We all heard about the insane tragedy that hit the LGBT Community in Orlando. Our reaction is one of anger mixed with a deep sadness. But it will only make us even more driven to continue our East meets West Initiative as we believe we can this way, how insignificant it might look, make our community stronger in fighting homophobic violence. By joining our 2016 Forum you strengthen our present and future efforts.
3 years back in time
38 years back in time
Ústí nad Labem
-CZ-
Early 2013
August 15, 2013
A simple idea was there
August 14, 2014
And the idea turned into reality
1st International East meets West Forum
What was it in numbers?

26 Countries
62 Participants
July 14, 2015
2nd International East meets West Forum
What was it in numbers?

19 Countries
58 Participants
What does EW stand for?

East meets West
What does East meets West stand for?

- East meets West is a Vienna-based association (Verein)

- East meets West wants to be, in addition to the original LGBTI social function, also and mainly, a facilitator of business awareness and experiences among a professional European LGBTI Community by supporting, in a broader sense, LGBTI 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 LGBTI community.
Why do we do it?
Why do we do it?

- **We believe** that in the LGBTI community, there is a great source of innovation power for successful business initiatives but at the same time there is real support need for these endeavors.

- **We are convinced** that Eastern Europe and Western Europe can mutually profit from each others unique status.

- **We know** that in most countries in Eastern Europe (CEE/SEE/CIS region) exist Business oriented groups, from grassroots till well established, who are all looking for guidance and inspiration to develop their activities.

- **We are** aware that the LGBTI community has the power to initiate from outside changes to improve processes within existing organizations, as well generate stand-alone original (micro) business initiatives.
Why Vienna?
Official Opening

Marina Hanke

Member of Vienna Parliament and Member of the City Council
Vienna, Austria
Video Message

Ulrike Lunacek

Vice-President of the European Parliament, The Greens/EFA, Austria

Co-President of the EP’s LGBT Intergroup
Agenda & Rules
A Look from the East and a Look from the West
“What has changed in one year?”

1. **Ukraine**
   Volodymyr Naumenko – Gay Aliance Ukraine

2. **Poland**
   Jej Rfekcyjnosc – Fundacja Wolontariat Równości

3. **Kosovo**
   Agim Margilaj – CSGD, ERA

4. **France**
   Christophe Margaine – L’Autre Cercle

5. **USA**
   Ralph De Chabert – Brown-Forman