

# EHEA Long-Term Secretariat Proposal of CZECHIA



# Czechia – Prague

**Prague – a bridge between East and West** reflecting the inclusiveness and unity of the EHEA.

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**Excellent connectivity** and infrastructure; easily accessible from all European regions

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**Stable EU country** with strong rule of law and safe environment for international staff.

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**Cost-effective and sustainable solution** – competitive operational costs with high-quality services.

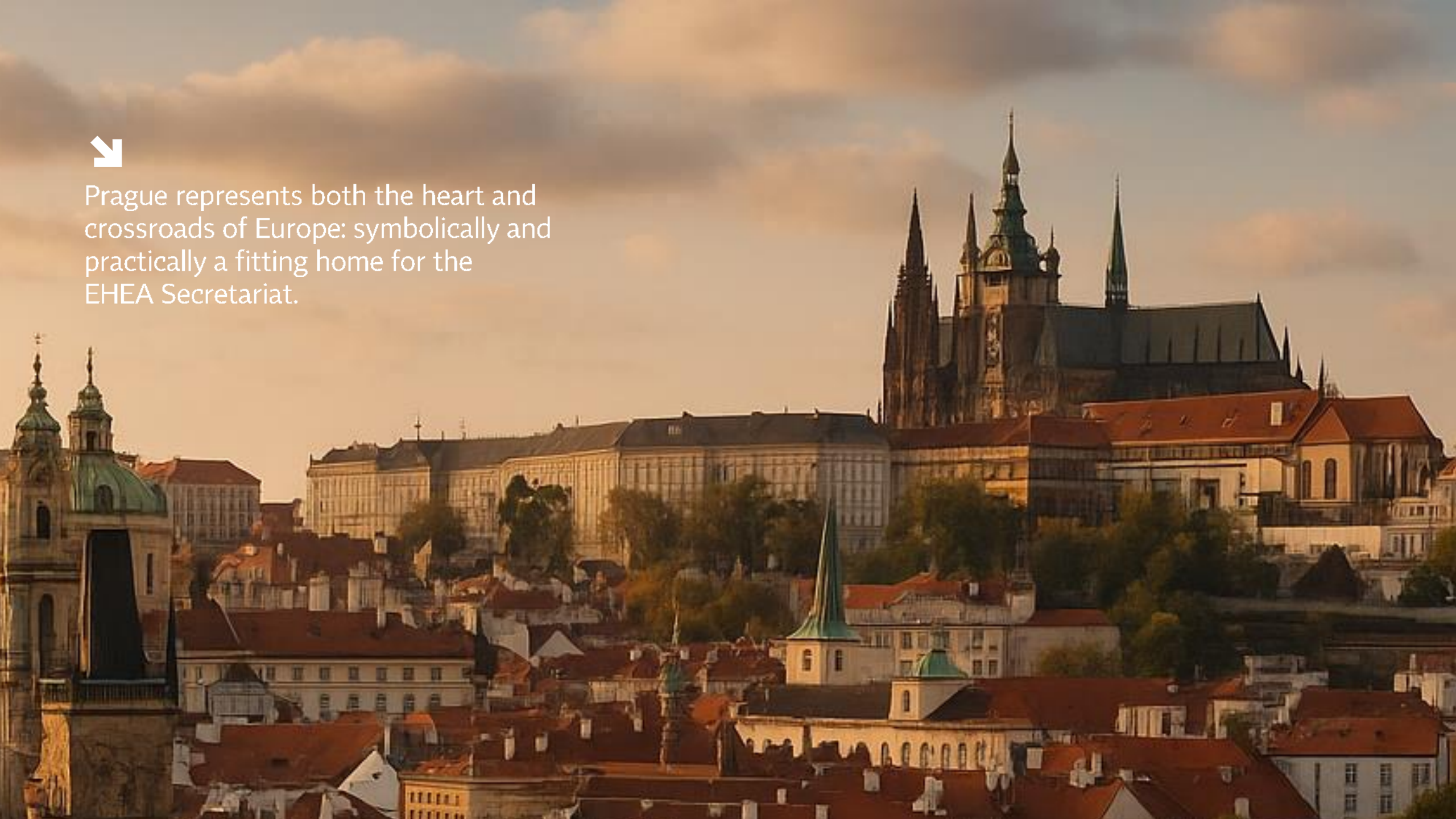
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**Vibrant academic and cultural city**, home to top universities and an international education community.

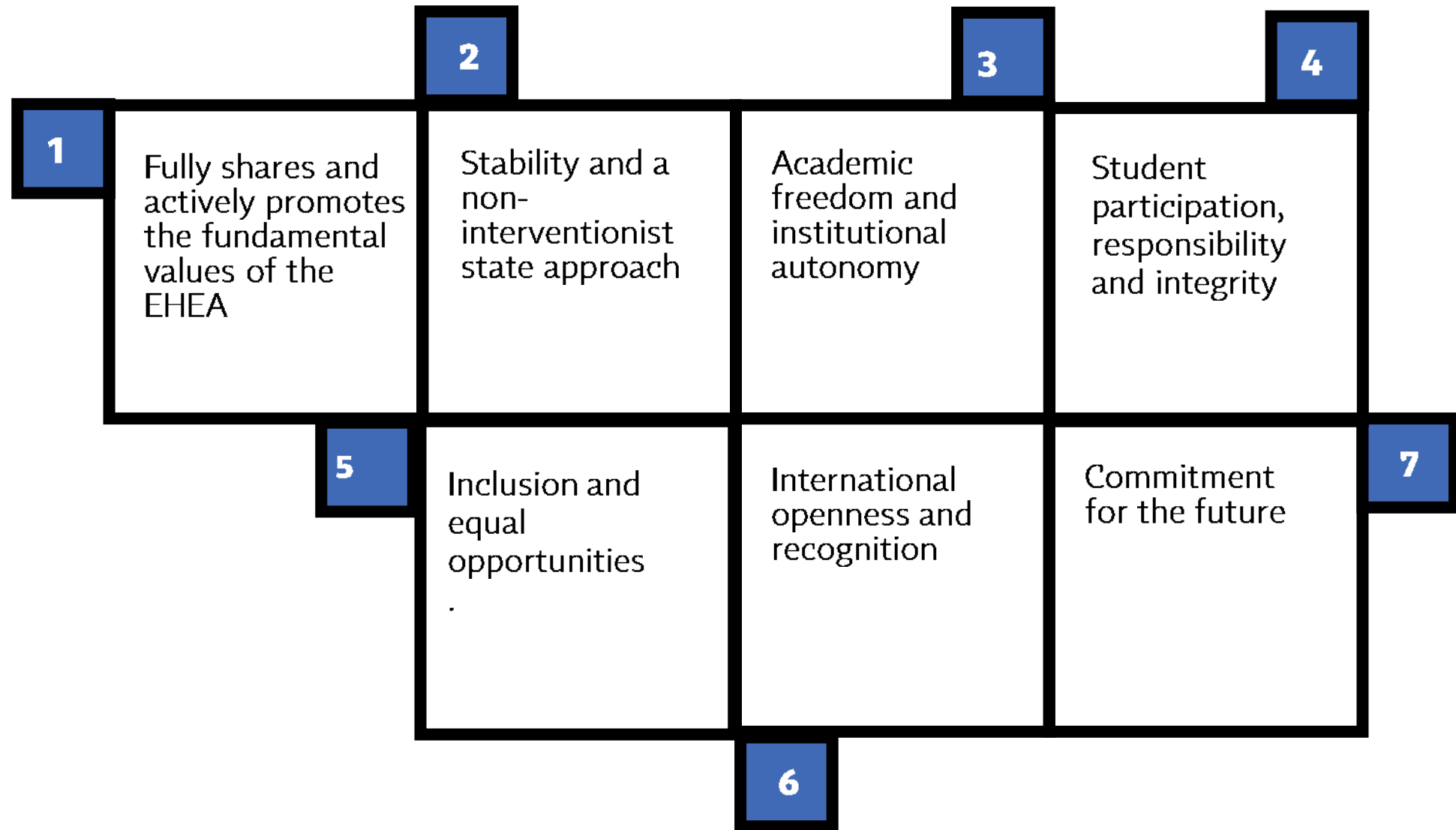




Prague represents both the heart and crossroads of Europe: symbolically and practically a fitting home for the EHEA Secretariat.



# Czechia's position on the Fundamental Values of the EHEA



# Hosting the Secretariat within **DZS**



Czech National Agency  
for International  
Education  
and Research (DZS)



DZS provides a fully  
equipped base and  
experienced  
administrative support.



# Our Commitment to Independence



Czechia fully respects the **autonomy and independence** of the Secretariat.



DZS will host and administratively support the Secretariat, but **will not intervene in its content or strategic direction.**



We are ready to **work with the BFUG** to find mechanisms that ensure the Secretariat remains **shielded from any undue state influence.**



Independence will be embedded through **clear governance rules and transparency.**

 **Safeguarding autonomy, ensuring partnership**

# The DZS model

## Public institutional base

DZS is a public organisation operating under the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS) with its own management and financial responsibility.

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## Dual governance structure

- DZS Director acts as the formal legal representative and employer.
  - BFUG retains strategic oversight — including appointment of the Head of Secretariat, supervision of activities, and budgetary approval.
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## Clear accountability

Decisions on operations and staffing are executed within DZS's legal framework, while BFUG defines the strategic direction and receives regular reporting.

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## Why an association (or foundation) is not the preferred path?

- legally possible
- require the creation of a new legal entity (separate registration, governance, accounting, and statutory audits)
- administratively demanding, costly, and time-consuming
- still require involvement of the ministry at the beginning



Establishing a new entity could delay operational readiness and reduce efficiency.

# In-kind Support

## What Czechia provides in-kind

**Office premises:** fully equipped workspace for the Secretariat within DZS headquarters, including access to meeting rooms and digital infrastructure.

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**Operational systems:** access to HR, financial, procurement, and accounting tools ensuring legal and financial compliance.

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**Administrative and technical services:** IT maintenance, communications, translation, payroll and audit support – all aligned with Czech and EU standards.



**Substantial cost savings for BFUG through use of existing national resources and infrastructure.**

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# Hosting Commitment

## Institutional commitment and sustainability

**Hosted within DZS**, a stable public organisation with extensive experience in international cooperation.

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Formally backed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS), **ensuring durability and transparency** of the hosting arrangement.

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Embedded in a public-sector framework subject to **regular audit and oversight, guaranteeing accountability and transparency.**



**The hosting is based on a long-term pledge, ensuring continuity and reliability over time.**

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# Key Strengths of the Czech Proposal



**Legally sound:** fully compliant with Czech and EU legislation, providing a secure framework for BFUG operations.



**Operationally ready:** DZS infrastructure, systems and staff available from day one – no start-up delays.



**Financially transparent:** managed within a public-sector framework under regular audit and MEYS oversight.



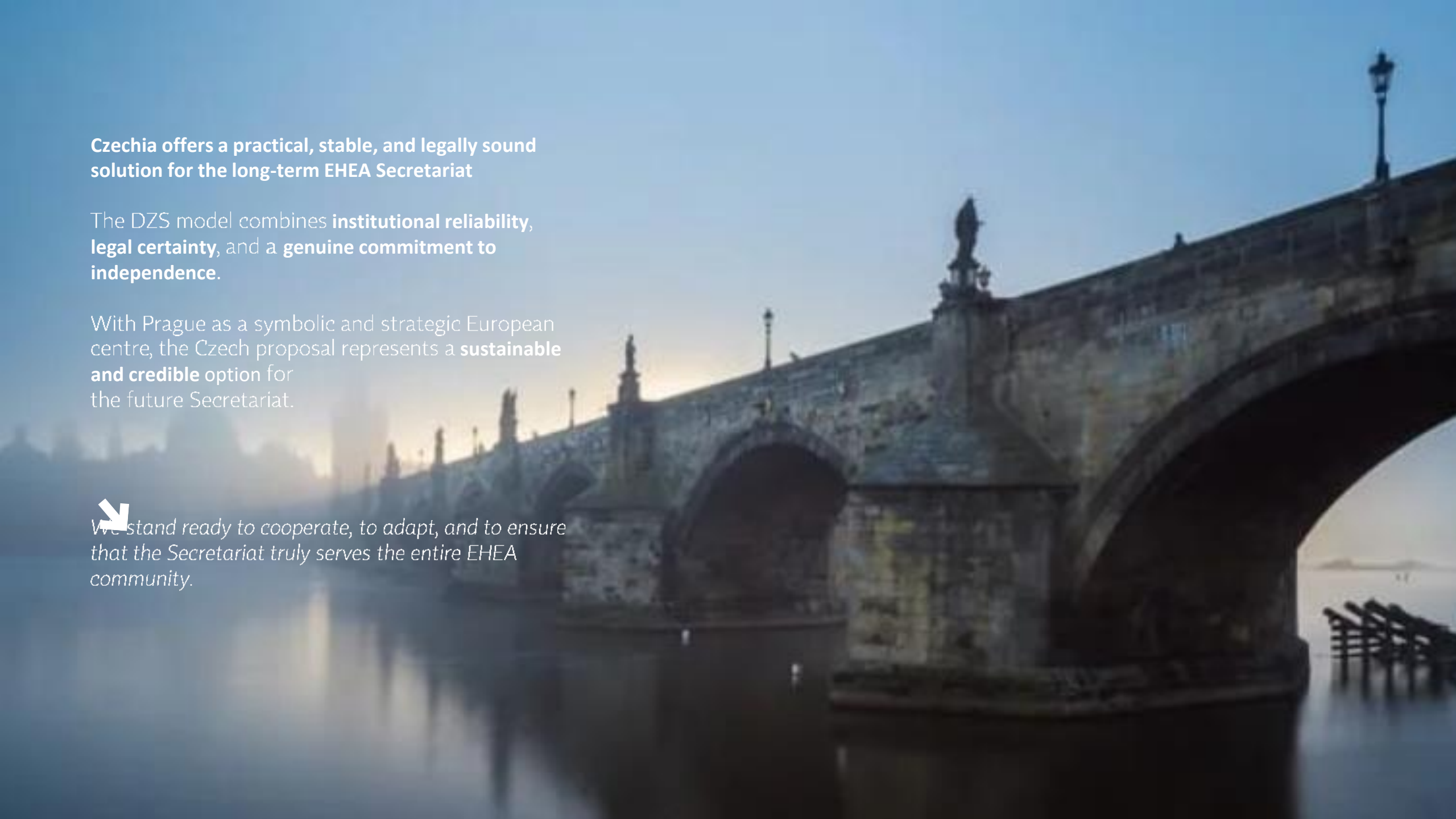
**Institutionally sustainable:** long-term commitment of DZS and MEYS guarantees continuity and reliability.



**Environmentally responsible:** use of existing public facilities, digital tools and sustainable mobility options minimises environmental impact.



**Collaborative and inclusive:** structured BFUG involvement ensures independence, transparency and European ownership.

A stone bridge with multiple arches spans across a river. The scene is captured at sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden glow on the horizon and the bridge's reflection visible in the water. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

**Czechia offers a practical, stable, and legally sound solution for the long-term EHEA Secretariat**

The DZS model combines **institutional reliability**, **legal certainty**, and a **genuine commitment to independence**.

With Prague as a symbolic and strategic European centre, the Czech proposal represents a **sustainable and credible** option for the future Secretariat.



*We stand ready to cooperate, to adapt, and to ensure that the Secretariat truly serves the entire EHEA community.*



**Thank you for your attention.**

Czech National Agency for International Education and Research (DZS)

Na Poříčí 1035/4, 110 00 Prague 1, Czechia

☎ +420 221 850 100

@ michal.uhl@dzs.cz

**dzs.cz**



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