

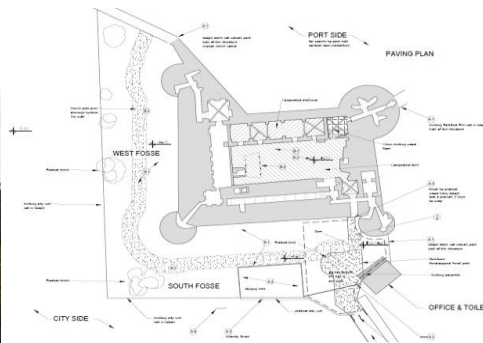


Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



Othello Tower/ Citadel

This is a project of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage



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.

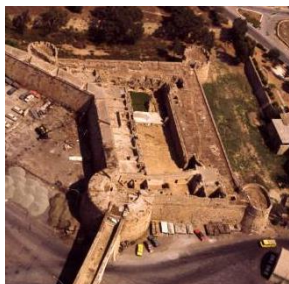
The Othello Tower / Citadel formed the key defensive position for the city of Famagusta at the apex of the city walls and the protector between the port and the sea.

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



In particular the works that will be carried out will focus mainly on emergency masonry stabilisation works to walls, arches and other unstable sections. Areas where losses/collapses occurred over the years will be strengthened. A proper drainage system will be constructed to canalise and take away water, which is currently one of the most damaging causes of deterioration for the Tower/Citadel. New roof layers will be installed with compatible materials to avoid rainwater infiltration in the future. Visitors' information features will also be provided as well as accessibility at ground level and sanitary facility to persons with disabilities.

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 started in May 2014 and will be completed by mid-June 2015.

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, 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.