

DemNet

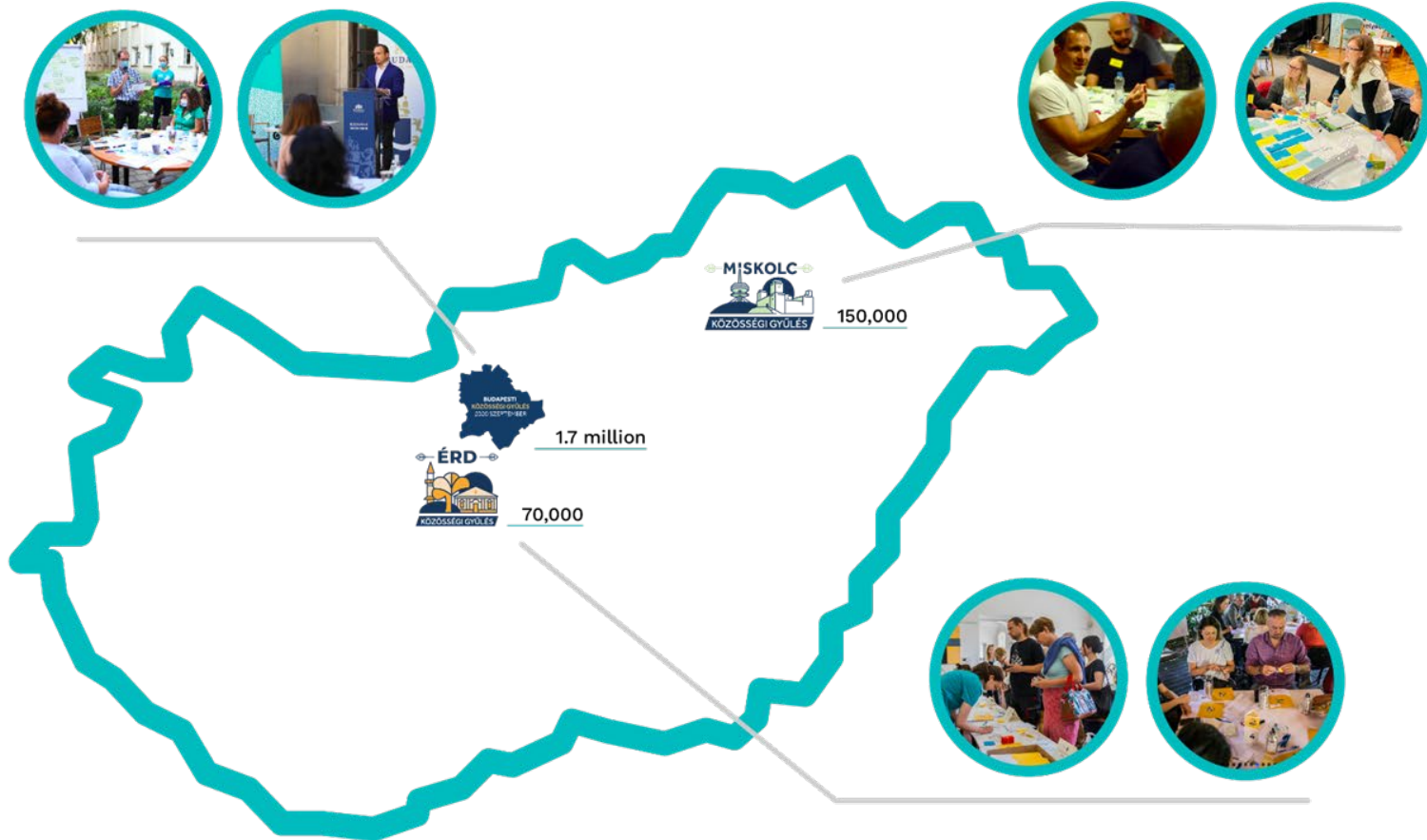
Popping the expert bubble



FIDE-KNOCA Spring School

Milan, 27-28 April, 2023





Climate related assemblies



Budapest (2020): How should Budapest tackle the climate emergency?

Miskolc (2021): Air! We pollute it, we inhale it. What can we do to collectively improve the quality of air in Miskolc? (transport, heating, and waste burning)

Érd (2022): Roads and Routes for Relief – How can we transform Érd from a commuting town into a vibrant, green city? (transport and infrastructure)





- Climate science is complicated and solutions to the climate crisis are contested
- How best to select and present different types of evidence to a diverse body of citizens with very different learning styles and abilities?
- Curation of evidence within assemblies has not received sustained attention
- Guidance is needed on
 - **How** evidence should be selected.
 - *who* selects evidence and witnesses (organisers and/or knowledge committee)
 - according to what principles
 - What **format** the evidence should take.
 - What **role** the experts and witnesses should play in the process.

Expert and stakeholder selection



Experts:

- independent specialists,
- recognized and acknowledged by the expert community in the given topic,
- with great public speaking skills - able to translate experts' knowledge into 'everyday language' in an easy-to-follow, concise, understandable manner
- gender balanced, interdisciplinary, senior-junior balanced

Stakeholders, witnesses:

- CSOs and pressure groups,
- Chambers, Trade Unions
- Representatives of a public company, a municipality background institution
- Citizens 'with a story'

Knowledge Committee / Expert Body / Lead Experts:

- support organisers in the creation of the assembly learning phase
- help define what evidence is necessary
- identify relevant presenters and topics to cover (you can't cover everything)

The role of the experts and stakeholders



Experts:

- provide facts, offer an overview
- present arguments
- enable CA members to formulate recommendations

“For me it was a fantastic experience to see a kind of collective wisdom being born. One that enabled all participants to understand when it is their time to make a decision and when to consult an expert.” (Zsolt Palkó, Commissionaire in charge of Climate Protection and Green City Development, Municipality of Érd - Érd Citizens’ Assembly, 2022)

Stakeholders, witnesses:

- ensure that a diversity of perspectives is presented
- present value driven viewpoints, personal stories
- represent interest groups, pressure groups

Expert and evidence selection



Closed stakeholder meeting to narrow the topic down

- with the involvement of local and national stakeholders
- half-day-long interactive workshop
- to understand the (local) context better
- help identify the narrower topic areas to cover
- identify potential experts to involve

Open call for input (once you have the CA question):

- ensure transparency
- anybody can submit ideas or propose experts
- represent interest groups, pressure groups
- Knowledge Committee / Expert Body / Lead Experts to integrate ideas, invite experts

Help in formulating recommendations?



Experts:

- Provision of evidence and then leaving members to develop recommendations, answering questions where relevant
- French Convention: CA members worked closely with witnesses "co-creating" proposals
- Denmark, Austria, Spain:
Draft proposals are reviewed by a small expert group which then provides advice about content and strategy before members develop their final recommendations



How to present evidence?



Complex topic - simple language

- Prep call with the experts
- One pager on the Dos and Don'ts:
 - no long, heavy sentences
 - no abbreviations
 - no jargons
 - no English phrases or anglicisms
 - preferably no graphs, no charts
 - use pictures
 - give examples and best practices
- Involve an expert on climate communication (Miskolc, Austrian Climate Assembly)



How to get out of the box dilemma



Start with an **exercise that enables CA members to define what the topic means** to them?

And only then start the learning phase - this might just be the thing that enables CA members to think outside the box provided by the experts

- Érd: what does *a vibrant, green city* mean to me?
- Budapest: what does the Budapest of my dreams look like?

CA members to request additional experts and stakeholders of their own choice to

- hear a different viewpoint,
- cover a topic area or an angle that has not been covered,
- to understand the topic better.

Denmark: Five CA members selected by lottery took part in knowledge curation

The pre-CA dilemma



Should CA members be provided with materials before the assembly?

Pros

- they would understand the topic better
- they would not feel intimidated

Cons

- not everybody would go through it - which would increase knowledge imbalance
- you want your CA members 'come as they are'
- they would feel intimidated
- it would just put them into a certain framework right from the beginning

a közlekedés jelentősége

“ A húsz éve betiltott ólmozott benzinből származó ólom még mindig kimutatható a brit főváros levegőjében. ”

Figure 2.8: Breakdown of NO_x Emissions in Central London in 2010, by Source⁸⁸

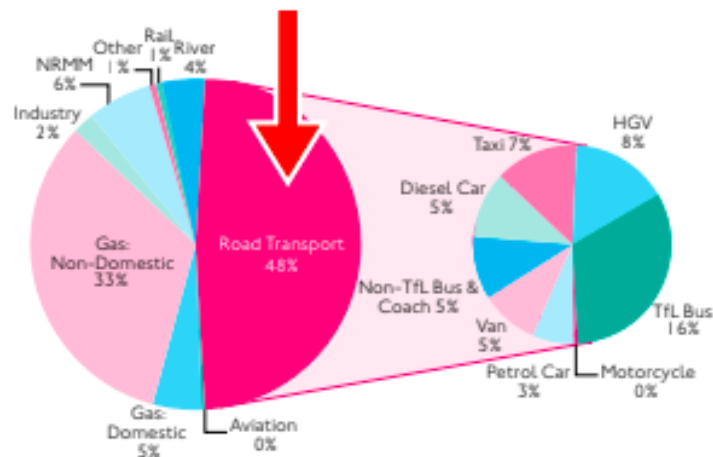
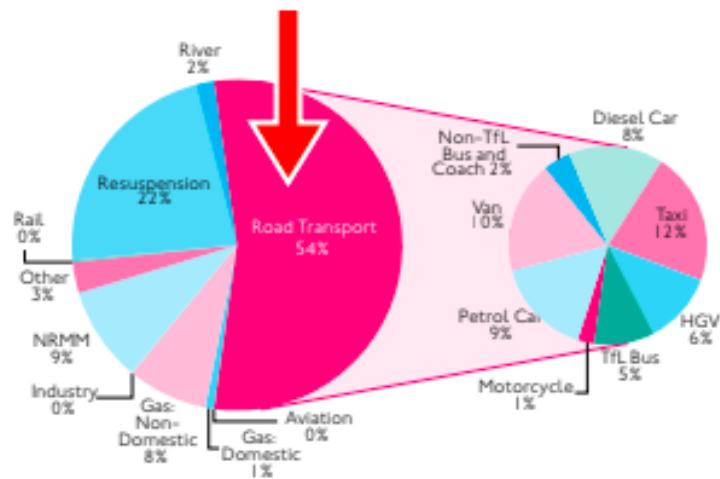
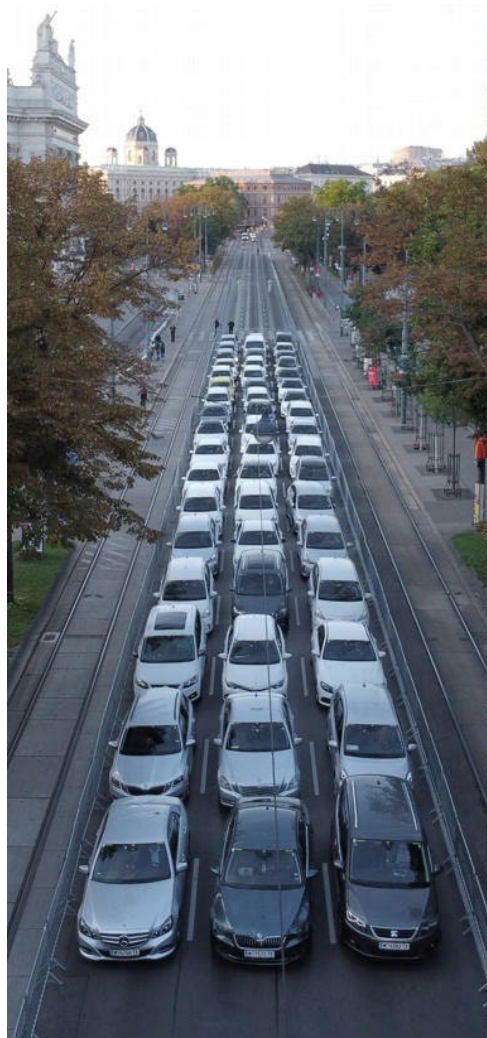


Figure 2.10: Breakdown of PM₁₀ Emissions in Central London in 2010, by Source⁸⁸







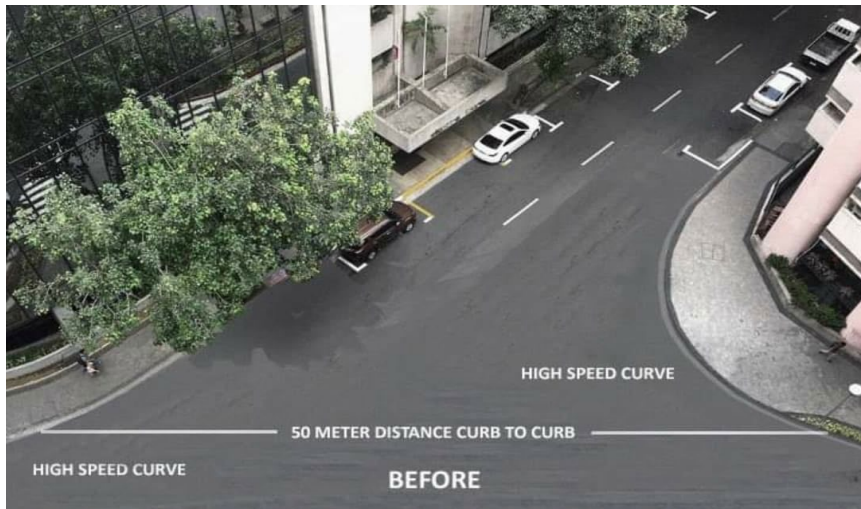
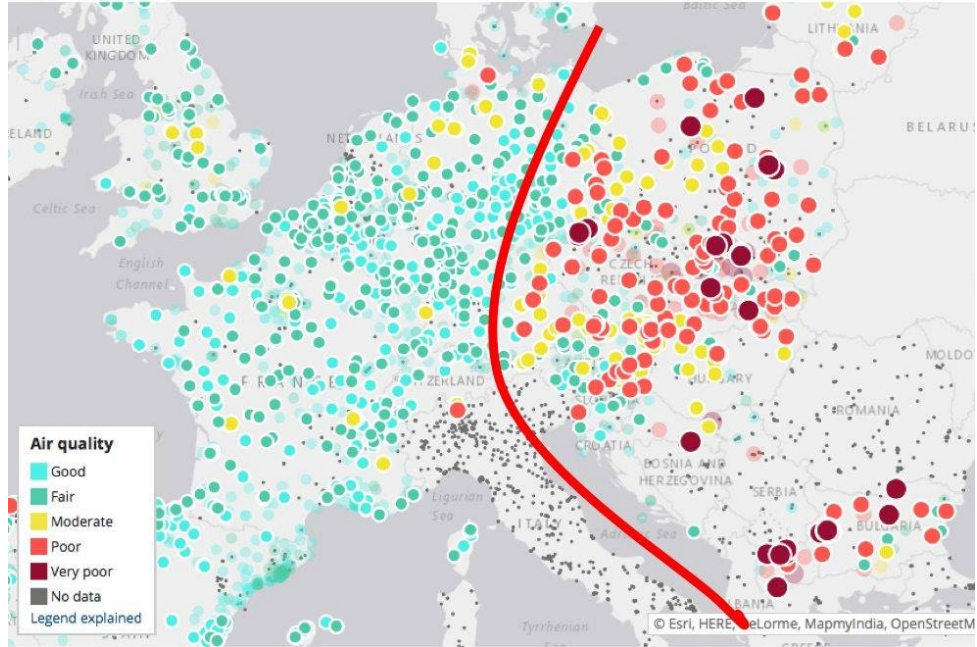


Image by Arvin Estrada



European Air Quality Index

The European Air Quality Divide



Importance of highlighting complex issues in creative ways



- CA on Electoral Reform (Canada): The items on the lunch menu were decided by voting to illustrate the concept of first-past-the-post principle
- CA Érd: Expert arranged participants in different formations to illustrate the psychological effects of how we perceive our surrounding environment from a fix spot. The aim of the exercise was to highlight the importance of the well thought through design of urban spaces

Experts availability



- After the learning phase: handout with the case studies (with links) and pictures
- Informal session with the experts after the learning phase
 - Poznan: Tea Time with Experts - online for one hour with two experts invited by the CA members
 - Érd: Informal evening with experts, organizers, and representatives of the municipality





They are ordinary, randomly selected people.





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THANK YOU!

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