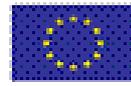




Το Πρόγραμμα συγχρηματοδοτείται
από την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση (ΕΤΠΑ)
και από Εθνικούς Πόρους
της Ελλάδας και της Κύπρου



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ



ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗ ΕΝΩΣΗ



ΚΥΠΡΙΑΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ

PRESS RELEASE

The Department of Antiquities, Ministry of Communications and Works, announces that during the second quarter of 2013 the implementation of the activities of the project entitled “EUMATHIOS PHILOKALES, Promotion of Selected Middle Byzantine Monuments of Crete and Cyprus, using innovative methods” continued. The project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund via the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Greece-Cyprus 2007-2013 and is directed and coordinated by Senior Archaeological Officer Dr. Eleni Procopiou.

The project includes full management actions for two Cypriot Middle Byzantine monuments both situated in refugee communities: Agia Marina Kandou and Panagia Kofinou.

In 2011 the procedures concerning the Tenders for an External Certifier for the certifying of payments and the employment of two contract archaeologists, who undertook and completed the excavation in the surrounding area of the two monuments: Agia Marina Kandou and Panagia Kofinou were completed.

From April 2012 and until the first quarter of 2013 a restoration team from the Department of Antiquities undertook and implemented, in collaboration with architect-restorer Mr. Diomedes Myriantheas and civil engineer Mr Giorgos Demetriades, from the Amasgous Monastery, the restoration of the half-ruinous church of Agia Marina Kandou (fig. 1). The works were conducted following the confirmation of the graphic reconstruction and the addition of further information that had overruled any doubts concerning the church’s details, especially the type of its dome. At the same time, preventive conservation was conducted on the 13th-15th century ruins of the monastic complex, the surrounding area’s landscaping study was updated, the procurement documents were prepared, the process of verifying their compatibility with national and EU legislation was completed and an open call for tenders was publicised. In total, 13 offers were received and assessed, the

entire process was checked and certified, an agreement was signed and the project began on the 12th June 2013.

In addition, between 20th May and 28th June the conservation of the church's surviving frescoes was completed (fig. 3).

Between January 2012 and June 2012 a restoration team from the Department of Antiquities restored the Church of Panagia Kofinou (fig. 2). Extensive works took place for the restoration of the monument's masonry, (i.e. removal of the old grouting and replacement with new grouting, use of reinforcing injections in the core of the masonry, replacement of worn stones, treatment of cracks, excavation beneath the church's floor, treatment of the church's foundations with a special material against humidity, drainage works, reburial of features, application of new coating on the interior wall surfaces, placement of a new floor surface, new stone doorsteps and wooden lintels at the two entrances and two new wooden doors as well as the preventive conservation of the surrounding ruins). The same team undertook the preparation works for the landscaping of the surrounding area, which will be implemented by the private sector. The landscaping study was updated, the procurement documents were completed and sent to the Public Procurement Directorate for approval.

In 2012 the structural study for the placement of 5 tie-metal beams was also completed. The relevant documents were prepared and the project was publicised for tenders, it was checked and approved, the tender has been awarded and the work has been delivered.

In addition, the surviving frescoes have been cleaned, consolidated and conserved.

Also, the procedures for assigning the woodwork, including the construction of the wooden *iconostasis* in both monuments, a Holy Altar and the doors at Agia Marina Kandou, following an informal call for tenders, which also was approved of and given all necessary certifications.

Coordinated efforts were made with other organisations (Lefkosia District Officer, the Turkish Cypriot Properties Services, the Department of Lands and Surveys, the Local Council of Kofinou) for moving the road southwards, in order to proceed with the programmed landscaping works.

Since the beginning of the project an amount of 393.264,23 euro has been spent and the European Regional Development Fund has already funded 80%, amounting to 221.090,22 for the expenses of 2011 and 2012.



Fig. The Church of Agia Marina Kandou following the completion of the restoration works and the conservation of the ruins of the monastic complex (13th-15th c.)



Fig. 2. The Church of Panagia Kofinou following the completion of the restoration works and the preventive conservation of the early Christian ruins.



Agia Marina Kandou: north wall, tympanum of the central apse. During the cleaning works of the frescoes with compresses of neutral detergent.