

This morning, President Toomas Hendrik Ilves, who began a two-day tour of Pärnu county today, paid a visit to the Vocational Education Centre of Pärnumaa.

With more than 1,200 students that organises in-service and re-training for more than 2,500 people a year, 225 million Estonian kroons has been invested into both the construction and renovation of study and practical training facilities.

The Head of State was given a tour of the Vocational Education Centre of Pärnumaa by the Director Riina Mürsepp and Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the School, Mr. Toomas Kuuda, who is also the Head of the Pärnu Office of the Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Ms Gerli Mets, Member of the Supervisory Board of the School and Head of Pärnu County Department of the Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund, spoke about the importance of in-service and retraining.

President Ilves described the Vocational Education Centre of Pärnumaa as one of the most contemporary vocational schools in Estonia. He also spoke of the co-operation between the school and entrepreneurs of the region as being of the utmost importance.

“Effective, businesslike relations between the vocational education centre and entrepreneurs as well as the general western area of Estonia will strengthen both the school and entrepreneurs,” said the Head of State. “This means that as many school graduates as possible will be given the necessary education to obtain employment, and employers can employ well trained, motivated people, whom they really need.”

According to President Ilves, the vocation school is one of the development engines in the area.

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