

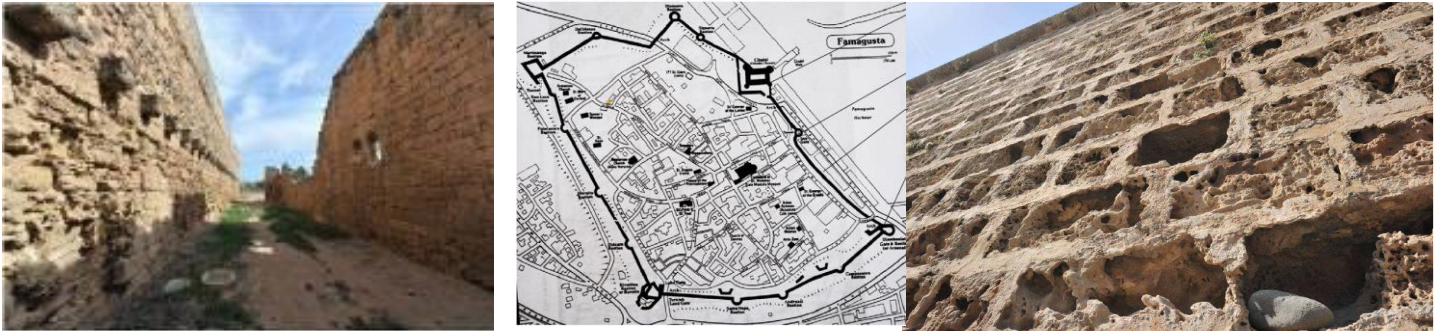


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Venetian walls between Arsenal and Sea Gate

This is a project of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage



The Walls of Famagusta were famous throughout Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. They were constructed over many centuries as the city grew, changed rulers and adapted to warfare technology. The walls are principally constructed of a rubble masonry core with sandstone ashlar facing held together with a variety of mortars. 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 the importance of protecting and conserving them.

Within the framework of the EU funded and UNDP implemented [“Support to cultural heritage monuments of great importance for Cyprus”](#) project, a study “Survey, Investigations, Assessment and Project Design” was carried out between April and August 2014. This resulted in a Condition Assessment & Report for both the city and port side of the walls between the Sea Gate and the Arsenal.

The aim of the Study, was first to identify the critical problems, research and understand the monument and then create the designs for:

- stabilizing the monument
- protecting the elements that are at most risk while observing internationally recognised conservation standards

The condition assessment report describes the Walls between Arsenal and Sea Gate as “in fair condition and structurally stable, but with some areas at risk”.

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



Works focused only on the city side of the walls between the Arsenal and the Seagate and included access control measures, site and vegetation cleaning, drainage control system, masonry and stone works, access for persons with disabilities and provision of information for visitors.

In particular, the following works were carried out:

- Access control measures: temporary fencing and gate was provided to isolate the site and payment area between Seagate and Arsenal
- Removal of site vegetation and rubbish
- Selective site demolition – removal of recent inappropriate interventions and metal fixtures
- Structural Consolidation along the wall above
- Masonry stabilisation works at the areas where losses/collapses occurred and repairs of masonry where necessary; exposed rubble core, missing stone ashlar, linear fissures, inappropriate interventions, loss/stiff mortar, stained masonry, eroded stone areas, renewal of rotten and eroded sand stones and extensive mortar repointing.
- Provision of drainage system to take water away from the Walls
- Installation of lightning rod and system at the tower of the Sea Gate
- Clearance of blocked firing galleries
- Replacement of bollards
- Visitor control/information panels
- Site identification/didactic materials

The total cost of the project is of approx. 518,724.00 Euro fully funded by the European Union.

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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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More resources: www.cy.undp.org

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.

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 on the Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community click [here](#): or visit the [EU Infopoint](#) on Facebook.