

databaseltalia.it

A news and information site that has published false content on the 2020 coronavirus outbreak and other topics. The site also shares QAnon conspiracy theories.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

Score: 7.5/100

Ownership and Financing

DataBaseltalia.it does not disclose its ownership. The domain was registered in June 2020 by Davide Donateo, who also writes articles for the site.

DataBaseltalia.it derives revenues from advertising.

Content

On its Facebook page, DataBaseltalia.it describes itself as “Italian content for independent information” (“Contenuti Italiani per l’informazione indipendente”).

Content on the site is organized in sections including Politics (Politica), Economy (Economia), Health (Salute), and Science and Technology (Scienza e Tecnologia). The site also has dedicated pages titled Q_Anon, Intel, and Paedophilia (Pedofilia).

Typical headlines have included “The real pandemic: we lost 500 thousand jobs in three months” (“La vera pandemia, persi 500mila posti di lavoro in tre mesi”); “Trump: No national obligation to use the mask” (“Trump: No all’obbligo nazionale per l’uso della mascherina”); and “The ‘Deep State’ united at Lewis’ funeral. Trump will not participate” (“Il ‘Deep State’ riunito ai funerali di Lewis. Trump non parteciperà”).

Credibility

Articles on DataBaseltalia.it often contain false and unproven claims, including QAnon conspiracy theories and false and misleading information about the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, a July 2020 article headlined “Dr. Massimo Citro: ‘We live the greatest farce in history. I’ll explain what to do’” (“Dott. Massimo Citro: ‘Viviamo la più grande farsa della storia. Vi spiego cosa fare’”) contains a video interview with a medical doctor named Massimo Citro commenting on the COVID-19 pandemic. In the interview Citro stated that “there are some very simple natural substances that prevent the virus, such as vitamin C” (“ci sono alcune sostanze naturali semplicissime che da sempre prevengono il virus, come la vitamina C”). Commenting on Citro’s

- ✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)
- ✗ 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.](#)

statements, the author of the article stated: “Finally, perhaps for the first time ever, we heard words of common sense and hope. A lucid explanation and some important advice” (“Finalmente, forse per la prima volta ascoltiamo parole di buon senso e di speranza. Una spiegazione lucida e dei consigli importanti”).

In fact, there is no evidence that vitamin C can prevent COVID-19, according to numerous studies and authorities, including the Italian Ministry of Health and FNOMCeO, the Italian Medical Association.

In a July 2020 article about a possible vaccine against COVID-19, DataBasaltalia.it claimed that Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates said that a widespread vaccination program would result in 700,000 people experiencing “permanent damage.” (“Gates afferma che per ogni 10.000 persone si verificherebbe un danno da vaccinazione permanente e si aspetta 700.000 danneggiati”).

The article cited an April 9, 2020, interview of Gates on CNBC. However, as the fact-checking organization PolitiFact reported, in the interview, Gates was speaking about how many people might experience side effects from a yet-to-be-developed coronavirus vaccine. Gates never mentioned “permanent damage” related to vaccination.

In a May 2020 article headlined “Use masks? It's dangerous. Here's why” (“Usare le mascherine? È pericoloso. Ecco perché”), the site promoted Italian scientist Stefano Montanari's claims that wearing a mask to prevent COVID-19 is dangerous. Montanari stated that when a person wears a mask, “your blood goes into hypercapnia, it means that you have an excess of carbon dioxide, and you bring to your cells their own waste. When you have hypercapnia, it turns into acidosis, your body becomes more acidic than necessary, the pH lowers. The more acidic the organism, the easier you are to get diseases” (“Il tuo sangue va in ipercapnia, vuol dire che hai un eccesso di anidride carbonica, porti alle tue cellule il loro scarto... Quando sei in ipercapnia, vai anche in acidosi, il tuo organismo diventa più acido del dovuto, il ph si abbassa... Più è acido l'organismo, più hai facilità ad ospitare malattie”).

There is no evidence that wearing a mask causes hypercapnia. Wearing a face mask does not cut off a person's air supply or cause an accumulation of carbon dioxide, as illustrated by health care workers who regularly wear face masks for long periods of time without experiencing those effects. According to a May 2020 article by health fact-checking website HealthFeedback.org, even surgical and N95 masks used by health care workers are porous enough to allow gas molecules such as carbon dioxide and oxygen to pass through, while limiting exposure to the respiratory droplets that could spread the COVID-19 virus.

The site also regularly publishes QAnon conspiracy theories.

For example, in a July 2020 article headlined "Q-Anon, the duty of seriousness" ("Q-Anon, il dovere della serietà") the author stated: "We all know that the trials related to Pizzagate and [the late alleged sex offender Jeffrey] Epstein are still ongoing and will affect all the visitors to the island of pedophiles, as the venue of those meetings has been renamed, and that therefore, all the visitors such as Hollywood stars and politicians from all over the world, as well as financiers and fake philanthropists today famous for vaccination strategies to be imposed on the world, will come to trial and be judged for their faults." ("Ognuno di noi sa che i processi legati al Pizzagate o il famigerato caso Epstein sono tutt'ora in corso e colpiranno tutti i frequentatori dell'isola dei pedofili come è stata rinominata la sede dei suddetti incontri e che quindi tutti i frequentatori, divi di Hollywood e politici di tutto il mondo nonché finanzieri e finti filantropi oggi famosi per strategie vaccinali da imporre al mondo, arriveranno a processo e saranno giudicati per le loro colpe.")

Citing hacked emails from the Democratic National Committee, proponents of the Pizzagate conspiracy theory claim that references to pizza and the Comet Ping Pong pizzeria in the emails were actually coded descriptions of a child sex ring. Numerous fact-checking organizations and police in the District of Columbia have said there is no truth to the claims, which first gained traction before the 2016 U.S. presidential election through posts on forums such as 4Chan. Moreover, contrary to the article's claim, there are no "ongoing" trials related to Pizzagate.

Because DataBaseltalia.it regularly publishes false and unsubstantiated claims, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content, does not gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid deceptive headlines.

The site does not disclose an agenda or political perspective. Some opinionated articles are labeled as Editorials (Editoriali). However, the site frequently publishes opinionated content that is not labeled as such.

For example, in a July 2020 article labeled “Health” and headlined “Induced psychological terrorism, serious responsibility of media and the government” (“Terrorismo psicologico indotto, grave responsabilità dei Media e del governo”) the author stated: “Thanks Rai, Mediaset, Barbara D’Urso, CNN, New York Times, Washington Post, etc. for your contribution to the destruction not only of Italy and the United States, but of the whole western civilization” (“Grazie, Rai, Mediaset, Barbara D’Urso, CNN, New York Times, Washington Post, etc. per il vostro contributo alla distruzione non solo dell’Italia e degli Stati Uniti, ma della civiltà occidentale”).

An August 2020 article labeled “Politics” and “Society” and titled “The Constitution and Freedom Committee was born on 2 August. Let's start with the anti-coup referendum!” (“Nasce il 2 Agosto il Comitato Costituzione e Libertà. Partiamo con i referendum anti-golpe!”), urged readers to support a referendum “to repeal the possibility of the government to declare a national emergency” (“abrogare la possibilità per il governo di dichiarare lo stato di emergenza nazionale”).

According to the article: “The last nine years have shown that the Constitution, fundamental rights and political rights, and the independence of Italy, are constantly in danger. It is necessary to prevent the repetition of coups d'etat such as those implemented in 2011 at the request of the European Central Bank and Angela Merkel, and subsequently by Prime Minister Conte in 2020 through the unjustified declaration and the improper use of the state of emergency.” (“Gli ultimi nove anni hanno mostrato che la Costituzione, i diritti fondamentali, e quelli politici, l’indipendenza dell’Italia, sono costantemente in pericolo. Occorre prevenire il ripetersi di colpi di Stato come quelli attuati dal Quirinale nel 2011 su richiesta della BCE e di Angela

Merkel, e successivamente dal premier Conte nel 2020 attraverso la dichiarazione ingiustificata e l'uso improprio dello stato di emergenza”).

Because DataBaseltalia.it regularly includes opinion in articles presented as news, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

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

In August 2020, Davide Donateo, the site's manager, told NewsGuard in an email that he would reply to NewsGuard's requests for comments about the articles cited above and the site's approach to opinion and corrections. NewsGuard has not yet received his response.

Transparency

DataBaseltalia.it does not provide information on its ownership or editorial leadership.

Some articles include bylines, but DataBaseltalia.it does not provide contact or biographical information for all its authors.

Advertisements are distinguished from editorial content.

In August 2020, Donateo told NewsGuard in an email that he would reply to NewsGuard's requests for comments about the lack of disclosure regarding the site's ownership, editorial leadership, and content creators. NewsGuard has not yet received his response..

History

The domain was registered in June 2020.

Written by: [Virginia Padovese](#)

Edited by: [Eric Efron](#), [Giampiero Gramaglia](#)

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

Sources

Ownership and Financing

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Content

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History

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