

Official PSI initiatives are taking off in Russia: Guest Post by Luis Meijueiro

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Moscow open data: first in a row of official Russian PSI sites.

The [Moscow Government Open Data portal](#) launched in late January, has already disclosed 160 public datasets in 17 main categories. The City of Krasnodar is also one of the first local governments that launches an open data initiative: "[Open Krasnodar](#)", while the City of Perm is rumored to be the next.

Most datasets are available in CSV or XML formats, also showing precise Moscow-map locations. For instance, recently published datasets give access to [data from 600 stationary video cameras and nearly 3500 speed bumps](#), and also to the results of audits to gas stations.

Current licensing allows developers and civic activists the use of the data published on the site freely without any restrictions for non-commercial and commercial purposes. Open Data portal is part of the family of *mos.ru* portals, created to increase the openness of the city authorities and encourage active participation in the life of Muscovites. Besides [data.mos.ru](#) other open information portals deployed by the Moscow Department of Information Technology are:

- Electronic Atlas of Moscow: [eatlas.mos.ru](#) is Moscow's GIS Portal, launched in conjunction with Open Data portal, and displays visually urban geoinformation resources of the city.
- Moscow's Budget: [budget.mos.ru](#) provides access to information on the planning and implementation of fiscal policy in Moscow. This website has some machine-readable files under "[Data for Developers](#)" section presenting data in XML format about public state programs in Moscow, which might be useful for third-party analysts. And also has feedback capabilities: for instance, citizens are encouraged to ask why certain aspects of urban life are under financed.
- Moscow Homes: [dom.mos.ru](#) is a website on the operation of housing and utilities management companies. The portal contains a register of apartment buildings and managing organisations, as well as housing information, Technical Inventory Bureau data, news from the State Inspection Office for Housing, and more.

But Moscow is not the only Russian city to open its public data. The City of Krasnodar is also one of the first Russian cities that launches an open data initiative: "[Open Krasnodar](#)". This portal launches with 7 datasets, delivered both in CSV and XML machine-readable formats, one dataset per category: health, education, social protection, public authorities, culture and leisure, youth and sports facilities. These datasets comprise information on 1319 objects, such as pharmacies, health clinics, schools, religious associations, etc. Each section is also complemented by modern infographics, as well as detailed electronic mapping of the city.

It is also said that city of **Perm** is next in line to launch a similar project, maybe inspired by what's happening in Moscow and Krasnodar.

According to the [Presidential Decree #601 from May 7, 2012, "On main directions of improving governance"](#), by July 15th every single Russian federal governmental agency has to provide online access to its non-classified databases - that's over 500 valuable datasets. It's one of the goals for newly established Open Data Council under Government Commission for "Open Government", but [some public authorities are still reluctant to disclose their data](#) to citizens.

Meanwhile the [Russian government wants to clarify the concept of "open data"](#) and has published amendments to the "Law on open data", now considered by the Duma.