



The Resilience Garage

The Amsterdam Resilience Garage was held on July 2nd 2014, in a historic shipyard.



Resilience is both a challenging and a powerful concept. A Resilience Garage is a workshop format that transcends uncompromising theory and aims squarely at practical relevance.

The Resilience Garage assembles a group of 20-25 experts from across sectors and disciplines with the aim to peer review and to identify opportunities to better understand or solve challenging problems. This is done through either specific resilient projects (projects that have multiple benefits and address multiple issues) or by developing key focus areas for further consideration. It is practical – aiming for concrete recommendations – as well as fundamental – rigorously applying a rich resilience toolset. It applies the learning and tools developed following a two-year collaboration¹ that explored how to make resilience more actionable. The tools are described in [Turbulence – A Corporate Perspective on Collaborating for Resilience \(Amsterdam University Press 2014\)](#).

Proven Format: [A first Garage](#) was hosted by Shell in partnership with [100 Resilient Cities](#) in Amsterdam in July 2014 – a second was held in New Delhi in February 2015 hosted by Veolia and 100RC and the third in Singapore in October 2015 with the Civil Service College. Further garages are planned. The Garage typically reviews two projects, one from a 100RC city and the other a case put forward by the sponsor. Together with the two case owners, brief case descriptions are prepared for the participants. Given potentially sensitive aspects of some of the cases, specific discussions are held under Chatham House or NDA rules, as agreed beforehand.

Benefits: Participants have the opportunity to take part in an expert discussion on resilience, to bridge theory into practice, to get deep insights into resilience practice, solve existing problems, and build links to other organisations who might help with implementation.

Format: An introductory evening and dinner is followed by a full-day workshop. An fruitful option has been to add a day's workshop on the resilience frame and tools, as well as a playing Nexus!, the resilience board game and review the cases in advance of the Garage.

Roles: RKC provides the overall design of the Garage. Together with the City and 100RC the sponsor cases are identified, and participant mix and Garage location are determined. A sponsor is identified who takes on the role of convenor, as well as provides the administrative, logistics and financial support.

In advance of the Garage interviews are held with each case owner to prepare a 4-5 page case description to be used in the Garage activity. A co-facilitator is identified and trained in order to run the parallel sessions in concert with RKC facilitator. Following the Garage a summary report is issued to participants.

More about 100 Resilient Cities can be read [here](#), and a summary of the first Resilience Garage can be found [here](#). More about Roland Kupers Consult is [here](#).

¹ The Resilience Action Initiative participants were: Dow, DuPont, IBM, McKinsey and Co., Shell, Siemens, Swiss Re, Unilever and Yara. Roland Kupers Consultancy was the external advisor to the project.