

## Annual Report: 2021

### 1. Administrative Details

1.1 - Name of National Committee: Hellenic Committee of Blue Shield (HCBS)

1.2 - Date Report Completed: 2/03/2022

1.3 - Reporting period covered: 01 January 2021 – 31 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:

Full members of the Board

Elena Korca, Chairperson

Irini Stamatoudi, Vice-chair

Antonia Zervaki, Secretary

Sofia Spyropoulou, Treasurer

Lila de Chaves, Director of Activities

Alternate members of the Board

Vasileios Lambrinoudakis

Konstantinos Lagos

Nikolaos Minos

Members of the HCBS involved in Working Groups during 2021

Katerina Dimitriadi

Sofia Stavrianopoulou

1.5 - Address of the main office: 29th Archimidous St, 11636 Athens Greece

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1.6 - Website and social media (if applicable):

<https://hellenicblueshield.com/en/home/>

<https://www.facebook.com/bshellenic>

## 2. Income:

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

The only financial source during 2021 has been the donation of AIGEAS AMKE Foundation (Legal Entity of Private Law) which amounts to 5.000,00€. HCBS also participates in a Horizon Project (see Section 3) which funds specific Working Packages implemented by HCBS.

## 3. Report of Activities: Achievements & Performance

Explain the activities & projects carried out over the year under the Areas of Activity

The annual report should tell the story of the organisation and put into context what was achieved in the reporting year against the achievement of its longer-term strategy. The annual report under this section should Provide a clear review of the organisation's performance for the relevant year as well showing how the current year's strategic performance links to the achievement of the longer-term strategy of the organisation.

These could include: grants applied for; talks given; conferences held; training courses run; work to support new legislation; working groups attended, etc.

Please provide as much detail as possible – for example, length of event, audience, and so on.

Acknowledging the importance of the role of International Blue Shield's network in regard to the protection of cultural property not only during warfare, but also in the event of natural disasters, an effort was initiated in 2018 to establish a Hellenic Committee of the International Blue Shield, a process which has been successfully completed in January 2020. The statutory objectives of the Blue Shield Hellenic National Committee correspond to the global demand for action in order to develop and coordinate knowledge and measures, wherever possible, that prevent or mitigate damage before it can occur. The founding members of the Committee are prominent experts from various disciplines (lawyers, archaeologists, academics, architects, conservators, civil engineers, officers of armed forces and defence etc.), who are already involved in actions aiming at raising awareness, educating and building capacities in terms of risk mapping and prevention, as well as disaster management.

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During 2021 HCBS has been able to accomplish significant initiatives and activities, which are briefly presented hereby:

1. Implementation of the European program HORIZON 2020, entitled "Redefining the future of cultural heritage, through a disruptive model of sustainability (ReInHerit)". The aim of the program is to create an innovative Digital Hub between museums and cultural heritage sites, in order to present Europe's heritage, intangible or not, to citizens and tourists in their wider historical and geographical contexts.
2. HCBS organised in April 2021 a very successful online conference for the celebration of the 200 years since the Greek War of Independence in collaboration with the Greek ICOMOS and the ICOM Hellenic National Committee. This conference was held online on the 19th of April 2021 and was entitled "Two centuries of protection of the Greek cultural heritage: From the 1821 War of Independence to modern Greece". It was streamed live on the committee's YouTube channel, and it is available for everyone to watch it. The conference succeeded in highlighting the impact that antiquities had on the Greek society before and during the 1821 Greek War of Independence for the subsequent development of the legislation governing the protection of cultural heritage in Greece and for legitimizing the establishment of the modern Greek state itself in 1830. Several issues were addressed, such as the destructions and lootings during the Ottoman period, the role of Philhellenism on the promotion of Greek cultural heritage as an aspect of the European and even global common cultural identity; the evolution of Greek cultural legislation and diplomacy on safeguarding cultural properties (tangible and intangible) in times of peace and war and the role of international cultural bodies for the protection of cultural heritage in times of armed conflicts and other natural and social crises. The conference featured selected presentations of Greek and foreign experts in the field of history, archaeology, legislation, architecture, art and folk tradition, social sciences, and others, who explored issues concerning key threats that heritage faces in times of conflicts and disaster. The conference was held under the auspices of the Hellenic National Committee for Unesco, the Association of Greek Librarians and Information Scientists and was supported by Heritage and Museums and the non-Profit Civil Company AEGEAS. We were also extremely honored to have with us representatives of the Greek state Mrs MENDONI LINA, the Minister of Culture and Sports, Mr STEFANIS ALKIVIADIS – Deputy Minister of National Defence, Mr SYRIGOS AGGELOS – Deputy Minister of Education & Religious Affairs, Mr CHRYSOULAKIS JOHN – Secretary General for Public Diplomacy and Greeks Abroad and Mrs TZITZIKOSTA EKATERINI - President of the Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO extending welcome greetings at the beginning of the conference.
3. The president of the HCBS Mrs Elena Korka and the founding member Prof. Liritzis Ioannis participated in the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Organizing Committee of the 2nd International Conference organized by Henan University and the University of the Aegean on Global Issues of Environment Culture, which was held on the 18th and 19th of September 2021 at the European Cultural Centre of Delphi in Greece. The Conference encompassed a broad field concerning the interaction of human

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development over millennia with the environmental factor, and the subsequent effects of manmade and natural disasters and aimed at highlighting the modern humanity's task is to preserve the memories of the past, using Hi Tech and proper management. The president of the committee Mrs Korka also participated in the Mediterranean Hybrid Forum 2021 "Circle the Med" in October 2021. The forum dealt with issues such as Green Growth, Blue Economy, cultural heritage and sustainability; issues which pose a challenge for the achievement of cohesive policies in the Mediterranean and shall allow a paradigm shift in the region. The titles of the presentations were "The role of cultural NGOs and the silk roads network" and "The contribution of Information Technologies to the protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage Monuments "The case of Ancient Philippi, Greece" in collaboration with the International Hellenic University and the Unesco Chair Con-E-Ect.

4. Participation in the TMM - 2nd International Conference on Recapturing the World in Crisis through Culture (Athens, 13-15 December 2021) of our President Elena Korka, our members Dimitris Emmanouloudis and Katerina Dimitriadi and in collaboration with the members of Assist (Analysis and Management of Natural Disasters and Technological Risks) Lab of the Department of Forest and Natural Environment Sciences of the International Hellenic University Eirini Kravari, Nikolaos Kokkinos with the presentation entitled "The Protection of Natural and Cultural Heritage Monuments, Museums and Archives from Risks: Bridging Artificial Intelligence, Risk Assessment and Stakeholders".

5. The official web-page of HCBS has been set up in 2021 <https://hellenicblueshield.com/>

### 3.1 - Law, policy development and implementation:

The Hellenic Committee of the Blue Shield is a non-governmental, non-profit organization with full legal competence under the Hellenic Law. The statute of the Hellenic Committee of the Blue Shield has been approved by its General Assembly on April 19<sup>th</sup> 2019 and legally established with the Decision no 199/12-06-2019 of the Court of First Instance of Athens and was registered to the List of Associations under the number 32575.

In order to address some comments of the Blue Shield Internationals regarding the statute of HCBS, an effort was undertaken during 2021 to amend the Statute of the Hellenic Committee so as to be in full accordance with the Rules, Principles and Ethics of a Blue Shield National Committee. The amendments were approved by the General Assembly and the national legal documents and procedures are expected to have been completed by April 2022.

### 3.2 - Education, training, and capacity building:

1. HCBS in collaboration with the University of Nicosia and the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens organised a series of Webinars in order to raise awareness for the protection of cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, in emergency situations, in cases of armed conflict and environmental disasters, in line with the objectives of the Blue

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Shield. The webinars were delivered in English and were held online on Tuesdays from the 23rd of February until the 23rd of March. They were interdisciplinary in character and thematically focused on five issue areas that are considered critically important for the management of the evolving challenges of cultural heritage protection

### 3.3 - Proactive protection and risk preparedness:

1. HCBS participates since 2021 in the initiative of Unitwin Chairs of UNESCO that deal with the issues of natural disasters. The goal of this initiative is to compile an index of natural and manmade dangers regarding Greek World Heritage monuments. HCBS co-assist the work of the scientific experts of the chairs, by providing information regarding the dangers and the corresponding sites. The goal is to provide specific instructions in a Manual Guide to contribute to the protection both of monuments and visitors significantly.

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

Describe

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

Describe

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

HCBS has established a network of collaboration with national and international cultural organizations with which has been in contact since September 2020 in order to co-organize activities within 2021 and 2022. In particular HCBS is collaborating with Hellenic Ministries of Culture and Sports and of Defence, Heritage & Museums, ICOMOS Hellenic and ICOM Hellenic, the National Kapodistrian University of Athens, the University of Nicosia - Cyprus (which is the leader partner in the ReInHerit project mentioned above) and the Unitwin Chairs of UNESCO in Greece. In 2021 HCBS has proceeded in establishing communication networks with the Hellenic Department of the Red Cross and we are in process of signing a MOU.

## 4. Main issues faced:

What are the main issues faced by your committee?

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## 5. Future goals

- To broaden the collaboration network already established during the first two years of HCBS function.
- To continue in an annual basis the webinars regarding issues relevant to the Blue Shield.
- To increase the number of the HCBS members and to encourage their involvement in the activities of the Committee
- To undertake initiatives and educational activities in collaboration with state organizations, NGOs and universities

## 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.*