Agios Ioannis mosque
This is a project of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage

The mosque in the village of Agios Ioannis replaced a pre-existing one. In 1917 the Muslim population of the village started the process of constructing a mosque. The construction of the mosque was completed sometime before the year 1920. During the years 1928, 1929 and 1931 several repairs and renovations took place until an earthquake, in 1953, severely damaged the mosque. The damages were considered irreparable and thus the demolition and reconstruction of the mosque was decided. However, there is no documentation to confirm the extent of the rebuild that took place. Between October 2013 and June 2014, the mosque has undergone a structural consolidation.

A study & condition assessment was commissioned by the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage through UNDP between November 2015 and February 2016.

Proposed interventions for this monument comprise, among others:

- Cleaning of the site
- General structural consolidation of the mosque which includes:
  - Addition of a new retaining wall underneath the south façade
  - Partial reconstruction of walls or building elements where considered necessary.
  - Removal of eroded metal materials from previous phases
  - Removal of concrete render wherever this was applied in previous phases
  - Treatment and consolidation of cracks
- Conservation of the building element’s which are in reparable condition (the building’s roof will inspected, examined and evaluated at the beginning of the works)
- Demolition and reconstruction of the women’s gallery
- Interventions which will increase the site’s safety, as guardrails etc.
- Water drainage of the building and the site

Conservation works are planned to start and to be completed within 2017. The project is fully funded by the European Union.
The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage - The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage, established by the decision of the two Leaders, works in line and within the mutually agreed framework for the preservation of the island’s common heritage. The Committee upholds and promotes the view that the protection of cultural heritage is an integral part of the ongoing process of broadening the area of cooperation and confidence building between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, which can only be achieved through joint efforts. Through its work the Committee aims to achieve the best possible results for the stability, survival, cultural and social value and protection of selected Monuments. For this purpose the Committee set up the Advisory Board to act as its executive body to pursue actions for the actual implementation of designs for selected monuments, including research, study, survey and conservation. This framework 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 – PMO in Cyprus - 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.

European Union - Since 2012 approximately €11.7 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.