

Putin Backs 'Objective' Russian Wikipedia Alternative

May 05, 2022



Znanie CEO Maxim Dreval meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Kremlin. kremlin.ru

Russia should consider developing a domestic alternative to Wikipedia, President Vladimir Putin [said](#) Thursday, questioning the quality of information published in the online encyclopedia.

“Objective, useful, thought-through, but also beautifully and masterfully presented information is in high demand because it is impossible to use Wikipedia alone,” Putin said during a meeting with Maxim Dreval, CEO of the state-sponsored Znanie (“Knowledge”) foundation, according to a Kremlin transcript.

Founded by a presidential decree in 2015, Znanie is tasked with improving Russia's civil society and educational work. Its key project, “The League of Lecturers,” aims to give government officials and other prominent figures a platform for educating young Russians.

Dreval told Putin that the collective knowledge of Znanie-approved lecturers is “forming the knowledge base that is already becoming an alternative to Wikipedia.”

Embed:

Putin, the Internet expert, warns against reading Wikipedia, where Russians incidentally can learn easily about their country's war of aggression against Ukraine, not to mention many atrocities committed there by Russian troops. pic.twitter.com/wsMxNDmDpb

— Kevin Rothrock (@KevinRothrock) [May 5, 2022](#)

Putin's remarks come amid growing concern that Wikipedia will join the list of platforms that have been banned by Russian authorities since it sent troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24, as it presents information about the war that clashes with the Kremlin's narrative.

Russia's state communications regulator Roskomnadzor on Tuesday issued a [warning](#) to Wikipedia asking the platform to delete "unreliable information" about the "special operation in Ukraine."

"Authors of articles published on Wikipedia deliberately misinform users by [posting] clearly untruthful information," said the message posted on Roskomnadzor's official Telegram channel.

Russian authorities first added Wikipedia to the government-maintained register of prohibited websites in 2012, but the portal has remained accessible in Russia despite frequent warnings and fears of a total block.

The country was reportedly [planning](#) to create its own version of Wikipedia by 2023, but the homegrown alternative hasn't yet materialized.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/05/05/putin-backs-objective-russian-wikipedia-alternative-a77595>