

“Both the development and safekeeping of the Estonian language will forever remain our task, as has been the case from the moment we chose to become a cultural nation,” told the President, Mr. Toomas Hendrik Ilves, at his meeting with the Estonian Language Council today.

According to the Chairwoman of the Language Council and Professor at Tartu University, Ms. Birute Klaas, good and correct language has recently become more highly regarded than ever; however, she highlighted the use of the Estonian language in higher education and research as a main concern.

Mr. Jüri Valge, an Advisor to the Language Policy Department of the Ministry of Education and Research, introduced the Estonian Language Development Plan for 2011-2017, which soon will be discussed by the Government of the Republic, while the Director General of the Language Inspectorate, Mr. Ilmar Tomusk, provided an overview of the new draft Language Act.

President Ilves considers the easy availability of elementary Estonian language courses to people who are coming to work in Estonia from different countries of the European Union as highly important.

“It goes without saying that the use of Estonian research language, the development of terminology in our native language, and the regular everyday usage of such words is highly important,” President Ilves told.

At the end of the meeting Mr. Urmas Sutrop, Director of the Institute of Estonian Language, introduced the activities of the Institute to the Head of State. The Institute of the Estonian Language is a research and development institution whose mission is to contribute to the survival and good health of Estonian by the cultivation and advancement of standard Estonian, by compiling and editing dictionaries essential for the national culture, and by the maintenance of relevant data collections, as well as through fundamental and applied research in support of the above activities and by providing the language with a language-technological support.

President Ilves also investigated the development of new dictionaries and synthesising textual

and spoken Estonian language.

The Head of State also paid a visit to the Estonian Mother Tongue Society, which was established back in 1920.

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