

## Handover of the online platform "e-fikardou"





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In a special ceremony in the presence of the Vice Rector of the Cyprus University of Technology (CUT), Prof. Dr Nicolas Tsapatsoulis and Mr Sophocles Markides Chairman of Fikardou Community, Cyprus, the [UNESCO Chair on Digital Cultural Heritage](#), officially handed over the [online digital platform e-Fikardou](#) to the community.



Entered onto the [UNESCO World Heritage Sites Tentative List](#) and declared an Ancient Monument by the [Department of Antiquities in Cyprus](#), Fikardou is a remote rural village in the Troodos Mountains that exemplifies the traditional architecture and landscape of medieval Cyprus. Saved from almost certain loss due to a declining population, the community partnered with CUT to explore how new innovations in cultural heritage tourism and documentation could help boost sustainable tourism to this hidden gem of Cypriot heritage.

The UNESCO Chair's Digital Heritage Research Lab (DHRLab) at CUT is key partner of the H2020 [TEXTOUR](#) project, the pre-eminent European program dedicated to the development and revitalization of secluded cultural sites and destinations with the active involvement of local communities to strengthen both cultural tourism and cultural diplomacy.

Working with the Fikardou community and the Department of Antiquities, DHRLab has leveraged results from a joint cooperation of four high-profile EU-funded projects: (a) [H2020 TEXTOUR](#), (b) the [H2020 ERA Chair Mnemosyne](#), (c) the [H2020 IMPACTOUR](#) and (d) the Digital Europe [Eureka3D project](#), to record the memory of the community and its tangible heritage and present these as virtual experiences to help tourists and researchers understand and appreciate the importance of this outstanding village.

Presented as an online digital resource, "e-fikardou" offers a comprehensive educational and interactive experience of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Fikardou with 3D models of the entire village and monuments, an interactive e-book, virtual tours, and information on Fikardou's cycling and hiking routes.

Don't miss the opportunity to browse this online platform (<https://efikardou.eu/>) created by the UNESCO Chair at CUT and start your journey to explore the unique memory of Fikardou in Cyprus!



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