

Annual Report: 2020

1. Administrative Details

1.1 - Name of National Committee: German National Committee of the Blue Shield

1.2 - Date Report Completed: 07 February 2021

1.3 - Reporting period covered: January 2020 – December 2020

1.4 - Names, positions and emails of all those who were the principal officers on the date the report was approved or who served during in the reporting period:

Susann Harder, President, E-Mail: harder@blue-shield.de

Elisabeth Korinth, Vice-President, E-Mail: korinth@blue-shield.de

Dr Klaus Weschenfelder, Treasurer, E-Mail: weschenfelder@blue-shield.de

1.5 - Address of the main office:

Deutsches Nationalkomitee Blue Shield e.V.
Bruederstraße 13
10178 Berlin
Germany

1.6 - Website and social media (if applicable):

www.blue-shield.de

Twitter: @BlueShield_GER

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHA0YonBQzRAfmJZOdgjb9w/featured>

1.7 – Email the Blue Shield email should forward to:

info@blue-shield.de

2. Income

What is the total income of your committee? What are the primary sources? (Donations, grants, etc?)

The primary income of our committee are membership fees. In 2020, this amounted to 1.150,00 Euro. Furthermore, we received two donations to the overall amount of 750,00 Euro. Both donors are private individuals who are also members.

The implementation of the Social Media Campaign on the 1970 UNESCO Convention was supported by funding from the German Federal Foreign Office which granted the organisation 3.091,87 Euro.

3. Report of Activities: Achievements & Performance

3.1 - Law, policy development and implementation:

Annual General Assembly of Blue Shield Germany & Elections

The annual General Assembly of Blue Shield Germany took place on 29 May 2020. Elections for the board were held in accordance with the association's statutes. Due to the SARS-2-CoV pandemic, the assembly had to be conducted as an online conference which was possible due to a change in the German legislation. The members received instructions and the necessary documents for the voting process via e-mail and sent in their votes via postal mail. They elected the president and the five additional positions in the board. Susann Harder was elected as president, and the following members as individual members to the board: Elisabeth Korinth (Vice-President), Dr Klaus Weschenfelder (Treasurer), Alexander Gatzsche (Secretary), Dr Birgitta Ringbeck, and Adrian Heritage. The term of the present board will run until 2023.

Strategic Workshop, January 2020

Early in 2020, on 18th January, all members of Blue Shield Germany were invited to participate in a strategic workshop which was intended to further define the objectives and specific activities of the organisation. The workshop was attended by 13 members who managed to identify the key aspects on which the work of the organisation should focus. It also made very clear, however, that some members who are already active in existing initiatives / structures, feel that Blue Shield Germany might compete with those and therefore stressed this aspect.

During a follow-up online meeting on 19th February, Blue Shield Germany established ad-hoc working groups that focussed on some of the selected activities, particularly the development of marketing materials, the preparation of the members' assembly or the development of a social media campaign for the 1970 UNESCO Convention.

Supporting the implementation of the Concept Civil Protection (*Konzeption Zivile Verteidigung*)

In 2016, the German government adopted the so-called *Konzeption Zivile Verteidigung* which will serve as the holistic concept for the improvement and implementation of Germany's civil

protection in the event of armed conflict. For the first time, cultural property protection is included as an aspect of civil protection. The development of policies and protection mechanisms, except for the national protection of data in the Barbara Stollen refuge, lies with the 16 federal states. In order to follow the process and support the implementation, Blue Shield Germany founded a working group which mainly consists of members of the association as well as external experts employed in relevant heritage institutions. In 2020, the members researched the progress of the developments in their respective federal state and built a network of key contacts involved in the process.

3.2 - Education, training, and capacity building:

Translation of the ICCROM / UNESCO Manual “Endangered Heritage”

In a cooperation with ICCROM and UNESCO, Blue Shield Germany is translating the Manual “Endangered Heritage: Emergency Evacuation of Heritage Collections” into German. The translation was begun in July 2020 by a small working group of five members; the layout is prepared by another member, as well. The final publication in a digital form and thus available for download via Blue Shield Germany’s website, is scheduled for spring 2021.

TRA(ff)CKING CULTURE – a Social Media-Campaign about the 50 Year Anniversary of the 1970 UNESCO Convention

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), Blue Shield Germany developed and implemented a social media campaign which intended to showcase the range of perspectives on the Convention and the issue of illicit trafficking of cultural property. The campaign was also organised in the context of the “International Online Conference on Cultural Heritage and Multilateralism” (16th-18th November) which was organised by the German Federal Foreign Office.

The project was directed by Elisabeth Korinth and implemented in close cooperation with BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg. The campaign was developed in the context of a Study Project in BTU’s Master programme World Heritage Studies in which eight students participated. The team conducted several interviews with international experts on the subject and published the final videos from 2nd November onwards on the Youtube Channel of Blue Shield Germany. The videos were announced and highlighted via the association’s Twitter account. Altogether, the campaign produced 131 tweets from 26th August to 30th November 2020.

The project was supported by project funding from the German Federal Foreign Office (see Point 2). The funding not only provided the financial means to implement the campaign, but also allowed the production of flyers, pins and a roll-up for the organisation.

3.3 - Proactive protection and risk preparedness:

No activities

3.4 - Emergency response in disaster, domestic emergencies, and armed conflict:

The German Archaeological Institute initiated the development of a first aid mechanism for the support of cultural heritage during and after disasters. This initiative is carried out in cooperation with many German partners, most notable the German Federal Agency for Technical Relief. On 28

October 2020, as part of a workshop developing the mechanism further, Blue Shield Germany was invited to present the activities of Blue Shield and other international organisations in this field. The presentation was held by Susann Harder who gave the participants an introduction to the project ProCultHer (EU level), UNESCO's Rapid Response Mechanism and the mission of Blue Shield and its partners in Beirut.

3.5 - Stabilisation, post-disaster recovery, and long-term/ongoing support:

No activities

3.6 - Co-ordination (of Blue Shield and with other relevant organisations):

BSI General Assembly 2020

Blue Shield Germany, represented by its president Susann Harder, participated in the 2020 General Assembly of Blue Shield International on 27th August 2020. Ms Harder voted on behalf of the German National Committee.

4. Main issues faced:

- limited funds available due to lack of institutional funding
- no personal meetings and conference participations possible due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic

5. Future goals

- be recognised as an expert body for cultural property protection in Germany
- be considered as a valuable partner in the national & international network of partners rather than as competition

6. Other

Through its connection to Newcastle University, BSI is sometimes able to access funding that can be shared with research institutions to further the work of Blue Shield. Does your national committee have any connections with research institutions interested in its work (e.g. in risk management, heritage protection, etc.). If yes, please supply the names and contact details here.

Not at this point, but we will keep it in mind.