

voxnews.info

An Italian website that regularly publishes unsubstantiated claims to back anti-immigrant views.

Ownership and Financing

VoxNews.info does not disclose its ownership. However, Italian fact-checking sites Bufale.net and Davidpunte.it have reported that the site is owned by IdentiMedia, a company owned by anti-immigration blogger Giovanni Tognoli. VoxNews.info also shares Facebook advertising codes with tuttiicriminidegliimmigrati.com, an anti-immigration website that is owned by Tognoli.

The website has no affiliation with left-leaning U.S. news site Vox or its parent company, Vox Media.

Content

VoxNews.info covers national and European news, but its coverage focuses on issues relating to migration in Italy. Stories negatively portray immigrants, often associating them with crime, or discuss policies on illegal immigration. The site sorts its content into categories by Italian cities, and also keywords such as Immigrants' Crimes (Crimini Immigrati), Invasion (Invasione), Breaking News, and Environment.

Typical headlines on the site include "Migrant robs old woman and then challenges everyone: 'They don't arrest me anyway'" ("Migrante deruba anziana e poi sfida tutti: 'Tanto non mi arrestano'"); "Government idea, the 'Soros amnesty' for 700,000 illegal immigrants" ("Idea governo, la 'sanatoria Soros' per 700mila clandestini"); and "Bergoglio's extermination plan: 'the mixed race to create a new and better people'" ("Il piano di sterminio di Bergoglio: 'il meticciano per creare un popolo nuovo e migliore'").

Credibility

VoxNews.info does not appear to produce originally reported content. Articles are often based on the reporting of other sites, such as the Russian government-owned websites Sputnik and RT, which



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic standards of credibility and transparency.

Score: 29.5/100

- ✓ 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.](#)

NewsGuard has determined to have repeatedly published false content. Other articles do not attribute information to sources.

The site has repeatedly published unsubstantiated and misleading claims. For example, a January 2020 article about the Wuhan coronavirus outbreak, headlined "Coronavirus: biological weapon leaked from a laboratory?" ("Coronavirus, arma biologica sfuggita da laboratorio?"), suggested that a laboratory run by the Chinese government may have been the source of the outbreak. "In fact, there could be an 'accident' in a biological weapons laboratory located in Wuhan, China" ("Infatti, potrebbe esserci un 'incidente' in un laboratorio di armi biologiche che si troverebbe proprio a Wuhan, in Cina"), the article said.

Another VoxNews.info article cited a report by The Washington Times in the U.S., which quoted a former Israeli military intelligence officer as saying "that there is a laboratory in Wuhan linked to Beijing's secret chemical weapons program."

While the Washington Times accurately quoted the official, and while it is true that a lab at the Wuhan Institute of Virology works with dangerous pathogens, there is no evidence backing the suggestion that the new strain of coronavirus came from that lab. A February 2020 report by the World Health Organization concluded that "increasing evidence demonstrates the link between the 2019-nCoV and other similar known coronaviruses (CoV) circulating in bats." A study published the same month in Nature found that the virus is "96% identical at the whole- genome level to a bat coronavirus."

In an unsigned February 2020 email to NewsGuard, the website said of the coronavirus story, "In none of our articles have we stated with certainty that the Covid-19 had an artificial nature. On the contrary, we say that there is a very high possibility (the certainty obviously does not exist) that it is a 'natural' event" ("In nessun nostro articolo si afferma con certezza per il Covid-19 una natura artificiale. Anzi, si afferma piuttosto l'altissima probabilità (la certezza ovviamente non esiste) che sia un evento 'naturale'").

VoxNews.Info has also published several false and misleading claims about immigration. For example, a May 2019 article titled "Pd celebrates ethnic substitution: 'in 2020 there will be more children of immigrants than children of Italians'" ("Pd celebra sostituzione etnica: 'nel 2020 ci saranno più figli di immigrati che figli di italiani'") falsely stated that the Italian Democratic Party supports "ethnic substitution" policies that would replace Italians and Europeans with Africans. The story quoted a party representative, Emanuele Rosteghin, who spoke about children of immigrants outnumbering children of Italians in the Venice area by 2020, but he did not speak about Italy as a whole and said nothing about "ethnic substitution."

A January 2018 article, "Gentiloni and the Kalergi Plan: 'Europe is aging, it needs Africans'" ("Gentiloni e il Piano Kalergi: 'Europa invecchia, ha bisogno di africani'"), claimed that former Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni wanted to substitute Italians with Africans. To back this claim, the headline and article misquoted a January 2018 speech by Gentiloni, who said that a "regulated" increase in migration would be helpful "in a Europe that is aging." However, Gentiloni never said that Europe "needs Africans" and never endorsed a policy of ethnic substitution, as the article stated he did.

The story also says that the Democratic Party supports the "Kalergi Plan" (Piano Kalergi), named after Richard von Coudenhove-Kalergi, a 1920s politician who advocated for European integration. The conspiracy theory, which has been in circulation since the 1970s, says that Kalergi launched a secret plan to move Africans to Europe, which would lead to white genocide.

No political party in Italy has proposed any policy that contains any reference to the "Kalergi Plan" or aims to substitute Italian citizens with Africans.

In April 2019, an article titled "Thousands of Italian children without food at school, to pay for the freeloaders" ("Migliaia di bimbi italiani senza mensa, per pagarla agli scrocconi"), claimed that students

from lower-income Italian families can not have free food at school because funds have been diverted to pay for migrants' children. The story linked to a report from Lodi, Italy, where a mayor had tightened restrictions on lunch subsidies for foreign-born children, denying those children free lunch. In fact, no lower-income children from Italy lost the lunch subsidy under the program.

Some articles make claims without sources or evidence. A September 2018 article claimed that the Nigerian Mafia "is arming asylum seekers, forming a real army thanks to migrants transported to Italy" ("sta armando i richiedenti asilo, formandosi un vero e proprio esercito grazie ai migranti traghettati in Italia"). The VoxNews.info article did not attribute this claim to a source. And while multiple organizations, including German intelligence agency BND and Italian research institute Eurispes, have reported on instances of human trafficking by the Nigerian Mafia, none has reported that the group is "arming asylum seekers."

In an unsigned February 2020 email to NewsGuard, VoxNews.info denied that its website has ever referred to the Kalergi plan, contradicting articles reviewed by NewsGuard. The website defended its descriptions of the Great Replacement theory, saying, "it is a rather evident phenomenon from data."

VoxNews.info features a "Fact Checking" logo on its homepage and in many of its articles, and tells users that the site provides links to outside sources to confirm the accuracy of its content. However, the website often links to sites that NewsGuard has found to have repeatedly published false content. For example, a January 2018 article titled "Merkel militarized the internet, informers-spies will denounce citizens" ("Merkel militarizza internet, informatori-spie denunceranno cittadini") links to an InfoWars.com article, asserting that a German hate speech law is "a Nazi-style censorship law." In fact, the law, called the German Network Enforcement Act, establishes that social media sites must remove posts containing what the law considers "illegal content," such as hate speech or threats of violence.

The site has also presented its articles as fact-checked by linking to stories that do not support the claims made by VoxNews.info. For example, a VoxNews.info story that referred to Gentiloni, the former prime minister, and his support of the “Kalergi” conspiracy, linked to an article by the Italian news agency ANSA, which did not mention the Kalergi plan.

Because VoxNews.info has published articles and headlines promoting unsubstantiated claims and conspiracy theories about immigration, NewsGuard has determined that the site fails to gather and present information responsibly and fails to avoid deceptive headlines.

The site does not articulate a corrections policy and NewsGuard could not find any examples of corrected articles on the site.

VoxNews does not label articles as opinion or disclose an overall perspective, although most of the site’s content consists of opinionated articles opposing immigration. For example, a June 2019 article titled “Muslims invade the Italian squares for the end of the Ramadan - video shock” (“Islamici invadono le piazze italiane per la fine del ramadan – video choc”) claims that Italy is going to become an Islamic nation if “we do not stop what is a genuine ‘peaceful’ invasion” (“non fermiamo quella che è una vera e propria invasione ‘pacifica”). Another June 2019 article, “30% of young people are unemployed, and they say we need immigrants!” (“Il 30% dei giovani italiani è disoccupato: ma dicono che servono immigrati!”) asserts that immigrants are “plundering” Italy.

Because VoxNews.info’s articles contain unlabeled opinion, mostly to support an undisclosed anti-immigration perspective, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

Except for its responses regarding a coronavirus story and coverage of the Great Replacement theory and Kalergi plan, VoxNews.info did not answer

NewsGuard's questions in 2020 about its editorial standards, its approach to corrections, and its use of opinion in news stories.

Transparency

VoxNews.info's ownership by Giovanni Tognoli and Identimedia is not listed on the site.

The site does not provide information about its editorial leadership. VoxNews.info does not have a Contact page, but does provide a general email address.

Articles published on VoxNews.info are generally credited to "VOX" and do not identify authors. The site does not provide a staff directory with information about its content creators.

In a February 2020 email, the website did not answer NewsGuard's questions about the website's lack of disclosure of its owners, editors, and content creators. The website did not previously respond to four emails sent to the website and one message to its Facebook page.

A January 2020 review of the site found that VoxNews.info did not publish advertising or sponsored content.

History

VoxNews.info was registered in 2012. In 2016, Facebook removed the site's Facebook page for violating the social media platform's policy on hate speech.

Corrections: An earlier version of this Nutrition Label misstated the publication date of a Voxnews.info article on a school lunch program for Italian children. The article was published in April 2019. An earlier version of this label also misquoted the Italian-language version of a June 2019 headline. The correct headline is "Il 30% dei giovani italiani è disoccupato: ma dicono che servono immigrati!". An earlier version of this Nutrition Label erroneously stated that the website's domain was registered in 2014. It was registered in 2012. NewsGuard apologizes for the errors.

Editor's Note: This Nutrition Label was last updated on March 2, 2020, with additional comment from the website. This Nutrition Label was updated in January 2020 to reflect NewsGuard's determination that the website's advertising criterion is not applicable to its rating, since it does not run advertisements.

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

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Ownership and
Financing

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Credibility

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History

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