

Today President Toomas Hendrik Ilves met in Kadriorg with representatives from the Võru County Government and the 12 local governments of the county. The topic for the meeting, which was initiated by the Võrumaa Local Government Association, was life in Võru County and in rural areas.

The President of the Republic acknowledged the active work of the Võrumaa Local Government Association. The local government leaders affirmed to the President that life in Võrumaa is progressing. At the same time the visitors were concerned over the state's regional policies and the status of the South-Estonian Hospital. The local government leaders who participated in the meeting expect the state to implement measures for the balanced development in Estonia and to institute budgetary policies that consider the needs of local governments.

President Ilves repeatedly emphasized the new opportunities arising from the accession to the European Union, especially for the development of border areas. The Head of State commended the local governments in Võrumaa for their effective cooperation with their colleagues in neighbouring countries.

At the end of the meeting, the local government leaders delivered an invitation to the President to come and visit Võrumaa.

Public Relations Department of the Office of the President
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