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Deneia/Denya Mosque

This is a project of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Start Date: 27 November 2012

End Date: 5 December 2014

Type of intervention: Conservation works

Total cost: Approx. 123,667 Euro EURO

Deneia/Denya Mosque was built during the Ottoman period and renovated in the late 19th or early 20th century. The information we have about its history is very limited and the only written evidence is from the archival documentation repair work, which took place in 1890 and 1907. Some information from the current habitants of Deneia says that there was a building at the surrounding area of the mosque that formed the Muslim elementary school. The mosque was probably demolished in the first decade of the 20th century in order to build a new one. From the British period until today the mosque has been in ruin. Despite the lack of historical information about the mosque, **it remains one of the rare remaining ruins of Ottoman architecture preserved in the region of Nicosia. It holds great historical, architectural and cultural significance.** Deneia/Denya Mosque was selected as part of the priority intervention emergency projects of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage.

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

The interventions carried out for this monument comprised:

- **Emergency measures** to protect, restore and preserve the stonework and architectural features in their present state (stabilization of the ruin);
- **Upgrading of the surrounding area** (fencing and landscaping of the site).



The interventions carried out for this monument comprised **emergency measures** to protect, restore and preserve the stonework and architectural features in their present state (stabilization of the ruin) and **upgrading of the surrounding area** (fencing and landscaping of the site). The **mihrab paintings** were restored by a conservationist and placed back in their original location. The **stone masonry and walls were reinforced and enhanced**; structural damage repaired; window frames were consolidated and restored. A completely **new roof** was built according to the original measurements. Signage was erected with references to the history and architecture of the monument. The further step is then to re-open the monument for the community and visitors while explaining its history, values and the conservation process with installation of **information panels**. The project was completed on 4 December 2014.

The project was fully funded by the **European Union**. Total cost (including works, design, supervision and additional works to the roof) approx. **123,667 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.