

Evelin Ilves, patron of the Tallinn Children's Hospital Foundation, today visited the Department of Oncology and Haematology of Vilnius Children's Hospital during the presidential couple's state visit to Lithuania.

Vilnius Children's Hospital closely co-operates with Tallinn Children's Hospital, particularly in the neonatal and oncology departments. The doctors of these two hospitals meet twice a year, within the framework of the activities pursued by an association that joins oncologists that treat the children of the Baltic states.

"The exchange of experiences between the specialists of the children's hospitals of Vilnius and Tallinn is professionally beneficial for both, and our children and their families benefit from such an exchange. Vilnius Children's Hospital could offer Estonian doctors in-service training in the sphere of medicine for newborn babies or neonatal medicine, while Lithuanian doctors could benefit from the well-running programme for monitoring newborn babies at risk, involving the systematic observation of all newborn babies that belong to a risk group until their second birthday," told Evelin Ilves.

The importance of foundations that support the hospitals was discussed at the meeting with doctors of the hospital – as Vilnius Children's Hospital also has a number of supporters that play the role equivalent to the Tallinn Children's Hospital Foundation. "The idea of such funds is not just to help the patients and supply hospitals with the required technology but also to support doctors in giving them the opportunity to acquire the required speciality-related in-service training. The hospitals themselves often lack the required funds," said the spouse of the President.

Evelin Ilves gave a picture by Ilon Wikland to Vilnius Children's Hospital.

Vilnius Children's Hospital is a part of Santariskiu Klinikos of the Hospital of Vilnius University and treats patients from neonatal age up to the age of 18 years. The hospital employs the best paediatricians in Lithuania, who are responsible for diagnostics, treatment, surgery and rehabilitation. In total, Vilnius Children's Hospital employs 301 doctors and 600 nurses; more than 8,000 surgeries are performed each year.

Evelin Ilves today also visited one of the largest manufacturers of beauty products in the Baltic states, Biok Laboratorija, which was established in 1988. The company specialises in the production of beauty products, based on natural raw materials. The manufacturing process involves inputs from specialists of biology and chemistry. Biok Laboratorija owns six brands – Margarita, Rasa, Aras, Ecodenta and Thai. Consumers are offered a wide range of 170 products, from facial creams to body lotions, shampoos and deodorants. The bulk of the production is exported to Italy, Germany, Norway, Latvia and Belarus.

Evelin Ilves placed a wreath today, along with the President, Toomas Hendrik Ilves, to the memorial of the victims of the attack of the Soviet special army unit against the defenders of Vilnius TV Tower on 13 January 1991. The memorial is located at Antakalniš Cemetery. She will also take part in the opening of the constitutional plaque of the Užupis District of Vilnius, or the Užupis Republic, in Estonian. In the evening, the Estonian presidential couple is hosting a reception at the National Art Gallery to celebrate their state visit.

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