

Yesterday, the President of the Republic and Evelin Ilves arrived in Haapsalu, where the Head of State started a two-day working visit to Lääne County.

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves, who met with the members of the Lääne Brigade of the Defence League, stressed the importance the state and individuals demonstrating a sense of responsibility.

“In a changed world, responsible behavior by each of us plays an important role in guaranteeing the security of Estonia,” said the Head of State. “This also assumes proper and effective cooperation between Estonia’s governmental institutions and politicians. There is no moral right, time or resources for mutual rivalry or duplication, as well as for dealing with second- and third-rate questions at a time when, from the standpoint of the national interest, more important matters need to be resolved.”

“Stability, dedication, and the subordination of personal and institutional interests to national ones are required,” President Ilves said.

“This is a time that also requires a great sense of responsibility from every member of the Defence League,” the President of the Republic said. “A civil society is one of the foundations of Estonian statehood and the Defence League is a great example of how citizens have voluntarily decided to participate in activities related to the national defence. The Defence League is the backbone of our spiritual security and one of the pillars of our freedom.”

Evelin Ilves visited the Haapsalu Neurological Rehabilitation Center yesterday. “The best possible assistance is provided here,” Evelin Ilves said. “I saw many young men who are confined to the hospital as the result of vehicular accidents, stabbings, and diving accidents, who, in the case of larger rehabilitation appropriations, would be able to reestablish their ability to cope on their own and to more quickly return to the labor market. Every person must be important to us.”

Evelin Ilves acknowledged the willpower and self-confidence of the patients at the rehabilitation center, “If a person who has been forced into a hospital as a result of an accident or serious

## **President Ilves and Evelin Ilves started their visit to Lääne County**

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illness does not believe in his or her ability to recover, it is difficult to hope for a speedy recovery.”

Today President Toomas Hendrik Ilves will meet with local government leaders, nature researchers and protectors, local tourism entrepreneurs, as well as the promoters of village life and enterprise.

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