

"I am proud to be here, in Elva, at a globally successful enterprise that is one of the biggest employers in South Estonia and whose trump card is high quality and steady output," told the President, Toomas Hendrik Ilves, who today visited Enics Eesti AS, which manufactures components for industrial electronics.

The company was established in 2004 and continues to expand, currently employing 760 people. The Head of State acknowledged the contribution of Enics to the training and education of its workforce, as this is important for the development and efficiency of an industrial enterprise.

"We can see two, totally opposing attitudes emerging in Elva: on the one side, the two largest banks will close their offices here, while on the other side we can see an expanding, internationally thriving company. I like the attitude of Enics Estonia, as it supports local development in Estonia," said President Ilves.

"If we could see more entrepreneurship of a global scope and entrepreneuring people – like those working in Enics – in our counties, Estonia's success would be guaranteed," the Head of State added.

Enics Estonia operates a bus line to Valga to solve the problems that emerge from lack of labour. Approximately one hundred people, more than half of them Latvians, commute to Elva and back on a daily basis.

According to President Ilves, the reach and expansion of a local successful enterprise is also dependent on the network that work operates inside the county and beyond its boundaries – this is an issue of regional political importance that local authorities or counties alone cannot solve.

"If we want businesses to develop in rural areas and companies supplied with labour, this requires effectively orchestrated assistance from the state," emphasised the Head of State.

Enics AG is the only company in the world that is 100 per cent involved in manufacturing industrial electronics, and it also has plants in Sweden, Finland, China, Slovakia and Switzerland. The plant in Elva is one of its largest, supplying approximately one quarter of the group's total turnover. The Enics Eesti AS plant works four shifts, around the clock, seven days a week.

As Elva is our forest capital, the President planted an oak tree at Lake Arbi and visited the Sinilind cultural centre.

President Ilves visited Tartu Science Park, where he was given a tour in the incubation centre, demonstration centre, laboratories of Estonian Healthy Milk Biotechnologies Development Centre, construction of 3D printers, Protolab and Nanolab.

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