

# TÜRKİYE'S INTEREST IN HOSTING THE EHEA LONG TERM SECRETARIAT

- The Secretariat will be an entity of international nature legally established in accordance with the Turkish Law No. 3335 concerning Establishment of the Entities of an International Nature.

- The law permits the establishment of entities of international nature with a Presidential decree to be issued.
- This will be based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be signed.

- Istanbul as the host city for the Secretariat due to;
- its unique geographical position bridging Europe and Asia,
- many international organizations and diplomatic missions,
- contributing about 30% of the Turkish national GDP,
- 58 universities and numerous international schools,
- its multicultural and inclusive environment facilitating staff adaptation.

- Three venue options:
  - within a foundation university,
  - a public university, or
  - an independent site equipped to meet the Secretariat's operational needs.

- Türkiye is dedicated to establishing an independent EHEA Secretariat full accountable to the BFUG.
- Its legal foundation will be defined by a MoU between the Council of Higher Education (CoHE) and the BFUG.
- The organizational structure, staffing, and reporting mechanisms will follow BFUG guidelines.
- Türkiye's proven experience in neutral mediation demonstrates its capacity to ensure that the Secretariat operates autonomously.

- Türkiye proposes a sustainable, long-term hosting plan for the EHEA Secretariat, extending beyond the 2027 Ministerial Conference for at least eight years.
- The MoU to be signed between the CoHE and the BFUG shall be binding for both parties.
- Any administrative changes that may occur in Türkiye will not affect the functioning of the Secretariat.

- Türkiye will enable the Secretariat to recruit diverse, competent staff members from across the EHEA countries.
- It will facilitate secondments from EHEA and consultative members.
- The Secretariat will provide administrative support to streamline international hiring, leveraging Türkiye's labor laws that permit foreign nationals to work under clear visa and contract frameworks.

- The rule of law is constitutionally guaranteed in Türkiye.
- It is a party to relevant international treaties and regulations in this regard.
- It will also not intervene in the Secretariat's receipt of support from EHEA member states, provided such support is obtained by the law.
- Neither national, nor local authorities may interfere with any activities carried out by the Secretariat within the scope of MoU.

- The Secretariat shall be founded as a non-profit entity.
- All financial contributions provided by member states shall be allocated solely for the Secretariat's operational purposes and shall not be used for profit-making or commercial activities.
- Any budgetary surplus shall be reinvested into the Secretariat's functions and be used to support the Secretariat's activities.
- Türkiye, as the host nation, or any outside parties will not have any undue influence over the Secretariat's financial resource management.

- If the establishment of the Secretariat in Türkiye is decided, CoHE will initiate the required procedures with the related government institutions such as Presidency of the Republic, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Interior.
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- CoHE will carry out timely consultations to ensure effective coordination and cooperation with the aforementioned institutions.
- All related procedures are planned to be completed by June 2027. Furthermore, if the application is accepted, the venue in Istanbul that will host the Secretariat is also expected to be finalized.

- Our motivation is deeply rooted in Türkiye's long-standing commitment to the values and objectives of the Bologna Process.
- Since becoming a full member of the Bologna Process in 2001, Türkiye has consistently aligned its higher education policies with the key priorities of the EHEA.
- Türkiye has actively participated in Bologna working groups and ministerial conferences.

- As a constitutional public institution, CoHE holds the primary authority and responsibility for shaping and implementing national higher education policies.
- This unique position enables CoHE to maintain continuous and close cooperation with all 208 universities across the country.
- In the case that the EHEA Secretariat is established in Istanbul, CoHE will actively mobilize this institutional capacity to support the Secretariat's work.

- CoHE will cover the rent for a period of eight years.
- It will also provide the initial furnishings.
- All other expenses—such as utilities (including electricity, water, heating, and internet), cleaning services, IT maintenance and software, as well as other miscellaneous costs—will be borne by the EHEA Secretariat.

THANK YOU