**Title:** When did coronavirus arrive in Europe?

**Author, Affiliation, & Contact Details:**

Augusto Cerqua, Department of Social Sciences and Economics, Sapienza University of Rome, P.le Aldo Moro, 5, 00185 Rome, Italy, augusto.cerqua@uniroma1.it

Roberta Di Stefano, Department of Methods and Models for Economics, Territory and Finance, Sapienza University of Rome, Via del Castro Laurenziano 9, 00161 Rome, Italy, roberta.distefano@uniroma1.it

**Abstract:** Coronavirus reached Italy officially on the 21st of February 2020. However, there is increasing anecdotal evidence that it might have arrived in Europe, particularly in Italy, sooner. We test such a hypothesis by analyzing with a counterfactual approach certified daily data on the number of deaths (deaths from any cause, not only related to coronavirus) on 1,450 Italian municipalities. Our estimates confirm that coronavirus arrived in Europe at least a few weeks before the official date.

**Data Description:** We use data on the daily number of deaths (deaths from any cause, not only related to coronavirus) for the period 1 January - 28 March 2020 on 1,450 Italian municipalities. This data has been made available by the Italian National Institute of Statistics (Istat). The selection of the sample is not random, as it includes municipalities in which at least ten people died in the period considered and which presented an increase of 20% in the number of deaths in the first three or four weeks of March 2020 with respect to the average number of deaths in the previous five years. Even if this is a selected sample, the selection process has been based on the number of deaths in March, while we use data until 21 February 2020.

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