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# Old Saint George Church in Kormakitis/Koruçam



## PROJECT OVERVIEW

*Start Date:* July 2014

*End Date:* September 2015

*Type of intervention:* Conservation works

*Total cost:* 195,265 Euro

The Maronite Old Saint George Church is located in the village of Kormakitis/Kormacit/Koruçam. The Church was built in the XVI century. The church is in the monastery within the nun’s court. It was the main church of the Maronite community until the early 20th century when it ceded with the building of the new Saint George cathedral.

Designs carried out in 2014 by the Maronite Church Committee through a tri-communal team of architects, engineers and quantity surveyor identified the following needs:

- Structural conservation of the main body of the church (including foundation, walls, floor and vaulted roof);
- Reconstruction of the belfry;
- Landscaping.



The restoration of the church included the following interventions:

- Removal of all concrete and cement that had been applied on the original stone structure of the church);
- Structural conservation on the main body (foundations, walls, floor and vaulted roof) of the church;
- Upgrade of the courtyard;
- Provision of proper drainage and protection of the foundations;
- Removal of terrazzo tiles and installation of Cyprus marble;
- Restoration of wooden doors which are of exceptional historical and archaeological value;
- Waterproof roof and foundations;
- Reconstruction of the bell tower and installation of a new bell;
- Electrical cabling and wiring;
- Fittings for electricity;
- Upgrade of the courtyard and provision of accessibility to persons with disabilities.

The project was fully funded by the **European Union**. Total cost (including works and supervision) **195,265 Euro**. Designs were commissioned by the Church Committee.

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**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 – 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.