## Belgium Annual Report: 2022

### 1. Administrative Details

1.1 - **Name of National Committee**: Belgian Committee of the Blue Shield (BSB)

1.2 - **Date Report Completed**: 26-03-2023

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

1.4 - **Names, positions and emails**

   - Janssens Gustaaf, President
   - Delplancq Thierry, Vice-President
   - Verhaegen Lucas, Vice-President
   - Ceulemans Christina, Secretary General
   - Claes Britt, Treasurer
   - Absil Nathalie
   - Guilardian David, member
   - Hanse Anne-Sophie, member

1.5 - **Address of the main office**: Parc du Cinquantenaire 1 - 1000 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

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

   - [www.blueshieldbelgium.be](http://www.blueshieldbelgium.be)
   - [https://www.facebook.com/BelgianCommitteeOfTheBlueShield?ref=hl](https://www.facebook.com/BelgianCommitteeOfTheBlueShield?ref=hl)

1.7 – **Email the Blue Shield email should forward to**: 
2. Income:

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transfer 2021</th>
<th>€ 19.026,79</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership fee (20 € /p)</td>
<td>€ 1.080,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation from private persons and associations</td>
<td>€ 90,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project subsidies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWaP (Agence wallonne du Patrimoine) - 2021-2022 : 2nd part</td>
<td>€ 7.043,20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWaP – 2022-2023: 1st part</td>
<td>€ 16.800,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other sources:</td>
<td>€ 0,01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flemish UNESCO Commission (subsidies for event)-</td>
<td>€ 1.852,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totale</td>
<td>€ 45.892,00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


3.1 - Law, policy development and implementation:

- On January 30, an open letter was sent to Interior Minister Annelies Verlinden concerning the illegal trade in cultural property and more specifically the disappearance of the Art and Antiquities Unit of the Federal Police. The letter remained unanswered, but attention was brought to the problem in the press (e.g. L. Verhaegen in Déclic on RTBF on 01/26/2023).

- Participation of the president and the vice-president in the meetings of the working group for the protection of cultural property within the Interministerial Commission for Humanitarian Law (ICHR) chaired by Mr. Benjamin Goes at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister. We receive all the documents and information on the preparation for the implementation of the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (The Hague, 1954) and its two protocols of 1954 and 1999. Important points discussed within of the Working Group are the consequences of the war in Ukraine on cultural heritage and the actions undertaken by organizations and institutions in Belgium in this regard. The organization of a new HEAT course was also discussed.

- An agreement has been signed with the Governor of the Province of Walloon Brabant according to which the Belgian Blue Shield Committee will act as a point of contact for heritage professionals (Heritage Experts or EXPATS) within the framework of the emergency plans of the province in which heritage is involved (17/10/2022, text see website).

- The same question was discussed with the services of the Governor of East Flanders in Ghent (7/11/2022) and with the services of the Governor of Namur in Brussels (16/11/2022).
3.2 - Education, training, and capacity building:

**Study days**

15/02/2022, online
Participation (C. Ceulemans, A.-S. Hanse) in the round table with the AAFB and the Association des Archivistes de Québec Archives et situations d’urgence. Retours d’expérience et perspectives de solutions.

4/05/2022, Leuven
Participation in the round table during the Erfgoedlab Leuven Heritage and Earth study day (C. Ceulemans).

3/05/2022, Brussels
Participation with conference in the study day of the Flemish commission of UNESCO Hoe beschermen we het erfgoed tegen overstromingen (C. Ceulemans and L. Verhaegen).

2-3/10/2022, Limoges
The president represented the association at the annual Memory of the World study days and made a presentation entitled The Belgian Blue Shield Committee. Its creation and activities (1997-2022).

13/10/2022, Paris
With F. Collanges from IRPA, A.S. Hanse participated in the study day of the C2RMF and Bouclier Bleu France Act against floods; she mentioned our activities with the volunteers.

17/11/2022, Brussels
AS Hanse participates in the BiblioPat round table.

**Course - workshop**

04/19/2022: Namur
In partnership with the Association francophone des archivistes (AAFB), a training day is organized on emergency plans and their implementation.

03/10/2022
Participation of the BBS in the 1st Workshop to support emergency plans, organized by Museums and Society in Wallonia ASBL.

13/07/2022 Ghent
Participation in the containment exercise in the MSK. Hoe bescherm je bezoekers, medewerkers en collectie tijdens een externe dreiging (L. Verhaegen).

**Capacity Building**

03/18/2022, Beauvechain
Participation (L. Verhaegenen A.-S. Hanse) in the incident reception centre exercise at the military base.
25/03/2022, Antwerp
Participation of the President and certain members of the Board of Directors in the fire drills and evacuation of the Cathedral by fire.

06/10/2022, Tervuren
Meeting day with an introduction to the Blue Shield and the activities of the association (C. Ceulemans) and training based on experience on Personal Protection during actions in the field (D. Verbist and colleagues from the RMCA); guided tour at the Royal Museum for Central Africa.

10/17/2022, La Hulpe
Participation of members and volunteers in the provincial disaster exercise at the Folon Foundation. Several members also participated in the preparatory meetings (19/01-16/02-24/03-25/05-6/09-12/09). To allow smooth communication, a BLUE SHIELD ALERT whatsapp group has been set up with the members of the Board and the Director General and those responsible for crisis management at the Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage.

3.3 - Proactive protection and risk preparedness:

Projects

- Follow-up of the pilot project Beauvechain, Commune Bouclier Bleu which took place from April 1, 2022 to August 31, 2022; as a BBS trainee, Monique Manikwe participated in the implementation of the project from April 4 to July 29, 2022. C. Ceulemans participated in the meetings of the steering committee (17/01-30/03-21/04-23/05-6/07-9/11). With the support of AWaP, the municipality, the Province of Walloon Brabant and the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles.

- Project monitoring For the implementation of actions related to the protection of protected heritage in the event of disasters and emergencies, subsidized by the AWaP. Submission of the final report by the end of August 2022.

- A new project request was submitted to the AWaP on August 14, 2022 and approved on November 25, 2022. The Belgian Blue Shield Committee Professionalization project received 28,000 EUR for the period from September 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023.

- A project request for four years of support for our operation was submitted to the Wallonia-Brussels Federation on March 31, 2022.

- A two-year project application was submitted by KIK-IRPA, FARO and the BBS for the Department of Culture, Youth and Media on September 12, 2022, the BBS is a partner: Onderzoeksproject ter uitwerken van overkoepelende aanbevelingen werkinstrumenten als basis voor een strategie voor rampenbeheer van erfgoed in Vlaanderen en Brussel.

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

- BSI's Peter Stone statement posted on website (25/02/2022).

- Participation in the round table of Belgian NGOs (6/04/2022) on the state of heritage in Ukraine.
- Contacts in case of fire in UAntwerp buildings (6/07/2022): no intervention requested.

- Dissemination of a call for relief supplies for the protection of cultural heritage in Ukraine following the initiative of the Civil Protection (Ministry of the Interior) and FARO and in consultation with IRPA, ICOMOS, ICOM and the ‘AAFB.

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

Our volunteers were asked to help heritage institutions in the region affected by the flood:

- actions in Pépinster, Eupen, Jambes (CCE), Namur (Library Moretus-Plantin), Liège (State Archives).

- At the IKOB in Eupen, the reserves have been reorganized in 4 phases according to the Re-Org principle (ICCROM), with the collaboration of the staff, our volunteers and KIK-IRPA.

- We facilitated the organization of school workshops for the UAntwerpen in Verviers, Museum of Fine Arts and Ceramics (03/23/2022) and for ENSAV La Cambre at the CCE Depot in Jambes (7-8/11/2022).

- The Circle of Donors, formed within the King Baudouin Foundation, was officially dissolved on June 21, 2021. The founders decided to distribute the balance of €6,908 equally between three conservation and restoration projects in the area touched. Projects were mapped by BBS and presented at the Founders Meeting. Subsequently, our non-profit association also took care, with the help of the AAFB, of the communication with the people concerned and the general public.

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

- Royal Institute For Cultural Heritage (KIK-IRPA)
  The board discussed future cooperation (05/19/2022);

- Vlaams steunpunt voor cultureel erfgoed (FARO)
  B. Claes and L. Verhaegen participate in the think tank Calamities.

- Association des Archivistes Francophones de Belgique (AAFB)
  Organisation of a training

- Flemish Commission for UNESCO
  Support for the meeting day with our volunteers

- Heritage lab Leuven
  Organization of study days on Heritage and the four elements.

- Musées et société en Wallonie (MSW)
  Organization of a workshop

- French Blue Shield
  Collaboration in the context of aid to the CCE
4. **Main issues faced:**

As part of the projects for which grants were awarded, tasks have to be realised that require a great effort from the current volunteers within the Board of Directors.

As a small non-profit organisation, the biggest challenge is therefore to recruit a part-time staff member. The administrative efforts and the great responsibility involved cannot be underestimated.

The recognition of the committee by the provincial governors in charge of emergency plans also forces us to meet the expectations expressed in the agreements. We must therefore take care that the success of our image matches the value of our product.

5. **Future goals**

Describe future plans to achieve strategic goals:

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.*

Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage ([www.kikirpa.be](http://www.kikirpa.be))
- Director General Hilde De Clercq
- Responsables for the CHRisis Project
  - Estelle De Bruyne
  - Elke Selter