

#02

Biweekly COVID-19 overview
Impact & Response Team, Resilient Rotterdam

KNOWLEDGE AND INSPIRATION

12 may 2020



Gemeente Rotterdam



Food for thought

This document aims to inspire you and increase your knowledge about the strategy and recovery from the current COVID-19 crisis. Here you will find examples of the measures that cities in Europe and other parts of the world are taking in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Different domains are covered in the selection process of examples; those most relevant to Rotterdam have been given special consideration. Besides, the document includes sections linked to the different phases of the crisis. We hope to contribute to the process towards a more resilient and robust city.

Based on demands, the structure and content of this knowledge & inspiration update will be developed in the coming weeks.

For specific requests or suggestions regarding future updates on COVID 19, please contact the ImpactopRotterdam team: impactoprotterdam@rotterdam.nl



During a
crisis.



Share
inspiration &
knowledge

Team Impact & Nazorg
Resilient Rotterdam



A 100 Resilient Cities Member



International examples

[Besiktas / Culture and development](#)

- The municipality of Besiktas provides online courses via their own YouTube channel. Not only Pupils can be prepared for upcoming exams but also residents between 7 - 90 years old can work on personal development. Click [here](#) (activate translation option)

[Besiktas / Waste management](#)

- The current mouth covering policy has also brought new health risks with it; uncontrolled removal can lead to new infections. For this reason, the municipality of Besiktas has established special disposal points for used masks and gloves at various public places in the city. Read [more here](#) (activate translation option).

[Paris / Mobility and Culture](#)

- Since the lockdown, the City of Paris offers free cycling lessons and shared bikes. Parisians also have access to tailor-made excursions that allow them to continue satisfying their cultural needs. There is also interesting information about care personnel and vulnerable groups. Read more [here](#)

[Nice / Health and Economy](#)

- To support the revival of the local economy, the city of Nice has introduced the 'Label Con fiance Sanitaire', a health trust label. Shops can thus demonstrate that they comply with health and safety regulations. Read more [here](#)

[Nice / Economy](#)

- The municipality of Nice has set up a platform where local entrepreneurs can sell their goods. This generates a direct cash flow from which local entrepreneurs benefit. The launch of this virtual trading site is a nice addition to other measures to support the local economy and traders. Visit the [website](#)

[Guimaraes / Communication](#)

- The Municipality of Guimaraes organised its first series of videoconferences to provide explanations and feedback on the measures taken to support companies. See [here](#) more information



Featured



"Unlocking the cities"

The Municipality of Milan launches a campaign with instructions for a gradual reopening of the city.

The campaign: "A new start, step by step", encourages its citizens to respect the rules at this stage. The video shows the famous Italian singer Ghali getting ready to leave his home after all those weeks of home isolation towards a new start.

Check out the campaign by clicking on the video below: Different countries around the world are going out of lockdown step by step.



Several countries all over the world are going out of lockdown step by step.

The World Economic Forum shows in a simple compilation how different cities come out of the lockdown step by step.

Click on the movie below:



What can we learn from various disasters in Paris?



Crisis expert

**Interview with the Chief Resilience Officer
from Paris | Sébastien Maire**

In his interview, Sébastien Maire shares 5 guiding principles from previous crises in Paris. In recent years, Paris has experienced several crises. Sébastien was involved in the crisis organization during the terrorist attack on the Bataclan, the humanitarian refugee crisis shelter, flooding of the Seine, heat waves in 2017 - 2019 and the fire of Notre Dame.

*Interview on April 22nd: Moussa Azaouagh,
Madelon van der Kemp & Naomi Sonneveld*

Crisis Expert

Chief Resilience Officer Sébastien Maire

1) Monitor “the good and the bad”

“Every crisis has its “best practices” and “lessons learned” that are very valuable and lasting for the future. But with every crisis, it is also inevitable that decisions are made that have unforeseen consequences. It is extremely important that complexity is taken into account and that unforeseen consequences are explicitly monitored. During crises, decisions are taken quickly, which can have negative consequences in the long term. Resilient action means acting adaptively, but also with an eye on the future. In this way, you develop flexibility to adapt your chosen policy. An example that illustrates this in Paris is that our non-drinkable water system (used to water our public gardens and parks) is being replaced by our vital drinking water system. We do this because small amounts of the coronavirus were found in the non-drinking water system. A short term emergency solution will have negative consequences for the long term as there is a good chance that we will also suffer from water shortage this summer due to the predicted heat waves.

2) Count on the help of your residents

Terrorism was novelty to us. Our crisis management changed with the attack. Previously, crisis response was mainly a “government thing”, but the disaster has taught us that we can also count on our inhabitants. It also became painfully clear that during an unexpected crisis, we cannot rely solely on daily protocols; during a shooting on a terrace, it wasn't the trained firefighters who took immediate action, they were waiting for the order from above... Meanwhile, the victims bled to death. It was the passers-by and spectators who immediately came to the rescue. Unfortunately, these people were not trained and could not always make a difference. Collaborating with our residents has now become part of our crisis plans.”

3) Accompanied volunteers with the necessary training

“After the terrorist attack, we started building so-called “volunteer networks.” We learned that different projects require different skills. That is why it is important that our volunteers are provided with specific training. Training gives them the tools they need to do their job well. It also gives volunteers a sense of ownership which is important for a sustainable volunteer network. We have learned that these networks can play an important role during other crisis situations.

Again, we can call on the volunteers to distribute masks and other goods. But not only during shocks (crisis) volunteers are active, especially in the prevention of stresses (long-term developments that can manifest themselves in a shock, such as climate change can lead to flooding). Volunteer networks thus form the backbone of Paris' resilience".

4) Provide psychological assistance to victims, including the long-term assistance.

A crisis unleashes a lot of stress to the population. Psychological support to victims and family members is very important. The municipality of Paris has set up a desk that focuses on psychological support. For example, parents can go here for pedagogical support in the treatment of traumas and daily difficulties.

5) "Resilient recovery" requires research, experiments and collaboration with different stakeholders

In response to the climate-related crises (floods and heat waves), the City of Paris, together with knowledge institutes, has developed a number of teaching packages focusing on the theme of climate change with schools and universities. An integrated approach is stimulated and public spaces are considered experimental hubs. In this way, public spaces also acquire a strong welfare and health component. Together with other organisations, students are challenged to adapt public facilities and prepare them for the various challenges of the future. Space is needed for experiments. For example, Paris uses so-called observatories to investigate the health, social, ecological and economic effects of certain measures. In this way, you get a better grip on the vulnerabilities and barriers of various measures. This approach and philosophy will also have to be used during this corona crisis.



Update: *Vital Cities & Citizens*



- A joint venture between Erasmus University Rotterdam and the City of Rotterdam -



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Prof. dr. Jurian Edelenbos
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Contact

Dr. Jan Fransen and Prof. Dr. Jurian Edelenbos are pioneers of the Vital Cities & Citizens platform and contribute ideas on the Rotterdam impact study COVID-19. Jan and Jurian share knowledge about different forms of urban resilience by means of compound policy briefs.

Policy brief 1: Conditions of urban resilience for COVID-19. *Building back stronger*

The RIVM shows how hard Covid-19 affects Rotterdam in terms of health. In addition, our colleagues led by Godfried Engbersen show how hard the pandemic is affecting Rotterdam's society. To investigate how we can improve the resilience of Rotterdam together we ask three questions: *1) How can Rotterdam become less vulnerable to COVID -19, 2) How can Rotterdam climb out of the valley faster? and 3) How can Rotterdam embrace new opportunities and structures.* For each question the policy letter indicates what, according to literature, can be done in the field of urban resilience by means of a clear checklist.

[Download the Policy brief here.](#)

[More info: https://www.eur.nl/essb/nieuws/vital-cities-and-citizens-publiceert-beleidsbrief-condities-van-stedelijke-veerkracht-voor-covid-19](https://www.eur.nl/essb/nieuws/vital-cities-and-citizens-publiceert-beleidsbrief-condities-van-stedelijke-veerkracht-voor-covid-19)

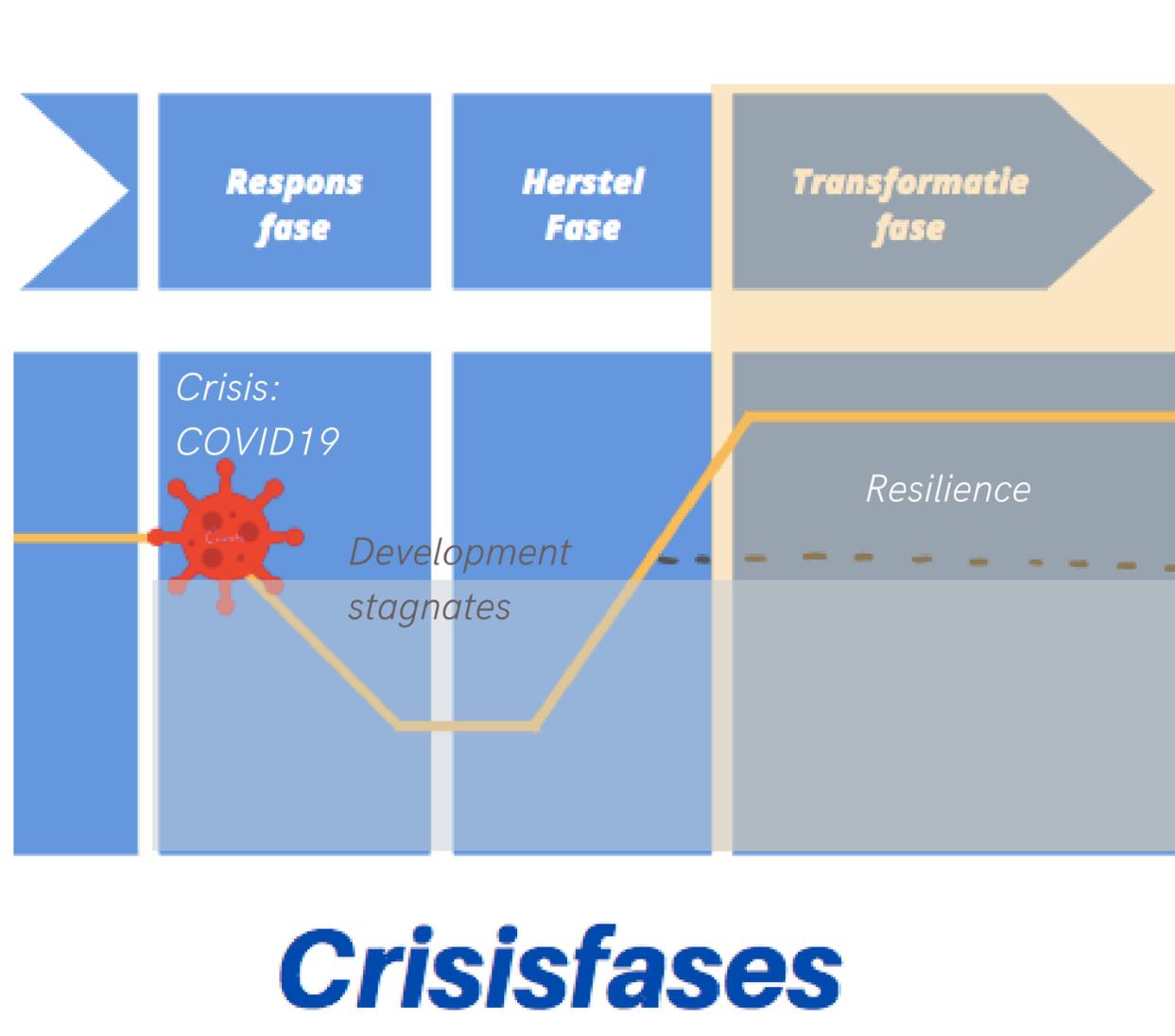
Policy brief 2: Research design for case studies. **Cases for inspiration and topic deepening**

Rotterdam can learn from its own history and from other cities. There is a (rapidly growing) number of cases and examples in the field of urban resilience and recovery after a crisis. We would like to learn from this and develop action perspectives for Rotterdam. But how do we do this? How do we arrive at a framework and working method to systematically analyse examples (from the Netherlands and abroad, present and past) and make them operational for Rotterdam now? This policy letter provides a framework for research around a central question: Which working methods and activities have helped cities emerge stronger from the crisis?

[Download de Policy brief hier](#)

[Meer informatie? https://www.eur.nl/essb/nieuws/vital-cities-and-citizens-publiceert-tweede-beleidsbrief-onderzoeksopzet-voor-casestudies](https://www.eur.nl/essb/nieuws/vital-cities-and-citizens-publiceert-tweede-beleidsbrief-onderzoeksopzet-voor-casestudies)

Crisis phases



Response phase

Focus on limiting the impact of the pandemic as much as possible.

Recovery phase

Focus on restoring the functioning of the city within the shortest possible time.

Transformation phase

Focus on the "building back stronger"; a city that is stronger after the crisis than before (learning & growing).

Resilience

The ability of people, communities, organizations, businesses and systems to survive, adapt and grow, regardless of the nature and scale of long-term stresses and crises.

Knowledge Response



Leading a crisis : "Building high performance teams"

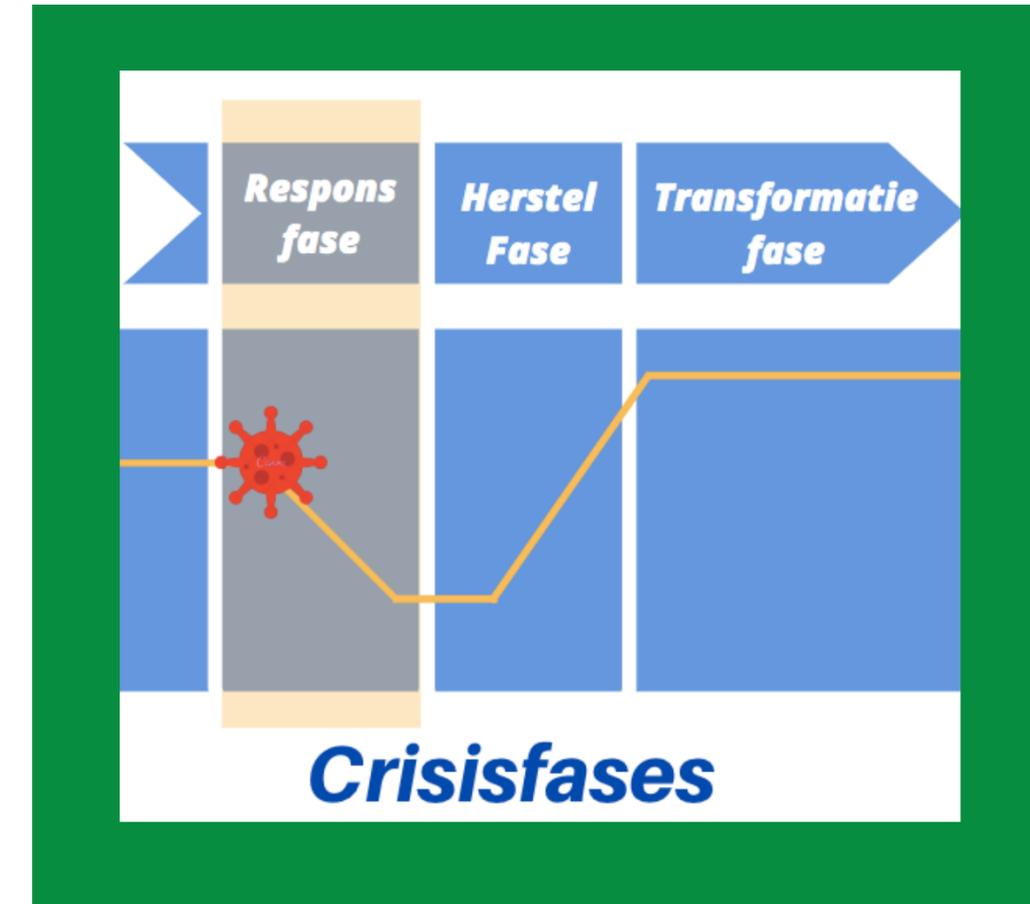
Contingency plans often provide generic guidelines but do not give directions on how to manage and navigate the crucial social and inter-professional support processes during a crisis. Decision making in times of crisis requires extra attention to leadership, micropolitics, bias and mental fatigue. Read [here](#) the recommendations of three professors on better decision making and performance during a crisis period.



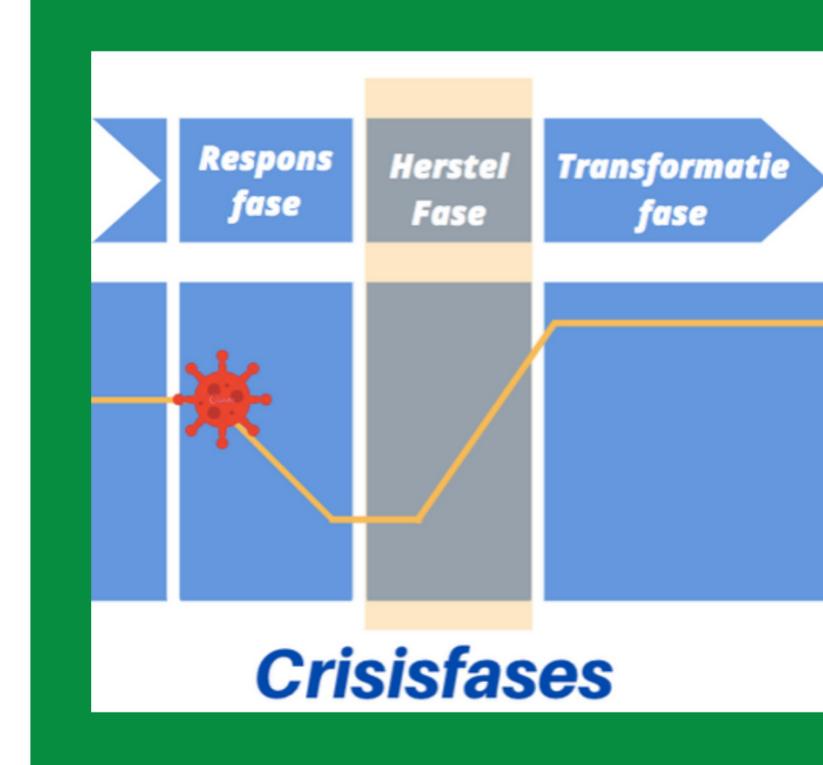
Social offensiveness between lockdowns through | learning the "Corona dance" is becoming a part of response.

In this chapter we will focus on a number of issues that need to be addressed in order to achieve this goal. This requires learning the 'corona dance'. Various predictions indicate that after the first, heavy lockdown there will come a period in which relaxations alternate with new restrictions (a 'corona dance'). We will have to find a way to meet the need for personal and public-familiar relationships, also among the vulnerable group. Social professionals have a task here to meet this need. But in order to meet these needs, volunteers and civic initiatives, such as Opzoomer Mee, are essential.

- [Heree the article](#) | [See the summary](#).



Knowledge Recovery Phase



Series of lectures from Erasmus University: What are the lessons of governance and management in times of crisis?

Martijn van der Steen, professor of public administration at Erasmus University Rotterdam and deputy director of the Netherlands School of Public Administration (NSOB), explores how governments can deal with radical uncertainty. In this 15-minute lecture you will learn about which routes governments can take and which road maps they can present. A tip of the veil: the importance of 'anti fragility' and the demand for a learning, groping, stumbling board, with short feedback loops and matching guidance and accountability. Follow the mini lecture [here](#)

Oxfam comes up with a handy checklist: What should you take into account towards more participation, communication, involvement with your community?

The checklist gives a clear picture of the essential components that officials, among others, have to take into account. Think for example of checks around:

- adjustments towards the new context
- information provision & communication
- working with people vulnerable to the coronavirus
- participation

See here the fully compiled [checklist](#)

Corona crisis in our own municipality, how do we maintain the local economy?

The coming weeks will be dominated - economically speaking - by the prevention of the worst damage. After that, however, local and regional authorities must quickly reassess their existing economic policies in the light of the new economic realities. This article by Maarten Kruger and Jaap Meijs is about points of departure in economic policy for municipalities to limit the economic damage of the crisis and in time promote economic recovery [See here the article](#)

Knowledge Transformation Phase

Milan, Berlin & Paris are taking serious steps towards transforming their city.

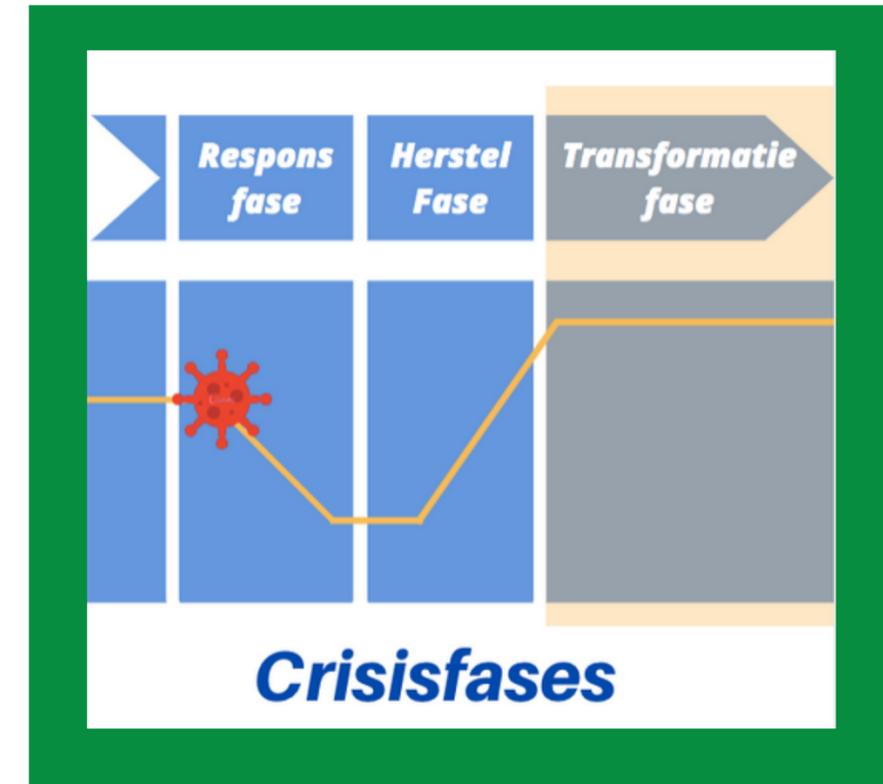
Milan, Berlin & Paris all have in common that they are tackling opportunities following the corona crisis to transform their city into attractive cycling and walking cities. Now that the streets are deserted and many people are reluctant to use public transport and shared mobility systems, walking and cycling has being (re)discovered. Inspiration about measures in [Berlin](#), [Milan](#), [Paris](#).

Green zones: A practical exit strategy

Mathematicians and economists present a practical exit strategy consisting of two main elements: 1) identifying green zones; areas where the sanitation system is operational, infection growth is low and future risks are manageable; and 2) gradually merging them as soon as they are safe. The process will not be 'perfect' but can enable 'rapid reunification' and limit economic and social damage. Advantages of "GreenZoning" are: 1) minimizing economic damage, 2) no invasive Tracking methods, 3) minimizing social damage, 4) faster reunification possibilities, 5) easy to combine with other measures. Read the article and possible policy implications [here](#)

Not an image of doom, but a green image | an beckoning future perspective.

The University of Wageningen has developed a map of the Netherlands for the year 2120. This map shows that if the Netherlands makes better and more use of its nature, the (future) consequences of climate change can be kept in check. This initiative offers a positive outlook for the future, which experts believe is practically feasible. Read the article [here](#)



Municipality of Rotterdam

International Involvement

Rotterdam was active on two international fronts during the COVID 19 period: the Resilient Recovery Taskforces of the Global Resilient Cities Network (GRCN) and the Global Mayors C40 Taskforce. The aim of both networks is to exchange knowledge towards a resilient and sustainable recovery. Previously, these two networks mainly worked separately from each other, but now participating in these task forces are both from an administrative and from an executive point of view. Rotterdam strives for an effective collaboration in which both networks strengthen and enrich each other. The benefits of this worldwide exchange of knowledge will be valuable to the "Rotterdam Sterker Door" team, among others.



- Mayor Aboutaleb participates in the C40 task force; a network of cities committed to tackling climate change. The aim of the Global Mayors COVID-19 Recovery Task Force is to provide mayors with the knowledge and tools to enable them to design a "green recovery": a recovery that anchors sustainable, resilient and just economies. Read more [here](#)



Ahmed Aboutaleb
Burgemeester Rotterdam



- From Rotterdam, Chief Resilience Officer Arnoud Molenaar has a seat in the coalition (C2R) of the GRCN. As a resilience expert of the city of Rotterdam, he shares knowledge and experiences with the other experts within this platform, with the aim of strengthening the resilience of cities and helping cities emerge stronger from the crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic. Read more [here](#)



Arnoud Molenaar
City Resilience Officer
Rotterdam

Other knowledge & inspiration

"How can this crisis provide openings for new ideas to move us into the future?"

Other sources that help us think about choices towards a resilient and resilient future:

- Global Resilient Cities Network & The World Bank organizes a weekly webinar "COVID-19 Speaker series". Listen and read the summaries [here](#).
- The iKen (ideas and knowledge exchange platform) organizes a webinar on Wednesday May 13th from 12:00 to 13:00 about the response of different cities to the corona crisis. Experts from Tel Aviv, Dortmund and Glasgow will share inspiring innovations in the field of recovery and redesigning the future for cities, communities and inhabitants. Click [here](#) to participate.
- DRIFT, the research institute in the field of sustainability transitions, has started a weekly cocreation drink since the corona crisis. This co-creation drink culminated in the Transition Engine: a unique collaboration of citizens, entrepreneurs and existing initiatives that aims to support and strengthen local, regional and national dynamics and to facilitate development and movement. Click [here](#) for the webpage of the Transition Motor, and click [hier](#) for a guide.

Questions or ideas?



With this biweekly Knowledge & Inspiration document, we would like to respond to your needs. Mail your idea or ask for: impactoproterdam@rotterdam.nl

What can you expect in the next knowledge & inspiration update?

- Interview with Professor Fu of the School of International Public Affairs in Shanghai. He is doing research on COVID-19 in China.
- New output Vital Cities & Citizens - collaboration Municipality of Rotterdam & Vital Cities & Citizens (EUR)
- New International examples
- New featured

Colophon



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