

The President, Toomas Hendrik Ilves, opened the EU's e-health week in Riga today, which is being organised by Latvia during its presidency of the European Union.

E-health development could be seen as a part of the common digital market, confirmed President Ilves, the recent head of the European Union e-health work group.

Compared to the final report drawn up by the work group in 2012, there has not been much progress in the organisation of e-health and it is not due to there being technological obstacles; rather, it is poor understanding among decision makers in many member states about the need for some substantial changes, said the Estonian Head of State.

E-health can hardly develop when there is no general infrastructure available to support e-services, he said, and he urged the European Union in general to move towards the acceptance of modern e-governance solutions in general.

In terms of sensitive health records, it is important to determine without doubt and without making any allowances who can access such data, and the principles that respect personal information must observe the "My information, I will decide" principle, emphasised President Ilves. He also described the security of data exchange platforms and their co-operability as factors of equal importance.

Office of the President
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