

nikvesti.com

A Ukrainian news site with a focus on the Mykolaiv region in southern Ukraine. NikVesti publishes articles in Russian and Ukrainian.



High Credibility: This website adheres to all nine standards of credibility and transparency.

- ✓ Does not repeatedly publish false or egregiously misleading content 22 points
- ✓ Gathers and presents information responsibly 18
- ✓ Has effective practices for correcting 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

Ownership and Financing

NikVesti is owned by NikVesti Production, a privately held Ukrainian company. NikVesti Production is 90 percent owned by film producer and former politician Oksana Yanishevskya, and 10 percent owned by journalist Oleg Derenyuga. Derenyuga serves as the site's editor-in-chief.

NikVesti Production owns 88 percent of TV Radio Company NikVesti, and Mykolaiv-based billboard advertising company Media Inform Group owns the remaining share. NikVesti Editor-in-Chief Oleg Derenyuga told NewsGuard that NikVesti Production created TV Radio

Company NikVesti in 2017, “when we aimed to develop NikVesti as a TV channel in the future,” but that this plan never came to fruition. TV Radio Company NikVesti is currently inactive, Derenyuga said.

According to Derenyuga, Media Inform Group has also ceased operations since Russia’s invasion in February 2022.

Former politician Oksana Yanishevskaya, the majority owner of NikVesti Production, also co-owns NIS-TV Television and Radio Company (a regional television company in Mykolaiv) along with billboard advertising company Media Inform Group. Derenyuga told NewsGuard that although Yanishevskaya is one of the company’s co-owners, “NikVesti and I have nothing to do with [NIS-TV Television and Radio Company] and work independently.” He noted, however, that NikVesti has on occasion collaborated with NIS-TV Television and Radio Company, and other regional TV channels.

Yanishevskaya was deputy chairman of the Mykolaiv Regional State Administration from 2014 to 2016 and was a member of now-defunct pro-European political party Front for Change.

NikVesti.com generates revenue from advertising and sponsored content.

Content

NikVesti’s editorial guidelines state, “Our mission is to promptly and accurately inform the reader about events in Mykolaiv [city,] the Mykolaiv region, Ukraine and the world.”

The site’s name, NikVesti, is a shortened version of “Nikolaev News.” Nikolaev is the Russian name for Mykolaiv.

Russia occupied part of Ukraine’s southern Mykolaiv region at the start of its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Most of the Russian-occupied territory was recaptured during Ukraine’s November 2022 counteroffensive.

Mykolaiv borders the Russian-occupied Kherson region. The Mykolaiv region, which is predominantly Russian-speaking, has been subjected to regular Russian missile and drone attacks, and it was hit by flooding following the collapse of the Kakhovka Dam in Kherson in June 2023.

NikVesti publishes articles in both Ukrainian and Russian.

NikVesti.com’s About page states that “One of the missions of the publication is to make the processes that take place in government bodies more open and understandable.” The site’s coverage areas include politics, business, finance, technology, and sports.

Typical articles have focused on legislative debates over the allocation of public funds, alleged corruption scandals, and reports on new and proposed legislation. The site often publishes videos of speeches and debates by local officials.

NikVesti notes on the About page that several of its correspondents are officially credentialed by the Ukrainian Armed Forces to cover the military's defense of Ukrainian territory. The site's editorial guidelines note that "respect [for] Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the need for protection from external aggression, are unconditional priorities of the editorial policy."

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, the site has published information about the war provided by government bodies in Mykolaiv and the surrounding area. For example, in June 2023, the site published a fact sheet provided by the Mykolaiv Regional Prosecutor's Office explaining what citizens should do in case of a nuclear incident. (In June 2023, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky claimed that Russia was planning to deliberately cause a radiation leak at the Zaporizhzhia power plant in southern Ukraine. Russia denied the charge.)

NikVesti.com publishes regular updates from the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine about the number of Russian soldiers killed since the start of the war and the tally of Russian equipment destroyed, including helicopters, boats, and tanks. (Ukrainian losses are not listed.)

The site often publishes photo reports by local journalists documenting events in Mykolaiv, such as graduation ceremonies, the local screening of a film about Ukrainian resilience, and efforts to clear mines from Mykolaiv's rivers.

NikVesti has published several short documentary films, covering topics such as pro-Ukrainian and pro-Russian identity in Mykolaiv, and events in the city during Ukraine's 2014 Maidan revolution.

Credibility

NikVesti's articles are typically based on reports by government officials, including the Ukrainian Security Services, the Mykolaiv regional military administration, and Mykolaiv police. NikVesti also often publishes articles based on reporting by reliable international news outlets, such as the BBC, Reuters, and The New York Times. Headlines accurately reflect articles' content.

As referenced above, NikVesti.com's main owner, Oksana Yanishevskaya, was deputy chairman of the Mykolaiv Regional State Administration from 2014 to 2016, for the now-defunct Front for Change party.

NewsGuard found that NikVesti.com has not published articles about Yanishevskaya or the Front for Change party since 2015, and that its political coverage is generally neutral and does not favor a particular party or candidate. Moreover, NikVesti Editor-in-Chief Oleg Derenyuga told NewsGuard in a July 2023 email that Yanishevskaya has not worked for the government since 2016 and “does not participate in Ukrainian politics in any way.”

As noted above, the site discloses its perspective of support for Ukraine’s “independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.” Opinion content is published in a designated section called Blogs. The site indicates that articles in the Blog section are opinion by displaying the writer’s name and photo with the headline. News articles are generally neutral in tone.

The site’s Editorial Guidelines page includes a corrections policy, stating, “If errors are detected, they are corrected in the shortest possible time by the author of the material or the editor ... A note is added to the article - Corrected, Clarified or Supplemented or Updated.”

In its July 2023 review of the site, NewsGuard was unable to find any corrections. However, following NewsGuard’s review, NikVesti.com began publishing transparent corrections to articles. Editor-in-chief Oleg Derenyuga told NewsGuard by email in April 2024, “Immediately after your comment, we updated our work rules and began to properly and appropriately mark changes in the content of news and articles in our media.” NikVesti shared examples of articles with recent corrections in the form of a note at the top of the article that describes the error and how it was corrected, meeting NewsGuard’s standard for correcting mistakes transparently.

Transparency

The About page discloses the site’s ownership by NikVesti Production and states that the company is owned by Oksana Yanishevskaya and Oleg Derenyuga.

The Editorial page lists the names and roles of the editors. The same page provides a general email address, phone number, and mailing address.

Articles are generally attributed to authors and link to profile pages, which include a short biography and the writer’s contact information.

Advertisements are distinguished from editorial content. Sponsored articles are labeled “Advert.”

History

The NikVesti website was registered in April 2009, according to Whois.com.

According to the About page, NikVesti began to broadcast meetings and debates by local Mykolaiv officials in 2019, and in 2020, hosted the first Mykolaiv mayoral debates, which it broadcasted on YouTube.

Site co-founder Yanishevskahas lived as a refugee in Slovakia with her daughter since the war broke out in February 2022, Editor-in-Chief Oleg Derenyuga told NewsGuard.

Editor's Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on May 8, 2024, to reflect NewsGuard's determination that NikVesti.com now meets NewsGuard's standard for regularly issuing corrections. The criteria checklist was adjusted accordingly.

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Sources

Ownership and Financing

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History

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