

## **17 June 2023: Workshop on the BUD airport**

In the introduction the organizers reported that the shortcomings admitted by the European Investment Bank (complaint mechanism recommendations) seem to be not managed neither by the bank nor by the Airport. The news that the Hungarian state would like to purchase back the airport made everything especially timely.

Wild variety of opinions were expressed already in the opening round. Some people say that people do like airplanes because it mostly reminds them of positive memories, like family vacations. Many people in the area have found work in or related to aviation. Others say the constant noise is "Ruining our lives" and "We've become at a disadvantage." There is a general opinion that the relationship and communication with the affected residents is inadequate: "They don't talk to us. Neither do the authorities."

Problems didn't start yesterday. According to one of the participants, the Ganz colony (Ganz telep, quarter nearby) already had health problems due to the flights in 1976. There is constant rumbling and shaking. Others explained that that diverting flight paths is not a solution. Lately, South Buda is complaining about more and more noise pollution, many people can't sleep. Although there are local organizations who only want to go so far as to prevent planes from flying over them, this attitude does not solve anything.

According to many, there are many flights even during the late-night hours. "There is no such thing as nighttime airspace closure. Absolutely. They arrive in a row from Üllő - the townspeople may not even know that. From there they roll with screeching engines to runway 1."

Among other things, the issue of London's Heathrow Airport was also discussed. After World War II, it was a greenfield investment near London: "small and lovable". But it kept growing. And when a third runway was planned, people felt enough. The noise was the basis: the London planes are heard by at least 10 million people. This was followed by air pollution - with its health implications. And in recent years, the climate impact of aviation has also received more and more attention. The work of environmental activists is "like a roller coaster: sometimes it seems like we're on the winning side. But investors never give up." Campaign work must be continued because "old plans are sometimes taken out of the drawers." It is necessary to speak in a different voice to each target group, so all has a role to play: lawyers, artists, researchers, but also teachers and even doctors.

Problems, difficulties and challenges arose during the workshop discussion. At the same time, a common opinion has emerged that matters will hardly improve on their own, but together we can do a lot for the proper representation of interests and for finding suitable joint solutions.

Organized by NGOs: NSC-FoE Hungary, KMZK