1. **Administrative Details**

1.1 - **Name of National Committee:** Blue Shield Slovakia

1.2 - **Date Report Completed:** April 28, 2023

1.3 - **Reporting period covered:** 01 January 2022 – 31 December 2022

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:

Jasna Palickova, President,
Jozef Hudec, Secretary,
Andrej Mongiello, Treasurer,
Zuzana Menzlova, National Representative,
Margareta Musilova
Martina Orosova
Vladimir Kohut
Alena Piatrova

1.5 - **Address of the main office:**

Skalna 1944/3
811 01 Bratislava

1.6 - **Website and social media (if applicable):**

Website: https://modrystit.sk/
Facebook: https://m.facebook.com/blueshieldsslovakia

1.7 – **Email the Blue Shield email should forward to:** blueshieldslovakia@gmail.com
2. Income:

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

Since the establishment of Blue Shield Slovakia until December 31, 2022, Blue Shield Slovakia had income of 700 EUR and expenses of 700 EUR. Blue Shield Slovakia received income from donations. Blue Shield Slovakia started to collect membership dues in 2023. Blue Shield Slovakia has also applied for several grants through ministry of defence and ministry of culture. It operates with indirect support of partner organizations who are facilitating its organization and providing supporting oversight.


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.

Blue Shield Slovakia is governed by a Board of Directors composed of heritage, cultural, and legal professionals from across Slovakia. Meetings are held periodically during the year. In 2023, the organization started to receive financial contributions from, and offers annual membership to, individuals and institutions. Members receive periodic communications on developing issues, events, and news. Blue Shield Slovakia has applied, and will continue to apply, for available grants. In 2022, Blue Shield Slovakia has applied for three grants provided by Slovak Ministry of Defence, Slovak Ministry of Culture, and Fund for the Support of Art which is an independent fund financed mainly by Ministry of Culture. All three applications were unsuccessful.

In 2022 Blue Shield Slovakia has approached numerous players in cultural heritage field and hopes to be able to sign MoU with them. We have been talking with Museology Department at Comenius University in hopes to develop a program that would include students in our work.
### 3.1 - Law, policy development and implementation:

With the situation in Ukraine, Ministry of Culture created a Work Group with the aim to protect Slovak cultural heritage in case an armed conflict erupted in Slovakia. Blue Shield Slovakia took active role in the Work Group which aim was to 1) identify cultural heritage sites to be labelled by blue shield emblem, 2) educate of application procedure, 3) develop emergency preparedness plan, 4) assist Ministry in any other way necessary.

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

Education and training activities are an active part of Blue Shield Slovakia work.

Our national representative, Zuzana Menzlova, introduced Blue Shield Slovakia at the Slovak National TV during a news segment dedicated to the destruction of Armenian heritage by Azerbaijan. Discussed were issues cultural heritage professionals face in situation of armed conflict.

On April 27, 2022, representatives Jozef Hudec, Margareta Musilova, and Andrej Mongiello introduced Blue Shield Slovakia at the general assembly of Slovak Archaeological Society at the Slovak Academy of Sciences. The aim was to establish a partnership and collaboration with the organization.

On May 25, 2022, representative Margareta Musilova introduced projects Blue Shield Slovakia would like to accomplish at the General Assembly of ICOM Slovakia. The aim was to establish collaboration with ICOM Slovakia on our projects.

As a newly established organization, we have reached out to numerous Slovak organizations which work in the cultural heritage field. We introduced ourselves and invited them to our general assembly held on June 2, 2022, at the Comenius University Library in Bratislava. During the general assembly we re-introduced Blue Shield Slovakia, our mission, and had a presentation by Roman Liubun, a Ukrainian archaeology student, on preservation of national identity and memory in armed conflict. Mr. Liubun discussed the recent destruction of Ukrainian cultural heritage and ways to preserve it.


Blue Shield Slovakia took an active part at Forum of Partners of the Slovak Commission for UNESCO held on October 6, 2022, introducing Blue Shield Slovakia and our mission statement. Discussed were possible projects and collaboration in the field of emergency preparedness.
3.3 - Proactive protection and risk preparedness:

Above mentioned Work Group at the Ministry of Culture.

As the armed conflict erupted in Ukraine, Blue Shield Slovakia mobilized international support for the basic documentation of cultural heritage in the Transcarpathian Regional Historical Museum at Uzhgorod Castle. With the support of the Slovak ICOM Committee, PRO Laika, private donors, and several collaborators of the committee (J. Džoganík, director of the Slovak National Museum of Ukrainian Culture; V. Piatra - transport), Blue Shield Slovakia was able to provide photographic equipment to the director of the museum, Mihajlo Delehan, and the head of the department of history and local history, Valéria Ruszinová. By digital archiving of inventory, the museum hopes to prevent the loss of irreplaceable cultural assets, which are threatened in multiple ways in the chaos of war - by fighting, merchants and smugglers. Our patron was able to bring the equipment to Uzhgorod on April 7, 2023. See this link.

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

Blue Shield Slovakia representative Jozef Hudec has issued numerous press statements in response to international and domestic cultural heritage destruction (threat) throughout the year.

On March 21, 2023, Blue Shield representative Margareta Musilova and Zuzana Menzlova joined OSCE – ICOM Austria Emergency Response for Ukraine zoom meeting where Ms. Anastasija Cherednychenko, VP of Union of Museums in Kyiv has informed cultural heritage representatives of surrounding countries of the current needs. Help with digitalization, packaging material, and stricter border patrol to avoid cross-border transfer of looted CP. Based on our conversation, Blue Shield Slovakia approached its patrons and partners to donate to photographic equipment to the Transcarpathian Regional Historical Museum at Uzhgorod Castle.

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

Blue Shield Slovakia maintains a website with educational purpose addressing current threats to cultural heritage in Slovakia and ways to move forward.

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

Blue Shield Slovakia has partnered with Slovak ICOMOS Committee, Association of Slovak librarians and libraries, Society of Slovak archivists, Slovak ICOM Committee, and Slovak Archaeological Society at the Slovak Academy of Sciences to collaborate on cultural heritage risk preparedness and emergency collaboration.
We have been in the talks with Museology department at Comenius University about potential lectures and student involvement in our organization.

### 4. Main issues faced:

What are the main issues faced by your committee?

As a newly established organization, we have worked on integrating Blue Shield Slovakia into Slovak awareness to have easier access to grants in the future. So far, our grant proposals were denied and we lacked finances for projects we had hoped to accomplish. See future goals.

### 5. Future goals

Describe future plans to achieve strategic goals

Find partners and funds for project “Protection of cultural values and heritage in armed conflicts”

The project is intended to support and improve the preparation for the protection of cultural heritage and historical memory in the event that Slovakia is threatened by armed conflicts or disasters and coping with their consequences. The situation in Ukraine showed that such preparation is highly relevant. For the realization of the goals, we want to: 1) Develop an analysis of the current state of protection of Slovak cultural heritage in crisis situations and set priorities for their protection. Cooperation with the Institute of Military History, the Department of Ethnology and Museology of the FFUK and the Monuments Office of the Slovak Republic as well as the Municipal Institute for the Protection of Monuments in Bratislava is expected. 2) Develop plans for the protection of cultural heritage, measures for emergency situations, stabilization and recovery after crises and disasters, and support activities at the national level. 3) Prepare a ppt presentation on the best practices of the OS of V4/S3 countries in the protection of cultural heritage in accordance with the Second Protocol of the Hague Convention on the protection of cultural values in the event of armed conflict.

### 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.*

No