



Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland  
OCW

ENGLISH

# WHAT'S NEW ...

IN CARIBBEAN NETHERLANDS EDUCATION



13

December 2019  
Number 13

2019 was another full and fruitful educational year. In this edition of our e-magazine we give you an overview of some of the highlights from the past year. As you will read, together with all stakeholders, we were able to realise or initiate a great deal.

Every step is progress towards our main objective: good education, to offer the children in the Caribbean Netherlands the same opportunities as the children in the European Netherlands to develop their talents to the maximum.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your efforts and for the pleasant cooperation during the past year.

*On behalf of the OCW team in the Caribbean and in the European Netherlands, I wish you happy holidays and a prosperous and inspiring 2020!*

Nolly Oleana  
Head of the OCW in CN



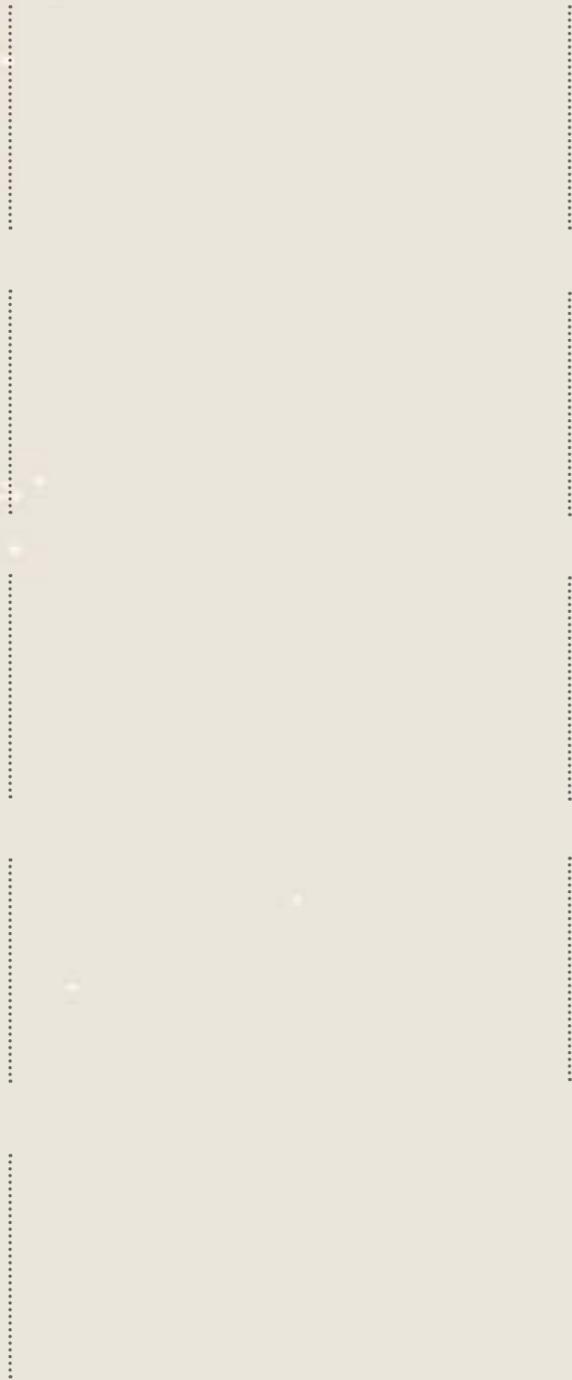
# PREFACE



# CONTENTS

## 3

Colophon



# COLOPHON

**This digital newsletter is a publication of OCW in the Caribbean Netherlands and it aims to:**

- provide education professionals and other interested parties with information about the relevant developments in education in the Caribbean Netherlands;
- stimulate the exchange of education-related knowledge and best practices between the islands.

*Editing:* Elaine Marchena

*English translation:* Global Innovations Corporation N.V., John Amarica

*Design and layout:* I-Design, Ivonne Zegveld

*Do you want to be on the mailing list for this digital newsletter or do you want to contribute to it?*

*Then contact Elaine Marchena: [elaine.marchena@rijksdienstcn.com](mailto:elaine.marchena@rijksdienstcn.com)*

*Deadline for the next edition:* February 28, 2020

© Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW).



# Revision of the European and Caribbean Netherlands primary education curriculum



How can we best prepare our students for the future? On October 10, 2019, teachers and school management offered their advice to Minister Slob for improving the curriculums of primary and secondary education.

When making the proposals, the teams received advice and feedback from thousands of teachers, schools, curriculum experts, scientists, trade unions and other experts in the field of education.

### Modernisation of educational goals

The proposals (building blocks) cover nine subject areas [www.curriculum.nu/](http://www.curriculum.nu/) and are a starting point for achieving improved educational objectives. In addition to updating the objectives, the revision offers an opportunity to tackle the overloaded programme, to improve the connection between primary education, secondary and continued education and to offer schools and teachers more direction and scope. This way we ensure that today's students receive an education that prepares them optimally for life and work in tomorrow's society.

**In this animation** you'll find more information about why we're doing this and how the process is structured.

### Next steps

Revising the curriculum is a comprehensive process; never before have all the key objectives and learning goals for both primary and secondary education been revised simultaneously. The current proposals are building blocks that must be further developed into educational goals (key objectives and learning goals) in the next phase. During this phase, the intention is that the building blocks will first be tested in practice at schools in European Netherlands via pilot programmes.

Subsequently, there will be a process with local participation, to see if and how we can properly finalise the curriculum revision for the Dutch Caribbean. Consider, for example, adjustments that will be necessary to provide a link to the Caribbean Netherlands context, including alignment with the CXC system.

Before that happens, the Cabinet will first provide a substantive response to the proposals (expected by the end of 2019). The House of Representatives will then discuss the content and the next steps with the minister.

A follow-up phase can then be started following the political decision-making.



Photo: Staysly Goilo



## JULISKA VAN ROSSUM

In August I began working as a policy employee at RCN/OCW. I'm mainly involved with higher education and the training of future teachers in the schools, that is, the Training School. It's a big challenge that gives me a lot of energy. It's nice being part of a driven team and being able to work together with the many enthusiastic partners on the islands.

What I contribute is my personal experience in education and public administration. I worked for a time as a management consultant for a municipality in the European Netherlands and I taught in secondary education, senior secondary vocational education and, in recent years, as a Political Science teacher at the University of Amsterdam. As a policy employee, I think it's great to be able to contribute to education on these beautiful islands.



## MIEKE JANSEN

It is with pride that I introduce myself as the new Programme Secretary BES(t) 4 Kids, since December 1. In the BES (t) 4 kids programme the public entities and the Ministries of OCW, SZW and VWS work together on good and affordable pre- and after school care facilities in the Caribbean Netherlands: an interesting and challenging position that really appeals to me!

As the Programme Secretary I support and advise the Programme Manager in the field of planning and organisation, make sure that deadlines are met and that administrative tasks are taken care of. Preceding my move to Bonaire in September 2018, I worked as a Secretary in various projects and programmes for the municipality of Rotterdam, especially in the field of education, and for the Zeeland-West-Brabant Court of justice: knowledge and experience that come in handy for this beautiful programme!

## EVALUATION OF EDUCATION CARE IN THE CARIBBEAN NETHERLANDS

**The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science has contracted the Oberon and Kohnstamm Institute research companies to evaluate special educational needs on Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius.**

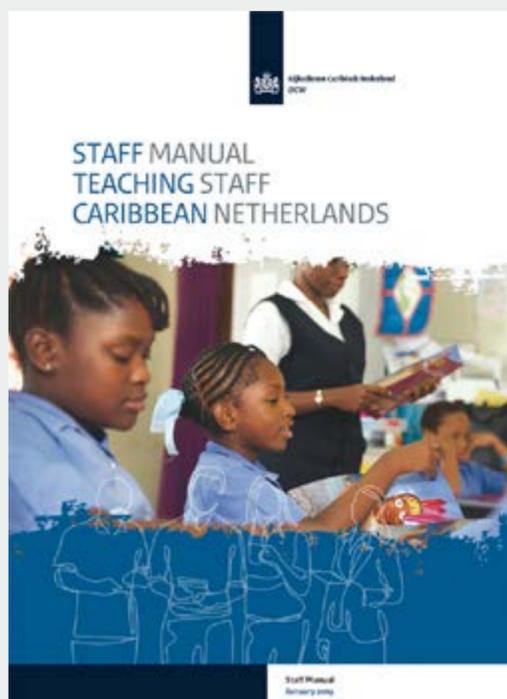
The purpose of this evaluation is to get a better picture of the current special educational needs: of the bottlenecks, what is needed to overcome them and to make special educational needs future-proof. For this, the researchers visited the islands in October to conduct interviews with the Expertise Centres for education care (EOZs), schools and partners in the fields of special educational needs and youth care.

**The researchers are now working on the final report. More information regarding this will follow in January 2020.**

SHORT EVALUATION



## Staff manual CN



**In August, the Staff Manual for Caribbean Netherlands Educational Staff was distributed. This manual describes the employment conditions of the educational staff, that is, their rights and obligations.**

The employment conditions are defined in various regulations. An overview of the most important regulations is included in the manual's appendices. These regulations are public information and can be consulted online by anyone at [wetten.overheid.nl](http://wetten.overheid.nl)

For more information about this manual or to download it, click on the following link: [employee handbook](#).

## Vocational education and Social Opportunity Pathways for Youth meetings

On December 3 and 4, OCW organised two interactive meetings on Bonaire with the three governments, the secondary education schools, the institutions for the Social Opportunity Pathways for Youth (SKJ) and ROA CN (Council for Education and Labour Market Caribbean Netherlands).

The participants discussed the CVQ (Caribbean Vocational Qualification) education system started on Saba and St. Eustatius during the first conference day.

On behalf of OCW, policy officer Iris Tuinman-Cloosterman gave a presentation about this education system and its key persons. After lunch there was an in-depth session about the division of responsibilities between the schools and ROA CN, which will play an important role in the future organisation of CVQ education. In the coming months, efforts will be made to further implement the necessary cooperation between the schools and ROA CN.

Day two concerned the Social Opportunity Pathways for Youth (SKJ). After almost 10 years, the SKJ law for the Caribbean Netherlands is due for a revision. The OCW Ministry has contracted the Oberon research firm to evaluate the law's implementation to date and to make recommendations for the future implementation of the SKJ based on this. The researchers presented their findings during the first part of the day. The participants then discussed the priorities and possible solutions during various work sessions. Oberon is still compiling the results from this day into a final report that will be submitted to OCW in January 2020. Based on Oberon's advice, OCW will prepare a proposal for the future of SKJ.



## Four-Country Meeting on Education, Culture and Science will be held annually

On November 11 and 12, the Ministers of Education, Culture and Science in the Kingdom held a ministerial Four-Country Meeting for the second time this year.

Photo: Tirzah Schnater, OCW.



From left to right: Mrs. Jorien Wuite (Sint Maarten's Plenipotentiary Minister), Mr. Guiffred Besaril (Aruba's Plenipotentiary Minister, as the alternate for Xiomara Ruiz-Maduro, Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs and Culture), Mr. Rudy Lampe, (Aruba's Minister of Education, Science and Sustainable Development and the upcoming chairman of the 2020 Four-Country Meeting), Mrs. Ingrid van Engelshoven (Netherlands Minister of Education, Culture and Science and chairman of the Four-Country Meeting held on November 12, 2019,) and Mrs. Marilyn Alcalá-Wallé (Curaçao's Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport and chairman of the previous Four-Country Meeting held in February 2019). Photo: Tirzah Schnater, OCW.

## Conscious Discipline training in Aruba



**Childcare professionals from the three CN islands participated in a Conscious Discipline training course in Aruba during the last week of November.**

*This course is part of the professionalisation process of childcare institutions within the BES(t) 4 Kids programme. This multi-year programme aims to strengthen childcare, pre-school and after-school facilities in CN and to make childcare more affordable for parents.*

The ministers decided that from now on, the ministerial Four-Country Meeting on Education, Culture and Science will be held annually. The meeting will be in the Netherlands during odd years - always following the biennial UNESCO General Conference - and during even years in one of the Caribbean countries.

The ministers took more than 30 decisions regarding their cooperation. For example, it was decided that the countries will simultaneously ratify and implement the UNESCO 2001 Convention on Underwater Archaeology and that the Royal Library (Koninklijke Bibliotheek) is going to work together with the libraries on Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten to make agreements regarding connecting to its digital library.

It was also agreed that an external study on problems that students have with fitting into the Kingdom will be tendered. Based on this research, proposals will be made during the next ministerial Four-Country Meeting in 2020 to improve the study success of students from the Caribbean islands. In addition, there will be research into the possibility of establishing a fund to promote student mobility within the Kingdom.

Finally, the ministers decided to work together to further improve communication and information about student financial aid that is effective in the Caribbean context. There will be a study on the possibilities for automatical repayment of student loans to DUO, in the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom as well, based on one's ability to pay. In addition, in 2020, the role of a temporary DUO office in Aruba and Curaçao will be evaluated.

TOPIC

Language in education



# NVT Highlights 2019

- In February 2019, the ministers of the four countries Curaçao, Aruba, Sint Maarten and the Netherlands, endorsed the previously established NVT network by signing a **declaration of intent** during the ministerial Four-Country Meeting in Curaçao.

**The purpose of the declaration of intent is to ensure optimum language development for students by working together to provide high quality education.**

The NVT Network is a platform in which educational stakeholders from all six islands exchange knowledge, information and educational resources, support research projects and work together to professionalise the NVT teachers. The “PLEK” digital platform was established for this purpose.



In May, PE teachers in Aruba, Bonaire, Sint Maarten, Saba and Sint Eustatius conducted the NVT evaluation with more than 700 students, after they received training for this from the Dutch Language Union. The NVT evaluation maps the language skills of group 8 students for each of the four language skills (speaking, listening, writing and reading).

To complement the existing NVT materials for groups 5 through 8 and the magazines for the lower grades of secondary education, the NVT teaching materials for groups 1 and 2 (John & Joonie method) were made available last fall. This method was developed by **NVT Bureau** in collaboration with ECE Sint Eustatius:

[www.facebook.com/ecestatia/](http://www.facebook.com/ecestatia/)

In October, implementation sessions were organized for the PE teachers in question on Sint Eustatius, Saba and Sint Maarten.



In collaboration with **Biblionef** PE produced the “Atlas of Dutch” and a card game: “Cat and Dog”. All primary schools in the region received a copy of these materials.

In November, in collaboration with the IPA and Aruban teachers, the first NVT exercises were developed in Aruba, which teachers can use to evaluate language skills at the various PE and SE levels. The exercises are expected to be available digitally starting in June 2020.

**Teaching materials for the upper grades of secondary education have also been developed: the CED group developed lessons using a Caribbean version of *Nieuwsbegrip***

If you (or your school) has a subscription, you can find them on the Nieuwsbegrip website under “Extra lessons”.

During the past year, work on transition modules (NVT+ process) for transitioning to Dutch-language MBO secondary education (from A2 to B1) and to HBO/WO (from B1 to B2) has been ongoing. These will become available in June 2020.



Since November, the updated **continuous NVT learning pathways** are available on the Dutch Language Union’s website.



**The following two persons were both appointed by the cooperating school boards' steering committee on Sint Eustatius and Saba for two-year language projects.**



## TERRI BAKKER

Since June 2019, I've been working as part of a two-year project on developing a language policy for the islands of Saba and St. Eustatius. I'm intrigued by the dynamics of these two English-speaking islands, each with its own English dialect, which are part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, with a substantial Spanish-speaking population and many other multilingual inhabitants! Developing a language policy that takes these (sub) groups into account will be a complex and challenging project, during which my fascination for sociolinguistics and the historical and cultural dynamics of a society will come in handy.

From an early age I've cultivated my love for languages and thanks to my fluency in English (my native language) as well as Dutch and Spanish, I can interact very naturally with all the stakeholders in this project. During the 28 years that I've taught languages, I've taught Spanish, English (as a second language), German and theatre in the US, the Netherlands, Thailand, Singapore and Venezuela.

After having lived in more than ten different countries, I have now settled on Saba, an island where I worked 16 years ago as a multilingual diving instructor. What also fascinates me about this assignment, is the opportunity to get to know the islands of St. Eustatius and Saba from within and I look forward to the cooperation that I will receive for this project from the special people of Saba and St. Eustatius.



## ADRIAAN D'HAENS

Since September 2019, I've been working as a Dutch as a foreign language (NVT) expert/coach for the schools on Sint Eustatius and Saba. My mission is to support teachers during the transition to a skill-oriented approach to teaching Dutch as a foreign language. I do this via coaching, workshops and projects that contribute to the motivation of and cooperation between schools on the two islands.

I studied Dutch Studies (MA in Germanic Languages) at the University of Ghent and I also obtained my teaching certification there. Based on my fascination for the learning of Dutch, I wrote my graduation thesis on the way English speakers who are learning Dutch, order their words. Prior to my current position, I taught Dutch to people aged 11 to 61, in adult education, at two universities and at various secondary schools in Flanders and abroad. For most of my pupils and students, Dutch was not their native language. In addition, I'm also advising on the realisation of a Dutch exam for the [International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme](#).

I am currently in the final phase of completing my master's thesis at Oxford University. For this I developed a writing tool for multilingual students who have difficulty writing in Dutch.

I think it's great that my expertise and passion for effective language education can contribute to this two-year project and I invite everyone who wants to talk about Dutch as a foreign language to contact me at: [adriaan@nederlandsopsabaenstatia.eu](mailto:adriaan@nederlandsopsabaenstatia.eu).

TOPIC



# IMPLEMENTATION IEP STUDENT MONITORING SYSTEM ON BONAIRE

During the week of October 14-18, IEP advisers Pepijn Dousti and Joost Schouten from **Bureau ICE Bonaire** visited Bonaire for the implementation of the IEP Student Monitoring System (IEP LVS). The primary schools on Bonaire view the IEP LVS as a powerful tool to follow the broad development (head, heart and hands) of their students. In addition, the IEP LVS ties in very well with the IEP Final Test, which this school year was taken to everyone's satisfaction for the third consecutive school year.



**Frans van Efferink**  
(Managing Director of the Bonaire School Board):

“BECAUSE THE IEP PROVIDES CLEAR ADVICE REGARDING CONTINUING EDUCATION, IT HELPS US TO BETTER PLACE STUDENTS ON THE CORRECT EDUCATIONAL PATH.”

During **the first two days** of implementation, all teachers from groups 3 to 8 from the three school boards were guests at De Pelikaan primary school. There they received information about the IEP LVS' content and procedures. Using various methods, knowledge and experiences were shared and every teacher was given the opportunity to view the IEP LVS and to take the first steps using it.

**Day three** was all about making concrete, island-wide agreements regarding the way the tests will be taken. Agreements for following-up were also made with the directors and internal supervisors to evaluate the first results in January and February 2020 and, if necessary, to adjust the agreements made.

The IEP advisors also spoke with representatives of the Bonaire Expertise Centre Education Care and the Bonaire School Board. They gave them insight into the IEP LVS' contents and possibilities.

Via this implementation week, school administrators and the IEP advisers hope that the IEP LVS contributes to ensuring that every student on Bonaire receives maximum support during their own development.

**Nilva Wout, Director-administrator**  
(R. K. School Board Bonaire)

The IEP is student-oriented, it doesn't focus on performance, but on development. The students are not compared to each other, they're involved in their own learning process. These two aspects increase the students' motivation and this is precisely what our students need.

**Gerald Kolenbrander, Principal**  
(De Pelikaan Primary School)

Students, parents and teachers gain insight into the reference levels and via the tests that are taken, a student sees where his/her development opportunities lie. That doesn't end in group 8, but continues in secondary education (VO). In doing so, we hope to create a continuous path.



## IEP - Insight Into Your Own Profile

A child is more than Math and language. Their social-emotional development, approach to learning and creative ability, also make them who they are. A complete child is head, heart and hands. A monitoring system must take this into account. Not by evaluating children on what they can't do, but by providing insight into where a child now stands and indicating how they can further develop to become who they are.

Using meaningful testing, the IEP student monitoring system maps the development and talents of the entire child. An outcome that helps you as a teacher, together with the student, gain insight into the next step in their development and that increases the student's ownership of their own development.

For more information about Bureau ICE and the IEP, visit: [www.bureau-ice.nl](http://www.bureau-ice.nl)

*Joost Schouten of Bureau ICE during the meeting on Bonaire, with the participants of the various primary schools.*



*Princess Beatrix and government commissioner Mike Franco walk to their seats for a cultural programme in the former Reformed church.*



*Dance and music for the princess at the Mega D Youth Foundation.*



## Students from Saba explore the Caribbean during Summer School programme



**Working together and putting in practice subjects like Dutch, Math, Physics and Chemistry while exploring the Caribbean area in a sailing boat.**

All this was part of the past Summer school programme for the Saba Comprehensive School students, participating in a sailing trip along the islands Saba, Sint Maarten, Tintamarre, St. Barths, Nevis and Sint Eustatius. Naturally, there was also attention for marine life and the impact of humans on the ecological system of the sea. A second sailing trip was organised for pupils of group 8, to help them in the transition from primary to secondary education.

## Erasmus+ Charter for the University of Aruba and the University of Curaçao

**Jona Israël**, Associate Professor International Private law and Comparative Integration law University of Aruba:

“INTERNATIONALIZATION SIMPLY MEANS AN ENORMOUS BOOST IN QUALITY FOR YOUR EDUCATION.”

The University of Aruba and the University of Curaçao both received the Erasmus+ Charter for Higher Education (ECHE), the Erasmus+ quality certification for educational institutions in a programme country.

These universities entered into agreements for annual exchanges with partner universities in Europe (and also beyond for the University of Aruba) to enable students and teaching staff to acquire new skills and knowledge abroad.

## Erasmus+ webinar about e-twinning

**Would you like to extend your e-Twinning project with a traveling exchange programme?**

Erasmus+ is organising a webinar on this topic on **Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 10:30** CN tijd.

Come and receive all information on durable, digital and on-the-spot cooperation with schools in Europe. From finding a partner to applying for a subsidy: it will all be covered in this webinar.

You can [Apply](#) via this website.



From left to right: Frans van Hoek of the NAE+ (Erasmus+ National Agency), Annemarie de Ruiter (NA +), Max Bueno de Mesquita (OCW Ministry), Judith Dayus (NA Erasmus+)

## Erasmus+ informs schools during a visit

During the week of November 18, a delegation from the National Erasmus+ Education & Training Agency visited the windward islands, accompanied by Mr. Max Bueno de Mesquita (OCW Ministry). The purpose of this visit was to inform the educational institutions on both the windward and leeward islands about the agency and the possibilities of this subsidy programme. While on Bonaire the team also spoke via video conference to educational institutions on the windward islands of Saba, Sint Eustatius and Sint Maarten.

For everyone who works or who's learning, the Erasmus+ programme offers opportunities to gain experience abroad and to develop oneself internationally. The current programme runs from 2014 to 2020 and aims to make education and development accessible to everyone in Europe. Erasmus+ offers various opportunities to gain experience abroad and to contribute to innovation in European education. The Erasmus+ Education & Training National Agency grants subsidies for studying, internships, continuing education, training, job shadowing or an exchange within or outside of Europe, for example. It concerns projects in collaboration with other European countries - the programme is not intended for exchanges between the Caribbean Netherlands and the European Netherlands.

The programme applies to primary education, secondary education, vocational education, higher education, youth & youth employment and adult education sectors. Within this latter sector, the programme also supports literacy projects. The schools on the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands may also submit grant applications to Erasmus+, for Mobility

(KA1), as well as the Strategic Partnerships (KA2). There are currently twelve Erasmus+ projects in the Caribbean Netherlands: for primary and secondary education, senior secondary vocational education and higher education.

According to Frans van Hoek, senior mbo consultant at the National Agency for Erasmus+ Education & Training, the visit to Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba was a success: "Many interested people came to receive information about the programme and we made good contacts." If there's sufficient interest, the National Agency for Erasmus+ Education & Training will pay a follow-up visit to the windward islands of Saba, Sint Eustatius and Sint Maarten in 2020, during the period leading up to the new subsidy programme for 2021 - 2027.

### For more information about:

- the program's conditions
- the application procedure
- subsidies previously granted
- and much more...

[www.erasmusplus.nl](http://www.erasmusplus.nl)



# ProDemos school programmes

Photography: ProDemos

## ProDemos

Huis voor democratie en rechtsstaat

**Starting next school year, students in the Caribbean Netherlands can playfully learn and experience what it's like in court and in government offices.**

In collaboration with the three island governments and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the ProDemos organisation is currently working on adapting a number of student programmes for students in the Caribbean Netherlands to use.

ProDemos [www.prodemos.nl](http://www.prodemos.nl) provides guided tours, educational programmes and activities in and from The Hague to inform citizens, including students, and to experience how politics, democracy, justice and the rule of law function in the Kingdom.

The programmes and their associated materials, adapted for the Caribbean Netherlands, will be ready by the spring of 2020. ProDemos will finalise everything before the summer of 2020. They will also provide local training to the supervisors from the three islands who will be implementing the programmes with the students during the 2020 - 2021 school year.

It concerns the following three student programmes:

- 1. Democracy**, for students in groups 7 and 8 PE and for Pro.

With interactive teaching methods, students discuss with their supervisor the legal system in our society and the students (in gowns if possible) re-enact a lawsuit. This guest lecture is good preparation for their visit to the court, which is organised thereafter.

**Goal:**

Inform students about the legal system and have them experience it.

- 2. Guest lecture about the court with role playing and a visit to the courthouse**, for MBO, HAVO and VWO and for CCSLC, CSEC and CVQ.

With interactive teaching methods, students discuss with their supervisor the legal system in our society and the students (in gowns if possible) re-enact a lawsuit. The guest lecture is good preparation for their visit to the court, which is organised thereafter.

**Goal:**

Inform students about the legal system and have them experience it.

- 3. Class visits to government offices**, for MBO, HAVO and VWO and for CCSLC, CSEC and CVQ.

Students visit local government offices, learn more about local politics and have discussions with members of the Island Council.

**Goal:**

Introduce students to government offices and getting to know local politics. In addition, via this assignment, the programme supports education that promotes becoming an involved citizen..





# Have you always dreamed of participating in a cultural project abroad?

One person dreams of a dance project in Brazil, for someone else, it's a performance with a theatre group in the US. Or a music project, with a music school in Cuba: just think of it. The International Cooperation Grant Scheme supports innovative cultural initiatives, during your free time and during school, both nationally and internationally.

Watch the informative video:

**INTERNATIONALE  
SAMENWERKING**

Click here for info about the scheme:

**FONDS VOOR  
CULTOOR  
PARTICIPATIE**

You can also call us!



International Cooperation advisor Femie Willems will be happy to discuss the plans with you  
Call: +31-30-233 60 30



Do you want to collaborate with an international partner in the fields of cultural participation or cultural education or find out how you can make this possible? Would you like to exchange knowledge and collaborate internationally on great cultural projects or expand your network? And are you willing to also share the knowledge you've gained in the Dutch domain? Then this provision might be something for you!

### Amounts that can be requested

Finding good and suitable international partners takes time. To ensure that this scheme also fits in with organisations that do not yet have an international cooperative relationship, the scheme offers two different options for applying:

- **The development grant** for exploring and feedback. Would you like to cooperate internationally, but are still looking for good partners? With this grant, locally you can explore the opportunities and possibilities.

*The development grant is maximum €7,500 and may cover 100% of the budget.*

- **The cooperation grant** for an international cooperation project and feedback. Have you already found partners or are they already identified? Then this project grant will help you get started

*The cooperation grant is maximum €25,000 and may cover a maximum of 50% of the budget.*

### Application is ongoing

Applications for the subsidy scheme can be submitted up to and including Friday, December 18, 2020 or until the €1,000,000 subsidy limit has been reached. As such, it's advisable not to wait until the deadline, but to get started immediately.



The new housing at the Seventh Day Adventist School (SDA School)

## Signing the covenant for school buildings on Sint Eustatius

On August 28, acting government commissioner, Mervyn Stegers of the Sint Eustatius government, put his signature alongside that of Arie Slob, Minister of Primary and Secondary Education and Media (OCW), on the covenant that establishes agreements for the last two school building projects on Sint Eustatius: the Gwendoline van Putten School's (GvP) new building and the ongoing renovation and new building for the Seventh Day Adventist School (SDA school).

In accordance with the covenant, the Sint Eustatius government has developed an action plan to complete the renovation and the new buildings for the two schools in question. The construction and renovation process is being led by a project manager from the government. As such, the responsibility for these projects: to renovate and to construct the new buildings, has been transferred to the Sint Eustatius government.

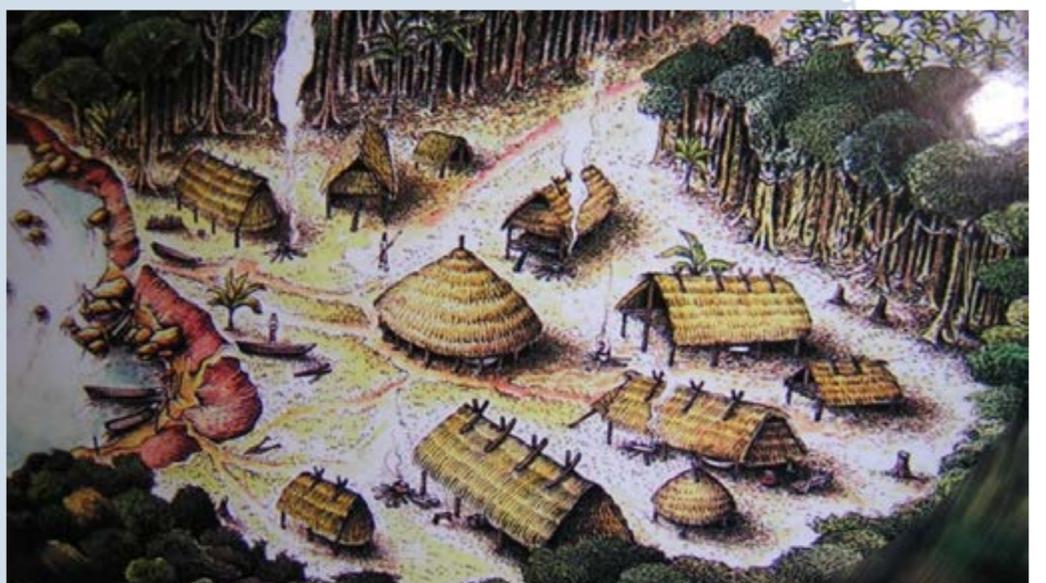


The SDA school on Sint Eustatius has now been completed and the official opening of the renovated complex will be in January 2020.

Preceding a planned new housing project for the Scholengemeenschap Bonaire (SGB), excavations were conducted to safeguard any Bonairian heritage on that location. SGB Director **Frans Van Efferink** about the discovery of the Amboina village on that site:



**“IT’S A PRIVILEGE FOR THE SGB TO BUILD A SCHOOL ON THE FOUNDATIONS OF A VILLAGE FROM THE 12<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY. TIME MARCHES ON. PROGRESS DOESN’T STAND STILL, BUT MOVES ON WITH RESPECT FOR THE CIVILISATION THAT BONAIRE’S EDUCATION CONTINUES TO BUILD UPON.”**



Reconstruction of this type of Indian village



# IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND AT SGB BONAIRE CONSTRUCTION SITE

Archaeological research at the location where a new school complex for mbo and vmbo will be constructed for the Scholengemeenschap Bonaire (SGB), has led to the discovery of Amboina: the largest Amerindian village on Bonaire (1000 - 1400 AD).

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) and the Bonaire government cooperated during this research. [Bureau ARCHOL B.V.](#), hired the staff for the archaeological team and this team was led by [archaeologist Jay Harviser](#) who was appointed to this role by the Bonaire government. Young local archaeologists from the [Bonaire Archeological Institute Bonai](#) also contributed to this research. The collection of artefacts found includes ceramics, shells, amulets, objects made from stone, food scraps, ten skeletons and the remains of stilt houses and graves.

Research into the artefacts found shows that around 900 AD there must have been a pre-Columbian settlement of the [de Caquetio indians](#) located there.



Some of the shell amulets found

In the meantime, the archaeological investigation has been completed and various artefacts have been sent to the Netherlands for further investigation, including carbon dating, to determine their exact age. These items will be returned to Bonaire in February 2020, where they will eventually reach their final destination.

Now that the archaeological investigation has been completed, the site has been released for construction. How some of the discovered artefacts can become part of the design of the new complex, is also being studied.

*Dr. Jay B. Harviser (archaeologist)*

“THIS PROJECT HAS NOT ONLY REVEALED THE VITAL HERITAGE OF BONAIRE’S CULTURE FOR THE PAST THOUSAND YEARS, BUT HAS ALSO PROVIDED A POSITIVE MODEL FOR SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE NETHERLANDS AND THE CARIBBEAN NETHERLANDS IN OUR MODERN TIMES.”



Ceramic artefacts from this site



Archaeologists at work



## NEW CVQ EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION STARTS ON SABA

The new two-year CVQ<sup>1</sup> Early Childhood Education course was recently festively launched at the [Saba Comprehensive School](#) during the opening of the Early Childhood Center.

This training course received a positive assessment following an audit by the [National Training Agency TVET](#) (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) in Barbados. The fourteen participants in these trainer courses work at the [Laura Linzey Day Care](#), Boys and Girls Society (after-school care), [Child Focus, expertise onderwijszorg centrum EC2](#) and at [Sacred Heart Primary School](#) (primary education).

During next school year (2020 - 2021), a second group will start, consisting of the remaining employees of the before and after-school care centres on Saba. In the meantime, possible follow-up training at level 3 is being looked into.

<sup>1</sup> CVQ stands for Caribbean Vocational Qualification. CVQ is the vocational education component within the CXC (Caribbean Examination Council) examination system [www.cxc.org](http://www.cxc.org)



### 2019 Conference CVET

Picture: Gwendoline van Putten School

**On November 28 and 29, approximately 50 vocational educational stakeholders from the leeward and windward islands came together for the third year in a row to organise the Caribbean Vocational Education Conference.**

This year's edition, which was held in Sint Eustatius, focused on CVQ (the Caribbean vocational school system). The goal of this conference was to promote cooperation between the schools and exchange knowledge and best practices. The break-out sessions about resp. General Construction, Care & Hospitality, Early Childhood Development and CVQ on a managerial level, provided opportunities to do this.