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Watermill/Aqueduct in Chrysochou/Hirsofu

This is a project of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Start Date: July 2015

End Date: February 2016

Type of intervention: Conservation works

Total cost: Approx. 107,000 Euro

The watermill is located at the west edge of Chrysochou village in the Pafos district. The impressive complex of the mill consists of several structures of different periods of construction. The most important and impressive parts of the complex are the water tower and the aqueduct which conveyed water from the Chrysochou river to the west. The aqueduct can be seen today for a total of approximately 100 m. These two structures were built in the same period and they are the oldest parts of the complex. The *ashlar* type of structure seems anterior to the Ottoman period. The most recent parts of the watermill complex are the miller's house and the cement by-pass channel, which can be dated in different phases of the first half of the 20th century.

A study & condition assessment was commissioned by the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage through UNDP between May and June 2014.

This allowed for the identification of the following main structural problems: a) Collapse of stone walls, especially in the mill. Certain parts, temporary supported, were in critical state, b) Cracks in several locations mainly in the mill, c) Displacement of stones due to vegetation especially on the aqueduct, d) Bad state or absence of roofs and floors, f) Collapse of extended parts of the aqueduct.

Interventions for this monument comprised, among others:

Mill and aqueduct:

- Removal of vegetation
- Removal of soil and revelation of cobbled stone floor inside the mill and remains of the external outflow channel
- Restoration of the stone structure (consolidation, partial reconstruction, replacement of damaged stones, pointing)
- Reconstruction of the roof
- Installation of new door and windows
- Conservation and protection of existing elements (stone and wood) of the mill mechanism

- Restoration of the outflow channel, including partial reconstruction and repairs of the existing structure
- Construction of new retaining wall to the east of the mill
- Conservation and repair of the cobbled stone road
- Rainwater management

Miller's house:

- Restoration of the miller's house upper floor including repairs of the stone structure and reconstruction of the roof
- Installation of doors and windows.
- Repair of stone stairs

The project was fully funded by the **European Union**. Total cost (works) approx. 107,000 Euro.

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 **€8.1 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.