



ANNUAL PLAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY BONAIRE 2024

BUILDING BRIDGES ON
AND FOR BONAIRE!



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1. IINTRODUCTION

In 2024, the Bonaire Chamber of Commerce (KvK) has set itself the goal of further improving cooperation with other organizations on Bonaire, stakeholders and the various ministries. The Chamber of Commerce wants to achieve this by proactively communicating with stakeholders and entrepreneurs on Bonaire. In 2024, the newly launched trade register system, which was launched in 2022, will be better utilized to its full extent. This is done by optimizing processes, improving services and professional support for (starting) entrepreneurs. Naturally, this will often be done digitally using the click-call-face method used by the Chamber of Commerce.

2. BUSINESS REGISTER

As of October 15, 2023, 6,785 companies are registered in the Chamber's trade register, which is an increase of 11% compared to the year 2022 (6% increase). These registrations can be divided into the following numbers per business form. (see Table)

During the period from January 1, 2023 to October 15, 2023, there were a total of 661 new registrations registered in the trade register compared to 685 in the same period in 2022. This is approximately 3% fewer registrations than in 2022. Despite this, an increase of 11% can be seen in 2023 of the total registered companies.

A possible explanation for this is that if entrepreneurs cease business operations, they unfortunately do not always report this to the trade register. This can result in an overly positive picture of the population in the overview.

An attempt will be made to establish a connection with the Personal Information Facility of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba (PIVA) in accordance with the BES Personal Data Protection Act, so that address verification by customers is no longer necessary and the trade register increases in quality. In concrete terms, this could mean that the trade register could be elec-

tronically linked to other (basic) registrations and DigiD and eHerkenning could possibly be connected.

The Chamber forms will be further adjusted in 2024 based on the ERS system. An example here is form Model A. In addition, work will be done to make all forms available to entrepreneurs in multilingual formats. Based on the new digital system, it is quick and easy for the customer to make changes. The system will be further refined in 2024 to better serve entrepreneurs with online registrations.

The trade register will also increase awareness of the possibility of filing the general terms and conditions. This is already happening on a large scale in the European Netherlands.

Rechtsvorm	31/12/2021	31/12/2022	31/12/2023
Eenmanszaak	1.439	1.423	1.634
Maatschap	4	4	4
VOF	32	27	27
CV	0	1	2
NV	890	889	898
BV	2.604	2.947	3.329
Coöperatie	11	11	13
Stichting	385	386	397
SPF (Stichting Particulier Fonds)	43	40	41
Vereniging	188	200	206
Buitenlandse rechtsvorm, hoofdvestiging op Bonaire	2	2	6
Nevenvestiging op Bonaire van een buitenlandse rechtsvorm	190	209	228
Totaal	5.788	6.139	6.785





3. BUSINESS INNOVATION & SKILLS (BIS)

The Chamber of Commerce is a place where entrepreneurs can obtain accessible information about doing business on Bonaire. This information is provided on the website, in personal conversations with the business advisors, through information sessions at the Chamber of Commerce or through webinars that will be given in 2024.

During 2024, the BIS department will pay attention to entrepreneurship at school, export, Bonaire's innovative capacity and the reduction of unnecessary procedures and regulations. Finally, a Bonaire Chamber Art Exhibition will be organized in 2024, after two previous very successful editions. A new exhibition for a specific target group will also be considered that will also contribute to further economic development of Bonaire.

The Chamber of Commerce will again provide the very successful Chamber of Commerce Academy in 2024, where starting entrepreneurs will be prepared to start their business in 11 modules. With the pitch "Tanki di Tribon" at the end. The Innovation Academy will also return in 2024, which uses Design Thinking to help existing entrepreneurs think in an innovative way about how their organization can be marketed in an innovative and distinctive way. During the year 2024, the Chamber of Commerce, together with NGO Platform, the interest group for Foundations and Associations, will develop a curriculum that will

mainly focus on writing subsidy applications, reporting on legal aspects and 'good corporate governance'.

In addition, the focus on Blue Destination will be further expanded by providing more intensive guidance and facilitation to entrepreneurs with the certification application. The aim is also to have more industries join the certification process.

In the context of sustainability, the environment information point at the Chamber of Commerce also plays an important role. The environmental information point provides information about the Establishments and Activities Decree (IAB) of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management. This physical information point is located in the reception area of the Chamber of Commerce and is open in the mornings from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. This project is being carried out in collaboration with the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB). IAB is expected to enter into force in the second quarter of 2024.

In 2024, the Chamber of Commerce will aim to start two processes with the BIS & CvO department: Business Buddy and Bundling Forces. In both cases, an entrepreneur will be linked to another entrepreneur on the island, where they will fulfill the role of coach and/or can strengthen each other.

In addition, in 2024 the Chamber of Commerce will deal with subsidies and regulations that relate to entrepreneurs on Bonaire. This is not just about exports abroad, but especially about exports to the neighboring islands. For this purpose, workshops will be organized for entrepreneurs to help with subsidy options, which is a tangle for many of them. And trade opportunities by encouraging trade missions.





4. CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Chamber of Commerce has been commissioned by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) to develop an entrepreneurship program that supports starting entrepreneurs in developing their business in order to create a viable business. This program should ensure that entrepreneurs are better aware of what help they need and what skills they need to develop to have a viable business. Free assistance can then be provided in the areas of financing, knowledge, permits and taxes. The “skills” can be further developed by using vouchers for training, courses and coaching.

One of the key challenges identified by entrepreneurs is the current lack of a cohesive entrepreneurship ecosystem that serves the needs of all aspects of a start-up business. The Center for Entrepreneurship will ensure that attention is paid to the most important aspects during the start of the company. A large number of organizations have therefore agreed to contribute to better guidance for entrepreneurs. These include the Netherlands Enterprise Agency, the Caribbean Netherlands Tax Authorities, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Public Entity Bonaire, Qredits, the notaries and the Benelux Office for Intellectual Property

5. COMMUNICATION

Throughout the year there will be communication on various topics that are relevant to entrepreneurs. This is done via direct mailings, our website, social media channels and other media publications. Entrepreneurs will also be kept informed of everything the Chamber of Commerce does for the business community. During 2024, the Chamber will continue to do all communication in three languages, namely Dutch, English and Papiamentu.



6. STAKEHOLDERS

The Chamber of Commerce would like to expand and intensify contacts with stakeholders. For example, the Chamber of Commerce has concluded an agreement with the Bonaire Government Buildings (BOG) and Tourism Bonaire (TCB) in 2023. The Chamber of Commerce would also like to collaborate with partners who manage data (e.g. Civil Affairs, Caribbean Netherlands Tax Authorities) to ensure that the Trade Register remains precise and accurate. This will also require changes to legislation and regulations for Bonaire. For that reason, the Chamber of Commerce has already raised this point several times with the responsible ministries in the Netherlands. In addition, we will also need the local government to ensure that rules and procedures on the island run more smoothly for entrepreneurs and minimize the time that entrepreneurs spend starting up the business.



