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Panagia Church in Trachoni/Demirhan

This is a project of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage



PROJECT OVERVIEW
<i>Start Date:</i> 9 April 2013
<i>End Date:</i> 11 December 2013
<i>Type of intervention:</i> Conservation works
<i>Total cost:</i> Approx. 130,000 Euros

The church of Panagia is a small building of the inscribed cross architectural type with dome and protruding semi-circular apse. Based on parallel structures the church may have been built during the 16th century. During the 19th or early 20th century the open portico with pointed arches was added and the vaults covered by Marseille type roof tiles.

The gilded wooden iconostasis dated to the 19th century was preserving icons of the 17th and 18th centuries. The gilded wooden iconostasis dates to the 19th century, but many icons date back to the 17th and 18th centuries. The icon with the enthroned Virgin was a work of the painter monk Ioannikios dating to 1670.

Panagia Church was selected as part of the priority intervention emergency projects of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage and was the first cultural heritage site to be escalated to a conservation project soon after the emergency measures were completed.

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



Conservation works included: general cleaning, supporting, excavation, consolidation and repairing of the walls; removal of debris and vegetation from the building and inside the yard; consolidation of deteriorated masonry in order to prevent it from further collapse, repairmen of the bell tower, portico, doors, windows, wooden staircase and the wooden slab of the gynaikonitis (women's section) as well as the iconostasis.

Church furniture were cleaned and placed back to their original location, and the altar has also been renovated. Sections of the garden stonewalls were also repaired and olive trees was be planted in the garden of the Church during the ceremony, to create an "Olive-grove for peace".

The project was fully funded by the **European Union**. Total cost (including works, design, supervision and additional works to the roof) approx. **130,000 Euro**.

This is a collaborative work and an effort between United Nations Development Programme – Partnership for the Future Office, the Technical Committee for Cultural Heritage of Cyprus and local and international architects, engineers, conservators and researchers.

More information on on-going projects of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage can be found here: <http://www.cy.undp.org/content/cyprus/en/home/operations/projects/partnershipforthefuture/support-to-cultural-heritage-monuments-of-great-importance-for-c.html>

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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 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 – Partnership for the Future (UNDP-PFF) - 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.

European Union - Since 2012 approximately **€6.7 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.