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Martinengo Bastion

This is a project of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage



Martinengo Bastion is a prime example of state of the art renaissance military architecture. This is in stark contrast as its location at some distance from the centre of Famagusta provides a peaceful and secluded setting. Unfortunately, it seems unknown and unvisited by residents and visitors alike. This includes both the exterior and interior. The Bastion was created by the Venetian architect Giovanni San Michelle over a period covering almost 10 years. The Venetians realized that this corner of the Famagusta city defences were weak and this structure was designed to strengthen the northwest corner. Access to the interior is through dual ramps designed to allow easy access for horses or and heavy munitions to supply the cannon in the interior.

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 between April and January 2015.

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

- Conserving and stabilizing the monument
- protecting the elements that are at most risk while observing internationally recognised conservation standards
- creating a safe environment for the reuse of the monument
- ensuring access to persons with disabilities
- creating drainage system to take water away from the bastion

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



The condition assessment report describes the Martinengo Bastion as “generally very stable”, however the following issues were identified:

- Large and small holes in the bedrock base and undercut of the bedrock right over the earthen floor of the moat
- Cracks in the bedrock on which some parts of the bastion sits
- Capillarity water action occurring in many places
- Stains and salts in the vaults and interiors, coming from water percolation from above
- Stone ashlars at the apex of the vault ceilings in all diagonal passageways suffering from significant loss of material;
- Upgrade and improvement of drainage of the bastion on the upper portions, as well as at the lower parts and the moat
- Visitor safety and control measures particularly on the upper portions

Conservation works are envisaged to start in July 2015 after tendering-contracting procedure will be completed. The project will address all points identified above.

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.