

## 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

construction). However this period does not reflect the entire richness of <Socialist> architectural heritage within the existing political timeline, including the Cold War/Iron Curtain period;

Accordingly, a broader “Socialist Heritage” approach will make it possible to represent/assess this heritage layer as a <creative process> – between Modernism, Historicism/



*High-rise Stalinist residential building, Kotelnicheskaya embankment in Moscow (1938, 1949–1952 by Dmitriy Chechulin, Andrei Rostkovsky), 2008*

*Stalinistisches Wohnhochhaus an der Kotelnitscheskaja-Uferstraße in Moskau (1938, 1949–1952 von Dmitri Tschetschulin und Andrei Rostkowski), 2008*

“Socialist Realism” to “Socialist Heritage”, thus enabling a much wider scope of heritage values in the former Socialist/Post-Soviet world;

It is also proved that “Socialist Realism” has its own strict time frames – from 1932 to 1955 (from Stalin’s to Khrushchev’s declarations addressed to art, architecture and

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-



*Modernist New Arbat Avenue in Moscow (1963–1968 by Mikhail V. Posokhin, Ashot Mndoyants et al.), about 1970*  
*Moderne Wohnhochhäuser am Neuen Arbat (1963–1968 von Michail W. Posochina, Aschot Mndoyanz), um 1970*

ording to the common criteria for 20th century monuments and sites, where historic, cultural, economic, social, aesthetic, artistic and other values are assessed revealing the unique character of the monuments. The negation or devaluation of Socialist heritage strata, and a direct and extreme politicization simplify and impoverish European and world culture;

The above-mentioned comments reveal the necessity to work out a clear historical logic of a transnational serial nomination and a methodology of selection in order to avoid any eventuality;

The expert meeting has demonstrated that in most countries of Central and Eastern Europe “Socialist” architectural heritage still has low protection status (if any), an unclear form of ownership, is in degraded condition with minimal restoration experience for 20th century heritage, is governed by a lack of state will and order for preservation of this heritage strata. 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.