

The COVID-19 pandemic represented an unprecedented crisis for the European Union, with Italy being the hardest-hit European country. This situation sparked discussions about the EU's response to Italy's requests for assistance. During crises, the media, particularly newspapers, play a crucial role in guiding citizens through uncertain times. This thesis examines how major Italian newspapers portrayed the EU in their articles and identifies the attitudes reflected during this period of crisis. Through qualitative content analysis of 113 articles from "La Repubblica," "La Stampa," "Il Sole 24 Ore," and "Corriere della Sera," the study reveals a nuanced portrayal of the EU, highlighting both specific support for EU policies and forms of Euro-alternativism. This research contributes to understanding the media's attitudes towards the EU in Italy, offering insights into the relationship between national media and European institutions during times of crisis and addressing a gap in the literature of Euroscepticism/EU attitudes in Italy.