Conclusions of the Warsaw Meeting in 2013

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Resuming the expert meeting on the “Socialist Realism” serial nomination in Warsaw, I would like to stress the following positions:

Numerous expert presentations covering not only “Socialist Realism” structures of the 1930s to 1950s, but also Neo-Modernism of the 1960s to 1980s have revealed the possibility/necessity to change the research paradigm/title from “Socialist Realism” to “Socialist Heritage”, thus enabling a much wider scope of heritage values in the former Socialist/Post-Soviet world;


Accordingly, a broader “Socialist Heritage” approach will make it possible to represent/assess this heritage layer as a creative process – between Modernism, Historicism/Traditionalism and Neo-Modernism, and as part of an international perspective, on the basis of a global comparative analysis required by the World Heritage process. This could also lead to a depoliticisation, to establishing evaluation parameters based on existing objective qualities. In general, the heritage of this period should be estimated ac-
The evaluation process in each country of the former Soviet block should pay special attention to the legal level of protection, to the provision of protection zones within master plans, sufficient levels of integrity and authenticity, analysis of development pressure, etc. Otherwise perspectives for the World Heritage inscription will be minimized;

The 20th century post-revolutionary heritage of Russia/former Soviet Union as “key source”, radiating its politico-artistic influence on vast territories, plays an important role within this context. It is worth defining its role and position within the nomination, which will establish the logic of inclusion of the Post-Soviet Republics (such as the Ukraine or Armenia, currently the independent states) in a serial transnational nomination;

In post-war Europe, for the countries of East Central Europe and the Baltic, including East Germany, “Socialist Realism”/“Socialist Heritage” are of a different nature. They are an introduced notion representing political, social and cultural “colonisation”, which demands different criteria in its evaluation and professional appraisal.