**Provision of foreign higher education after Brexit**

**Will foreign higher education institutions that have a registered office in the UK be able to provide foreign higher education in the territory of the Czech Republic?**

Foreign higher education institutions (hereinafter „HEIs“) that have registered office in the UK or their local branches will be allowed to keep on providing foreign higher education in the Czech Republic in the capacity of European foreign HEIs or their local branches during the transition period i.e. until December 31 2020. After the transition period the status of these providers will be dependent on the content of future agreement between the UK and the EU or as the case may be on the fact wheter the UK is still a part of the European Economic Area (hereinafter „EEA“). If the UK is no longer a member of EEA, the British providers of foreign higher education will be allowed to keep their operation in the Czech Republic in a capacity of non European foreign HEIs or their local branches. Therefore, these entities will have to have a permit or licence issued by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic (hereinafter „MEYS“) in order to be able to realize mentioned educational activities. By obtaining the permit or licence they will among other things prove they have managed to create the conditions for an orderly provision of education and the sufficiency of personal, material and financial provision for the realization of foreign higher education study programmes.

If the specific HEI or its local branch does not submit the application for the local permit or licence or such application is not positively disposed by the MEYS, then the HEI or its branch will lose the authorization to provide foreign higher education in the Czech Republic. If such HEI or its branch does not stop the provision of foreign higher education, it will commit an offence.

**What will be the status** **of the students that attend study programmes realized according to the UK's law in the Czech Republic?**

During the transition period studying at such foreign HEIs or their local branches will be according to the Czech law considered as education that the MEYS can put on a par with the education at Czech HEIs. That is important for example for the purposes of providing state social security benefits and pension insurance to the students. That means the students will keep their current status. Before the end of transition period, the legal entity providing foreign higher education in the Czech Republic will have to put its operation into compliance with the relevant provisions of the Higher Education Act that are valid for the so called non European foreign HEIs. That means such HEI will have to obtain local permit (in the case of a HEI) or licence (in the case of branch) in order to be allowed to keep on providing foreign higher education in the Czech Republic. In this regard each HEI or its branch will have to submit an application to the MEYS.