

# dagospia.com

A website founded by commentator and journalist Roberto D'Agostino that covers gossip, celebrities, and politics. The site mixes news with opinion and has published false and misleading information.



**Proceed with caution: This website fails to adhere to several basic journalistic standards.**

**Score: 54.5/100**

## Ownership and Financing

Dagospia.com was founded by Roberto D'Agostino, a TV commentator and journalist who is also its editor in chief. D'Agostino owns the site through his private holding company Dagospia Spa.

D'Agostino presents a weekly TV show called "Dago in the Sky," which appears on Sky Arte, a channel of satellite TV network Sky. He is frequently interviewed on Italian talk shows and news programs.

The site earns revenue through advertising.

## Content

Dagospia.com publishes articles, photos, and videos — often taken from other websites — covering celebrity gossip, sports, politics, and business. The site features sections for Media and TV (Media e TV), Politics (Politica), Business, News (Cronache), Sports, Travel (Viaggi), and Health (Salute).

When republishing articles, Dagospia usually rewrites the headlines, often using long, attention-grabbing sentences, such as "They infect us and we pay them as well - not only has the European Union funded the notorious Chinese virology institute in Wuhan with over €700,000 to study viruses such as COVID-19, the transmission from bats to humans and possible vaccines, with disastrous results - the joke is that we continue to pay the suspect laboratory with €88,433.75 thanks to the 'EVA-GLOBAL project' started in January 2020, when the Chinese virus had already arrived in Italy..." ("Ci infettano e li paghiamo pure - non solo l'Unione europea ha finanziato con oltre 700mila il famigerato istituto di virologia cinese di Wuhan per studiare virus come il covid 19, la trasmissione dai pipistrelli agli esseri umani e possibili vaccini, con risultati disastrosi - la beffa è che continuiamo a pagare il laboratorio sospetto con 88 mila 433,75 euro grazie a "progetto eva global" partito nel gennaio 2020, quando il virus cinese era già arrivato in italia...").

- ✓ 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.](#)

Dagospia produces some original content, frequently citing anonymous sources or rumors. The site regularly replaces the photos that originally accompanied articles with different images found on the web, often posted without credit.

The name “Dagospia” is a mix of D’Agostino’s nickname (Dago) and the Italian word for spy (spia).

---

#### Credibility

Dagospia generally publishes stories and photos that first appeared in reliable media, including La Repubblica, Il Messaggero, and Il Corriere della Sera. The site typically credits the publication that produced the original article, although photos are not usually credited.

The site has published unsubstantiated claims about the COVID-19 virus.

For example, in a September 2020 article headlined “Coronavirus was created in the laboratory in Wuhan” (“Il coronavirus è stato creato in laboratorio a Wuhan”), the website wrote that the COVID-19 virus “was created in the laboratory in Wuhan,” citing the Chinese virologist Li-Meng Yan claiming that “the Chinese government knew and hid it from the world” (“il governo cinese sapeva e ha nascosto al mondo la minaccia”).

Another March 2020 article, headlined “Has China escaped the coronavirus?” (“Alla Cina è scappato il coronavirus?”), claimed that the virus was created by China in a military lab. The article referred to a 2015 report by the RAI TV network, which claimed at the time that a virus had been created from bats and mice for research purposes in China. “A disturbing video from 2015 by Tgr Leonardo reappears about an experiment by a group of Chinese researchers who ‘grafted a protein taken from bats onto the SARS virus, a super virus emerges that could affect humans by attacking our respiratory cells’ (reminds you of anything?),” the article stated. (“Risposta un inquietante video del 2015 del Tgr Leonardo che parla di un esperimento di un gruppo di ricercatori cinesi, che ‘innestano una proteina presa dai pipistrelli sul virus della Sars. ne esce un super virus che potrebbe colpire l’uomo attaccando le nostre cellule respiratorie’ (vi ricorda qualcosa?)”).

An April 2020 article titled “Are Nobel laureates conspiracy theorists too?” (“Pure i nobel sono complottisti?”) made similar claims that the virus was

created in a Chinese lab, citing French virologist Luc Montagnier.

The claim that the coronavirus was engineered and leaked from a military lab has been debunked by biologists, fact-checkers, and major health organizations. A March 2020 study published in the journal *Nature Medicine* concluded that the virus “is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus.” An earlier study, published in February 2020 in the journal *Nature*, found that the COVID-19 virus is “96% percent identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus.” In an April 2020 statement, the U.S. intelligence community said it “concur[s] with the wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not manmade or genetically modified.”

Although it frequently sources stories from reliable news outlets, Dagospia also often cites stories from unreliable websites, including Russian propaganda outlets RT.com and Sputnik.com and the far-right site InfoWars.com.

For example, In March 2019, Dagospia published an article about the 2017 massacre perpetrated by the Burmese military against the Rohingya ethnic group in Myanmar. The article described the massacre as a “half-hoax” (“mezza bufala”), saying “thanks to this half-hoax, the Burmese Rohingya have become the perfect planetary martyrs without having the requisites” (“Grazie a questa mezza bufala i rohingya birmani sono diventati i martiri planetari per eccellenza senza peraltro averne i requisiti”).

In fact, the Rohingya population has been persecuted in Burma since 2016, and several press and international investigations — including by the United Nations, the BBC, and The Associated Press — have concluded that the Rohingya have been the target of genocide perpetrated by the Burmese military.

In a September 2018 article titled “Fly with Laura! - Alitalia assigns to Boldrini the place of a passenger who had paid the upgrade, pretending he was a disabled person” (“Vola con Laura! - Alitalia assegna alla Boldrini il posto di un passeggero che aveva pagato l'upgrade, fingendo si trattasse di un disabile”), Dagospia re-published a story by local Piedmont news site NewsBiella.it about Laura Boldrini, the former President

of the Chamber of Deputies, claiming that Italy's flagship airline Alitalia had assigned Boldrini a seat designated for another person.

In response, Boldrini and Alitalia both released statements denouncing the article as false. For its part, Alitalia explained that although a technical error that day had caused a man to have his seat assignment canceled, this occurred on a different flight than the one Boldrini was on. NewsBiella.it corrected its story and included Alitalia's statement. Dagospia did not update or correct its article.

Because of Dagospia's use of unreliable sources to publish misleading or unsupported claims and its practice of publishing photos without indicating the source, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not gather and present information responsibly.

Although the site does not have a dedicated section for opinion, it labels opinion articles "dagonota" in the byline. (The word is a combination of D'Agostino's nickname and the Italian word for "note.")

When Dagospia runs news articles drawn from other sites, it typically publishes the articles in their original form but rewrites the headlines, often adding commentary. Because the opinionated headlines often provide a misleading picture of the article, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not avoid deceptive headlines.

For example, in October 2020, the site published a news article from Il Giornale about new Coronavirus restrictions. The headline stated, in part, that "The usual ski-imbeciles - on the first day of ski slopes re-opening, 2,000 people gathered in Cervinia - and since no one gives a s\*\*t, a crowd formed that has rightly pissed everyone off on social media. So like, you close all entertainment, from soccer to swimming to tango, and this horde of people can freely crowd around?" ("I soliti sci-muniti - al primo giorno di aperture delle piste da sci, 2 mila persone in assembramento a Cervinia - e visto che nessuno rinuncia a un cazzo, si è formata una calca che ha fatto, giustamente, incazzare tutti sui social. Per la serie: ma come, ci chiudete ogni svago, dal calcetto al nuoto fino al tango, e questa orda di gente può liberamente accalcarsi?").

In May 2019, the site published a news article from *Il Sole 24 Ore* about the struggles of the middle class. The site's headline expressed an opinion about a controversy related to the Book Fair of Turin (which was not mentioned in the news article) over whether the book fair should allow a far-right publisher to participate. According to the headline: "While page and page of newspapers are dedicated to a neo-fascist micro-stand at the Book Fair, in Italy the middle class lost 10% of their income in 10 years." ("Mentre paginate di giornali sono dedicate a un micro-stand neofascista al Salone del libro (che ringrazia), in Italia la classe media ha perso il 10% del reddito in 10 anni").

Dagospia typically corrects errors in standalone articles that explain the errors and how they were corrected.

When NewsGuard reached D'Agostino by phone, seeking comment on its editorial standards, including its sourcing practices and headlines, he requested that NewsGuard email its questions. In response to NewsGuard's subsequent email request for comment, he stated "I would prefer not to, thanks" ("Preferirei di no, grazie").

---

#### Transparency

Dagospia.com does not list the members of its editorial staff, nor does it identify D'Agostino as its owner and editor-in-chief.

Most articles on the site include the name of the writer, but the site does not provide contact or biographical information for the writers of its original content or of the content it republishes from other media outlets. The site directs users to a general email address for the newsroom through an envelope icon at the top of the homepage and the bottom of every page.

Asked about the site's editorial practices, D'Agostino declined to comment.

Advertising is clearly distinguished from editorial content.

---

#### History

Roberto D'Agostino launched Dagospia in 2000 as a content aggregator. In a 2008 interview with *La Stampa*, D'Agostino said the idea for the site came from Barbara Palombelli, an Italian journalist and TV anchor, who suggested he open a site to vent and write about whatever he liked.

*Editor's Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on Nov. 12, 2020.*

**Written by:** [Angelo Paura](#)

**Edited by:** [Sarah Brandt](#), [Eric Efron](#), [Giampiero Gramaglia](#), [Virginia Padovese](#)

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

## Sources

---

Ownership and Financing

[http://www.hoovers.com/company-information/cs/company-profile/dagospia\\_spa.5cb0dadf62388d9e.html](http://www.hoovers.com/company-information/cs/company-profile/dagospia_spa.5cb0dadf62388d9e.html)  
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/DagospiaUfficiale/about>

Content

<http://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-3/politica/bomba-flash-altro-che-tav-dossier-39-39-via-198276.htm>  
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=407533643390279>  
<http://m.dagospia.com/sputnik-e-la-propaganda-anti-migranti-ecco-come-l-agenzia-di-stampa-russa-influenza-il-dibattito-193732>  
<http://m.dagospia.com/vi-ricordate-la-tifosa-sexy-sugli-spalti-di-russia-arabia-saudita-si-chiama-natalya-ed-e-una-176771>  
<http://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-3/politica/america-fatta-maglie-trump-dichiara-guerra-google-che-censura-181744.htm>  
<http://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-3/politica/papa-rsquo-stelle-ndash-dopo-maio-battista-ora-tocca-198286.htm>  
<http://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-3/politica/bomba-flash-altro-che-tav-dossier-39-39-via-198276.htm>  
<https://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-29/cronache/ci-infettano-li-paghiamo-pure-non-solo-39-unione-europea-ha-250776.htm>  
<https://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-39/salute/pure-nobel-sono-complottisti-39-39-virus-uscito-233713.htm>  
<https://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-29/cronache/cina-nbsp-scappato-virus-ndash-risputa-vecchio-ed-231225.htm>

Credibility

<http://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-3/politica/america-fatta-maglie-trump-dichiara-guerra-google-che-censura-181744.htm>  
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=407533643390279>  
<http://m.dagospia.com/vi-ricordate-la-tifosa-sexy-sugli-spalti-di-russia-arabia-saudita-si-chiama-natalya-ed-e-una-176771>

<http://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-29/cronache/primo-miracolo-2019-bimbo-11-mesi-stato-estratto-191758.htm>

<http://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-3/politica/dietro-video-fake-dijsselbloem-39-giulietto-putiniano-187020.htm>

<http://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-3/politica/maduro-morire-ndash-dittatore-venezuelano-si-fa-intervistare-194242.htm>

<http://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-3/politica/ricoperti-sputnik-ndash-rsquo-agenzia-stampa-russa-molto-193732.htm>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/06/opinion/italys-open-literary-secret.html>

<http://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-29/cronache/rohingya-lsquo-sta-minghia-lettore-scrive-dagospia-ldquo-198043.htm>

<http://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-3/politica/avete-rotto-cazzo-39-emergenza-fake-news-ora-arriva-39-new-161631.htm>

<http://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-3/politica/come-mai-uscito-solo-ora-documento-maio-casaleggio-capi-198283.htm>

<http://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-29/cronache/siete-partenza-miami-allora-dovete-sapere-che-questo-momento-198434.htm>

<http://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-29/cronache/te-do-io-rsquo-occidente-ndash-vercelli-marocchino-50-anni-198416.htm>

<http://news.trust.org//item/20130429162404-xzcrk/>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-23311414>

<https://www.lastampa.it/2019/03/15/vercelli/aggre-disce-la-figlia-e-cerca-di-investirla-vuole-vivere-allitaliana-PwRJ6M6OdpW7C3o6BECpTN/pagina.html>

<http://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-29/cronache/greta-gretini-ndash-chi-rsquo-dietro-ragazzina-superstar-198422.htm>

<https://www.politico.eu/article/greta-thunberg-teen-climate-icon-used-for-fundraising-without-her-knowledge/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/18/climate/greta-thunburg.html>

<http://feedytv.com/16-photos-unusual-human-body-parts-makes-people-extremely-shocked.html>

<http://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-29/cronache/siamo-fatti-anche-cosi-ndash-rsquo-chi-ha-occhio-198383.htm>

<http://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-3/politica/virginia-balla-coi-lupi-m5s-cresce-39-idea-mollare-raggi-198974.htm>

<http://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-29/cronache/pagare-moneta-vedere-mammella-brutte-notizie-pipparoli-tirchi-198946.htm>

<http://www.mantellini.it/2016/03/11/il-foglio-del-lunedì-internet-e-altre-storie/>

<https://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-3/politica/renzi-scarica-minniti-libia-si-auto-investe-39-39-ambasciatore-198972.htm>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7NzVIVWcdX4&list=PLyhLMpVKJsPtF5jpM\\_oFwhxfs\\_o6iwx5T8&index=3](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7NzVIVWcdX4&list=PLyhLMpVKJsPtF5jpM_oFwhxfs_o6iwx5T8&index=3)

<https://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-3/politica/oggi-arrivano-nuovi-50-euro-colpo-falsari-maddech-ricambio-145145.htm>

<https://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-3/politica/macron-sputa-piatto-dove-ha-mangiato-vuole-chiudere-rsquo-ena-202164.htm>

[https://rep.repubblica.it/pwa/generale/2019/04/28/news/macron\\_svolta\\_populista\\_chiude\\_la\\_scuola\\_dell\\_e\\_lite\\_istituzione\\_superata\\_-225051785/](https://rep.repubblica.it/pwa/generale/2019/04/28/news/macron_svolta_populista_chiude_la_scuola_dell_e_lite_istituzione_superata_-225051785/)

[https://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-2/media\\_e\\_tv/fermi-tutti-arriva-rettifica-ex-fidanzata-massimo-boldi-172720.htm](https://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-2/media_e_tv/fermi-tutti-arriva-rettifica-ex-fidanzata-massimo-boldi-172720.htm)

[https://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-2/media\\_e\\_tv/comunicato-cdr-ldquo-fatto-rdquo-conferma-indirettamente-ma-188171.htm](https://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-2/media_e_tv/comunicato-cdr-ldquo-fatto-rdquo-conferma-indirettamente-ma-188171.htm)

[https://www.dagospia.com/mediagallery/Dago\\_fotogallery-133406/649832.htm](https://www.dagospia.com/mediagallery/Dago_fotogallery-133406/649832.htm)

<http://www.ilgiornale.it/news/politica/parola-studioso-sinistra-bufala-spread-silvio-1467228.html>

[https://rep.repubblica.it/pwa/generale/2017/11/24/news/face\\_news\\_e\\_politica\\_scatta\\_l\\_allarme\\_anche\\_in\\_italia-182055637/](https://rep.repubblica.it/pwa/generale/2017/11/24/news/face_news_e_politica_scatta_l_allarme_anche_in_italia-182055637/)

<https://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-3/politica/dagonota-fermi-tutti-39-aumento-iva-non-solo-ci-sara-ma-201247.htm>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/16/technology/net-neutrality-inquiry-comments.html>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/03/will-the-fccs-net-neutrality-rules-hurt-minorities/458559/>

<http://www.newsbiella.it/2018/09/28/leggi-notizia/argomenti/attualita-1/articolo/volo-genova-roma-la-precisazione-di-alitalia-boldrini-ha-viaggiato-in-un-altro-posto.html>

[https://www.repubblica.it/cronaca/2018/09/21/news/aereo\\_alitalia\\_boldrini-207056137/](https://www.repubblica.it/cronaca/2018/09/21/news/aereo_alitalia_boldrini-207056137/)

<https://www.bufale.net/bufala-in-aereo-con-la-boldrini-assegnato-un-posto-gia-pagato-da-altri-in-quanto-disabile/>

<https://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-29/cronache/quot-coronavirus-stato-creato-laboratorio-wuhan-quot-247000.html>

<https://www.dagospia.com/rubrica-29/cronache/soliti-sci-muniti-primo-giorno-aperture-piste-sci-mila-250828.htm>

Feb. 2020 study

[:https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2012-7](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2012-7)

March 2020 study:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-020-0820-9>

<https://fullfact.org/health/coronavirus-government-laboratory/>

<https://www.dni.gov/index.php/newsroom/press-releases/item/2112-intelligence-community-statement-on-origins-of-covid-19>

---

#### Transparency

[http://www.dagospia.com/scrivi\\_dagospia](http://www.dagospia.com/scrivi_dagospia)

<http://www.dagospia.com/privacy>

<https://www.ilpost.it/massimomantellini/2015/02/08/il-male-incurabile-del-digitale-italiano/>

<https://www.ilpost.it/lucasofri/2010/09/23/chi-ispira-dagospia/>

---

#### History

<http://altrimondi.gazzetta.it/2010/05/24/dogoscopia/>

<https://www.ilpost.it/massimomantellini/2015/02/08/il-male-incurabile-del-digitale-italiano/>

<http://www1.lastampa.it/redazione/cmsSezioni/societa/200803articoli/31161girata.asp>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvspqU3WZ0s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vzKzE6b6J4>

<https://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2012/09/07/dagostino-difende-grillo-attacca-marciume-partiti/204546/>

<https://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2018/01/04/fake-news-dagostino-m5s-credulone-anche-elettori-pd-hanno-creduto-alla-boschi-a-renzi-e-alle-loro-promesse/4072710/>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-07-20/flat-chrysler-denies-report-on-meeting-about-ailing-ceo-s-duties>

<https://www.politico.eu/article/roberto-dagostino-dagospias-winning-formula-sex-scandal-and-lots-of-scoops/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2005/02/21/business/worldbusiness/required-reading-italys-big-gossip.html>

<https://www.rivistastudio.com/dago-macchina-del-fango-mah/>

<https://www.vanityfair.it/people/italia/2018/05/22/dagospia-18-anni-intervista-roberto-dagostino-scoop-politica-foto-gossip>

<http://vittoriozincone.it/2016/12/23/roberto-dagostino-sette-dicembre-2016/>