

Summaries of National Reports - Baseline Spain

‘The NIEM National Report for Spain 2018’ focuses on studying measures and actions targeted for applicants and beneficiaries of international protection in Spain. The report is structured in 5 parts. The first and the introductory part offers a statistical look at the situation of international protection in Spain and highlights the large increase in asylum requests observed at the beginning of 2017. The second part illustrates the asylum system, paying special attention to the reception and integration system, the central object of the comparative analysis of the NIEM project in all member states. The third part provides an assessment of the international reception and protection system regarding the three main dimensions of the integration process (legal, socio-economic and socio-cultural dimension). The fourth part of the report emphasizes the main challenges and problems of the system evidenced by the findings made in the project during the field work, including: i) delays in procedures, which negatively affect reception and integration; ii) lack of material and immaterial resources, generating a lack of capacity to respond to the specific needs of applicants for international protection; iii) the rigidity of the reception system, which is designed for a very specific profile of people and excludes from it all people who do not meet certain characteristics; iv) geographical restrictions on users, who are forced to be carried out in the reception and integration itinerary in the same province; v) lack of multilevel governance model and communication structure, which ends up excluding key actors in the field of asylum and refuge from the national reception system. Finally, the conclusions of the national report, outlines and suggests some possible policy changes to guarantee an asylum system at the height of the new migratory challenges. An effective governance model of reception, adapted to the needs of people seeking and benefiting international protection, involves the inclusion of regional and municipal actors, a broader framework of cooperation and planning that allows the development of synergies both between the various administrative levels and between the public and private sectors, and that can channel the solidarity demonstrated by Spanish society. The success of such a model lies above all in its economic sustainability. In this respect, new medium- to long-term financing mechanisms should be considered which, replacing the current system of annual subsidies, guarantee the viability of the projects of the NGOs that carry out reception and integration services. Similarly, the stability of the system depends upon an increase in the number of dedicated public places which, on the one hand, would bring the system up to the current challenges and, on the other, would make it less susceptible to political changes.