

# Prague Open Geo-Data published

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**The Prague Institute of Planning and Development (which runs the Prague Geoportal) has announced that from 1 April 2015, various groups of geodata will be published in an open data format, with the Institute also providing guidelines and additional documents for data users.**

This act of opening Prague geo data is a perfect example of cooperation between a state institution and the public. It has been so far a unique attitude from the Prague Institute of Planning and Development which provides such a service to citizens, unlike other Czech institutions. Before opening-up the data, the Institute had tested remote access and consulted the public sector, NGO's and entrepreneurs to reach perfect and broad consensus.



Following this process, the group of open geodata is now available for re-use and development of new apps and services. These include, for instance, 3D models of Prague buildings, bridges, maps, digital surface, digital map of Prague, technical map - utilities, walking and cycling tracks, road traffic noise maps, Prague border areas, current zoning plan, public amenities, large pollution sources, and flood areas, to name a few.

You can find all available datasets by clicking [here](#). Data is available in shapefile, geoJSON, GML, DXF and in the coordinate spaces system S-JTSK and WGS-84s, except for raster data.

It must be stated however, that the entire process of establishing an open data policy at The Prague Institute of Planning and Development (particularly in Geoportal) was not that easy. It was preceded by lengthy negotiations among representatives of institutions, data journalists, GIS developers and NGO's.

One event which definitely helped to dispel doubts over setting an open data policy at the Institute was the [First Prague GeoData Hackathon](#), jointly organised by the [Otakar Motejl Fund](#), the [Prague Institute of Planning and Development](#) and [GISMentors](#), which resulted in the creation of 6 new applications and online analytical tools based on open data. This final presentation of 6 new prototypes based on geo open data convinced the senior officials from The Prague Institute of Planning and Development to start to revise its policy towards open data. The outcome of this event resulted in the publication of a [case study](#) and Open [Data Hackathon Manual](#), which also lead other interested groups to organise hackathons with public institutions.

The author of Czech hackathon manual is [Michaela Rybičková](#) (Otakar Motejl Fund), with the contribution [Jachym Čepický](#) (GISMentors).

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Nine months on, following the geo data hackathon, the Prague Institute of Planning and Development implemented its first Open Data Guidelines and published its open data. This selection of interesting and useful geo data from Prague is now openly available to the public. It is great example for every state institution to show that it is indeed possible to open up their data to the public. In the near future, lets hope we start to see the development of new apps and services, to show evidence of how this data can (and is) being used. What's more, lets also hope that open data policy will start to become a part of every state institution's policy, in agreement with the PSI directive.

Nevertheless, the Prague Institute is leading the way for other Czech local municipalities and cities which also have a huge amount of good quality local geo data, stored in databases of private companies which provide services to these cities. The majority of these cities make excuses that they are not owners of this geo data and those databases do not have an export tool to open data formats. Along with lack of financial support and political leadership in such cities, there will be serious obstacles in publishing data. That said, the Prague Institute of Developing and Planning prove that (with a big effort) these obstacles can be overcome and thus everybody can benefit from it.