



# St. Mary of the Armenians Church in Famagusta

## This is a project of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage



### PROJECT OVERVIEW

*Study Start Date: May 2017*

*Estimated end date: December 2017*

*Type of proposed intervention: Conservation works*

The church was probably built after the middle of the 14th Century by Armenian refugees from the port of Lajazzo. It was therefore built in a smaller simpler scale and form than the others around it. The church consists of a single nave and apse roofed by a square groin vault. It was part of a monastic complex dedicated to the Virgin built between 1324 and 1366 and painted sometime between the 14th and 15th century. It is a beautiful and simple building consisting of single nave with three bays and semi hexagonal apse.

Located in the walled city of Famagusta, adjacent the Martinengo Bastion, St. Anne Church forms part of the so-called “Martinengo Cluster”. Clusters are critical mass areas of monuments identified by the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage in the Famagusta, Paphos and Karpasia/Karpaz regions, to promote the economic growth and territorial development of these areas.

‘Survey, Investigations, Assessment and Project Design’ studies for these four monuments were completed in June 2016.

#### Conservation works include:

- **External works:** Overall structural consolidation. Installation of new drainage system. External works including water management. Structural consolidation of the belfry. Cleaning of the site and the monument. Provision of bird control measures.
- **Roof:** Conservation works on the roof including waterproofing.
- **Ceiling:** Conservation works on the ceiling including waterproofing.
- **Walls:** Conservation works on the external walls of the church. Addition of new stone masonry for structural reinforcement. Conservation works on the internal walls of the church.
- **Doors and windows:** Repair of existing doors at the south and west entrance of the church. Installation of new wooden door at the north entrance of the church. Addition of new wooden frame at the window area of the south façade for structural reinforcement.
- **Wall paintings and historic plaster:** stabilisation work.
- **Disabled accessibility:** provision of new external ramp.

Conservation works were completed in December 2017.

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

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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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#### European Union

Since 2012 approximately **€14.7 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](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/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 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.

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