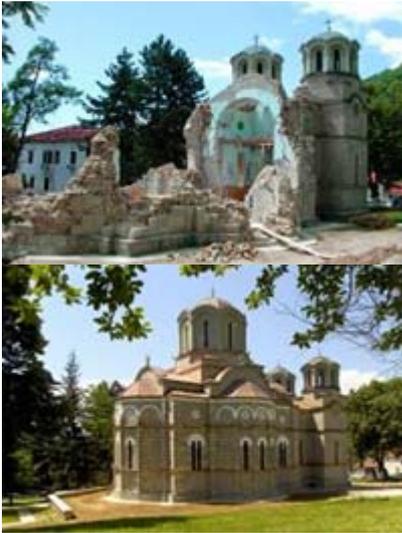


Selected projects



The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia **Reconstruction of St. Atanasij Church**

The monastery complex in the Lesok village dates back to the 14th century. It is a cultural and historical monument protected by the state. St. Atanasij Church is one of the three churches in the monastery complex. It was built in the period between the First and Second World War, in the style of the medieval architecture of the 14th century.

During the 2001 conflict the church was almost entirely damaged, the only preserved parts being the two towers near the entrance. The central part of the church, the nave with the conches and the altar space were completely ruined.

As part of the European Union's contribution to the rebuilding of inter-ethnic confidence and to overcome the consequences of the 2001 conflict, a decision was made to reconstruct St. Atanasij Church.

The work began in the summer of 2003 and involved some of the most talented and experienced engineers, builders, carpenters, painters and stonecutters in the country.

The works included conservation of the preserved part of the church, reconstruction in the ruined part of the church as well as repair of its interior, including design of icons, reconstruction of iconostasis, and fresco painting of the preserved part.

After two years of intensive work, on 24 July 2005, the restored church was reopened to the public.

The reconstruction of the church, along with the rehabilitation of the mosque in the nearby village of Neprosteno, in view of their high symbolic value for the local communities, contributes to rebuilding inter-ethnic confidence.

The total European Union contribution has been in the region of €530,000 for the studies, reconstruction and works supervision.

An agreement for an additional €150,000 project to complete restoration work on the frescos inside the church has been signed with the National Conservation Centre.

Official title of the project

Reconstruction of St. Athanasius church in Leshok and the mosque in Neproshteno

Country

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Sector

Democratic Stabilisation

Budget/EC contribution

742,700 eur

Implementation period

June 2003 - October 2006

Expected results

Authentic reconstruction of St. Athanasius church in Leshok;
Rehabilitation of the mosque in Neproshteno

Beneficiary

Macedonian Orthodox Church
National Conservation Centre
National Islamic Community

Partners

National Conservation Centre
National Islamic Community

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