

Reception - Spain | DIP EUAA

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Reception system

Overview

Relevant EU legislation

Spain is bound by the recast Reception Conditions Directive and has transposed its provisions through Royal Decree 220/2022 of 29 March 29 which approves the regulation that regulates the reception system related to international protection (Reception Law) | [Real Decreto 220/2022, de 29 de marzo, por el que se aprueba el Reglamento por el que se regula el sistema de acogida en materia de protección internacional](#)

National legislation

- [Law 12/2009, of October 30](#), regulating the right to asylum and subsidiary protection (Asylum Law).
- [Royal Decree 220/2022, of 29th of March](#), which approves the Regulation governing the reception system in the area of international protection (Reception Law).
- [Order ISM/680/2022, of 19 July 19](#), which develops the management of the international protection reception system through concerted action.

Competent authority and stakeholders

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| Authority responsible for reception | The Spanish reception system is under the responsibility of the Secretary for Migration (SEM) which is under the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations. SEM does not have competences on the asylum procedure which is competence of the Ministry of the Interior. |
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Regional authorities (*Comunidades Autonomas* - CCAA).

Although the Ministry is responsible for the development and integration policy, most of the sectoral competences related to integration policies (such as education, employment policies, housing, health and social services) are under the responsibility of regional and local authorities. In addition, regional authorities have exclusive legal jurisdiction over unaccompanied minors, regardless of whether these have applied for international protection.

Non-governmental organisations (“entities”). They manage some of the reception facilities and provide integration services to applicants and beneficiaries of international protection and stateless persons. The entities’ participation in the reception system was recently changed by the [Reception Law](#). The former system of periodic calls for grants to subsidize entities projects was therefore switched by contractual formulas and [concerted action](#). However, direct subsidies are still carried out in order to cope with emergency situations.

Other actors involved

In December 2020, **EUAA** [signed the first operating plan](#) with the Spanish Secretary for Migration to support the authorities in developing and implementing a new reception model for international protection applicants. The operating plan followed a Joint Rapid Needs Assessment carried out by EUAA and the SEM and in which some needs were identified. Based on that, five areas of support were included in the plan:

- Support in the transition to a new reception model in the country.
- Enhance structural processes, including financing on the system and data management.
- Contribute to capacity within the Spanish reception system through professional development, tools and materials.
- Enhance capacity to offer reception services in locations under particular pressure: Canary Islands.
- Resettlement EUAA support to Spain becomes fully operational in March 2021.

A new operating plan was signed in June 2023 for the period [2023 - 2026](#).

Organisational aspects

The Spanish reception system is a mixed system in which we can distinguish between:

- a public network of reception centres which are managed by the SEM;
- reception facilities and resources which are managed by authorised NGOs through "concerted action"; and
- other subsidised reception facilities of private entity when necessary for reasons of urgent need and general interest, or to guarantee specialised care for beneficiaries who are in a situation of vulnerability.

The new reception model created by Reception Law which promotes a multi-annual vision of the system, increasing its stability and predictability. Besides the concerted action as the structural basis of the system, it also allows other formulas such as direct subsidies that are exceptionally available for the attention to situations of urgent need and circumstances of vulnerability.

This new management mechanism aims to increase efficiency in the functioning of the reception system without excluding, at the same time, the necessary capacity to adapt to a dynamic context in which, in recent years, the number of arrivals of persons in need of care in the reception system has steadily increased.

The Resolution of 8 November 2022, of the Directorate General for the Management of the International and Temporary Protection Reception System, established the planning of benefits, actions or structural services of the reception system to be managed by means of concerted action. This resolution contains the planning of services and benefits to cover the structural needs of the system for the period 2023-2026.

Allocation of applicants to geographical areas within their territory

There is no specific regulation concerning the distribution of applicants in the reception system. This decision is made assessing the profile and special needs of

each person, case- by-case. Availability is another key element considered in this distribution. This task is shared between the NGOs and the Secretary of State for Migration, from a general point of view.

In March 2025, the government approved the [Royal Decree-Law 2/2025](#) establishing urgent measures to guarantee the best interests of children and adolescents in extraordinary migration contingencies.

Staff and training

Professional profiles available in the reception centres are, among others, lawyers and legal advisors, doctors and nurses, social workers, management, administrative and security and general-purpose staff.

SEM offers periodically a Formation Plan for public workers with a variety of thematic courses covering training related to asylum and other migration issues, mainly for social work, managing and legal professional profiles. There are also specific external training actions related to the subject, such as those offered by the EUAA.

NGOs have their own specific recruitment programmes as well as for training and formation.

Reception phases

Reception conditions are provided to applicants or beneficiaries of international protection, statelessness, or temporary protection in Spain who lack financial resources. The lack of economic resources is assessed whenever the income does not exceed the individual monthly amount of the guaranteed income foreseen in [Law 19/2021 of 20th of December, which establishes the Minimum Living Income](#).

Exceptionally, will be able to access to the reception system people who have not lodged their application for international protection yet, but who already have an appointment to do so. In addition, in December 2022 the SEM issued a new instruction that established that applicants whose asylum claim have been

denied can access the reception system if they have lodged a second asylum application or have challenged the denial with an administrative appeal.

The Social Work Unit (UTS) of the current Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations study the requests of accessing to the Reception system. In Madrid, the UTS interview the applicants in the office located at the Asylum Office. When people demand the access to the Reception System in a different location, are the partner organizations in charge of assess the situation of the applicants and report the UTS, that decides about the access in the Reception System.

If the person meets the access requirements, will be able to access the system from the moment that request it. If there are no allocations available, and the applicant doesn't have a place to stay, will be assigned a temporary host resource while they are able to access into a reception centre.

There are some extraordinary requirements to be able to access to some of the services provided by the Reception system.

Article 33 of Asylum Law:

- *Not have left the place of residence assigned without informing the competent authority or without permission.*
- *Lack of sufficient means to meet their needs and those of their family.*
- *Has not received the benefits offered in the Reception system for the maximum period of perception stipulated.*
- *Not have violated, by action or omission, the rights of other residents or of the staff or for non-compliance with the obligations corresponding to the residents.*

Material reception conditions under national legislation on asylum are the same for every beneficiary or applicant of international protection, no matter the profile or the type of asylum procedure applicants are subject to. Assistance and financial support are foreseen for 18 months. This can reach a maximum of 24 months for vulnerable cases.

The Reception System for international protection applicants includes an initial phase of assessment and referral (30 days) and two reception phases:

Assessment and Referral (*fase previa de evaluación y derivación, EYD*). This is considered the first step in the reception system and it is focus on the assessment of the applicant's profile, identification of possible vulnerabilities and referral to the most suitable reception place. During this initial phase, the person will receive information on the asylum procedure and his/her basic needs will be covered until the referral is done. It should last 30 days, and these days do not count for the time limit.

Reception phase or first phase (*fase de acogida*). During this period, applicant will receive accommodation (the person lives in a reception center (in a Refugee Reception Center, CAR; in a reception facility managed by an NGO; or in a reception facility under the humanitarian assistance system), basic cultural orientation and language and job trainings.

This period will last 6 months (period in which the international protection application should be processed) and it could be extended for an additional 3 months, in case of vulnerable applicants. After that period, applicants who become beneficiaries of international protection, are transferred to the second reception phase where they will continue their integration

Preparation for the autonomy phase or second phase (*fase de preparación para la autonomía*). Persons live independently, with the support of the professional services (social, psychological, etc.) and economical aids for the payment of income, basic needs, etc. till the person have an autonomous life. This phase will last a maximum of 12 months (or 15 months in case of vulnerable applicants). From the 1st of June 2021, only applicants that have received international protection can be referred to the second reception phase. The 1st and 2nd phases can be extended up to 18 months (up to 24 to vulnerable applicants).

Contingency planning

In case of massive arrivals, Spain has opened new temporary reception facilities at the areas of arrivals where applicants are accommodated before been transferred to reception resources located in other areas less affected by the migratory pressure.

From a financial point of view, Spain has been resorted to appropriate financial formulas to make funds available (emergency declarations). In addition, there has been an important collaboration between public administrations, as well as with other actors involved in reception tasks (mainly NGOs).

Spain is currently working in the development of a Contingency Plan which will involve several administrations, at different levels and with different duties and competencies. This will be an important tool in the future, especially in the context of the application of the new European Asylum Pact.

Facilities

Overview of different types of reception facilities according to national classification

- **First Reception Centres:** accommodation in first reception centres is provided to guarantee the coverage of the basic and urgent needs of people, during the time necessary to carry out the necessary procedures for the referral to a reception centre.
- **Reception, Care and Referral Centers (CREADEs, *Centro de Recepcion, Atencion y Derivacion*).** Public centers managed by the Subdirectorate for Centers and Emergencies of the Migration System.
- **Public Reception Centres (CARs, *Centros de Acogida de Refugiados*):** Public centers managed by the Subdirectorate for Centers and Emergencies of the Migration System.
- **International Protection Reception Centers (CAPIs, *Centros de Acogida de Protección Internacional*):** Public centers managed by the Subdirectorate for Centers and Emergencies of the Migration System.
- **Centre managed by NGOs:** The management is carried out by NGOs through the conclusion of concerted action agreements lasting 2 to 4 years.
- **Temporary Reception Centers (CETIs, *Centro de Estancia Temporal de Inmigrantes*):** to temporarily accommodate undocumented migrants entering into Spain from the borders with Morocco. In case they will apply for international protection, their stay in these centers is temporary till they are

transferred to centers located in the peninsula.

- **Centres of Emergency Reception and Referral (CAEDs, *Centros de Emergencia y Derivación*)**: These centres are designated to cover reception of migrants in emergency, and in which authorities will carry out an analysis of the special needs migrants have and their subsequent referral. UNHCR is collaborating with the authorities in the process of identification.

Premises at the border

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| Name of the reception facility | N/a |
| Access description | N/a |
| Management | N/a |
| Type of applicants accommodated | N/a |
| Number of centres | N/a |
| Capacity | N/a |
| Location of the centres within the country | N/a |

Initial reception centres

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| Name of the reception facility | First Reception Centers |
| Regime | Open |
| Management | Sub directorate for Centers and Emergencies of the Migration System. |
| Type of applicants accommodated | International protection applicants and beneficiaries, there are some extraordinary requirements to be able to access to these services. |
| Number of centres | 6 |

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| Capacity | <p>There is no fixed number of places of first reception, fluctuates according to the needs and flows.</p> <p>According to Ministerial Resolution of 4 November 2023, for the year 2024 the overall capacity is 3,211 places. The Ministerial Resolution of 3 April 2024, establishes increases the overall capacity in this phase till 6515 places for 2025.</p> |
| Location of the centres within the country | <p>There is one centre in Madrid; in the rest of Spain, facilities have been set up according to needs.</p> <p>For people from Ukraine the Ministry set up four Reception, Care and Referral Centres (CREADE) in Malaga, Pozuelo de Alarcon (Madrid), Barcelona and Torrevieja (Alicante).</p> |

Collective accommodation centres

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| Name of the reception facility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Reception Centres (CAR, Centro de Acogida de Refugiados) • CAPIS (Centros de Acogida de Protección Internacional) • Centre managed by NGOs through concerted action. |
| Regime | Open |

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| Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CARs: These centres are owned by the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations; thus, they are daily managed by the Directors of Centres who are under the responsibility Subdirectorate for Centers and Emergencies of the Migration System. • CAPIS: Public centres. • Centres managed by the NGOs: The management is carried out by NGOs through the conclusion of concerted action agreements lasting 2 to 4 years. |
| Type of applicants accommodated | International protection applicants, beneficiaries of international protection, stateless persons and of those under temporary protection. |
| Number of centres | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAR: 4 public centres • CAPIS : 7 public centres 1096 • reception facilities managed by the 24 partner NGOs that participate in the reception system (up to 2024). |
| Capacity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CARs total capacity: 423 • CAPI centres no longer exist |
| Location of the centres within the country | <p>Public centres (CAR) are located in Alcobendas (Madrid), Vallecas (Madrid), Mislata (Valencia) and Sevilla.</p> <p>Public Reception Centres for International Protection Applicants (CAPIS) will be located in Tarrega (Catalunya), Soria, Merida, Valladolid, Vitoria, Prayas (Cantabria) and Azuqueca de Henares (Guadalajara).</p> <p>Shelter facilities managed by partner NGOs have been distributed all over Spain in an equilibrium and solidarity among region basis.</p> |

Individual accommodation centres (such as private houses, flats, hotels)

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| Name of the reception facility | N/a |
| Regime | N/a |
| Management | N/a |
| Type of applicants accommodated | N/a |
| Number of centres | N/a |
| Capacity | N/a |
| Location of the centres within the country | N/a |

Temporary solutions when housing capacities is temporarily exhausted

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| Name of the reception facility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary Reception Centers (CETI, <i>Centro de Estancia Temporal de Inmigrantes</i>) • Centres of Emergency Reception and Referral (CAED, <i>Centros de Emergencia y Derivación</i>). • Reception facilities set up in the Canary Islands to face the high influx of arrivals. |
| Regime | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CETI: Open • CAED: Open • Reception facilities in the Canary Islands: Open |

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| Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CETI: they are public centres managed by the DGAHSAPI. • CAED: Centres are managed by NGOs, under the coordination of the General Directorate of Humanitarian Assistance and the International Protection Reception System. • Reception facilities in the Canary Islands: facilities are managed by NGOs under the coordination of the General Directorate of Humanitarian Assistance and the International Protection Reception System. |
| Type of applicants accommodated | They normally accommodate applicants arriving to the country, by sea or land, and normally from Morocco. |
| Number of centres | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CETI: 2 • CAED: 7 (as of February 2020) • Canary Islands: There is not fixed number. Some temporary facilities have opened in the last years due to the high number of arrivals, such as the Unidad de Madres and the encampment Las Raices and Las Canteras in Tenerife, Barranco Seco encampment in Gran Canaria or Montaña Mina in Lanzarote. |
| Capacity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CETI in Ceuta - 512 places; and CETI in Melilla - 782 places. • CAED: 1,060 places in total (2023) • Canary Islands: Canarias 50: 1000 Colegio Leon: 500 (vulnerable) |

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| Location of the centres within the country | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CETI: Ceuta and Melilla.• CAED: Chiclana de la Frontera (Cadiz), Malaga, Sevilla, Almeria, Merida (Badajoz), Guadix (Granada) and Armilal (Granada).• Canary Islands: Facilities are displayed all over the islands. |
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Reception facilities for applicants with special needs

The [Reception Law](#) outlines the guidelines for addressing the needs of individuals in vulnerable situations within the reception system for asylum seekers and migrants. The law identifies various groups of people who are considered vulnerable, including: minors, elderly people, people with disabilities, people with serious illnesses, pregnant women, single parents with minor children, victims of human trafficking, victims of violence against women, people belonging to ethnic or national groups subject to discrimination, people with mental health problems, LGBTIQ+ people, people who have suffered torture, rape, or other serious forms of psychological, physical, or sexual violence

The law establishes a process for assessing the vulnerabilities of individuals within the initial assessment and referral phase, which takes place during the first contact with NGOs managing First Reception Centres. A report is required to propose admission to a place with specific care needs, which must justify the need for specialized care and attach supporting documentation.

The law also emphasizes the importance of assessing the best interests and specific needs of minors, providing differential treatment for applicants or beneficiaries of international protection in vulnerable situations, and adopting measures to address the needs of persecuted individuals.

Key aspects of the reception system for vulnerable individuals include:

- Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of reception needs
- Case-by-case assessment between the Asylum Office (OAR) and relevant NGOs

- Development of Individualized Participation Plans, which take into account the special needs of individuals and involve cooperation with other professionals
- Co-financing of reception projects by AMIF (Funds for Asylum, Migration, and Integration).

The Social Work Unit from the Ministry of Inclusion, Migration, and Social Security will do a first assessment of the applicant's situation based on an individual basis. Young men and women between 18 and 26 years without family or social support, victims of gender-based violence, LGBTIQ applicants, people with mental health disorders, and victims of trafficking are referred to an adequate reception facility depending on the profile and availability of places.

Specialized reception facilities cater to specific groups, including:

- Unaccompanied Minors: Separate reception centers managed by Regional Authorities
- Children with families: Same facilities as their families (CARs or centers managed by NGOs)
- Elderly: No specific facilities available
- Gender-related needs: One specific program managed by ONG Rescate
- Victims of human trafficking, torture, or other forms of violence: Facilities managed by NGOs like CEAR, ONG Rescate, Diaconía, and Adoratrices
- Applicants with disabilities and special health needs: Facilities managed by NGOs like ACCEM, CEAR, FLMM, and RED ACOGE
- LGBTIQ: Specific reception places (around 10) managed by NGOs like CEAR and ONG Rescate, and a public reception center in Madrid

The reception system prioritizes the needs of vulnerable individuals and provides a range of specialized facilities and programs to cater to their specific needs. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of reception needs, including follow-up activities (*seguimiento del itinerario*), ensure the response to reception needs of each person concerning vulnerable profiles.

The stay in a reception center is 6 months, extendable every three or six months, up to a maximum of 24 months. Programs co-financed with AMIF and managed by partner organizations have been implemented to reinforce existing reception facilities and attend to vulnerable groups of applicants.

Material reception conditions provided in kind and cash

Definition of material reception conditions

National legislation states that material reception conditions should be available and be the same for all applicants for international protection, no matter their profile and the type of asylum application. Applicants have access to material reception conditions in kind, including meals, clothing, accommodation, cleaning products and language courses.

The reception system is different from the evolution of the asylum procedure. Reception conditions will be different depending on the reception phase and it will last 18 months, or a maximum of 24 months in some specific cases of vulnerability. As from January 2021, only beneficiaries for international protection can be referred to the second reception phase. Consequently, only them will have access to the specific reception material conditions offered in that phase.

Material reception conditions provided in kind

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| Type and purpose | Meals, clothing, accommodation, cleaning products and language courses. |
| Duration and recurrence | <p>Meals: During the first reception phase, food is provided by the reception centre, by providing a dining room service, by buying the necessary food for beneficiaries, being the ones who prepare it. If there are children, centres will provide also specific food for them.</p> <p>Others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cleaning products for common use are provided by the centres.• Personal care products.• Children sanitary products (e.g. diapers) |

Financial allowances and vouchers

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| Type and purpose | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cross-cutting economic aid: it is a general aid they will receive no matter the reception phase they are. It covers different areas such as medical care, clothes, transportation, Education, etc.• Financial aid depending on the reception phase. The aid will cover basic needs, accommodation, food and transportation. |
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| <p>Duration and recurrence</p> | <p>General financial aids</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children birth: one off • Medical care: according to cost/need • Clothes and footwear: up to 2 allowance per year It can be also given in kind. • Transportation. Financial aid for coverage of transportation needs, can be monthly or one off depending on the needs. • Education. Every year • Obtaining documentation. According to needs • Employment support to promote their entrance in the labour market. Expenses covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basics needs only for applicants who are not living in a reception facility and who are looking for an employment or who are registered in training courses for a minimum of 3 months. It is incompatible with any other financial support for the same concept and it is paid monthly - Educational needs to facilitate occupational training and employment, in case both parents are assisting to occupational trainings. Paid according to needs - Vocational activities may be covered when there is no a public entity providing them, such as literacy digital courses, job search skills development, language courses (Spanish or co-official languages), etc. Paid according to needs - Others financial aids such as the obtention of supporting documentation of academic or professional training. Paid according to needs <p>Reception phases' financial aids:</p> <p>Reception phase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic needs financial support: monthly • Food and sanitary financial support: in addition, applicants who live in small centres (flats) can also receive an economic contribution to buy food and sanitary products. This financial aid is granted monthly to the centre and it depends on the number of people living in it. |
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General financial aids which do not depend on the reception phase. In general, these allowances are not provided when the person has received a similar aid coming from the administration or another entity.

- Children birth: 180 €/child
- Death (burial services expenses)
- Medical care: the financial aid for medicaments is according to cost (in general, they will be reimbursed for the pharmacy expenses). A prescription from the public health system is required. Medicines and treatments not financed by the Public Health System are not covered. The aid covers glasses (with a maximum limit of 200€ per person/itinerary with co-payment) and ortho prosthetic material and dental treatments and prostheses (with a limit of €400 per treatment per person and subject to a co-payment of 15%).
- Clothes and footwear: up to 2 allowance per year of 90 €/person. It can be also given in kind.
- Transportation. Financial aid for coverage of transportation needs: Expenses covered:
 - Cost of the monthly payment or any other type of proof of transport payment public within the province in which they reside. Trips to another city when it is a transfer to another reception centre: amount of the title of public transport (bus or train).
 - Transfers for the performance of inexcusable duty, to obtain the documentation and procedures related to the request for international protection, for the attendance at job interviews, due to force majeure and to receive treatments or carry out medical consultations when there are not any in your place of residence and / or were offered free by an institution.
 - Taxis, in an extraordinary way and whenever public transportation cannot be used.
- Education. It will cover full amount when it is not covered by any other financial allowance received by the person. It will include the kindergarten, books and educational supplies, uniform, examination and registration fees (up to 250 €/school

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| Applicants granted allowance | All applicants for international protection have the right to receive material reception conditions in the same conditions, no matter their profile and the type of application, except for those who dispose of sufficient means. |
| Modalities of provision | Bank transfers mainly, most of them managed by NGOs. The only amount given in cash is pocket money. |

Material reception conditions for vulnerable persons

All the support needed according to the applicant's vulnerability is provided with no restriction, in general.

Food and sanitary financial support for units in which one of its members has a disability greater than 65%, can have the amount as if it has one more member.

Rights and obligations during reception

Provision of information and counselling

**Modalities of
information provision
on benefits and
obligations related to
reception conditions**

During the initial phase of assessment, the profile and the special needs of the applicants are assessed to refer him/her to the most appropriate place. Since that moment, basic orally and written information about reception system conditions and counselling is given to applicants in a language they can understand.

After the initial phase, and if the applicant is given access to the Reception System, he/she continues to receive guidance and professional support during the complete process.

As part of the first phase and following an admission interview (which includes an individual assessment and family diagnosis), information will be provided on:

- public and private services and resources for their social integration.
- on access to the activities and services provided by the reception system for applicants for international protection, including the reception itinerary to follow.
- basic legal and administrative information (e.g. rights, duties, asylum procedure, immigration procedure in general)

Once they become beneficiaries of international protection, they are transferred to the second phase, where they can continue receiving guidance and advice from the different professionals, even after they leave the reception system, if needed.

International protection applicants and refugees can receive information and counselling from different types of professionals, such as, social workers, psychologists, lawyers, etc. The information and advice may be received through an interpreter, if needed.

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| <p>Provision of legal assistance on the reception conditions available</p> | <p>International protection applicants and refugees can receive information and counselling from different types of professionals, including lawyers, at an initial phase and after it. NGOs also have an important role on the provision of legal information during the reception phases.</p> |
| <p>House rules</p> | <p>Once an applicant arrives to a reception centre, it is provided with a code of conduct for the centre and other relevant rules that he/she must compliance with. Any external actor who wishes to visit any of the facilities within the official reception system must ask for authorisation from the managing authority.</p> |

Freedom of movement within the territory

Assignment of a particular area of residence to applicants

Applicants for international protection has the right to freely move around the Spanish territory. However, in practice, there are some barriers, in particular for applicants in Ceuta and Melilla.

To be transferred to the peninsula applicants and migrants must wait for the permission of the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration, which manages the centres, and of the Ministry of Interior which authorises their departure according to criteria which are not public. The Supreme Court reconfirmed the right to free movement for international protection applicants, in particular for those applying in the cities of Ceuta and Melilla.

In terms of reception, applicants are initially referred to an available reception facility which may fit better their needs and personal situation, including family reunification. The place of submission of the application for international protection will also be considered.

Once the applicant is given a place within the reception system, she/he cannot move around the territory unless losing the right to reception within the public system. The system is designed for a person to start and complete the reception pathway in the same locality. The main objectives of this restriction are that the person can complete the programmes she/he committed to (education, training, language courses, ...) and use the time to create links with the reception community.

Shelter facilities have been distributed all over Spain in an equilibrium and solidarity among regions basis. It means that when NGOs applied for the financial support to develop their reception projects (which include location) it was positively valued for the smart distribution of places and the geographic lack-hosting filling.

Every person/family is required to continue the second phase in the region that has been assigned in the reception phase. This is normally compulsory, in principle they are not allowed to access the services and financial aids in a different location, except for applicants that are supported on work, family or medical reasons and with the previous authorization of the

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| Reporting obligations | Applicants have the obligation to communicate any change in their home address as it may be linked to some services they received. |
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Employment and vocational training

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| Time limit to access the labour market | <p>According to Spanish legislation, international protection applicants are entitled to work after 6 months from the date their application was lodged, and it was not declared inadmissible. And they can do it for the time the application is examined.</p> <p>In 2022, the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration accepted the Ombudsman's approach and issued instructions that Social Security should not withdraw applicants for international protection from the system after the provisional refusal of asylum. In this way applicants can continue to work until the second instance procedure is concluded with a final decision.</p> |
| Criteria to access the labour market | Applicants can access the labour market with the receipt of the application for international protection as long as 6 months have passed since the application. The red card will allow them to develop any kind of economic activity within the whole Spanish territory, with no restrictions. |

**Employment
support for
applicants**

The support on integration in the national labour market may last 30 months (as an exception of the 18 months the general reception pathway should last).

There is a mainstreaming approach for the provision of employment related support measures and grant beneficiaries' access to services, including PES support services. Similar manner as available to third-country nationals and/or nationals of Spain.

The types of employment-related support measures are:

- Language courses.
- Orientation services.
- Access to employment services (including employment counselling and training programmes)
- Assistance in obtaining recognition of professional qualifications.
- Guaranteed minimum income.

According to recent [Ministerial Order ISM /680/2022](#), during the reception phase, social and labour counselling and support in accessing training programmes must be provided through concerted action, by means of:

- Diagnosis: preparation of the professional profile and analysis of the skills profile in relation to the needs of the labour market.
- Pre-training: aimed at the development of social and basic training skills unequivocally aimed at integration through employment.
- Socio-occupational counselling and guidance: aimed at achieving personal promotion and social maturity to face the challenges posed by the labour market.
- Occupational vocational training activities.
- Promotion of self-employment: information, motivation and advice.

In addition, some of the main NGOs have developed a network including a comprehensive plan of actions for the integration of applicants in the labour market (Red Ariadna) Financial allowances and vouchers are also provided to applicants for the

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| Adults' access to vocational training | <p>Applicants have the right the access to activities organised to improve their skills and help in them to access to the labour market.</p> <p>Vocational training will include informative sessions about the labour market, but also specific actions related to the development of techniques and tools for job search, advice and monitoring of workplace, information about labour pools, improvement or development of professional skills, etc.</p> <p>Some financial allowances are provided to cover applicants' registrations fees in the Professional Training courses and studies in public universities.</p> |
| Access to tertiary education | <p>Some financial allowances are provided to cover applicants' registrations fees in the studies in public universities.</p> |

Healthcare

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| Medical screening | <p>As soon as the person arrives to the reception centre, they will be examined by a doctor to make sure he/she does not have any infectious disease. The doctor will then issue a medical certificate.</p> <p>If the person arrives by sea, Red Cross or any other entity supporting their arrival usually perform a first medical check. If needed, applicants may be transferred to a medical centre or hospital to receive medical care/treatment.</p> <p>More comprehensive medical screenings, including psychological, may be done at a later stage, during the assessment and referral phase to identify any potential vulnerability.</p> |
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| Level of healthcare | Once asylum application has been lodged, the applicant is entitled to public health care with the same conditions as Spanish citizens, including the access to more specialised treatment for person who have suffered torture, severe physical and/or psychological abuses. In practice, there are not specialised structures for victims of severe violations and torture. Health care is paid by each autonomous community for all citizens. |
| Access to healthcare | Applicants have the right to healthcare, both primary and specialized, under the same conditions as Spanish citizens. |

Education for minors

Minor's protection issues and their education are two competencies falling under the responsibility of the Autonomous Communities. Each region will organise their own integration programmes and additional support depending on their priorities, needs and resources available.

Unaccompanied and accompanied minors have the access to education system under the same conditions as Spanish nationals.

The schooling of children in Spain is compulsory from age six to sixteen. All children in Spain have the right to education and although under the Asylum Act it is not explicitly guaranteed, it is by other regulations concerning aliens and children.

To help the minors with the transition to education the responsible authorities provide learning support measures by developing and implementing education pathway orientation and assistance projects or learning support and reinforcement programmes in primary and secondary education centres.

Organisation of preparatory classes depend on each region. Some of them offer preparatory classes, including language courses and specialised support (e.g. psychologist) for persons with special needs. Other regions provide tutors within the normal class.

Socio-cultural orientation and language learning

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| <p>Access to socio-cultural orientation</p> | <p>Contextualization and cultural orientation activities are organised as part of the first reception phase. These activities may include information on access to the social context of reception, cultural shock, explanation of the basic legislation and structure of the State, functioning of the education, employment, health and housing systems, relations with the local community, gender equality courses and family dynamics, etc. The duration of the courses depends on each NGO delivering the courses.</p> <p>This cultural orientation is also provided as part of the language courses. Courses are free of charge for the applicants, and they are taken into consideration for their access to a residence permit.</p> |
| <p>Language classes</p> | <p>All applicants included in the reception system has the right to access to activities to learn Spanish and any of the co-official languages.</p> <p>Entities in charge of the reception facilities will provide language courses through public or private institutions.</p> <p>Entities will first evaluate the person' level of Spanish (according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) and he/she will be referred to the specific course. Language classes will be face-to face and will be as targeted as possible. To make sure all applicants arrive to an intermediary level of Spanish, Level A1 to B1 will be obligatory. Level B2 and C1 (advance) will be optional.</p> <p>Specific literacy learning support is also provided for applicants who may need it.</p> |

Sufficient means

Arrangement of private accommodation

During the first reception phase, applicants can be accommodated in apartments or medium size centres for refugees, but at this phase of the process, apartments are part of the reception facilities offered by the SEM (CAR - *Centro de Acogida de Refugiados*) or by the selected entities, and they are managed by them.

Once applicants are in the second phase of reception (integration and autonomous life phase), they can move to private accommodations, and they would receive an economical support for paying the rent (and also to covers the basic needs)

Contribution to reception and healthcare costs

As an initial step the applicants sign a “Responsible Declaration”. In cases where fraud is detected, reception conditions are retired or conveniently reduced depending on some economic thresholds defined in advance.

The penalties and procedure for the reception conditions to be retired/reduced are detailed in the [Ministerial Order ISM/922/2023](#).

Beneficiaries of the reception system have the obligation to inform the authorities in case of they start to work, including self-employment. They will need to submit a record of employment and additional documentation to proof their incomes. The result of the examination could imply a reduction on the reception services provided, but in any case, the authorities will seizure the applicants' incomes.

Sufficient means test

The lack of resources is the main requirement for applicants for receiving reception conditions. Applicants have the obligation to declare their incomes, not only an initial stage, also during the different phases of the procedure. This will help the assessment of his/her situation at any time.

Sanction regimes, reduction or withdrawal of material reception conditions

Circumstances for reducing or withdrawing material reception conditions

Article 33 of Law 12/2009, of 30 October, regulating the right of asylum and subsidiary protection states that any or all the reception services may be reduced or withdrawn. The [Reception law](#) sets out the circumstances that may lead to the withdrawal or reduction of reception facilities. Therefore, a reduction is established according to Article 32 in case of:

1. Access to financial resources that involve exceeding the threshold set out in regulation.
2. Abandon of the assigned reception centre or facility without informing.
3. Violation of the basic operating rules of the centre or of the rights of other residents or staff.

On the other hand, the withdrawal of the reception conditions is established case of:

1. Failure to formalise, inadmissibility, refusal or withdrawal of the application.
2. Cessation or revocation of refugee status or subsidiary protection
3. Access to financial resources when these exceed the number of benefits received.
4. Having completed the period of the programme or benefit specifically authorised.
5. Abandon of the assigned reception centre or facility without informing.
6. Violation of the basic operating rules of the centre or of the rights of other residents or staff.

It must be noted that new regulation was adopted by [Ministerial Order ISM/922/2023](#) on sanctions for breaching the house rules in reception facilities. The new legislation was better aligned with the provisions of the recast RCD and ensured an improved legal certainty and proportionality of the sanctions. The behaviours

leading to sanctions are defined in more detail and are categorised as minor, severe and very severe.

It will be considered a minor infraction:

1. Failure, on at least three occasions, to attend or be punctual to activities within the reception itinerary without justification.
2. Repeated failure to comply with the basic operating rules of the resources that make up the reception system in matters such as personal hygiene, cleanliness and order, completion of tasks, participation in activities and respect for the established timetables and rules of coexistence.

A severe infraction will be committed in the following cases:

1. The commission of a third minor offence within a year.
2. Leaving the assigned place of residence for between 24 and 72 hours or spending the night away from the resource, without the express authorisation of the staff in charge.
3. Possession of or access to public or private financial resources that enable part of the costs of the reception conditions to be met and failure to report their existence or refusal to use them unjustifiably.
4. Infringement of the rights of other residents or of the staff in the reception facilities through actions or omissions that pose a risk to their physical or psychological integrity, privacy or safety and that do not constitute a very serious offence.
5. Serious disturbance of coexistence.
6. Sexual harassment and discriminatory harassment to other residents or to the staff of the reception facilities when it does not constitute a criminal offence.

The very severe infractions will be committed in case of:

1. The commission of a serious infringement when in the same year he/she has been sanctioned for the commission of another serious infringement by means of a firm administrative decision.
2. Leaving the assigned place of residence for more than seventy-two hours without an express authorisation.

3. Possession of or access to public or private financial resources that could cover the full costs of the reception conditions and failure to report their existence or refusal to use them unjustifiably.
4. Infringement of the rights of other residents or of the staff in the reception facilities through actions or omissions that pose a risk to their physical or psychological integrity, privacy, or safety and that do not constitute a severe infraction.
5. Very serious disturbance of coexistence through violent behaviour.

Applicants receive information about the rules of each centre before they enter.

Additionally, the entities managing each centre organise informative workshops and sessions where these rules are also mentioned. In all the centres there are also mediators to effectively solve the possible problems caused by disruptive and transgressive residents' behaviour.

Possible sanctions and procedure

Whenever an application to enter a centre or reception facility is approved, the technical staff of the refugee reception centre inform the new resident of the rules governing the operation of the centre and coexistence in the latter, providing a clear explanation of his or her rights and obligations as a resident and the possibility of a compulsory expulsion in case of break these rules.

Moreover, the CAR's internal functioning regulations set out the obligations of the residents, whose rule breaking can lead to the implementation of the corresponding measures.

The new [Ministerial Order ISM/922/2023](#) on sanctions for breaching the house rules in reception facilities establishes in Article 9 the following sanctions for the above-mentioned infractions.

- Minor infringements shall be punishable by a reduction in financial assistance of between 10 % and 50 % for a period of between one and three months.

- Serious infringements may be sanctioned by one of the following penalties:
 - a reduction in financial assistance of between 50 % and 90 % for between four and twelve months;
 - transfer to another shelter;
 - temporary withdrawal of all or some of the material reception conditions for a period of between one and three months.
- Very severe infractions may be sanctioned by one of the following penalties:
 - temporary withdrawal of all or some of the material reception conditions for a period of between three and six months.
 - Mandatory and definitive withdrawal of all or some of the reception conditions, without prejudice to access to other social assistance that may correspond to them and that guarantee decent living conditions.

It also establishes that in the event of abandonment of the reception facility for more than 24 hours, the decision on the withdrawal or reduction of material reception conditions shall be based on the reasons for disappearance.

In those cases where it is found that the person has unduly benefited from the resources of the reception system, in addition to the corresponding sanction, a claim for reimbursement of the benefits received shall be made.

If the offences are committed by minors, a process of psychosocial intervention shall be initiated in their place. The persons responsible for compliance with these measures shall be those who have the exercise of guardianship or parental authority.

Finally, reference must be made to the Organic Law 4/2000 of 11 January, on the rights and freedoms of foreign nationals in Spain and their social integration (from article 50 to 57) and its implementing regulation (articles 216 and following ones), insofar as this regulation is applicable to residents in the refugee reception facilities.

The Royal Decree 220/2022 and the [Ministerial Order ISM/922/2023](#) ensured an improved legal certainty on the reduction and withdrawal of reception facilities, as the infractions and sanctions are defined in more detail. The procedure is also detailed in Article 3 of the above-mentioned Ministerial Order.

The procedure is initiated ex officio by the DG but may be on its own initiative, on the initiative of another administrative body or based on a complaint from the person in charge of the reception facility. The instruction shall be carried out by the relevant Sub directorate-General and the director-general shall be responsible for deciding and imposing the relevant sanctions. Interim measures may be ordered at any time during the procedure.

The procedure will be conducted in Spanish, but the interested parties have the right to an interpreter in the language they understand.

Review of the sanction decision

An appeal against the sanctioning decision may be lodged to the Spanish Secretary of Migration within a period of one month. If no decision has been taken within three months, the appeal shall be dismissed.

Decisions on appeals may be appealed before the contentious-administrative courts.