



Street Fountains in Nicosia Walled City

This is a project of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Start Date: January 2020

End Date: July 2020

Type of intervention: Emergency Measures

Total cost: 9,350 Euros

These fountains, which date back to the 1740s, 1820s and 1830s, are relics from the Ottoman and British eras. They were originally used as drinking fountains, giving them historical significance due to their role in society. Particular attention was given to the archaeological importance of the fountains, both for their uniqueness, as well as their future educational role in their conservations.

Lot 1: Zehri Fountain at the entrance of Zahra Street.



Before



After

The fountain is situated close to the perimeter of the Nicosia Walls on the boundaries of the Arabahmet area towards the north. The fountain dates back to the Ottoman Period and its typology is Ottoman Period stone public fountain. The materials of the fountain are: stone, lime mortar, and metal taps.

Main interventions for the **Zehri Fountain at the entrance of Zahra Street** include:

- Dry cleaning of the ashlar stone surface of the fountain;
- Vegetation removal;
- Removal of loose, deteriorated, non-compatible plasters and mortars (concrete);
- Repointing;
- Treatment of rusted metal elements;
- Treatment of the cracks of concrete basin and patch repair;
- Cleaning of the roof, crack repair and insulation;
- Cleaning the basins of the fountain;
- Water management;
- Replacement of deteriorated bricks on the perimeter of the basin;
- Replacement of missing taps and metal handles;
- Cleaning of the stone inscription.

Lot 2: Esseyit Mehmet Emin Efendi Fountain in Sarayönü, Nicosia



Before



After

The fountain is situated on the southeast corner of the perimeter of the judicial buildings in Nicosia Walled City. The fountain dates back to the Ottoman Period and its typology is Ottoman Period stone public fountain. The fountain bears an Ottoman inscription in Arabic script on a marble plaque. It is named after the governor of the time, Es-Seyyid Mehmet Emin Efendi. The inscription reads: *“Author of good works and charity, the muhassil of the island of Cyprus, Mehmet Emin Efendi.”* The materials of the fountain are: stone, lime mortar, and metal taps.

Main interventions for the **Esseyit Mehmet Emin Efendi Fountain in Sarayönü, Nicosia** include:

- Dry cleaning of the ashlar stone surface of the fountain;
- Vegetation removal;
- Treatment of the corroded metal member;
- Removal of loose, deteriorated, non-compatible plasters and mortars (concrete);

- Consolidation (replacement) of stones;
- Crack treatment;
- Repointing;
- Treatment of existing taps;
- Removal of the top layer of the roof and its reconstruction;
- Restoring original rainwater drainage system;
- Cleaning and treatment of the basins of the fountain.

Lot 3: English Period Fountain next to the Nicosia Courts



Before



After

The fountain is situated on the perimeter of the judicial buildings in Nicosia Walled City. The fountain dates back to the Colonial Period, specifically the 1950s, and its typology is reinforced concrete colonial public drinking fountain. The materials of the fountain are: concrete, steel reinforcements, and brass tap.

Main interventions for the **English Period Fountain next to the Nicosia Courts** include:

- Cleaning of the concrete surface of the fountain;
- Treatment of the corroded steel reinforcement;
- Concrete repairs;
- Cleaning of the fountain tap.

The street fountains in Nicosia Walled City were included in the emergency projects. Priority measures are for the purpose of safeguarding the fountains from further decay and do not include full conservation/restoration/rehabilitation measures.

Since 2012 approximately €27 million has been invested by several donors, benefiting over 100 Cultural Heritage Sites across Cyprus to implement the priorities of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage for the preservation of the island-wide cultural heritage in Cyprus.

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

European Union

Since 2012 approximately **€19.9 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.

The Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community, based on Council Regulation 389/2006, aims at facilitating the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community, with particular emphasis on the economic integration of the island, on improving contacts between the two communities and with the EU, and on preparation for the EU body of laws (also referred to as *acquis communautaire*).

For more information please visit:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes/overview-funding-programmes/aid-programme-turkish-cypriot-community_en

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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 Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage and approved by the two leaders as the consultative 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.

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United Nations Development Programme

UNDP aims to contribute and support the peace-building process in Cyprus and to enhance cooperation between the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriot by implementing a range of confidence building measures.

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