



2025 ANNUAL REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ITALIAN COMMITTEE OF THE BLUE SHIELD

ALBERTO GARLANDINI

APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF SCUDO BLU ITALIA ON 27 NOVEMBER 2025

AND PRESENTED BY THE PRESIDENT AT THE NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON 28 NOVEMBER 2025 IN BOLOGNA

Dear members,

Scudo Blu Italia (SBI) is one year old, and we are now able to present the first Annual Report.

Today's National General Assembly (NGA) is the fourth NGA. SBI's goal is to involve its members as much as possible and in preparation of the 2025 Annual Report we asked members to answer two questions regarding the 2025 SBI activities:

1. Which 2025 actions do you consider to be the most strategic?
2. Which actions do you think should be prioritised/developed in 2026?

The 2025 Annual Report considers the suggestions the members sent to the Executive Board.

Firstly, I would like to highlight that in 2025 we developed a considerable number of initiatives, although we are all working on a voluntary basis. In 2025, the SBI members has increased and SBI has now eighty-one individual members and eleven institutional members with significant expertise and experience.

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The SBI's Executive Board met every month, and the Technical and Scientific Committee has been involved on several occasions. In 2025 we discussed and approved the 2025 Budget, the Internal Rules for membership, renewal and governance, and the Rules for granting the SBI sponsorships. We have also approved the Italian translation of our institutional Statutes which are in English.

All the official SBI documents are now published on our institutional website www.scudobluitalia.it, that will be improved in 2026 by the Working Group on Communication.

Secondly, in 2025 we strengthened the relationships with our key public and private partners. I would like to highlight the fruitful relationships we developed with the Ministry of Culture (MiC). We are in constant contact with Mariassunta Peci, the Director-General for European and International Affairs, and with Laura Moro, Director of the Service II – Technical Coordination for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, Emergencies and Reconstruction. At the political level, we met Ambassador Clemente Contestabile, Diplomatic Adviser to the Minister.

In 2025, we agreed with the MIC to draft guidelines for the appropriate use of the Blue Shield Emblem in Italy, in accordance with 1954 Convention and its Protocols. The Ministerial Directors agreed with us that the award of the Blue Shield Emblem should follow official guidelines and procedures, and we committed to drafting a document/proposal about it. We are also in contact with the Ministerial Office for UNESCO activities that supports Italy's Representatives in the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict in the discussion of the Draft Regulations for the use of the emblem.

Thirdly, in May 2025 the SBI Executive Board established two Working Groups comprising members of the Technical and Scientific Committee. One group is coordinated by Marica Mercalli and is dedicated to drafting guidelines for the use of the BS emblem. A second group, coordinated by Daniele Spizzichino, is mapping the Italian monuments that used the Blue Shield emblem without any official recognition. Those unofficial uses have been mainly promoted by the Italian Red Cross.

The two WGs produced the document titled Guidelines for the use of the Blue Shield Emblem to the Italian Cultural Heritage and the Map of the Italian Monuments that has used the BS Emblem. The two documents were approved by SBI Executive Board on 27 November 2025 and are presented at today's NGA by Marica Mercalli and Daniele Spizzichino.

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In 2026, SBI will discuss the results of two other working groups – on digital documentation and on communication and fundraising - that are coordinated by Paolo Salonia and Alessia Strozzi.

Fourthly, in 2025 SBI strengthened the relations with the Italian Red Cross and the two Presidents met on 28 May 2025. The research developed by the WG coordinated by Daniele Spizzichino stated that the Italian Red Cross assigned the BS emblem to ninety-four monuments. Representatives of the Red Cross participated in the work of the WG for drafting the Guidelines for the use of the Blue Shield Emblem and Michele Romeo Jasinski, the promoter of the Red Cross Campaign, is a member of the SBI Executive Board.

In 2025 we met the Department of Civil Protection and its Director Giovanni De Siervo, who presented the European Civil Protection Mechanism and outlined potential forms of collaboration with SBI within the European PRO-CULT-HER 4All project.

In 2025, we consolidated our relations with the Italian Army, with the Army Simulation and Validation Command in Civitavecchia and with the Commanders of Italian peacekeeping missions abroad, particularly in Lebanon and Kosovo. The Italian Army is highly aware of the importance of protecting cultural heritage in the peacekeeping missions, and we have made our expertise and our contacts with the national Blue Shield Committees available.

In conclusion, I would like to highlight that in 2025 SBI co-organised and participated in many training and educational initiatives. I will not list here the considerable number of presentations given by members of the EB and the CTS at training and promotional events all over Italy. I would like to draw your attention to the online training programme dedicated to cultural heritage risk management that we are organising with the Fondazione Scuola Nazionale del Patrimonio. This educational initiative is developed within the framework of the Piano nazionale di ripresa e resilienza, PNRR, “Cultura al digitale”. The course will be broadcasted in 2026. Eight members of SBI EB and CTS are involved as speakers. Scudo Blu Italia will collect the fees for the course speakers. I would like to thank the course speakers for their selfless contribution: in addition to myself, they are Marica Mercalli, Daniele Spizzichino, Claudio Margottini, Giovanni Boccardi, Giuditta Giardini, Daniela Savy and Carlo Cacace.

In September 2025, in collaboration with *Bouclier Blue* France, we organised a two-day international Seminar at the Archaeological Museum of the Principality of Monaco. The Seminar was dedicated to the

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protection of heritage in the region known as the Gulf of Genoa. It was a hybrid event, in person and online, and attracted a large number of experts from Italy, France and Principality of Monaco. The Italian contribution was significant thanks to the participation of many members of SBI's EB and CTS. The proceedings of the Seminar will be edited by Archaeological Museum of the Principality of Monaco and published in 2026. Given the success of this event, we are considering the possibility of organising a second edition in Liguria in 2027. The online seminar organised on 13 October by ICOM Italy and SBI on risk management terminology was also very well attended. Lastly, I would like to say that SBI participates in the meeting and assemblies of Blue Shield International actively and is in constant contact with President Peter Stone and BSI's Executive Board.

The President, Alberto Garlandini

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alberto G', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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