



Annual Report: 2021

1. Administrative Details

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

1.2 - Date Report Completed: 28 February 2022

1.3 - Reporting period covered: January 2021 – December 2021

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

Susann Harder, President, E-Mail:
Elisabeth Korinth, Vice-President,
Dr Klaus Weschenfelder, Treasurer,

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>

2. Income:

The primary income of our committee are membership fees and donations. In 2021, this amounted to 2.519,90 Euro, of which one donation was specifically dedicated to the recovery of a historical flag in Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler in response to the flood event in July 2022.

Furthermore, Blue Shield Germany gratefully received a grant of 20,629.75 Euros from the German Federal Foreign Office for a planned cooperation project with Blue Shield national committees in Africa (See 3.1).

3. Report of Activities: Achievements & Performance

3.1 - Law, policy development and implementation:

Annual General Assembly of Blue Shield Germany and meetings of the board

In accordance with the statutes of Blue Shield Germany, the board met for two formal board meetings in 2021. The first board meeting was held on March 23, 2021, and the second on November 15. Both meetings were organized as online conferences as a response to the ongoing Corona pandemic. The legal basis for conducting virtual meetings was provided by the “Gesetz zur Abmilderung der Folgen der Covid-19 Pandemie im Zivil-, Insolvenz- und Strafverfahrensrecht” (Act to mitigate the consequences of the Covid 19 Pandemic in Civil, Insolvency and Criminal Procedure Law) passed by the German parliament on 27 March 2020. In the first quarter of the year, the national committee prepared the annual report for 2020 including a Strategic Plan and was able to prepare and submit all documents for the re-accreditation process in March 2021.

The annual General assembly of Blue Shield Germany took place on 11 September 2021 as a physical event and was hosted by our institutional member the German Library Association at the Saxonian State and University Library. Following the general assembly, Blue Shield Germany organised a [lecture and roundtable discussion](#) on the concept of civil defense with invited speakers from the Federal Office for Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK) and the German Institute for Defence and Strategic Studies (GIDS).

In addition to the mandatory board and assembly meetings, the board continued to meet in monthly virtual meetings to exchange on current political developments and develop projects and new initiatives. One of these initiatives was the development of a questionnaire for parties running for the elections of the German parliament in September 2021 which sought to analyse the work and plans of the various parties with regards to cultural heritage protection and the implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention and its protocols. The result of the response of the respective parties were published on our [website](#) and distributed over our Twitter channel.

3.2 - Education, training, and capacity building:

Several actions have been undertaken to develop and increase the organization's activities in the area of education and capacity building.

25th anniversary of Blue Shield International

Blue Shield Germany actively supported the events and activities of Blue Shield International for their 25th anniversary by recording a series of interviews with actors and members of Blue Shield to talk about the role and importance of Blue Shield in light of its history. The conversations included conceptual thoughts on the definition of a crisis, previous Blue Shield campaigns as well as student perspectives and their engagement with the organisation. The interviews were launched in a Twitter campaign alongside the campaigns of Blue Shield International.

Survey on the status of emergency care for cultural property

As part of a cooperation with the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK), SiLK (Safety Guide for Cultural Property) and the Leopoldina (National Academy of Sciences), Blue Shield Germany supported a survey on the status of emergency care for cultural property, that was conducted to collect data from German emergency associations and relevant associations. The data was analyzed in the second half of the year and will lead to a publication that is planned for 2022.

First issue of the brief "Kulturerbe in Gefahr" (Cultural Heritage under risk) with event

In April 2021, Blue Shield Germany published its first issue "Kulturerbe in Gefahr", a brief dedicated the risk cultural heritage faces in armed conflicts around the world. The issue focused on the threatened cultural heritage of the Tigray region in northern Ethiopia. The publication was accompanied by an organised event in which Dr Marie Huber, research associate at the Humboldt University of Berlin, shared her knowledge around the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Ethiopia.

Publication of the ICCOM / UNESCO Manual "Endangered Heritage" in German

In August 2021, Blue Shield Germany published the translation of the guide "Endangered Heritage: Emergency Evacuation of Collections" developed by the organizations ICCROM and UNESCO. It provides a simple workflow for the emergency evacuation of valuable collection objects, based on many years of practical experience in dealing with endangered cultural property. The guide is available for [download](#) free of charge from our website.

3.3 - Proactive protection and risk preparedness:

No activities

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

In response to the flood events which took place in July in the German states of Rhineland-Palatinate and North Rhine-Westphalia several proactive measurements were undertaken by Blue Shield Germany to monitor, support and raise awareness on the destruction of cultural heritage in the region. For example, in cooperation with the VdR (Association of Restorers), Blue Shield Germany organised the support of various restorers on site and helped to raise donations to cover up their expenses. In cooperation with the Museumsverband Rheinland Pfalz (a museum association in the state of Rhineland-Palatinate), Blue Shield Germany supported the salvage of the Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler municipal museum collection. Our president Susann Harder coordinated the collection salvage on site as a task force member of the THW (German Federal Agency for Technical Relief). Other members of Blue Shield such as Nadine Thiel (Historic City Archive of Cologne) and Prof. Dr. Friederike Waentig (University of Cologne) were also active in the operation of a first aid center for recovered pieces.

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 vice president Elisabeth Korinth, participated in the 2021 General Assembly of Blue Shield International on 16th of December 2021. Ms Korinth voted on behalf of the German National Committee.

Cooperation project with African National Committees of the Blue Shield

With a grant support by the German Federal Foreign Office, Blue Shield Germany initiated a new cooperation with Blue Shield committees in Mali, Senegal and Cameroon as well as the national correspondents in Niger and Mozambique. The project ran from June to December 2021. Activities primarily focused on a mutual exchange about the respective challenges in cultural property protection in the various countries and the development of a bilingual publication in English and French, presenting Blue Shield in general as well as the national committees and their work. The publication "[Protecting Heritage in Crisis: Blue Shield in Africa](#)" was successfully published in December 2021.

4. Main issues faced:

- limited funds available due to lack of institutional funding
- most meetings still had to be organised virtually due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic

5. Future goals

See Strategic Plan for 2022

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.