

Opava is to become first Czech open city

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The Czech Republic is standing still on the beginning of opening its own state and city datasets. However, local municipality in Opava has decided to open its data and thus became the first city in the Czech Republic to publish its structured datasets in machine readable form. Experience learned from this pilot project in Opava will then be used for opening data in other Czech cities which soon will follow example of Opava. Although, it has not been precisely decided which specific datasets will be published, the entire process of publishing its on the right way. The decision concerning type of datasets will be made by local municipality. The process of opening data in Opava is under the supervision of the Forum for Open Data.

*"In the future, all information, contracts, invoices and other documents will be available in formats that allow citizens not only in them better navigate and search the data but also it will be published in the format, and then use them and analyze them,"*said Pavla Brady, First Deputy of the Green Party of the Czech Republic.

All published data will be used and available to building new services and applications. The process of opening data is based on a special methodology. Based on its priorities of city, interests of its citizens and in what format can citizens most interested in, either data will be transferred directly into open data, or publish in their current format on their website or on their link. So then citizens can see and use this data or ask for more specific information or available datasets. Why is opening data so important? Of course, there are other projects, such as RozpočetObce.cz which shows you the budget of Czech cities and municipalities. However, they focus only on economical income and outcomes of the cities. They do not reuse data sets from heal, social, and transport departments and thus we can not call them open cities. From all available datasets can be build application and new services not only for commercial purposes but also to help connect its citizens with its own city.

So for the Czech Republic is Opava first swallow and still so much has to be done regarding methodology, approach and mainly more cities have to join and open it datasets. Czechs have great example close to their borders. In the Slovak Republic [21 cities](#) have already published their budget within the framework of the initiative OpenSpending.org.

The Forum for Open Data which is the main supervisor for Opava was established by the [Otakar Motejl Fund](#), the [Faculty of Informatics and Statistics \(University of Economics, Prague\)](#) and the [Faculty of Mathematics and Physics \(Charles University in Prague\)](#) to educate university students, as well as provide training and media coverage on Open data. It will also encourage its use in practice and collaboration with the use of the platform.