## **HOW IT ALL BEGAN**

We, the founding members, do believe that the story that led to the foundation of our association is not an accidental one. We rather believe that important decisions that each of us has taken in his life and which paved the way for our future lives were also supported by "Stars and Gods" who have contributed in a helping and mediatory way back then, and who still do so as per today.

It is not surprising that a story like ours took shape in one of the most colourful cultural capitals of the world, since Vienna with its millenary cosmopolitan and intercultural tradition provided an almost perfect breeding ground for it.

Over the years most of us have settled here in Vienna, have started to work and have established roots for various reasons, job or family. It is here that we finally got to know each other and, for reasons which are explained below, this city has become for us some kind of an "interactive international platform" as far as the exchange of cultural as well as professional and existential questions are concerned.

As time went by, our coming to know each other (which we do by no means consider being coincidental) has continued and our relations have gradually broadened. Impulses and inspiration for our joint initiatives and activities were found

- 1. in our personal wishes and goals and in overlapping professional and existential decisions which codetermined our mutual knowledge;
- 2. in the fact that we discovered more and more commonalities regarding our personal needs;
- 3. in our striving to achieve and to satisfy these wishes, goals and needs.

Due to these circumstances we discovered in our meetings

- a. that we had an increasing number of coinciding visions and analogies regarding important life decisions that led us to a consensus on common concerns.
- b. that we were complementary to each other:
  - 1. due to our different individual characteristics;
  - 2. because it turned out that each of us had a considerable potential for action that could be gradually and harmoniously integrated in the context of our private and professional interactions;
- c. that being complementary to each other turned out to be helpful for the satisfaction of our personal needs and wishes.

As a result of many personal as well as common considerations about the above mentioned evolution (which made us aware of the fact that we had common visions and convergent basic life decisions) we came after many discussions unanimously to the conclusion that it would be interesting, rewarding and most useful to add the right amount of time and an adequate organized framework.to our commonly agreed and complementary co-operation.

Not only we should benefit from this decision, but also all those who are having similar ideological, cultural and existential goals.

Therefore, we decided and agreed to found an association whose objectives are defined in our document named "The Aims of the Association" and which was based on insightful and structuring suggestions of an old project of one of the founding members. The goal: using the possibilities of an association like ours to promote the development of all those aspects that many people believe are conducive to society and to interpersonal relationships.

The whole process as described above has been achieved through a joint maturation process that made us understand the need to mutually recognize each one's operational capabilities, and this led to the beginning of a complementary and unified cooperation among the members within the association.

Finally, we would like to emphasize that our conviction to start working synergistically (with an eye on the optimization of a complementary and unified cooperation) is based upon a creed that we have gained through a number of personal and collective experiences, and which might be defined as follows:

"Where there is a complementarity ("to complement each other") that is recognized and accepted by all parties and agreed among all participants, there is also room for naturally and freely unfolding joy of life, for genuine respect and for mutual enrichment on an intercultural, interpersonal, professional and existential level, for the possibility of mutual assistance and for further developments".

"The proof of the pudding is in the eating!"

Well then, who are we and with whom could you subsequently get in touch while participating at our interactive community life?

With all types of members, as well as with a variety of aspirants (from the circle of our friends, families, colleagues and acquaintances) who have already expressed their interest to become members of the association.

More specifically: you will meet quite ordinary people, including artists, musicians, psychologists, therapists, psychotherapists, teachers, social workers, life coaches, sports teachers, "Bon-Ton" - coaches, entrepreneurs, midwives, nurses, managing directors, sexual consultants, mediators, energy consultants, economists, beauticians, physiotherapists, journalists, accountants, environmentalists, singers, composers, philosophers, poets, directors, art agents, specialists in medicinal herbalism, dancers, actors, computer scientists, artisans, commercial agents, translators and interpreters, cooks, pizza cooks, engineers, interior consultants, antiques dealers, tour guides and tour operators, naval officers, real estate agents, lawyers and many more that are to join.

Who could be a potential member of the association VITA - ATIV?

Anyone with good and constructive intentions, who is aware of the undeniable fact that whatever was created in this world which turned out to be constructive and lasting is a result of the complementarity of many individual interdisciplinary contributions, made by people that were animated and driven by good and edifying intentions.

If you, dear reader, agree with the objectives of this association and if you feel (or will feel) the wish to make beneficial contributions to the common good on the basis of mutual respect and to benefit also from the contributions of others, and if you desire that these contributions shall benefit especially all people of good will, then you are most welcome!