

## **President of Estonia Toomas Hendrik Ilves to Participate in eHealth Week 2015 Opening in Riga**

**President Toomas Hendrik Ilves will be in Riga on 11 May to participate in the opening of the international conference eHealth Week 2015.**

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves will give a keynote presentation during the opening plenary at [eHealth Week 2015](#) - the largest pan-European event in Europe dedicated to eHealth. The high-level panel of speakers will also include Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Vytenis Andriukaitis and Latvian Health Minister Dr. Guntis Belēvičs.

### **'Healthcare is lagging behind in using IT-solutions'**

Commenting on the state of eHealth in Europe, President Ilves said that healthcare in Europe is lagging ten years behind when compared to other industries in implementing IT-solutions. He added: "We know, based on the example of many other services, that information technology applications may completely change and complement our current approach. By implementing different IT solutions for both preventive healthcare and treatment services, we also improve both the welfare of patients and the healthcare system in general".

Estonia has been one of the frontrunners in the implementation of eHealth in Europe. A survey by the European Commission on eHealth deployment in EU countries, published in 2014<sup>1</sup>, shows that Estonia exceeds the average EU level by 40% when it comes to electronically sharing health information between hospital departments and other healthcare providers. Estonia is mainly distinguished by the most extensive use of e-prescriptions (100% coverage), and 63% of hospitals are making use of eHealth solutions.

### **eHealth Week 2015 – the largest pan-European event dedicated to eHealth**

*eHealth Week 2015* will be held from 11 – 13 May 2015 at the Ķīpsala International Exhibition Hall, Riga, Latvia, and will be attended by high-level government officials, healthcare and IT professionals and leaders and industry representatives from all over the world. Participants will have the opportunity to learn from global best practice examples of how technologies can increase efficiency in everyday healthcare delivery, improve medical treatment and save lives.

Examples of efficient use of IT solutions, arrangements for the procurement processes and potential financing models will be presented. Technology companies, in turn, will be able to acquaint representatives of the governments and health institutions with their solutions and meet high-level decision makers.

Christina Roosen, Vice-President [HIMSS Europe](#), said: "Invitations have now officially gone out to all 28 EU Member States, so we are excited about the high-level networking opportunities this presents for all our attendees. The European Commission's mHealth Green Paper consultation results and how Big Data is improving care are just a few of the hottest eHealth topics to be addressed during our three day event in May. This really is the must-not-miss eHealth event of the year!"

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<sup>1</sup> "[European Hospital Survey - Benchmarking Deployment of eHealth services](#) - Country Reports for 28 EU Member States, Iceland and Norway"

## Latvian IT cluster: 'This time the world is visiting us'

The Executive Director of the Latvian IT cluster, Aiga Irmeja, said: "Participation in this event represents a unique opportunity for all Latvian IT companies developing eHealth solutions to demonstrate their performance to potential clients from throughout the world. Generally, participation in events of such a high level requires large investments, because the company must not only consider how to present itself, but also solve logistical issues when participating in exhibitions abroad. This time the world is visiting us, and it is an important gain for our industry." Within the scope of *eHealth Week*, a national stand of Latvia will also be established, and local IT companies will take part in seminars and conferences.

### Editors' notes

Please contact Paloma Nosten ([pnosten@himss.org](mailto:pnosten@himss.org)) for more information, to arrange an interview or to register for the event as press [click here](#).

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