

An Italian website that has often published inaccurate claims to advance a right-leaning, anti-immigrant perspective that it does not disclose.



Proceed with caution: This website fails to meet several basic standards of credibility and transparency.

Score: 42/100

Ownership and Financing

Leggilo.org is owned by web development and marketing company Planet Share Srl. The company was registered in Rome in 2015, according to a report provided by the Italian Chamber of Commerce. According to the report, Cristina Casti owns 99 percent of the company, and Andrea Caroletti owns the remaining 1 percent. Caroletti is also identified as the editor in charge of LaLucedìMaria.it, a Catholic news site that publishes stories about miracles.

The site derives revenues from advertising.

Content

Leggilo.org mainly publishes national stories about politics, crime, entertainment, and gossip. Content is organized into sections including Politics, International Politics, Economy, Opinion and People. Its homepage typically mixes national political coverage, particularly about immigration issues, with grisly crime stories.

Leggilo's About Us page states, "Leggilo is a page of free and independent opinions, based on the main news, without any political or ideological affiliation" ("Leggilo è una pagina di opinioni libere e indipendenti, basate sui principali fatti di cronaca, senza appartenenza politica e ideologica").

Typical headlines include "Sardines [Movement] meet Luciano Benetton and Oliviero Toscani" ("Le Sardine incontrano Luciano Benetton e Oliviero Toscani"); "Virus from China, Prime Minister Conte declares the State of Emergency" ("Virus dalla Cina, il premier Conte decreta lo Stato di Emergenza"); and "Matteo Salvini: 'I fought alone. I'd do everything I've done'" ("Matteo Salvini: 'Ho lottato da solo. Rifarei tutto quello che ho fatto'").

- ✓ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22 points)
- ✗ Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
- ✗ Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
- ✗ Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
- ✗ Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
- ✓ Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
- ✓ Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
- ✓ Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
- ✗ The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

Leggilo.org articles often rely on the accounts of reliable Italian media organizations, such as Corriere della Sera, La Repubblica, and Ansa. However, the site has frequently published inaccurate and misleading claims, often by misquoting politicians and adding false information to otherwise accurate news accounts.

For example, a February 2020 article about migrants on the Open Arms ship that docked off the coast of Sicily falsely claimed that two migrants had been infected with the Wuhan coronavirus. The article said, "And unfortunately, the virus has gone far beyond China's borders. In fact - as reported by Repubblica.it - even some migrants on board the Spanish NGO ship Open Arms presented infected wounds. Precisely for this reason they were evacuated. But if Italy granted the landing to the Open Arms, unfortunately, the risk of coming into contact with infected migrants would be real" ("E, purtroppo, il virus ha oltrepassato di molto i confini della Cina. Infatti - come riferiva la Repubblica - anche alcuni migranti a bordo della nave Ong spagnola Open Arms presentavano ferite infette. Proprio per questa ragione sono stati fatti evacuare. Ma se l'Italia concedesse lo sbarco alla Open Arms, purtroppo, il rischio di venire a contatto con migranti contagiati ci sarebbe").

While the article that Leggilo.org cited from La Repubblica did describe "two migrants in serious conditions, including a minor with wounds from torture that got infected" ("due casi gravi tra cui un minorenne con ferite da torture infette"), the story -- and no health official in Italy -- did not link their conditions to the coronavirus.

In a January 2020 article, headlined "Migrants: 700% more departures from Libya in comparison to January 2019", Leggilo.org falsely claimed that Italy's minister of Home Affairs, Luciana Lamorgese, had encouraged Libyan migration into Italy. The article said that Lamorgese "reiterated several times that, in her opinion, the Libyan centers should be closed and that, indeed, departures to the Italian coasts should be encouraged" ("Il Ministro dell'Interno Luciana Lamorgese, tuttavia, si è sempre mostrata scettica

verso il Memorandum con la Libia. Infatti ha ribadito più volte che, a suo parere, i centri libici dovrebbero essere chiusi e che, anzi, bisognerebbe incentivare le partenze verso le coste italiane”).

Lamorgese has not been quoted by any other media as saying the statements attributed to her by Leggilo. In a November 2019 speech to the Italian Parliament, Lamorgese described the need for a “humanitarian operational plan” to “improve the conditions of the centers” for migrants, and to one day make plans to create new migration centers. She has not proposed either closing the migration centers in Libya or encouraging the migration from Libya to the Italian coasts.

In a January 2020 article, “Tunisia asks for Salvini's apology for the case of Bologna intercom” (“La Tunisia pretende le scuse di Salvini per la citofonata di Bologna”) misquoted a Tunisian member of parliament, Sami Ben Abdelaali, as saying, “Our immigrants are all good people. That is an honest family and if they have any relatives who are dealing drugs, it is not their fault.” (“I nostri immigrati sono tutti persone per bene. Quella è una famiglia onesta e se hanno qualche parente che spaccia non è colpa loro”). Leggilo.org also cited La Repubblica as the source for the quotation. However, the Repubblica article did not contain this quote, and there is no public record of Abdelaali having said it.

In a January 2020 article, headlined “Mattia Santori [Sardines Movement's leader]: 'I am leftist, I don't pay the check at the restaurant’” (“Mattia Santori: ‘Sono di sinistra, al ristorante non pago’”), the author stated, “As he admitted during an interview at La Stampa, he is now stopped on the street for taking selfies and in some restaurants they do not even make him pay the bill” (“Come lui stesso ha ammesso durante un'intervista rilasciata alla Stampa, ora viene fermato per strada per fare i selfies e, addirittura, in alcuni ristoranti non gli fanno pagare il conto”).

Santori was not quoted in the story, or by any other media, as saying he does not have to pay checks in restaurants.

Because Leggilo.org's stories and headlines often contain inaccurate information that advance the site's right-leaning views, often by misrepresenting politicians' quotes and positions, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not gather and present information responsibly and does not avoid deceptive headlines.

In response to NewsGuard's questions on Leggilo's editorial practices, Armando Del Bello, the site's editor in chief, told NewsGuard in an email that the site primarily relies on news agencies for its reports. "These sources are constantly verified and cross checked," ("Queste fonti sono sottoposte a riscontri incrociati e a verifiche costanti"), he said. Del Bello exchanged emails with NewsGuard in February 2020, but did not answer questions seeking comment on newer content reviewed on the site.

Leggilo.org features an Opinion section for columns. However, articles in other sections on the site also contain opinion, which often advance right-leaning views supporting the League's leader, Matteo Salvini, and criticizing the Democratic Party and the Sardines Movement.

For example, in a February 2020 article published in the Politics section and headlined "The new goal of Prime Minister Conte: to become the political reference point for Catholics" ("Il nuovo obiettivo del premier Conte: diventare il riferimento politico dei Cattolici"), the author commented on Conte's meetings with representatives of the Catholic Church and described him as a person who "aims to invest the role of Anti-Salvini, the one who could lead a great coalition to beat the Center Right" ("Conte, insomma, mira all'investitura del ruolo di Anti-Salvini, colui che potrebbe guidare una grande coalizione a battere il Centrodestra").

In an August 2019 article Leggilo.org denounced Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte's criticism of Salvini, saying "Conte could not and should not have done a speech of the nature of what he said in the Senate".

In a July 2019 article, the author criticized the rescue operations in the Mediterranean Sea that brings migrants on the Italian coasts stating "Let's help migrants where they live" ("Aiutiamo i migranti a casa loro"). And also: "Today, the essence of pseudo-left parties is based on migrants and humanitarian aid, on the rights of the LGBT, on feminism flouted during street demonstrations. But this is not what the world wants" ("Oggi, l'essenza dei partiti di pseudo-sinistra si fonda sui migranti e sugli aiuti umanitari, sui diritti degli Lgtb, sul femminismo sbandierato alle manifestazioni di piazza. Ma non è questo ciò che il mondo richiede").

Leggilo.org's About Us page states that the site is "a page of free and independent opinions, based on the top news stories, without any political or ideological affiliation" ("un pagina di opinioni libere e indipendenti, basate sui principali fatti di cronaca, senza appartenenza politica e ideologica"). However, because the site regularly publishes articles that advance an undisclosed, right-leaning point of view, including as opinionated articles that appear in news sections, NewsGuard has determined that Leggilo.org does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

Del Bello told NewsGuard in 2019, "For the articles in which opinionated content is predominant, we have the Opinion section. A clear separation between news articles and opinion articles need an expansion of our team and a reassessment of the two categories. We are open to considering a different way to manage this." ("Per gli articoli dove l'opinione è il contenuto prevalente abbiamo già da tempo creato l'apposita sezione "Opinioni". Va considerato, in ultimo, che una netta separazione dei due ambiti richiede un implemento del team e un ripensamento complessivo delle categorie. Non abbiamo preclusioni ad una diversa impostazione").

Although Leggilo.org states on its website that it runs corrections as a note at the bottom of articles, and created a Corrections (Rettifiche) page in 2019, NewsGuard could not find examples of corrected

articles on the site. Asked by NewsGuard to provide examples, Del Bello sent articles that had been updated, but not corrected.

An editor's note attached to the end of articles invites users to report errors by writing to a specific email address. Some stories include the note, "Fact Checking Verification." Users who click on that link are directed to a search engine that has other articles on the story's topic.

Transparency

Leggilo.org discloses it is owned by Planet Share Srl on a Disclaimer page that appears at the top of the website.

The site identifies its editor in chief and its content creators on a Contacts and Staff (Contatti e Redazione) page, and provides their email addresses.

However, articles generally do not include bylines and the site does not provide biographical information for its content creators, which is why the website does not meet NewsGuard's standard for providing information about content creators.

Following an exchange of emails with NewsGuard in February 2020, Del Bello did not answer questions about the site's lack of information about content creators.

The site publishes a general email address to get in contact with the newsroom, and another email for readers to express alternate opinions to columns.

Advertising is distinguished from editorial content.

History

Leggilo.org was registered in 2015, the same year that the company Planet Share Srl was registered in Rome.

In May 2019, the Avaaz nonprofit organization identified Leggilo.org as one of several sites whose content was shared in a coordinated and "inauthentic" way on 13 Italian Facebook pages with a combined 14 million followers. Some of the pages, such as "I valori della vita," represented themselves as lifestyle brands,

although they shared political content from Leggilo.org. Facebook removed some of the pages ahead of the May 2019 European elections.

Editor's Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on Feb. 19, 2020, with new examples of content. Its rating has changed to reflect NewsGuard's determination that, contrary to an earlier version of the label, Leggilo.org does not meet NewsGuard's standard for avoiding deceptive headlines, or for providing information about content creators. The criteria checklist has been adjusted accordingly.

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Send feedback to NewsGuard: [Click Here](#)

Sources

Ownership and
Financing

<https://www.leggilo.org>
<https://www.leggilo.org/disclaimer/>
https://domainbigdata.com/nj/j9YtmogiSwZ6_HeHYWHJe6AbUZjKgeOuZcuryslgb80

Content

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Credibility

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Transparency

<https://www.leggilo.org>
<https://www.leggilo.org/disclaimer/>
<https://www.leggilo.org/contact/contatti-e-redazione/>
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History

<https://domainbigdata.com/leggilo.org>