

President of Latvia: child development needs to become a horizontal priority

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Today, the President of Latvia Egils Levits met with representatives of the Cross-sectoral Coordination Centre (CSCC) in the Riga castle to discuss the national development agenda for children's rights, education, welfare and health.

Meeting focused on ways of improving the cross-sectoral cooperation and support framework for child development, behaviour and mental health risk reduction. CSCC presented the new model of national family support centres. Research and experience of other countries clearly shows that each euro invested in prevention of such risks will generate multiple benefits and have positive effect on child development and general well-being of the people in Latvia.

Egils Levits pointed out that Latvia needs to create institutional framework for regular monitoring of these priorities. Such framework would ensure that various nation-wide concerns are being practically and politically addressed in a horizontal manner instead of the usual top-down approach where such issues are addressed only by line ministry. 'Complexity of the modern world is growing and there is an urgent need to build horizontal cooperation on various issues. Child development and well-being is one of such important areas. Modern states and modern governments need consistent horizontal coordination and cooperation in these areas,' said the President of Latvia.

President Levits and CSCC agreed to continue the dialogue in the discussed areas.



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