

Preface



Photo: Elke Jung-Wolff

The cultural heritage of the recent past is part of our shared history and European identity. I am happy to say that ICOMOS addressed the various aspects of this topic at the international conference “A Future for our Recent Past”, discussing measures to preserve, restore and revitalize monuments of the last century. In this context, there was great interest in the dialogue between Eastern and Western Europe on cultural heritage in the shadow of two devastating world wars and the division of the continent by the Iron Curtain until 1990. Monuments and artefacts from the two world wars and the Cold War attest to an era characterized by unrestrained violence and irreconcilable ideologies. Discussions of how best to deal with historically sensitive relics in a Europe that is growing closer together have shown the importance of expert involvement and international co-operation.

This publication about the conference serves to document European cooperation to address the cultural heritage of the last century. It presents model projects of modern heritage conservation, thus promoting the original aims of the Euro-

pean Year of Cultural Heritage. This publication also raises awareness of how Europe belongs together, with its shared history and values. Our rich cultural heritage is a testament to this.

I am therefore delighted to have been able to fund from my cultural budget “A Future for our Recent Past” – one of more than 70 projects of particular importance initiated as part of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018.

I would like to thank all of those involved for their expertise and dedication. Their passion brings this multifaceted subject to life and imbues it with European spirit. I hope that this publication will be enjoyed by many interested readers.

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