

E-governance began in Estonia immediately after we restored our independence, as we began thinking of ways to catch up after 50 years of stunted growth. As for the IT sphere, we were at the same level as the rest of the world, equally absolute beginners. Estonia adopted the right decisions early and, as a result, we secured a place relatively close to the engine of the e-train, told the President, Toomas Hendrik Ilves, at the opening of e-estonia.com Showroom, which brings together the best practices of Estonian information society.

"The Estonian government was among the first in the world to have its own website, as far back as 1993 – that same year Mosaic, the first web browser, was invented," told the Head of State, in confirming that, "Estonia has done well and the rest of the world has noticed it."

He stated that the World Bank will now start to develop an ICT development report that relies upon the Estonian model – or the things that Estonia has done correctly. Closer to home, ICT has also become the symbol of the success and reputation of our country, and something that we have confidence in.

According to President Ilves, the e-estonia.com Showroom could soon become a demo corner for Estonia and Finland, as Finland is getting ready to adopt Estonia's secure data exchange layer solution, X-road, and then, in the future, the demo corner of the Baltic Sea countries in general.

"Estonia's IT success must be demonstrated and introduced," emphasised the Head of State.

The new Showroom is the descendant of the Estonian ICT Demo Centre, which was established back in 2009 by seven Estonian companies (MicroLink Eesti, EMT, Elion, Microsoft Eesti, Santa Monica Networks, Datel and Ülemiste City).

E-estonia.com Showroom has a council that consists of ten public and private sector representatives, led by Taavi Kotka, Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications. The Showroom is located at Lõõtsa 2a, Tallinn, Ülemiste City.

Office of the President
Public Relations Department
Phone +372 631 6229