



INFORMATIVE BULLETIN

BONAIRE, ST. EUSTATIUS & SABA

We herewith present the first edition of the Informative Bulletin of 2015. In this edition you will find information about the Evaluation Committee Caribbean Netherlands, among others. Kingdom Representative Gilbert Isabella talked to young people in the Netherlands who study there. Furthermore, this Informative Bulletin contains articles about English as instruction language on St. Eustatius, what employees should do on Bonaire if they have a job vacancy and news about various construction projects on Bonaire.

Researchers on the islands for evaluation of Caribbean Netherlands

From 7 through 24 April researchers will come to Saba, St. Eustatius and Bonaire to collect information on the instructions of the independent Evaluation Committee Caribbean Netherlands. There are three groups of researchers.

- Pro Facto will research the functioning of the legislation;
- DSP-groep will research the functioning of the new governmental structure;
- Sociaal Cultureel Planbureau/Ecorys will research the consequences for the population.

On each island the researchers will talk to various people and organisations. For the research into the consequences for the population and the functioning of the new governmental structure people will also be called with the request to answer questions about security and education, for instance.

The members of the committee will also visit the islands in the summer. The committee will draw up an evaluation report based on all this information. This report will be finished by 10 October 2015 at the latest. The report will contain analysis and conclusions per island and for the entire Caribbean Netherlands. The report will not contain recommendations.

Why will there be an evaluation of the Caribbean Netherlands?

Since 10-10-2010 Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius have a direct relation with The Netherlands. It was agreed as early as 2006 that the functioning of the new governmental structure would be researched after five years.

The Executive Councils of the Public Entities of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba and the Minister of Internal Affairs and Kingdom Relations have instructed an independent committee to perform this evaluation.

Share your experience

Do you yourself have information which might be important for the evaluation committee? Or you would like to share your experience? This is possible. Walk-in consultation hours with the researchers will be organised on each island. Everybody is welcome at these consultation hours. On the website of the committee you can find when the researchers will be on which island.

You may also share your experience via the committee's website.

<https://www.evaluatiecaribischnederland.nl/uw-ervaring>. You can do this via the computer but

also with your mobile phone.

For more information about the evaluation in the Caribbean Netherlands please visit:

www.evaluatiecaribischnederland.nl (information in Dutch) and <http://www.evaluationcaribbeannetherlands.nl/> (information in English and Papiamentu)



2015 Labor Inspection activities

The Labor Inspection Caribbean Netherlands is responsible for the supervision of the labour-protection laws which apply on Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius. It regards the BES Occupational Safety Act (Arbeidsveiligheidswet BES), the BES Labour Law Foreigners (Wet Arbeid Vreemdelingen BES), the BES Minimum Wage Act (Wet Minimum Loon BES) and the BES 2000 Labour Code (Arbeidswet 2000 BES).



There will be inspection projects this year in the construction sector & the hotel catering management sector.

The Labour Inspection continues to investigate accidents and complaints about safety at work in 2015. This also applies to complaints regarding the observance of work permits. In addition, inspections will be carried out more on the Labour Inspection's own initiative. In this respect it applies that the dangers which involve a great deal of human suffering and social costs, will be tackled first. In view of the considerable number of accidents and the use of a large number of foreigners in the construction sector and the hotel and catering management sector, inspection projects were carried out in these sectors in 2015. As regards the safety at work, the inspections will focus on the most elementary safety provisions. As for the observance of the BES Labour Law Foreigners, the inspections will focus on (1) the requirements for the work permits and (2) the reasons for early revocation of a work permit.

Procedure

The activities of the Labour Inspection do not only comprise the execution of on-site inspections. The Labour Inspection's approach also includes consultations with representatives of companies and employees. In addition, it also takes care of the provision of information to companies and employees. The consultations and provision of information focus on what is expected of everybody. The very combination of consultation, provision of information and inspections will increase the observance of laws and regulations.

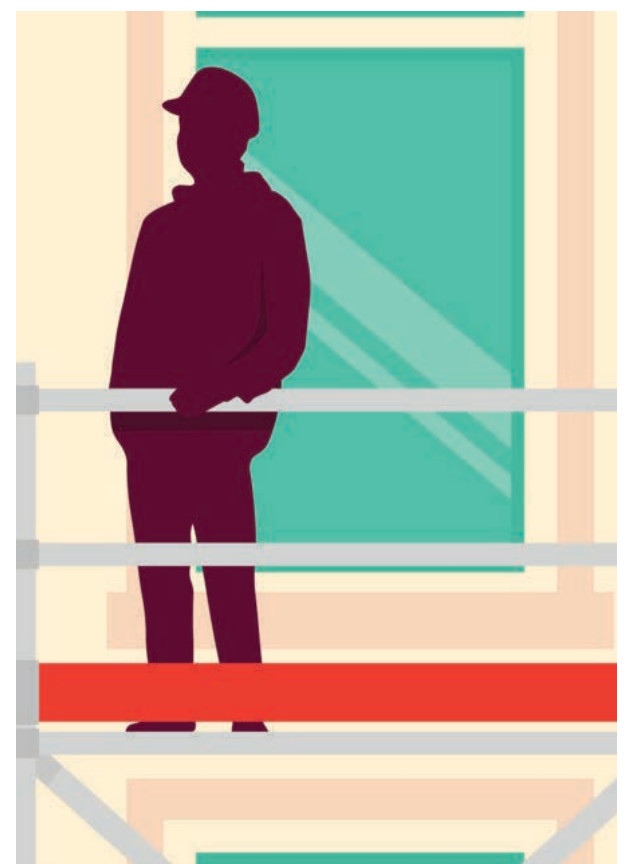
Companies and private individuals who do not observe the rules after repeated warnings will be dealt with more firmly. If necessary notorious offenders will be prosecuted.

Apart from operating independently, the Labour Inspection will expressly cooperate with other special inspection services such as the Belastingdienst (tax authorities) and the Departments Supervision and Enforcement of the different Public Entities. In cases where it concerns supervision on matters relating to labour by foreigners, the Labour Inspection works together with the police and the Koninklijke Marechaussee.

Development

In order to make the activities which were described possible, the workforce of the Labour Inspection will also be brought up to strength. Investments will be made in the training of new inspectors and in the in-service training of current inspectors.

The expansion of the inspection will largely be used to intensify supervision activities on Saba and St. Eustatius.



The Labor Inspection will provide information to employers and employees.

Kingdom Representative Gilbert Isabella meets youngsters who study in The Netherlands

On Friday, 6 March, at the Haagse Hogeschool, a Meet & Greet took place with the Kingdom Representative Gilbert Isabella and young people from Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba who study in the Netherlands. The students were invited to come and tell about what occupies their minds, what problems they face and especially how it can be ensured that they will return to their island after their study, all this under the theme 'building bridges'.

The Kingdom Representative would like to play a role in the creation of opportunities for jobs on the three islands for people coming from these islands, in the hope that they will return to the islands after their study. By doing so they will contribute to the development and the future of their island and the so-called 'braindrain' will be prevented. During the Meet & Greet they exchanged views.

Obstructive factors for remigration which were discussed included:

- Students want to redeem their student debt in the European Netherlands. On average this is as much as EUR 50,000.00 for a student from the Caribbean part of the Kingdom.
- Young people who study in the Netherlands should have the feeling that they are really welcome on their island of birth after completion of their study.
- The salaries in the European Netherlands are much higher than in the Caribbean Netherlands.
- Seniority versus youth. Currently you still make a career on the islands by working somewhere for a long time and thus not always by professional seniority. People at the company/organisation do not always welcome the young fresh intake of graduated young people entering the labour market and who have just arrived from the Netherlands. Unable to find affordable housing.
- No favourable future prospects on the islands themselves

Several actions which in fact could stimulate this remigration (partly based on research performed on Curaçao, among others) have also been discussed:

- The Kingdom Representative proposes to get students back from the beginning of their study by means of internships in order to maintain close ties. This under the assumption that going back will be easier then and that there will be no alienation. He was given the slogan 'Are you a top talent looking for adventure? Go to the Caribbean



Kingdom Representative Gilbert Isabella and organiser Nataly Linzey.

Netherlands to work' by the professional network, a slogan which appeals to him;

- Let employees of (semi)public organisations come to the European Netherlands to start networking;
- and/or remote care for mentors;
- Maintaining close ties with the island of birth might have a positive impact on having students return after their study. But everything should remain in balance. Get students back to the islands immediately after they have completed their study. This way you prevent them from building a career and family life in the European Netherlands, as a result of which the step to return to their island of birth becomes increasingly smaller;
- It is necessary to engage in talks with potential employees at this point already and to reach concrete agreements about 'career-entry jobs';
- Have seniors in existing companies and organisations act as mentors/coaches and slowly make way for young staff;
- Make sure that the choice of study of young people from Caribbean Netherlands who leave for the Netherlands, dovetails with the needs of the local labour market.
- Stimulate a larger participation from the corporate sector by making student grants and internships available.
- Promote the islands actively.

Many topics were discussed. The meeting was organized by Nataly Linzey. Nataly is a student from Saba who studies law in the Netherlands. She was declared OCAN student of the year in the Netherlands in 2014 and in 2014 she was a member of the Kingdom Youth Parliament on behalf of Saba. This parliament held a meeting on St. Maarten with Princess Beatrix as guest of honour.

Nataly and her fellow students are the group on which the Kingdom Representative wants to focus.



The Kingdom Representative amid students from the Caribbean Netherlands.

St. Eustatius on its way to English as instruction language

Since September 2014 considerable efforts are being made on St. Eustatius regarding the preparations for the transition to English as instruction language for education. As of August 2015 English will become the instruction language for the whole of primary education and the first year of secondary education.

In August 2016 the second year of secondary education will follow, in 2017 the third year, etcetera, until secondary



Transition coordinator Angela Dekker.

education will be entirely in English. Dutch will become a strong subject which will be taught in accordance with the principles of Dutch as foreign language. After all, Dutch is a foreign language for most children on St. Eustatius they only come in contact with it at school.

In order to coordinate the transition and to realise it in an orderly fashion, a transition coordinator has been appointed: Mrs. Angela Dekker. She has comprehensive experience with managing projects and processes of change in education, both on the Leeward and the Windward Islands.

She lives on St. Maarten and weekly she is on St. Eustatius for a couple days to work on the realisation of this drastic transition together with the people in the education sector.

What is required?

In order to make the transition to English as instruction language, the following subprojects need to be completed:

1. Assessments, followed by in-service training courses for teachers in order to ensure that all teachers have a command of the English language at the level required for their work;
2. The development of new plans for what the pupils should learn when (learning pathways and curriculums), from pre-school education up to the highest class of secondary education;
3. The introduction of an exam system in English for secondary education, including vocational education;
4. The development of a programme (framework) for Dutch as foreign language;
5. The development of a programme for students who will follow their advanced study programme in the Netherlands;
6. Amending regulations in which is laid down in what language pupils will be educated.

The transition coordinator works together with the Ministry of Education, the local schools and various external specialist institutes on realising the aforementioned subprojects.

Status of the transition



Teachers and coaches of the Expertisecentrum Leerplanontwikkeling (SLO) are working on the learning pathways and the curriculum of the subject English.

- February this year all teachers took an assessment in order to establish the level of their command of the English language. The results will be announced soon and serve as a basis to group the teachers into the various English in-service trainings. This process is realised by the University of St. Martin.
- The Netherlands Institute for Curriculum Development (Nationaal Expertisecentrum Leerplanontwikkeling, SLO) coordinates the development of new curriculums and the continuous learning pathways for NvT, English and Arithmetic/Mathematics. The development of continuous learning pathways is realised in cooperation with the teachers involved.
- When education is provided in English in the near future, the pupils no longer have to do exam in Dutch. It has been investigated what the best solution is for this. For HAVO the CSEC (Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate) of the Caribbean Examination Council has been chosen and for vocational training a final choice will also be made very soon.
- An NvT programme is under development in cooperation with the Dutch Language Union (Nederlands Taalunie, NTU) and SLO. This programme should ensure that pupils on St. Eustatius can learn Dutch at a satisfactory level in order to be able to realise their future plans.
- In cooperation with the ‘Studying Abroad’ platform, which was established last year and comprises members from all islands of the former Netherlands Antilles, a programme is being drawn up which will optimally prepare pupils for their study in the

Netherlands. Attention is not only paid to the command of the Dutch language but in particular also to bridging cultural differences, studying at a Dutch institute, living independently in rented rooms and living in the Netherlands.

- As English has been the instruction language on Saba for some time now, legislation has applied a derogation for this island concerning the instruction language. This legislation should now be expanded so that the aforementioned derogation also applies to St. Eustatius.

Reporting a job vacancy

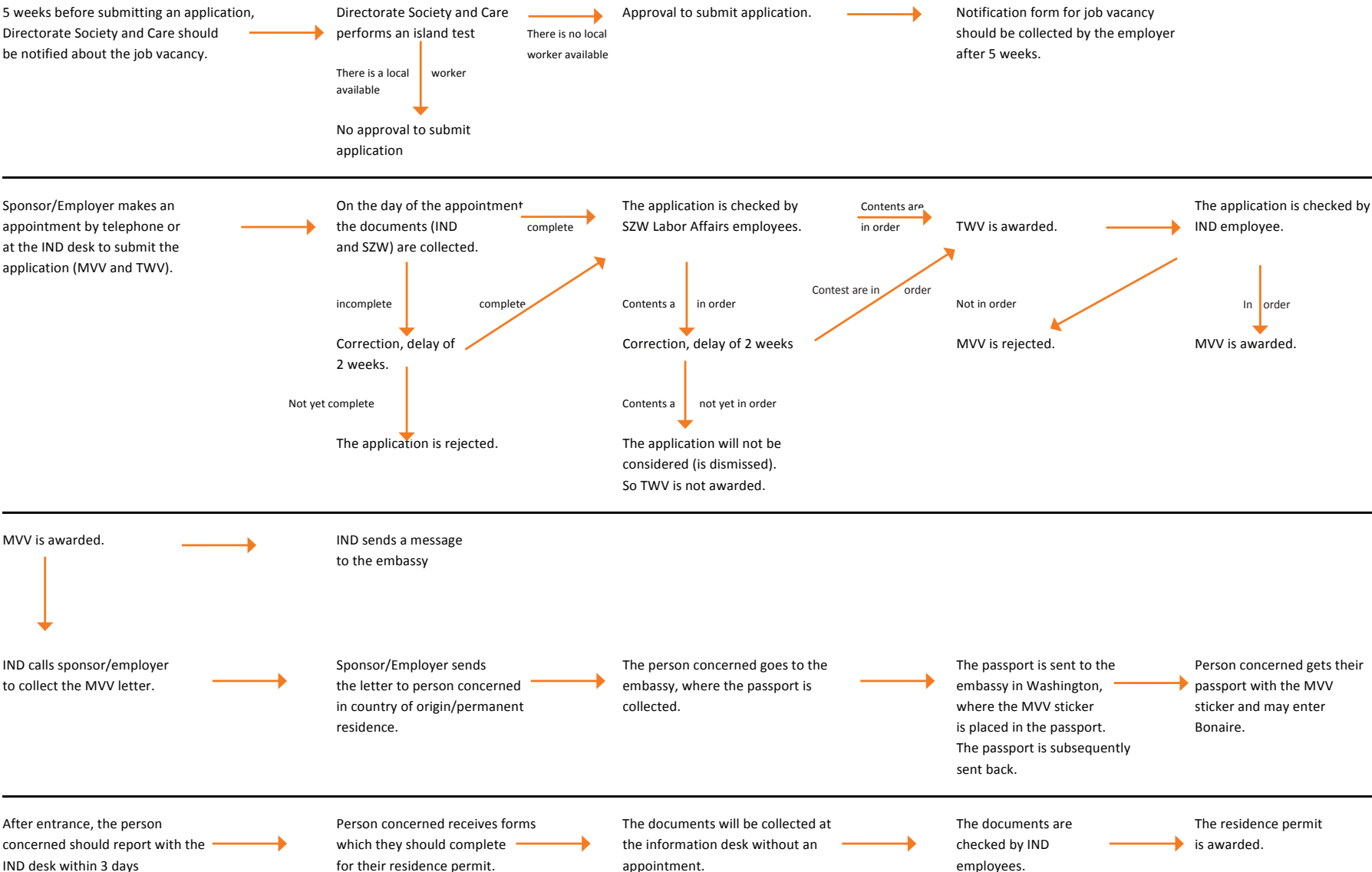
A job vacancy notice to the Public Entity precedes the application for a residence and work permit for foreign employees

- For many employers it still is not clear that they should notify the Public Entity of their job vacancy for extensions before they apply for an extension of a residence and work permit. The job vacancies will be published on the website www.boneirutintrabou.an for a duration of five weeks. It is the intention that the job vacancies for St. Eustatius and Saba will also be published on a website in the future. During these five weeks the Public Entity will investigate whether local workers are available on the islands. This is called an island test. After five weeks the Public Entity will indicate whether someone is available on the island to fill the position.

If local workers are not available, the Public Entity will issue a negative island test. Only then an application for a residence and work permit may be submitted to the IND.

- This same procedure applies to job vacancies for which an employer wants to apply for a work permit for a short stay (a maximum of three months); the Public Entity should be notified about these job vacancies as well. The job vacancies will be published on the website www.boneirutintrabou.an for one week. Also for these positions it applies that the Public Entity will perform an island test whether local workers are available.
- In addition, employers often do not know that they should notify a job vacancy to the Public Entity again if:
 - a position for which a work permit was issued changes
 - a foreigner changes employers
- Furthermore, a foreigner will not automatically receive a new work permit if they work for an employer for a period of three years. Also after three years the position should be reported again to the Public Entity via a job vacancy notice for an island test.
- The procedure for the application of a residence and work permit at RCN IND/SZW is described schematically on this page.
- Please contact Social Affairs and Labour (Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid, SZW) or the IND for any questions.

Procedure for Paid Employment



Construction of new prison on Bonaire



State Secretary Teeven (left) near the construction sign.

The Custodial Institutions Agency (Dienst Justitiële Inrichtingen, hereafter DJI) and the Central Government building Agency (Rijksvastgoedbedrijf) have commissioned Bonaire Bouw B.V. for the construction of the new custodial institution on Bonaire. This new construction on Plantage Aruba (at the Kaminda Lagun) will replace the current custodial institution in the centre of Kralendijk. The construction preparation began on 5 January 2015, such as preparing the land for construction. On 19 February the official start took place, during which the former State Secretary of Justice Fred Teeven revealed a 3D drawing of the new institution on the construction site at Plantage Aruba. Many persons were present at this official start; apart from the management and employees of the Judicial Establishment Caribbean Netherlands (Justitiële Inrichting Caribisch Nederland, hereafter JICN), representatives of the judicial chain partners and other relations of JICN were also present. The construction phase will last a total of eighteen months. After completion JICN will need a few months to put the new building into use. The aim is to put the new building into use by the end of 2016.

The new facility will have a capacity of 125 from various detention groups. The realization of the new facility on Bonaire is the last step in the improvement process initiated by DJI in 2008 on Bonaire.

Construction of the fire station progressing well

The construction of the new fire station on Bonaire is in full swing. Construction began in June 2014 and the work on site is progressing. The foundation stone was laid on October 9th, 2014. In February 2015 the floors of the buildings were poured and currently the walls are being built. Work is in serious progress and the contours of the building are slowly becoming more visible.

The new fire station is approximately 2800 m². The station consists of an office area on top, below are the sleeping quarters and storage rooms for the fire engines. Also a wing with technical areas and storage will be build.

With the building of a new station on Bonaire the fire department will get modern housing. The design is unique and the new building will

be a landmark for the island and hopefully an inspiration for fire departments in the region.

The project organization has a good working relationship. All people involved in the project team, the user, as well as the consultants and the contractor, do have a very proactive attitude.



With the construction of the new station the fire department will get a modern housing.

Construction new building of Brede School Papa Cornes



3D View bongo roof.

The construction of the new building of the Brede School Papa Cornes in the neighbourhood North Salina is in full swing.

In 2014 the European tendering for the realisation of the school was completed. In order to offer the (usually somewhat smaller) local parties the opportunity to participate in the construction of the Brede School too it has been decided to split the tendering of the Brede School Papa Cornes into four parcels:

- Parcel 0: clearing the site
- Parcel 1: the realisation of the buildings
- Parcel 2: the realisation of the covered area
- Parcel 3: organising the site

The activities of parcels 0 and 1 started last year. The site has been cleaned, the excavation



3D View – perspective of the view around the entire teacher building.



3D View – front view of the bongo roof.

work has been completed and the foundation have been cast by now.

The construction will take approximately one year.



3D View bongo roof.

The new building will comprise wings for the Papa Cornes and for a nursery school.

There is a covered area outside area for communal use for the wings. This includes a class room for creative activities.



3D View - southeast view of nursery school at eye level.



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The website is also available in Papiamentu and English.