



FOCUSING ON THE STATE'S MOST IMPORTANT TREASURE ON INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY

To mark the International Children's Day, the Ministry of Health invited people to come to the **Christian Maternity Home** (Miško str. 25) at the Kaunas Republican Hospital's Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at 11:00 on **June 1st** and see the latest infrastructure improvements there. Under a Lithuanian-Swiss Cooperation Programme, which has been since 2012, one of Lithuania's oldest maternity wards (in operation for 90 years) has been upgraded with the latest medical equipment while its specialists had the opportunity to undergo training on the latest diagnostic and treatment methods.

“Our government places special emphasis on the health of newborns. The hospital's maternity wards are being renovated and provided with modern equipment so that expecting mothers, women in labor and newborns would all be healthy, safe and happy during the most important part of their lives,” said Minister of Health Juras Požela. “In their referendum-, the Swiss have provided Lithuania with their greatest support to date – more than 45.6 million francs (€41.4 million) – toward the health of newborns and mothers. Since its launch in 2012, 27 Lithuanian hospitals have been participating in the programme,” he added.

According to the minister, the Lithuanian-Swiss Cooperation Programme has significantly contributed towards a healthier and happier future of Lithuania and Europe. “We are grateful to our colleagues in Switzerland. Our joint efforts have produced great results – when visiting maternity units, whether in the capital city or our smaller cities, I am always greeted by smiles from happy mothers and the staff working there. This year was declared the year of Lithuanian President Kazys Grinius. This luminary of the past, Lithuania's first president as well as a doctor, said that 'healthy children are not just their parents' treasure, but that of the entire nation.’” the minister said.

The Kaunas Republican Hospital has been participating in the Lithuanian-Swiss Cooperation Programme since 2012. During that time, the hospital's building was modernized by installing energy-saving technologies. The hospital was presented with modern equipment, such as incubators, ultrasound equipment, infant resuscitation tables and maternity beds. The unit's specialists also have access to the latest Guidelines and Protocols of Diagnostics and Treatment in Obstetrics and Neonatology and have attended specialist training.

An intermediate patient satisfaction survey was conducted to assess the conditions in hospitals in Lithuania in 2015: overall patient satisfaction with obstetric and/or neonatal services has grown significantly, from 28 percent in 2010 to 47 percent in 2014. Medical personnel have also noted improving maternity and nursing conditions. The survey also indicated that the support funds have been used efficiently as they were directed to the hospitals that had the greatest need for investment.

<http://sam.lrv.lt/lt/naujienos/tarptautine-vaiku-gynimo-diena-demesys-svarbiausiam-valstybes-turtui>

