

Spain's Sandbox IA — the EU's First National AI Regulatory Sandbox Under the AI Act

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Spain

Quality score: 67/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Under Royal Decree 817/2023, Spain became the first EU country to run a live AI Act regulatory sandbox: a 2025 cohort tested 12 high-risk systems — biometric age checks, medical diagnostics, hiring tools — feeding AESIA's 16 public compliance guides published in December 2025.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	1/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	3/3
Scalability beyond pilot	2/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-24

[Agencia Española de Supervisión de la Inteligencia Artificial \(AESIA\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-24

[Sandbox IA — official portal \(digital.gob.es\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-24

[AESIA: guidelines published to support compliance with the AI Act](#) — accessed 2026-07-24

[IAPP: AESIA's AI guidelines — Spain steps into the AI spotlight](#) — accessed 2026-07-24

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