



Nicosia Walls (Quirini Bastion)

This is a project of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Start Date: **November 2019**

End Date: **August 2020**

Type of intervention:
Emergency Measures

Total cost: **128, 295 Euros**

The first walls surrounding Nicosia were built in the 14th century by the Franks and enclosed a much larger area than the 16th century Venetian Walls that still surround the old town. When the Venetians occupied Cyprus, they decided to take down the Frankish Walls because they were old and did not offer adequate defense against new weapons, such as artillery. The Frankish Walls were also too big to be manned by the Venetian Army and too close to the hills in the east and southeast of the city.

In 1567, Giulio Savorgnan arrived in Cyprus to start work on the fortifications of Kyrenia. Construction started in July 1567 and lasted until April 1568. Forming a circle, the walls built by the Venetians were fortified by eleven heart-shaped bastions and protected by an 80 meters wide moat. The eleven bastions were named after the prominent families of the time and are called Caraffa Bastion, Podocattaro Bastion, Constanza Bastion, D'Avila Bastion, Tripoli Bastion, Roccas Bastion (located partially in the UN Buffer Zone), Mula Bastion, Quirini Bastion, Barbaro Bastion, Loredano Bastion, and Flatro Bastion (located partially in the UN Buffer Zone).

The walls were built of mud-brick, with the lower part only buttressed by stone. When the Ottomans occupied Nicosia, they repaired the walls and covered the upper part with stones.

The Walls of Famagusta were famous throughout Europe, the Middle East and North Africa for being constructed over many centuries as the city grew, changed rulers and adapted to warfare technology. They are an important record of military architecture and adaptation to changing technology and rulers. There are few such fortifications still in existence and therefore, protecting and conserving them is of vital importance.

The part of the Nicosia Venetian Walls located at the Quirini Bastion was included in the emergency projects after it collapsed on 26 July 2019 due to the percolation of water in the wall surfaces.



Before



During emergency measures

Main interventions for this site include:

- Removal of collapsed parts;
- Sorting of collapsed material;
- Building the lower part, including soil backfill;
- Building the upper part;
- Building the pavement on top of the bastion;
- Installing drainage and supports;
- Provision of a safety barrier top of the bastion.

The interventions carried out for this monument comprised emergency support measures in order to preserve the building's current status and prevent collapse.

The project is funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP in partnership with the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage.

European Union

Since 2012 approximately **€19.9 million of European Union funds** have been provided by the European Commission 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 biggest supporter of the work of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage in Cyprus.

The Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community, based on Council Regulation 389/2006, aims at facilitating the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community, with particular emphasis on the economic integration of the island, on improving contacts between the two communities and with the EU, and on preparation for the EU body of laws (also referred to as *acquis communautaire*).

For more information please visit:

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

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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 Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage and approved by the two leaders as the consultative 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.

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United Nations Development Programme

UNDP aims to contribute and support the peace-building process in Cyprus and to enhance cooperation between the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriot by implementing a range of confidence building measures.

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More resources: www.cy.undp.org