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Across the Bridge: Using PhotoVoice to Study Environment and Health in a Romani Community.

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Abstract

This photo essay is the product of a partnership between Prof. Krista Harper, the Sajó River Association for Environment and Community Development, and community organizer Judit Bari. The project took place in a small city in northeastern Hungary hit hard by factory closings since the collapse of state socialism in 1989. The Roma community, about 20% of the town's population, has been especially vulnerable. A team of six young people participated as photographers and discussion participants, working closely with Harper and Bari. Other community members joined discussions of the images. The team held a photo exhibition in the neighborhood where the photos were taken, inviting city council members, health care providers, and environmentalists from a city nearby. The team held another exhibition in Budapest. Ministry officials, academic researchers, and activists took part in a formal discussion. Harper and Bari presented the team's photographs at the United Nations Committee on Social, Economic, and Cultural Rights in Geneva.

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