Turku kicked off the European Capital of Culture year with the grand opening ceremony at the beginning of January. Plenty of exciting events will happen within the 2011 in the city. Turku University contributes to the Programme with a unique International Congress on Culture, Health and Well-being which will be held on 21-24th September 2011.

Baltic Region Healthy Cities Association is part of the organizers committee and supports actively the preparation of the conference.

The relationship between culture, health and well-being is extremely diverse. Culture, health and well-being are all crucial elements of the complex, extending from medicine and health promotion to broad cultural aspects of creativity and social well-being. The aims of the Turku Congress are to: (1) explore the link between culture, health and well-being, (2) identify methodological possibilities of the field, (3) consider what constitutes well-being, healthy life, and happiness, (4) share best practices involving culture and health to improve well-being and (5) promote Artists’ health and well-being.

This congress creates an interdisciplinary and dialogical platform for people interested in these topics. Fields of interest include medicine, pedagogy, psychology, urban studies, art research, cultural studies, philosophy, social sciences and the health and culture sectors at large. All these diverse disciplines are crucial to the comprehensive understanding of the issues of culture and health which we wish to achieve in this unique conference. All researchers and practitioners who have been or are working with culture, health and well-being are most welcome to help shed light on the issues surrounding health and culture.

Now you also have a chance to contribute to the Congress! The call for abstracts is open until 30th April 2011!

You are invited to submit an abstract contributing to the congress thematic strands:
* Possibility of multidisciplinary research of cultural well-being;
* Ways of promoting health and well-being through culture;
* Health effects of culture;
* Encounters, interaction and internationality as elements of well-being;
* Cultural differences and the use of health services;
* Methods of empowering citizens to improve their community and health;
* Creativity and health;
* Culture and Social inclusion;
* Wealth from Arts - Health to Artists.

Find out more at the Congress website: http://cultwell.utu.fi/papers.php