

pandoratv.it

A video-oriented conservative site that has published false claims, conspiracy theories, and pro-Russia propaganda.



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

Score: 17.5/100

Ownership and Financing

PandoraTV.it is owned by Canale Zero, a nonprofit association founded in 2014 by Giulietto Chiesa, a high-profile former Moscow correspondent for national newspapers L'Unità and La Stampa.

The site runs advertisements and solicits donations from readers.

✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22 points)

✗ Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)

✗ Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)

Content

According to PandoraTV.it's mission statement, the site is an "independent information platform" to "explain the crisis (such as wars and natural disasters), unveil the background obscured by the mainstream media and give voice to Italians marginalized by the communication market." ("Spiegare la crisi, svelare retroscena oscurati dai media mainstream e dare voce agli italiani emarginati dal mercato della comunicazione").

Content sections include News, Editorials & Opinions (Editoriali & Opinioni), and Documentary & Special content (Documentari & Speciali). Pandora also has approximately 30 sub-sections, including 9/11 Global Deception (9/11 Inganno Globale), Stay Human (Restiamo umani), No Comment, and The point (Il punto). PandoraTV.it also produces a daily newscast.

PandoraTV.it's homepage links to a live stream of RT, a Russian state-owned outlet that runs Russian disinformation and propaganda. On a Team page, the site says that it offers "exclusive images of the RT / RUPTLY network" for Italy.

Typical text articles and videos have run under headlines including "Covid19 At war without ammunition" ("Covid19 In guerra senza munizioni"); "Pandemic Bonds: history of ordinary corruption" ("Pandemic Bonds: storia di ordinaria corruzione"); and "It is now a fire" ("Ormai è incendio").

✗ 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.](#)

Credibility

PandoraTV.it regularly publishes stories that promote discredited conspiracy theories and unproven medical and scientific claims, including about the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a February 2020 video titled “#Covid19 - Stunning coincidences” (“#Covid19 – Sbalorditive coincidenze”), PandoraTV.it stated that “the coronavirus epidemic was absolutely likely planned and that the most likely suspect would be the United States” (“l’ipotesi che l’epidemia di coronavirus sia un evento intenzionale è assolutamente verosimile e che il sospettato numero uno sarebbero gli Stati Uniti”). The video also called the coronavirus a “biological weapon” that was deployed by U.S. against China.

Several news outlets and the U.S. fact-checking website PolitiFact have reported that there is no evidence that the virus originated in a lab. A February 2020 report by the World Health Organization said, “increasing evidence demonstrates the link between the 2019-nCoV [Wuhan coronavirus] 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.” Rutgers University chemical biology professor Richard Ebright told the Washington Post that “based on the virus genome and properties there is no indication whatsoever that it was an engineered virus.”

PandoraTV.it published at least 10 videos in 2018 and 2019 that claimed that 5G cellular telephone technology can cause cancer. A February 2020 video, titled “5G great threat episode 11: 5G Electrosmog” (“5G grande minaccia p.11: Elettrosmog 5G”) claimed that 5G technology “not only causes cancer but involves the whole body, even DNA.” (“Non provoca solo il cancro ma coinvolge tutto il corpo, anche il DNA”).

Another video published in March 2020, titled “5G great threat: ‘STOP 5G here’s why...,’” stated that “5G will be a long-term health catastrophe for everything that lives, not only for men” (“il 5G sarà una catastrofe sanitaria di lungo periodo per tutto ciò che vive, non solo per gli uomini [...] Noi stiamo distruggendo gli uomini”).

Multiple studies have not found that cell phone exposure causes cancer. The U.S. National Cancer Institute states on its website that “no consistent evidence for an association between any source of non-ionizing EMF and cancer has been found.” (Non-ionizing EMF is the type of electromagnetic radiation used by the 5G network.)

PandoraTV.it has repeatedly advanced the narrative of the Russian government that Syrian government forces under Russia-backed President Bashar al-Assad did not engage in a chemical attack against the country's citizens in April 2018.

For example, a February 2018 video titled "Syria: Fake news on chemical weapons to protect cutthroats" ("Siria: Le fake news sulle armi chimiche per proteggere i tagliagole") stated that there is no basis to blame the Syrian government for the attack. As evidence, Pandora quoted an RT interview with Jim Jatras, a former policy analyst for the U.S. Senate Republican leadership, in which Jatras said that the chemical attack was orchestrated "by terrorist groups."

PandoraTV.it's claims about the chemical attack contradict a large body of evidence assembled since the attack by, among others, the Syrian civil defense group White Helmets, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and the Syrian-American Medical Society. Multiple press reports, including by the BBC and The New York Times, have pointed to evidence linking chemical attacks to the Syrian government.

Because PandoraTV.it frequently publishes false claims and Russian misinformation, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content, does not gather and present information responsibly, and fails to avoid deceptive headlines.

PandoraTV.it, which does not acknowledge a political or ideological orientation, has a dedicated section for opinion. However, the site regularly includes commentary in news stories.

For example, a March 2020 newscast labeled as news and titled "It's a pandemic" ("È pandemia") stated that "once the coronavirus is over, this government will have to leave because it is unfit" ("una volta finito il coronavirus questo governo se ne dovrà andare perché non è capace di fare").

Another March 2020 newscast labeled as news, headlined "On the thread of global contagion" ("Sul filo del contagio globale"), stated that after the coronavirus pandemic, Italy must create "a fairer, more equitable system where everyone can draw without plundering the pristine riches of the planet that hosts us." ("ricostruire qualcosa, ma sarà il caso di pensare a un sistema più giusto, più equo dove tutti potranno attingere senza depredate alle ricchezze incontaminate del pianeta che ci ospita").

Because PandoraTV.it runs opinionated content outside its opinion section, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

PandoraTV.it does not articulate a corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find corrections on the site.

NewsGuard sent two messages to the site's editor-in-chief, inquiring about the site's publication of false information, its mixing of opinion and news, and its corrections practices, but did not receive a response.

Transparency

PandoraTV.it does not disclose its ownership.

A Newsroom page identifies the site's editor-in-chief and reporters, along with brief biographies. The Contact (Contatti) page lists three email addresses to reach the newsroom. The name of the editor-in-chief is listed at the bottom of every page.

PandoraTV.it generally credits stories to the writer.

Advertisements and sponsored content are distinguished from editorial content.

NewsGuard sent two emails to the site's editor-in-chief asking about the site's lack of information about its ownership but did not receive a response.

History

PandoraTV.it was founded in 2014 by Giulietto Chiesa and a small group of journalists and entrepreneurs.

Written by: [Angelo Paura](#)

Edited by: [Jim Warren](#), [Eric Efron](#), [Virginia Padovese](#), [Giampiero Gramaglia](#)

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

Sources

Ownership and Financing

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Content

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Credibility

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Transparency

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History

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