



## Message from the co-founders

Dear East meets West friends!

When we were organizing the 1st East meets West Event in Prague in June 2014, some people asked us why we invited LGBTI people from the 'West' to the event? Giving support to the still struggling LGBTI groups in the 'East' was obvious. Less obvious was the focus on the LGBTI networks in the 'West' that achieved almost everything... marriage or partnerships, adoption, non-discrimination legislation, just to mention a few. Our answer was clear: none of the achieved progress was ever really fully anchored nor fully accepted by the society. It would only take some populist political movement to turn back all the progress. In other words, no need to be arrogant nor complacent, just keep being aware of the potential dangers. Well, they are happening. Trump is not Obama, and closer to home, the current and possible future changes are clear. But on the following pages, you will see that the LGBTI community in East and West is, even more than before, actively fighting the negative treatment of our community. We will never accept prejudice, ignorance or bigotry. You can count on EmW to be on your side!



With summer slowly getting closer (in case you were wondering when the 4<sup>th</sup> International East meets West Forum will take place) we decided to host the event later in the year. That way we can guarantee a more interesting program and most suitable logistics for the event. In the meantime we will run several smaller and focused local events and workshops. And, you never know who will call you with a new partnership proposal :-)

Pavel & Ludo

## Have you ever thought ....

SMEs (Small & Medium Enterprises\*) are the backbone of the European Economy. Out of every 100 businesses there are 99 SMEs and they employ 2 out of every 3 employees. According to the European Commission's Annual Report on European SMEs 2015/2016 just under 23 million SMEs generated €3.9 trillion in added value. They also employed 90 million people. What share was generated by LGBTI owned businesses? What is the value added by LGBTI owned business in the East meets West region?

# 312.000+

**LGBTI Business**  
in EmW Region

The region of EmW Central & Eastern Europe accounts for approximately 5,4 million\*\* SMEs. The globally recognized share from the LGBTI population is 6%. This brings us to an estimate that there are more than 312.000 LGBTI owned businesses. There is quite a regional variance when it comes to absolute numbers of SMEs (highest in Poland 1,5 Mio and Czech Republic 1 Mio). This is also true when it comes to "being out in business". It is the aim of East meets West to increase the level of social acceptance for LGBTI people, and strong & self-sustaining LGBTI business communities.

\* SMEs are defined as businesses which employ less than 250 staff and have an annual turnover of less than € 50 million, and/or their balance sheet total is less than € 43 million

\*\* Excluding Russia

### How to navigate through EmW Pages?

As these EmW Pages want to cover LGBTI Social as well LGBTI Business topics, we added a small hint allowing you the navigate easily through the Pages:

 **EmW Social Topic**

 **EmW Business Topic**

# LGBTI Inclusion in Business Numbers

## EmW called for an initial workshop with its business partners

There are large number of reports with a significant amount of data available on the topic of LGBTI inclusion. Nevertheless, when we want to build a strong LGBTI linked business case, we are often blocked by the absence of relevant data. East meets West Business took the lead to improve this situation by calling for and facilitating an initial workshop with seven key business partners in Austria.

The call for this initial workshop follows our aim to establish an online space where EmW members and partners could easily find answers to questions around LGBTI inclusion. We build the case for LGBTI Business over in the following areas:

LGBTI Workplace Inclusion

LGBTI Business Ownership

LGBTI Market Opportunities

Erste Bank Group, WKO Wien (Chamber of Commerce), OEBB (National Austrian Railways), Shire, Raiffeisen Centrobank, Accenture and Wikopreventk on board meant a great and professional start! The Pages will feature updates on our task to establish an online space.



## East without limits

Feel like doing a quiz? Which country has an LGBTI community of 70 million and a capital city with 20 million inhabitants and its own small but active LGBTI community? Answer: China! Surprised? We were when we read an article in 'Der Spiegel', but in fact, one should not be surprised. China has a very rich history of gay and lesbian lifestyle and this has left its mark on Chinese society today. Public homophobic behavior is quite unknown LGBTI members can live their life in Chinese cities without any major difficulties. "Glam Night", with glam standing for glamour, has a new theme every week and is well known in the Beijing LGBTI nightlife scene.

Despite this, a crucial moment in a gay and lesbian life, coming out, is just as critical in China as in our region. Century old traditions expect sons and daughters to marry and have kids so they can take care of the parents. So the struggle for social acceptance has just started and will have to deal with a lot of sticking points but as we all know... Most walls are not made of stone, rather of cardboard, even the Chinese Wall.

And how do you communicate in China with other members of the LGBTI community? Well with BLUED, a 100% Chinese mobile dating app with 27 Mio registered users. It is available in 11 countries. So you see, China is not only acquiring our car manufacturing industry and primary ownership of European banks and insurance companies, they are also moving in, little by little, in our local LGBTI territory! Perhaps EmW should reach out to them in one of their future events?



### Useful links

Der Spiegel  
<http://www.spiegel.de>

Blued mobile App  
<https://www.blued.com>

# Erste Group launches Erste Colours

## The New Network for LGBT & Friends in Austria

“Our country needs people who believe in themselves and a bank that believes in diversity. Diversity unites us as colleagues, clients and members of society.” With this slogan, the latest initiative of the Group Sustainability Office “Erste Colours - United by Diversity” celebrates its official kick-off on the 16th of February.

More than 120 guests and half of Erste Holding Board attended this event to learn more about the objective of this resource group. Speakers from other initiatives at Deutsche Bank, IBM, East meets West and WaST were also invited. The evening illustrated the challenges faced in the daily work life of LGBT-employees. It also explained how diversity and specifically LGBT-initiatives can help to create economic and cultural benefits for international companies like Erste Group.

### Erste Colours will focus on following objectives:

- to promote mutual respect among colleagues as well as between employers and employees
- to respond to our diverse client base by providing “colourful” services
- to strengthen Erste Group’s reputation as a modern company in a modern society since Erste Colours is an innovative and forward-thinking initiative
- to support employer branding by attracting the best and brightest talents



At the moment the Erste Colours team is organizing workshops to define and further develop themes relevant for work-related subdivisions: society, human resources and retail.



*"We are a modern, forward-thinking financial institution and have a positive impact on the economic and social developments in the countries where we do business. I support Erste Colours because diversity, inclusion, tolerance and respect are what make us a first choice bank for our clients, and a place where our employees love to work. Moreover, I support Erste Colours because it is in line with our Statement of Purpose and it is the right thing to do!"*

**Gernot Mittendorfer, CFO of Erste Group  
Ambassador of Erste Colours**

*"I am convinced that Erste Colours will create a more inclusive work environment and increase employee engagement and innovation. It will also have a positive impact on business by helping us reach out to a more diverse customer base. Erste Colours is an integral part of our diversity strategy and program."*



**Vera Budway, Erste Group Diversity Manager**



### Useful links

Erste Group Bank AG

<https://www.erstegroup.com/en/home>

<https://www.erstegroup.com/en/ueber-uns/gesellschaftliche-verantwortung/diversitaet>

<https://www.sparkasse.at/erstebank/kampagne/glaub-an-dich>



# WEConnect International in Europe

## A new EmW friend and an event in Stuttgart

● WEConnect International is an international organization that works outside of our LGBTI environment but which is nevertheless quite close to EmW Business as their work description states: WEConnect International identifies, educates, registers, and certifies women's business enterprises based outside of the U.S. that are at least 51% owned, managed, and controlled by one or more women, and then connects them with multinational corporate buyers. In fact they do what EmW Business wants to achieve in the LGBTI Business Communities but WEConnect have advanced further than we have. They already have global supplier partnerships with 73 corporate players, they count 5.387 self-registered female owned businesses as having been registered with them and have certified 752 entirely women owned and operated businesses. An impressive track record!

WEConnect Europe, the European arm of this international organization, has been active in the UK and Ireland for several years. EmW joined them at their February Conference at the IBM Center in Ehningen, Germany. Maggie Berry, WEConnect's Executive Director for Europe, welcomed around 100 interested parties representing corporations and majority owned women's businesses based in Germany. The topics discussed included supply chain inclusion in Germany, corporate supplier diversity programs and female entrepreneurship. During this occasion, the start of WEConnect's continental activities in Germany were announced. In partnership with "Verband deutscher Unternehmerinnen" (The Association of German Female Entrepreneurs) they will offer certification from April 2017.

What is the certification? It is an independent assessment to prove that a firm is majority female owned, managed and controlled. It also involves meeting at the business' offices to check paperwork and documentation. If successful, a company is issued a certificate and reference number, enabling them enter into contact with multinational corporations to diversify their supply chain. Of course once such a certified business is involved in a tender process, it must compete equally, there is no given any preferential treatment.

Certification will also soon be available in Switzerland and The Netherlands.

**WEConnect**  
INTERNATIONAL  
*Connecting Women's Enterprises with Market Opportunity*



### Useful links

Forum information, agenda and presentations

<http://www.weconnecteurope.org/event/women-entrepreneurs-connecting-corporate-world>

Full list of upcoming and previous events of WEConnect International in Europe

<http://www.weconnecteurope.org/events>

Partnering organization in Germany: Verband deutscher Unternehmerinnen e.V. (certification process)

<https://www.vdu.de>

# News from the EmW Network

EmW works in a region where the LGBTI topics touch many people in a variety of ways. Sometimes political or sometimes business, often social, but always very driven! Enjoy the news from this network and be amazed. For more information about country related news, feel free to contact us: [info@eastmeetswest.eu](mailto:info@eastmeetswest.eu).



## Albania

We recorded great news coming from Albania with **The LGBTIQ Employment Equality Index**. It is the first of its kind, not only in Albania but also in the non-EU Balkan states. [The Index](#) ranks how well companies respect the rights and dignity of LGBTIQ persons in their hiring, training, development, and general employment practices. It also rates their compliance with local labor laws. This new initiative was introduced by The Headhunter Group, the largest recruitment and HR company in Albania and one of the largest in the Balkans. The Group has a deep seated commitment to see equal employment opportunities extended to all citizens. The LGBTIQ Employment Equality Index awards go to Vodafone Albania and British Council (Gold), Top Albania Radio (Silver) and Europe Agency and Neptun (Bronze).



## Macedonia

Two successful talks took place recently in Skopje and were organized by the Subversive Front (S-Front). The first one was with German MP Dr. Karl-Heinz Brunner (SDP), who is one of the most vocal advocates for LGBTI rights in the German Bundestag. He is one of the initiators of the adoption of a plan to reinstitute the thousands of German citizens convicted of homosexuality during and after the era of Nazism. The key sticking point, was noted several times by relevant reports from the European Commission on the progress of the Republic of Macedonia to the EU. It centers around the need for increased commitment from the new Macedonian government to improve the legal framework to protect the rights of LGBTI people. The reports referenced the Law on Prevention and Protection against Discrimination in particular. Some ideas for new alliances include working with LGBTI organizations and with the young supporters of political parties.



As part of an education-based visit on the 24th of February, a group of 22 representatives from the Dutch Ministry on education, culture and science and Ministry of Foreign Affairs met representatives from LGBTI movements in Macedonia. They explored topics about LGBTI advocacy in Macedonia over the last 25 years in depth and looked at the challenges and problems encountered protecting LGBTI rights today. They also focused on the recent Parliamentary elections, gaps in the education system and the lack of sexual education in schools.



## Serbia

**Gayten-LGBT** celebrated The Trans Visibility Day on March 31 by seeking an answer from the Ministry of Labor about their activities related to drafting the Gender Identity Law. According to the strategy for the prevention of and protection from discrimination and its related action plan, the Ministry of Labor was due to form the working group for preparing a draft for a Gender Identity Law. They were supposed to organize a public hearing, and the drafted law submit to the Government for further consideration. The deadline for these activities was end of 2016. We received no answer about Ministry's work related to this.

On March 22-24, UNDP and ERA organized a sub-regional dialogue under the topic "Being LGBTI in SEE", which gathered all outstanding activists from this region in the Western Balkans. A panel for intersex and trans rights was joined by Gayten-LGBT.





# Czech Republic

● "LGBT Diversity from HR Point of View" was the initial [Pride Business Forum](#) event of 2017. Taking place on February 10 at Vodafone's headquarters in Prague, this event brought together representatives from international corporations. Most importantly, there were also a number of Czech companies! Among the foreign guests were representatives from the Portuguese Diversity Charter and (of course) EmW.



● The first ever Memorandum promoting LGBT workplace diversity in the Czech Republic was signed on March 16 by power players IBM, Ogilvy Czech Republic, Hilton Prague, Vodafone, Prague Pride and Business for Society. This Memorandum focuses on LGBTI diversity and inclusion in the workplace and the active support of equality to foster acceptance, support and further development of individual talents. The signing ceremony garnered attention and helped spark the public debate on this subject, aiming to not only change the existing stereotypes but also support an approach that is beneficial to both employers and employees. [[Memorandum text](#)].



● One of great opportunities to informally meet people who are part of LGBT ERG's (Employee Resource Groups) and learn what their plans for the near future are: Networking Events. One of these events took place right after the Memorandum ceremony's fresh atmosphere at the Cloud 9 bar @Hilton Prague.

● On March 17, **Prague hosted its first Queer Ball!** It ran already for several years in Ostrava and Brno and now finally this event made it finally to Prague and welcomed a large crowd of LGBTI community members and their friends.



# Austria

● The Vienna Rainbow Ball (Wiener Regenbogenball) is the city's number one ball for LGBTI people and their friends. Being held for the 20th time, it took place on January 28 in the magical Parkhotel Schönbrunn. The ball is not only one of the most successful balls in Austria, it has also established a reputation for being the ball-season's highlight for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex communities. It is a classical Viennese ball, in line with the city's long dancing tradition. At the same time, however, it is an important manifestation of the modern spirit of queer culture, celebrated by LGBTI people and heterosexual guests alike. It is also a major fundraising event. The profits support the work of [HOSI Wien](#) (Homosexual Initiative Vienna), which is Austria's largest gay and lesbian organization.



● AGPRO, the Austrian Gay Professionals, had their annual meeting on April 8th and looked back on a very successful 2016. Next to their regular activities like the monthly Lounges, AGPRO organized the AGPRO "Forschungspreis" in 2016. This prize is awarded to researchers who are active in the field and identify as LGBTI. Additionally, AGPRO, in cooperation with the QBW and IBM, also set-up the 3rd Business Forum at the Austrian National Bank. Both major activities further illustrated the professional level that AGPRO has reached and their growing impact on the LGBTI community in Austria. But like every organization, AGPRO has to redefine its role in a constantly changing society. Therefore AGPRO has planned *agpro2020*, an initiative that will allow different groups of interested members to discuss key themes for AGPRO's future. Other dates on the AGPRO agenda are the 2017 LGBT Business Forum, the 2018 AGPRO's 20th Anniversary and the 2019 Vienna Europride!



# Europe

● **Facing Facts!** – An innovative program aiming to improve the recognition, recording of and responses to hate crime and hate speech at the national level and beyond by working across civil society and public authorities. Find out more under [facingfacts.eu](#).



## Ukraine

Smart Advocacy, is a project initiated by the [Gay Alliance Ukraine](#) (largest local LGBTI NGO), involving 50 volunteers from 7 regions of Ukraine. During 4 months (March - June) they will record cases of discrimination and try to solve the problems of discriminated people using Ukrainian law, law enforcement services and Ukrainian courts. Throughout the project, action protocols (how to act in different crisis situations) will be documented. They will serve as a reference database when meeting local authorities or having meetings of various committees, organizing liaisons with National Policy leaders and public protests or interacting with media. This will also bring a clear understanding of what changes are key and need to be asked for.

Also launched in March, the second project of Gay Alliance (GAU) is called "The Creative Protests". The aim is to uncover creativity and art-skills in the volunteers. A contest for the best concept of an artistic way to increase publicity for human rights issues was announced and will be confined to IDAHO day. This project also includes 10 educational workshops in 10 regions of Ukraine. 7 of the best concepts will be brought to life with the financial support from GAU. The best concepts will be also represented at the Creative protests festival held under the banner of Odessa Pride 2017 in August.



## Kosovo

After the court's decision on the Ferizaj case in 2016 and the establishment of a working group to amend the Criminal Code, three LGBTI organizations, (supported by other Human Rights organizations), have drafted recommendations for The Ministry of Justice in January. The recommendations include getting an article included in the criminal code on hate crime and including SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity) in an existing article (Incitement of Hatred).

In February a round table was held with relevant parties to present the CGCD & CEL Annual Report for 2016. This report "[Reflections on LGBTI Rights in Kosovo](#)" elaborates the developments of LGBTI cause in Kosovo during 2016 and follow-up recommendations. There were representatives from the Ombudsman Institution, the Office of Good Governance (Office of Prime Minister), civilian society, the Council of Europe, the European Union's Office in Kosovo and the U.S. Embassy in Kosovo.



## Bosnia & Herzegovina

The fifth International Merlinka Festival for Queer Film took place in January in Sarajevo. The original basic idea to promote movies that deal with LGBT topics soon became a very important event for LGBTI persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This year the festival attracted over 500 visitors. Alongside movie premieres, the program included an exhibition, a discussion about bodies in the public space, as well as hosting the House of Flamingo with their spectacular drag show.



A two-day training was held, aiming to educate officials about the human rights of LGBTI persons, taking into account that Gender Action Plan. The training also covered measures to advance LGBTI rights and took place mid. February. It was attended by number of BiH institutions, incl. five local ministries: Defense, Foreign Affairs, Communications and Transport, Foreign Trade and Economic Relations and Human Rights and Refugees.

On February 22, the Sarajevo Open Centre (SOC) organized an International Conference on the human rights of LGBTI persons. "It is time for Equality". It featured three topics that were the most relevant to LGBTI persons in Bosnia & Herzegovina: (1) Regulation of Same-Sex Partnerships in Conservative Societies, (2) Protection of the right to gender self-determination (legal recognition of gender identity.) (3) Intersex persons – the overcoming the legalities of binary sex. Various panel talks in this one-day conference featured regional and domestic experts in the field of human rights for LGBTI persons, representatives of the Ombudsman Institution, Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, the Council of Europe, as well as the representatives from the civil sector from Serbia and Croatia.





# Important Events in the Network

The EmW Network offers a mosaic of events and activities, produced and hosted by various LGBTI dedicated organizations. You will find here the most important events which we were informed about. For additional information, you always have the links to the organizers or contact us under [info@eastmeetswest.eu](mailto:info@eastmeetswest.eu).

April

26

Sofia, Bulgaria  
**WORK IT OUT**



● **Work It Out** is a platform for Bulgarian based domestic and international companies that want to make their workplaces more inclusive and embrace the benefits of diversity. The purpose of the platform is to promote a positive business and economic case for equality of opportunity for every employee in Bulgaria. It is not a formal organization, but rather a community of companies all sharing the goals for acceptance and inclusion of LGBT people. Work It Out hosts regular virtual and in-person round table discussions and other events to learn about innovative approaches to LGBT inclusion internationally, as well as the challenges faced in achieving the same levels of LGBT workplace inclusion as other countries. Work It Out will serve as a practical resource for companies, LGBT workers, and their families facing challenges in difficult country placements, strategizing how to engage on-the-ground resources, better serving their employees in-country. Microsoft Bulgaria and GLAS FOUNDATION will host a business breakfast with title "WORK IT OUT" on April 26 at the Kvadrat 500 National Gallery. Marianne Rolling (Microsoft CEE), David Pollard (Workplace Pride), Simeon Vasilev (GLAS FOUNDATION) are among the presenters. More information <http://glasfoundation.bg/en/>, <https://www.facebook.com/glasfoundation/>

May

7-17

Moscow, Russia  
**Family Equality Festival**



Центр социально-психологических  
и культурных проектов  
«Ресурс ЛГБТКИА Москва»

○ Family Equality Festival is a unique event hosted by "Resource LGBTQIA Moscow", the center for social, psychological and cultural projects. The FEF is linked to the International Family Equality Day (IFED), celebrated on May 7th this year as well as the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT), which focuses on family equality. The Family Equality Festival is a gathering of families. It is an opportunity for families to get to know each other and to find out whether they are alike or different. It is a chance for families to express themselves through creative arts and sports, to learn about their rights, to discuss relevant issues and look for solutions together. It is a celebration of diversity and a ceremony for recognizing the importance of every family regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or any other characteristics. It is an event for LGBTQIA families and their loved ones, the LGBTQIA community and all those to whom the values of partnership, family, love and mutual support matter. For more information visit or write to: <http://resourcerus.org/en/festival> and [resurs.moscow@gmail.com](mailto:resurs.moscow@gmail.com)

May

19

Tirana, Albania



**Embrace Diversity, Support Progress**

○ Last year, Streha, Albania's emergency shelter for LGBT youth, organized a Charity Gala that raised enough money to cover nearly 16% of their cost (almost 19,000 USD). More than that, a group of LGBT activists, shelter beneficiaries, and community members got to see that despite deep homophobia in Albania, people were willing to publicly attend an event and support them! We kindly ask you to support the Shelter for LGBT Persons, so it can continue to provide indispensable temporary accommodation, food, encouragement, and teach psychosocial and life skills. Streha also finds job placements for young victims of abuse and discrimination. The Shelter is now licensed by the Ministry of Social Welfare and is actively seeking to develop sustainable sources of funding for its activities. The 3rd Gala Evening to Benefit the Shelter for LGBT Persons in Albania that will take place at 7:30 PM – 10:00 PM on Friday, May 19, 2017, at the Palace of Brigades in Tirana. Building upon the success of the previous Gala Evenings, this event receives support from the Minister of Social Welfare, US and Dutch government officials, the UK Deputy Ambassador and the Swedish Charge d'Affairs to Albania. They will all participate in this activity. The Gala Evening will feature prominent Albanian artists and other interesting entertainers. More info & registration under [www.strehalgbt.al](http://www.strehalgbt.al), [strehalgbt@gmail.com](mailto:strehalgbt@gmail.com), +355699839189.



May  
**17**

Vienna, Tirana, Pristina, Sarajevo, ...  
**IDAHOT**

On the occasion of the International Day against Homophobia there will be numerous events in every metro area in our region – from protest marches against violence towards LGBTI persons, exhibitions and movie screenings to public media campaigns. They will all have the very same message that violence is not acceptable! And what do you plan for IDAHOT?

JUNE  
**14-16**

Toronto, Canada  
**NGLCC Global 5TH LGBT Summit of the Americas**



The Canadian Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (CGLCC) is pleased to host the NGLCC Global 5th LGBT Summit of the Americas, in Toronto, Canada, from Wednesday, June 14 to Friday, June 16, 2017. In collaboration with the US-based National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC), the Summit will expand business opportunities by facilitating meetings with corporate partners and other diverse-owned enterprises, while providing growth opportunities through building strong domestic and global networks. It will provide practical information and skills to assist participants in developing and growing their businesses within Canada or beyond. It will also provide participants with a greater awareness of the importance of the fast-emerging international LGBT business network in the Americas, and beyond, along with its potential for national and international business partnerships. This three-day event includes keynote speakers and panel discussions which will provide participants with the knowledge and tools to successfully benefit from an expanded supplier diversity market. For more information & tickets visit <http://www.cglcc.ca/summit2017.html>.

JUNE  
**16**

Prague, Czech republic  
**Pride Business Forum:  
"Out & Equal in Central Eastern Europe"**



Pride Business Forum is an annual summit, which aims to provide a space for discussion, the exchange of good ideas and practices among businesses in the area of LGBT diversity in the workspace. Initiated by IBM, Hilton Hotel, and Prague Pride, the Pride Business Forum is the only platform in the Czech Republic dedicated to workplace LGBT diversity. The previous forum included 250 participants. In 2017 Pride Business Forum is joining forces with Out & Equal, the premier US-based nonprofit dedicated to achieving workplace equality, to organize the Central Eastern Europe Forum. This year's Forum will focus on the business impact of diversity, and on LGBT workplace equality in Eastern Europe. [Online mandatory registration](http://www.pridebusinessforum.com/en/registration). More information under <http://www.pridebusinessforum.com/en/>

Sept.  
**20**

Western Balkans and Turkey  
**ERA Annual Conference**



ERA - LGBTI Equal Rights Association for the Western Balkans and Turkey is hosting its second Annual Conference on September 20-23 in Podgorica, Montenegro. This year's theme is "Empower, Transform, Challenge" and will bring together LGBTI activists, government representatives, donors, media, researchers and allies. The conference will focus on discussions on how to instigate and inspire meaningful change in our societies. A crucial event for this year in the Western Balkans is the LGBTI survey, the biggest of its kind in the region. This survey will aim to measure the living conditions in the community and will provide meaningful data to all shareholders. More information under <http://www.lgbti-era.org>

## Share with us your news

You made a huge step forward? You plan an important event or a specific campaign? Share it with at [info@eastmeetwest.eu](mailto:info@eastmeetwest.eu). A chain is as strong as its individual links. We count on you to participate actively in the East meets West Pages.

# The season of Prides begins soon!

Type & Date	Location	More info & registration
○ 13. May 2017	Tirana Gay (P)Ride	Albania <a href="https://facebook.com/AleancaLGBT">facebook.com/AleancaLGBT</a>
○ 10. June 2017	Sofia Pride	Bulgaria <a href="https://sofiapride.org">sofiapride.org</a>
○ 10. June 2017	Zagreb Pride	Croatia <a href="https://zagreb-pride.net/">zagreb-pride.net/</a>
○ 17. June 2017	Vienna Pride	Austria <a href="https://wien.info/en/vienna-for/gay-lesbian/events">wien.info/en/vienna-for/gay-lesbian/events</a>
○ 17. June 2017	Ljubljana Pride	Slovenia <a href="https://facebook.com/LjubljanaPride">facebook.com/LjubljanaPride</a>



## About East meets West



Founded in Vienna, Austria in 2013, East meets West (EmW) is a network of LGBTI professionals from Western & (primarily) Eastern Europe. East meets West facilitates the exchange of ideas, the sharing of best practices and generates mutual inspiration to improve the situation of LGBTI men and women in the different countries. The East meets West brand has two pillars:

### “LGBTI Rights are Human Rights”

**East meets West Social** has a catalyst function in the LGBTI organizational ecosystem by connecting NGOs, diplomatic representatives, officials, corporate players, entrepreneurs and other inspiring personalities.

### “The Business Power in Society”

**East meets West Business** is a facilitator of awareness for businesses and a creator of experiences for the professional European LGBTI Community. In a broader sense, EmW achieves this aim by supporting LGBTI linked, small business set-ups. It is the place for the creation of awareness that LGBTI men and women can be successful entrepreneurs and become role models inside and outside the LGBTI community

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