

Annual Report: 2021

1. Administrative Details

1.1 - Name of National Committee: Irish National Committee of the Blue Shield (INCBS)

1.2 - Date Report Completed: February 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:

The current members of INCBS are:

Chair: Zoë Reid (ICA - joined 2018)

Secretary: Elizabethanne Boran (IFLA - joined 2020)

Daniel Ayiotis (ICA – joined 2018)

Jessica Baldwin (ICOM Ireland – joined 2020)

Susie Bioletti (ICOM Ireland – joined 2021)

Helena Bergin (ICOMOS Ireland – joined 2019)

Fergus McCormack (ICOMOS Ireland – joined 2020)

Patrizia La Piscopia (joined 2018)

1.5 - Address of the main office:

Irish National Committee of Blue Shield

c/o National Archives of Ireland, Bishop Street, Dublin, D08 DF85, Ireland

Email: irishblueshield@gmail.com

1.6 - Website and social media (if applicable):

Thanks to the continued support of our partner organisations INCBS maintains website pages at the following sites:

ICOM Ireland - <https://www.icomireland.com/blue-shield-ireland>

The committee also actively engages in using social media to promote the work of Blue Shield, the local committee and its ethical principles. Although modest the social media presence continues to grow.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IrishBlueShield>

Twitter: @IrishNCBS

2. Income:

NIL

3. Report of Activities: Achievements & Performance

In the reporting period (01 January – 31 December 2021) the activities of the Irish National Committee of the Blue Shield (INCBS) focused on supporting the following key objectives:

1. Education, training, and capacity building
2. Proactive protection and risk preparedness
3. Emergency response in disaster, domestic emergencies, and armed conflict
4. Co-ordination of Blue Shield and with other relevant organisations

Concentrating on promoting the work of Blue Shield and awareness of the importance of preserving heritage sites and their contents in peacetime and during conflict.

The committee met six times throughout the year, January, March, April, June September and November. At the end of January Hugh Maguire (ICOM Ireland) resigned from the INCBS at the end of January he was thanked for his contribution to the work of the committee. In March, Susie Bioletti, Keeper of Preservation, Trinity College Library, was welcomed as a new representative from ICOM Ireland.

Throughout the year committee members from Ireland attended the online monthly National Committee informal meeting and found these both informative and useful. At the July meeting the chair, Zoë Reid gave a presentation on the history and current activities of the committee in Ireland.

3.1 - Law, policy development and implementation:

No activities to report on.

3.2 - Education, training, and capacity building:

Podcast:

In June, Commandant Daniel Ayiotis (Military Archives Director and INCBS Committee member) hosted a podcast where he invited Zoë Reid (Senior Conservator at the National Archives (Ireland and Chair of INCBS) and Dr Michael Kennedy (historian and author of *Guarding Neutral Ireland*) to respond to the deliberate destruction of a World War II Lookout post in Rosslare Harbour, County Wexford.

<https://soundcloud.com/military-archives/the-military-archives-podcast-episode-1?in=military-archives/sets/military-archives-podcast>

Committee members presented the following lectures:

Protecting Cultural Heritage in Ireland and Internationally by Zoë Reid *and Skellig*

Michael: Managing a World Heritage Site in Ireland by Fergus McCormick presented (online & in person) to the World Heritage Programme at University College Dublin (19 October 2021)

Protecting Cultural Heritage in Ireland and Internationally presented (online) by Zoë Reid to the Local Authority Architectural Conservation Officer's group (20 October 2021)

Website:

Jessica Baldwin attended the online training session on Weebly in August, run by Blue Shield UK, providing a template for National Committees for websites.

3.3 - Proactive protection and risk preparedness:

Climate Change Adaptation Sectoral Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage Planning

During 2021, Zoë Reid (Chair) attended three meetings of this large advisory collective established by the Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). The group is devising a five-year implementation plan. INCBS has been identified to have a key role in providing disaster risk management training to staff in the DHLGH. Due to the ongoing restrictions on holding 'in person' training events in 2021, the provision of this training will be a key objective as soon as restrictions lift and there is a return to the workplace, hopefully in 2022.

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

The committee drafted ***Guidance for First Responders to an emergency situation at a Cultural Property or Heritage Site*** for the Ireland's National Emergency Planning Committee.

In July, Zoë Reid attended the international online meeting of the ProCultHer *Defining European Technical and Operational Capacities for the Protection of Cultural Heritage at Risk of Disaster*. <https://www.proculther.eu/international-workshop/>

Helena Bergin participated in the ICCROM Workshop **PREVENT: Mitigating Fire Risk for Heritage** that ran from 14 -19 Nov 2021. The Irish team attending the workshop consisted

of 4 professionals from the heritage management and fire service sectors. The course provided training in risk analysis, heritage assessment, key stakeholder communication, disaster preparedness and fire risk mitigation measures. The teams participating in the course are from: Brazil, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Ireland, Israel, Nigeria, Palestinian Territories and Peru.

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

No activities to report.

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

The 2020 annual report was presented to ICOM Ireland, ICOMOS Ireland and ARA, Ireland. Thanks to the generosity and support of ICOM Ireland, ICOMOS Ireland the committee continues to have a presence of their websites providing information on the Blue Shield for their members.

As part of the Trinity Long Room Hub lecture series *Out of the Ashes*, Corine Wegener of the US National Committee of the Blue Shield, presented **Post-Conflict Recovery: Mosul Museum Project Zero**. This was an online event held on 25 January and Zoë Reid was invited by the hosts to respond to the presentation.

<https://www.tcd.ie/trinitylongroomhub/whats-on/details/2018/out-of-the-ashes.php>

Committee members attend Block one of the Blue Shield Training programme for national committees, which was launched in September.

Members of the committee attend the 25th Anniversary conference (14-15 December). Elizabethanne Boran (Secretary of the Committee) attended and represented the committee at the General Assembly on 16 December.

4. Main issues faced

Looking to the future the main issue facing INCBS is the lack of funding to expand its activities and support the strategic objectives of Blue Shield. The Committee does not currently have a bank account and is therefore unable to manage any potential funding grants or expenditure without the assistance of one of its nominating bodies.

During 2021, Ireland continued to have an extended lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Government restrictions regarding attending the workplace and holding in person events were in place for the majority of the reporting period. However, the Committee continued to build partnerships and raise awareness of the vital work of

Blue Shield through a series of online lectures, panel discussions and representation on government initiatives.

4 Future goals

The 2022 Strategic Plan of the INCBS, details the key goals that the committee aim to focus on are:

- Raise awareness of the INCBS through capacity building activities, education and training
- Support the development of proactive protection and risk preparedness in Ireland
- Strengthen relationships with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media (DTCAGSM), DHLGH, the Heritage Council and relevant bodies
- Ensure the good governance of the committee
- Secure funding
- Grow presence on social media
- Host and maintain our own dedicated website

The Committee will continue to build partnerships with the heritage sector in Ireland and internationally and is already planning to collaborate with ICOM Ireland and the Institute of Conservator-Restorers in Ireland (ICRI) to provide public events in 2022. The Committee is also looking forward to actively assisting in CPP training for the United Nations Training School Ireland (UNTSI) at the start of the year.

5 Other

No, connections at present.