germany defined **mild cases** in YLD calculations
- The Netherlands corrected for **underreporting** of hospital admissions and deaths
- Most countries used **durations** derived from their national data collections
- Scotland and Belgium used daily prevalence estimates from a **Susceptible-Exposed-Infectious-Removed (SEIR) transmission model**, and **daily hospital prevalence data**
- All studies except Germany used the **GBD aspirational life expectancy life table**

# BoD COVID-19 Studies

Country	Period of analysis	Long-COVID included	DALY/100,000	% YLD
Australia	1 Jan-31 Dec 2020	Yes, estimated	32.7	3.5%
Belgium	Mar 2020- 31 Dec 2021	Yes	1968	5%
Cyprus	9 March 2020 – 8 March 2021	N/A	1881 YLL	NA
Denmark	28 Feb 2020-28 Feb 2021	No	520	1.6%
France	Jan- 31 Dec 2020	Yes, limited	1472	1%
Germany	1 Jan-31 Dec 2020	No	368	0.7%
Ireland	1 Mar 2020 – 28 Feb 2021	Yes, estimated	1033	1.3%
Malta	7 Mar 2020-31 Mar 2021	Yes, limited	1086	5%
Netherlands	1 Jan-31 Dec 2020	No	1570	1%
Scotland	1 Jan-31 Dec 2020	Yes, limited	1770- 1980	2%
Spain	Mar 2020- Dec 2021	Yes	N/A	N/A

# BoD COVID-19 Studies

- National burden of COVID-19 ranged between **32 and app. 2,000 DALYs/ 100,000** inhabitants
- Consistent large contribution of **mortality** to the burden, between app. **1 and 5%**

# BoD COVID-19 Studies

- Harmonized efforts and methodologies have allowed for **comparable estimates** and **communication** of results
- Future studies should evaluate the impact of interventions and unravel the indirect health impact of the COVID-19 crisis
- Burden of disease indicators, and standardization of approaches where applicable, can be useful for **monitoring within- and across-country public health in an ongoing pandemic**

# Burden of COVID-19 Task Force

What have we been doing lately?

- Focus on long-COVID-19
  - Available data – incidence, severity
  - Disability weights
  - Updating disease model



A woman who has had COVID-19 attends a physiotherapy session in Madrid. Credit: Pierre-Phillipe Marcou/AFP/Getty

[The pandemic's true health cost: how much of our lives has COVID stolen? \(nature.com\)](https://www.nature.com/news/the-pandemic-s-true-health-cost-how-much-of-our-lives-has-covid-stolen-1.4547444)

# Burden of COVID-19 Task Force

## What have we learned along the way?

nature

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NEWS FEATURE | 18 May 2022

### The pandemic's true health cost: how much of our lives has COVID stolen?

Researchers are trying to calculate how many years have been lost to disability and death.

[Holly Elise](#)



# Burden of COVID-19 Task Force

- Join us: [ismpi@food.dtu.dk](mailto:ismpi@food.dtu.dk); [info@burden-eu.net](mailto:info@burden-eu.net)
- What to expect:
  - Share experiences in national burden of COVID-19 studies
  - Support with calculations, model assumptions, data gaps
  - Harmonize methodologies and align strategies for communicating results
  - Discuss research projects and upcoming evidence on long-COVID

# Join our network



[www.burden-eu.net/join](http://www.burden-eu.net/join)

Twitter @BurdenE

- Contact us at [info@burden-eu.net](mailto:info@burden-eu.net)