

Evelin Ilves, who is on a three-day state visit to the Republic of Latvia with the President, Toomas Hendrik Ilves, today visited the Children's Clinical University Hospital of Latvia.

According to Evelin Ilves, who graduated from the Faculty of Medicine of University of Tartu, it was interesting to visit a hospital where the principle that it is best to treat a child at one's home is pursued. "Children stay in the observation department of the hospital for no longer than 24 hours; the doctors will prepare a treatment plan during that period, instructing the parents to give the child home treatment," told Evelin Ilves.

Today, the first heart transplant surgery was conducted at the hospital.

Aside from the Children's Hospital, Evelin Ilves today also visited a manufacturer of ecological beauty products, "Madara Cosmetics", the textile design studio "Studio Natural", "Grauda spēks", a company that works with natural produce, and an Estonian Basic School in Riga with the President.

"I am pleased to visit companies that highly value nature. It is great to see that in developing their beauty products the founders of "Madara Cosmetics" use a number of Nordic plants that have a beneficial effect on one's health" told Evelin Ilves.

The company "Grauda spēks" sells flour and natural herbal tea mixtures and it bakes bread on the spot in a small shop. "Small shops that grind flour under one's very eyes and offer the opportunity to take away freshly baked bread would do well in the Old City of Tallinn. A truly inspiring enterprise," added Evelin Ilves.

Evelin Ilves gave the Children's Clinical University Hospital of Latvia a painting by Ilon Wikland entitled "I lively walk through Tallinn"; a book by Piret Puppert entitled "Eesti rahvarõivas ja mood" (Estonian Folk Costume and Fashion) to the manufacturer of "Madara Cosmetics" ecological beauty products and to the textile design studio "Studio Natural"; a book "Gurmee raamat" (Gourmet Book) to company "Grauda spēks"; and to the open air museum, her own cookbook, "Kingitud maitseed" (Gifts of Taste), and bread that she had baked herself.

President Ilves and Mrs. Evelin Ilves will return to Estonia on the night of 8 June.

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