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Panagia Melandrina Church

This is a project of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Start Date: **April 2013**

End Date: **April 2014**

Type of intervention: **Emergency Measures**

Total cost: **137,000 Euros**

The monastery of Panagia Melandrina was active up to 1940, but the time of its establishment remains unknown. Of the monastic complex only the church is now preserved. Most likely the single-aisle church was built during the 15th century. The rectangular structure is roofed by a barrel-shaped vault enclosed to the east by a hemispherical apse with a five-sided outer wall. The structure is supported by three buttresses in the shape of pilasters on each of the long sides. The five flying buttresses are no doubt later period additions. The belfry is also a later addition to the church.

Art historian C. Enlart who visited the monastery in 1896 mentions the presence of wall paintings under strong western influence. None of the frescoes is preserved nowadays. All furniture of the church, including a fine iconostasis of the 16th century is now missing. Archaeological remains scattered around the monastery witness the presence of an earlier in date settlement.

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 support measures** in order to preserve the building's current status and prevent collapse.



Emergency measures included: general cleaning, removal of debris and vegetation from the building and inside the yard, consolidation of deteriorated masonry in order to prevent it from further collapse, control of organic growth, excavation, permanent timber structural support, and consolidation of the walls and provision of a temporary roof to prevent rainwater infiltrations.

In particular:

- In order to achieve propping of the Church both inside and outside, **installation of proper formwork system** was required all around the structure and in the inside. It was installed in such way so as to help in the next stage of full restoration of the Church.
- **Covering was provided to the roof** in order to shelter the Church and protect the interior from rain, water, birds or other possible damage.
- **Bracing of all openings and cracks.**

The project was fully funded by the **European Union**. Total cost (including additional safety items, design and works) **137,000 Euros**.

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 has also recently allocated another €1.4 million for a new project cycle, making it the biggest supporter of the work of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage in Cyprus.