Holy Cross Church in Karpasha/Karpaşa

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

*Expected start date: May 2016*

*End date: April 2017*

*Type of intervention: Conservation works*

*Estimated total cost: 48,500 EUR*

**Karpasha/Karpaşa Church** is one of three Maronite religious heritage sites selected by the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage to benefit from conservation interventions within the EU funded and UNDP implemented programme **“Support to Monuments of Great Importance for the communities of Cyprus”**. The other two Maronite sites to benefit from similar interventions are: the **Old St. George Church in Kormacit/Kormakitis** and the **Church of Agia Marina**).

Conservation works to the Holy Cross Church included: general cleaning of the church, replacement of metal gutters and downpipes, removal of existing plaster and repointing of stonewalls surfaces, repair of the stone belfry, replacing of damaged stones and conservation of frescoes.

The total cost of the project was approx. 48,500 EUR funded by the European Union with a contribution from the Holy See. Support to the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage is a cornerstone of the European Union’s support to reconciliation and confidence building measures through the Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community.

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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 (UNDP)** - 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.

**Since 2012** approximately **€11.7 Million** have been provided by the European Union through the Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community 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 largest contributor to the work of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage in Cyprus.