

At his meetings during a two-day visit to Jõgeva and Tartu Counties, which ended today, President Toomas Hendrik Ilves emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship and self-initiative in the organization of local life.

Speaking to local government leaders, the Head of State, who rode from Tallinn to Jõgeva by train, said, "I want to demonstrate to everyone that Estonia is more than just Tallinn and that the areas outside Tallinn are not a national park - in this respect, the self-initiative of local people is very important."

President Ilves encouraged his listeners to make greater use of European Union opportunities and supports for the promotion of local life.

On Thursday, the Head of State visited the Same Company in Tabivere, which produces agricultural equipment, gave a civics lesson to the senior class students at the Luua Forestry School, where he also read a political statement declaring his intention not to proclaim the Removal of Prohibited Structures Act that was passed by the Riigikogu on the same day, and met with the promoters of cultural life in Jõgeva County at Kuremaa Manor.

Mrs. Evelin Ilves visited Jõgeva Hospital, where she formally opened a quiet room in the rehabilitation department.

Thursday ended for the President of the Republic with a visit to the Kasepää Old Believers' Chapel and a public celebration at the Torma Community Center.

This morning, the Head of State met with the local government leaders of Tartu County, presented the President of the Republic's Prize for the Collection of Folk Poetry to Kaleph Jõulu and Risto Järv, and met with the students at the Nõo Secondary Science School.

"It is not important who you vote for in the parliamentary elections, but if you do not vote on March 4, I don't believe you have the right to complain about how things are progressing in

Estonia during the next four years,” said President Ilves to the senior class students at the Nõo Secondary Science School.

“An educated nation can manage, but an educated nation gets fleeced,” said the Head of State, speaking about the importance of the sciences specifically, and of education more generally.

Today, President Ilves visited the Elva kindergarten “Õnneseen”, where received a gift of a drawing of the President by Robin Sarapuu, visited the Nõo Lihatööstus Ltd., met with rescue workers, volunteers, and the police at the Elva Rescue Brigade, and finished the day at the Valguta Community Center, where he met with members of the neighborhood movement.

Today Lääte, Mrs. Evelin Ilves met with the Tartu Rural Women’s Association.

Public Relations Department of the Office of the President
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