



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



Othello Tower/Citadel

This is a project of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage



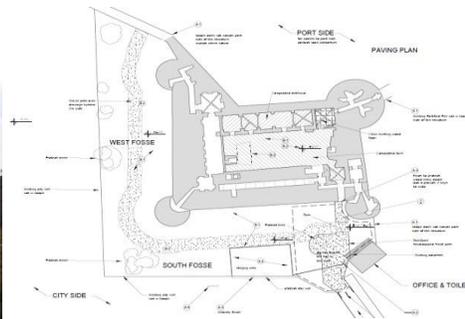
PROJECT OVERVIEW

Works Start Date: May 2014

Works End Date: July 2015

Type of Intervention: Conservation works

Total Project Cost : Approx. €1,305,000



The Othello Tower/Citadel is an important monument in the history of Famagusta, Cyprus and the Mediterranean. Its importance and a sense of age and mystery are evident when one walks through the portals of the citadel - with the Lion of Venice still presiding after hundreds of years.

The citadel consists of wall fortifications, connecting walls and four remaining towers (originally eight). These elements are in various states of decay from ruin to complete walls and rib vaulting. The monument comprises of two structures one inside the other. The outer Venetian fortifications that date from 1492 were constructed around the earlier Lusignan fortification from the 14th century.

The Othello Tower / Citadel formed the key defensive position for the city of Famagusta at the apex of the city walls and the protector between the port and the sea.

Othello Tower was selected as part of the priority intervention projects of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage.

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 in 2012. The aim of the Study, was first to identify the critical problems, research and understand the monument and then create the designs for:

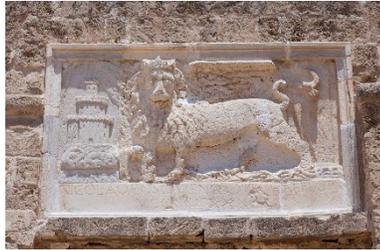
- stabilizing the monument
- protecting the elements that are at most risk while observing internationally recognised conservation standards
- creating a safe environment for the community and visitors
- accommodating disabled persons with an access path and toilet facilities

The conservation works, which started in May 2014 and was completed in July 2015, focused mainly on emergency masonry stabilisation works to walls, arches and other unstable sections. Areas where losses/collapses had occurred over the years were strengthened. A proper drainage system was constructed to canalise and take away water, which was one

of the most damaging causes of deterioration for the Tower/Citadel. New roof layers were installed with compatible materials to avoid future rainwater infiltration. Visitors' information features were also provided as well as accessibility at ground level and sanitation facilities for persons with disabilities.

The site was re-opened to public access in July 2015. The reopening and completion of Phase 1 of the structural stabilisation and conservation works, was aptly celebrated by a theatre performance of the play which gave the structure its name – William Shakespeare's Othello. The play was performed inside the castle itself by a bicomunal cast of both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot actors.

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



European Union

The Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community, based on Council Regulation 389/2006, aims at facilitating the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community, with particular emphasis on the economic integration of the island, on improving contacts between the two communities and with the EU, and on preparation for the EU body of laws (also referred to as *acquis communautaire*).

For more information please visit:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/overview-funding-programmes/aid-programme-turkish-cypriot-community_en

[EU Infopoint on Facebook](#) - <http://www.abbilgi.eu/en> - <http://www.abbilgi.eu/tr/>

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 Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage and approved by the two leaders as the consultative 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.

Get in touch: [on Facebook](#)

United Nations Development Programme

UNDP aims to contribute and support the peace-building process in Cyprus and to enhance cooperation between the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriot by implementing a range of confidence building measures.

Get in touch: [@UNDPCY on Twitter](#) | [on Facebook](#) | [on Instagram](#) | [on Flickr](#)

More resources: www.cy.undp.org

UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in 177 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations. www.undp.org.