

**Conservation of Wall Paintings at Church of St Anthony in Rodon and
the Monastery Church in Rubik**

Request for Quotation

Date: 06.06.2024

Project Number: 22644-001

Background

In November 2019, Albania was hit by the country's deadliest earthquake in the last 50 years. Estimated at a Richter magnitude 6.3, it caused extensive damage across 11 municipalities. The EU4Culture project is funded by the European Union (EU) and is implemented by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in close partnership with the Ministry of Culture of Albania. It focuses on renovation and revitalization of major cultural heritage sites damaged by the earthquake and represents one of the largest cultural heritage programmes funded by the European Union with a total budget of € 40 million. Guided by the "Building Back Better" principle, EU4Culture focuses on renovation of major cultural heritage sites in line with the UN Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. In parallel, the project aims to enhance Albania's tourism potential, thus directly contributing to local and regional socio-economic recovery. To that aim, special focus is given to innovative technologies, including digital story-telling and creation of multimedia products designed to be accessible for all. At the same time, the project is supporting local entrepreneurship, artisanship and cultural initiatives evolving around selected sites through the allocation of grants, providing a direct boost to the local economy.

General Service Objectives

- **Conservation of wall paintings at the Church of St Anthony in Rodon and Monastery Church in Rubik**

The Monastery Church of Rubik and St Anthony Church in Rodon are designated monuments of culture of 1st category. Both churches were already restored through EU4Culture program.

Description of assets

St Anthony Church in Rodon

This church is one of the oldest Fransiscan seats. The church is also connected to a popular belief that it was built by the sister of Skëndërbeut to serve the nuns of St Clara. The church was vastly damaged in the earthquake in the mid19th century.

The church is known as the church of St Anthony (dedicated to St Mary through antiquity) and its plan is a regular rectangle. The architectural composition of the church is made of narthex, nave and presbytery. (fig. 4).

The scholar I. Vitaliotis informs that from a technical point of view St. Anthony's church is the only church of paleological origin existing in northern Albania. He claims this basing it in content of frescoes, and while he dates them to the middle of the fifteenth century.

Monastery Church in Rubik

The Monastery Church in Rubik, is a designated monument of culture as per the decision nr. "586/4874/DT, dated to 17.03.1948 and 23.09.1971".

Historiography has recognized the abbey of the Monastery (Shelbuem) as well as the parish church of the same name. Formerly Franciscan, located in the city of Rubik and in the district of Lezha, the church was historically part of the diocese of Lezha. Today the Church is included in the newest bishopric of Rreshen. In late documents the building is variously named de Rebico, de Robico or de Rubico.

The continuity of the attendance of the church has seen the alternation between the Benedictines and the Friars Minor, who settled there as early as 1640, until the establishment of the parish church of the city. The physiological moments of abandonment and destruction, the various circumstances due to Albania's history or natural disasters, must be taken into consideration, which explain the special layering of the current building, which typologically adheres to the model of a Franciscan church. The Church of Shelbuem, from 1166 until 1972, is mentioned a total of 34 times.

Description of works

Through EU4Culture program, the remains of the wall paintings in both churches shall be restored. The conservation designs for both Churches were approved on 12th of October 2023; decision nr. 510 and decision nr. 509.

The conservation would be undertaken by the licenced conservator.

The conservation shall include following areas

- Monastery Church in Rubik – the surface of the area covered in wall paintings is 26 m² + side walls

Interior walls	Painted surface	Plastered surface	Surface with additional cover of plaster
Apse and east side	18 m ²	8 m ² + 4.9m ²	no
Vault	no	no	no
Northern side			18.9m ²
Western side	no	no	no
Southern side			18.9m ²

Narthex	no	no	no
---------	----	----	----

- Church of St Anthony – the surface of the walls covered in wall paintings is 30.4 m²

Interior walls	Painted surface	Surface with painted layers
Apse and eastern wall	6.5 m ²	1.5 m ²
Vault	2 m ²	1 m ²
Northern wall	8.3 m ²	11.5 m ²
Western side	2 m ²	8 m ²
Southern side	11.6	7 m ²
Narthex		8 m ²

Scope of Service for this RfQ

The scope of the service is to conserve the remaining wall paintings in both aforementioned churches as per approved conservation design (Decision nr 509 and 510 dated to 12.10.2023)

Both sites are designated monuments of culture, and the painted surfaces are of particular heritage value.

Description of requirements

- Setting the scaffolding as per provision of the law nr 27 for Cultural Heritage and Museums, DCM 1125 of, and all other legal provisions applied to this asset;
- **Scaffolding, materials and hand tools will be provided by UNOPS Albania.**

Duration of Service: 70 calendar days per site

Requirement: Licence in implementation of conservation of mural paintings Z/V/3

Annex A: Conservation design for the Church of St Anthony in Rodon

Annex B: Conservation design for the Monastery Church in Rubik

Annex C: Decisions/Conservation permit

Annex D: Decisions/Conservation permit