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Agios Nicolaos Church

This is a project of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage



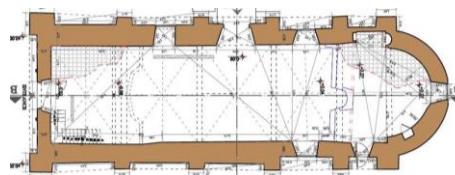
The Church of Agios Nicolaos was probably built during the late byzantine period. The original edifice of the church was rebuilt, probably renovated, in the 19th century. It consists of a single-aisle, articulated in four bays, covered by pointed groin vaults and supported by arches. It is a typical example of an eclectic “revival” of the Latin tradition (groin vaulting, bigger size), applied side by side to construction elements of the byzantine tradition (apse), and enriched by decorative elements of neoclassical trend. The church is located in the village Syrianochori/Siryanochoro/Yayla and was selected as part of the priority intervention projects of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage.

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

An assessment was carried out in 2012. The aim of 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

The project started in January 2014 and was completed in July 2014.



Works focused mainly on removal of debris and vegetation from the building and inside the yard, consolidation of cracks on the Church's apses and dome, repairmen of the roof of the original scuppers as well as of internal and outer walls, vault and decorative cornice, which were in danger of collapsing. It was possible to preserve one of the original door leaf at the west entrance while the missing leaves of the other doors and windows were renewed. The bell tower was also repaired together with the wooden staircase and slab of the gyneconitis. Iconostasis and furniture were cleaned/repaired and placed back to their original location.

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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More resources: www.cy.undp.org

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, **approx. EUR 5.3 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 EUR 5.3 million contribution from the European Union has and will be used to carry out conservation and emergency support works on a number of cultural heritage sites; supporting ten Small Project Activities; and promoting awareness raising campaigns to sensitize the population in the whole of Cyprus about the importance of preserving cultural heritage for future generations.