

Recent Preservation Initiatives for the Fortifications of Famagusta

Hülya Yüceer

The fortification system of Famagusta has been a challenging subject for researchers and scientists dealing with its historical background, architectural features, conservation, and its possible revitalization. Very few preservation initiatives have been realised up to and including the present day, with the exception perhaps of a recent study conducted by the UNDP Partnership for the Future Programme and the planned restoration of the Sea Gate by the Municipality in cooperation with the Global Heritage Fund.

This paper presents both projects. The study by UNDP-PFF offers a holistic approach, while the project for the Sea Gate represents an implementation work within the fortifications. I will concentrate primarily on the former, the chapter of the “Study on Cultural Heritage in Cyprus”, which dealt with the walled city of Famagusta. In this, inventory charts for heritage sites in Famagusta were designed to be presented through a web-GIS system for easy accessibility and constant updating. Including the fortifications, eleven sites were assigned by the bi-communal committee to be studied in further detail in order to plan for their conservation. Thus, the fortifications of Famagusta went through a technical assessment process, whereby a record of structural and material damage was created as was a further list of repairs to be carried out in priority order. Costs were also estimated.

By providing coherent information about the management of conservation processes and their implementations for the Sea Gate in particular, the paper also aims to contribute knowledge to further initiatives both for the preservation of Famagusta’s fortifications and heritage sites in conflict areas elsewhere.