

"Science and talented scientists will help Estonia punch above its weight more than one would presume by the size of our population," said the President, Toomas Hendrik Ilves, today at the opening of the new physics building – or Physicum – at the University of Tartu.

What matters in science is not a large number of people but a commitment to speciality, the terms and conditions available for research work and, crucially, good preparation or a strong domestic educational system and universities that are internationally recognised, told the Head of State. He emphasised that, "A strong science sphere will help Estonia to sustain, and it will help us be a country with a smart and contemporary organisation of life that looks into the future."

When speaking about world level sciences, research work and the development of our young scientists, President Ilves described as highly important the excellent research infrastructure that is embodied in the new Physicum at the University of Tartu.

Physicum in Maarjamõisa science campus brings studies and research work under the same roof within a building of 13,000 square metres. Four centres of excellence of Estonian science and 14 physics labs will operate in this building.

"Our work in physics is highly appreciated and involved in extremely good international co-operation, leaving shining trails all over our cultural landscapes," President Ilves told. "Therefore, it is good to acknowledge that there's physics in the air and this will freshen up the air in Estonia."

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