

Recap session: A Shared Journalistic Future – The Caribbean & European Netherlands in Conversation

The House for Journalism (Huis voor de Journalistiek) hosted the first Dutch Journalism Festival in the city of Deventer in September 2025. Read on as we take a look back at the festival, especially the session organized by the Dutch Fund for In-Dept Journalism (FBJP), titled A Shared Journalistic Future – The Caribbean & European Netherlands in Conversation.

Our ambitious goal was to bring together journalists from the Dutch Caribbean islands and the European Netherlands, allowing them to meet, get to know one another, and get a detailed picture of the journalistic landscape in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. While journalism on the islands is already robust and multifaceted, there is definitely potential for strengthening areas such as in-depth and investigative reporting, professional development and collaboration.

The FBJP's director Joëlle Terburg and expert on Caribbean funding programmes Wensly Francisco, who both visited the islands for a working trip in early 2025, were very much looking forward to this session. It was one of the first-ever occasions for such a conversation, and the demand was clear: the room was packed with journalists from both the European and the Caribbean Netherlands – besides our Caribbean speakers, the Fund supported five other journalists from the region to attend.

At the post-session lunch (and throughout the festival, in fact) it was wonderful to see that people were meeting each other, exchanging contact details and even forging ideas for collaborations and new projects. Especially valuable were the in-depth conversations during the post-session recording of Martijn Hisschemölle's Bonairean radio show [Op de Klippen](#) – a one-off broadcast on location from Deventer.

Our session at the festival was the perfect next step for our Caribbean funding scheme, following on from the first round of grants for the nearly 20 journalists who are now working on major projects. Beyond project funding for independent research and publications, there is a need for more opportunities for meeting, networking and exchange. The Deventer event provided exactly that – and also gave us new insights that we will carry forward in our future activities.

Thanks

We are very grateful to the speakers Sharina Henriquez, Derrick Walter, Dick Drayer, Melissa Stamper, Dimetri Whitfield and Martijn Hisschemölle for sharing their knowledge and experience. Our thanks also to Deya Mensche for offering a glimpse into her current research; to moderator Patricia Cronie for expertly navigating this complex topic; and to our colleagues at the FBJP, who organized the session and the Fund's presence at the festival with such care and thoughtfulness.

Radio show

Click [here](#) to listen to *De nacht van het Caribisch Netwerk* (in Dutch), hosted by Guillian Payne, who talked with his guests Joëlle Terburg and Wensly Francisco about journalism on the islands, with particular attention for independent support. This item was recorded on the evening before our session.