



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



Archangelos Michael Church in Lefkonoiko/Gecitkale



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Start Date: **October 2016**

End Date: **October 2017**

Type of intervention: **Consolidation and Conservation works**

Total works cost: **430,000 Euro**

The exact date(s) of the church complex construction is unknown. The existing structure was built in several periods as it was common in the past and renovations took place over the years. These different phases can only be partly recognized today since original walls were either demolished or plastered and phases are not clearly visible. In its present state it is a double aisled church with a projecting chamber at the south west corner and an arcade along the south side. Preliminary study of the construction history shows that the oldest part is probably the chamber in the south west corner which seems to be a medieval structure. Along the whole width of the west side of the church, there is, at a second level, a women's gallery –*gynaikonitis*- the access to which is through a stair – half stone built half wooden - at the southwest side. The church is entirely built with stones and the big arch of the south wall is entirely covered with frescoes. A painting of Archangelos Michael, to whom the church is devoted, covers the whole wall of the blind arch.

Archangelos Michael Church was included as a conservation project among the very first priorities of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage in 2009.

Conservation works to Archangelos Michael Church are fully funded by the European Union within the overall 11.6 million Euro Cultural Heritage Programme that the European Commission is implementing through UNDP in Cyprus.



The main **structural interventions** aimed at consolidating and stabilising the church in order to bring the building, to the maximum degree possible, to its original state. The church benefited from a major structural consolidation of walls, vaults, arches and dome with some tie rods stitching and extensive injection grouting. The dome was repaired, cracks were bridged with tie rods and filled with grouting. The belfry was consolidated and repaired in situ. The roof of the church was returned to its original barrel shape with repairs and waterproofing. The south portico's roof was reconstructed. Original doors and windows were restored and/or reconstructed.

A **painting of Archangelos Michael**, to whom the church is devoted, covers the whole wall of the blind arch. An older fresco was discovered during the works on the intrados of the blind arch of the south wall; repaired and stabilised. This fresco is now visible to the public and protected by a glass case. Inside the church, frescoes were stabilised and protected, the altar repaired, the iconostasis wooden poles restored, as well as the gynaikonitis (women's gallery) carved wooden floor. The floor was retained and missing floor elements installed.

Externally, perimeter walls were repaired and the missing parts were reconstructed; entrances were gated and access for persons with disabilities was made possible from the gate on the north side of the church. The courtyard was cleaned, graded and compacted for rainwater management. The old school building adjacent the church was also repaired and a roof was provided.

The project was fully funded by the European Union. Total cost of works was approximately. 430,000 Euro.

For more information please contact UNDP at: media.cy@undp.org / Tel. +357 22874733 or +90 392 2200027, Twitter: @undp_pff.

European Union

Since 2012 approximately **€11.7 Million** have been provided by the European Union through the Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community to implement the priorities of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage for the preservation of the island-wide cultural heritage in Cyprus. **The European Union** is the largest contributor to the work of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage in Cyprus.

For more information visit the following:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/overview-funding-programmes/aid-programme-turkish-cypriot-community_en

[EU Infopoint on Facebook](http://www.abbilgi.eu/en) - <http://www.abbilgi.eu/en> - <http://www.abbilgi.eu/tr/>

The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage

The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage works in line with the mutually agreed mechanism for the preservation of the island's common heritage. In 2009 the Advisory Board was set up by a decision of the two leaders as the executive body of the Committee. The aim of the Board is to protect, preserve and facilitate the preservation, physical protection and restoration (including research, study and survey) of the immovable cultural heritage of Cyprus. This mechanism allows for the practical aspects of preservation to be considered in a non-political manner so that practical measures can be taken to improve the situation on the ground.

United Nations Development Programme

The Agreement on the establishment of the Advisory Board for the Preservation, Physical Protection and Restoration of the Immovable Cultural Heritage of Cyprus recognizes a special role to **UNDP in Cyprus** as a **politically accepted implementation body** by both communities. For this reason, UNDP-PFF was requested by the European Commission to become the lead coordinator under which the project would be implemented fostering dialogue, cooperation and confidence building between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

Get in touch: [UNDP on Twitter](#) | [on Facebook](#) | [on YouTube](#) | [on Flickr](#)

More resources: www.cy.undp.org