

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves today paid a visit to companies operating in the Tartu Centre for Creative Industries and Samelin, a footwear production company based on Estonian capital.

President Ilves, who today opened a third building at the Tartu Centre for Creative Industries and visited companies operating in the centre, expressed his hope for starting companies to achieve good momentum and extend their business beyond the borders of the city and county of Tartu as well as the Republic of Estonia.

"I am pleased that the Tartu Centre for Creative Industries is located in Karlova district and in those beautiful, restored wooden buildings. Old and dignified wooden buildings were not allowed to perish and they were not pulled down to be replaced by new houses. This adds value to both Karlova district and the city of Tartu," told the President at the opening of the third building at the Tartu Centre for Creative Industries.

"Secondly, I am glad that the project was initiated by the third sector. This contributes a lot to the local community and also sets a good example for everyone throughout Estonia," President Ilves added.

President Ilves stated that Tartu, being a university town, is exactly the environment that facilitates creative thinking and inspiration, in turn contributing to innovative development and creative industries.

The Estonian Head of State acquainted himself with the activities of Mikser Disain, TajuRuum, Õkodisko, Hingamisruum, Visar Stuudio, Pimik, Niplispitsikoda and Disainimaja, which operate in the Tartu Centre for Creative Industries.

President Ilves also paid a visit to Samelin, a company with long-term traditions and 200 employees, which manufactures work and safety footwear, street footwear, hiking boots, leisure footwear and hiking boots, as well as footwear with different safety elements – an oil, petrol and puncture proof sole, anti-static footwear and ski boots intended for hobby athletes. Samelin has also been manufacturing military footwear for different NATO army units since 2007.

This afternoon, the Head of State will be handing out folklore awards in the Estonian Museum of Literature, and later on will present his book "Omal häälel".

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