



Investing in the present to revisit the past



The Vrachasi Old School
Restoration Project, an integrated
restoration project with scientific,
cultural and social views

*Help the UCL researchers
in unveiling the mysteries
of the very first European
civilization while supporting
the socio-economic development
of a region hit by the economic
crisis.*

Since 2007, a team of archaeologists from the UCLouvain, together with a score of international experts, has been investigating an important Bronze Age coastal settlement, nearby the modern village of **Sissi**, on the island of **Crete**. This site was established by the brilliant Minoan civilisation, which blossomed on Crete between 3000 and 1200 BC. Considering the exponential accumulation of retrieved archaeological material, **the urgent need to find an optimal study environment nearby the site soon arose**. Nestled on the mountainous slopes of the traditional village of Vrachasi, a few kilometres away from the site, the old school provides an ideal refuge to host such function. And so was born the **Vrachasi Old School Restoration Project**.

Every gift matters!
Thank you in advance for your
generosity!

**A project with multiple functions
and beneficiaries**

Steered by the Belgian School at Athens, this project not only fulfils a scientific goal but also a cultural and social one. Indeed, this integrated restoration project aims at the transformation of the old school of Vrachasi into both a forefront study centre for Cretan archaeology and a cultural focal point. This abandoned monument, still highly significant for the rural community, ambitions to become a vibrant hub of meeting, exchange, transmission and emulation at the heart of a village struck by rural exodus and economic crisis.

**Supporting this project means
much more than safeguarding the
physical ruins of this monument.**

Fondation Louvain-UCL
IBAN BE29 2710 3664 0164
Please mention: Vrachasi Old School Restoration Project
On line donations:
<https://getinvolved.uclouvain.be/vrachasi/~mon-don/>



A research laboratory:

Storage, conservation, documentation and study of the local archaeological material as well as lectures and seminars will become possible in a stimulating, multidisciplinary environment.

Supporting the Vrachasi Old School Restoration Project means supporting progress of research in Minoan archaeology, cradle of European civilisation.

A cultural centre:

Concerts, exhibitions, lectures, film projections or artists in residence are some of the events that will rhythm the cultural program of the Old School.

Supporting the Vrachasi Old School Restoration Project means fostering the access to culture for local communities, a public commonly neglected by foreign cultural institutions.



A powerful vector of rural revitalisation:

Inscribed in a community approach, this project will allow the inhabitants to claim back their heritage, hence securing its sustainable management. Jobs, ecotourism, restoration incentives, the safeguarding and promotion of this heritage will trigger new opportunities and an emulation phenomenon within the village.

Supporting the Vrachasi Old School Restoration Project means taking an active role in the revival of the rural economy and becoming protagonist of a new social dynamic at the heart of the village.