The East meets West Forum is the annual meeting of the East meets West network and interested outsiders, to discuss LGBT topics, present ideas, realizations, future plans and to create an environment for efficient networking. Join the Forum and listen and network with NGOs, diplomatic representatives, corporate players, entrepreneurs and other inspiring personalities, all with a strong LGBT interest.

Program

HILTON VIENNA PLAZA, Schottenring 11, A-1010, Vienna

The 2016 Agenda of the Forum is composed of 3 main sections - EMW Social, EMW Business and EMW Future - it reflects the divers set-up of East meets West as association. In addition, we also present 'EMW Culture', a program designed to offer the early arrivals to the Forum, the chance to get to know Vienna better, enjoy a film and meet other participants.

8:30 – 9:00  Registration
Collect your badge, drink your tea or coffee and start networking!

9:00 – 9:30  Message of the Co-Founders
East meets West or how two people can make a difference
  • Pavel Šubrt, Ludo Swinnen, Co-founders of East meets West

Official Opening
Vienna representatives greet the participants of the 3rd International Forum

EMW Social

This session block #1 looks at the human factor of East meets West - people from our network give an inside view on what’s behind the LGBT news, across the world.

9:30 – 10:30  A Look from the East and a Look from the West
What happened during the last year in the East meets West countries? A panel talk with people who share their first hand testimonials.
  • Representatives from Ukraine, Poland, Kosovo, The Netherlands and USA

10:30 – 10:50  Coffee Break

10:50 – 11:40  Actual Social Theme
You heard about it, you read about it, and now we talk about it! We selected one topic from a longer list of burning social LGBT topics namely how official bodies like cities and governments actively support gender equality and react on homophobic behavior in their environment.
  • Mag. Wolfgang Wilhelm, WAS, Vienna City Administration, Austria
  • Marijke Weewauters, Institute for the Equality of Women and Man, Belgium

11:40 – 12:10  Vienna, the City with a Rich LGBT History
Taking the time to look back and discover unexpected, historical LGBT activities in Vienna (with the first link to Business).
  • Mag. Andreas Brunner, QWIEN, Austria

12:10 – 13:00  Networking Lunch
EMW Business

This session block #2 focuses on the economical factor of East meets West or how successful business ventures can change the public perception of our LGBT community.

13:00 – 13:40 Vienna as the Right Place for LGBT Friendly Business
Vienna, keeping its valuable traditions but showing its diversity readiness has become a model of successful LGBT business in the region.
- Mag. Melanie Wawra, Diversity-Referat at Wirtschaftskammer Wien, Austria
- Dr. Helga Eberherr, Institute for Gender and Diversity in Organisations at Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria
- Adam Warzecha, Shire, Austria
- Mathias Cimzar and Andreas Hiermayer, Austrian Gay Professionals (agpro), Austria

13:40 – 14:10 The EU Commission in LGBTI equality... not words but deeds!
The EU Commission supports actively the progress of LGBTI equality in the EU. You will get an insider’s view on the activities they are running and planning.
- WESTER MEIJDAM, DG Justice and Consumers, European Commission, Brussels

14:10 – 14:50 LGBT Tourism as a Promising Start
High level tourism professionals share their experiences and also strategies on LGBT touristic ventures.
- Mag. Thomas Bachinger, Vienna Tourist Board, Austria
- Peter De Wilde, VisitFlanders (Toerisme Vlaanderen), Belgium

14:50 – 15:10 Coffee Break

15:10 – 15:50 A holistic View of LGBT Businesses
LGBT Business, a Global topic. Figures & percentages behind the Global LGBT Business world show a huge opportunity for your region.
- Justin Nelson, The National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC), USA
- Chance Mitchell, The National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC), USA

15:50 – 16:30 Corporates helping LGBT Businesses
Corporate diversity policies create unexpected business opportunities for local, professional LGBT partners.
- Ellen van Essen, Accenture, The Netherlands

EMW Future

In this session block #3 the 2 co-founders share their view on how to make the East meets West idea sustainable.

16:30 – 17:00 The Future of East meets West
While respecting its social mission, EMW will resolutely regenerate itself as an LGBT Business supporter – we will share with you our strategy to become a relevant platform for Central & Eastern European LGBT Business, thus answering the need for successful LGBT business men and women serving as key role models in our focus markets
- Pavel Šubrt, Ludo Swinnen, Co-founders of East meets West

Closing Words

After-conference Networking Cocktail
Celebrating the unique East meets West experience of the 3rd International Forum.

Venue

HILTON VIENNA PLAZA
SCHOTTENRING 11, A-1010, VIENNA
Experience Vienna in style at the Hilton Vienna Plaza hotel. Ideally located on the famous Ringstrasse, home to Vienna’s most famous sites, and with its 1920s Art Deco design it reflects the splendor of the Golden Era. More information on Venue...
Supporting Program

June 16, 2016

East meets West offers you also the chance to be part of a unique, cultural escapade, which runs on **Thursday afternoon – evening on June 16, 2016**. All will be ready to get you in the right mood for the EMW Forum the next day. Supporting program is free of charge for all registrants.

16:30 – 18:00

**A Guided Tour of a Different Kind**

Wolfgang and Dragana will guide you through one of the most impressive historical buildings of Vienna, The City Hall (Rathaus). And who would expect that such a respectable place also had interesting LGBT stories to tell? Well, be aware that some of the many impressive and unique neo-gothic rooms witnessed key successes in the battle for gender equality and gay partnerships! So join this guided tour and perhaps this unique, romantic environment might even tempt you to consider a partnership yourself.

Meeting point: City Information Center at the backside of the City Hall, Friedrich-Schmidt-Platz 1
- Mag. Wolfgang Wilhelm, WAS & Dragana Mandokovic, City Information Center

17:30 – 19:00

**Naschmarkt, a diverse subculture**

The LGBT walk through the Vienna of today, to discover the Vienna of the past, starts at QWIEN, the LGBT historical archive of Vienna. You will stroll through the baroque city streets, called ‘Gassen’. You will go back in time for 100 years and discover how in an imperial city like Vienna, where homosexuality was forbidden and considered a penal offence until 1971, nevertheless a dynamic sub-culture existed. To witness this you will pass the famous ‘Naschmarkt’, a place that still today is thriving with activity and that always has been a center of LGBT life. You will end this unique walk at the Top-Kino in the Rahlgasse.

Meeting point: QWIEN, Große Neugasse 29, 1040 Wien
- Mag. Andreas Brunner, QWIEN, Austria

19:30

**LGBT Film Projection**

**Boulevard (2014)** with Robin Williams, Roberto Aguire and Kathy Baker. A devoted husband in a marriage of convenience is forced to confront his secret life. Enjoy a great movie, touching an LGBT topic, in a ‘vintage’ Vienna cinema TOP Kino!

Location: TOP Kino, Rahlgasse 1, 1060 Wien

21:00

**Get-together Cocktail**

Drink in the trendy cinema café and meet your fellow Forum participants.

Location: TOP Kino, Rahlgasse 1, 1060 Wien

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**More about Vienna**

When planning you participation, why not prolong it with few extra days and enjoy the unique Vienna atmosphere and of course, not to forget, the Vienna Pride on Saturday, June 18th. As an appetizer, we add here a very useful links from the Vienna Tourist Board:


https://www.wien.info/en
Registration

To secure your free of charge EMW pass, complete your registration by May 18th, 2016. Registrations after Sunday, May 22 are subject to an entrance fee of EUR 39,-. For more information about our special conditions for NGO’s, please contact us directly under info@eastmeetswest.eu. The dress-code for the Forum is Business casual.

Supporting Partners

Organizing the 3rd International East meets West Forum in Vienna would not be possible without the kind support of the following partners:

About East meets West

East meets West is a Vienna based association, founded in 2013 by Ludo Swinnen and Pavel Šubrt, two colleague bankers who are professionally active in the Eastern part of Europe. The original idea was to setup a network of local East European LGBT organizations, bringing these together with their counterparts from the West, to share experiences and best practices. After a very successful start, with the first International East meets West Forum in Prague in 2014, both co-founders decided to continue the initiative in 2015 but based on a more mature and sustainable concept. East meets West wants to be, in addition to the original East-West LGBT social function, also and mainly, a facilitator of business awareness and experiences among a professional European LGBT Community by supporting, in a broader sense, LGBT linked, micro business set-ups, especially in Eastern Europe. East meets West will be the place for the creation of the awareness that LGBT men and women can be successful entrepreneurs and become role models inside and outside of the LGBT community.