

The Importance of National Capabilities in Times of Crisis

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Which national policies were implemented in **Portugal and Spain** to address the lack of supply and national competencies in a knowledge-intensive safety-critical industries?

The case of mechanical ventilators

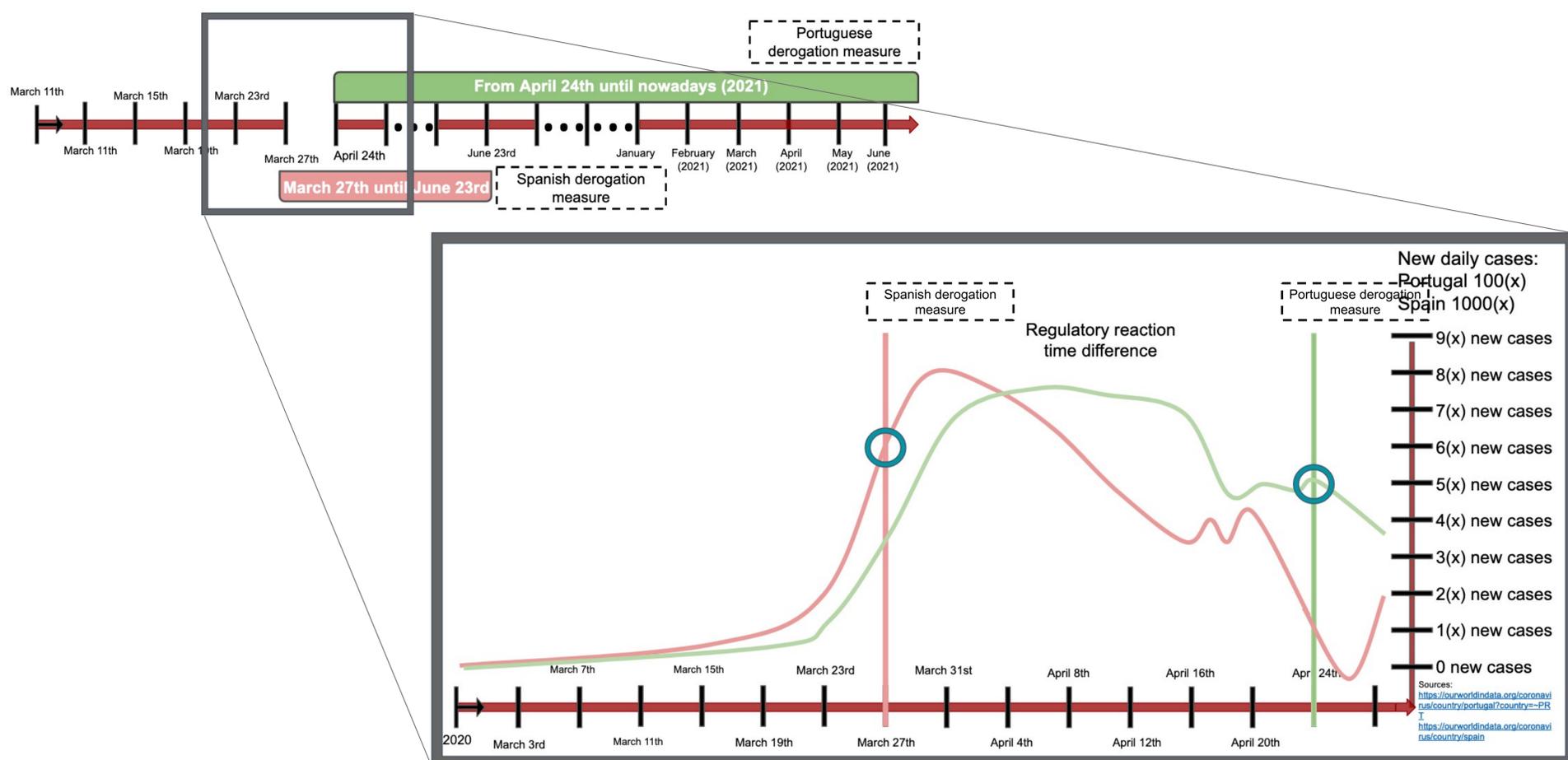
Introduction

- **COVID-19** caused a worldwide increase in demand of **mechanical ventilators**
- Not every country has **internal production** of such medical device
- Creating **supportive** conditions for National enterprises to begin **manufacturing** relevant products might enhance National welfare and **reduce external dependencies**

Methods

- Two-country comparative case study
- **50 semi-structured interviews (40 hours)**
- Inductive, grounded theory-building to perform a comparative analysis on how Competent Authorities (**Infarmed**) addressed the potential lack of mechanical ventilators in each National Health System

Findings



Conclusions

- Spain has a **Notified Body** who helped its competent Authority relaxing the existing rules
- Portugal **does not** have a Notified Body
- Portuguese requirements were a **copy** from the existing regulation while Spain relaxed its rules
- Spain was **12 times** more efficient in **less time**

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