# Czech trade inspection data is made public

Submitted on 07 Jan 2014 by Michal Kuban

The Czech Trade Inspection Auhority (**CTIA**) recently launched their open data project which aims to inform citizens about the results of inspections. On the occasion of the International Right to Know Day, September 28, the Czech Trade Inspection Authority made public its **data sources** concerning inspection activities, lawfully imposed sanctions, and risky products. The respective files are published under an open licence that enables further elaboration. Content of the files is intended not only for citizens and the media, but also for software developers from both the private sector and the academic sphere.



There are three publicly available files. The first one contains an overview of elementary information about all inspections carried out by inspectors of the Czech Trade Inspection Authority. Another file contains information on all lawful fines imposed based on inspections by the CTIA. The third one provides list of products whose sale was banned because of contradiction with technical standards or other rules or for violations of certain intellectual property rights. All published data relate to inspections carried out from January 1, 2012, and will regularly be updated once in three months. The data from CTIA are published at the minimum cost. The data are published in the .xlsx format (MS Excel 2010), .ods format (OpenOffice) and .csv format.

However, complete information is provided only in relation to inspected legal entities. As regards to physical entrepreneurs who stand for about 60% of all inspected subjects, CTIA was forced to partly anonymise published records so that concrete persons cannot be identified. Disclosure of identity (name, address and so forth) of physical persons-entrepreneurs would be against opinion of the Office for Personal Data Protection (**ÚOOÚ**). The Czech Trade Inspection Authority does not identify itself with such interpretation of the Act on the Protection of Personal Data. However, failure to comply with the respective opinion of the ÚOOÚ could mean a threat of high financial sanction. Therefore, there must be some revisions of the opinion or change of legislation in order to be able to enforce maximal transparency of CTIA activities for publishing their data.

Czech Open Data initiative, **OpenData.cz**, along with **Otakar Motejl Fund**, helped CTIA with its publication effort. Currently, members of OpenData.cz, being involved in the **COMSODE** project, will help CTIA with further improvements by converting the published open data to Linked Data format. The goal is to provide a technical format for publishing data about inspections to all governmental institutions which inspect businesses. According to Linked Data principles, not only a common data format (ontology) will be provided, but linked inspections on the base of inspected businesses, geographical locations, inspected goods and services, etc. will be provided as well. Inspections will be further linked to related legislation, business registers and other related data sources converted (or currently planned for conversion) to Linked Data. This will enable authorities for inspection to continuously build a global data space of inspections and share it among each other and with various web applications.

A further activity of OpenData.cz in the **COMSODE project** is to cooperate with CTIA in order to convince other institutions, not only in Czech Republic, for publishing inspections data according to the Open Data Initiative. We will provide CTIA with a necessary technical background and will convert their data to the Linked Data format to demonstrate how publication efforts in this area can

be unified and how data can be linked. Hopefully, we will show that this will lead to business inspection with a better quality and information value.

The Czech Trade Inspection Authority belongs to the small of group of Czech state institutions (**Czech Statistical Office** and **Czech Telecommunication Office)** which published their data too in open data format and called for private and non-governmental sector to re-use it for further use.