



**ArtsEqual:
Research and Strategic Interaction
on Cultural Rights and Well-being in Finland**

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The Arts as Public Service: Strategic Steps towards Equality

A multidisciplinary research project coordinated
by Uniarts Helsinki

The largest research project in the arts
and arts education in Finland's history

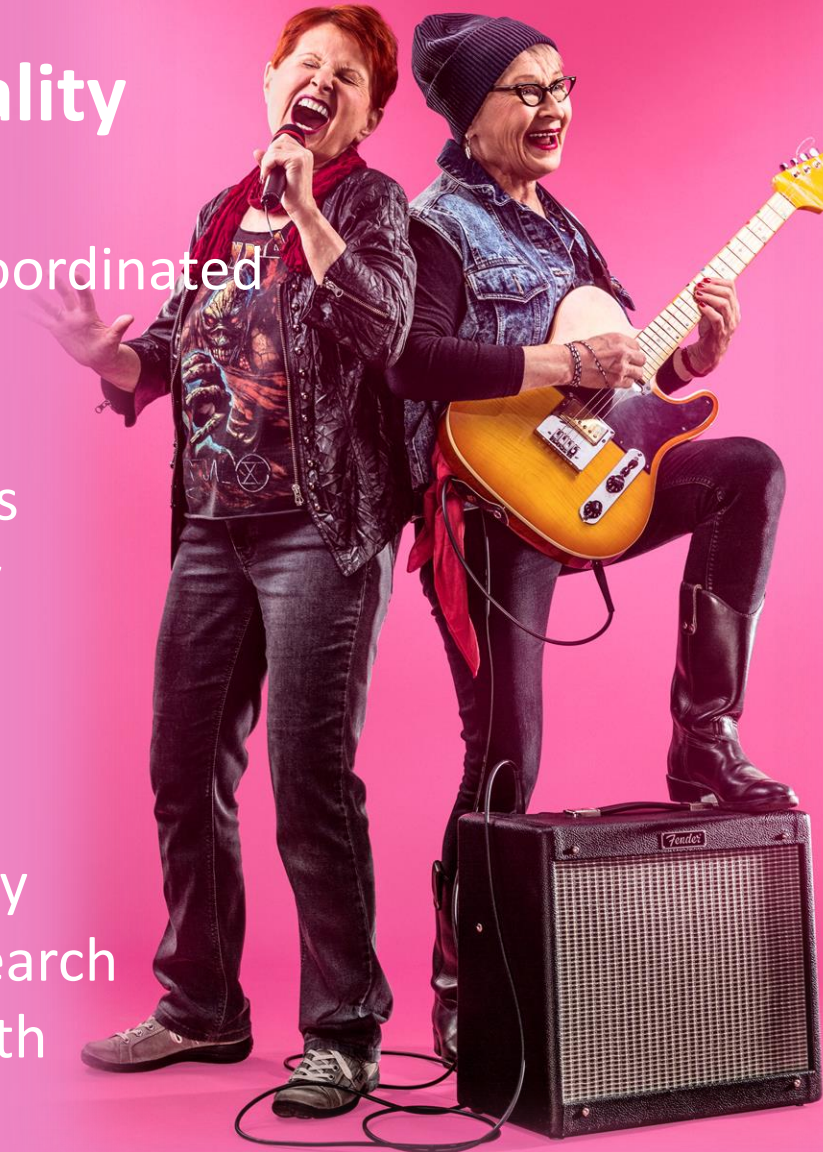
Partners:

University of Turku

Lappeenranta University of Technology

Cupore Center for Cultural Policy Research

Finnish Institute of Occupational Health



Approx. 100
researchers

6 years
5/2015–4/2021

6,5 M Euro

Funded by the
Academy of Finland's
Strategic Research
Council (SRC)

Finland: a "happy" post-expansive Nordic welfare state

A world map is shown in the background, with the country of Finland highlighted in a solid blue color. The rest of the world map is in a light gray tone.

- **population 5,556,247** (Worldometrics 24.3. 2019)
- **the happiest nation in the world** (Helliwell, Layard & Sachs 2019)
- **ranks 3rd in the old-age dependency ratio** (Eurostat 2017)
- **6,7% excluded young people (age 15-29)** (Me-säätiö 2018)
- **unsuccessful integration of immigrant groups** (OAJ 2019)
- **the end of the welfare state expansion** (Julkunen 2017)
- **a growing sustainability gap** (Prime Minister's Office 2017; Mustakallio 2003)

Health

“a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

(WHO,1948)



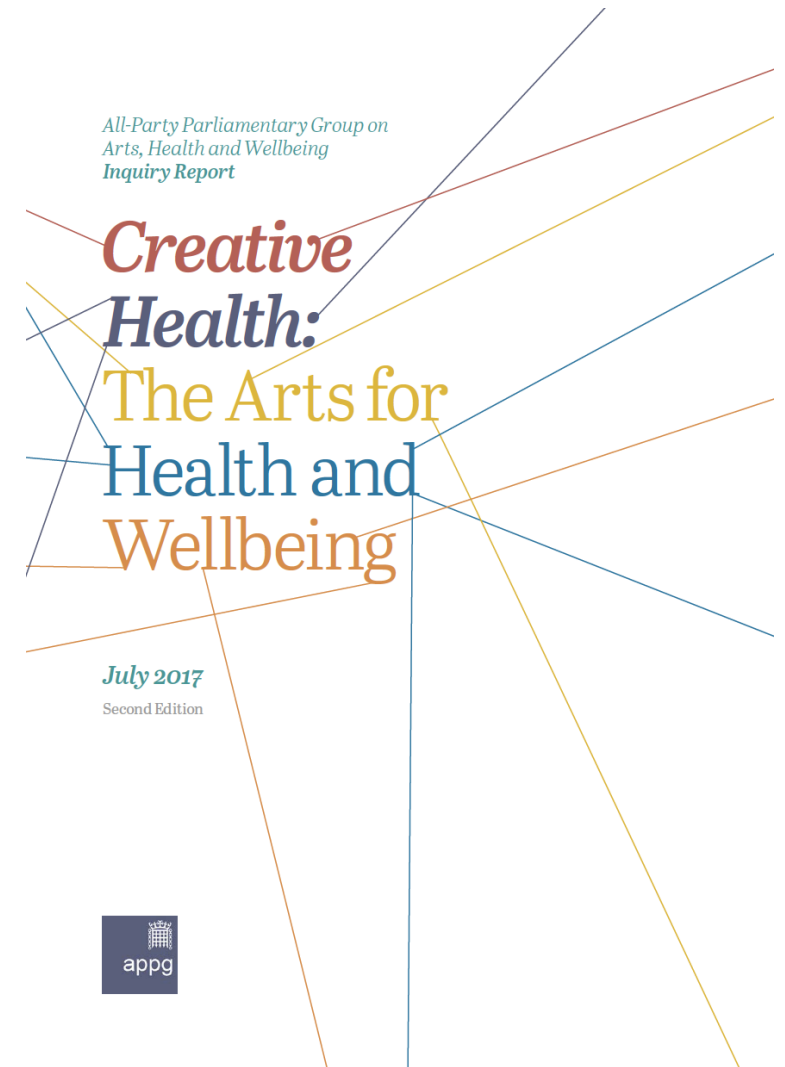
Arts, health and well-being

“the evidence is there – now we have to go big and take the initiative”

(Nils Fietje, WHO Europe, 22.3.2019)

“arts can provide significant solutions for healthcare and well-being

(Daisy Fancourt 22.3.2019)

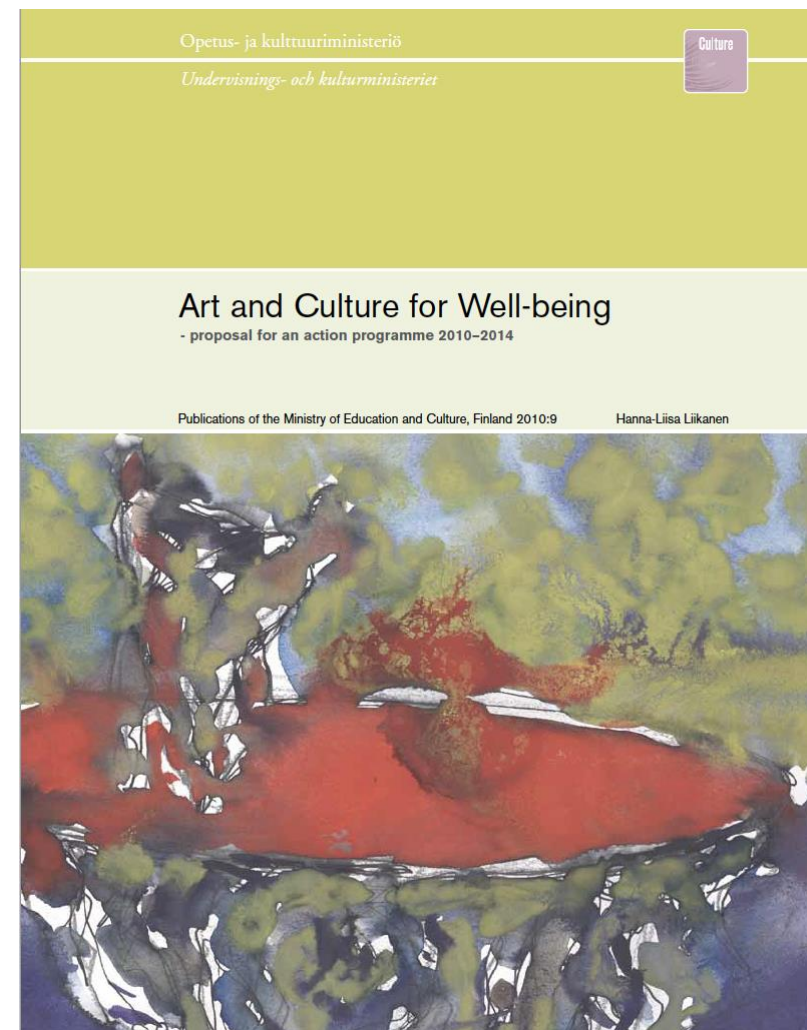


Arts and Culture for Well-being Programme

Three priority areas:

- culture in promoting social inclusion, capacity building, networking and participation in daily life and living environments
- art and culture as part of social welfare and health promotion
- art and culture in support of well-being and health at work.

18 action proposals



Some achievements

- hundreds of participatory arts projects
Centre for culture and well-being at the University of Turku
- The national TaikuSydän network
- ArtsEqual Research Initiative
- Expanding the percent for art -principle
- Taiku 2 taskforce on arts, culture, health and well-being



Key results

- A ministerial recommendation for improving the availability and accessibility of arts and culture in social welfare and healthcare (December 2018)
- The new Municipal Cultural Activities Act (1.3.2019)
- TEAviisari survey (May 2019)



Cultural well-being

“an individual or communally shared experience that culture and art add to or are related to wellbeing”

(Lilja-Viherlampi & Rosenlöf as quoted in Taikusydän 2018)

“the capacity of participation in culture and the arts to increase an individual’s cultural and social capital. Participation enhances people’s vitality, functional resources (e.g. skills and social networks) and agency, and thereby also their possibilities to act in ways that increase their wellbeing.”

(Lehikoinen 2017, 2)

Cultural rights

People's right to participate in the arts and culture as well as to develop themselves and their communities are basic cultural human rights... [that] need to be secured for all people to learn, participate in culture, and express themselves in all their life stages and situations.

(ArtsEqual Policy Brief 1/2016, pp. 1–2)

Cultural rights as a legitimate part of social and health care services

Kai Lehikoinen, Pauli Rautiainen

People's right to participate in the arts and culture as well as to develop themselves and their communities are basic cultural human rights.

Cross-disciplinary collaboration between the culture sector and the municipal social and health care sectors has proven itself as an effective means to look after

people's basic cultural rights and to enhance wellbeing. When the responsibility for social and health care services will be transferred to provincial authorities along with the ongoing reform (Sote), cultural wellbeing and cultural rights must not be overlooked in decisions concerning the field.



photo: Riikka Campomanes

The constitution shall guarantee the
inviolability of human dignity and the freedom
and rights of the individual and promote justice
in society.

Constitution of Finland, Section 1.

A battle of discourses in the arts

modernity & liberal humanist discourse:
autonomism – the artist as a free agent and the
arts as an independent field

utilitarian discourse: artistic expertise as a
means to meet needs and generate wellbeing

entrepreneurial discourse: artistic expertise as a
means to meet needs, generate added value
and make profit



Photo: Kai Lehtikoinen

Conclusions

- arts, culture, health and care is an emerging trend in Finland
- success achieved in national policy work due to sustained efforts in research and strategic collaboration
- more information needed: lack of understanding creates unnecessary tensions
- more trans-sectoral and multi-professional collaboration is needed
- a solid information-base and indicators of cultural well-being are still lacking
- Nordic collaboration as a next step: e.g. Nordic Journal of Arts, Culture and Health

Thank you!

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Rahoittaja



Konsortiopartnerit

