

Democracy, involving citizens in policy dialogue, design and monitoring

To promote Human Rights and

SCIENTIFIC DOCUMENTATION OF BASTIONS IN FAMAGUSTA CITY WALLS

Famagusta Initiative



Photo Credit: Famagusta Initiative

THIS ACTION INVOLVED

Raising awareness about the preservation of bastions in Famagusta.

Field study about the bastions in Famagusta city walls with a team of scientists between 7 and 12 May 2019.

Documentation and reporting on the findings concerning the bastions complemented with literature survey, analyses and drawings.

Presentation of the preliminary report to duty bearers on 28 June 2019 and the bi-communal technical committee in 24 December 2019.

Presentation of the study findings to all stakeholders including duty bearers in the Eaved House (Saçaklı Ev), Nicosia on 24 December 2019 and in MASDER premises in Famagusta on 28 December 2019.

ABOUT THE FAMAGUSTA INITIATIVE

Famagusta Initiative is an active citizens' initiative established in 1996, composed of individuals who are members of different occupational groups or fields of expertise that live in the Famagusta area. The initiative aims to unite the city and contribute towards its development while supporting the peace efforts between the two communities.

STORY OF THE ACTION

The action conducted a scientific study with a team of seasoned experts to document the current state of the bastions in the Famagusta City Wall and identify measures for conservation. The action also involved advocating to the local body responsible for tourism and the environment, which was given control of the bastions. It also advocated the bi-communal Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage to take measures before allowing any commercial activity or repair work to ensure proper scientific supervision and avoid damage and loss of cultural heritage.

After permissions were obtained, the study to document the current state of the bastions commenced on 7 May 2019 with the participation of 14 postgraduate students and high level academicians and researchers

15 of the bastions were measured and photographed. The measured structures were later digitalised by students and were then checked to form the preliminary report that was presented to decision makers and stakeholders.



RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

The initiative submitted the preliminary report to the "deputy prime minister" on 28 June 2019. Two meetings presenting the study's findings were organised in Nicosia and Famagusta in December 2019 to reach all the duty bearers and stakeholders including the local body responsible for tourism and environment, the local body responsible for antiquities, the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage, the local community, academicians and CSOs.

The action contributed to raising awareness about the Famagusta city walls. The public is now expected to have a more sensitive stand towards the conservation of the bastions. Stakeholders understood more clearly the risks of commercial use of the bastions. Many scientifically important information has been gathered and missing data related to the medieval walls were collated.



Photo Credit: Famagusta Initiative



"It was an amazing experience to be able to go into the Famagusta bastions for scientific purposes for the first time since 1974. 700 years worth of history of the bastions has once again started to leak from its doors and the walls have started to tell stories."

Prof. Dr. Ege Uluca Tümer

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Famagusta Initiative will be following up on the results of their action regarding the measures to be taken by the duty bearers.









